



Historian David Contosta to talk about Sherman, Lancaster and Civil War

David Contosta, historian and Lancaster native, will talk about the unexpected relationship between William T. Sherman, Lancaster and the Civil War for the June 19 meeting of the Sherman Civil War Roundtable.

Contosta is professor of history at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia and has written more than 20 books, including the comprehensive history *Lancaster, Ohio: 1800-2000: Frontier Town to Edge City*, published by Ohio State University Press. He also worked with Lou Varga to adapt this book as a PBS documentary, *Lancaster, Ohio: The Birth of an American Culture*.

The Gen. William T. Sherman Memorial Civil War Roundtable will meet at 7 pm, in the lower level of The Downtown Bistro, 123 N. Broad St., Lancaster. Admission is \$5. No reservations needed. The meeting is open to the public.

The event is part of year-long celebration of Sherman's 200th birthday, which will be Feb. 8, 2020.

Contosta is the son of the late Miles R. Contosta and Betty Mowry Contosta. He is a 1963 graduate of Lancaster High School. Following his graduation from Miami University he taught American history for two years – 1968 to 1970 – at Lancaster High.

His books range in subject from urban ecology to the history of American politics, religion, and foreign policy, in addition to several biographical studies. His most recent publications are *Rebel Giants: The Revolutionary Lives of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin*, and *America's Needless Wars*. At present he is writing a book about the American presidency, along with collaborating on a documentary film about Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley.

David has been a Fulbright Scholar in France and a Visiting Researcher at Cambridge University in England. He has lectured at universities in China and South Korea and is a frequent speaker before academic and community groups.