



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2014

THE STREETS OF RICHMOND 1861-1865

Today, a visitor to Richmond can find echoes of the former Confederate Capital in landmarks such as Tredegar Ironworks, the Confederate White House, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, but much of Civil War era Richmond has been lost to the sands of time.

Enter Eric App, Director of Museum Operations at The Museum of the Confederacy. His personal research project is Virtual Richmond, a fully interactive, three-dimensional computer model of Richmond, as it appeared during the War. He has worked on the map for more than three years, so far, and is reconstructing the cityscape using multiple period maps, photographs, and insurance records, to piece the entire Capital City back together, one building at a time.

Eric hopes that Virtual Richmond will help visitors to The Museum of the Confederacy better understand life in wartime Richmond. He says, "This is really a study of the town, a

record of urban planning and growth." With Virtual Richmond he "can give an overview of the city's history. You can walk people through wartime Richmond, you can rouse the public's curiosity by showing them something solid—like Libby Prison."

Eric is a Richmond native and Virginia Tech grad, and has worked in every department and at every level of employment at the MOC since he began there as a part time, White House tour guide and occasional grounds keeper, in the summer of 1989. Currently he is responsible for visitor services, retail, education, White House tours, finance, and maintaining the physical plant (and whatever else comes his way).

We invite you join us on Thursday, January 16th at the County Seat Restaurant for a presentation that is sure to spark the imagination!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, February 20, 2014: The Battle of Petersburg.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

The one thing that we suffered most from, the hardship hardest to bear, was hunger. The scantiness of the rations was something fierce. We never got a square meal that winter. We were always hungry.

This hunger was much the hardest trial we had to bear. We didn't much mind getting wet and cold; working hard, standing guard at night; and fighting when required—we were seasoned to all that—but you don't season to hunger. Going along all day with a gnawing at your insides, of which you were always conscious, was not pleasant. We had more appetite than anything else, and never got enough to satisfy it—even for a time.

Under this very strict regime, eating was like to become a lost art and our digestive organs had very little to do. We had very little use for them, in these days. A story went around the camp to this effect: One of the men got sick—said he had a pain in his stomach and sent for the surgeon. The doctor, trying to find the trouble, felt the patient's abdomen, and punched it, here and there. After a while he felt a hard lump, which ought not to be there. The doctor wondered what it could be—then feeling about, he found another hard lump, and then another, and another. Then the doctor was perfectly mystified by all those hard places in a man's insides. At last, the explanation came to him: he was feeling the vertebræ of the fellow's back-bone—right through his stomach!

I do not vouch for the exact accuracy of all the details of the story, but it illustrates the situation. We all felt that our stomachs had dwindled away for want of use and exercise.

~William Meade Dame was describing his time in camp during the winter of 1863-1864.~



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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

January 1, 1864 - The weather greatly hindered nearly all forms of military activity. Sub-zero temperatures occurred as far south as Memphis, Tennessee.

January 2, 1864 - General Banks led his campaign against Galveston by moving along the Texan coast.

January 3, 1864 - Chronic inflation hit the South especially hard. Basic foodstuff was 28 times more expensive in the South than in 1861. During the same time, wages only went up by 3 to 4 times.

January 4, 1864 - Lee was given permission by Jefferson Davis to commandeer food in Virginia. Such a measure may have helped his troops but not the people of the state.

January 5, 1864 - General Banks was encouraged by General Halleck to be more aggressive during his offensive. Halleck envisaged Union troops in Galveston by the spring.

January 7, 1864 - Lincoln commuted the death sentence imposed on a Union deserter. His move, as commander-in-chief, was not well received by the Union's military hierarchy who felt that it would undermine discipline. Union desertion was at an all-time high, especially in the Army of the Potomac. Often, men were paid a bounty to enlist, only to desert, and enlist again to collect another bounty. Others paid \$300.00 to avoid the draft, or hired substitutes when drafted. Big cities saw a boom in "substitute brokers" who, for a fee, would find a substitute for those unwilling to serve.

January 8, 1864 - David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 10, 1864 - The Confederacy responded to its economic plight by printing more money. Foreign governments were unwilling to lend money, and only accepted gold for the payment of weapons. The North made matters worse for the South by printing counterfeit Confederate notes, which made confusion endemic.

January 11, 1864 - Senator John Henderson (Missouri) proposed within the Senate that slavery should be abolished throughout the USA.

January 18, 1864 - Protest meetings were held in North Carolina regarding the conscription policy of the Confederacy. All white males between 18 and 45 were required to enlist – shortly to increase to all males between 17 and 60.

January 19, 1864 - Pro-Union supporters met at Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 21, 1864 - Pro-Union supporters met in Nashville, Tennessee.

January 23, 1864 - Lincoln approved a plan that allowed plantation owners to hire those who had previously worked as slaves on their plantations.

January 26, 1864 - Lincoln commuted another 9 planned executions, as he did not want to "add to the butchering business". On the same day he approved a plan to improve trade between the Union and those parts of the Confederacy now under Union control.

January 31, 1864 - Lincoln stated that he hoped all former slaves who wanted to fight for the Union would swear the oath but that it was not an absolute requirement. The same was true for those men who had been in Confederate ranks – swearing loyalty to the Union was preferred but was not absolute.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2014

THE BATTLE OF PETERSBURG

After failing to capture the Confederate Capital in Richmond during the Overland campaign in 1864, Ulysses S. Grant directed Union forces south of Richmond to Petersburg, the seventh largest city in the Confederacy, and a crucial transportation and manufacturing hub for the South.

Home to 18,266 residents and the largest number of free blacks of any Southern city at that time, Petersburg was surrounded by miles of defenses, built by soldiers, free black workers and slaves. These fortifications provided protection from the enemy, and would take 292 days of bombardment, attrition, and trench warfare to overcome.

Enduring overcrowding, inflation, and a lack of goods, the inhabitants of Petersburg remained stalwart, with most refusing to leave the city even after Union shelling began. But the privations of war eventually took their toll, with resident Sara Pryor noting that the populace was reduced to consuming pigeon, rat, mouse, and mule meat.

Beginning in June 1864 and lasting through April 1865, the siege of Petersburg is remembered for the determination of Federal troops, the defense of the city by “old men and young boys,” and the steadfastness of all of those who called the city home.

This month, we welcome Emmanuel Dabney of the National Park Service at Petersburg

National Battlefield. Emmanuel has been with the NPS since 2001, and has given many programs on the issues facing African-Americans in antebellum, wartime, and immediate post-war America as well as how to portray these experiences within professional museum settings.

After completing high school in Dinwiddie County, Emmanuel graduated magna cum laude with an Associates of Arts from Richard Bland College, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia and completed a Master’s degree in Public History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

As an avid genealogist and historian, Emmanuel has discovered through his maternal grandmother he is the great-great grandson of a White woman and a Black man. Through his maternal grandfather he is the great-great-great grandson of a wealthy Virginia slave owner and a mixed-race free Black woman.

Emmanuel has delivered programs to the Civil War Trust, the Virginia Association of Museums, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History among other organizations, and we are very excited to welcome him to the PCWRT this month. We hope you will join us!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, March 20, 2014: John Quarstein on The Battle of Mobile Bay

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

We have had a dreary winter thus far. Cold and wet. Augustus' letter has increased our desire to go North. We have talked with Sybil about it. She felt at first unreconciled, but upon deliberation has concluded that it may be best. Mr. Fisher is feeble and feels as if he must go back where he can mingle with friends, and have a living more congenial to his tastes. The undertaking seems great and hazardous. We know not how to manage nor who to apply to for advice or assistance. Mrs. Chappelle and Autie wish to go with us. It seems difficult for me to determine what is right. Mr. Fisher feels that he is not called to sacrifice his entire happiness to remain. It is hard to part with Clarence and there's after all an attachment to this forest home. The fruit trees that we planted with our own hand, the flowers that we have cultivated with so much labor, the palmettoes that we have so delighted to gather and braid--the fields of berries and the little sacred burying ground under the cluster of cedars all have a charm. I shall want to see them again and our light wood fires that are so bright and cheerful on a cold day, this is the sunny side. The more we think of going North the more good reasons present themselves for going.

~ Julia Johnson Fisher, a Massachusetts native
Camden County, Georgia,
January 16, 1864



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

February 1, 1864 - President Lincoln ordered another 500,000 men to be drafted to serve for three years or for the duration of the war.

February 3, 1864 - Life in the Confederacy became more difficult when on this day Jefferson Davis suspended habeas corpus for those accused of spying, desertion or association with the enemy. Such a move increased Davis' unpopularity.

Sherman started his march to destroy the Mobile/Ohio railway. His army consisted of 20,000 men. Sherman had by now decided to destroy as much Southern property as he could. When the war started any deliberate attack on civilians was all but unheard of. Now it was to form a specific part of Sherman's tactics in the South. He believed that by inducing fear and terror, he could bring the war to a swift end. Confronting Sherman's army was a Confederate force that also numbered 20,000. But they were demoralized, poorly equipped and poorly fed.

February 5, 1864 - Sherman's army reached Jackson, Mississippi. His final target was Meridian.

February 6, 1864 - The South banned the import of all luxury goods.

February 9, 1864 - 109 Union officers escaped from Libby Jail in Richmond. It was the largest escape of its kind during the war. 59 made it back to Union lines, 48 were recaptured and 2 men drowned.

February 14, 1864 - Sherman's army entered Meridian and started to systematically destroy it. Hotels, hospitals and storehouses (once what was in them was removed) were set alight.

February 16, 1864 - The Confederates under General Polk made a half-hearted attempt to confront Sherman. However, Sherman was so confident of success that he left half his men –

10,000 – in Meridian to complete their destructive work.

February 17, 1864 - Conscription in the South is extended to all white 17 to 50 year olds. Opposition to this was widespread and included the Confederacy's Vice-President!

February 20, 1864 - A Union force of 5,500 men confronted a similar number of Southern troops at Olustree, Florida. The Confederates were successful as the Union troops (many of whom were 'substitutes') turned and fled. Many of the Union troops were armed with the new Spencer rifle and nearly 1,600 of these were left behind.

February 24, 1864 - Congress agreed to reinstate the rank of lieutenant general. Grant is given this rank and became the supreme military commander of the army, though still answering to the commander-in-chief – Lincoln. The president also agreed to a plan to compensate farmers to the tune of \$300 for every slave they allowed to go free and who enlisted in the Union Army.

Jefferson Davis appointed his friend, General Bragg, to have full control of all the South's military operations. Many senior Confederate officers expressed their opposition to this appointment.

February 27, 1864 - Union prisoners started to arrive at the stockade at Andersonville, Georgia. Conditions and treatment there meant that by the end of the war, this prison was to have a notorious reputation.

February 28, 1864 - The North launched a cavalry attack against Richmond. The idea was to free Union prisoners held at Belle Isle and race back to Union lines. Lincoln considered that such a raid would have enormous propaganda value if it succeeded. It was to go wrong from the start.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

The dramatic image of Rear Admiral David Farragut strapped to the rigging of the *Hartford*, shouting the command, “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” is a much quoted event of the American Civil War. But did it happen the way 150 years of legend would have us believe? Join us on Thursday, March 20th when John V. Quarstein joins us for an 11th consecutive year to regale us with the facts of what could arguably be considered the most important naval battle of the war.

For those who may not be familiar with our friend, John Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist, lecturer, and author. He served as director of the Virginia War Museum for over thirty years and, after retirement, continues to work as a historian for the City of Newport News. He is in demand as a speaker throughout the nation.

He has been involved in a wide variety of historic preservation initiatives including the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like Redoubt Park in Williamsburg or Lee’s Mill Park in Newport News as well as historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation. His current preservation endeavors feature the Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, Causey’s Mill, Big Bethel Battlefield and Fort Monroe. John Quarstein also serves on several boards and commissions such as Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council and the Newport News Sesquicentennial Commission.

John Quarstein is the author of fourteen books, including *Fort Monroe: The Key to the South*, *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood*, *Big Bethel: The First Battle*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union’s First Ironclad*. His newest book is *Sink Before Surrender: The CSS Virginia*

He also has produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries, such as *Jamestown: Foundations of Freedom* and the film series *Civil War in Hampton Roads*, which was awarded a 2007 Silver Telly. His latest film, *Hampton From The Sea To The Stars*, was a 2011 Bronze Telly winner. His more recent film projects have been *Pyrates of the Chesapeake* and *Tread of the Tyrants Heel: Virginia’s War of 1812 Experience*.

John is the recipient of the national Trust for Historic Preservation’s 1993 President’s Award for Historic Preservation; the Civil War Society’s Preservation Award in 1996; the United Daughters of the Confederacy’s Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999; and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal in 2009. Besides his lifelong interest in Tidewater Virginia’s Civil War experience, Quarstein is an avid duck hunter and decoy hunter and decoy collector. He lives on Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, and on his family’s Eastern Shore farm near Chestertown, Maryland.

As always, we look forward to a lively presentation from this most entertaining historian. We hope you will join us!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, April 17, 2014: Kelly Hancock on The First Ladies of the Civil War

IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and prayers go out to PCWRT member Nancy Nicholls whose husband Bill passed away on February 11th. A husband, father and grandfather, Bill served as a Chaplain's Assistant at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, taught at E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, and served for more than 40 years as an administrator with the Health and Human Services Department. Bill will be remembered by many as a "smiling Southern gentleman and a witty raconteur," while we at the PCWRT will remember him as a longtime friend. He will be missed, and we sincerely hope Nancy will continue their tradition of joining us each month. Much love goes out to the Nicholls family from the PCWRT.

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LOCAL EVENTS

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

HEADQUARTERS, March 6, 1864.
Honorable JAMES A. SEDDON
Secretary of War, Richmond:

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 5th instant inclosing a slip from one of the Richmond journals, giving an account of the recent attack upon that city, and a copy of some papers found on the dead body of Colonel Dahlgren, disclosing the plan and purpose of the enterprise. I concur with you in thinking that a formal publication of these papers should be made under official authority, that our people and the world may know the character of the war our enemies wage against us, and the unchristian and atrocious acts they plot and perpetrate. But I cannot recommend the execution of the prisoners that have fallen into our hands. Assuming that the address and special orders of Colonel Dahlgren correctly state his designs and intentions, they were not executed, and I believe, even in a legal point of view, acts in addition to intentions are necessary to constitute crime. These papers can only be considered as evidence of his intentions. It does not appear how far his men were cognizant of them, or that his course was sanctioned by his Government. It is only known that his plans were frustrated by a merciful Providence, his forces scattered, and he killed. I do not think it right, therefore, to visit upon the captives the guilt of his intentions. I do not pretend to speak the sentiments of the army, which you seem to desire. I presume that the blood boils with indignation in the veins of every officer and man as they read the account of the barbarous and inhuman plot, and under the impulse of the moment many would counsel extreme measures. But I do not think that reason and reflection would justify such a course. I think it better to do right, even if we suffer in so doing, than to incur the reproach of our consciences and posterity. Nor do I think that under present circumstances policy dictates the execution of these men. It would produce retaliation. How many and better men have we in the enemy's hands than they have in ours? But this consideration should have no weight provided the course was in itself right. Yet history records instances where such considerations have prevented the execution of marauders and devastators of provinces.

It may be pertinent to this subject to refer to the conduct of some of our men in the valley. I have heard that a party of Gilmor's battalion, after arresting the progress of a train of cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, took from the passengers their purses and watches. As far as I know no military object was accomplished after gaining possession of the cars, and the act appears to have been one of plunder. Such conduct is unauthorized and discreditable. Should any of that battalion be captured the enemy might claim to treat them as highway robbers. What would be our course? I have ordered an investigation of the matter and hope the report may be untrue.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
R. E. LEE,
General.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

March 1, 1864 - The Dahlgren cavalry raid on Richmond started to go badly wrong. Having ridden for 36 hours, both men and horses were exhausted. The Confederate defenders had known about the raid and had prepared accordingly. An experienced cavalry unit from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was brought in to Richmond and chased the Unionist cavalry force out of the city. By the time the raid formally ended the Unionists had lost 340 men and 500 horses. It was a propaganda coup for the South and should have been a disaster for the North but the raid was sold as a success as it concentrated on the dilapidated state of the Confederate capital – as witnessed by those on the raid.

March 2, 1864 - Grant was formally promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the title General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States.

March 9, 1864 - Grant received his new command in a ceremony attended by the whole Cabinet. Many politicians expected him to work out of Washington. Therefore, there

was much surprise when Grant announced that he was going to set up his command in the field with the Army of the Potomac. While a number of politicians in Washington had tried to get Lincoln to dismiss Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, Grant expressed his full confidence in his leadership.

March 17, 1864 - Grant, observing a request from Halleck, relieved the general of his command and appointed him chief-of-staff. Grant announced that the Union's military headquarters would be with the Army of the Potomac. Grant made the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia his primary aim.

March 18, 1864 - Sherman was given formal command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.

March 27, 1864 - Sherman, in Vicksburg, was making hard and fast plans for his campaign against Atlanta. These included calling in Union troops from elsewhere such as A J Smith's corps from Alexandria, Louisiana.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2014

KELLY HANCOCK – FIRST LADIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Born in the South to a slave holding family, she would marry a veteran of the Black Hawk War, who would become the President of his country. She would endure withering scrutiny and criticism as First Lady, and suffer the death of a beloved child while living in the Executive Mansion. This describes not only Mary Todd Lincoln, the wife of U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln, but also Varina Howell Davis, the wife of Confederate President, Jefferson Davis.

We hope you will join us on April 17, 2014 when we welcome Kelly Hancock, Manager of Education and Programs for the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Kelly will discuss the lives of Varina Davis and Mary Todd Lincoln, examining them not only as First Ladies but also as wives, mothers, and widows.

Our speaker oversees the Museum of the Confederacy's educational efforts focused on students, teachers, and the general public. In addition to guiding student groups through

the galleries and presenting outreach programs, she works with area schools to provide teacher resources and workshops, including the Museum's annual week long Teachers Institute. Kelly chairs the programs committee and coordinates the Museum's Brown Bag Lunch talk series, as well as outreach efforts to senior adult groups.

A native of New Mexico, Kelly received her B. A. in history along with her teaching certification from Eastern New Mexico University. She taught 7th grade social studies in Hobbs, New Mexico before moving to Richmond in 1997 to make a career change. Kelly has been with the Museum since 1998, spending the majority of her time in the Education Department. She assumed her current position in 2002. Please be sure to join us as we discover the triumphs and tragedies of these two remarkable First Ladies of the Civil War.

As always, we look forward to a lively presentation from this most entertaining historian. We hope you will join us!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, May 15, 2014: Spencer Tucker on Confederate Commerce Raiding

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

March 24th. - Yesterday, we went to the Capitol grounds to see our returned prisoners. We walked slowly up and down until Jeff Davis was called upon to speak. There I stood, almost touching the bayonets when he left me. I looked straight into the prisoners' faces, poor fellows. They cheered with all their might, and I wept for sympathy, and enthusiasm. I was very deeply moved. These men were so forlorn, so dried up, and shrunken, with such a strange look in some of their eyes; others so restless and wild-looking; others again placidly vacant, as if they had been dead to the world for years. A poor woman was too much for me. She was searching for her son. He had been expected back. She said he was taken prisoner at Gettysburg. She kept going in and out among them with a basket of provisions she had brought for him to eat. It was too pitiful. She was utterly unconscious of the crowd. The anxious dread, expectation, hurry, and hope which led her on showed in her face.

Mary Chesnut

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

April 2, 1864 - The improving weather resulted in action throughout all theatres of war.

April 6, 1864 - The Constitutional Convention of Louisiana, meeting in New Orleans, adopted a new state constitution that abolished slavery.

April 8, 1864 - The US Senate passed a joint resolution by 38 to 6 to abolish slavery. It also approved of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Union forces suffered a defeat at Sabine Cross Roads. They lost 113 killed, 581 wounded and 1541 missing or captured. The South suffered total losses of 1000 men.

April 9, 1864 - Grant sent orders to Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac. Meade's army was to follow Lee's Army of Northern Virginia wherever it went. Grant made it plain that the destruction of Lee's army was his top priority. "Wherever Lee goes, there you will head also."

In a follow-up to Sabine Cross Roads, Confederate troops attacked a Union force at Pleasant Bank. This was not a skirmish as both sides mustered 12,000 men. Both sides claimed a victory but ultimately it was the Confederates who were pushed back. The Union lost 150 dead, 844 wounded and 375 missing while the Confederates lost over 1,200 men.



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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

April 11, 1864 - Union troops involved at Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Bank continued with their withdrawal from the Red River region.

A pro-Union state government was inaugurated in Little Rock, Arkansas.

April 12, 1864 - An attack by Confederate cavalry at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, became one of the most controversial incidents of the war. Fort Pillow was held by 557 Union troops, including 262 African-American troops. Confederate cavalry, commanded by Nathan Bedford Forrest, attacked and overwhelmed the fort. It was what happened next that caused controversy. Of the 557 defenders, 231 were killed and 100 wounded. A high percentage of the deaths were African-American soldiers. In the post-war Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, it was claimed by those who survived that former slaves were specifically picked out by Forrest's men after the fort had surrendered – a claim he denied. Forrest claimed that the fort's commander carried on fighting even after it was obvious that the fort would fall. However, even by the standards of the American Civil War, casualties were high.

April 16, 1864 - A report released by the Union government showed that 146,634 Confederate prisoners had been captured since the beginning of the war.

April 17, 1864 - General Grant refused to continue prisoner exchanges. From a military point of view this was an obvious move as it reduced even further potential Confederate military reserves. However, the decision also

condemned many Union men held as prisoners to appalling conditions. The South could barely feed itself, let alone prisoners-of-war.

April 20, 1864 - A sea-based attack on Fort William, near Plymouth, North Carolina, was a resounding success for the Confederates. Not built to withstand a sea attack, the fort quickly surrendered with the capture of 2,800 men. More importantly, 200 tons of anthracite coal was also taken. The victory, while of no great strategic importance, was a huge morale boost for the South.

April 22, 1864 - Jefferson Davis sent instructions to Lieutenant General Polk, ordering that any captured African-American soldier who turned out to be an escaped slave, be held until recovered by his owner.

April 26, 1864 - The loss of Fort William prompted Grant to pull out of Plymouth, North Carolina. In fact, Grant did not believe that the area had any strategic importance, and was not worth defending.

April 27, 1864 - Grant issued his orders for a spring offensive. The Army of the Potomac was to attack the Army of Northern Virginia head on. The Army of the James was to attack Richmond from the South. For Grant, a coordinated and cohesive attack on the South's main fighting force was the beginning of the end of the war. Grant believed that if his plan worked, the war would be over. He was not to know that on the same day, Jefferson Davis sent Jacob Thompson to Canada to unofficially put out peace feelers for an end to the war.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

SPENCER TUCKER – CONFEDERATE COMMERCE RAIDING

From the early days of the Civil War, a major Union strategy against the Confederacy was the blockade of Southern ports, which prevented the import of goods, arms, and medical supplies to the states in rebellion. In an effort to thwart the blockade, Jefferson Davis approved the plan of former U.S. naval captain, Raphael Semmes to create a militia of privateers which would strike at the North's merchant ships, and provide supplies to the South by out running or evading the ships of the blockade.

This month, we welcome author and historian, Spencer C. Tucker to take us on a deep dive into the efforts of these Confederate Commerce Raiders. Spencer graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1959 with a BA in history. After a year's study in France on a Fulbright, he earned his MA and PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During 1965-1967 he served as a captain in U.S. Army Intelligence. During the next thirty years he taught in the History Department at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, the last five as chair of the department. In 1997 he returned to VMI as holder of the John Biggs Chair in Military History. He retired from college teaching in 2003. Dr. Tucker is currently Senior Fellow in Military History for ABC-CLIO Publishing and editor of the *Great Battles of the Twentieth Century* book series with Indiana University Press. He is the author or

editor of 48 books and encyclopedias, with three more slated for publication later this year.

Dr. Tucker is a three-time winner of the Society of Military History's award for the best military history reference work. Also, his biography, *Stephen Decatur: A Life Most Bold and Daring*, won the Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for best book in naval history in 2004. Among his half-dozen books on the American naval Civil War are *Raphael Semmes and the Alabama* (1996); *Andrew Hull Foote, Civil War Admiral on Western Waters* (2000), winner of the John Lyman Book Award for best biography or autobiography in naval history in 2000 from the North American Society for Oceanic History; *A Short History of the Civil War at Sea* (2001); *Blue and Gray Navies: The Civil War Afloat* (2006); the two-volume *Encyclopedia of the Naval Civil War* (2010), and the six-volume *American Civil War: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document Collection*. It won the Top of the List for 2013, Booklist's highest award, given to only one reference work each year; and the Society of Military History's Best Reference Work in Military History Award for 2013.

Dr. Tucker and his wife, Dr. Beverly Tucker, who is also a publisher author, live in Lexington, Virginia.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, June 19, 2014: William Welsch on Samuel Cooper: Adjutant General, CSA



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

WELCOME!

The PCWRT would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Frere French, of Glen Allen. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? 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.

To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Dead! Dead! Both dead! O my brothers! What have we lived for except you? We, who would have so gladly laid down our lives for yours, are left desolate to mourn over all we loved and hoped for, weak and helpless; while you, so strong, noble, and brave, have gone before us without a murmur. God knows best. But it is hard—O so hard! to give them up....

Sarah Morgan Dawson, March 1864

LOCAL BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

From The Civil War Trust: A New Opportunity at Glendale

On June 30, 1862, the Army of Northern Virginia had one of its best chances to destroy the Army of the Potomac. Confederate soldiers under James Longstreet and A.P. Hill clashed with the divided Federal force along the Long Bridge Road at Glendale. The Yankees were on the run but the swift arrival of blue-clad reinforcements blunted the Confederate assault. The coming of night ended the fighting at Glendale, allowing the beaten—but intact—Union army to withdraw.

Now, with developers crowing that major development in this portion of Henrico County is only a matter of time, the Civil War Trust has the chance to preserve 57 acres at the heart of the Glendale battlefield. These tracts along the Long Bridge Road—where Longstreet's and Hill's Confederates locked horns with McCall's and Kearny's Federals—are adjacent to and across the road from preserved land at Glendale, allowing us the opportunity to add to the 619 acres we have already saved at this key Seven Days' battle.

To help save Glendale visit www.civilwar.org



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

May 1, 1864 - General Sherman started his advance on the Army of the Tennessee.

May 2, 1864 - The first skirmishes between Sherman's troops and the Army of the Tennessee occurred.

President Davis also told the Confederate government that there was no hope of any form of recognition of the Confederacy by foreign governments.

May 3, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac was ordered to start its campaign against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Grant claimed that the men in the Army of the Potomac were "in splendid condition and feel like whipping somebody".

May 4, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac, numbering 122,000 men, crossed the River Rapidan in pursuit of Lee's army. Lee had 66,000 men under his command. General Sherman's men prepared for their march on Atlanta. He had 98,000 men under his command.

May 5, 1864 - Grant and Lee's troops engage en masse for the first time in this campaign. Fighting in the 'Wilderness', Lee's troops had the advantage because the terrain was covered in scrub oak, stunted pines and sweet gum. All this made concealment easy and made Grant's task far more difficult despite a 2 to 1 superiority in terms of troop numbers.

May 6, 1864 - The Battle of the Wilderness continued. Neither side could claim victory at the end but in terms of casualties the Union could afford to lose more men than the South. The North lost 2236 dead, 12,037 wounded and 3383 missing. The Confederates lost 7,500 men in total.

May 7, 1864 - After a short rest the Army of the Potomac moved off again. This time Grant headed towards Richmond. This time it was Lee who had to be wary of Grant's movements. The Army of the

James was already threatening Richmond to the South.

May 8, 1864 - An attempt by Grant to get his army between Lee and Richmond failed when the Union's V Corps failed to take Spotsylvania Cross Roads. Sherman continued his march on Atlanta with little, at present, to stop him.

May 9, 1864 - Well-placed and well-dug trenches ensured that the Confederate force opposing Grant was difficult to move and there was a temporary halt to major attacks between Lee and Grant with the Union engaged in a series of reconnaissance raids as opposed to anything more.

May 11, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac spent the day maneuvering into position for an attack primed for May 12th.

Six miles from Richmond, J E B ('Jeb') Stuart was killed in a skirmish. The South lost one of its most talented commanders.

May 12, 1864 - The North's attack against Lee's army started at 04.30. Their initial assault was a success but a Confederate counter-attack ensured that the North was unable to capitalize on this. The fighting in an area known as 'Bloody Angle' – part of the South's entrenchments – was some of the bloodiest of the war.

May 13, 1864 - The fighting for 'Bloody Angle' near Spotsylvania ended at 04.00. The North had lost 6,800 men, the South 5,000. Once again, the Army of the Potomac could afford the losses while the South could not. Grant continued his aggressive approach of looking for Lee's army. There was little doubt that Grant's confidence of victory rubbed off on his men.

Sherman encountered determined opposition at Resaca. Here the South had built extensive entrenchments and they proved a major obstacle for Sherman and his army.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

May 14, 1864 - Heavy rain meant that all forms of movement were curtailed around Spotsylvania.

May 15, 1864 - A Union force commanded by General Sigel was defeated at New Market. Sigel had been sent to defeat Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. In this he failed. On the side of the successful Confederates was Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the officer with the same name who found fame in World War Two. Sigel was relieved of his command on May 19th. Sherman was unable to make a breakthrough at Resaca.

May 16, 1864 - The North suffered a major defeat at Drewry's Bluff and lost 25% of their manpower during the battle – 4160 men killed and wounded out of 18,000. The blame was later directed at the lackluster leadership of General Butler.

May 18, 1864 - When the rain stopped Grant launched another unsuccessful frontal assault on Lee's positions. With increasing casualties, Grant called off the attack. He had clearly underestimated just how well the Confederates entrenchments had been made.

May 19, 1864 - Buoyed by his successes, Lee turned to the Confederates II Corps and ordered an attack on Union lines. This led to heavy fighting between both armies but neither one gained an advantage. By the end of the day the fighting around Spotsylvania had come to an end. The Army of the Potomac had lost 17,500 men. Combined with the loss of men at the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 33,000 men out of 122,000 in just one month – 27% of the Army of the Potomac's total. However, Grant still had an army nearly 90,000 strong. There are no accurate figures for Lee's losses for the same period

but they were undoubtedly high. While the Union could sustain their losses, however unpalatable the figure, the South could not.

May 20, 1864 - Sherman continued his advance to Atlanta.

May 23, 1864 - Grant continued in his policy of shadowing Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He had a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of troop strength. The cause of the South was not helped when Lee was taken with a fever and had to retire to bed.

May 24, 1864 - One of the consequences of Sherman's advance was that he had extended supply lines. On this day a raid by Confederate cavalry on his lines led to the destruction of large quantities of supplies. There was not a great deal Sherman could do about this, as he wanted to continue with his advance to Atlanta and the Confederates were skilled at quick cavalry attacks.

May 28, 1864 - The Army of Northern Virginia moved towards Cold Harbor. By doing this Lee had placed his army between Grant and Richmond.

May 29, 1864 - Lee entrenched his positions around Cold Harbor.

May 30, 1864 - Rather than shy away from contact with Lee, Grant maintained his aggressive stance and faced his army at Cold Harbor.

May 31, 1864 - Sherman's advance on Atlanta was stalled by Confederate troops commanded by J E Johnston. Their tactics, while never going to defeat Sherman, were sufficient to slow down his army to, on average, just one mile a day.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

SAMUEL COOPER: ADJUTANT GENERAL, CSA

Samuel Cooper embarked on a military career at age 15 when he graduated from West Point. He would serve in the Second Seminole War, and the Mexican-American War before being appointed the U.S. Army's Adjutant General on July 15, 1852. Following a very brief stint at Secretary of War in 1861, Cooper resigned at the outbreak of the Civil War, and traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to join the Confederate States Army.

Close to Jefferson Davis, Cooper was immediately commissioned as a Brigadier General, and shortly thereafter on May 16, 1861, was promoted to the rank of full General. Despite the fame and legend of other Confederate luminaries, Samuel Cooper was the highest ranking General in the Confederate Army, by virtue of the date of his promotion. He served as Adjutant General and Inspector General of the Confederate Army until the end of the war, when he performed his last official act of office, preserving the official records of the Confederate Army, the act he may be best remembered for.

This month, we welcome former Marine, and current 2nd Vice President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, William M. Welsh. William lived in Springfield, New Jersey for 35 years, where he was active in church groups, little league, and the community. There he was a member of the Township Committee,

deputy mayor, and President of the Library Board of Trustees. While in New Jersey, William served on the Executive Board, and as Preservation Chairman of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey, and worked for 34 years as an administrator at Montclair State University.

Now retired, William has spoken to Revolutionary War, and Civil War Round Tables, conferences, and groups on Washington's Lieutenants: The Generals of the Continental Army, The Headquarters Staff of the Army of Northern Virginia, Samuel Cooper, Benedict Arnold, and other topics. In addition to leading Revolutionary War tours from Massachusetts to Virginia, he has had a number of articles published in book *Journal of the American Revolution*, *American Revolution* magazine, and on-line. William is the founder and current President of the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond, and Co-Founder of the Congress of American Revolution Round Tables.

William has two daughters, Amy and Claire, and has enjoyed being a resident of Glen Allen for the last 9 years with his wife Gerry. William tells us his main job now is "being a bad influence on my five grandchildren."

Join us on June 19th at The County Seat!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

SPECIAL EVENT

Our speaker, William Welsch is leading a bus tour at Bermuda Hundred for the Richmond Civil War Round Table on Saturday, June 21. Seats are still available at a cost of \$35.00. If you are interested, please let William know!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, July 17, 2014: Gregg Clemmer on The Confederate Medal of Honor

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? 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.

To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Stuart, with pistol in hand, shot over the heads of the troops, while with words of cheer he encouraged them. He kept saying : " Steady, men, Steady. Give it to them." Presently he reeled in his saddle. His head was bowed and his hat fell off. He turned and said as I drew nearer: "Go and tell General Lee and Dr. Fontaine to come here.

I wheeled at once and went as fast as I could to do his bidding. Coming to the part of the line where General Lomax was, I told him Stuart was hurt and that he wanted General Fitz Lee. He pointed to the left and told me to hurry. Soon I found General Lee, and delivered the message. He was riding a light gray, if I remember, and instantly upon receipt of the news went like an arrow down the line. When I returned, Stuart had been taken from his horse and was being carried by his men off the field. I saw him put in an ambulance and I followed it close behind. He lay without speaking as it went along, but kept shaking his head with an expression of the deepest disappointment.

He died the next day, May 12th.

From "The Death of General J.E.B. Stuart" by a private of the Sixth Virginia Cavalry



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy History Learning Site

June 1, 1864 - The Battle of Cold Harbor started. Grant attacked Lee's position near to the 1862 Seven Days battlefields.

Sherman sent out nearly 7,000 troops (3,000 cavalry and nearly 4,000 infantry) to hunt down the cavalry of Bedford Forrest, who continued to be a serious problem along Sherman's supply lines. It was Bedford Forrest's cavalry that was associated with the Fort Pillow, Tennessee, incident.

June 2, 1864 - Grant spent the day improving the entrenchments of his army.

Having captured the Allatoona Pass, Sherman was able to speed up his drive to Atlanta.

June 3, 1864 - At 04.30 Grant launched a major attack on Lee's positions at Cold Harbor. However, Lee's men were well dug in and in just one hour the Union force lost 7,000 men. The Confederates lost 1,500 men. At 12.00 Grant called off the attack. If the attack had been successful nothing would have stopped Grant and the Army of the Potomac getting to Richmond – just eight miles away. Those living in the city could hear the cannon fire.

June 5, 1864 - The South suffered a major defeat at Piedmont in the Shenandoah Valley. A Confederate force of 5,000 suffered 1,500 casualties, including the loss of their commanding officer, General W E Jones. The Confederate army was incapable of sustaining a 30% loss.

June 6, 1864 - Union troops commanded by Major-General David Hunter destroyed much private property in the Shenandoah Valley.

June 8, 1864 - Lincoln received the nomination from the National Union Convention to stand for president in the forthcoming election. The party platform was that there should be no compromise with the South.

June 10, 1864 - The Confederate Congress introduced military service for all men in the South aged between 17 and 70.

Bedford Forrest defeated a large Union force at Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi. Forrest had 3,500 men under his command while the Union cavalry force, commanded by General Samuel Stugis, stood at 8,000. The Union army suffered over 25% casualties (a total of 2,240) to Forrest's total loss of 492 men.

June 12, 1864 - After some days of military inactivity, the Army of the Potomac moved out of its lines at Cold Harbor. However, while the army had not been fighting, it had been constructing better roads and pontoons to allow for the swifter movement of men and supplies. Such planning paid off.

June 13, 1864 - Lee withdrew his army to Richmond in the belief that Grant had built the roads and pontoons to allow his army to get behind the Army of Northern Virginia and attack Richmond. Lee was wrong in his assessment.

CIVIL WAR
POWHATAN    ROUNDTABLE
A Society For Civil War Studies

Established 2003

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy History Learning Site - *continued*

June 14, 1864 - The South lost one of its top generals, Leonidas Polk. Killed by artillery fire on Pine Mountain, Polk was not a great strategic commander but he was popular with his men and his loss was a bitter blow to the morale of the Army of the Tennessee.

June 15, 1864 - The North started a major assault on Petersburg, the 'backdoor to Richmond'.

June 16, 1864 - More units from the Army of the Potomac joined the attack on Petersburg. Against the odds, the defenders held out.

June 17, 1864 - The defenders of Petersburg managed a counter-attack. It was not successful, but it did stop the Union troops from advancing any nearer to Petersburg.

June 18, 1864 - Lee's main army arrived at Petersburg to bolster the city's defenses. The North carried out the last of its attacks – the four days fighting for Petersburg had cost the Union 8,000 men.

June 20, 1864 - Grant decided to besiege Petersburg. He concluded that even the Army of the Potomac could not sustain further heavy losses.

June 21, 1864 - President Lincoln paid a visit to the Army of the Potomac. Grant enlivened

the command of the army by appointing new generals. He hoped that new blood would invigorate the way the Army of the Potomac is led. One of his appointments was General David Birney who was given the command of II Corps.

June 22, 1864 - The Confederates launched a ferocious attack on Birney's II Corps at Jerusalem Plank Road. Birney lost 604 killed, 2494 wounded and 1600 captured. The Confederates lost in total 500 men.

June 25, 1864 - Union forces started to build a tunnel underneath one of the main Confederate redoubts in Petersburg.

June 27, 1864 - Sherman launched a major attack against Confederate positions at Kennesaw Mountain. The North's forces were stopped just short of the Confederate front line. Union losses were 2,000 killed or wounded out of 16,000 men.

June 28, 1864 - Though they held Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain, the South knew that it was only a matter of time until it fell, such was the size of the force they were facing. Their commander here, Johnston, decided to pull back to the Chattahoochee River.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

GREGG CLEMMER, THE CONFEDERATE MEDAL OF HONOR

In an effort to increase the morale of its soldiers, the Confederate Government authorized medals and badges to be issued to officers or soldiers for “conspicuous courage and good conduct on the field of battle.”

Eventually, politics and lack of funding prevented the program from being implemented, and it was not until 1977 when the first Confederate Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to Private Samuel Davis.

Please join us on Thursday, July 17th when author Gregg Clemmer reveals the stories behind the recipients of the Confederate Medal of Honor.

Our speaker is a native of Augusta County, Virginia, a graduate of Virginia Tech, and holds a Master of Arts in Military History from Norwich University in Vermont. A writer and historian of eclectic interests, Gregg thrives on connecting the obscure with the notable, chronicling little known historic incidents into the relevant fabric of modern America, reminding us of the history we may have forgotten.

Gregg is a former president of the Montgomery County, Maryland Civil War Roundtable, and served two terms on that county’s Historic Preservation

Commission. He counts two Union generals and fourteen "in-the-trenches" Confederates in his ancestry, including members of Armistead’s and Stonewall’s brigades.

Gregg is also an ardent cave explorer and mapper, and is a Life Member and Fellow of the National Speleological Society. He is currently president of the Butler Cave Conservation Society, Inc, in Bath and Highland Counties, Virginia - the nation's oldest private cave preserve. Sharing his passions with the public, he serves as a cave and battlefield tour leader for the Smithsonian Associates Program.

He is an eloquent speaker and a gifted storyteller, and has appeared on MSNBC, Fox News, and CBS Radio. Gregg is the author of numerous newspaper and magazine articles, and his biography on Major General Ed Johnson, *Old Alleghany: the Life and Wars of General Ed Johnson* won the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award in 2005. Among his five books is the acclaimed *Valor in Gray: the Recipients of the Confederate Medal of Honor*. (Read a review of *Valor in Gray* at www.powhatanwrt.com.) His first novel, *A Turn for Home*, has just been released.

Gregg lives in Hunt Valley, Maryland.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, August 21, 2014: Grant Atkinson returns to Powhatan to discuss “The Civil War Comes to Florida.”

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

I have been much occupied nursing the sick, not only in the hospital, but among our own friends; and a sad, sad week has the last been to us. We have had very little time to think of public affairs, but now that the last sad offices have been performed for one very, very dear to us, with sore hearts we must go back to busy life again. It is wonderful to me that we retain our senses. While the cannon is booming in our ears from the neighborhood of Petersburg, we know that Hunter is raiding among our friends in the most relentless way; that the Military Institute has been burnt, and that we have nothing to hope for the West, unless General Early and General Breckinridge can destroy him utterly.

~Judith White McGuire, June 24th, 1864~

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

See our website, www.powhatancwrt.com for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at info@powhatancwrt.com.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

July 1, 1864 - President Lincoln appointed Senator William Pitt Fessenden as Secretary of the Treasury. Though Fessenden was reluctant to take up the position, he soon proved to be a very good choice.

July 2, 1864 - Lee ordered that Confederate troops had to destroy the Baltimore to Ohio railway. If this was successful, it would greatly hinder the movement of Union troops should they be required to defend the capital.

July 3, 1864 - Washington DC was awash with rumors that the South was about to launch an attack on it; the numbers talked about were grossly inflated but this would have fitted in with Lee's desire to destroy the Ohio-Baltimore railway.

Sherman continued his advance on Atlanta.

July 4, 1864 - Lincoln vetoed the Wade-Davis Bill that would have introduced harsh settlements for rebel states. He was still convinced that a policy of reconciliation was required, not retribution.

Having outflanked his opponents, Sherman's force was actually nearer to Atlanta than Southern troops. This forced the South's commander in the area, Johnston, to make a hasty withdrawal so that Atlanta was better protected. Johnston set up his line of defense along the Chattahoochee River.

July 5, 1864 - Panic ensued in Washington DC as many believed that the city was just about to be attacked.

Lincoln suspended habeas corpus in Kentucky, as he believed that the South was receiving too much help from the state's citizens. Martial law was introduced throughout the state.

July 6, 1864 - Thousands of Union troops were rushed to Washington. This is what Lee had hoped for as it relieved the pressure on his army.

July 7, 1864 - General Johnston, tasked with facing the seemingly unstoppable force of Sherman's, received a letter from Jefferson Davis that criticized his decision to withdraw to the Chattahoochee. He also informed Johnston that he would receive no more reinforcements.

July 8, 1864 - Part of Sherman's army outflanked the defenses at Chattahoochee and Johnston decided to withdraw to Atlanta.

July 9, 1864 - A hastily assembled Union force of 6,000 fought the South by the banks of the River Monocacy. The South's 10,000 men, most were experienced and battle-hardened, overwhelmed the Union troops. But the advance of the South was crucially delayed for a day – enough time to better organize the defenses of Washington.

July 10, 1864 - Sherman decided against making a full-frontal assault on Atlanta.

July 11, 1864 - Confederate troops commanded by General Early arrived on the outskirts of DC. However, the impact of the summer heat had reduced the number he commanded from 10,000 to 8,000. Early was also lightly armed with small artillery guns. The delay at the River Monocacy was vital for the defenders as it allowed a force of 20,000 to gather in the city and to build more defenses. Scouts informed Early as to what he faced and he decided to abandon his original plan to assault the Capital. In fact, Early did the opposite – he ordered his men to withdraw from their positions.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site* - continued

July 12, 1864 - Lincoln observed the withdrawal of Early's troops from Fort Stevens.

July 14, 1864 - Pursued by Union troops, Early's men withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley. Lincoln expressed his belief that the pursuit had not been vigorous enough.

July 16, 1864 - Sherman started his advance on Atlanta.

July 17, 1864 - Jefferson Davis relieved Johnston of his command and appointed John B Hood in his place. Hood was the youngest commander of an army in the war aged 33 years. He lost his left arm at the Battle of Gettysburg and his right leg at the Battle of Chickamauga. Davis hoped that his fighting spirit and undoubted bravery would rub off on the men tasked with the defense of Atlanta.

July 18, 1864 - Lincoln rejected tentative peace talks with the South as they based their proposals on the basis that there would be an independent South.

July 19, 1864 - Sherman spread out his army in an attempt to surround Atlanta. Three separate Union armies faced the defenders in Atlanta - the Armies of the Tennessee led by McPherson, Cumberland led by Thomas and Ohio led by Schofield. Hood determined that his best approach was to attack one and inflict overwhelming damage on it before moving on to the next. Hood resolved to attack the Army of the Cumberland.

July 20, 1864 - Hood attacked the Army of the Cumberland with 20,000 men at Peachtree Creek. Thomas had a similar number of men. However, the South's army in Atlanta had spent months on the defensive and not the offensive. The attack was a major failure: the South lost four brigadier-

generals in the attack and 4,000 men – 25% of those who fought for the South in the attack. The Union lost 300 dead and 1300 wounded – less than 10% of the total number of Union troops who fought at Peachtree Creek. For Hood and Atlanta, the failure at Peachtree Creek was a huge one.

July 21, 1864 - Union troops took a Confederate redoubt at Bald Hill, outside of Atlanta.

July 22, 1864 - Undeterred by Peachtree Creek, Hood still believed that being offensively minded was his best approach. He ordered an attack on the Army of the Tennessee commanded by McPherson who was killed in this battle. Both sides claimed victory in the battle. The North lost a total of 3772 men (1333 wounded) while it is thought that the Confederates lost 6,500 men killed and wounded with another 2,000 missing. However, Hood claimed the battle as a victory as his men captured 13 artillery guns. But the defenders of Atlanta could not afford to lose 8,500 men in one battle.

July 23, 1864 - Union forces suffered a major defeat at Kernstown losing 1,200 men (600 killed) and fled in disarray towards Bunker Hill, West Virginia.

July 27, 1864 - Sherman sent large cavalry units south of Atlanta to cut off the railways there.

July 28, 1864 - Hood attacked the Army of the Tennessee again. This was also a failure as the South lost 4,600 men while the Union lost just 500.

July 31, 1864 - Lincoln met with General Grant to discuss the war. Grant was acutely aware that Lincoln's political survival depended on how well the Union forces in the field were doing



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2014

GRANT ATKINSON, FLORIDA IN THE CIVIL WAR – PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Florida became a state in 1845, and an 1860 census showed Florida with a population of approximately 140,000, with nearly 45 percent of those being slaves. The third state to secede in 1861, behind South Carolina and Mississippi, Florida was the smallest of the Confederate states. With an agricultural economy, and few industrial resources, Florida was thought by many to be of little strategic importance.

Regardless of this, Florida contributed 16,000 men to the Confederate effort, the largest percentage of any southern state. A third of those died. Florida's 13,000 mile coastline accounted for nearly half of the Confederacy's coastline. As a result, it was a focus of much of the Union blockade, but it also proved invaluable for the production of salt, a critical commodity of the era.

With the most evenly fought battle of the Civil War taking place within its border, a determined population maintaining the home-front, colorful Floridians such as St. Augustine's Edmund Kirby Smith obtaining fame, Florida has a rich, if somewhat obscure Civil War history.

This month we welcome the return of former PCWRT Chairman, Grant Atkinson to The County Seat.

Grant was born in Indianapolis, Indiana but grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, and has lived in California, and Germany. Involved in sports while in high school and college, our speaker was bitten by the Civil War bug after viewing Ken Burns' epic documentary "The Civil War" in 1990.

He graduated from the University of Charleston, in West Virginia, with a major in History, and a minor in Political Science. Grant joined The Powhatan Civil War Roundtable, and became a volunteer in 2007, working his way through the ranks to achieve the position of Program Director and Chairman in 2010.

After a career in retail with a focus on audio and visual equipment, Grant retired to Palm Coast, Florida at the end of 2012. Putting the experience he gained with the PCWRT to good use, Grant founded the [Palm Coast Civil War Round Table](#) in January of 2014.

We are excited to have Grant back with us this month, and invite you to join us for a discussion that will touch on the people, places and events of Florida in the Civil War.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, September 18, 2014: Grant Eric Wittenberg on “Wade Hampton”

WELCOME!

The PCWRT says “Welcome!” to new member Bob Gibson. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Since the last note in my diary we have been pursuing our usual course. The tenor of our way is singularly rough and uneven, marked by the sound of cannon, the marching of troops, and all the paraphernalia of grim visaged war; but we still visit our friends and relatives, and have our pleasant social and family meetings, as though we were at peace with all the world. The theme of every tongue is our army in Maryland. What is it doing? What will be the result of the venture? The last accounts are from the Washington papers. Early, they say, is before Washington, throwing in shells, having cut the railroads and burnt the bridges. We are of course all anxiety, and rumor is busier than ever. The army, it is said, has driven innumerable horses, beeves, etc., into Virginia. I trust so; it is surmised that to supply the commissariat is the chief object of the trip. Grant still before Petersburg, sending transports, etc., with troops to defend Washington.

Judith White McGuire, Richmond, VA, July 18, 1864

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2014

LOCAL EVENTS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

August 9, 1864 - Atlanta was attacked by artillery fire for the first time. Sherman had no intention of making a frontal assault on the city. He planned to surround the city as best as he could, ensure no trains could supply the city and thus starve it out.

August 10, 1864 - Confederate units tried to disrupt Sherman's supply line but he had already thought of that. Sherman had stockpiled supplies near his front.

August 11, 1864 - Sherman continued the bombardment of Atlanta while his troops dug towards the defenders trenches.

August 18, 1864 - For the second time, Grant refused an exchange of prisoners.

Sherman ordered an attack on the Macon and Western railway.

August 23, 1864 - Fort George surrendered to Union forces. Though the port of Mobile remained in Confederate hands, the North controlled the bay. As such, Mobile could not

operate as a port. Therefore the only working port left to the Confederates was Wilmington in North Carolina.

August 26, 1864 - Hood was effectively cut off in Atlanta.

August 27, 1864 - Sherman's army effectively surrounded Atlanta. A few railways still existed but they would have been unable to supply the whole city nor would they have been able to supply Hood's army.

August 28, 1864 - Sherman further tightened his grip on Atlanta by destroying ten miles of the West Point Road that led from Atlanta to the Alabama state line.

August 30, 1864 - The railway from Atlanta to Montgomery was cut. Now the city only had one railway to serve it, from the city to Macon.

August 31, 1864 - General George McClellan was nominated the Democrat Presidential candidate for the November election.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2014

ERIC WITTENBERG – WADE HAMPTON

Wade Hampton was born into a wealthy, politically active South Carolina family with an impressive military history. The son of a successful planter with vast holdings, Wade Hampton enjoyed a privileged childhood, and became an active, if solitary outdoorsman, excelling at riding and hunting and as legend has it, killing as many as 80 black bears with only a knife.

Though trained in the law, Hampton never practiced after graduating from South Carolina College, instead opting to manage several of his father's plantations before becoming involved in politics. He would be elected to the South Carolina General Assembly in 1852 and to the US Senate six years later. That same year Hampton's father passed away, leaving his fortune, plantations, and slave holdings to the 40 year old senator.

While he opposed Secession, Hampton resigned his Senate seat in 1861 and enlisted in the South Carolina Militia, before being commissioned by the Governor as a Colonel due to his social standing. Despite his age, and lack of personal military experience, Hampton organized and financed what would become the famed "Hampton's Legion," eventually achieving the rank of Lieutenant General. Hampton would go on to participate in virtually every major cavalry operation in the Eastern Theater, earning the trust and respect of his superiors at every turn.

This month our speaker, Eric Wittenberg, returns to Powhatan to share his expertise on General Wade Hampton.

By day, Eric is an experienced attorney with 22 years of diverse experience, with a focus on intellectual property, trade secrets, corporate governance, due diligence and litigation. By night, he is the author of 16 published books (available for purchase on his website, [Rantings of a Civil War Historian](#)) and 24 articles on the American Civil War. In 1998, his first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelor-Coddington Literary Award, as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg.

Born in the Philadelphia suburbs, and raised in southeastern Pennsylvania, Eric made his first trip to the Gettysburg battlefield as a third-grader, and by the end of that trip, he was hooked on the Civil War. 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 a member of Civil War Preservation Trust, Brandy Station Foundation, and the Trevilian Station Foundation. Eric serves as Vice President of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, and is a member of the Governor of Ohio's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Eric, his wife Susan, and their two golden retrievers live in Columbus, Ohio.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, October 16, 2014: Rev. Bob MacFarlane, *A Visit from Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain*

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

The battle has been raging at Atlanta, and our fate hanging in the balance. Atlanta, indeed, is gone. Well, that agony is over. Like David, when the child was dead, I will get up from my knees, will wash my face and comb my hair. No hope; we will try to have no fear.

Mary Boykin Chesnut, September 2, 1864

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

September 1, 1864 - The whole of Sherman's army was employed against Jonesboro. The Confederates here withdrew at night leaving behind 3,000 prisoners. There was little in the way of Sherman's army now and the decision was taken to evacuate Atlanta. What the Confederate Army could not take with them was destroyed.

September 2, 1864 - General Lee suggested that slaves could be used for the laboring tasks done by the Army of Virginia. This would free up non-slave laborers for combat.

The first Union troops entered Atlanta – men from the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln, “Atlanta is ours, and fairly won.”

September 3, 1864 - Lincoln declared that September 5th would be a day of national celebration.

September 4, 1864 - the Confederate raider, John H Morgan, who had been a continual thorn to the Union, was killed at Greenville, Tennessee.

In Atlanta, Sherman ordered all civilians to leave. He wanted the city to be a purely military zone. He also ordered the destruction of any buildings other than private residences and churches.

September 5, 1864 - A national day of celebration. Louisiana, occupied by Union forces, voted to abolish slavery in the state.

September 8, 1864 - George B. McClellan accepted the Democrat nomination to stand against Lincoln in the November election. However, the Republicans were reaping the rewards of the fall of Atlanta. Many also questioned why a major general would want to stand against the army's commander-in-chief.

September 10, 1864 - Sherman received a message from General Grant urging him to continue with his aggressive offensive.

September 12, 1864 - Buoyed by Sherman's success in Atlanta, Lincoln contacted Grant to urge him to be more aggressive against Lee. However, Grant was aware that Lee was facing major problems and that his army was becoming desperately short of men who were capable of fighting. His army was bolstered by men from General Early's army but this left Early short of men in the Lower Shenandoah Valley. Early had 20,000 men to face a Union force of 43,000 men.

September 16, 1864 - Lee's army ran out of corn and there was no obvious way his Army of Virginia could be supplied, especially as there were food shortages across the Confederacy. Lee was saved by a daring Confederate raid behind enemy lines that captured 2,400 head of cattle.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR, Continued - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

September 19, 1864 - General Early's men were attacked by a much larger Union force at Winchester. Early lost a total of 3,921 men out of 12,000 while Union losses numbered 4,018 men out of 40,000 men. While General Sheridan, commander of the Union force that attacked Early could afford such losses, Early could not. Only a very skilled withdrawal by Early avoided a far greater number of losses.

September 22, 1864 - A large Union force pursued Early. They clashed on the banks of Cedar Creek. Early lost a further 1,200 men and 12 artillery guns.

September 23, 1864 - Early's weakened army embarked on a rapid withdrawal. They were not vigorously pursued.

September 24, 1864 - Crops in the Shenandoah Valley were destroyed on the orders of General Grant.

September 25, 1864 - What was left of Early's army fell back to Brown's Pass in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Jefferson Davis met with General Hood at Palmetto, Georgia, to discuss what they both

agreed was the parlous state of the Confederate Army in the Western Theatre.

September 26, 1864 - Union forces attacked Early's men in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

September 27, 1864 - Confederate guerrillas continued to unsettle Union forces in the South. Especially successful was Bloody Bill Anderson who looted the town of Centralia in Missouri.

September 29, 1864 - Grant started a major assault on Richmond.

September 30, 1864 - Union forces took three miles of land in just one day in their attack on Richmond. Lee, with just 50,000 men to protect the city, informed Davis in Richmond that his position was bleak. Lee survived by sending reserves to areas where a Union breakthrough looked the most likely. However, he knew that it was not the solution to the problems he was facing. Lee himself took command of several counter-attacks, which were successful. But he believed that he was delaying the inevitable.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2014

REV. BOB MACFARLANE – A VISIT WITH JOSHUA LAWRENCE CHAMBERLAIN

One of the most recognizable figures to have participated in the American Civil War, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain is likely best remembered for his leadership in the Battle of Little Roundtop at Gettysburg. But this studious professor of languages explored numerous careers in his post war life.

Following the end of the war, Chamberlain served four one year terms as the Governor of Maine, then as president of his alma mater, Bowdoin College. After relinquishing this post due to ill health, Chamberlain went on to experience a variety of occupations from law, to real estate, to the railroad, to writing his memoirs, all the while being active in The Grand Army of the Republic and soldiers reunions.

Chamberlain would receive the Medal of Honor 30 years after his heroic service at Gettysburg, and finally pass from the wounds received during the war.

This month, we will be joined by Reverend Robert “Bob” MacFarlane who will bring General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain to life in full dress uniform.

Rev. MacFarlane received his education at the University of St Andrews, Scotland in Theological Studies, his BA in Philosophy and Religion at Boston University and his Master of Divinity at Andover Newton Theological School.

Bob’s interests include the Scottish Clan MacFarlane Society International, the Herman Melville Society, and the Robert Louis Stevenson Society. He is the founder of Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table, and he is currently serving as the Intentional Interim Minister of Mashpee Congregational Church, UCC, in Mashpee, MA.

We look forward to seeing you on October 16th at the County Seat!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, November 20, 2014: Col. Keith Gibson, *Moses Ezekiel: Soldier, Sculptor*



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2014

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"It was a solemn and imposing spectacle. The profusion of wax lights round the corpse, the quality of choice flowers, in crosses, garlands, and bouquets, scattered over it, the silent mourners, sable-robed at the head and foot; the tide of visitors, women and children, with streaming eyes, and soldiers, with bent heads and hushed steps, standing by, paying the last tribute of respect to the departed heroine. On the bier, draped with a magnificent Confederate flag, lay the body, so unchanged as to look like a calm sleeper, while above all rose the tall ebony crucifix -- emblem of the faith she embraced in happier hours, and which we humbly trust, was her consolation in passing through the dark waters of the river of death. She lay there until two o'clock of Sunday afternoon, when the body was removed to the Catholic Church of St. Thomas. Here the funeral oration was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Corcoran, which was a touching tribute to the heroism and patriotic devotion of the deceased, as well as a solemn warning, on the uncertainty of all human projects and ambition, even though of the most laudable character."

A letter to *The Sentinel*, describing the funeral of Rose O'Neal Greenhow, October, 1864

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

October 1, 1864 - The body of Rose O'Neal Greenhow was found on a beach near Wilmington, North Carolina. She was one of the foremost Confederate spies in Washington, DC and passed onto General Beauregard the plans of General McDowell on the eve of what became known as the Battle of Bull Run. When the ship she was traveling on, was driven aground near Wilmington, North Carolina, Greenhow tried to escape in a rowboat which overturned in the rough waves along the shoreline. Greenhow was carrying \$2,000 in gold coins sewn into her clothing and she was drowned. .

General Hood decided that an offensive campaign was the only way ahead for him against Sherman. Hood decided that Sherman's supply lines were too long and therefore were vulnerable to attack.

October 2, 1864 - Confederate troops cut the Western and Atlantic Railroad – an important part of Sherman's lines of communication.

October 3, 1864 - Jefferson Davis made a speech at Columbia, South Carolina, declaring that if everyone supported the work of Hood, he was confident that Sherman would be defeated.

Hood's men broke the track of the Chattanooga-Atlanta railroad, a further blow to Sherman.

October 4, 1864 - Hood's men destroyed fifteen miles of railway near Marietta.

October 5, 1864 - Hood's men attacked Union positions that defended the railroad pass at Allatoona. The Confederate attack was defeated. Such was the importance of this victory, that Sherman sent a personal message of thanks to Major General J M Corse who commanded the Union troops at Allatoona.

October 6, 1864 - General Thomas Rosser led a Confederate cavalry force against General George Custer at Brock's Gap. It failed.

October 9, 1864 - Generals Custer and Lomax led a successful cavalry attack against Confederate positions in the Shenandoah Valley.

October 13, 1864 - Maryland voted to abolish slavery within the state.

A Confederate force destroyed twenty miles of railway near Resaca.

October 18, 1864 - General Early decided to attack General Sheridan's army despite being heavily outnumbered. He knew that he could not simply just move and then move on still more. Not only could he not adequately feed his army, he knew that such a tactic was demoralizing his men.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

October 19, 1864 - Early 10,000 men attacked Sheridan's 30,000 troops at Cedar Creek. Early's advance was disguised by fog and his attack achieved near total surprise. However, the early Confederate successes could not be sustained and by midday the exhausted Confederates withdrew. Early's army lost 3,000 men in total. The Union lost over 5,550 men in total but Sheridan's army could sustain this.

October 20, 1864 - Sheridan decided not to pursue Early as he no longer considered them to be a sustainable fighting force.

October 22, 1864 - Hood continued with his aggressive campaign against Sherman. However, he was aware that lack of supplies was becoming a major issue.

October 23, 1864 - The South suffered a defeat at Brush Creek in Missouri. Both sides lost about 1,500 men.

October 26, 1864 - Sherman recognized that his opponent, Hood, was a highly able commander. He said of him: "He can turn and twist like a fox and wear out my army in pursuit."

Bloody Bill Anderson was killed in an ambush at Richmond, Missouri.

The last Confederate offensive in Missouri ended.

October 27, 1864 - General Grant launched an attack against Confederate positions in Petersburg but it was beaten back.

October 31, 1864 - Hood's attempt to draw Sherman away from Atlanta failed. Hood's army was heading in one direction while Sherman's was heading further into the Confederacy.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2014

VMI'S COLONEL KEITH GIBSON - MOSES EZEKIEL: SOLDIER, SCULPTOR

Born in Richmond in 1844, Moses Jacob Ezekiel was one of 14 children in a humble Jewish family, who left school early to clerk in a local mercantile business. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Ezekiel made the decision to complete his education, and Virginia Military Institute provided an opportunity for a young man with little education to attend an institute of higher learning. So under the threat of war, Moses Ezekiel became the first American of Jewish faith to attend VMI.

After receiving a wound at the Battle of New Market, Ezekiel returned to Richmond to train new recruits for the army, and served in the entrenchments surrounding the city. After war's end, he would go on to complete his education at VMI, then travel the globe, and attend the Royal Academy of Art in Berlin. Becoming one of the most accomplished artists of his time, Moses Ezekiel produced more than 200 works of art, and received numerous honors, including a knighthood from King Victor Emanuel of Italy.

We hope you will join us on November 20th when we welcome Colonel Keith E. Gibson, of the Virginia Military Institute.

Keith Gibson is Executive Director of the Museum System and Architectural Preservation Officer for the Virginia Military Institute and is responsible for the operation and development of the VMI Museum in Lexington, VA, the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at New Market Battlefield State Historical Park in New Market, VA and the Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington, VA.

Growing up near Richmond, Virginia, on land hotly contested during the Civil War kindled Keith Gibson's interest in history at an early age. Colonel Gibson received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the VMI in 1977. He prepared for a career in Public History with graduate work in Early American History at James Madison University and Museum Studies with George Washington University.

Colonel Gibson has worked as a consultant on a number of documentary films, made for television films, and feature films including *Field of Lost Shoes*, (2014); *Man, Moment, Machine* (2006); *Gods and Generals* (2001/2), *History's Lost and Found* (2000), *Field of Lost Shoes, the documentary* (2000/1—winner of two PBS Emmys), *Wicked Spring* (2000), *The Civil War Journal* (1993-1997), *The Johnson Whittaker Story* (1993), *Sommersby* (1992), *Gettysburg* (1992), *The Smithsonian's Civil War* (1990) and *Dress Gray* (1985). He appears frequently as a spoke person for historic preservation on radio and Public Broadcasting television programs.

His most recent published work includes: *Virginia Military Institute and Moses Ezekiel: Civil War Soldier; Renowned Sculptor*.

Colonel Gibson was chosen as the Commonwealth of Virginia's outstanding employee of the year in 2012. He is active in several professional organizations including the American Alliance of Museums and the Virginia Association of Museums.

You can read more about Moses Ezekiel on our website, and we look forward to seeing you on November 20th!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2014

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, December 18, 2014: Christmas Dinner - Stan Clardy - *Christmas Letters and Songs*

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Mrs. Bixby - Dear Madam,

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours, very sincerely and respectfully,

~A. Lincoln - November 21, 1864~

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

November 1, 1864 - Promised supplies had not arrived, and promised repairs to railroads were not carried out – both of which seriously hindered Hood in his attempt to defeat Sherman in the South.

November 5, 1864 - Hood met General Beauregard at Tuscumbia to discuss their strategy against Union forces. Most senior officers under Hood wanted him to actively seek out Sherman while Hood himself wanted to launch an offensive north towards the Union. This prospect greatly concerned officers under Hood who could not comprehend why Hood would let Sherman and his army roam around the South unhindered.

November 7, 1864 - The Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond. Jefferson Davis spoke in an optimistic manner underplaying the loss of Atlanta. Davis also publicly urged Hood to seek out Sherman and defeat his army. Hood had other ideas. He wanted to march into Kentucky and Tennessee to launch an attack on the Union forces based there so that Union troops would be sucked away from their armies opposing Lee in the Eastern Theatre to support their comrades in Tennessee/Kentucky. In view of Hood's lack of supplies, he probably did not have a full knowledge as to his true military situation when compared to the armies that opposed him.

November 8, 1864 - Lincoln won the Presidential election. He had feared a move towards the Democrats because of his belief that the war was becoming unpopular. In fact the Republicans increased their representation within both the House and the Senate. The election results indicated to Davis and the Confederate Congress that there would be no negotiated peace settlement.

November 9, 1864 - Sherman ordered the resumption of the Union advance into Georgia. He ordered General Thomas to defeat the army of Hood while he planned to advance north to assist Grant in his defeat of Lee. Grant was fighting 1,000 miles away so Sherman marched his men to Savannah to allow for a march up the eastern coastline. Bolstered with plenty of supplies acquired from Atlanta, Sherman was confident of success. He also knew that the land his men were marching through was rich in supplies.

November 11, 1864 - Union troops in Atlanta and Rome destroyed anything that could be of use to the Confederacy before they left. In Atlanta all buildings except churches and a few houses were destroyed.

November 14, 1864 - Lincoln accepted the resignation of Major-General George McClellan – the man who had opposed him in the election. Lincoln promoted Sheridan to the rank of Major-General.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

November 15, 1864 - The destruction of Atlanta was completed. The economic hub of Georgia was destroyed – this action by Sherman created much bitterness in the South.

November 16, 1864 - Sherman's army of 60,000 men left Atlanta. The twenty days rations they carried came from the city and left the people there with little to eat or drink. Facing Sherman's large army was just 20,000 Confederate troops with few supplies.

November 17, 1864 - Davis denounced any Southern state that intimated that as an individual state it might seek a peace settlement with the Union. In particular, he was concerned that Georgia might do this and contacted the state's senators accordingly.

November 19, 1864 - A call to arms in Georgia met with little response – it was as if the morale of the state had imploded after the treatment handed out to Atlanta. There was a fear that what had happened to Atlanta might happen to other areas within the state if they were seen to be still opposing Sherman.

November 20, 1864 - Confederate forces continued to harass Sherman's army as it advanced to Savannah. Sherman's response was to order the destruction of even more property.

November 22, 1864 - Sherman's army entered Georgia's state capital, Milledgeville. The city was burned and looted.

November 23, 1864 - General William J Hardee was given command of the army that was meant to oppose Sherman's march to the sea.

November 29, 1864 - Hood's Army of Tennessee had the opportunity to defeat a Union army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, but failed to do so because of a collapse in the ability of senior officers to communicate with one another.

November 30, 1864 - Hood continued in his attempt to defeat the Union force at Spring Hill, Tennessee. Both armies numbered 23,000 men. The North lost a total of 2,326 men but the battle cost Hood's army dearly – 6,252 men were lost, including six generals. The Union army, commanded by General Schofield, moved on to Nashville while Hood's men had to remain on the land in increasingly poor weather.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

STAN CLARDY – CHRISTMAS LETTERS AND SONGS

This month we close out the year, and celebrate the season with “Christmas Letters and Songs” presented by our friend Stan Clardy.

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

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

debuted in 1998 and was performed at the PCWRT Annual picnic in 2010.

In “Christmas Letters and Songs” Stan reads correspondence written during Christmas time throughout the Civil War, and includes period music and songs performed between each letter

We hope you will join us on what is sure to be a touching and inspired evening, and wish a Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday January 15, Sam Craghead - *The Cruise and Pursuit of the Last Confederate Raider: Shenandoah*

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Camp near Dinwiddie Court House
December 26, 1864

Dear Martha,

Your letter came to hand a few days since and I am now seated to answer. I have but little news times is very dull out here yesterday was the most quiet day we have had for some time. The soldiers all look sad and lonely. We have nothing spiritual or refreshing in camp. Have not seen one case of intoxication during our Christmas holiday. All is calm on the lines in front of Petersburg and Richmond, except some little picket firing on Saturday night. I have a splendid cabin and am living quite comfortable at present. Rations are rather scanty...

Yours affectionately, Jasper

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

December 1, 1864 - The Union army commanded by John Schofield, entrenched itself in Nashville and dominated the Cumberland River.

December 2, 1864 – William T. Sherman was halfway to Savannah. His subordinates in Nashville were ordered by Washington to confront and defeat John B. Hood's Army of the Tennessee. However, very poor weather hindered both armies.

December 8, 1864 - General Grant made it clear that he supported the President's wish that Hood should be attacked immediately by Schofield's men. Either that or he wanted Schofield replaced. The Union commander in Nashville was General Thomas, a subordinate of Schofield. He telegraphed Grant that his cavalry had no horses and that any attack not

supported by the cavalry was doomed to failure.

December 9, 1864 - Appalling weather in Nashville made all forms of fighting nearly impossible. Roads had been reduced to quagmires.

December 10, 1864 - Sherman's army arrived in Savannah.

December 12, 1864 - Thomas telegraphed Grant with the information that he would attack Hood as soon as the weather improved.

December 13, 1864 - In a further blow to the defenders of Savannah, Sherman's men established a route to the sea that would allow the Union Navy to supply his army. Grant appointed Major-General John Logan to replace General Thomas in Nashville.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2014

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR - Courtesy *History Learning Site*

December 15, 1864 - Once the weather had cleared Thomas ordered an attack on Hood's army at Nashville. The only thing that saved Hood was the shortened day. Other than failing to finish off Hood's army, the attack was an overwhelming success with 1,000 men taken prisoner.

December 16, 1864 - Thomas conveyed the news to Grant. He followed up the attack with a further massive attack using all the men at his command – 50,000. Hood could only muster 30,000 men. The Army of the Tennessee put up a good defense but defeat was almost inevitable. 4,500 Confederate troops surrendered, 1,500 men were either killed or wounded. 59 out of 156 artillery guns were captured. Hood could only order a retreat for those who survived – a retreat that had to be executed in the dead of winter with minimal supplies.

December 18, 1864 - Savannah refused to surrender to Sherman.

December 19, 1864 - Such was the confidence of Sherman – and his numerical advantage – that he could afford to send troops to Grant to assist in the attack on Richmond.

December 20, 1864 - The Confederate force in Savannah left the city. 10,000 men managed to withdraw from the city but they were still facing in the field an army six times larger than them. Savannah fell to Sherman. The Confederates left behind 250 heavy artillery guns and 25,000 bales of cotton in the city.

December 21, 1864 - Sherman entered Savannah.

December 22, 1864 - Sherman telegraphed Lincoln the following: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah."

December 24, 1864 - Union forces started an attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. This fort defended the only remaining port open to the Confederacy – Wilmington. The largest Union naval force of 60 warships gathered before the fort to blast it into submission. However, their task was not easy. The design of the fort and the inaccuracy of those bombarding the fort meant that many Union shells fired from the ships simply flew over the fort and into Cape Fear River.

December 25, 1864 - 6,000 Union troops landed to take Fort Fisher but the fort's guns were still intact and kept them pinned down. A rumor that Confederate reinforcements were on their way, convinced the commanders on the ground that they should withdraw.

December 26, 1864 - The Union troops at Fort Fisher were evacuated. Lincoln ordered an investigation as to what went wrong and why what should have been a relatively easy victory turned into a full-scale withdrawal.

December 30, 1864 - Lincoln proposed to remove General Ben Butler from the command of the Army of the James. It was Butler who commanded the abortive landing at Fort Fisher. Grant also had a very low opinion of Butler's ability.

December 31, 1864 - Sherman's army rested in Savannah in preparation for its advance north to support Grant.