

Harrisburg-Hershey Civil War Round Table Field Trips  
**The Battle of the Wilderness – Spotsylvania County, Virginia**

Saturday, November 16, 2019 ~ \$95.00 pp ~ Depart: Lower Dauphin High School 6:00 AM ~ Camp Hill Radisson 6:30 AM

Please join the **Harrisburg and Hershey Civil War Roundtables** on Saturday November 16, 2019 as we visit the battlefields in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, where, on May 5-7, 1864, Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee clashed for the first time. This was the opening battle of Grant's sustained offensive against Lee known as the Overland Campaign; it was fought in an area of dense wooded undergrowth known locally as "the Wilderness." Grant attempted to move quickly through the dense underbrush to attack Lee's Army, but Lee intercepted Grant's forces, and furious, merciless fighting ensued resulting in almost 30,000 casualties. The battle was inconclusive, as Grant withdrew. However, he did not retreat as other generals before him had, instead promising Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer long." Late on May 7, the Federals advanced south toward Spotsylvania Court House, where the bloody campaign would continue. This was a major turning point in the Civil War.

The Wilderness holds a place all of its own in Civil War lore. The "dark, close wood" seemed impenetrable and mysterious, as the armies slaughtered each other while the forest around them burned. We will visit all of the major sites of the battle, including Grant's headquarters, Saunders Field, Tapp Field, the Brock Road-Plank Road intersection, and the sites of the famous "*Lee to the rear!*" incident and Lt. General James Longstreet's wounding by his own troops, among others.

**Recommended reading:** Hell Itself: The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864 (Emerging Civil War Series), by Chris Mackowski. The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864, by Gordon C. Rhea. The Wilderness Campaign, edited by Gary W. Gallagher.

**OUR GUIDE:** Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the series editor of the award-winning "Emerging Civil War" series, published by Savas Beatie, and the "Engaging the Civil War" Series, published in partnership with Southern Illinois University Press. Chris is a writing professor and associate dean at the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY. He is also historian-in-residence at Stevens Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris has authored or co-authored a dozen books on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. He serves on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the national advisory board for the Civil War Chaplain's Museum in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is widely celebrated for his highly informative and inspirational presentations.

----- **REGISTRATION FORM** -----

The price of this field trip is \$95.00 per person. This includes round-trip motor-coach transportation from Hummelstown's Lower Dauphin High School at 6:00 AM and the Camp Hill Radisson Hotel at 6:30 AM, driver tip, lunch, guide honoraria and entrance fees.

To register, complete the form below and mail to: **Norm Daniels, Harrisburg CWRT, 500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17111.** Your \$25.00 deposit will hold your seat with the balance due not later than October 16, 2019. Cancellations received before October 16th will receive a full refund. Cancellations after October 16th will receive a refund **ONLY** if the open seat(s) have been filled. **Make checks payable to: Harrisburg CWRT.** Questions: contact Ricky Hollis at 717.805.7502 or email: [rickyhollissr@gmail.com](mailto:rickyhollissr@gmail.com) or Steve Smith at 717.433.0209 or email: [smith337@erau.edu](mailto:smith337@erau.edu)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City-ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

# of seats: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up point: [ ] Lower Dauphin HS [ ] Camp Hill Radisson Hotel

*Thank you!!*

