



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2012:**

**JOHANN AUGUST HEINRICH HEROS VON BORCKE
OF GENERAL JEB STUART'S STAFF**

Happy New Year from the PCWRT! As we enter our ninth year, we are excited to bring you B. Frank Earnest, Sr. as "the giant in gray" Johann August Heinrich Heros von Borcke.

Heros von Borcke was a lieutenant in the 2nd Brandenburg Regiment of Dragoons when news arrived of the beginning of the American Civil War. Securing his release from the Prussian Army, von Borcke boarded a blockade runner in May of 1862 and traveled to Charleston, South Carolina. In his possession was what would arguably become one of the most famous military swords of all time. Arriving in Richmond by the end of May, he was assigned to Major General JEB Stuart by the order of Secretary of War George W. Randolph.

A tall man at 6' 4" and weighting in at more than 240 pounds, he was a striking figure, and Stuart was quickly impressed by the Prussian. Stuart made von Borcke his chief of staff and adjutant general, and he served until severely wounded with a bullet in the neck at the battle of Middleburg in 1863. He recovered enough to resume staff duties in the spring of 1864, and was present at the Battle of Yellow Tavern in which Stuart received the wound which would prove to be fatal. von Borcke was at Stuart's side when he died in Richmond the following day. He ended the war in England on a diplomatic mission for the Confederacy, and

returned to his homeland. His memoirs of his adventures in the Confederate army were published in 1877, and the giant passed away from effects of the old wound in 1895.

For more information on von Borcke, click here to view the Museum of the Confederacy's informative vodcast about the Prussian Confederate and his famous sword.

Our presenter, Frank Earnest was born in Norfolk, Virginia and currently resides in Virginia Beach with his wife Billie. A Navy Veteran with over 20 years of service during conflicts from Vietnam to Desert Storm, he has been recognized by the United Daughters of the Confederacy for his service, and also awarded one of their highest honors, the President Jefferson Davis Medal. Descended from Captain Eusebius Fowlkes, of company A 11th Virginia Infantry, Frank has served at the officer level of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans for many years, and is a member of the Advisory Council for the Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. A historic interpreter, Frank has participated in events such as the funeral of Mrs. Alberta Martin (The Last Confederate Widow), the burial of the CSS Hunley Crew, and introduces modern audiences to the "giant in gray" Major Heros von Borcke.

NEXT MONTH

Robert J. Forman speaking on the battle of The Bermuda Hundred.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 20112

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CLASS ON CIVIL WAR NAVY

The University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies will offer a course titled "*Battle Flags and Broadides: The Sailors' Civil War*" that meets 7:00 – 9:00 PM on four consecutive Monday nights, beginning on April 2, 2012. The course will be led by Powhatan Civil War Roundtable member Jack Mountcastle, the U.S. Army's former Chief of Military History. Click here for details!

CIVIL WAR CINEMA AT THE BYRD!

Sunday, January 29th, 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.

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.

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

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"I have just read your dispatch about sore-tongued and fatigued horses, Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the Battle of Antietam that fatigues anything?"

Lincoln to McClellan, October 25, 1862

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

 

**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 20112**

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.

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

January 3, 1862 - Jefferson Davis expressed his concern that Union forces were stationed at Ship Island in the Mississippi Sound. This base was only 65 miles from New Orleans. General 'Stonewall' Jackson started his campaign to disrupt the North's movement of supplies. His targets were the Baltimore to Ohio railway and the Ohio to Chesapeake canal.

January 4, 1862 - Jackson's reputation for keeping his men on the move was cemented when Union forces could barely find his 10,000 men who were on the march.

January 6, 1862 - The Senate urged Lincoln to replace McClellan because of his seeming lack of activity. However, Lincoln supported McClellan.

January 7, 1862 - Three Union gunboats made a sortie along the Mississippi to within three miles of the important Confederate stronghold at Columbus. Their information was fed back to General U Grant.

January 9, 1862 - General Grant started his campaign against Columbus.

January 11, 1862 - Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned over accusations of corruption and basic incompetence. 100 Union ships transported 15,000 troops to Port Royal, North Carolina, to support the men who are already there.

January 13, 1862 - Edwin Stanton became Secretary of War.

January 14, 1862 - Lincoln called for a more robust campaign in Missouri. McClellan urged caution.

January 19, 1862 - A battle at Mill Spring (sometimes called the Battle of Somerset) led to as many as 195 Confederate troops being killed with 200 taken prisoner. However, the Union's leader in the attack, General Zollicoffer, was killed.

January 25, 1862 - By this day, what was left of the Confederate force at Mill Spring had been forced 100 miles to the southwest to Gainsboro, which resulted in the Confederate line having a large gap punched through it.

January 27, 1862 - Lincoln issued General War Order Number One. This urged the Union army into action and set February 22nd as the date he expected a major surge in action.

January 30, 1862 - The 'USS Monitor' was launched – a revolutionary new vessel designed by John Ericsson. The 'Monitor' marked a new stage in the development of ironclads. Mason and Slidell finally arrived in Great Britain.

January 31, 1862 - Lincoln issued his Special War Order Number One. This ordered the army that had been protecting Washington DC to launch an attack on Manassas Junction – as long as the safety of the capital had been ensured – by February 22nd. Great Britain announced that it would remain neutral in the war.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012:

THE BERMUDA HUNDRED

This month the PCWRT welcomes Major Robert J. Forman speaking on The Bermuda Hundred Campaign.

In May of 1864, Benjamin Butler and the Union Army of the James engaged Confederate forces under the command of General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, in a series of battles outside of Richmond. Known as The Bermuda Hundred Campaign, local sites such as Port Walthall Junction, Swift Creek, Chester Station, and Ware Bottom Church saw desperate fighting as the Confederate Army struggled to protect the outskirts of Richmond, and defend the Southern Capital.

While Beauregard's forces had been pieced together from the ranks of teenagers and elderly men from the Richmond-Petersburg area, the Union Army was no match for the determined defenders, and Butler became bottled up at the

little fishing village of Bermuda Hundred. While safe from attack, he was unable to move, as the enemy had built an equally strong line immediately in front of him, and ultimately his campaign would be remembered as a Union failure.

Our speaker, Major Robert J. Forman is the author of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign Tour Guide, which includes extensive descriptions of every Civil War battle fought in the Bermuda Hundred area of Southeastern Chesterfield.

A WestPoint graduate, and former educator at Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Major Forman is a member of the Military History Committee of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, and passionate preservationist of our area's Civil War history. We are honored to welcome him, and hope you will join us!

[Click here to read more about Robert!](#)

NEXT MONTH

PCWRT friend and member favorite, John V. Quarstein makes his annual appearance!

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CLASS ON CIVIL WAR NAVY

The University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies will offer a course titled "*Battle Flags and Broadsides: The Sailors' Civil War*" that meets 7:00 – 9:00 PM on four consecutive Monday nights, beginning on April 2, 2012. The course will be led by Powhatan Civil War Roundtable member Jack Mountcastle, the U.S. Army's former Chief of Military History. [Click here for details!](#)



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012:

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.

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

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Our march yesterday was terribly severe. The sun was like a furnace, and the dust thick and suffocating. Many a poor fellow marched his last day yesterday. Several men fell dead on the road. Our boys have all come through so far, accepting the hardships as a matter of course, and remaining cheerful and obedient I assure you I feel proud of them."

Lt. Colonel Rufus R. Dawes, Ten miles from Leesburg, VA. June 19, 1863

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.

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

February 1, 1862 - Confederate generals became aware that Union forces were massing along the line of the Mississippi River near Virginia and planned to expect a major Union offensive with the targets thought to be either Fort Henry or Fort Donelson.

February 2, 1862 - Confederate intelligence indicated that the Union's ability to move its men along river systems was not good. However, the Confederates were unaware of Lincoln's order – to attack regardless.

February 3, 1862 - Lincoln again asked McClellan to make a major move for Richmond using the Army of the Potomac. McClellan again showed his usual reluctance to do anything without having it precisely mapped out first. He told Lincoln that he wanted to move troops by sea to the Virginia Peninsula and then push the 40 miles inland.

February 5, 1862 - General Grant concentrated his forces for an attack on Fort Henry. He had 15,000 men under his command while the Confederate defenders at the fort numbered 3,200.

February 6, 1862 - Union gunboats on the Tennessee River bombarded Fort Henry. The fort commander, General Tilghman withdrew as many men as he could to Fort Donelson but ensured that gunners remained in Fort Henry. By mid-afternoon the walls of Fort Henry were broken and Tilghman decided to surrender. Only 63 men were left in the fort. Over 3,000 made it to the relative safety of Fort Donelson, which prepared itself for an attack. However, the control of the Tennessee River at that point was very important

to the Unionists as it allowed them to make river patrols up to northern Alabama.

February 7, 1862 - Grant prepared for an attack on Fort Donelson, which was a far tougher proposition than Fort Henry. Fort Henry was by the river's edge while Fort Donelson was 100 feet above the Cumberland River.

February 8, 1862 - Union forces took prisoner 2,527 Confederate troops at Roanoke Island.

February 10, 1862 - Grant told his men that they would move on Fort Donelson within 24 hours. The fort was 12 miles from Fort Henry. Grant's large land force was bolstered by a large river force as more Union gunboats joined the attack.

February 12, 1862 - 20,000 Union troops moved on Fort Donelson. By the time Grant's men arrived at the fort, it is thought that there were about 18,000 Confederate troops in it.

February 13, 1862 - The attack on Fort Donelson started though the gunboats were late in arriving. Artillery fire continued throughout the day and into the night.

February 14, 1862 - Six Union gunboats arrived at Fort Donelson. They accompanied ten transport ships that brought an extra 10,000 Union troops to the fight. The gunboats added an extra 70 guns to the Union's artillery capability. As well as being pounded from the land, the fort was attacked from the river. During the night, the fort's commander, General Floyd, decided that the Confederate force in the fort had to fight its way out and push into open land. Floyd assumed that they had no chance of holding Fort Donelson.

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

**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

February 15, 1862 - One hour before daybreak the Confederates in Fort Donelson attempted their breakout. They had surprise on their side and attacked on just one front but after initial success had to face Union troops sent to reinforce that front. By the afternoon, the Confederates had to return to Fort Donelson. By the end of the day, Fort Donelson was totally surrounded. Union troops surrounded it on three sides on land and the Union gunboats dominated the Cumberland River.

February 16, 1862 - At dawn Fort Donelson surrendered. The Confederates had hoped to negotiate terms but Grant told them that “unconditional and immediate surrender can (only) be accepted”. The loss of Fort Donelson resulted in the Confederates losing control of Tennessee and Kentucky. Over 14,000 Confederates were taken prisoner.

February 18, 1862 - There was much celebration in Washington DC when news reached the capital of the surrender of Fort Donelson. The First Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond.

February 21, 1862 - The Battle of Fort Craig in New Mexico was fought. This saw a Confederate victory against a larger Union force. The Confederates captured six artillery guns from the Unionists.

February 22, 1862 - Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the first President of the Confederate States of America.

February 25, 1862 - General Halleck, commander of the Army of the Southwest, sent a series of telegraph messages stating how well the Unionist forces were doing in Missouri – a state seen as a thorn in the side to Federal aspirations. However, these telegraph messages were misleading in that Halleck had yet to achieve anything decisive.

February 27, 1862 - Davis was given permission by the Confederate Congress to suspend habeas corpus if he felt it was necessary to do so. Davis asked for martial law to be introduced at Norfolk and Portsmouth – both important naval bases in Virginia.

February 28, 1862 - Charleston was captured by Unionist forces. Charleston was to become the capital for the new state of West Virginia.

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012:

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

On February 17, 1864, the C.S.S. H.L. Hundley became the first submarine to engage and sink a warship, the USS Housatonic.

During the Civil War, approximately three million men fought (along with a few well disguised women)!

No state was more divided by split loyalties during the Civil War than was Tennessee. Early in the conflict, Tennesseans chose not to deal with succession or war, and decided to remain in the Union. However, when Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to wage war against the South, only then did Tennessee vote to join the Confederacy. Still, many Tennesseans remained loyal to the Union, especially the eastern half of the state.

At the onset of the Civil War, there were approximately four million slaves in the United States. There were 2.3 million slaves in the lower South (South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida), which equaled approximately 47% of the total population of that region.

"Shoddies" was the nickname given by Union soldiers to the poorly made uniforms produced by Northern clothing contractors at the beginning of the war. Made from wool scraps, the uniforms frequently fell apart.

Galusha Pennypacker, of Chester Pa., enlisted in the war as a private at age sixteen. Just before his twenty-first birthday, he was made a brigadier

general, and became the youngest general in either army during the war.

The wealth of information available about the Civil War exists for a number of reasons. For the first time, the American population had a high degree of literacy. This was significant because more soldiers could record their thoughts and experiences of the war. Some were eloquent writers, whereas others were barely literate. Information concerning daily life, regimental strengths, and troop movements was described and mailed without restriction, because soldiers' letters were not censored during the war.

Except for river transport, trains, and one's own feet, much of the transportation of the armies depended upon animals: horses, mules, and occasionally oxen. The number of animals required to support both armies dwarf anything by today's standards. In 1864, the Army of the Potomac was followed by more than 4000 six-mule team wagons as it entered the Wilderness Campaign. The total number of horses and mules that began that campaign was more than 56,000.

On February 25, 1862, Nashville fell to Union troops, and remained an occupied city for three years. Citizens will complain that churches were confiscated for secular use, ministers and editors were imprisoned, trees were cut for fuel, schools closed, and businesses appropriated.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012:**

THE BATTLE OF THE IRONCLADS

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, conventional warships were constructed of wood, and a navy for the new Confederate States of America was nonexistent.

Following the Federal abandonment of the naval shipyard at Norfolk in April 1861, the Confederates took possession, and raised the scuttled warship *USS Merrimack*. In July of 1861, the Confederacy began the process of converting the burned out hulk of the *USS Merrimack* to a new, never before seen, state of the art warship. In February 1862, the iron-plated *CSS Virginia* was christened, and prepared to do battle with the Yankee fleet blockading its harbor.

Realizing that they had no warship which could defeat the South's 10 gun ironclad, a worried United States Navy commissioned brilliant inventor, John Ericsson to build the vessel which he felt could destroy the *Virginia*, or any other Confederate ship - the *USS Monitor*. Unusual in appearance and resembling a "cheese box on a raft," the *Monitor* was defined by its innovative, revolving turret containing two 11-inch Dahlgren guns.

On March 9th 1862, the Ironclads *CSS Virginia* and *USS Monitor* clashed in the waters off Newport News, Virginia, and wooden warships around the world immediately became obsolete. With the 150th anniversary of the Battle between the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia* observed this month, we welcome our friend, and Battle of Hampton Roads expert, John V. Quarstein to speak on this topic which he knows so well.

John is an award winning historian, preservationist, and author. He has served as the director of the Virginia War Museum since 1978. In addition to these duties, he oversees the management of the City of Newport News' historic properties including Endview Plantation, Lee Hall Mansion, Young's Mill, and the Newsome House as well as serving as the historical advisor for the Mariners' Museum's U.S.S. Monitor Center project. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the College of William and Mary, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. Quarstein is the author of seven books including *Fort Monroe: The key to the South*, *C.S.S. Virginia: Mistress of Hampton Roads*, *Civil War on the Virginia Peninsula*, and *The Battle of the Ironclads*.

John V. Quarstein was the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1993 President's Award for Historic Preservation Award, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999. Presently, he serves on the board of several national organizations including Virginia Civil War Trails, John Singleton Mosby Foundation, and Chief Historical Advisor for the U.S.S. Monitor.

An avid duck hunter, John V. Quarstein lives in Hampton, Virginia and on his Eastern Shore farm with his wife Martha and son John Morgan.

[Click here to read more about the Battle of the Ironclads with John Quarstein.](#)

POWHATAN **CIVIL WAR** **ROUNDTABLE**



A Society For Civil War Studies

**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012:**

JOIN UP!

Annual membership dues for 2012 are now due. Don't miss out on any of the outstanding programs we have scheduled this year, including such notable historians as Eric Wittenberg, Craig Symonds, and William C. (Jack) Davis. Individual memberships are only \$25.00 and Family memberships are just \$35.00 for the entire year!

Click here for your PCWRT Membership Application.

NEXT MONTH

PCWRT welcomes for a second time, author Virginia Morton speaking on Frank Stringfellow and Emma Green, an "Unconquerable Love."

WEEKEND & CIVIL WAR NAVAL CONFERENCE

The 2012 "Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend & Civil War Naval Conference" commemorates the sesquicentennial year of the Battle of the Ironclads: USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, in Hampton Roads. The event is being held March 9-11, 2012, at the Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia. The central theme of the three day conference, as well as the family programming for the weekend, remains focused on the pivotal moment of the Battle of Hampton Roads: What led to it and what transpired as a direct result of this crucial moment in history. Many of the events are free for Museum members or with Museum admission.

- Friday, March 9, 9 AM – 5 PM, Historians John Quarstein and J. Michael Moore will conduct a bus tour of Civil War sites on the Peninsula.
- March 9 – 11, 2012 – The Civil War Naval Conference features award-winning authors Harold Holzer and Craig Symonds. The two full days of sessions are focused on Civil War Naval history, technology, literature, art and popular culture
- March 10 & 11, 2012 – Weekend family activities are highlighted by the introduction of Ironclad BattleQuest, a fun, interactive family adventure game that takes you through indoor and outdoor activities. Reenactors will be camped on the grounds of the Museum where they will, among other activities, conduct artillery drills and a *School for the Sailor*.
- Saturday, March 10, 2012, 6:30 PM, will bring the second annual Battle of the Ironclad Chefs. Throughout the day, guests will witness demonstrations of two very unique cooking styles, that of a plantation cook and that of a Union cook, on the deck of the USS Monitor. The two competitors will discuss their menu choices, ingredients, and cooking styles.

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission *History Mobile* will be present for everyone attending to visit.

Some of the events have extra charges. Please go to www.battleofhamptonroads.com for more information and registration.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012:

REMINDER - UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CLASS ON CIVIL WAR NAVY

The University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies will offer a course titled "*Battle Flags and Broadships: The Sailors' Civil War*" that meets 7:00 – 9:00 PM on four consecutive Monday nights, beginning on April 2, 2012. Powhatan Civil War Roundtable member Jack Mountcastle, the U.S. Army's former Chief of Military History, will lead the course. Click [here](#) for details!

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.

GRAND OPENING OF THE MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY - APPOMATTOX

On March 31, our neighbors in Appomattox celebrate the opening of the Museum of the Confederacy's newest location. Click [here](#) for details.

FREE EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF CLARA BARTON

Beginning Thursday, April 12, the anniversary of the death of Clara Barton, the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Maryland celebrates the legacy of the woman who dedicated her life and energies to help others in times of need - both home and abroad, in peacetime as well as during military emergencies. Click [here](#) for more information.

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"I walked up to the monument and heard the Inaugural read by the President. He read it well, and seemed self-poised in the midst of disasters, which he acknowledged had befallen us. And he admitted that there had been errors in our war policy. We had attempted operations on too extensive a scale, thus diffusing our powers which should have been concentrated. I like these candid confessions. They augur a different policy hereafter, and we may hope for better results in the future. We must all stand up for our country."

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



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

March 1, 1862 - Richmond was put under martial law while a number of prominent citizens were arrested for proclaiming that the war should be brought to an end.

March 2, 1862 - Confederate forces abandoned Columbus, Kentucky, seen as a major Confederate stronghold but one that was vulnerable to attack after the fall of Fort Donelson.

March 3, 1862 - General Halleck accused General Grant of “neglect of duty, inefficiency and drunkenness”. McClellan gave Halleck permission to arrest Grant if he thought it was necessary. This argument was the result of Grant’s popularity in the North after the capture of Fort Donelson, which Halleck claimed the credit for coupled with Halleck’s lack of any real progress in Missouri.

March 4, 1862 - General Robert E Lee was appointed military advisor to Jefferson Davis. Halleck removed Grant from his command. Halleck was appointed commander of all the Union’s western armies – his reward for the victory at Fort Donelson.

March 6, 1862 - Lincoln asked Congress to approve Federal funding to assist states thinking about introducing emancipation of slaves legislation. The Confederate Congress agreed that a scorched earth policy could be used in Virginia if Unionist forces broke through. The aim was to ensure that no cotton or tobacco fell into the hands of the North.

March 7, 1862 - McClellan moved the Army of the Potomac into Virginia. His target was the Confederate force based at Manassas.

March 8, 1862 - Lincoln finally agreed with McClellan’s plan to invade Virginia from the sea. However, the President did insist that sufficient men had to be left behind to defend the capital. The Confederates suffered a heavy defeat at the Battle of Pea Ridge losing nearly 800 men with 1000 captured. The former ‘USS Merrimac’ – now the Confederate ‘Virginia’ – inflicted major losses on a small Union naval fleet of three ships resulting in the North losing 2 ships and 250 men at Hampton Roads. Only the night saved the third ship. The ‘Virginia’ was a heavily armored ironclad that stood up to six full broadsides with little damage done to her. However on the evening of the 8th the ‘USS Monitor’ entered the Hampton Roads.

March 9, 1862 - The Army of the Potomac moved off in search of a Confederate force they thought was at Rappahannock – but it was not and they returned to their base at Alexandria without having made contact with the enemy. The ‘USS Monitor’ engaged the ‘Virginia’ at Hampton Roads. After a series of attacks on one another neither saw an opportunity to win and both broke off the engagement. Both ships were simply too heavily armored to be susceptible to the firepower of the other.

March 11, 1862 - Another War Order by Lincoln stated that McClellan was now only commander of the Army of the Potomac. This was a temporary move only to ensure that McClellan could concentrate all his energy on a successful campaign in Virginia.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - *continued*

March 13, 1862 - Union forces captured \$1 million of Confederate supplies at Point Pleasant, Missouri.

March 15, 1862 - Grant was handed a command once again – he was placed in charge of Unionist forces in Tennessee.

March 17, 1862 - McClellan started his campaign to attack Virginia from the coast by moving his troops to Fortress Monroe.

March 19, 1862 - The South puts into place a plan to stop the North taking two vital rail lines – the Chattanooga to Georgia and the Corinth to Memphis lines. If the North took either line, they would have an easier route into the South's heartland.

March 23, 1862 - The Battle of Winchester was fought (in the South this was known as the Battle of Kernstown). The South took heavy casualties with 270 killed and as many as 1000 missing. The North suffered 103 killed with 400 wounded and missing. A large Unionist force gathered at Camp Shiloh and made ready for an attack on Corinth, Mississippi. As the Confederates expected such an attack, their forces in Corinth were being increased.

March 24¹, 1862 - Lincoln became convinced that the South was about to launch an attack on Washington DC and ordered troops who were to have supported McClellan's campaign in Virginia to remain in the capital.

March 29, 1862 - The Confederates continued their build-up of men at Corinth, Mississippi, and waited for the North to attack. The size of the force gathered in Corinth showed that the South was not prepared to let the town fall to the North in view of its importance with regards to the two vital rail lines identified by the South.

CIVIL WAR

POWHATAN



ROUNDTABLE

A Society For Civil War Studies



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012:

UNCONQUERABLE LOVE, FRANK STRINGFELLOW & EMMA GREEN

PCWRT welcomes for a second time, author Virginia Morton, speaking on Frank Stringfellow and Emma Green, an “Unconquerable Love.”

Born on June 18, 1840, Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow attended Episcopal High School, near Alexandria, Virginia. While there he fell in love with Emma Green, but their romance was to be interrupted by the Civil War.

When Frank Stringfellow volunteered to fight for the Confederacy he was turned down due to his slight build. At five foot eight, and 100 pounds, Stringfellow endeavored to prove his value by reconnoitering the Powhatan Troop, Company E of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry. The seemingly frail 21 year old captured three guards at gunpoint and marched them to the Company Commander’s tent. Persuaded that the young man had some skills to offer, he was sworn in on May 28, 1861.

Coming to the attention of J.E.B. Stuart, who referred to Stringfellow as “A young man of extraordinary merit,” he was asked to become Stuart’s personal scout, and proceeded to spend the war gathering intelligence in imaginative ways. By posing as a dentist, and hiding under the petticoats of an Alexandria woman to escape Union troops, his espionage exploits became the stuff of legends. With his operations focused on Alexandria and Washington, he remained close to Emma. Crossing the enemy’s lines multiple times, he eventually drew attention to himself by refusing to drink to Lincoln’s health. Stringfellow was captured, exchanged, and captured again. Escaping near the end of the war, Frank Stringfellow was 25 years old, penniless, with a \$10,000 price on his head. When the war was over, he made his way to Canada to try to start anew.

Returning to the United States in 1866, Frank finally married his sweetheart Emma Green in 1867. He entered the Virginia Seminary and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1876, and later enlisted as a chaplain in the Spanish-American War at the age of 57. Frank and Emma enjoyed a long life together, and raised two beautiful daughters. The Rev. Frank Stringfellow died of a heart attack at 73, and he and Emma are buried side-by-side in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria.

Richmond native Virginia Morton has lived in Culpeper, Virginia for over 38 years. The Longwood University graduate is a former teacher. She became fascinated with Culpeper’s vast Civil War history and after several years of intense research, decided to tell Culpeper’s story to the world in her historical novel *Marching Through Culpeper*.

A frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables, civic groups, libraries, and book clubs, Virginia was named “Writer of the Year” at the Richmond Conference of the American Christian Writers on April 12, 2002. The United Daughters of the Confederacy presented her with the Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 2006.

Active in her community, she has served on the board of the Brandy Station Battlefield Foundation and currently is on the board of the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield. She was co-founder of the Academic Booster’s Club, has served as Youth Counselor at the Culpeper United Methodist Church, and as chairman of the Congressional Award Committee. We are excited to welcome Virginia for a second time, and hope you will join us!



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2012:

NEXT MONTH

John Pelletier speaking on the Confederate Medical Program.

JOIN UP!

Annual membership dues for 2012 are now past due. If you have not yet renewed your membership, don't miss out on any of the outstanding programs we have scheduled this year, including such notable historians as Eric Wittenberg, Craig Symonds, and William C. (Jack) Davis. Individual memberships are only \$25.00 and Family memberships are just \$35.00 for the entire year! Submit your member dues today!

Click [here](#) for your PCWRT Membership Application.

FREE EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF CLARA BARTON

Beginning Thursday, April 12, the anniversary of the death of Clara Barton, the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Maryland celebrates the legacy of the woman who dedicated her life and energies to help others in times of need - both home and abroad, in peacetime as well as during military emergencies. Click [here](#) for more information.

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“Next to me, on my right, was a boy of seventeen, Henry Parker. I remember it because, while we stood-at-ease, he drew my attention to some violets at his feet, and said, 'It would be a good idea put a few into my cap. Perhaps the Yanks won't shoot me if they see me wearing such flowers, for they are a sign of peace.' 'Capital,' said I, 'I will do the same.'”

Henry Morton Stanley reminiscing on events prior to the battle of Shiloh, April 1862

REMINDER - UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CLASS ON CIVIL WAR NAVY

The University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies will offer a course titled “*Battle Flags and Broadships: The Sailors' Civil War*” that meets 7:00 – 9:00 PM on four consecutive Monday nights, beginning on April 2, 2012. Powhatan Civil War Roundtable member Jack Mountcastle, the U.S. Army's former Chief of Military History, will lead the course. Click [here](#) for details!

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.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

April 1, 1862 - McClellan had a force of three regiments facing 12,000 Confederate soldiers at Fortress Monroe. In total McClellan had a total force of 112,000 men.

April 3, 1862 - The Senate outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. This was seen to set the precedent that slavery should be abolished in any area over which the Federal government had jurisdiction. There were only 63 slaves in the District but the act set the wheels in motion for the abolition of slavery in all areas controlled by the Federal government.

April 4, 1862 - Union forces started a move on Yorktown – the start of McClellan’s campaign in Virginia. The Confederate general Johnston had 17,000 men under his command along an eight-mile front but faced 100,000 Union troops.

April 5, 1862 - McClellan’s forced continued its push down the Virginia peninsula.

April 6, 1862 - 40,000 Confederate soldiers attacked a major Union base at Shiloh. They took the Union force by surprise and used to their good the fact that the Unionist force had not built any major defensive lines around their camp as they believed it would be perceived as a sign of weakness by the South. The fighting was fierce but by nightfall the North had managed to bring up reserves so

that they had 54,000 men to the Confederates 34,000.

April 7, 1862 - The North launched a counter-offensive at Shiloh. Like the previous day the fighting was fierce but gun ships on the River Tennessee supported the Unionists. “Bloody Shiloh” had no obvious winning side and historians view the battle as a draw, but the losses suffered by both sides far outweighed any previous battle. The North lost 1754 killed, 8408 wounded and 2885 captured while the South lost 1728 killed, 8102 wounded and 959 men taken prisoner. Of the two sides, the North was better able to cope with such losses so their media portrayed it as a Northern victory.

April 8, 1862 - 3,000 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner at Island Number 10 on the Mississippi River.

April 11, 1862 - The House of Representatives, in support of the Senate, passed a bill to ban slavery in the District of Columbia. The Unionists captured Fort Pulaski in the mouth of the harbor at Savannah after an 18 hour bombardment.

April 16, 1862 - President Lincoln signed a bill that outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. President Davis signed a bill that made all males living in the Confederacy aged between 18 and 35 liable for military service.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR *continued*

April 18, 1862 - A Unionist naval fleet assembled at Ship Island in the Mississippi Delta, to begin its move against New Orleans. The route it was scheduled to take was fraught with dangers not least the forts at Jackson and St Philip, which could muster over 170 rifled 63-pounder cannon. The Unionist fleet was under the command of Commodore David Farragut and it carried 15,000 troops who were tasked with taking New Orleans.

April 21, 1862 - After three days of bombardment and being hit by over 4,000 rounds, Forts Jackson and St. Philip were still functioning.

April 22, 1862 - A Confederate deserter, however, confirmed to Farragut that the

damage to both forts had been great. Farragut decided to try to 'run' the forts with his fleet. He told his subordinates that his philosophy was "conquer or be conquered."

April 24, 1862 - By dawn of this day, the Federal naval fleet had passed both forts. However, his fleet had lost 37 men killed and 171 wounded. Farragut steamed to within 18 miles (by river) to New Orleans.

April 25, 1862 - Fort Macon in North Carolina fell to Unionist troops, and 450 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner. Farragut's fleet arrived in New Orleans and claimed the city.

April 28, 1862 - Forts St. Philip and Jackson formally surrendered to Union forces.

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

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.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MAY 2012:**

THE CONFEDERATE MEDICAL PROGRAM

The era of the Civil War was a time before antiseptics, when there was no attempt to maintain sterility during surgery. Antibiotics were not available, and minor wounds could easily become infected, and ultimately fatal. The typical Civil War soldier faced a greater risk of dying from disease than from battle.

While the Union army was served well by their Sanitary Commission, the Confederate Army had none, and was limited in their access to medical supplies. The Confederacy relied on their blockade-running ships to import needed medicines from Europe, but as the Blockade tightened its grip, Southern armies suffered. Still, Confederate hospitals such as Chimborazo in Richmond consisted of hundreds of more wooden barracks that were kept well ventilated and drained, and could be easily isolated in case of disease outbreak or fire. Chimborazo maintained vegetable gardens, herds of dairy cows, fresh water, and even boasted an icehouse and brewery.

Stonewall Jackson's famous surgeon, Hunter Holmes McGuire may be the most celebrated of Confederate medical practitioners, but there were others in the Confederacy who made an impact.

Phoebe Yates Pember was a member of a prominent family from Charleston, South Carolina and served as a nurse and female administrator at

Chimborazo Hospital. Despite being referred to by a male doctor as "one of them," this woman was ultimately valued for her service, and over 15,000 patients came under her direct care during the war.

Captain Sally Tompkins is best remembered for her privately run hospital in Richmond. Her insistence on cleanliness is said to have been a major key to the lowest mortality rate of any such military hospital, Union or Confederate, during the Civil War. Her devotion and work earned the label "Angel of the Confederacy" and she was the only woman officially commissioned as an officer in the Confederate States Army.

We hope you will join us on Thursday, May 17, 2012 as we welcome John Pelletier to speak on the Confederate Medical Program. John has been researching and providing Confederate Medicine programs and living history presentations for over a decade. Formerly apprenticed to Dr. Adrian Wheat (retired Army Surgeon and one of the top authorities on Civil War Period Medicine), John is a member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons, The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Civil War Trust, The Museum of the Confederacy & Past Commander of the Norfolk County Grays Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp. He is descended from R.W. Pelletier, Hospital Steward, of Hampton's Legion.

NEXT MONTH

Dr. Craig Symonds on The Strange Case of the USS Powhatan

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

**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MAY 2012:**

REMINDER!

Annual membership dues for 2012 are past due. If you have not yet renewed your membership, don't miss out on any of the outstanding programs we have scheduled this year, including such notable historians as Eric Wittenberg, Craig Symonds, and William C. (Jack) Davis. Individual memberships are only \$25.00 and Family memberships are just \$35.00 for the entire year! Submit your member dues today! Click [here](#) for your PCWRT Membership Application.

**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.

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“It seems strange how our aversion to seeing suffering is overcome in war, how we are able to see the most sickening sights, such as men with their limbs blown off and mangled by the deadly shells, without a shudder; and instead of turning away, how we hurry to assist in alleviating their pain, bind up their wounds, and press the cool water to their parched lips, with feelings only of sympathy and pity.”

Former Slave, Susie King Taylor, reflecting on her service with the USCT in South Carolina

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

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.

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.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER MAY 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

May 1, 1862 - General Butler occupied New Orleans. His administration of the city was to prove controversial.

May 2, 1862 - Unionist forces were massed for an attack on Yorktown. General Johnson, the Confederate officer in charge of the city, knew he would not be able to make a stand against a mass attack and decided to evacuate the city.

May 3, 1862 - Confederate forces started to evacuate Yorktown and withdraw to Richmond.

May 4, 1862 - The Army of the Potomac occupied Yorktown in Virginia.

May 5, 1862 - President Lincoln left Washington DC for a meeting with McClellan at Fortress Monroe. Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of the Treasury Chase accompanied the President. A battle at Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, against a rearguard Confederate force protecting the withdrawal from Yorktown, led to a Union victory but at a cost – 456 dead, 1,400 wounded and 372 missing. Confederate losses were estimated at being between 1,000 and 1,700.

May 7, 1862 - Union forces sailed upriver to Eltham's Landing, Virginia, and landed near West Point. They came under fire from Confederate troops still withdrawing from Yorktown and lost 49 killed, 104 wounded and 41 missing.

May 9, 1862 - Lincoln met McClellan to discuss the course of the war. Confederate forces abandoned the important naval base at Norfolk. When Unionist forces arrived at the naval base, they found large amounts of stores and equipment.

May 11, 1862 - The 'CSS Virginia' (formally the 'USS Merrimac') was destroyed by the Confederates to stop it falling into the hands of the Unionists. It was too heavily armored to be used on rivers and could not navigate the River James to help Confederate forces at Richmond.

May 12, 1862 - Lincoln announced that as ports Beaufort (North Carolina), Port Royal (South Carolina) and New Orleans were now in Federal hands, the blockade that they had been under would be lifted. Unionist forces occupied Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

May 13, 1862 - Many citizens in Richmond fled the city as Unionist forces approached.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
MAY 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR *continued*

May 15, 1862 - In New Orleans, the men of the city were kept in order by the presence of a large Unionist force. However, the women of the city made very public what they thought about the Unionist occupation of the city. Butler's response was to issue General Order Number 28. This stated "when any female shall, by word, gesture or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

May 18, 1862 - Suffolk, Virginia fell to Unionist forces.

May 19, 1862 - In a letter to his wife, Jefferson Davis, commented on the lack of resolve he had observed in those defending Richmond.

May 20, 1862 - Lincoln signed the Homestead Act. This act made available 160 acres of government land that would be handed over to a homesteader if he agreed to improve it for five years. Post-war America greatly benefited from this act as it encouraged many to migrate west.

May 21, 1862 - Advanced units of the Army of the Potomac were just eight miles from Richmond. However, McClellan was still cautious about attacking the

Confederate capital, as he still believed that he did not have enough troops.

May 23, 1862 - Union forces at Front Royal in the Shenandoah Valley suffered heavy casualties after being attacked by 'Stonewall' Jackson's men. Over 1,000 Union troops were killed or wounded out of a total force of 1,400 men. On the same day, the Confederates suffered a defeat at Lewisburg and lost over 200 men killed, wounded or missing.

May 24, 1862 - Lincoln ordered that 20,000 Unionist troops be sent to the Shenandoah Valley to eradicate the Confederate forces there.

May 25, 1862 - Lincoln gave McClellan an ultimatum – either attack Richmond or return with the Army of the Potomac to Washington DC to assist in the capital's defense.

May 29, 1862 - To counter Confederate success in the Shenandoah Valley, Unionist strength there was increased to 40,000 men. The North captured Ashland, a town just to the north of Richmond.

May 31, 1862 - A major Confederate attack against the Army of the Potomac started at Fair Oaks. General Joseph Johnson, who was seriously injured by shrapnel, led the attack.

CIVIL WAR POWHATAN ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012:

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE *USS POWHATAN*

The following comes to us courtesy of *The Civil War Daily Gazette*, an on-line blog that follows the events of the Civil War as they happened, 150 years later:

Monday, April 1, 1861 – All Fool's Day
On this April holiday, secrecy would turn out to be a fool's game. Lincoln had ordered Gustavus Fox to ready some ships in the Brooklyn Navy Yard to prepare to sail, but whether they would sail for Fort Sumter or Fort Pickens was not yet mentioned (though Sumter could be assumed, since it was Fox's plan). Preparations for either or both expeditions could take place without anyone being the wiser. And that's just what happened.

The plans to reinforce Fort Pickens were being prepared by Capt. Meigs, Col. Keyes and Lt. David Porter (personally selected by Meigs). Seward and General Scott also added their weight to it. The daring plan was for one ship to land troops at Pickens while a warship, under Lt. Porter, steamed into the bay to make sure no Southern troops could attack.

General Scott signed the orders with a note to have a ship prepared. The USS Powhatan had recently arrived at the Navy Yard, so Meigs ordered her to be readied and for Lt. Porter to command her. This put her former commander, Captain Samuel Mercer, out of a job. Seward then took the plans to Lincoln who agreed with Seward that these secret plans must be unknown, even to the Secretaries of War and the Navy.

Speaking of the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Wells had known that the USS Powhatan had just returned. He ordered her to be refitted a couple of days ago, but with the President's order from the 29th, Wells ordered her to be readied for Fox's expedition: "Fit out Powhatan to go to sea at earliest possible moment."

The same ship was now ordered to be two places at once."

This month, we welcome Dr. Craig L. Symonds to speak on "The Strange Case of the *USS Powhatan*." Dr. Symonds is currently the Class of 1957 Distinguished Professor of American Naval History at the U.S. Naval

Academy. The first person to win both the Naval Academy's "Excellence in Teaching" award (1988) and its "Excellence in Research" award (1998), he also served as History Department chair from 1988 to 1992, and received the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service medal three times. He was Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island (1971-74) and at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England (1994-95).

Dr. Symonds is the author or editor of twenty-five books, including prize-winning biographies of Joseph E. Johnston (1992), Patrick Cleburne (1997), and Franklin Buchanan (1999), as well as *The American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* (2001). *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History*, won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for Naval History in 2006. His 2008 book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*, won the Barondess Prize, the Laney Prize, the Lyman Prize, the Lincoln Prize, and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award. He also won the Nevins-Freeman Prize in 2009. His latest work is *The Battle of Midway*, published by Oxford University Press in October 2011.

Dr. Symonds was born on New Year's Eve 1946 in Long Beach, California, and grew up in pre-Disney Anaheim. After graduating from UCLA, he attended to the University of Florida where he earned his MA and PhD under the direction of the late John K. Mahon. More importantly, that is also where he met his wife Marylou, at a graduate seminar on Colonial America. He and Marylou now live in Annapolis, Maryland. They have one son and one grandson. We are thrilled to welcome this distinguished historian to Powhatan this month!

POWHATAN  **CIVIL WAR** **ROUNDTABLE**

 

**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012:**

NEXT MONTH

David L. Phillips on “The Jessie Scouts”

**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.

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

WALKING TOUR - WOMEN OF CIVIL WAR RICHMOND

“From Belles to Battleaxes” is the walking tour offered by The Museum of the Confederacy Saturday, June 16, 2012, 10:30 AM to noon. Stroll through the heart of the Confederate capital and hear the stories of Richmond women, from daring spies and devoted nurses to star-crossed lovers and captivating socialites. Learn about Rose O’Neal Greenhow, the famous spy who drowned off the Cape Fear River when returning to the south from England aboard a blockade runner; Elizabeth Van Lew the Richmonder who helped Union soldiers escape from Libby Prison; Mary Chesnut, diarist and neighbor of Jefferson Davis; Hetty Cary, the belle of the South, Sally Buchanan Preston, known as Buck, the beauty from South Carolina; and more. This semi-strenuous walk begins at the Bell Tower outside the Virginia State Capitol on Bank Street. Street parking on Main and Franklin Streets will be available. The tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours. The tour is free for Museum members and \$10 for non-members. The non-member price includes an admission to tour the Museum. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register contact Kelly Hancock by phone at (804) 649-1861 ext. 121, or by email at khancock@moc.org.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012:

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“If we are to play at war, as we play at a game of chess, West Point tactics prevailing, we are sure to lose the game. They can lose pawns *ad infinitum*, to the end of time and never feel it.”

General Wade Hampton as quoted by Mary Chestnut, June 1862

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

June 1, 1862 - Robert E Lee was given command of the Confederate troops defending Richmond following the wounding of General Johnson. A renewed Confederate assault on Fair Oaks resulted in many Confederate casualties – in total the Confederates lost 8,000 men killed, wounded or missing at Fair Oaks. The Unionists lost nearly 6,000 men in total.

June 3, 1862 - Corinth, Mississippi fell to Unionist forces. Their next target was Memphis, Tennessee. A Unionist advance threatened Charleston, South Carolina.

June 4, 1862 - The Army of the Potomac prepared for their advance on Richmond.

June 6, 1862 - This day dealt two major blows to the Confederates. First, they lost Ashley Turner, considered to be a highly gifted cavalry commander at a time when cavalry units were coming more and more into the war. Second, in a confrontation on the Mississippi, the Confederate Navy lost seven out of eight armed riverboats to a Union fleet that lost none of its seven gunboats. The Confederates lost 80 men killed or wounded and had over

100 taken prisoner. The fleet was guarding Memphis, which fell to Union forces that day. The victory also meant that the Unionist Navy had effective control of the whole of the Mississippi River where it was navigable.

June 7, 1862 - Unionists reconnaissance units came into sight of Richmond. In New Orleans, General Butler sentenced William Mumford to death for tearing down the Union flag flying over the city's mint.

June 8, 1862 - 8,000 Confederate troops fought 18,000 Union troops at Cross Keys in the Shenandoah Valley. At the same time another battle took place at Port Republic, four miles along the Valley. Neither battle is conclusive but in total the Unionists lost 850 men killed and wounded. The Confederates lost about 600 men in both battles.

June 12, 1862 - After three days rest, Jackson's army made a move to Richmond to support Lee. Jackson's 20,000 men had effectively tied up 60,000 Unionist troops in the Shenandoah Valley. Jefferson Davis had initially feared a two-pronged Unionist attack on Richmond but the work of Lee all but ruled this out.



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR *continued*

June 15, 1862 - Reports from scouting parties convinced Lee that McClellan's communication lines were very weak. In an attempt to outthink McClellan, Lee sent 10,000 in the direction of the Shenandoah Valley ostensibly to support Jackson— even though they would never get there as Jackson's men were marching at speed for Richmond. Lee hoped that McClellan's poor communication would convince him to keep his 60,000 men in the Valley to fight the extra 10,000 men who marched to be seen by the Unionists – but who were never intended to get to the Shenandoah Valley.

June 17, 1862 - President Lincoln was still not convinced that his generals were as offensively minded as he was. Lincoln believed that General John Pope fitted this requirement and appointed him commander of the newly created Army of Virginia.

June 18, 1862 - Lincoln wrote to McClellan urging him to attack Richmond. He wrote that with 10,000 less men – those men who had been directed to the Shenandoah Valley – the city was ripe for taking.

McClellan viewed the situation differently. He believed that the Confederates had to be exceptionally well dug in and confident of victory if they could allow 10,000 men to leave the city. His response to Lincoln's exhortation to be more aggressive was to be more cautious!

June 19, 1862 - Lincoln made it known that he planned to outlaw slavery in all states in America.

June 24, 1862 - The first exchange of fire took place between troops near Richmond.

June 25, 1862 - McClellan ordered his men to advance on the left flank of Richmond. He also sent a letter to Washington DC that stated that he was facing an army of 200,000 men and that if he lost to them it would not be his fault and that he would die fighting with his men. McClellan made it clear that if he did lose the battle, there was nothing to stop the Confederates attacking the capital. To the end McClellan remained cautious. But it was a simple fact. If he did lose, what would stop Lee and then Davis entering Washington DC?



**2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2012:**

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR *continued*

June 26, 1862 - Lee attacked Unionist forces outside Richmond at Mechanicsville. Lee had decided that attack was his best form of defence. However, an accurate and severe Unionist artillery bombardment threw back the Confederates. Lee withdrew his forces. McClellan remained very cautious and feared that a second attack would be more successful. Despite arguments to the contrary from his in-the-field commanders, McClellan ordered his forward troops to withdraw from their entrenched lines.

June 27, 1862 - Lee's men attacked as expected but the Unionists he expected to face were withdrawing across the Chickahominy River. The withdrawal was disciplined but the Confederates did capture a large amount of Union supplies.

Lincoln was furious that McClellan had been overcautious.

June 28, 1862 - The Union Army continued its withdrawal and destroyed supplies at White House Landing rather than let them fall into the hands of the Confederates.

June 29, 1862 - The Army of the Potomac continued its withdrawal.

June 30, 1862 - Lee ordered an attack on McClellan's troops with all the 80,000 men at his disposal. However, it was never coordinated and by dusk it was plain that the attack had not been anywhere near decisive. If anything, the failed attack acted as a boost to the Unionists after what had happened in the previous three days



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2012:

THE JESSIE SCOUTS

This month, we welcome author, Civil War scholar and historian, David L. Phillips, speaking on his most recent historical novel, "The Jessie Scouts."

In 1899, former Confederate Soldier John Opie, said of this innovative troop, "The Jessie Scout was a Federal soldier, dressed and armed *a la* Rebel. He was named after Mrs. Jessie Fremont, wife of the General of that name, who first suggested that mode of obtaining information. When a Rebel was captured, his furlough or pass was taken from him, and also his outer garments. A soldier was then found, who resembled him in size, age, and general appearance. The Rebel's uniform, from hat to boots, was put upon this man, who assumed the name of the prisoner, and the Federal left the camp, a soldier of the Confederacy.... These Jessie Scouts generally preceded the advance of the army, and they frequently picked up a great many

prisoners, without creating any alarm. I made the acquaintance of many of them, and found them bold, dashing, reckless, good fellows."

A former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces and the descendant of four soldiers who served in the Confederate army, Civil War historian David Phillips is a specialist in the Allegheny Campaigns and Union special operations. He is the author of several books on the Civil War, including *War Diaries: The 1861 Kanawha Campaigns*, *War Stories: The War in West Virginia*, and three volumes in the *Civil War Chronicles* series: *Daring Raiders*, *Crucial Land Battles*, and *A Soldier's Story*. Phillips lives and writes in Leesburg, Virginia.

To learn more about David and The Jessie Scouts, click [here](#).

NEXT MONTH

John Michael Priest - Recollections of the Wilderness

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.

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2012:

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.

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

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

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"James Taylor was color-bearer. He was shot three times before he gave in. Then he said, as he handed the colors to the man next him, "You see I can't stand it any longer," and dropped stone dead. He was only seventeen years old."

Mary Chestnut, July 3, 1862

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

July 1, 1862 - President Lincoln signed a bill introducing Federal income tax of between 3% and 5%.

Lee ordered an attack on a Union position at Malvern Hill, overlooking the James River. Senior Confederate commanders cautioned Lee against this but he ignored their concerns. The attack was a major failure. Communication issues were such that two units led by Longstreet and A P Hill (both of whom had cautioned Lee against the attack) never went into battle despite the fact that both were meant to have played a pivotal role in the attack. The Union force, commanded by McClellan could have launched potentially a devastating counter-attack against the totally

disorganised Confederates but McClellan was more concerned about the greater numbers Lee could call on, which could not be matched by the Army of the Potomac. Therefore, there was no counter-offensive and the so-called 'Seven Day Battle' ended. The Army of the Potomac lost 1582 dead, 7709 wounded and 5958 missing. The Army of Northern Virginia fared worse: 3000 dead, 15,000 wounded and 1000 missing. McClellan ordered his army to pull back – typical of his cautious approach to a campaign, though he was hampered by poor intelligence – while Richmond was saved, even if Lee had not defeated the Army of the Potomac.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR *continued*

July 2, 1862 - Lincoln called on 300,000 men to volunteer for the Union and to serve for 3 years. McClellan's army started to pull back to Harrison's Landing.

July 5, 1862 - Congress was already planning for a post-war America. It authorized the building of the first trans-continental railway. Lincoln signed the Morrill Land Grant Act, which was to allow settlers to take up public land in the west to "tame the prairies".

July 7, 1862 - McClellan wrote to Lincoln protesting that he could not be more aggressive in his campaigning because of the President's order that many of his soldiers be kept in Washington DC to protect the city. McClellan called for more troops: "The rebel army is in our front, with the purpose of overwhelming us by attacking our positions, or by reducing us by blocking our river communications. I cannot but regard our position as critical."

July 11, 1862 - General Halleck was appointed General-in-Chief of the Federal Armies.

July 13, 1862 - Lincoln urged McClellan to start an attack on Richmond.

July 14, 1862 - Congress approved the establishment of West Virginia. However, it did not approve Lincoln's plan to compensate any state that abolished slavery.

July 17, 1862 - Lincoln signed the Second Confiscation Act, which granted freedom to slaves who entered Federal jurisdiction.

July 20, 1862 - The Union started a determined campaign in Missouri to rid the state of guerrilla groups (such as the ones led by Nathan Bedford Forrest and Colonel John Hunt Morgan). Over the next two months over 500 guerrillas were killed, 1800 wounded and 560 were missing. However, the problems caused by these cavalry-based groups were not resolved.

July 22, 1862 - Lincoln presented his Cabinet with his draft emancipation proclamation, which called for the freeing of slaves in states in rebellion against the Union. On this day the North and South also agreed on an exchange of prisoners.

July 29, 1862 - The steamer '290' sailed from Liverpool en route to the Portuguese island of Terceira. Here, '290' was equipped and armed to be a commerce raider. '290' was also renamed to the 'CSS Alabama' – the most famous Confederate naval vessel of the war.

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012:

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE WILDERNESS

This month, we welcome author John Michael Preist, to speak on the Battle of the Wilderness.

The earliest battle of the Overland Campaign, pitting Grant against Lee for the first time, occurred near edge of the Wilderness of Spotsylvania, an area of more than 70 square miles in Central Virginia. Early settlers cut down the native forests to fuel blast furnaces that processed iron ore found in the area, leaving only a secondary growth of dense shrubs. This rough, unsettled terrain, would play heavily into the results of what is generally considered a tactical draw.

Click [here](#) to hear why historian Ed Bearss considers the Battle of the Wilderness to be one of the most terrible battles of the war.

Our August speaker John Michael Priest has written or edited over a dozen books. His works include *Antietam: The Soldiers'*

Battle, Before Antietam: The Battles for South Mountain, a two-volume set on the Wilderness: *Nowhere to Run*, and *Victory Without Triumph, Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*.

Mike's most recent work on Gettysburg, "*Stand To It And Give Them Hell*", is expected to be released this fall, and he is currently working on a series of books about Spotsylvania Court House.

Born in Georgetown, Mike was raised in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and currently serves as a certified guide at Antietam Battlefield.

Earning his B.A. in History at Loyola College (University), Baltimore, and a M.A. in Social Sciences at Hood College, Frederick, MD, Mike is a retired public high school history teacher, and brings a wealth of knowledge to our Roundtable this month!

NEXT MONTH

Eric Wittenberg on Trevilian Station

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.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012:

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.

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

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

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Hundreds of men, women, and children were attracted to the heights around the city to behold the spectacle. From the Capitol and from the President's mansion, the vivid flashes of artillery could be seen; but no one doubted the result. It is only silence and inaction we dread. The firing ceased at nine o'clock p.m. The President was on the field, but did not interfere with Lee."

~ Confederate War Clerk, John B. Jones, June 1862 ~

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

August 2, 1862 - The North rejected an advance by Great Britain to act as a mediator in the war. Secretary of State Seward said that a civil war should be of no concern to outsiders.

August 3, 1862 - McClellan, having been previously instructed to be more aggressive in his campaign against Richmond, was

ordered to withdraw to Alexandria, which was a lot closer to Washington DC. This was done to bolster the capital's defence. McClellan claimed that his forces would have been of greater value threatening Richmond.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

August 4, 1862 - As a result of the failure of his previous request for volunteers, Lincoln called for 300,000 men to serve for nine months. Despite manpower being an issue, the President refused to accept two African-American regiments raised in Indiana.

August 5, 1862 - Captain Alexander A Todd, brother-in-law to the President but fighting for the Confederates, was killed in fighting during an attack on Baton Rouge.

August 9, 1862 - In a clash at Cedar Mountain, the North lost nearly 1,500 men while the South lost just over 1,200. The majority of the casualties were wounded but the medical facilities for looking after these men were crude and basic in the extreme.

August 11, 1862 - General U Grant announced that any fugitive slaves who came into an area under his command, would be employed by the military.

August 16, 1862 - McClellan, under orders, started to move the Army of the Potomac to link up with General Pope's Army of Virginia. Their joint target was Richmond.

August 17, 1862 - An uprising by the Santee Sioux started in Minnesota. Many in the North

believed the Confederates orchestrated it. The Sioux concentrated their attacks on white settlers. Over 800 people were killed before the uprising was put down by Federal troops.

August 20, 1862 - General Lee advanced his Army of Northern Virginia to the banks of the River Rappahannock. On the opposite bank was Pope's Army of Virginia. Lee tried unsuccessfully to cross the river while Pope anxiously awaited the arrival of McClellan's men.

August 22, 1862 - Lincoln defended his stand on slavery. Criticized by the 'New York Tribune' for not doing enough about slavery, Lincoln stated that his primary aim was to save the Union. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could do so by freeing all the slaves I would do it." At Rappahannock, a Confederate cavalry raid led by Jeb Stuart, got into Pope's headquarters and captured some command officers and Pope's dispatch book. This had vital information in it, such as the number of men under his command, where they were stationed along the Rappahannock and when reinforcements were to arrive. For Lee, this was critical information. The raid continued to build on Stuart's growing reputation as an outstanding if unconventional cavalry officer.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

August 23, 1862 - Overnight heavy rain stopped Lee attacking Pope's men as he had planned. However, armed with Pope's dispatch book, Lee now planned to march the bulk of his men around Pope's army cutting them off. To distract Pope's men, a large force of Confederate troops would remain by the banks of the Rappahannock River and engage Pope's men with fire. Lee's whole plan was to isolate Pope's force and then defeat Pope in battle if he did not surrender.

August 25, 1862 - 'Stonewall' Jackson started to move his men from the Rappahannock to get behind Pope. However, Union reconnaissance troops watched his every move and Pope was fully informed as to what was going on in terms of Jackson's movements. Pope, however, faced one major problem. The intelligence reports he received were wrong. Jackson had twice as many men under his command including all of Lee's cavalry. Pope was confident his men would hold off Jackson's force, but he based his assumption on the fact that Jackson only had 33 infantry regiments under his command. In fact, he had 66.

August 26, 1862 - Jackson took Manassas Junction – the largest Unionist store depot in the area. This left Pope seriously short of supplies and he decided to move his army away from the Rappahannock River to Manassas Junction to recapture the town and his supplies.

August 27, 1862 - Both armies were on the move. Lee wanted to meet up with Jackson while Pope wanted to recapture Manassas Junction.

August 28, 1862 - Jackson was faced with the possibility of being cut off by Pope's men. To lull Pope into a false sense of security, Jackson feigned a withdrawal to the Shenandoah Valley. He then attacked Pope's men at Groveton, near to the Bull Run battlefield. The fighting continued until the night darkness stopped it.

August 29, 1862 - The fighting continued with neither side gaining a clear advantage over the other. Again, only the night darkness stopped the fighting.

August 30, 1862 - The fighting at Bull Run continued for a third day. Jackson's men started to run out of ammunition. Jackson responded to this by ordering an all-or-nothing counterattack. The attack would either win or lose the battle for Jackson. It worked and Pope had to withdraw his forces and ordered a withdrawal to Washington DC. The South lost about 8,500 men killed and wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run while the North lost 12,000 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

August 31, 1862 - A heavy rainstorm hampered the Confederates pursuit of Pope's men.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012:

TREVILIAN STATION

Following the slaughter at Cold Harbor, one of the bloodiest cavalry battles of the war took place over two days in June 1864.

To draw off the Confederate cavalry and create an opportunity for Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac to move on to the James River, Major General Philip Sheridan mounted a large-scale cavalry raid into Louisa County, threatening to cut the Virginia Central Railroad.

On June 11th, Sheridan, with the divisions of Generals Alfred Torbert and David M. Gregg, attacked Wade Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry divisions at Trevilian Station. Sheridan drove a wedge between the Confederate divisions, throwing them into confusion.

However, on June 12th, fortunes were reversed. Hampton and Lee dismounted their troopers, and drew a defensive line across the railroad, and the road to Gordonsville. From this advantageous position, the Confederates beat back several determined dismounted assaults. Sheridan and his Federal cavalry withdrew after destroying about six miles of the Virginia Central Railroad. The Confederate victory at Trevilian prevented Sheridan from reaching Charlottesville and cooperating with General David Hunter's army in the Valley.

This month, we are joined for a second consecutive year by author, historian, and attorney Eric Wittenberg. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Eric became hooked on the Civil War at an early age.

An award-winning Civil War historian, Eric's specialty is cavalry operations, with a particular emphasis on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps. He is the author of sixteen published books, all of which are available for purchase on his website site, <http://www.ericwittenberg.com/books.html>.

Eric regularly travels the country to lecture on the war, and he is frequently asked to lead Civil War battlefield tours. Battlefield preservation work is very important to him. He sits on the boards of advisors of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Friends of the Alligator, and has regularly worked with the Civil War Preservation Trust in helping to save battlefield land. He is an original member of, as well as past president and program chairman of, the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable. He is the vice president of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation and serves as one of 18 members of the Governor of Ohio's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012:

NEXT MONTH

Portrayalists depicting Lee's Lieutenants

LABOR DAY IN POWHATAN

The PCWRT is sponsoring a tent on Labor Day at the Historic Old Powhatan Courthouse beside the Confederate monument. We welcome any members who could come and help distribute materials, information, and membership applications about the PCWRT. Event starts at 9 a.m. until the parade is over. **E-mail us** if you are interested in helping!

"DEATH AND THE CIVIL WAR" MOC SCREENING

Museum of the Confederacy members are invited to a special screening of the documentary "Death and the Civil War" by Ric Burns at the Virginia War Memorial. Part of PBS' American Experience series, "Death and the Civil War" chronicles how the Civil War forced Americans to improvise new solutions, new institutions, and new ways of coping with death on an unimaginable scale. Scenes from this program were filmed at the Museum of the Confederacy-Richmond and several of the Museum's artifacts are featured. For more information click **here**.

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**.

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

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**

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**.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012:

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

I was never a Secessionist, for I quietly adopted father's views on political subjects without meddling with them. But even father went over with his State, and when so many outrages were committed by the fanatical leaders of the North, though he regretted the Union, said, "Fight to the death for our liberty." I say so, too. I want to fight until we win the cause so many have died for. I don't believe in Secession, but I do in Liberty. I want the South to conquer, dictate its own terms, and go back to the Union, for I believe that, apart, inevitable ruin awaits both."

~ Sarah Morgan Dawson ~

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

September 1, 1862 - The Second Battle of Bull Run ended when sections from both sides clashed at Ox Hill. They came across one another just before nightfall during a thunderstorm. In the clash Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearney were killed.

September 2, 1862 - General McClellan was recalled to Washington DC by President Lincoln to take charge of the capital's defenses. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight." (Lincoln)

September 5, 1862 - Robert E Lee took his army into Maryland. At the same time the Union's military hierarchy could not make its mind up as to who should lead the Union's army in the field. Maryland was a tempting target for Lee as its fields were full of crops and any move north that he made would bring fear to those who lived in the capital who would have rightly believed that the city was his priority target.

September 6, 1862 - Within just four days McClellan managed to get together an army of 90,000 men to defend the capital. This feat confirmed to Lincoln his excellent administrative skills. However, McClellan was known to lack tactical ability and someone was needed to command these men in a decisive manner. Lee was well aware of McClellan's failings as a commander.

September 7, 1862 - Lee crossed the Potomac River at Leesburg, Virginia. His move north caused the expected panic in the capital and ships were placed on standby to take the President and his Cabinet out of the city to safety. McClellan was given command of the 90,000 men in the Army of the Potomac.

September 8, 1862 - The cause of the Union was not helped by dissension in the most senior ranks of the Union Army. General Pope openly blamed other generals for the failure at Bull Run, while they (Generals Franklin and Porter) cited his incompetent leadership during the battle. Leaving this dispute behind in the capital, McClellan marched his men out to meet Lee away from the city. His army of 90,000 was twice as large as Lee's Army of Virginia but the men in it were very demoralised after the Second Bull Run while Lee's men were full of confidence.

September 9, 1862 - The people of Maryland did not greet Lee's army with any enthusiasm despite his proclamation that his intention was to return the state to the Confederacy – which Lee assumed would sell his cause. The expected provisions were not forthcoming and Lee's army remained short of supplies.

CIVIL WAR

POWHATAN

ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

September 10, 1862 - McClellan marched his men to where he knew Lee's army had encamped - Frederick. However, Lee's army marched off on the same day as McClellan gave his order. Lee split his men in two with Jackson ordered to capture Harper's Ferry while he would lead his men to Hagerstown.

September 13, 1862 - In an astonishing twist, two Union soldiers found some cigars where Lee had made his camp. They were wrapped in paper. On this paper was written Lee's next plans for his army - their targets, which part of his army was marching where etc. This was Lee's Special Order 191. The Confederates knew that they had lost one copy but must have assumed that it was never going to be found by the North.

September 14, 1862 - The North, with the knowledge of where Lee was and where he was heading, made a series of attacks on the Confederates at South Mountain. The speed of McClellan's chase unnerved Lee and forced him into changing his plans at the last minute. The problem Lee would face was to ensure that his change of plans got out to his commanders in the field and that they all understood them.

September 15, 1862 - Harper's Ferry fell to Jackson who captured 12,000 Union troops. Jackson left behind an occupying force and then marched at speed to rejoin Lee to consolidate the Army of Virginia once again.

September 16, 1862 - Lee's army was at Sharpsburg - as was McClellan's. Lee faced two serious problems. First, he only had 18,000 men with him against 75,000 Union troops. Second, behind where his men were gathered was the Potomac River. So if Lee needed to withdraw, he would have to cross the river. McClellan started his attack with an artillery bombardment. Lee was reinforced when Jackson's 9,000 men arrived. No decisive impact was made one way or the other on this day.

September 17, 1862 - The battle continued at 06.00 with a Union attack at Antietam Creek but in a series of skirmishes as opposed to one great battle. The reason for this is that large parts of the Army of the Potomac did nothing, as their commanders had not received orders to do anything. The reason that the commanders in the field had not received orders was that McClellan had not issued any. By the end of the day, the Confederates had held their line despite the North's overwhelming superiority in terms of manpower.

September 18, 1862 - The two armies continued to face one another at Antietam Creek. Two fresh Union divisions arrived but they were ordered to "rest" by McClellan. Lee started to make plans to withdraw his men.

September 19, 1862 - In the early hours of the 19th, Lee withdrew his men across the Potomac River. Though McClellan believed Lee would strike across the river again, he was wrong. Lee had ordered his men to the relative safety of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 20, 1862 - McClellan kept his men at Sharpsburg and showed no inclination to pursue Lee's men. However, any thoughts Lee had of taking Maryland were killed off in what McClellan called "a very great battle".

September 22, 1862 - Lincoln expressed his belief that the Battle of Antietam was a victory for the North in the sense that it stopped any plans Lee had for capturing Washington DC. In the same speech, Lincoln declared his intention of abolishing slavery throughout the United States and that this was now a major aim of the Union's war effort.

September 24, 1862 - Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for those who tried to evade the militia draft.

September 28, 1862 - Lee's army of 50,000 men gathered at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012:

OCTOBER 2012

LEE'S LIEUTENANTS

"Lee's Lieutenants" is generally thought to be the epic, three-volume history of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, written by Douglas Southall Freeman. In the month of October, we are visited not by the ghosts of Freeman's historic tome, but by the living historians of "Lee's Lieutenants" a national group of reenactors. Thursday, October 18th, we will be joined by two of Lee's Lieutenants, David Meisky as General William "Extra Billy" Smith and Mark Whitenton as General Joseph E. Johnston. Click [here](#) to learn more about this month's presenters. This is sure to be a most interesting and unique evening, and we look forward to seeing you there!

NEXT MONTH

Esteemed historian and author, William C. (Jack) Davis

CAPTAIN DECIMUS ET ULTIMUS BARZIZA, CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

"Captain Decimus Et Ultimus Barziza" is the topic of a program to be presented by Drew A. Gruber, Administrative Specialist, Department of Public History, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The program takes place Saturday, October 27, 2012, 10 AM, at The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Born in Williamsburg, Virginia, Decimus Et Ultimus Barziza had a life typical of his generation. Raised on the verge of the Civil War, his experiences are far from average. He served with the 4th Texas Infantry, suffered two wounds, and escaped from a Union prison. After the war Decimus became a vehement anti-reconstruction Democrat and prominent Texas politician where his exploits were outlandish. Join us for an hour to hear about Barziza incredible life during the volatile years before, during, and after the Civil War.

The program is free with Museum admission; admission is free for members.

THE UNDISMAYED WARRIOR: LONGSTREET AND THE SEVEN DAYS CAMPAIGN

October 6 and 7, 2012, The Longstreet Society will host their annual fall seminar near the battlefields in Williamsburg, Virginia on which General James Longstreet played a significant role. Featuring A. Wilson Greene, Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park, and Dr. William Garrett Piston, author of *Lee's Tarnished Lieutenant: James Longstreet and His Place in Southern History* who will conduct an all day (Saturday) tour of Seven Days battlefields. Also featuring Saturday night keynote speaker John V. Quarstein, author of *The Civil War on the Virginia Peninsula*, and Sunday morning presentation of "Longstreet 1862: From Personal Tragedy to Professional Triumph" by Dr. William Garrett Piston. Click [here](#) for more information.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012:

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"I saw a letter sticking out of the breast pocket of one of the confederate dead, a young man apparently about twenty-four. Curiosity prompted me to read it. It was from his young wife away down in the state of Louisiana. She was hoping and longing that this cruel war would end and he could come home, and she says, "Our little boy gets into my lap and says, `Now, Mama, I will give you a kiss for Papa.' But oh how I wish you could come home and kiss me for yourself." But this is only one in a thousand. But such is war and we are getting used to it and can look on scenes of war, carnage and suffering with but very little feeling and without a shudder."

Corporal Horatio D. Chapman, Company C, 20th Connecticut Volunteers

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.

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

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.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

October 1, 1862 - The Confederate press portrayed Lincoln's emancipation declaration as a recipe for slave insurrection.

October 4, 1862 - The Confederates launched a major attack on Corinth. It was not a success as the Unionists were well dug in and the Confederates lost many men – 1,423 killed, 5,692 wounded and 2,248 missing. The North lost 315 dead, 1,812 wounded and 232 missing.

October 5, 1862 - As the Confederates withdrew from Corinth, their rearguard clashed with a Unionist force at Metamora by the Big Hatchie River. In this action, the Union lost over 500 men while the South lost about 400.

October 8, 1862 - A battle at Perryville in Kentucky led to heavy casualties on both sides. The North lost 916 killed, 2943 wounded and 489 missing while the South lost 500 killed, 2635 wounded and 251 missing out of their total of 16,000 men.

October 10, 1862 - Jefferson Davis requested to the Confederate Congress that 4500 African Americans be drafted in to build defenses around Richmond.

October 11, 1862 - The Confederate Congress agreed with Davis but stipulated that anyone who owned twenty slaves or more was exempt from this call-up. This decision was not well received and the less well-off slave owners in the Confederacy started to comment that it was “a rich man's war and a poor man's fight”.

October 13, 1862 - Lincoln wrote again to McClellan to urge him to do something. “You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is

constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim? If we do not beat the enemy where he now is, we never can, he again being within the entrenchments of Richmond.”

October 14, 1862 - While the Confederates had failed in Kentucky, they had taken vast amounts of booty that was vital to their supplies. While the Confederate press almost certainly exaggerated what was taken – the claim was that the wagon train was over 40 miles long – large amounts of barreled pork and bacon were taken along with an estimated 1500 horses and 8000 cattle.

October 19, 1862 - In New Orleans, where the Unionists held power, General Butler passed two important pieces of legislation. The first was to raise three regiments of “free colored men” and the second was to introduce the legal precedent that ‘blacks were equal to whites’ in the eyes of the law.

October 25, 1862 - Lincoln once again expressed his concern that McClellan appeared to be doing nothing.

October 26, 1862 - McClellan marched the Army of the Potomac back into Virginia. Whether this was part of a plan he already had or if it was in a direct response to Lincoln's criticisms is not known.

October 28, 1862 - To avoid getting encircled by the Army of the Potomac, Robert E Lee moved his Army of Virginia further south and, therefore, further away from Washington DC. Lee's army numbered 70,000 men while McClellan could call on 130,000 men – so it was a wise move. Sections of Lee's army were ordered to maintain a close observation of McClellan's men and for two days both sides were less than 2 miles apart but separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

FEMALE SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

When one mentions war, the home front and the changing role of women, images of Rosie the Riveter and World War II often come to mind. However, eighty years earlier, the American Civil War affected women not only on the home front with the absence of their husbands and sons, but on a larger scale.

Women suddenly found themselves becoming the family breadwinner, forced by the circumstances of war to take jobs outside of the home. They were thrust into a new, independent life as nurses, munitions manufacturers, farmers, spies, and in some cases even soldiers.

Mary Livermore of the U.S. Sanitary Commission wrote, "Someone has stated the number of women soldiers known to the service as little less than four hundred. I cannot vouch for the correctness of this estimate, but I am convinced that a larger number of women disguised themselves and enlisted in the service, for one cause or other, than was dreamed of. Entrenched in secrecy, and regarded as men, they were sometimes revealed as women, by accident or casualty. Some startling histories of these military women were current in the gossip of army life."

Joining us in November, to discuss this intriguing chapter of Civil War history is historian William C. "Jack" Davis. William C.

Davis, a native of Independence, Missouri, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sonoma State University in northern California, then spent twenty years in editorial management in the magazine and book publishing industry, before leaving in 1990 to spend the next decade working as a writer and consultant here and abroad.

He is the author or editor of more than fifty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. He was the on-camera senior consultant for 52 episodes of the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal," as well as a number of other productions on commercial and Public Television, as well as for the BBC, and has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including "The Blue and the Gray," "George Washington," and "The Perfect Tribute." Since 2000 he has been Professor of History and Director of Programs of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

He is a three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in Confederate History. His most recent book is *Rouge Republic: How Would-Be Patriots Waged the Shortest Revolution in American History*, published by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt in April 2011.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

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!

The PCWRT has a ten member 'Leadership Committee' that manages our meetings, speakers, meals, and newsletters, etc. These positions and members are listed below. We operate on a calendar year, and each year we have vacancies on this committee.

Such is the case for 2013.

In this New Year, we will create several new leadership committee positions that we will call 'At Large.' These positions will not have specific duties, but will enable new leadership committee members to join the committee, observe the work we do, and then select the work or task to be done that may appeal to him/her.

After a few months of this 'observing', the new committee member could then become a member with agreed to responsibilities. Spreading the work around this way ensures that a few members do not have to do most of the work.

Please consider this proposal. New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization. We need new volunteers with new ideas as we strive to transition this year to offering an all-electronic newsletter!

If you are interested, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

The good news is that Membership dues have not increased in price, but they are now due! Please renew your membership now, and ask a friend or neighbor to also join.

Individual Membership - \$25.00

Family Membership – 35.00

Remit your membership today to:

PCWRT

P.O. Box 1144

Powhatan, VA 23139

SEE WHAT'S INSTORE FOR 2013

Click [here](#) so see our 2013 calendar of events!



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, December 6, 2012, our annual Christmas Dinner & Business Meeting with Andy Cortez and The Tredegar Brass Band.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR – TWO EPIC PLAYS

Tales of the Civil War by Robert Ruffin
with Jeff Toalson

Between 1861 and 1865, plantation owner, lawyer and Confederate Cavalryman Richard Watkins and his young wife Mary exchanged detailed and heartfelt letters. Richard had enlisted with Company K of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry after Virginia seceded from the Union. Mary remained living in Prince Edward County, VA raising their three daughters and managing the farm. Sharing their letters with future generations was likely something they never envisioned.

Editor Jeff Toalson, however, discovered, transcribed and published this rare collection of more than 300 letters in his book *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls*. Lost in the Archives of the Virginia Historical Society, the letters convey richly detailed information about the war and daily life during a tumultuous time in our nation's history. Unlike dry military accounts of Civil War maneuvers and battles, the letters bring a poignant humanity to the conflict and those who struggled through the time.

"Kiss My Little Girls: 1861"

Opens November 9th and runs through November 18th, 2012 at the Yorktown Freight Shed. A Gloucester, Virginia world premiere, the play is based on the real-life letters of Richard and Mary Watkins from the book *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls* by Jeff Toalson. After the death of their two youngest girls, Richard and Mary Watkins struggle to overcome their grief and their past and find new beginnings.

"Kiss My Little Girls: 1862"

Opens in Gloucester, December 6th and runs through December 16th, 2012. Another Gloucester, Virginia world premiere, the play is based on the real-life letters of Richard and Mary Watkins from the book *Send Me a Pair of Old Boots & Kiss My Little Girls* by Jeff Toalson. Facing the perils of childbirth in the 19th Century South, Richard and Mary Watkins seek solace and strength from the struggles of their past.

[Click here for more information.](#)



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“MY DEAR SIR--You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon the claim?”

President Lincoln to General McClellan, October 1862

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.

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

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.

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

November 2, 1862 - Grant started his campaign against Vicksburg. However, he faced a major problem in that his lines of communication were too extended and he needed to 'drop off' troops along his route to defend them. This meant that his force was weakened the nearer Grant got to Vicksburg.

November 4, 1862 - There was an election for President and Congress in the states loyal to the Union. The lack of any major Unionist victory was reflected in the results, which showed that the opposition picked up more support than Lincoln's government. In the Senate, Lincoln's supporters, who prior to the election had a majority of 41 seats, saw this slashed to the opposition having a majority of 10 seats.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

November 5, 1862 - The blame for the government's poor showing in the election was blamed on McClellan and his lack of action. A decision was made to replace him.

November 7, 1862 - McClellan had placed his army less than ten miles from Lee's army. Lee's force was split in two and McClellan was confident that he could deal a mortal blow against the Confederacy. However, at the same time as he was finalizing his plan of attack, he received two messages.

- The first stated: "By direction of the President of the United States, it is ordered that Major General McClellan be relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and that Major General Burnside take command of the army. By order of the Secretary of War."
- The second from General Halleck stated: "General; on receipt of the order of the President, sent herewith, you will immediately turn over your command to Major

General Burnside, and repair to Trenton, New Jersey, reporting on your arrival in that place, by telegraph, for further orders."

November 8, 1862 - General Butler was also relieved of his command of New Orleans. General Banks replaced him. No one was quite sure why Butler was replaced but it is thought that the political hierarchy in the capital believed that he was using his command to boost his own wealth.

November 9, 1862 - General Burnside officially took control of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan left the following day.

November 11, 1862 - Burnside immediately changed McClellan's plan of attack. He believed capturing Richmond was more important than taking on Lee's army. Burnside therefore ordered the Army of the Potomac to Richmond via Fredericksburg. He probably lost the best opportunity the North had of dealing the South a knockout blow by failing to take advantage of Lee's army that was still split in two.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012:

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

November 14, 1862 - Burnside announced that he had reorganized the Army of the Potomac into three "Grand Divisions". Each Division was assigned its own commander and tasked to defend either the left or right flanks or the center of Burnside's force.

November 15, 1862 - The newly reorganized Army of the Potomac started its march on Fredericksburg. The army marched away from where Lee had based his army. There was logic in Burnside's strategy. By marching on Fredericksburg, his army was still close enough to Washington DC to protect the capital. He could also use the Potomac River to bring up supplies to his men via Acquia Creek. Richmond was also only 75 miles from Fredericksburg.

November 17, 1862 - An advance force of Burnside's men reached the outskirts of Fredericksburg but could not cross the Rappahannock River to get into the town because they had no pontoons with them. The Unionists swiftly dealt with a brief Confederate artillery bombardment, which indicated to them that the town was poorly defended. However, Burnside had ordered that no Unionist unit could enter Fredericksburg until suitable communication lines had been established.

This gave Lee the opportunity and time to send two divisions to the town.

November 20, 1862 - General Lee arrived in Fredericksburg.

November 21, 1862 - Burnside called on the mayor to surrender Fredericksburg. This was refused and non-combatants were sent from the town.

November 23, 1862 - Bridging equipment finally arrived at Fredericksburg to allow the North to cross the Rappahannock River but in the course of five days, the Confederate force in the town had done a great deal to fortify it. Any attempted crossing would be fraught with difficulties.

November 27, 1862 - President Lincoln visited Burnside at his headquarters. Whereas Lincoln had despaired at McClellan's lack of urgency, he expressed his reservations to Burnside about his commander's desire to launch an attack against a well dug-in enemy while having to cross a river. However, Burnside was not willing to change his plan.

November 30, 1862 - 'Stonewall' Jackson arrived with his men at Fredericksburg bringing the total number of Confederate soldiers in the town to 80,000.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

CHRISTMAS DINNER with ANDY CORTEZ AND THE TREDEGAR BRASS BAND

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PCWRT! As we end another successful year, we will gather on Thursday, December 6th to enjoy the fellowship of our members and guests, and celebrate the season of *"peace on earth, good will to men."* Joining us this year is Andy Cortez and The Tredegar Brass Band. Formed in 2007 to provide heritage music for Civil War events, clubs and historical functions, the Tredegar Brass band plays the original arrangements from the band books of the North and South. Performing music written by Stephen Foster, marches, quicksteps, bugle calls, and sentimental

favorites of the era, their program leads to a discussion of the life, duties and times of the civil war bandsman. The band has performed for the National Park Service, The American Civil War Center, Hanover Historical Society, Historic Polegreen Church Association, Hanover Tavern, Hickory Hill Plantation, Fort Powhatan Reenactment, National Day of the Cowboy, and more. The authenticity of the music of The Tredegar Brass Band brings to life the sights and sounds of the period. Period attire is encouraged, but not required, and we hope you will join us to close out the year in PCWRT style!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, January 17th – Annual Business, and Eric W. Buckland with Stories From Mosby's Raiders, 6:30 P.M. County Seat Restaurant

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The New Year brings a few Leadership changes within the PCWRT. Grant Atkinson will be leaving Virginia for Florida, and will no longer be Chairperson and Program Director. Filling these roles are two longtime PCWRT members. Billy Kornegay takes on the responsibility of Chairperson, and William R. Garnett assumes the duties of Program Director.

Additionally, Patrick Morris who has been responsible for our monthly Newsletter mailings will retire from the Leadership Committee. We thank Grant and Pat for their tireless help over the years, and wish them the very best. William and Billy, we look forward to your leadership, and thank you for volunteering!



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As noted in our prior entry, the PCWRT is experiencing some changes on the Leadership front this New Year. We have a ten member Leadership Committee that manages our meetings, speakers, meals, and newsletters, etc. We operate on a calendar year, and each year we have vacancies on this committee. Such is the case for 2013.

In this New Year, we will create several new leadership committee positions that we will call At Large. These positions will not have specific duties, but will enable new leadership committee members to join the committee, observe the work we do, and then select the work or task to be done that may appeal to him/her.

After a few months of observing, the new committee member could then become a member with agreed to responsibilities. Spreading the work around this way ensures that a few members do not have to do most of the work.

If you have an interest in becoming more involved, or have a special skill to offer, we hope you will consider this proposal. New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade.

If you are interested, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminder – your Membership Dues for 2013 are now due. With no increase in price to PCWRT Membership, we hope you will encourage friends and neighbors to also join.

Individual Membership - \$25.00

Family Membership – 35.00

Remit your membership today to:

PCWRT

P.O. Box 1144

Powhatan, VA 23139

SEE WHAT'S INSTORE FOR 2013

Go to the Calendar of Events page at www.powhatancwrt.com to see our 2013 calendar of events!



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"December 25th, My dear sister,

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feeble through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts. The day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family and sending upon the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle..."

"When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness."

~ Tally Simpson to his sister, Anna Simpson ~

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For a list of our most frequently asked questions, please see our FAQ page at www.powhaancwrt.com. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at info@PowhatanCWRT.org

LOCAL EVENTS

Don't miss out on the incredible events happening all over the Richmond Region. See our Special Interest Events page at www.powhaancwrt.com 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.



2012 POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

December 1, 1862 - Lincoln addressed the 37th Congress in the capital and once again announced his intention of abolishing slavery within the United States.

December 7, 1862 - A battle fought at Prairie Grove left 167 Union soldiers dead, 798 wounded and 183 missing. The Confederates lost 300 killed, 800 wounded and 250 missing.

December 10, 1862 - The House of Representatives passed a bill to create the state of West Virginia.

December 13, 1862 - Burnside started his attack against Fredericksburg. However, the delay in doing so allowed Lee's men time to dig themselves into well-fortified positions both in the town and in the hills that surrounded it. All attacks were repulsed. An attack on Confederate troops dug in on Marye's Heights led to many Unionist deaths. By the end of the day the Army of the Potomac had lost 1200 killed, 9000 wounded and 2145 missing. Many of these were at Marye's Heights. The Confederates had lost 570 killed, 3870 wounded and 127 missing. Many of the wounded left out on the battlefield died of the cold during the night. Lee was heard to say: "It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it."

December 14, 1862 - Burnside wanted to repeat the assault on Fredericksburg but was persuaded otherwise by his commanders in the

field. The Army of the Potomac camped out along the Rappahannock River.

December 17, 1862 - General Grant's reputation was tainted when he issued General Order Number 11, which expelled Jews from his department because "they are a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department."

December 20, 1862 - A Confederate force attacked a major Union supply base at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Over \$1 million in supplies was seized along with 1000 prisoners. Such a loss of supplies meant that Grant had to postpone his attack on Vicksburg.

December 23, 1862 - Jefferson Davis names General Butler, formally in charge of New Orleans, an outlaw and an enemy of Mankind. Davis stated that Butler would be hanged if the Confederates captured him.

December 28, 1862 - A unit of Union troops captured a considerable amount of Confederate supplies at Van Buren, Arkansas.

December 31, 1862 - Lincoln met Burnside to discuss what went wrong at Fredericksburg. The ironclad 'Monitor' sank in a storm.