



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011:

### THE BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL

Click [here](#) for information on this month's program and speaker, our friend John V. Quarstein.

#### REMINDER - JOIN UP!

If you have not paid your 2011 annual membership dues, they are now overdue! Don't miss out on any of the outstanding programs we have scheduled this year. The April newsletter will be mailed to the paid membership as of April 1st, so be sure to renew your [membership!](#)

Individual membership - \$25.00

Family membership - \$35.00

Please remit to PCWRT,

P.O. Box 1144, Powhatan VA 23129

#### NEXT MONTH

We will be joined by editor Jeff Toalson who will speak on his latest publication "*No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery, & Desertion: A Composite Diary of the Last 16 Months of the Confederacy from 1864 to 1865*". Click [here](#) to order this engrossing study of life during the final sixteen months of the Confederacy.

#### RAFFLE

March 17th we will conclude our raffle drive for a signed, limited edition print (#27 of 1500) of "**The Battle of the Wilderness**" by local artist Henry E. Kidd!

A lifelong resident of Colonial Heights, Henry is a nationally recognized historical artist. His fine art has appeared in documentaries on the History Channel and on covers of many books and magazines. He designed the Confederate Medal of Honor, and his artwork hangs in many prestigious institutions and museums such as West Point, Virginia Military Institute, Mariner's Museum, Museum of the Confederacy, Petersburg National Battlefield, the Virginia Historical Society and others. Henry will be the PCWRT's guest speaker Thursday, October 20th on the Battle of the Crater. Please click [here](#) to learn more about Henry.

Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each, or six for \$25.00. Don't miss out on your chance to win!

#### LOCAL EVENTS

Click [here](#) to learn about events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Click [here](#) for a list of our most frequently asked questions.

Don't see your question addressed here?

E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

**MARCH 2011:**

### 150 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1861

March 2, 1861 - The six constitutional amendments proposed by an Independent Peace Conference consisting of 131 delegates that had been meeting since February 4th were rejected by Congress.

March 2, 1861 - Texas was admitted to the Confederate States of America.

March 4, 1861 - Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as the 16th President of the United States.

He won the election in a four-way race on November 6, 1860 with 180 of 303 electoral votes and only 40% of the popular vote.

March 4, 1861 - The Confederate States "Stars and Bars" was adopted as the first Confederate flag.

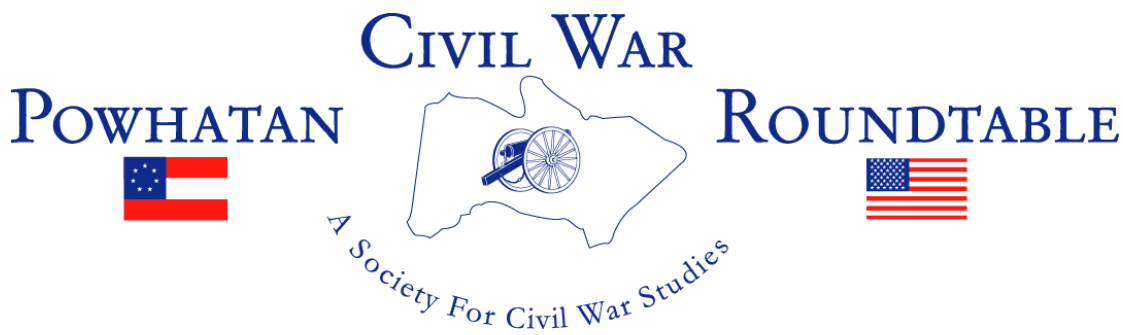
March 5, 1861 - A Peace Commission arrived in Washington from the Confederate States of America government that was formed on February 4, 1861 which elected Jefferson Davis as provisional President on February 9, 1861.

March 6, 1861 - The Confederate Congress established the Army of the Confederate States of America.

March 11, 1861 - The Confederate Congress adopted a permanent constitution similar to that of the United States.

March 13, 1861 - President Lincoln instructed Secretary of State Seward not to receive the Confederate commissioners (M.J. Crawford, John Forsyth, and A.B. Roman) but the Peace Commission would try to reach officials of the Lincoln administration through Supreme Court Justice John A. Campbell until April 11th before returning to Montgomery in frustration.

March 28, 1861 - President Lincoln decided to re-supply and reinforce Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens and signed a sealed order for the USS Powhatan to reinforce Fort Pickens. This was the first attempt to re-supply union troops since President Buchanan dispatched the Star of the West from New York on January 5th. The Star of the West was turned back in Charleston Harbor by shots fired by the Citadel Cadet battery across the bow on January 9th. Although the Star of the West was a merchant ship it reportedly carried 200 troops plus munitions and several months provisions. The first shot was fired by Cadet G.E. Haynsworth, who became a local celebrity.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011:

### **“NO SOAP, NO PAY, DIARRHEA, DYSENTERY, & DESERTION: A COMPOSITE DIARY OF THE LAST 16 MONTHS OF THE CONFEDERACY FROM 1864 TO 1865”**

We are joined for the second year in a row by portrayalist, author, speaker and Missouri native Jeff Toalson.

Jeff earned a BS in Business Management from Missouri State University, and has written two books; “Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls”, and “No Soap, No Pay, Diarrhea, Dysentery & Desertion.”

A member of the Williamsburg CWRT, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, James City Cavalry Camp 2079, he currently resides in Williamsburg Virginia with his wife Jan, and is a regular speaker at Appomattox National Historic Park, Bennett Place Historical Site, and the Manassas Museum. Click [here](#) to buy Jeff's new book!

#### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

C-Span 3 will broadcast the Museum of the Confederacy's February 2011 Symposium titled “Person of the Year: 1861” in two parts: part 1 at 6:00 PM on April 16, 2011 and part 2 at 6:00 PM on April 23, 2011. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Museum and the Library of Virginia, and featured lectures by historians Ed Bearss (lifetime Powhatan Civil War Roundtable Member), William C. “Jack” Davis, Chris Kolakowski, Dr. Laurant Lee, and James I. Robertson, Jr.

#### **WHAT ARE YOU READING?**

Allow us to recommend two engrossing books relating to the events that occurred 150 years ago: "[Ashes of Glory: Richmond at War](#)" by Ernest B. Furgurson, and "[Allegiance: Fort Sumter, Charleston, and the Beginning of the Civil War](#)" by David Detzer and Gene Smith. Have a title that you recommend? Let us know by e-mailing us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

#### **NEXT MONTH**

We will be joined by author and historian Eric Wittenberg, speaking on his most recent publication, “Plenty of Blame to go Around - Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg.” Click [here](#) to learn more about Eric, and click [here](#) to buy the book.

#### **LOCAL EVENTS**

The Richmond Region is central to many, many events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. Take advantage of living in this remarkable region, and click [here](#) to learn about local events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Click [here](#) for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed here? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011: 150 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1861

April 1, 1861 - A "test vote" on submitting an ordinance of secession to Virginia citizens failed by 3 votes.

April 4, 1861 - The Virginia Convention voted on a motion calling for immediate secession of Virginia. The motion failed by a vote of 45 to 88. (first official vote)

April 12, 1861 - Two Confederate batteries opened fire on Fort Sumter at 4:30 AM and the Fort returned fire. More than 4,000 shells produced no deaths at Fort Sumter and few injuries.

April 13, 1861 - A Second Virginia Peace Delegation consisting of A.H.H. Stuart of Staunton, George Wythe Randolph of Richmond, and William Ballard Preston of Montgomery County met with President Lincoln to try to avert war.

April 13, 1861 - Virginia received the first report of the firing on Fort Sumter

April 13, 1861 - Major Robert Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter at 2:30 PM.

April 14, 1861 - A garrison of 80 Union troops departed Fort Sumter for New York.

April 15, 1861 - President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion.

April 16, 1861 - William Ballard Preston of Montgomery County introduced an ordinance of secession. This is the same W.B. Preston who 30 years before introduced legislation in the General Assembly advocating ways to end slavery and was a member of the last peace conference to meet President Lincoln in an effort to avoid war.

April 16, 1861 - Virginia received an official request from the War Department to supply 2,340 men to the Union Army.

April 17, 1861 - The Virginia State Convention adopted an ordinance of succession by a vote of

88 to 55 pending a state referendum on May 23, 1861.

April 17, 1861 - Governor Letcher ordered state troops to seize the Harpers Ferry Arsenal and Gosport Navy Yard.

April 18, 1861 - Governor Letcher accepted the offer of 2000 South Carolina troops and two full regiments reached Norfolk.

April 19, 1861 - Governor Letcher officially informed Confederate President Jefferson Davis that Virginia wished to join the Confederacy.

April 19, 1861 - President Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of all southern ports.

April 20, 1861 - Governor Letcher ordered the VMI Corps of Cadets to Richmond.

April 20, 1861 - Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the Union Army.

April 20, 1861 - The 4th Massachusetts Regiment occupied Fort Monroe, Virginia to protect Washington from attack.

April 21, 1861 - Governor Letcher appointed his Advisory Council to include Col. Francis H. Smith of VMI, Captain Mathew Fontaine Maury, and John J. Allen, Chief Justice of the Virginia Court of Appeals.

April 22, 1861 - Governor Letcher offered the command of Virginia forces to Robert E. Lee with the rank of Major General.

April 24, 1861 - The State Convention adopted the Confederate Constitution pending a state referendum on May 23, 1861.

April 27, 1861 - President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and the suspension would remain in effect until after the war in spite of the fact that the Supreme Court ruled against it on May 27, 1861.

April 29, 1861 - Virginia elected five people to represent Virginia in the Confederate Congress.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Both the North and the South were in the grip of economic recessions when the war began, and army pay, as meager as it was, helped attract some jobless recruits on both sides. At the beginning of the war, Union privates marched and fought for a mere \$13 a month. Rebel privates were recruited for a mere \$11 a month.

Under the Confederate Furlough and Bounty Act of 1862, a soldier received fifty Confederate dollars for a three-year re-enlistment.

While he was a prisoner of war at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, John S. Marmaduke was promoted to Major General in the Confederate army.

After the Civil War was over, Major General Fitzhugh Lee, a nephew of General Robert E. Lee, later served as Major General in the Union Army in the Spanish-American War.

Confederate General Braxton Bragg made comrades of deserters stand at attention while watching their friends shot by firing squads.

More than 150,000 Irish Immigrants served in the Union Army, many of them refugees from the devastating Irish potato famine of the 1840s and the 1850s.

Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest refused anesthesia when surgeons removed a ball lodged close to his spine.

Confederate General James Longstreet gave up playing poker as a penance after three of his children died of scarlet fever in a single week during January, 1862.

Due to inadequacies of the ambulance service, Union wounded remained unattended on the battlefield for up to one week after the Battle of Second Bull Run.

Colonel Lloyd J. Beall, a Union army paymaster, was named commandant of the Confederate Marine Corps even though he had no experience as a marine. After the Civil War, Beall lived in Richmond, Virginia, and kept most of the Confederate Marine Corps records at his home. Much of this history, along with Beall's personal history, was destroyed in a fire. Most of the nine hundred fifty men who made up the 23rd Ohio, mustered into service in June, 1862, felt that it was the finest unit in Federal service. At the time, no one guessed that two of its members, William McKinley and Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, would both go on to serve as Presidents of the United States before the end of the century.

Approximately seventeen hundred Confederate soldiers were suffering from the measles just prior to the Battle of First Bull Run.

Initially all of defenseless, Washington, D.C., eventually became protected by sixty enclosed forts during the Civil War.

Far and away the most popular song of the Union troops of the Civil War came from Julia Ward Howe who was inspired to write the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" during a visit to wartime Washington. The editors of the *Atlantic Monthly* graciously agreed to print her song, and paid her five dollars.





## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

### STUART'S RIDE TO GETTYSBURG ~ PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND

We are joined this month by author, historian, and attorney Eric Wittenberg. Eric has a passion for the Cavalry, and hosts the Civil War site "[Rantings of a Civil War Historian](#)." Below is how Eric describes himself on his website:

"I first became interested in the exploits of the Federal horse soldiers when I made my first visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park as a third grader. I grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania, home to many of the original members of the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry. My favorite story from that trip was of Brig. General John Buford and the heroic First Cavalry Division. My interest in the Civil War grew, and was nurtured during my college years at Dickinson College located less than one hour from Gettysburg.

I am now an attorney in Central Ohio. Today, I work in the business development and litigation arenas. I have retained my interest in the late Conflict and continue to develop it. In 1991 I tried my hand at writing about the Civil War, and my career as a serious historian began. In the intervening years, I have written more than a

fifteen articles that have appeared in national Civil War magazines, as well as a number of books.

My first book, titled *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was published in 1998. It was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award as 1998's best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg. Since then, I have written nine more that are currently available, and number 11 is due this Fall.

I focus on the Union cavalry operations in the Eastern Theatre of the Civil War, with a special emphasis on the role played by horse soldiers in the Gettysburg Campaign. However, my studies go beyond the limitations of the Gettysburg Campaign. The Cavalry fascinates me, and I am pleased to share this interest with you."

Click [here](#) to buy the book "Plenty of Blame to go Around - Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg." We hope you will join us for an informative evening with Eric!

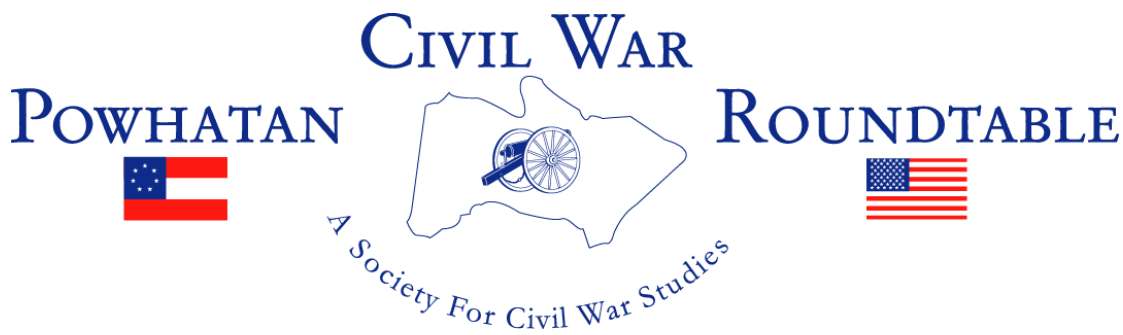
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#### WITH SYMPATHY

The Powhatan Civil War Round Table extends deep sympathy to three families of members who passed away during the past month. Helen Graham was a lifetime resident of Powhatan, and an avid historian who attended our March dinner meeting. It was a shock to learn from her husband, Francis, that she had died peacefully in her sleep at their home, Roseneath.

Our second loss came with the news that Phyllis Ashford, wife of Capt. Robert L. Ashford (USN.Ret) died in Naples, Florida after a brief illness of just a few days. Capt. Ashford has sent word that a memorial service will be held in Powhatan at a later date, to be announced.

Finally, we mourn the loss of William Lipscomb, a former member of the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors. Our sympathy goes out to William's wife Deanna Coffey Lipscomb. Our thoughts and prayers are with all during this time of sorrow.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

### NEXT MONTH

We will be joined by Christy Coleman, President of the American Civil War Center, speaking on "**Goldmines and Landmines: The Civil War in Our Times.**"

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Click [here](#) for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed here? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

After John B. Hood, a leader of questionable ability who became a favorite of Jefferson Davis, lost his leg in combat, he found a splendid French-made cork leg as a replacement. He liked it so well that he never climbed aboard a horse without it. A man of caution, Hood always carried a second cork leg dangling from his saddle.

The men of the 9th Mississippi wore their own civilian clothes when they fought at the Battle of Shiloh.

U. S. military records show that between 10 and 20 percent of Union soldiers who served in the Civil War were boys under the legal age of eighteen set for recruits. At least 130 were only thirteen, and a few managed to slip in who were even younger.

Confederate General Richard S. Ewell was upset that General Stonewall Jackson kept his day-to-day plans secret from even his closest officers. He is reported to have said, "Jackson is driving us mad. He don't say a word--no order, no hint of where we're going."

On April 15, 1861, three days after guns first fired on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln proclaimed a state of insurrection. The president carefully avoided the word "war", which would have intimated a clash with a foreign country and would have helped legitimize the Confederacy's claim to national sovereignty.

Confederate General Gabriel Rains was rebuked by his superiors for using buried land mines, which were

### LOCAL EVENTS

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considered *ungentlemanly conduct of war* at Yorktown in 1862.

Union General Ulysses S. Grant is reported to have said, as he ducked a White House party in his honor, "Really Mr. Lincoln, I have had enough of this show business."

With only sixty thousand men at his command, General Robert E. Lee is reported to have inflicted fifty thousand casualties on the one hundred twenty thousand-man Union army while defending Richmond throughout the Civil war.

Because of heavy casualties, before going into battle, Civil War soldiers devised the first "dog tags" of names and addresses hand lettered on handkerchiefs or pieces of paper pinned to their uniforms.

Nathan Bedford Forrest was the only man on either side, Confederate or Union, who started the war as a private and ended up as a Lieutenant General.

The word "bummer" is said to have originated during the Civil War. It was used to describe a soldier who temporarily deserted his unit during Sherman's March to the Sea to go on a foraging expedition. It also applied to all cooks, orderlies, and servants.

Six defenders of Fort Sumter later became Major Generals during the Civil War. They were Robert Anderson, Samuel Crawford, Jefferson Davis, Abner Doubleday, John Foster, and Tyrone Seymour



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MAY 2011 150 YEARS AGO - MAY 1861

May 1, 1861 - Colonel Thomas Jonathan Jackson took command at Harpers Ferry and relieved B.G. William Harman who captured the arsenal on April 17, 1861 with Virginia militia forces.

May 3, 1861 - General Winfield Scott, the hero of the Mexican War and native of Dinwiddie County, Virginia presented the Anaconda Plan to President Lincoln that advocated isolating the Confederacy by naval blockade.

May 6, 1861 - Arkansas seceded from the Union

May 6, 1861 - President Jefferson Davis approved a Declaration of War against the United States

May 7, 1861 - Virginia formerly entered the Confederacy pending a May 23rd referendum.

May 7, 1861 - Tennessee voted to secede from the Union pending a referendum on June 8th.

May 9, 1861 - The Confederate Navy sent James D. Bulloch to Great Britain to purchase war ships. He was very successful.

May 13, 1861 - B.G. Benjamin Butler moved troops into Baltimore without authorization and sparked a major riot. While many voiced outrage it was a popular move in Washington and resulted in a promotion.

May 20, 1861 - North Carolina seceded from the Union

May 20, 1861 - The Confederate Congress voted to move the Confederate Capital to Richmond.

May 22, 1861 - M.G. Benjamin Butler arrived at Fort Monroe, Virginia to secure this important fortification.

May 23, 1861 - Virginians passed a secession referendum by a vote of 96,750 to 32,134.

May 24, 1861 - Union forces were posted at the bridges between Washington and Virginia to protect the Capital.

May 24, 1861 - The New York Zouaves, under the command of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, entered the City of Alexandria where a Confederate Flag was flying on the Marshall House Hotel. Colonel Ellsworth entered the hotel, proceeded up the stairway and tore the flag down. The proprietor, James William Jackson shot Colonel Ellsworth and in turn was shot by a Union Corporal Francis Brownell. Colonel Ellsworth, a close friend of President Lincoln, was the first Union officer killed.

May 27, 1861 - Peyton Anderson, a Confederate picket was wounded and captured in Fairfax County by a Union patrol and is often considered the first Confederate casualty of the war.

May 31, 1861 - Company B, Second Union Cavalry, under the command of Lt. Charles Thompkins, entered Fairfax Courthouse with approximately 80 men and during the night of May 31st-June 1st, a skirmish occurred with Confederate forces including the Warrenton Rifles commanded by Captain John Quincy Marr. During the conflict Captain John Quincy Marr, VMI Class of 1846, was killed and is considered to be the first Confederate officer killed during the war.





## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

### GOLDMINES AND LANDMINES: THE CIVIL WAR IN OUR TIMES A PUBLIC HISTORY PERSPECTIVE

We are joined this month by educator and lecturer, Christy Coleman, President of The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar for a lively discussion on The Civil War in Our Times.

Christy Coleman began her career in 1982 as a living history interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg, working full time while pursuing her education. In 1986, she became assistant educator at The Baltimore City Life Museums where she developed a student volunteer program, educational outreach to area schools, and other initiatives designed to engage the community. In 1989, she returned to Colonial Williamsburg, where she served in many capacities until 1999 including: a senior interpreter, director of programs, and director of African American interpretations and presentations where she and her team gained international acclaim for bold and innovative programming. She has written a number of works for the museum field as well as historic drama for screen, theater, and on-site programs.

From 1999 to 2005, Ms. Coleman served as President and CEO of the nation's largest African American museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, MI. During her tenure, the museum's membership grew from 3500 to over 15,000.

She also envisioned and launched a successful \$43 million Legacy Campaign created to grow audiences, build an endowment, address capital and programming needs, and build a new \$12 million, 22,000 square foot permanent exhibition entitled "And Still We Rise."

In 2008, Ms. Coleman accepted the position of President and CEO of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar. The Center is the first museum to explore the causes, course and legacies of the Civil War from Union, Confederate and African American perspectives.

She has lectured extensively and consulted with some of the country's leading museums, written a number of articles for scholarly and public history publications as well as being an award winning screenwriter for educational television. Her most recent work "Freedom Bound" won an Emmy in 2009 for Outstanding Educational Programming for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Ms. Coleman was raised in Williamsburg, VA. She received her Bachelor and Master degrees from Hampton University. She is married to Art Espey and they have three children.

Click [here](#) to learn more about The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar!

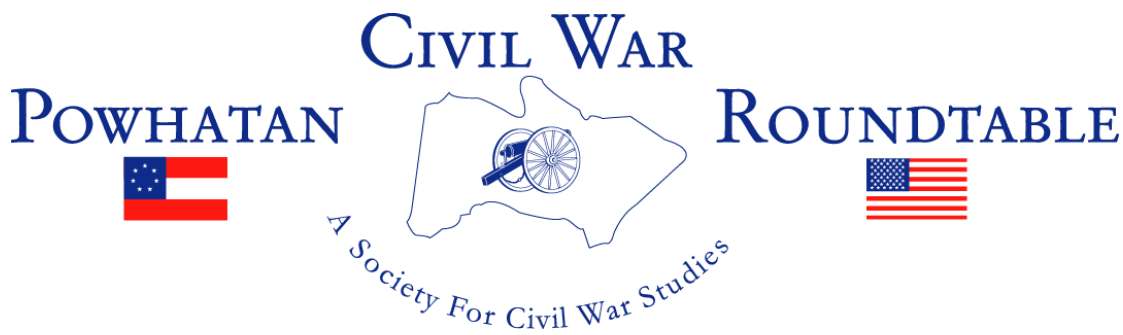
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#### NEXT MONTH

We will be joined by historical interpreter [Bill Young](#) portraying Lt. George W. Finley at Picket's Charge. Click [here](#) to read a first hand account of the battle written by Lieutenant Finley.

#### LOCAL EVENTS

The Richmond Region is central to many, many events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. Take advantage of living in this remarkable region, and click [here](#) to learn about local events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 2011 FAVORITE WEBSITES

The Civil War is a topic that still fascinates, and there is more and more information on this topic posted every day on the World Wide Web. Here are links to some of our favorite sites.

- [The American Civil War - presented day by day as it happened](#)
- [Civil War Interceive's Blue Gray Daily](#)
- [The New York Times - Disunion](#)
- [Civil War Richmond](#)
- [Gardner's Photographic Sketchbook of the War](#)

Tell us your favorites at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org).

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Columbiad: A large caliber, smoothbore, muzzle-loading cannon able to fire heavy projectiles. It is considered by some to be the inspiration for the shell-only cannons developed some thirty years after the Civil War. Although defenders of Fort Sumter had three eighteen-inch Columbiads on hand, they succeeded in firing only one.

In the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry lost some 77% of its men in one day of battle.

The Mason-Dixon Line is the name of the line that is generally considered the demarcation point between North and South during the Civil War. The name comes from a pair of British astronomers who conducted a survey aimed at setting a boundary dispute between British colonies in Colonial America.

During the Civil War, both sides suffered from lack of proper equipment, and Yankee soldiers were barely a full year into the war before they were issued the two-man shelter-tents, which were quickly nicknamed "dog-tents" because the tents were said to be barely large enough to cover a dog. Tentmates each carried a half of this canvas, which they buttoned together at night to make a crude shelter which has no flaps at either end and left their heads and feet open to the elements.

With rations scarce, beef on the hoof and green corn pulled from the fields were especially important to

General Stonewall Jackson's "foot cavalry" in August 1862.

Six defenders of Fort Sumter later became Major Generals. They were Robert Anderson, Samuel Crawford, Jefferson Davis, Abner Doubleday, John Foster and Truman Seymour.

Winchester Virginia is the town which set a record during the Civil War for changing hands at least seventy times!

Union Captain David Buskirk of the 27th Indiana was captured in a skirmish. The Confederates were so amazed by the six-foot, eleven-inch, 380 pound giant that they put him on exhibit as "The Biggest Yankee in the World."

"The Star Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key, was inspired by a battle in the War of 1812. It was a popular song of Union forces during the Civil War. Author Oliver Wendall Holmes added a fifth stanza to the song in 1861, which appeared in songbooks of the era. This version became our national anthem by an act of congress in 1931.

Union Major General Benjamin Freeman Butler had a habit of helping himself to the silverware in Southern homes where he was temporarily headquartered. It earned him the nickname of "Spoons" Butler.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

### 150 YEARS AGO - JUNE 1861

June 1, 1861 - The body of Captain John Quincy Marr, VMI'46, is discovered after a skirmish between Union and Confederate troops in Fairfax, VA on May 31-June 1, 1861. He was the first Confederate officer killed during the war.

June 2, 1861 - General Pierre Gustavus Toutant Beauregard took command of the Confederate forces in northern Virginia. He replaced Brig. Gen. Milledge Luke Bonham who became one of his commanders.

June 6, 1861 - Colonel Daniel Harvey Hill's 1st North Carolina Volunteers arrived on the peninsular and were ordered to Big Bethel by Colonel John Bankhead Magruder. Colonel D.H. Hill was placed in command of the Big Bethel forces.

June 8, 1861 - Tennessee voters ratified secession by a vote of 104,913 to 47,239 with most of those rejecting secession being from eastern Tennessee. The General Assembly of Tennessee passed the secessionist vote on May 7 but like Virginia and Texas ratification was required by the voters.

June 8, 1861 - Confederate forces in western Virginia were transferred from B.G. Robert E. Lee to B.G. Robert Seldon Garnett by Governor John Letcher.

June 8, 1861 - Virginia forces become Confederate forces.

June 8, 1861 - Delegates from some northwestern counties of Virginia met to form a pro-Union government that became West

Virginia in 1863. Only 26 counties were represented so the formation of West Virginia did not meet the U.S. Constitutional requirements for the formation of one state from another.

June 10, 1861 - Union forces under the command of B.G. Ebenezer W. Pierce attacked the Confederate forces at Big Bethel which were under the command of Col. D.H. Hill. The complex Union plan devised by M.G. Benjamin Butler was compromised by confusion and the Union forces were defeated. Major Theodore Winthrop was killed while trying to rally his Vermont and Massachusetts troops and became the first Union officer killed in battle. Lieutenant Greble was killed later in the battle and became the first West Point graduate to be killed in the war.

June 10, 1861 - The first Parrot Rifled Cannon was used by the Richmond Howitzers under the command of Major George Wythe Randolph who would be promoted to Brigadier General on February 12, 1862 for his actions. He would become the third of six Confederate Secretaries of War on March 24, 1862.

June 27, 1861 - A peace convention in Dover, Delaware urged recognition of the Confederacy.

June, 1861 - The Capital of the Confederacy was moved from Alabama to Richmond, Virginia during the month.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

### LIEUTENANT GEORGE W. FINLEY ~ PICKETT'S CHARGE, PORTRAYED BY BILL YOUNG

We are joined this month by portrayalist Bill Young. After retiring as a trial lawyer, Bill Young decided to make his life long love of history, writing, and public speaking into a second career. He presents dramatic and historically accurate first person impressions of five Virginia heroes.

Bill Young's passion is bringing history to life for everyone - corporations, civic clubs, church groups, retirement communities, schools, historical clubs, museums, tour companies, patriotic organizations, and private parties. He has done extensive historical research to produce his stirring talks and the elaborate costumes that he wears.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond Law School. He is the author and illustrator of two books about his Scouting adventures, *Once a Scout* and *Trailing the Eagle*. He co-authored with his wife, Patricia Chewning Young, the 56th Virginia Infantry in the Virginia Regimental Histories Series. He also

writes and illustrates articles for several historical magazines on a regular basis.

Bill is a costumed historical interpreter for the National Park Service at Jamestown, Virginia. He is a member of the casts of the Patrick Henry reenactment at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, and of the Parson's Cause at Hanover Court House. Bill has appeared in three films and has been listed in *Who's Who in Professional Speaking*. He has been a member of the National Speakers Association, the Virginia Speakers Association, and the International Platform Association. He appeared as Woodrow Wilson and General Douglas MacArthur at the High Plains Chautauqua in Greeley, Colorado. To date, Bill has performed in 21 states and in London, England.

Click [here](#) to explore Bill's website.

Click [here](#) to read a first hand account of the battle written by Lieutenant Finley.

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#### NEXT MONTH

We will be joined once more by author and historian W. Hunter Leaser speaking on Gen. Robert S. Garnett CSA, the first General killed in the war, at the Battle of Corrick's Ford. Click [here](#) to learn more.

#### LOCAL EVENTS

Click [here](#) to learn about events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

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## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2011 150 YEARS AGO - JULY 1861

July 1, 1861 - The Union government announced that it would recruit in Tennessee and Kentucky even though Tennessee had already voted to join the Confederacy and Kentucky had announced her resolve to remain neutral.

July 2, 1861 - John C Fremont was made commander of Union forces in Missouri. A large Confederate force massed just a few miles outside of Washington DC. 18,000 Union soldiers moved out to observe their movements but not to engage them.

July 3, 1861 - The threat of having to confront 18,000 Union soldiers was sufficient for the Confederacy to withdraw their men from their position near Washington DC and the capital was once again deemed to be safe.

July 4, 1861 - President Lincoln addressed Congress on the 84th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He gave a rousing speech about the indivisibility of the Union. Several government figures also addressed Congress. Among them was Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, who recommended that Congress supported his idea that volunteers serve for three years. The Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon Chase, asked Congress for \$240 million to pay for the running of the war.

July 5, 1861 - A battle at Carthage, Missouri, ended when Union troops commanded by General Sigel had to withdraw as a result of facing a much larger force. Though casualties were light (13 Union dead and 50 Confederate dead) the withdrawal was a blow to what had been a successful Union advance through Missouri.

July 6, 1861 - General Sigel continued his withdrawal to Mount Vernon.

July 8, 1861 - The Confederacy set in motion a plan to take control of New Mexico territory and appointed General H Sibley to command it.

July 10, 1861 - President Lincoln intervened in an effort to keep Kentucky neutral during the war. Lincoln sent an appeal to Simon Bolivar Buckner, Kentucky's Inspector General of Militia, and a known opponent of secession.

July 11, 1861 - The Battle of Rich Mountain in western Virginia was fought resulting in a Union victory over the Confederates. It was the bloodiest engagement to date with 71 killed – 11 Union troops and 60 Confederates. At nearby Laurel Mountains, an attack by Union troops forced the Confederates based there to withdraw.

July 12, 1861 - 600 Confederate troops were taken prisoner at Beverley in western Virginia when Union troops occupied the town.

July 13, 1861 - The Confederates suffered a heavy defeat at Corrick's Ford in western Virginia. This defeat meant that Union forces had a commanding control over western Virginia.

July 14, 1861 - With a secure base in western Virginia McClellan was able to conduct operations against the rest of Virginia. Control of a number of vital rail lines allowed troops to be moved to western Virginia, and McClellan planned to send 40,000 troops under General McDowell into Virginia.

July 16, 1861 - McDowell's army began its move out towards Manassas.

July 17, 1861 - This day witnessed the most fighting to date. All the fighting was on a small-scale but it took place in Fulton and Martinsburg, Missouri, Scarrytown, western Virginia and Bunker Hill, Virginia.

July 18, 1861 - A sizeable action took place at Blackburn's Ford on the Bull Run Creek. Troops from McDowell's force encountered well dug in Confederates under the command of James Longstreet. While the Union force was suitably engaged





## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2011 150 YEARS AGO - JULY 1861

July 21, 1861 - The Battle of Bull Run was fought. The battle saw a Confederate victory and overwhelming evidence that the Union forces were not as well disciplined as was thought. Panic and non-ordered withdrawals became contagious and the Union army retreated en masse when it became clear that Confederate forces were not willing to run. Men from Thomas Jackson's brigade stood "like a stone wall" to ensure that the Union forces could not advance and Jackson ended up with the nickname 'Stonewall' Jackson. Union casualties totaled 2,896 men – with 460 killed. Confederate casualties totaled 1,982 with 400 killed. The Confederate victory made Washington, DC, even more exposed while the government there realized that what they thought would be an easy victory was actually the start of what would be a much longer war than anyone could have previously predicted. In the Confederacy, the opposite occurred. The leaders of the Confederates believed that the war would be short, especially after the poor performance of the Union army witnessed at Bull Run.

July 22, 1861 - Two state governments existed in Missouri. One was for secession and was led by Governor Jackson while the other was pro-Union and based in Jefferson City.

July 23, 1861 - General John C Fremont was put in command of Union forces in the West.

July 25, 1861 - Congress passed the Crittenden Resolution, which declared that the war was being

fought to preserve the Union and not to abolish slavery.

July 27, 1861 - General McDowell was relieved of his command of Union troops in the Washington, DC area by President Lincoln, to be replaced by General George McClellan.

July 29, 1861 - Union forces in western Virginia still held the upper hand. President Davis decides to send General Robert E Lee to the area to coordinate Confederate operations.

July 31, 1861 - General Ulysses S Grant was appointed General of Volunteers by President Lincoln.

ed, a large Confederate force withdrew to Manassas Junction.

July 19, 1861 - McDowell realized that his men had not engaged the main part of the Confederate force while fighting at Blackburn's Ford and that the bulk were now stationed at Bull Creek. McDowell knew that he had to do something if only because many of his troops (10,000) were on a three-month enlistment and their time was up within days. Under no circumstances could he take on the Confederates short of 10,000 men.

July 20, 1861 - 9,000 Confederate soldiers from the Army of the Shenandoah joined those already at Bull Run. McDowell had a force of 28,000 men after 2,000 three-month enlisters could not be persuaded to stay on. The Confederate force numbered just over 30,000 men.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

### GENERAL ROBERT S. GARNETT, *THE FIRST GENERAL KILLED IN THE WAR WITH W HUNTER LESSER*

Past PCWRT presenter W. Hunter Lesser returns in August, for a discussion on General Robert S. Garnett CSA, the first General killed in the war at the Battle of Corrick's Ford.

On Garnett, Lesser states, "In June 1861, Robert Selden Garnett, formerly R. E. Lee's adjutant-general, takes command of Confederate forces in Western Virginia. His mission is to halt the advance of Union Gen. George McClellan. Garnett is considered one of the most talented officers in the Confederacy, but his 5,300-man Army of the Northwest is badly outnumbered.

Defeated by McClellan at Rich Mountain on July 11 and cut off from his Shenandoah Valley supply line, Garnett leads his little army *north* on rough mountain roads in a daring bid to escape. A Federal strike force is in pursuit. Two days later, at a lonely river crossing called Corricks Ford, Garnett is killed while directing his rearguard—the first Civil War general to fall."

General E. Porter Alexander said of Garnett, "[H]ad he lived I am sure [he] would have won a reputation no whit behind Stonewall Jackson's."

Native West Virginian, W. Hunter Lesser is the author of two books which focus on the war's

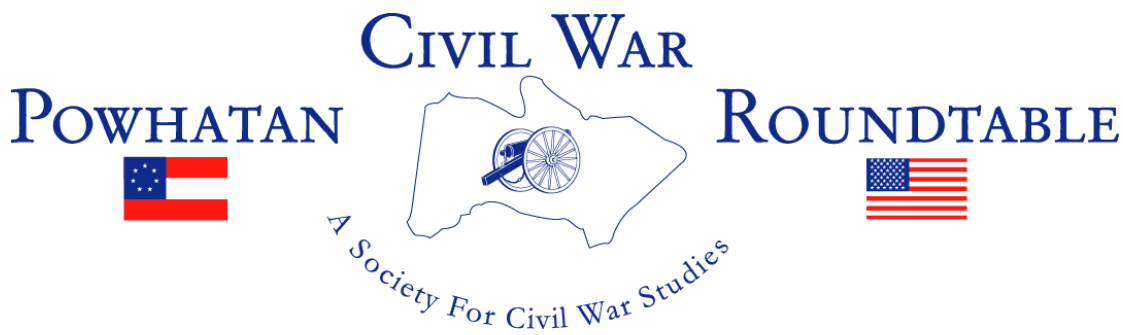
early activity in Western Virginia, "Battle at Corrick's Ford" and "Rebels at the Gate: Lee and McClellan on the Front Line of a Nation Divided." Hunter's career spans over twenty years as an archeologist and historical interpreter. He has spent most of his life preserving and promoting the "First Campaign" (WV 1861), and regularly guides tours of the Rich Mountain/Laurel Hill Battlefields. Hunter's writings on America's past have covered topics from ancient Native American sites, to Kentucky moonshine stills. A lifelong student of the Civil War, he served as technical advisor for the Conversation Fund's The Civil War Battlefield Guide. Hunter is a graduate of Shorter University - degree in Anthropology, a member of the Sesquicentennial Commission, founding board member of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, and member of The Civil War Trust. Hunter enjoys hiking, archery, and fly-fishing, and resides in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia. We are proud to welcome him back for a second time!

To hear more about the battles of Rich Mountain and Corrick's Ford, click [here](#).

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### NEXT MONTH

Our 8th Annual Summer Picnic at The Fine Creek Club will be held on Saturday, September 24th, from noon to 4:00, with lunch served 12:30 to 1:30. This year, we are proud to present as our featured speaker, Harry Kollatz, Jr. the Senior Writer at Richmond Magazine. Richmond *Historian Extraordinaire*, Harry will speak on "A Great Calamity By Fire," the March 13th, 1863 Confederate States Laboratory Explosion, which killed and injured over 70 Richmonders, mostly women and children. \$16.00 for members, \$20.00 for guests. Click [here](#) for details!



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

### LOCAL EVENTS

Don't miss out on the incredible events happening all over the Richmond Region. Click [here](#) for links to events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES:

"I am always ill. The name of my disease is a longing to get away from here and to go to Richmond."

*Mary Boykin Chestnut*

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### THE MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY HONORS PCWRT LEADERS

PCWRT leaders Max Travis and Susan Kuroski were honored as "Member of the Month" in June and July by the Museum of the Confederacy. Click [here](#) to read about both!

### RICHMOND'S CIVIL WAR WOMEN

Click [here](#) to read *Style Weekly's* article on five women who lived in Civil War Richmond.

### WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

Allow us to recommend the excellent Civil War documentaries by Wide Awake Films.

Wide Awake Films specializes in high-quality, historically accurate documentaries. Since 1991, their award-winning production team has traveled across the United States filming large-scale re-enactments and producing original, award-winning Civil War documentaries. Wide Awake Films boasts some of the most technically and creatively skilled videographers, editors, writers and creative professionals in the country. Click [here](#) for more information

We also recommend The Museum of the Confederacy's Wilkinson Vodcast Series. The Wilkinson Series is a collection of online video

segments highlighting short topics about the Civil War and its legacy. Topics include Brigadier General Turner Ashby, mourning rituals, Prussian Confederate Hero von Borcke and his 3 foot sword, women's efforts during the war, black voting rights during reconstruction, and the newest podcast on The Battle of First Manassas.

The five to six minute vodcasts are available on the Museum of the Confederacy's website, [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) and on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) on channelMoC1896. They feature the artifacts, archives, and staff of the Museum of the Confederacy. New vodcasts will be added periodically.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

### 150 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 1861

August 1, 1861 - The Federal Congress passes the first national income tax bill calling for a 3% tax on all income over \$800.00 effective January 1, 1862.

August 6, 1861 - President Lincoln signs bills freeing slaves used by Confederates in arms or labor against the United States and increasing the pay for U.S. soldiers.

August 7, 1861 - Federal ironclad gunboats designed by James B. Eads of St Louis are ordered for use on western waters.

August 8, 1861 - Newly appointed Brigadier General U.S. Grant is made commander of the Ironton, MO District.

August 10, 1861 - The first major battle of the war west of the Mississippi River, the Battle of Wilson's Creek is fought near Springfield,

Missouri, between Union forces and the Missouri State Guard. With the death of Brig. General Nathaniel Lyon, the battle is considered a Confederate victory, and gives the Confederates control of southwestern Missouri.

August 20, 1861 - Major General George B. McClellan assumes command of Union troops in the newly organized Department of the Potomac.

August 20, 1861 - A convention of western Virginia counties was held in Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) to establish a pro-Union state named Kanawha.

August 27, 1861 - With 8 ships and 900 men, Flag Officer Silas Stringham and Major General Benjamin F. Butler capture Fort Clark and Fort Hatteras along the Carolina Coast.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

### 8th ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC!

Our 8th Annual Summer Picnic at The Fine Creek Club will be held on Saturday, September 24th, from noon to 4:00, with lunch served 12:30 to 1:30.

On State Route 711 in the Historic Fine Creek district, stands Virginia Historical Marker number OH 10, which reads:

“Lee's Last Camp. Here Robert E. Lee, riding from Appomattox to Richmond to join his family, pitched his tent for the last time on April 14, 1865. He stopped here to visit his brother, Charles Carter Lee, who lived nearby at Windsor. Not wishing to incommode his brother, Lee camped by the roadside and the next day ended his journey at Richmond.”

More than eight decades after the end of the Civil War, a group of military officers, back from World War II and retired in the Powhatan region, began to look for a property, which would emulate the Officer's Clubs they had grown accustomed to.

It was here, on a portion of the Windsor Forest land belonging Robert E. Lee's great-niece, Miss Lucy Lee, that these officers found what they were looking for. After acquiring the property from

Miss Lee, they created the gentlemen's club known as the Fine Creek Club, and it is here that these heroes, their descendents, and other members of the local gentry still gather.

We are honored to be permitted access to this unique facility for our 8th Annual Summer Picnic on Saturday, September 24th from Noon to 4:00. Joining us as our featured speaker is Harry Kollatz, Jr., the Senior Writer at *Richmond Magazine*. Richmond Historian Extraordinaire, Harry will speak on "A Great Calamity By Fire," the March 13th, 1863 Confederate States Laboratory explosion, which killed and injured over 70 Richmonders, mostly women and children.

With lunch served by our friends from the County Seat Restaurant, from 12:30 to 1:30, we are sure it will be a day to remember. We hope you will join us!

\$16.00 for members, \$20.00 for guests. Click [here](#) for details!

The Fine Creek Club is located at 2424 Robert E. Lee Road, Powhatan, VA 23139. Click [here](#) for a map.

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### NEXT MONTH

Artist, Author, Lecturer Henry E. Kidd speaking on The Battle of the Crater. More information soon!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PCWRT is a membership driven, nonprofit and nonpolitical organization, headed by a Leadership Committee of steadfast volunteers, and we are looking for new volunteers to participate! Click [here](#) for more information.





## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

### 9/11/11 SAILOR'S CREEK VOLUNTEER EVENT

As September 11, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, the President of the United States has issued a call to all Americans to volunteer a day of service in commemoration of that event. Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park joins its sister Virginia Parks in observing this important day commemorating National Service on September 11, 2001. It will do so by hosting a simple park-landscaping project from 2-4 p.m. Friends of Sailor's Creek and other volunteers will assist park staff with needed mulching of plants and trees on park grounds, especially around the Visitors Center. The park will furnish the mulch and necessary equipment. Water and some simple repast also will be furnished. The landscaping effort will commence with a short commemorative service at the Visitors Center flagpole, including brief remarks by the Chief Ranger or his representative remembering the significance of national service, a moment of silence, and the pledge of allegiance. Please consider joining the staff at the visitor center at Sailor's Creek for this volunteer project along with a brief tour and update of the progress being made at the park. Thank you!

### WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

We would like to recommend the fascinating new documentary "Secret Weapon of the Confederacy" airing the week of September 19th on the National Geographic Channel, which investigates the loss of the H.L. Hunley.

"It was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy ship, but after only one successful mission the H.L. Hunley vanished with its crew and lay hidden for more than a century. The circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the Confederacy's secret weapon have remained an enduring mystery since the Civil War era, but now NGC has uncovered what may have brought it down."

Read more: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/secret-weapon-of-the-confederacy-4804/Overview#tab-Overview#ixzz1YGvVLIL4>

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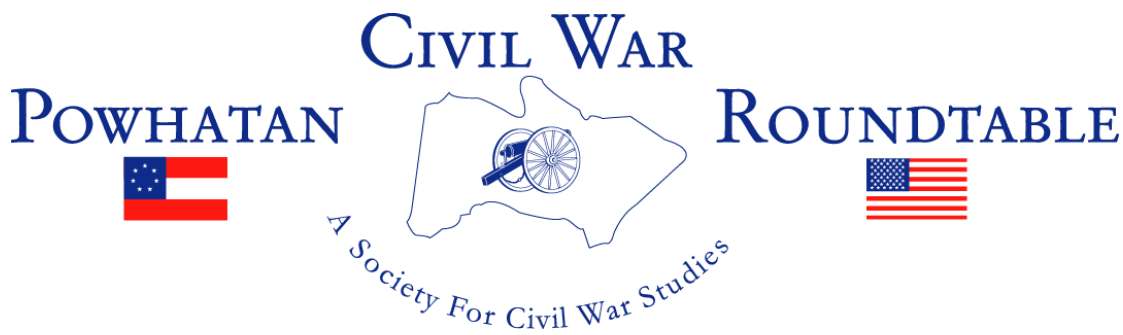
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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES:

"We had marked the frozen earth with bloody and unshod feet; had been elated with victory and crushed by defeat; had seen and felt the pleasure of the life of a soldier, and had drank the cup to its dregs. Yes, we had seen it all, and had shared in its hopes and its fears; its love and its hate; its good and its bad; its virtue and its vice; its glories and its shame." *Sam Watkins*



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

### 150 YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 1861

September 3, 1861 - Confederate forces under Brig. General Gideon Johnson Pillow enter Kentucky from Tennessee en route to Hickman and Columbus and effectively end Kentucky's neutrality.

September 4, 1861 - Confederate forces occupy Hickman and Columbus, Kentucky.

September 6, 1861 - Brig. General Grant moves into Paducah, KY and occupies the important point near the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers.

September 10, 1861 - The Confederacy appoints General Albert Sidney Johnston as commander of the Confederate Armies of the West.

September 11, 1861 - President Lincoln revokes General John C. Fremont's unauthorized emancipation proclamation in Missouri, and replaces General Fremont with General David Hunter who would later issue a similar emancipation proclamation in South Carolina. Gen David Hunter's proclamation would also be revoked by President Lincoln.

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

The term "Rookie" comes from a Civil War term "Reckie", which is short for "Recruit."

"I shall come out of this fight as a live Major General, or as a dead Brigadier." --Confederate Brigadier General Albert Perrin, before the battle of Spotsylvania, in which he was killed on May 12, 1864.

The fledgling United States Marine Corps was authorized during the first year of the war to expand its strength to three thousand men, but had trouble attracting enough volunteers because until 1864, there were no signing bonuses for Marines as there were for men joining the Army or the Navy.

Andersonville was the largest Confederate military prison during the Civil War and was severely overcrowded due to the suspension of prisoner exchange.

Although the fighting was so fierce during the one-day Battle of Antietam that entire regiments ceased to exist, one-third of General George B. McClellan's mighty seventy-five-thousand-man Army of the Potomac never fired a shot.

September 12, 1861 - Robert E. Lee, with 30,000 men under his command, expects to fight a force led by the Unionist General Rosecrans at Meadow Bridge, western Virginia. However, at the last moment Rosecrans changes his direction of movement and engages a Confederate force at Cheat Mountain, comprehensively defeating them. Union losses are 9 dead and 12 wounded while the Confederates lose nearly 100 men.

September 16, 1861 - Union troops occupy Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans, LA as a coaling station and strategic launching point for future moves into New Orleans.

September 19, 1861 - Confederate forces extend their control in Kentucky to form a line from Cumberland Gap in the east to Columbus in the west.

September 20, 1861 - Federal forces under Col. James Mulligan surrender to Missouri militia under Maj. General Sterling Price at Lexington, Missouri.

The highest-ranking civilian to volunteer for military service during the Civil War was Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President of the United States under President Abraham Lincoln.

Galveston, Texas, was the only major southern port still in Confederate hands at the end of the war.

The unofficial anthem of the Confederacy, "Dixie", was actually popular with troops on both sides of the conflict, and it was even played at the inaugurations of both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.

Timothy Webster, a Union spy, was generally regarded as a double agent, working for both the North and the South. He was arrested in Richmond and sentenced to death by hanging in April 1862.

After five female relatives led by Confederate guerrilla William C. Quantrill were accidentally killed while they were locked up in a Kansas City warehouse, Quantrill got his revenge by raiding and ransacking Lawrence, Kansas, killing nearly two hundred soldiers and civilians.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011

### THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER

As the siege of Petersburg dragged on into the summer of 1864, a portion of Union forces found themselves within 150 yards of the opposing Confederate line. Among these forces was the 48th Pennsylvania, a regiment of coal miners from Schuylkill County. Their Colonel, Henry Pleasants, a mining engineer before the war, overheard one of his enlisted men complain "We could blow that damned fort out of existence if we could run a mine shaft under it."

Inspired by this comment, Pleasants proposed the idea to his commander, who obtained approval from Ambrose Burnside. After weeks of toil, endless pessimism from the Federal hierarchy, and scant assistance from Union engineers, Pleasants' men completed an innovative T shaped mine, 511 feet long. Two 40-foot shafts, which branched off the main shaft under the Confederate works, were packed with 4 tons of explosives.

Despite intensive training by the US Colored troops intended to lead the attack after detonation, a last minute change to the battle plan altered what could have been a decisive move by the Union,

into a fiasco so deadly, U.S. Grant would write "It was the saddest affair I have witnessed in this war."

On Thursday, October 20th, local author and artist, Henry Kidd will join us to speak on "The Battle of the Crater."

Designer of the Confederate Medal of Honor, Henry's artwork has appeared in documentaries on the History Channel, on covers of numerous books and magazines, and hangs in many prestigious institutions and museums such as West Point, Virginia Military Institute, Mariner's Museum, Museum of the Confederacy, Petersburg National Battlefield, and the Virginia Historical Society.

A lifelong resident of Colonial Heights, Henry grew up on the battlefields surrounding Petersburg, and has studied the war and its' people extensively, becoming an authority on the war and a sought after lecturer. We look forward to this evening, and hope you will join us! Click [here](#) to learn more about Henry and his many honors.

### NEXT MONTH

Christopher Kolakowski, Director, General George Patton Museum speaking on The Battle of Perryville.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

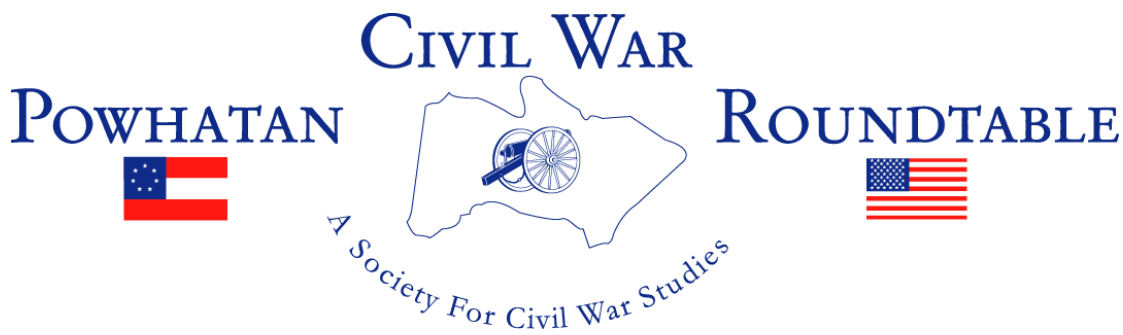
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## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Before the war is done many, I fear, must fall, and I may be one of the number. If so, I am resigned to my fate, and I bequeath to you our dear little boys in the full assurance that you will give to my country in them true and useful citizens. I wish, Love, the prospect were brighter, but indeed I see no hope of a speedy end of this bloody contest." Elisha Franklin Paxton, September 16, 1861.

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### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

About 370,000 handguns were purchased by the Union during the Civil War. Colt and Remington .44-caliber and .36 caliber six-shooters were the most reliable and favored.

Union Brigadier General James H. Wilson commanded the largest mounted force under a single leader in the history of North America.

Named for their inventor, Henry H. Sibley, who later became a Brigadier General for the Confederacy, Sibley tents were huge canvass cones with a pole in the center and an opening at the top for ventilation.

"Not all the glory in the world, General Lee, could atone for the widows and orphans this day has made." - Major General George Pickett, after his disastrous charge at Gettysburg.

Confederate General John H. Morgan's forces captured 7,000 Union horses during a raid on Lexington, Kentucky.

The fall of Selma, Alabama on April 2, 1865, spelled "the collapse of the interior of the Confederate States of America".

Confederate Major General Thomas Rosser was a Lieutenant of artillery when he shot down a Union observation balloon and was rewarded for the feat with promotion to Captain. He was badly wounded three times in three separate battles during the war, but kept persevering and rising in rank. After the war, Rosser became the chief engineer of the Northern Pacific

### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Wear the PCWRT! T-shirts are \$15.00 and polo shirts are \$35.00. All sizes available - get your's at our next meeting!

Railroad and was also a farmer. The Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862, involving some 100,000 men, is known as "the first great modern battle".

Transportation magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt prized each of his many ships. As a patriotic gesture during the war, he agreed to sell a seventeen hundred-ton vessel that bore his name to the Federal government--but at his price. He asked for, and received, exactly one dollar.

The first Civil War monument for either side was erected in late 1863 on the Shiloh battlefield.

General William Tecumseh Sherman, observing that his troops were so good at stealing everything that they needed on their infamous March To The Sea through Georgia, stated "I don't think that I will need to draw any supplies for them other than salt."

Sherman also wrote to his wife, Ellen, after this same march, "like one who has walked a narrow plank, I look back and wonder if I really did it."

Before a Confederate sharpshooter killed him on May 9, 1864 at the Battle of Spotsylvania, Union General John Sedgwick was quoted as saying, "Men, dodging this way and that for single bullets? What will you do when they open fire along the whole line? I am ashamed of you. Don't duck; they couldn't hit an elephant at this distance."

PGT Beauregard was the first Confederate soldier to be promoted to the rank of full General (June 21, 1861).



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

### THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE, KY

While it could be thought that Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Army of Mississippi won a tactical victory against a single corps of Major General Don Carlos Buell's Union Army of the Ohio, the battle is historically considered a strategic Union victory.

Fought near the small crossroads town of Perryville, Kentucky, "The Battle of Perryville" was the largest battle fought in the state of Kentucky. When the casualties related to the engaged strengths of both armies are considered, this critical battle of the Western Theater becomes one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Chris Kolakowski, Director of the General George S. Patton Museum of Leadership in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Chris was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He received his B.A. in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College and his M.A. in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany

He has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, the State of New York, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, and the Civil War Preservation Trust. He is the author of several articles on the Civil War, the American Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, and both World Wars. His first book, *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling for the Bluegrass State*, was published in August 2009

From 2005 to 2008, Chris was Executive Director of the Perryville Enhancement Project. During his tenure there he added 152 acres of critical battlefield land, and increased Perryville's national profile. He was also Chief Curator of the National Museum of the Army Reserve in Fort McPherson, Georgia. He currently serves as Director of the General George S. Patton Museum of Leadership in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

We look forward to Chris' presentation and hope you will join us!

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### NEXT MONTH

The PCWRT Holiday Dinner & Business Meeting, with Stan Clardy, Musician & Storyteller, on "Christmas Letters & Songs." Note the early date, **Thursday, December 9, 2010** at 6:00 p.m. at the County Seat Restaurant, in Powhatan!



**CIVIL WAR**  
**POWHATAN**   **ROUNDTABLE**   
A Society For Civil War Studies

## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

### THE TRENT AFFAIR AT THE MOC

On November 8, 1861, the *USS San Jacinto* intercepted the British mail packet ship *RMS Trent* in the Old Bahama Channel near Cuba. The *San Jacinto's* executive officer, Lt. D. M. Fairfax with a contingent of marines, boarded the British ship in international waters and removed the Confederate commissioners with their secretaries en route to Great Britain and France. A blatant violation of international law caused a strain on British/U.S. relations, which nearly erupted into full-scale war. Join MOC Public Relations Specialist Sam Craghead on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm - 12:30pm, for a talk on the 150th anniversary of the Trent Affair at the Museum of the Confederacy.

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PCWRT is a membership driven, nonprofit and nonpolitical organization, headed by a Leadership Committee of steadfast volunteers, and we are looking for new volunteers to participate! Click [here](#) for more information.

### LOCAL EVENTS

Don't miss out on the incredible events happening all over the Richmond Region. Click [here](#) for links to events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites on the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

### NOTICE:

Thank you to our members for responding to our request to send future newsletters via e-mail! Your Roundtable is always striving to reduce expenses, and one of our main expenses has been the mailing of our monthly newsletter. If you are currently receiving your newsletter via US Mail, but would prefer to receive it electronically via e-mail, please let us know at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org).

### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Wear the PCWRT! T-shirts are \$15.00 and polo shirts are \$35.00. All sizes available - get your's at our next meeting!

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"The orders tonight read on the field was that we are to be ready at one minutes notice to march on the enemy. We have to get one days grub cooked on hand and ready. I think we will have a fight soon Frank if I get killed I will write and let you know."  
Samuel Nelson, 6th Massachusetts, October 25, 1861

### COMING SOON – CIVIL WAR CINEMA AT THE BYRD!

Mark your calendars! Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, the Byrd Theatre and The Museum of the Confederacy will partner once more with their Civil War Cinema Event! A chocolate and champagne reception will precede a special screening of Robert Redford's "The Conspirator," introduced by speaker Elizabeth Trindal, author of *Mary Surratt: An American Tragedy*. Tickets are only \$25.00 per person, or \$15.00 with a valid Student ID. Tickets may be purchased at Plan 9 Records, at the Museum, or on-line at [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).



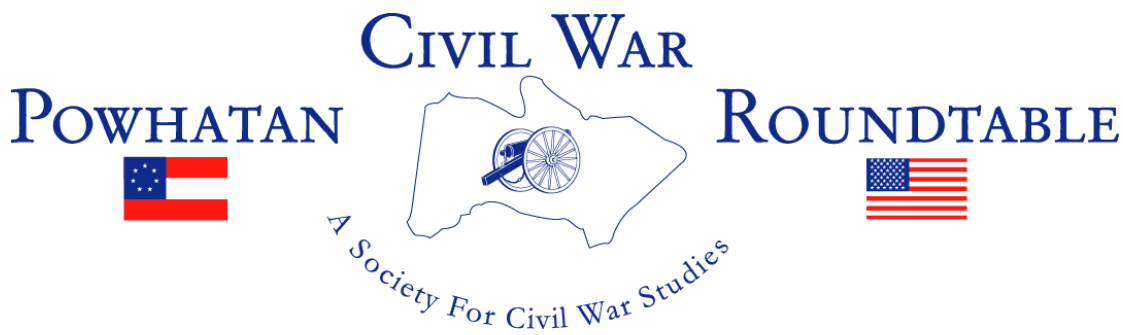
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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Click [here](#) for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed here? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### SNEAK PEAK AT THE 2012 PCWRT SCHEDULE

- January 19 - Frank Earnest - Major Heros Von Borke of Gen J.E.B Stuart's Staff
- February 16 - Robert J. Forman - The Bermuda Hundred
- March 15 - John V. Quarstein - TBA
- April 19 - Virginia Morton - "Unconquerable Love", Confederate Scout Frank Stringfellow & Emma Green
- May 17 - John Pelletier - Confederate Medical Program
- June 21 - Dr Craig Symonds - "The Strange Case of the USS Powhatan"
- July 19 - David L. Phillips - "The Jessie Scouts," Spys and Espionage
- August 16 - John Michael Priest - "Recollections of the Wilderness" - The Battle as the Men Saw It
- September 20 - Eric Wittenberg - TBA
- October 18 - Lee's Lieutenants - Portrayalists
- November 15 - William C. Davis - TBA
- December 6 - Andy Cortez and the Tredegar Brass Band



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### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

The CSS Hunley, by ramming the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor on February 17, 1864, was the first underwater vessel to sink a ship in wartime.

Confederate Snipers who used the Whitworth rifle were greatly feared because it was demonstrated in Petersburg that a projectile fired over a mile away deviated from its target by only approximately twelve feet.

More than twelve thousand Confederate troops surrendered at the Battle of Fort Donalson, Tennessee, in February 1862.

Because it was on a prolonged voyage and did not know of the surrender, the CSS Shenandoah was the last ship to fly the Confederate flag, lowering her colors in Liverpool, England, on November 6, 1865.

"Rackensackers" was the jocular name that was given to Confederate units made up of volunteers from Arkansas and Texas.

"Carpetbaggers" was the name that former confederates gave to Northerners who came South after the war for political or financial gain.

The Battle of Shiloh was the first to result in nearly twenty-five thousand casualties, 46% Confederate and 54% Union.

The Civil War was sixty-eight times more expensive than the American Revolution. Its total cost was \$12.5 billion as opposed to \$190 million.

Confederate Commander Josiah Tattall faced court-martial for his decision to destroy the CSS Virginia in order to thwart its capture.

Famous Wall Street businessman J.P. Morgan made a fortune when he financed the purchase of five thousand rifles from the arsenal in New York for \$3.50 each, then sold them to the Union Army for \$22 each. While Morgan was pocketing a 25 % commission, plus interest, Union soldiers were shooting their thumbs off with defective rifles.

"The Tennessee Quickstep" was the special name that Union troops fighting in the South gave to diarrhea.

"The Stonewall Brigade" (the First Brigade/Virginia Volunteers) was the only Confederate unit during the war to be named for a person, General Stonewall Jackson.

Confederate Private Sebron Sneed, Texas infantry, wrote home, "In this army, one hole in the breeches indicates a captain, two holes a lieutenant, and the whole seat of the pants all out means that the individual is a private."

After the War, General Robert E. Lee's battle tactics were studied in military academies from West Point to St. Cyr in France up to World War I.



## 2011 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Stan Clardy, was born and raised in a small town in south Georgia and is currently a resident of North Carolina. A longtime history buff, Stan became interested in the Civil War in 1990 through the Civil War Reenacting community.

Inspired by what he saw, he wrote his musical journey “Soldiers in Gray” which eventually became a full length CD. “Soldiers in Gray” debuted in 1998 and was

performed at the PCWRT Annual picnic in 2010.

In “Christmas Letters and Songs” Stan reads correspondence written during Christmas time throughout the Civil War, and includes period music and songs performed between each letter. It is sure to be a touching and inspired evening. Period attire is encouraged, but not required, and we hope you will join us to close out the year in PCWRT style.

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### NEXT MONTH

We start the New Year off with portrayalist Frank Earnest as Major Johann August Heinrich Heros Von Borcke of Gen J.E.B Stuarts staff.

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### MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY'S BROWN BAG DISCUSSION:

The 150th Anniversary Of Thomas J. Jackson's  
Attacks on Dam No. 5

Friday December 16th, 2011 at 12:00pm - 12:30pm

After the Battle of First Manassas, General Stonewall Jackson was given command of the Confederate Army in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Greatly outnumbered by the Union army in the Valley, Jackson began to look for ways to attack the Union Army and its support. His attention fell on Dam No. 5 on the C&O Canal.

This program focuses on the Confederate Army's exciting and often humorous attempts to destroy Dam No. 5 in December 1861.

Join MOC Supervisor of Visitor Services Bryce VanStavern, for a talk on the 150th anniversary of Thomas J. Jackson's attacks on Dam No. 5.

As always, these discussions are at the Museum and free of charge! Just remember to bring your lunch! For more information: 855-649-1861.

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Our boys write vastly more letters than they receive. You can hardly imagine the eagerness, which the mailman is looked for. The delight on the reception of a letter. The sadness, sometimes even to tears, with which those who are disappointed turn away." Reverend A. M. Stewart