



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2015

SAM CRAGHEAD

THE CRUISE & PURSUIT OF THE LAST CONFEDERATE RAIDER: *SHENANDOAH*

Happy New Year from the Powhatan Civil War Roundtable! This month, we are excited to welcome the return of one of the original Leaders of the PCWRT, Sam Craghead!

Sam was born and raised in Missouri, and is a graduate of Truman State University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1970, taught public school from 1970 to 1976, and was a computer engineer for an Aerospace Government Contractor from 1977 until his retirement in 2006.

Currently serving as the Public Relations Manager at the American Civil War Museum/Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Sam has published several articles, including "Another Rebel Down Under" in the *Museum of the Confederacy Magazine* and "Voices from the Time of Secession" in the *Charleston Mercury*. He was a researcher for the books *Rebel Reefers* (2003), *Submarine Warfare in the Civil War* (2003), and *The Lost Fleet* (2007), and also served as a consultant for Clive Cussler's *The Lost Empire* (2010).

Sam has spoken before many organizations and groups, including Civil War Round Tables, civic organizations, and heritage organizations. He has presented talks at the Australian National Maritime Museum; the Williamstown, Australia, Maritime Association; the Mariners' Museum; Mystic Seaport, Maritime Heritage Conference; and the U.S. Naval Academy's Maritime History Symposium.

A mentor and friend to many in the Civil War Community in Richmond and elsewhere, Sam was a Past President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, the Richmond Battlefields Association, and was a founding officer and Past Vice President of the Powhatan Civil War Roundtable.

Sam was an integral part of the PCWRT's success in its formative years, and we are thrilled to have him back on January 15th, speaking on a subject that is near and dear to his heart, the saga of the *CSS Shenandoah*.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday February 19, A. Wilson Greene on *April 2, 1865: Day of Decision at Petersburg*

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

You must not think I'm grumbling when the longing, homesick feeling will break out sometimes. I know you feel it at times; and I do not know how you would bear it if you had not better work than I have. I do not mean to undervalue women's work. You know I like to sew and I am glad to do anything, if it is only making a collar, to make the girls and mother happier, but I can't help feeling when I'm doing these things that I throw a great deal more strength and energy into the work than things are worth.

I must work, and work steadily and hard, I can't live without it, but I should like to feel that I was doing some real good to somebody. If I were sure of my health I would 'compass Heaven and Earth' to get some situation as nurse somewhere for the poor fellows who are spending their lives for us. It makes me sick to think that I can do nothing ; to think how we are going quietly on here at home when our best and bravest are suffering and dying, and the good cause goes on so slowly. I am not sure that I can bear it much longer - but I suppose I shall not do anything more desperate than knit a few pairs of stockings for the volunteers.

~Harriet Foote Hawley, 1862~



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

January 3, 1865 - Sherman readied his men to continue their advance north to challenge Lee.

January 4, 1865 - Union troops started their second assault on Fort Fisher; 8,000 men were involved.

January 5, 1865 - Both General Lee and Jefferson Davis continued to be upbeat about the South's military situation. Many others in the Confederacy were much more pessimistic about the South's chances. Lincoln gave James W. Singleton a Presidential pass to get through Union lines to help facilitate a surrender.

January 6, 1865 - Davis sent a letter to the Confederacy's Vice-President, Alexander H Stephens, asking for an explanation regarding Stephens alleged association with Georgia's peace movement.

January 9, 1865 - The Constitutional Convention of Tennessee voted to abolish slavery in the state.

January 11, 1865 - The Constitutional Convention of Missouri voted to abolish slavery in the state.

A party of 300 Confederate cavalry riding in very poor weather, launched a surprise attack on Union positions in Beverley, West Virginia, and captured 600 Union troops.

January 12, 1865 - Jefferson Davis wrote in a letter to Lincoln that he was willing to discuss

an end to hostilities, but only on the proviso that the South remained independent.

January 13, 1865 - The North started a major attack on Fort Fisher. The fort was all that protected the port of Wilmington – the only port that the South still had open that could trade with Europe. Troops landed by the fort, and the Union's navy bombarded it from the sea.

January 14, 1865 - Union ships continued a non-stop bombardment of the fort, which received heavy damage. Guns in the fort had to be trained on both the approaching infantry on land, and the ships out at sea. But all of the guns could not concentrate on one target alone.

January 15, 1865 - Fort Fisher fell to Union forces. The North lost a total of 1,341 men in the attack (226 killed, 1018 wounded and 57 missing). The South lost 500 men killed and wounded, with over 2,000 taken prisoner. Wilmington was no longer able to operate as an overseas port, and the South was effectively cut off with regards to external trade.

January 16, 1865 - Lincoln was made aware that Davis was willing to discuss peace based around the South's independence. He immediately dismissed the idea.

The Confederate Senate appointed General Lee as commander of all the armies of the Confederacy.



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

January 17, 1865 - While in Savannah Sherman issued Field Order Number 15. As his successful army advanced in the South, it attracted many former slaves who followed it in the vanguard. Sherman's order handed to them confiscated or abandoned land along the Georgia coast – a maximum of 40 acres per person. This move ensured that those former slaves who were near Sherman's army were more than willing to help and support it. As the news of what Sherman had done spread, so did the hopes of former slaves still in the South.

January 19, 1865 - General Lee reluctantly accepted the title of commander-in-chief of the South's Armies. Lee was undoubtedly a highly skilled general but he would have been aware that even a man of his abilities would not have the skill to stop the inevitable – a victory for the North. However a sense of duty compelled him to accept the promotion even if it was a poisoned chalice.

January 20, 1865 - Sherman's army headed towards South Carolina. However, its advance was severely hampered by heavy rain that made roads all but unusable.

January 21, 1865 - Sherman's army marched into South Carolina but faced no opposition from Confederate forces.

January 23, 1865 - The South lost its ironclads 'Virginia' and 'Richmond'. 'Richmond' ran

aground on the James River while 'Virginia' was badly damaged by Union artillery in Fort Parsons.

January 24, 1865 - Grant agreed to an exchange of prisoners. He did not believe that it would make any difference to the campaign as he felt that the exchanged Southern prisoners would be less than keen to fight and the South was still experiencing major problems with desertion.

January 25, 1865 - Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina, and his men only faced skirmishes with Confederate troops. There appeared to be no sustained military attempt to stop his advance – or there was a realization that any attempt was doomed to failure.

January 27, 1865 - Lee complained to the Confederate government in Richmond that his men were surviving on pitiable rations, and that the major cause of desertion was the poor rations. On the same day he sent a letter to the Governor of South Carolina that "the Confederacy was safe" as long as the civilian population continued to give its support to the troops.

January 28, 1865 - Davis appointed senior Confederate politicians to hold informal talks with the North – Vice-President Stephens, President of the Senate, R Turner and former US Supreme Court judge John Campbell.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2015

A. WILSON GREENE ON *APRIL 2, 1865: DAY OF DECISION AT PETERSBURG*

By April 2, 1865 the Civil War had been raging for four years, plunging the country into disarray, and ravaging much of the South. The city of Petersburg had endured ten months of siege, when the final assault on the Confederate defenses surrounding the city occurred during the battle known as The Breakthrough.

This Union victory saw the loss of more than 7000 men both Union and Confederate, including Confederate General A.P. Hill, and would lead to the fall of Petersburg, the start of Lee's retreat, the evacuation of Richmond, and eventually, the end of the war.

This month we welcome A. Wilson Greene, the Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier located near Petersburg.

Mr. Greene served as the first president of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites from 1990 to 1994. Prior to this, he worked as a National Park Service historian at

a variety of locations, including Fredericksburg National Military Park and Petersburg National Battlefield

The author of more than 20 published works on the Civil War, Mr. Greene's most recent books include, *Whatever You Resolve To Be: Essays on Stonewall Jackson and Petersburg, VA: 1861-1865: Confederate City in the Crucible of War.*

Mr. Greene has received the George Lee Civil War Roundtable Preservation Award, the Laney Award for Outstanding Book on Civil War History (*Civil War Petersburg*), the D. H. Hill Award, North Carolina Civil War Round Table, 2010, the Nevins-Freeman Award, Chicago Civil War Round Table, 2011, the Shelby Foote Preservation Award, Civil War Trust 2013, and was named Outstanding Southerner by Southern Living Magazine.

We look forward to the return of A. Wilson Greene, and hope you will join us!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, March 19, 2015 John Quarstein *The Battle of Fort Fisher*

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

. . . . To obtain a mouthful of food we have been obliged to cook in what was formerly our drawing room, and I have to rise every morning by candle light before the dawn of day, that we may have it before the enemy arrives to take it from us, & then sometimes we & the dear little ones have not a chance to eat again before dark. The poor servants are harassed to death going rapidly for wood or water & hurrying in to lock the doors, fearing insults & abuse at every turn.

Do the annals of civilized, & I may add, Savage warfare, afford any record of brutality equaled in extent & duration to that which we have suffered? And which has been inflicted on us by the Yankees? For one month our homes & all we possess on earth have been given up to lawless pillage. Officers & men have alike engaged in this work of degradation. I scarcely know how we have stood up under it

Mary Ann Jones, Liberty County, Georgia, January 7, 1865



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

February 1, 1865 - Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment.

Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina.

February 3, 1865 - Lincoln met the three Confederate representatives (Stephens, Turner and Campbell) on the 'River Queen' in Hampton Roads. Lincoln rejected their peace plan based on an independent South. He told them bluntly that America was one nation and one nation only. Lincoln insisted that the Union had to be restored before anything else was discussed.

February 5, 1865 - Union troops made further inroads into Confederate defenses around Petersburg. If Petersburg fell, Richmond would be the next target. Therefore Petersburg had major significance for both sides in the war. Desertion was a major issue in the Confederate Army and the main cause of desertion was lack of food. Lee's request for more food for the Army of Northern Virginia was met with silence in Richmond. This was more because they had no way of addressing Lee's request more than indifference to the suffering of the soldiers.

February 7, 1865 - Lee's men drove back Union troops at Boydton Plank Road but by now he only had 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trenches – about 1200 men per mile.

February 8, 1865 - Sherman's men continued their policy of destroying empty buildings as they advanced through South Carolina. This resulted in the Confederate general, Wheeler, complaining to Sherman that accommodation was being destroyed. However, Sherman had given orders that no building that was occupied should be destroyed but unoccupied ones should be.

February 9, 1865 - Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to anyone who deserted the Confederate Army as long as they returned to their regiment within 30 days.

February 11, 1865 - Sherman cut off Augusta from Charleston by cutting the Augusta-Georgia railway. One of the Confederate's few remaining armies was based in Charleston and it was in danger of being surrounded.

February 14, 1865 - Jefferson Davis urged the defenders of Charleston to hold until the last possible moment.

February 15, 1865 - Sherman's army approached Columbia.

February 16, 1865 - Sherman's troops arrived on the south bank of Columbia and the city was evacuated. Charleston prepared to evacuate.



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February 17, 1865 - Columbia was occupied by Sherman's troops. Most of the city was burned to the ground. Some said the fires were started by retreating Confederate cavalry units but most accept it was men from Sherman's army. Men from Sherman's army were actively pursued by Sherman's provost guard, which would seem to indicate their guilt. Sherman later refused to express his sorrow for the destruction of Columbia. Charleston was also evacuated.

February 18, 1865 - Charleston surrendered.

February 20, 1865 - The Confederate House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing the use of slaves as soldiers.

Wilmington, the last port that the Confederates possessed, was bombarded by Union forces.

February 21, 1865 - A sign of the divided opinion within the Confederacy: the Senate postponed a debate on whether the Confederacy should use slaves as soldiers.

The defenders of Wilmington prepared to evacuate the port.

February 22, 1865 - Union troops entered Wilmington.

Lee began to plan his last campaign.

February 27, 1865 - Union troops started a major move up the Shenandoah Valley. 10,000 Union cavalry advanced against severely depleted Confederate units.

February 28, 1865 - One of the Union cavalry divisions in the Shenandoah Valley was commanded by George Armstrong Custer.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2015

JOHN V. QUARSTEIN – THE BATTLE OF FORT FISHER

In January 1865 near Wilmington, North Carolina, Fort Fisher, the "Gibraltar of the South" faced a Union onslaught from sea and land. Lasting long after dark, this punishing attack saw the death and wounding of numerous Confederate regimental leaders and brigade commanders, eventually, the surrender of the Fort to Federal forces.

The loss of Fort Fisher sealed the fate of the Confederacy's last remaining sea port and the South was cut off from global trade. A month later, the Union Army would capture Wilmington, North Carolina, and the end of the war would soon follow.

For the 12th consecutive year, John V. Quarstein joins us on Thursday, March 19th. John 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 *Pirates 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 2015

Thursday, April 19, 2015 James B. Conroy - *Presidential Peace Talks, February 3, 1865*

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Had a dish of boiled rice and dry corn bread for breakfast. Nothing on it. For dinner a soup made of the beef bone that Kate gave us with rice and corn bread. It is a rainy day and gloomy. My thoughts continually at the North. I am homesick and I wonder what is my duty in regard to going, whether it will be made plain to me. It seems as if I could not stay contentedly another year and what shall we live on if we go North? It is a question that we cannot solve. I can hardly wait for mail day to come, and yet we are disappointed week after week. Now that we have been favored with letters I want them to come thick and fast. How long the three last years have been. They seem like a vast uncomfortable dream. Once I wished for a "lodge in a vast wilderness". I have realized the fallacy of such a wish, and now I am led to say "Oh, Solitude, where are thy charms?" Give me Society, Friendship and Love. So "divinely" bestowed upon man. I did not appreciate the blessing when I had it and this is a deserved chastisement. May I receive it with profit. Mr. Fisher is planting corn. Sybil is scratching in the garden. My homemade shoes are too thin to admit of my going out in the wet and so I stay in and think so hard of home. Oh! such a longing to see the girls and partake of their northern comforts once more--how little can they realize our forlorn situation.

Julia Johnson Fisher – April 15, 1864



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2015

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

March 1, 1865 - To hinder Sherman's advance, Confederate troops destroyed bridges over the Middle Shenandoah.

March 2, 1865 - Custer led a successful attack against Confederate positions at Waynesboro, Virginia. This victory all but ended Confederate military activity in the Shenandoah Valley.

Lee sent a letter to Grant that proposed a meeting.

March 3, 1865 - In a sign that many believed the war was coming to an end, Congress created a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees. Its task was to supervise ownership of abandoned land and providing work for the displaced African American population.

Grant received a message from Lincoln forbidding any meeting with Lee in case discussions drifted into political issues.

March 4, 1865 - Lincoln was inaugurated for his second term in office. Still failing to face reality, the Confederate Congress met to discuss and approve a new design for the Confederacy's flag.

March 6, 1865 - Sherman marched his army into North Carolina with his main target being Fayetteville. Union forces controlled the port of Wilmington, therefore supplying Sherman's large army was relatively easy. The food issue that had a devastating impact on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was much less of a problem for Sherman.

March 8, 1865 - The Confederate Senate voted in favor (by 9 to 8) of using slaves as troops.

March 11, 1865 - Sherman's troops entered Fayetteville.

March 12, 1865 - Sherman continued with his policy of destroying any building that might have a future

military use. This time it was Fayetteville's turn to suffer as shops, machine tool shops, arsenals, foundries, etc., were all burned down. Sherman's rule was that no inhabited civilian homes should be touched, but no one then could effectively control a fire once it had started and much of Fayetteville, as with many other towns and cities, had wooden based buildings.

March 13, 1865 - Jefferson Davis signed into law the act allowing African Americans to become soldiers in the Confederate Army. It was assumed that any slave who volunteered to fight would be given his freedom once the war was at its end.

March 16, 1865 - Sherman's men clashed with a Confederate force near Averasborough, North Carolina. The South lost 800 men while Sherman lost 650. However, the Confederates were forced to retreat.

March 17, 1865 - The North started a major campaign to capture Mobile, Alabama. Major-General E Canby commanded a force of 32,000 men, against 10,000 Confederate troops commanded by General Maury.

March 18, 1865 - The Confederate Congress met for the very last time.

17,000 Confederates led by General Joe Johnston concentrated at Bentonville, North Carolina in an attempt to stop the advance of Sherman. In the immediate vicinity Johnston faced 17,000 Union soldiers, but the remainder of Sherman's army and other Union units in North Carolina – an extra 90,000 men were not far away. Johnston's task looked hopeless.

March 19, 1865 - Johnston commenced his attack against Union troops. He had initial success but news of the fighting compelled Sherman to move nearly 45,000 Union troops to Bentonville.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2015

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

March 20, 1865 - Sherman's army easily outflanked Johnston's army, and Sherman decided to concentrate his attack on Johnston's center. Johnston had to withdraw his army two miles and lost over 2,600 men. Sherman lost 1,500 killed and wounded.

March 22, 1865 - A Union force commanded by Major-General James Wilson started its march to Selma, the last manufacturing city in the Confederacy.

March 23, 1865 - The combined might of the Union Army in North Carolina joined at Goldsborough – 90,000 troops in total. Sherman's advance north had served another very important purpose – supplies collected in the Carolinas and due for Lee's army around Richmond, never got there as they were captured by the speedily advancing Union army. Sherman described his advance as "like the thrust of a sword through the heart of the human body."

March 24, 1865 - Lee could only muster 35,000 fit men at Petersburg. He decided that they had to break out if they were to live to fight another day. He ordered General John Gordon to lead the breakthrough.

March 25, 1865 - Gordon started his attempt to break out of Petersburg. It was a failure. The Unionist defenders near Fort Stedman, the scene of the attempted breakout, lost 1,500 men killed and wounded. However, the Confederates lost a disastrous 4,000 men – many of whom surrendered.

March 26, 1865 - Grant planned to trap Lee's army once and for all by placing his men around Petersburg so that Lee could not initiate any other attempted breakout.

March 27, 1865 - Lincoln met with Grant and Sherman at City Point, Virginia. It was at this meeting that, according to Sherman, Lincoln agreed that any Confederate soldier would become a US citizen immediately after surrendering his weapons.

Mobile was besieged by Union forces.

March 28, 1865 - Grant prepared the Army of the Potomac for what he assumed would be the last offensive against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Grant had an army of 125,000 men while Lee could muster a total of 50,000 men. But many of those in Lee's army were far from fit enough to fight in battle. Lee still harbored a desire to break out of Petersburg and march to join up with Johnston's men in North Carolina. It was a plan that he was not able to carry out.

March 29, 1865 - Grant started his attack against the Army of Northern Virginia.

March 30, 1865 - Lee's army, aided by torrential rain, coped with the attacks. However, Lee had over-extended his army along their defensive front so while he could defend more ground, his line was very thin almost everywhere and very open to a successful assault. For example, near the Dinwiddie Court House, Lee's men who numbered 10,000 faced 50,000 Union troops.

March 31, 1865 - Confederate forces faced with overwhelming odds started to withdraw from some of their entrenched positions outside of Petersburg.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2015

PRESIDENTIAL PEACE TALKS, FEBRUARY 3, 1865

150 years ago this month the Confederate forces surrendered to the Union, and the American Civil War ended. Aware that the war was all but lost for the Confederates, two months prior to the April surrender, President Abraham Lincoln and his Secretary of State William Seward met with envoys from the Confederacy on the steamboat *River Queen* in Hampton Roads, to negotiate a peaceful end to hostilities.

This month we welcome James B. Conroy, author of *Our One Common Country*, the fascinating story of how Lincoln and his contemporaries tried to break the political logjams in Washington and Richmond, find a peaceful compromise, save tens of thousands of lives, and change American history.

A graduate of the University of Connecticut and the Georgetown University Law Center, James B. Conroy has been a trial lawyer in

Boston for 32 years, having first pursued a public affairs career in Washington, D.C. as a House and Senate press secretary, speechwriter, and chief of staff.

He served for six years in the United States Navy reserve in antisubmarine aviation units. Active in town affairs in Hingham, Massachusetts, he has chaired the town's Advisory Committee, its Government Study Committee and its Task Force on Affordability and coached youth sports teams.

Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865 is his first book, born of a love of history and a lifelong ambition to contribute to it.

Please join us at The County Seat on Thursday, April 16th.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, May 21, 2015, David Meisky, “The Governor's Odyssey; ‘Extra Billy’ Smith”

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

APRIL 9, 1865

General R. E. LEE:

Your note of yesterday is received. I have no authority to treat on the subject of peace; the meeting proposed for 10 a.m. to-day could lead to no good. I will state, however, general, that I am equally anxious for peace with yourself, and the whole North entertains the same feeling. The terms upon which peace can be had are well understood. By the South laying down their arms they will hasten that most desirable event, save thousands of human lives, and hundreds of millions of property not yet destroyed. Seriously hoping that all our difficulties may be set-tied without the loss of another life, I subscribe myself, &c.,

U.S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

APRIL 9, 1865

Lieut. Gen. U.S. GRANT:

I received your note of this morning on the picket-line, whither I had come to meet you and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposal of yesterday with reference to the surrender of this army. I now ask an interview in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday for that purpose.

R. E. LEE,
General.

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

April 1, 1865 - The attack on Lee's Army of Northern Virginia continued. Union troops were especially successful at Five Forks, Virginia, where nearly 50% of the Confederate force was taken prisoner.

April 2, 1865 - Grant launched an all-out attack against Lee's army before dawn. Thick fog covered the attackers and the thinly defended Confederate line outside Petersburg, Virginia was broken in many places. The Army of Northern Virginia pulled back to Amelia Court House, just 40 miles from Richmond. Panic swept through the Confederacy's capital and many evacuated the city, followed by looting and a general breakdown in law and order.

Grant's men occupied Petersburg, leaving nothing between Petersburg and Richmond to stop the approach of Union forces.

Selma, Alabama was taken when nearly 3,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered.

April 3, 1865 - The US flag was flown in Richmond as Union troops entered the city. Jefferson Davis and his cabinet fled their capital on a train that took them to Danville, Virginia. What was left of the Army of Northern Virginia fled in a westward direction from the city.

April 4, 1865 - President Lincoln visited Richmond and was greeted and cheered by former slaves and Union supporters. Grant decided that an active pursuit of Lee's men was not required, but followed them on a parallel course. Grant hoped that what had happened at Petersburg would lead to Lee's army imploding, with many soldiers simply trying to return home. However, Grant was wary about any attempt by Lee to link up with what was left of Joe Johnston's men.

April 5, 1865 - General Lee gathered what was left of his command group at Amelia Court House. Here

he expected to find rations for his men, but none had been sent.

April 6, 1865 - Lee continued his retreat, but now mutiny was a concern. General Ewell had to surrender his men at Saylor's Creek when they refused to carry out his order to fight advancing Union troops.

April 7, 1865 - Grant called on Lee to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee was effectively surrounded by a very large Union force.

April 8, 1865 - Lee decided to try to break through Grant's lines and continue his retreat, however, he cautioned this decision with one rider – if nearby Union cavalry forces were supported by Union infantry, he would surrender. Lee assumed that Grant's cavalry was further advanced than the infantry. If this was not the case, he believed that any attempted breakout was doomed to failure.

April 9, 1865 - The Army of Northern Virginia fought its last battle against Union infantry. Lee and Grant met at Appomattox Court House where Grant presented Lee with the terms of surrender. Grant allowed all Confederate officers to keep their own personal weapons and their horses if they claimed ownership. Lee rode back to what was left of the Army of Northern Virginia and told them: "Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers."

Mobile, Alabama fell when 16,000 Union troops attacked a much smaller Confederate force.

April 10, 1865 - The Army of Northern Virginia received rations from Grant's men. In a final address to his men Lee wrote: "With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell."



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2015

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

April 11, 1865 - Sherman continued with his task of hunting down what was left of General Johnston's army.

April 12, 1865 - The Army of Northern Virginia formally surrendered its weapons and flags at Appomattox.

Montgomery, Alabama was occupied by Union forces.

April 14, 1865 - President Lincoln met Grant to discuss the status of the war. In the evening he went to Ford's Theatre to see the comedy "Our American Cousin." At 10:00 p.m. Lincoln was shot in the back of the head by John Wilkes Booth. The assassin made his escape by jumping on to the stage from the Presidential box, exiting the theater to a waiting horse.

April 15, 1865 - Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. Andrew Johnson was sworn in as President.

Doctor, Samuel Mudd treated John Wilkes Booth's badly damaged leg, which was injured when he leapt onto the stage during his escape. Ultimately, Mudd would be sentenced to life in prison for helping Booth.

April 16, 1865 - Sherman received a message from General Johnston asking for a cessation of hostilities with a view to negotiating a surrender.

April 17, 1865 - Sherman and Johnston met at Durham Station. During the talks Johnston made it clear that he included other armies in the surrender, not just his own.

April 18, 1865 - Sherman and Johnston continued their discussions. The terms of surrender went beyond military issues. Sherman guaranteed Southerners political rights as laid down in the US Constitution. The document also stated "the US

government is not to disturb any of the people by reason of the late war, so long as they abstain from acts of hostility and obey the law." Sherman received a great deal of criticism regarding this and politicians in Washington saw him as interfering in political issues that were outside of his military focus. In his defense, Sherman claimed that he was doing what Lincoln would have wanted as part of his policy of reconciliation.

April 19, 1865 - Jefferson Davis learned of the death of President Lincoln. Lee wrote to Davis advising him that any form of guerrilla warfare against the victorious Union forces was folly.

April 21, 1865 - Lincoln's body started its journey to Springfield, Illinois.

April 24, 1865 - Grant met with Sherman and criticized him for trespassing on political issues when he drew up the settlement with Johnston. He ordered Sherman to resume hostilities against Johnston until a proper surrender had been negotiated with a political input rather than a sole military one.

April 25, 1865 - Sherman met with Johnston and told him that hostilities would have to begin between the two armies within 48 hours. Johnston informed Jefferson Davis that he would have to surrender to Sherman regardless of what terms were laid down.

April 26, 1865 - General Johnston surrendered his army to Sherman who adopted the same terms as Grant had done for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Sherman even provided Johnston's men with transport to their homes.

Federal troops surrounded a farm near the Rappahannock River where John Wilkes Booth was hiding along with accomplice David Herold, who surrendered. Booth chose instead to fight, and was killed.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a very heavy heart that we must announce the passing of PCWRT member and volunteer, Glenn Hill, after a brief illness.

A longtime PCWRT member with his wife Anne, Glenn became a volunteer with the Leadership Committee when he offered to take on the responsibility of sending our PR material via e-mail, and eventually inherited the responsibility of mailing all member communications. If you received the monthly flyer anytime over the last few years, you received it from Glenn.

Glenn took pride in ensuring that our members received timely communications and information on our programs. He took the lead in finding an e-mail service where he could embed our monthly flyer, with a link to the monthly newsletter that was posted on our website. Glenn attacked any technology challenge with relish, and brought fresh ideas to the Leadership table on a regular basis.

As he would put it, Glenn was an “Electrical Engineer who graduated from Clemson College in 1958 by using a slide rule.” He was commissioned in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant through the ROTC program, and eventually retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Colonel.

He married Anne Davis Harwell from Mars Bluff, S.C. Upon completion of active duty as a Signal Officer at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., he went to work with Florida Power and Light as a distribution and operations engineer.

Glenn was employed by Line Material, McGraw-Edison Power Systems Division, Rural Transformer & Electric Company (RTE) and Copper Power Systems. All of these companies were merged through buy-outs, into Cooper Power Systems.

A registered Professional Engineer, Glenn was recognized nationally for decades as the leading salesman in the company, and would later say he “Even though I was Director of Computers and Communications on the US Army Staff at the Pentagon, I never turned a computer on until my two inside sales support people were moved from Richmond, VA to Waukesha, WI, in 2000!” And then he naturally passed the praise onto someone else, “Had an excellent Sgt. Major!!”

From a personal perspective, being responsible for creating the monthly flyer, newsletter and updating of the group’s website, I worked closely with Glenn for the last few years, and he was a delight. As you can tell from some of his quotes above, he was able to somehow communicate with a “twinkle in his eye” even if it was through the written word. He was always encouraging and supportive to me, and I only hope that I was able to let him know how much I appreciated his partnership.

Glenn is survived by his wife of 57 years, Anne, son, Allen of Midlothian, VA, two daughters and their spouses, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Powers of Richmond, and Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hendrix of Easley, S.C., and three grandchildren, Dakota Hill, Niles and Grace Hendrix. They of course have our thoughts and prayers, and gratitude for a job well done.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

THE GOVERNOR'S ODYSSEY; "EXTRA BILLY" SMITH

In 1827 21 year old William Smith organized a stage line between Washington, DC, and Culpeper that later expanded to Milledgeville, Ga. As the line grew he received extra payments from the Post Office for carrying the mail over a longer distance, which led to his receiving the nickname "Extra Billy3"

In 1836 he was elected to the Virginia State Senate, then to the US House of Representatives in 1841, and served as Governor of Virginia from 1845 through 1847, and was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1852, where he served four more terms.

On June 1, 1861, while still a civilian, he was visiting at Fairfax Courthouse when the post was attacked by Federal cavalry and the captain of the infantry stationed there was killed. Smith rallied the company and helped repulse the enemy. Several weeks later he was commissioned Colonel and given command of the 49th Virginia Infantry. Eventually achieving the rank of Brigadier General, then Major General, he was also elected to the position of Governor of Virginia, and was inaugurated on January 1, 1864.

This month, we welcome Dave Meisky of Lee's Lieutenants, a group of living historians with a focus on the Army of Northern Virginia.

Dave was born in Tennessee but grew up in Northern Virginia where, in the 7th grade he was fortunate in having a teacher who made history interesting and exciting. After high school he worked for the Federal Government for ten years before returning to school first at Northern Virginia Community College and then at George Mason University where he majored in history

Dave's other love is sports. At George Mason he played on the men's varsity volleyball team and was later the assistant coach for the women's team. He has also coached on the club, high school and college level in basketball, softball, and football

Dave has been a re-enactor for the last 15 years, starting with the 17th Va. Infantry and as a living historian Lee's Lieutenants Living History, he portrays Extra Billy Smith at re-enactments, events, round tables, historical societies, and other organizations. He also presents on Confederate currency and civil war money.

Three years ago Dave retired from the Fairfax County Public Library and moved to Buena Vista, Va. where he serves on the Board of the Paxton House Historical Society.

Please join us at The County Seat on Thursday, May 21st for an evening with "Extra Billy."

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, June 18, 2015, Lee Wilcox on "The Battles of Sailor's Creek"



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

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

“The smoke-stack fell through the hurricane deck, instantly killing John Howard of Company H, 40th Indiana Infantry, and pinned me fast to the deck, but after a few moments of struggling I succeeded in extricating myself. I then started to help put out the fire, but I fell through the decks hurting my back seriously besides getting badly burned and scalded. I immediately set about helping to extricate those who were caught fast by pieces of the boat. After this,

in the company of Capt. Mason, of the ‘Sultana,’ I threw over broken pieces of the boat and other materials for those already in the water, but after a little time the fire became so hot that I was obliged to take to the water.”

Account taken from *Loss of the Sultana and Reminiscences of Survivors* by Chester D. Berry.

LOCAL EVENTS

Don’t miss out on the incredible events happening all over the Richmond Region. See our Special Events page on our website for links to events of Civil War interest, as well as links to sites relating to the 150th Anniversary of the start of the American Civil War.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

See our website’s FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don’t see your question addressed there? E-mail us at info@PowhatanCWRT.org



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

LEE WILCOX – THE BATTLES OF SAILOR’S CREEK

In April 1865, after suffering through months of siege and starvation, the Army of Northern Virginia retreated west, toward eventual surrender at Appomattox Court House. However, before they arrived at that fateful locale, the ANV would face the Army of the James at several critical encounters near Sailor’s Creek.

This month, we welcome Lee Wilcox, Chief Ranger of *Sailor’s Creek* Battlefield, to provide details on the numerous battles that would encompass the Battles of Sailor’s Creek.

We look forward to seeing you at The County Seat!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, July 16, 2015 Elizabeth Varon on Lee & Grant After Appomattox

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

May the 27 A.D. 65

Respected Father and Mother

This being a wet and rainy morning I thought that I would engage my time in writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land amongst the living and since I hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may chance to find you enjoying the same state of good health I am still at camp Dennison and in the best of spirits but cant tell you when I will be at home I may be at home next week and then again I may not get home for one month It is hard to tell My Descriptive Roll has not come yet as I know of. They have mustered some few out but not very many yet It is awful wet here and has been for the last too or three weeks The Grand Review of the Army Commanded by Major General W. T. Sherman Took place at Washington yesterday morning And I suppose will soon start to their own Respective States to be mustered out of the United States Service to return to their own Native Homes once more to live in peace and quietude once more.

Well Father the aint much sight of me being mustered out for one or too months but I am waiting patiently for the time to come Father I received a letter from you the other day and was glad to here that you were all well.

Well Father I must bring my scribbling to a close hoping to seeing an answer soon. I remain your true and most affectionate son. Samuel Bassitt

Address Camp Dennison Ohio

Ward 6 Division 2

And write soon and give all the news.

Excuse my poor writing and bad spelling and I will try and do better in the futur



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

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

1861

June 1st: Union and Confederate forces met at Fairfax Court House, Virginia. Some of the earliest battle casualties took place here with one soldier killed on both sides.

June 5th: Arms and ammunition bound for the Confederacy were seized in Baltimore.

June 11th: Counties in western Virginia set up a pro-Unionist government that was recognized by the federal government in Washington DC. In Missouri, the state governor Claiborne Jackson tried to convince Brigadier-General Lyon, commander of the Department of the West, that the state wished to remain neutral in the war and that Missouri did not want any troops quartered in it or passing through it. Lyon knew, however, that Jackson was a secessionist. However, there was little he could do.

June 23rd: Two large Confederate armies gathered. The Army of the Potomac, commanded by Beauregard, and the Army of the Shenandoah, commanded by General Joseph E Johnson. To both commanders, Virginia seemed to be the likely state where major confrontations would take place.

June 30th: 'CSS Sumter' broke the Unionist blockade of New Orleans. Commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes, over the next six months the 'Sumter' captured or destroyed 18 Unionist ships.

1862

June 1st: Robert E Lee was given command of the Confederate troops defending Richmond following the wounding of General Johnson. A

renewed Confederate assault on Fair Oaks resulted in many Confederate casualties. In total the Confederates lost 8,000 men killed, wounded or missing at Fair Oaks. The Unionists lost nearly 6,000 men in total.

June 6th: This day dealt two major blows to the Confederates. First, they lost Ashley Turner, considered to be a highly gifted cavalry commander at a time when cavalry units were coming more and more into the war. Second, in a confrontation on the Mississippi, the Confederate Navy lost seven out of eight armed riverboats to a Union fleet that lost none of its seven gunboats. The Confederates lost 80 men killed or wounded and had over 100 taken prisoner. The fleet was guarding Memphis, which fell to Union forces that day. The victory also meant that the Unionist Navy had effective control of the whole of the Mississippi River where it was navigable.

June 18th: Lincoln wrote to McClellan urging him to attack Richmond. He wrote that with 10,000 less men – those men who had been directed to the Shenandoah Valley – the city was ripe for taking. McClellan viewed the situation differently. He believed that the Confederates had to be exceptionally well dug in and confident of victory if they could allow 10,000 men to leave the city. His response to Lincoln's exhortation to be more aggressive was to be more cautious!

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



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

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

1863

June 2nd: General Lee decided to move his Army of Northern Virginia north. His hope was to draw General Hooker's Army of the Potomac after him and away from Virginia. Lee did not want a battle with Hooker as his motives were entirely defensive but he also realized that a further defeat for the Army of the Potomac would be a serious blow to the Union. So while Lee wished to be defensive, he also prepared to be offensive.

June 9th: Union cavalry attacked General Stuart's cavalry force near Brandy Station. Some 22,000 men fought here – the largest cavalry clash of the war. Both sides were evenly matched and the Union force, commanded by Pemberton, nearly defeated Stuart's men but news of advancing Confederate infantry convinced Pemberton that withdrawal was his best option rather than continuing the fight. Stuart's men had a high reputation among Pemberton's men, so this near victory did a great deal to boost Union morale, especially among the cavalry.

June 27th: Hooker resigned as commander of the Army of the Potomac after one argument too many with his superior General Halleck. Hooker believed that Halleck was deliberately undermining his authority by refusing to allow him to do as he wished with the men under his command. Hooker's resignation was accepted and General George Meade replaced him.

1864

June 1st: 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 12th: 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 27th: Sherman launched a major attack against Confederate positions at Kennesaw Mountain. The North's forces were stopped just short of the Confederates front line. Union losses were 2,000 killed or wounded out of 16,000 men.

1865

The new President, Andrew Johnson, ordered the lifting of the blockade of ports in the South in June 1865. The very last remnants of those who fought on after the formal surrender in April 1865 finally gave up and were allowed to disperse.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015

ELIZABETH VARON - LEE & GRANT AFTER APPOMATTOX

It could be said that a common misunderstanding among the general public is that the Civil War ended with Robert E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865. Civil War scholars would disagree, and might argue that the war continued into Reconstruction, and perhaps continues even today.

What cannot be disputed is that this historic meeting between military giants did indeed end one chapter of American history, and opened another. The understanding of those events has evolved over the years, formed by the writings of those who were there, and by the interpretations of those who research and study those writings.

This month, we welcome historian, author, and educator Elizabeth R. Varon, the University of Virginia's Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History, whose latest volume of Civil War research is the acclaimed, *Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War*.

Appomattox won the 2014 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction, and the 2014 Dan and Marilyn Laney Prize for Civil War History (Austin Civil War Roundtable), was finalist for the 2014 Jefferson Davis Award (Museum of the Confederacy), and was named one of Civil War Monitor's Best Books of 2014.

Our speaker grew up in northern Virginia, received her MA from Swarthmore College, her PhD from Yale, and has held teaching positions at Wellesley College and Temple University.

A specialist in the Civil War era and 19th-century South, Elizabeth is also the author of *We Mean to be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (1998); *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy* (2003), which won the Lillian Smith Prize of the Southern Regional Council, the People's Choice Award of the Library of Virginia, and the Richard Slatten Biography Prize of the Virginia Historical Society; *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859* (2008).

Elizabeth's public presentations include book talks at the Lincoln Bicentennial in Springfield; and at Gettysburg's Civil War Institute; and on C-Span's Book TV. She is also a featured speaker in the Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lectureship program.

We are excited to welcome Elizabeth on her first visit to the Powhatan Civil War Roundtable, and hope to see you at the County Seat on the 16th!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, August 20, 2015, Robert E.L. Krick - Topic TBA

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“Soldiers! I am left a Commander without an army – a General without troops. You have made your choice. It was unwise and unpatriotic, but it is final. I pray you may not live to regret it.”

Confederate General, Kirby Smith
May 26, 1865

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

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

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

July 3, 1861 - The threat of having to confront 18,000 Union soldiers was sufficient for the

Confederacy to withdraw their men from their position near Washington DC and the capital was once again deemed to be safe.

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



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015

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

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

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

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

than anyone could have previously predicted. In the Confederacy, the opposite occurred. The leaders of the Confederates believed that the war would be short especially after the poor performance of the Union army witnessed at Bull Run.

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

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

July 24, 1861 - The Confederates evacuated the area around Charleston after they were attacked by Union forces.

July 25, 1861 - Congress passed the Crittenden Resolution, which declared that the war was being fought to preserve the Union and not to abolish slavery.

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

July 29, 1861 - Union forces in western Virginia still held the upper hand. President Davis decided to send General Robert E Lee to the area to resolve matters.

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



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2015

BEYOND THE PLUME: JEB STUART AS A GENERAL

Arguably the most famous cavalryman of the Confederacy, James Ewell Brown “JEB” Stuart began his military career as a West Point Cadet. In 1853 Robert E. Lee was installed as the academy’s new Superintendent, and a relationship akin to father and son was established between the two men.

Graduating from West Point in 1854, JEB Stuart served in the West with the US Army, and went on to accompany Robert E. Lee in capturing John Brown after the abolitionist’s failed raid on Harper’s Ferry.

In January 1861, Stuart wrote “For my part, I have no hesitancy from the first that, right or wrong, alone or otherwise, I go with Virginia.” In April of that year, Virginia seceded from the Union, and in May Stuart was commissioned a lieutenant colonel. As commander of Virginia’s armed forces, Lee ordered Stuart to report to Thomas J. Jackson who in turn placed Stuart at the head all the cavalry companies in his army. Before long the 29-year old Stuart was given his own cavalry brigade promoted to general.

In the following years, Stuart’s leadership of the cavalry of Lee’s Army of Northern

Virginia would become legendary both North and South.

This month, we are excited to welcome Robert E.L. “Bobby” Krick back to the County Seat Restaurant to speak on the generalship of JEB Stuart.

Bobby has lived or worked on Civil War battlefields almost continuously since 1972. He grew up on the Chancellorsville Battlefield near Fredericksburg and graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg with a degree in history.

He has worked in various historical capacities at several battlefields, including Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument in Montana and Manassas National Battlefield Park. Since 1991, he has been a historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Krick is widely published on Civil War topics. His first book, *The Fortieth Virginia Infantry*, was a unit history, and in 2003, the University of North Carolina Press published *Staff Officers in Gray*, a biographical register of the Army of Northern Virginia’s staff officers.

Please join us on Thursday August 20th!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2015

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, September 17, 2015 - John and Ruth Ann Coski - Topic TBA

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Oh, such a day! Since I wrote this morning, I have been with Mrs. Randolph to all the hospitals. I can never again shut out of view the sights I saw there of human misery. I sit thinking, shut my eyes, and see it all; thinking, yes, and there is enough to think about now, God knows. Gilland's was the worst, with long rows of ill men on cots, ill of typhoid fever, of every human ailment; on dinner-tables for eating and drinking, wounds being dressed; all the horrors to be taken in at one glance.

Then we went to the St. Charles. Horrors upon horrors again; want of organization, long rows of dead and dying; awful sights. A boy from home had sent for me. He was dying in a cot, ill of fever. Next to him a man died in convulsions as we stood there. I was making arrangements with a nurse, hiring him to take care of this lad; but I do not remember any more, for I fainted. Next that I knew of, the doctor and Mrs. Randolph were having me, a limp rag, put into a carriage at the door of the hospital. Fresh air, I dare say, brought me to.

Mary Boykin Chesnut, August 23, 1861

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2015

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

August 1st: Captain John R. Baylor claimed Arizona and New Mexico for the Confederacy.

August 3rd: A skirmish occurred between Union and Confederate troops at Mesilla, New Mexico.

August 4th: \$1.5 million was spent on a study regarding the Union Navy's capability.

August 6th: Congress passed the Confiscation Act, which declared that all property used in insurrection would be forfeited. President Lincoln was also given extraordinary powers when dealing with navy and army matters.

August 7th: Hampton, Virginia held by Union forces, was burned to the ground by attacking Confederate troops in retaliation for the Union harboring fugitive slaves.

August 10th: General Nathaniel Lyon was killed in a battle at Wilson's Creek, the second largest battle of the year after Bull Run. Ironically, Confederate losses were higher, but the loss of such a talented commander was a major blow to the Union forces.

August 11th: In a letter to Lincoln, George McClellan argued that the Confederacy was

large enough to constitute a nation. To defeat it, McClellan argued, the Union would have to create a very large military capability.

August 14th: A mutiny occurred in the 79th New York Regiment that was defending Washington DC.

August 15th: A further mutiny occurred in the 2nd Maine Volunteers who were also defending Washington DC. It became clear that a major reorganization was required to take into account the militia status of those defending the capital.

August 19th: The Confederate Congress announced an alliance with Missouri that further widened the gap between those for the Union and those for the Confederacy within that state.

August 20th: The Confederate government announced that it was sending more commissioners to Europe – especially Great Britain and France – in an effort to secure war supplies.

August 22nd: The Confederacy started to make plans for an expected Union attack along its vulnerable coastline.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2015

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

August 25th: General McClellan continued to improve the defenses of Washington DC and ignore the public demand that his forces launch an attack on the Confederates based near the capital. He was cautious because he did not know the true strength of the army opposing him. Therefore McClellan concentrated on being defensive, as opposed to launching an offensive campaign. McClellan also knew that if he gave in to the public's demand for an offensive policy and that campaign failed, the capital would be open to occupation by Confederate forces.

August 26th: The Battle of Cross Lanes (also known as the Battle of Summerville) was fought in Virginia. The Union lost with over 200 men taken prisoner.

August 28th: The first major action involving gunboats took place at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. Union gunboats bombarded Forts Clark and Hatteras, but could not press home their attack because of worsening weather. 600 Union troops were landed on the inlet but the naval force, commanded by General Benjamin Butler, could not support them because of the difficult weather.

August 29th: The attack on Fort Hatteras continued with the coming of improved weather. After several hours of shelling, the commander of Fort Hatteras, Commodore Samuel Barron, agreed to surrender unconditionally. The Union attack on Hatteras Inlet was a success and a great propaganda boost after Bull Run. The

Confederates lost 56 men and had 700 taken as prisoners.

August 30th: Butler was given orders to destroy Fort Hatteras. It was only after he landed at Hatteras Inlet and visited the fort, that he realized its strategic importance in terms of being a Union base to disrupt ships attempting to break the blockade of the South. Butler returned to Washington DC to state his case for making Hatteras Fort a Union stronghold. In Missouri a state of martial law was declared. General John C. Frémont also ordered that anyone who openly supported the Confederate government in Missouri would have their property and slaves confiscated.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

John and Ruth Ann Coski - "Carrying the Weight of Family Pride"
The Troubled Lives of "Winnie" Davis and Custis Lee

Representing the Museum of the Confederacy (now the American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar) John and Ruth Ann Coski have assisted countless authors, researchers and historians over the years, and have been called, "the museum's true treasures."

Ruth Ann began working at the Museum and White House of the Confederacy in 1988 and spent six years as head of the White House interpretive staff before becoming Library Manager of the Museum's Eleanor S. Brockenbrough Library. For the last several years she has been a Special Correspondent for the Museum's quarterly *Magazine*, and is the author of *The White House of the Confederacy: A Pictorial Tour*.

John serves as the museum's Historian, where he has worked in various capacities since 1988. He is the author of several books, most notably *The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem*, published in 2005 by Harvard University Press, and *Capital Navy: The Men, Ships, and Operations*

of the James River Squadron (published in 1996). He has recently begun research toward what he hopes to be a book-length history of Belle Isle.

John and Ruth Ann met at Mary Washington College, where she earned her B.A. in History and English, and he earned his B.A., before earning his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the College of William and Mary.

They join us on Thursday, September 17th to explore the lives of two offspring of arguably the most well-known figures in Confederate history: Varina Anne "Winnie" Davis, the youngest daughter of Jefferson Davis, and George Washington Custis Lee, the eldest son of Robert E. Lee.

These two Americans inherited Confederate legacies, which placed them in the crosshairs of public opinion, regardless of their own accomplishments and wishes.

We hope you will join us.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, October 15th - Jeffrey C. Burden – The Medical College of VA during the Civil War

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*Near Sharpsburg Md.
Sept 19th/62*

Dear Mother

I am still alive and well Our Regt was engaged on last Sunday for 3 or 4 hours on the Mountains, but our loss was not very heavy on Tuesday last we were engaged twice and lost heavy General Reno was killed on Sunday we were in his Division and he thought the world of our Regt we went into the fight on Sunday afternoon about 5½ O Clock and took the advance and was under a heavy fire until about 9 O Clock when the firing ceased and we lay down on the field and stayed all night

I cannot write more now as the mail goes I did not get hit at all

G W Whitman

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

September 1st: Union forces commanded by General Rosecrans tightened their hold on western Virginia.

September 2nd: President Lincoln voiced his concerns regarding the declaration of martial law in Missouri. He believed that it would turn away those in the state who were sympathetic to the Union.

September 3rd: General Polk ordered Confederate troops into Kentucky. When war started, Polk was

a bishop in the Episcopal Church but resigned from the Church because of its support of the Union.

September 4th: Troops commanded by Polk seized Columbus, thus ending Kentucky's attempt to stay neutral in the war.

September 5th: Union troops commanded by Ulysses Grant prepared to move into Kentucky in response to the move made by Polk.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

September 6th: Union forces captured Paducah without bloodshed. This town gave the Union a large measure of control over the river systems that were vital to the region.

September 9th: Lincoln was advised by numerous senior military figures to relieve General Frémont of his command in Missouri. Lincoln did not take this advice but appointed General David Hunter to assist Frémont.

September 10th: The Confederacy appointed General Albert Sidney Johnston as commander of the Confederate Armies of the West.

September 11th: Lincoln ordered Frémont to withdraw his order regarding property and slave confiscation in Missouri for anyone who voiced their support for the Confederacy. Lincoln ordered Frémont to come into line with the Confiscation Act passed by Congress. To emphasize his order, Lincoln sent Judge Joseph Holt to St. Louis to push Frémont towards moderating his stance.

September 12th: Lee, with 30,000 men under his command, expected to fight a force led by the Unionist General Rosecrans at Meadow Bridge, western Virginia. However, at the last moment Rosecrans changed his direction of movement and engaged a Confederate force at Cheat Mountain, comprehensively defeating them. Union losses were 9 dead and 12 wounded while the Confederates lost nearly 100 men.

September 14th: 'USS Colorado' sank the 'Judah', which was attempting to break the Federal blockade on Southern ports.

September 15th: Confederate forces continued their efforts to capture Lexington. 3,600 Union defenders faced 18,000 Confederate troops. Colonel Mulligan, the Union commander of Lexington, waited for reinforcements unaware that all his messages to General Frémont were being read by the Confederates.

September 16th: Union reinforcements sent to Lexington were captured en route by the Confederates who knew their movements beforehand.

September 18th: Having received supplies, including ammunition, the Confederates launched a major assault on Lexington. The Union defenders were cut off from their fresh water supplies by Confederate snipers.

September 19th: Confederate forces captured the hills around Lexington thus making the city even more open to artillery attacks. An attempt to get supplies to the Union defenders via the river system failed when the Confederates captured the supply boats along with their supplies.

September 20th: Lexington finally fell to Confederate forces. Along with 1,600 prisoners, the Confederates also found \$1 million – the Union forces payroll. Frémont's perceived failure to help the Union defenders at Lexington badly counted against him in Washington DC.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

September 21st: All the evidence pointed to the situation in Missouri descending into chaos. Law and order had broken down with murder a common offence, as was the destruction of property.

September 24th: Frémont shut down a newspaper printed in St Louis that questioned his leadership during the siege of Lexington. The editor of the 'St. Louis Evening News' was also arrested.

September 27th: McClellan responded to the public's overwhelming desire for him to launch an offensive against Confederate forces near Washington, and discussed his strategy with President Lincoln. McClellan based his future strategy on highly inflated figures regarding the strength of Confederate

forces near the capital. He told Lincoln that there were 150,000 Confederate troops near Washington DC. In fact, there were probably no more than 50,000. The president was told that 35,000 men were needed to guard the city with a further 23,000 needed to guard the Potomac River. This left him with about 75,000 men to launch his campaign against Confederate forces. McClellan demanded a force of 150,000 men to give him parity with the perceived strength of the Confederates.

September 30th: Great public pressure was put on Lincoln to give his backing to an attack on Richmond led by McClellan. The president had to balance public desires with what McClellan had told him about the size of the Confederate force near the capital.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

JEFFRY C. BURDEN - THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA

Despite the general lack of medical supplies, due to the Southern Blockade (especially toward the end of the war) Richmond, Virginia was home to more than 50 war-time hospitals, caring for sick and wounded, some for just weeks at a time, and others throughout the four years of war.

Perhaps none was more famous than Chimborazo. More than 76,000 soldiers were treated there before the war ended in 1865, giving Chimborazo claim to being the largest hospital North or South.

The Robertson Hospital, established by Sally Tompkins after First Manassas, treated patients continuously throughout the war. During its four-year existence, Robertson Hospital treated 1,334 wounded with only 73 deaths, the lowest mortality rate of any military hospital during the Civil War.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, November 19th, Emmanuel Dabney - Manufacturing, Transporting & Importing the Confederate Nation

While not a Military hospital, The Medical College of Virginia saw Civil War cases of wounds and disease, fill its wards. Going back to 1838 with the opening of the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College, MCV established its independence in 1854, and by the outbreak of the war in 1861 was a well-known institution of Medical learning. Despite the deprivations of war, MCV remained open and graduated a class each year of the war, the only Southern school still in existence with this distinction.

This month, the PCWRT welcomes Jeffrey C. Burden to speak on the Medical College of Virginia during the Civil War.

We hope you will join us on October 15th!

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

October 1st: President Lincoln met with his Cabinet and senior army figures such as McClellan to discuss a major operation against the Confederates along the east coast. Ironically, Jefferson Davis was doing the same in Richmond regarding an attack against Unionist positions in Virginia as the public in the South were also expecting a major military campaign against the enemy.

October 3rd: Governor Thomas More of Alabama banned the export of cotton to Europe. He hoped that this would pressurize the governments of France and Great Britain to recognize the Confederate government. Soldiers fought at Greenbriar, western Virginia, which resulted in over 100 Confederate dead while the Unionists lost just eight killed but also captured a large number of horses and cattle.

October 4th: The Confederacy signed a number of treaties with Native American tribes that brought these tribes into the war on the side of the Confederacy.

October 5th: The Cabinet in Washington DC signed a contract for a new type of warship – the

Ironclad. The first was called the 'USS Monitor' and had a pair of heavy guns in a revolving turret.

October 6th: The Confederacy started a campaign to find crossings over the Upper Potomac that, if successful, would have allowed them to outflank the Unionist force in the capital.

October 7th: Lincoln sent the Secretary of War to Missouri to investigate what exactly was going on as more reports reached Washington, DC about the incompetence of General Frémont. What Secretary of War Simon Cameron found was that it had taken Frémont 17 days to organize troops in an effort to retake Lexington. The news was not well received by President Lincoln.

October 8th: William Tecumseh Sherman was appointed commander of the Union's Army of the Cumberland. Sherman replaced the ill General Robert Anderson.

October 10th: Jefferson Davis, while discussing the fact that the South has a smaller population when compared to the North, ruled out using slaves in the Confederate Army.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2015

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

October 12th: Two commissioners from the Confederacy left the South for Europe. Their task was to increase trade between the South and the UK and France. In Missouri many people, opposed to Frémont's harsh rule, took part in clashes against Unionist forces.

October 14th: President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus. Though he did so reluctantly, Lincoln felt that such a move was necessary to the war effort.

October 16th: Lexington in Missouri was back in the hands of the Union after Confederate forces withdrew from the town.

October 18th: Union gunboats started a move down the Mississippi River.

October 20th: McClellan believed that the Confederacy was planning a major move against Washington, DC.

October 21st: A Union force suffered heavy losses at Ball's Bluff. The Union force, commanded by Colonel Edward Baker, believed that it was attacking a small Confederate force. In fact, they advanced into four Confederate regiments. In the confusion that reigned in the Union ranks, many men

tried to swim across the river at Ball's Bluff but were drowned, resulting in the death of 223 Federals, 226 wounded and 445 taken prisoner. The Confederates lost 36 men killed. There was an outcry in the North but the Confederate leader at Ball's Bluff, Nathan Evans, was hailed as a hero by the Confederacy.

October 22nd: Lincoln's Cabinet met to discuss the disaster at Ball's Bluff.

October 24th: Lincoln decided to replace Frémont as Union commander in Missouri. He appointed General David Hunter as his replacement "with immediate effect."

October 29th: A major naval force sailed from Hampton Roads – 77 ships. The ships carried 12,000 troops commanded by General William Tecumseh Sherman. Deliberate leaks make the Confederates believe that the naval force will target Charleston or New Orleans. In fact, it was heading for Port Royal, South Carolina.

October 31st: General Winfield Scott, head of the Union Army, retired at the age of 75. He was replaced by General George McClellan.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2015

EMMANUEL DABNEY

MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORTING & IMPORTING THE CONFEDERATE NATION

Long before the onset of the American Civil War, the city of Petersburg, Virginia was a critical industrial center in what was a mostly agricultural state, with few major cities. Home to a successful business community, cotton and flour mills, tobacco manufacturing, and banking, Petersburg also boasted of a successful port, canal, and railroad center linking it to other cities north, and south.

At the outbreak of war, Petersburg was the second largest city in Virginia, and the seventh-largest city in the Confederacy. However, Petersburg's story in the Civil War is often relegated only to its railroads, and the military events which occurred from June 1864, to April 1865. Yet Petersburg's importance to the Confederacy began after Virginia's secession, and the subsequent move of the Confederate capital to Richmond.

This month, we are excited to welcome Emmanuel Dabney of the National Park Service, for his second visit to the PCWRT. Emmanuel has been employed by the National Park Service at Petersburg National

Battlefield since 2001. After completing high school in Dinwiddie County, our speaker 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.

On Thursday, November 19th, Emmanuel will offer a unique opportunity to learn about Petersburg's role in the Confederate supply system during the Civil War. In addition to the transportation of goods, this program will highlight the textile and grain mills, the wartime industries that operated around the city, and how Petersburg residents contributed to the use of imported and domestically produced items in order to sustain the Confederate war effort from the beginning to the end of the war.

We hope you will join us!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, December 17th, Stan Clardy - "The Story Behind the Song"

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2015

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Tuesday July 1st 1862

Mr. Pulaski came in from camp and informed us that poor Mr. Abbot was killed the previous night, soon after this his body was brought to the house in an old wagon covered with straw, he was shot through the head, and of course very much disfigured. No person saw him but the gentlemen. My Husband assisted in dressing and cleaning him. Poor fellow, a nobler heart never lived, he supported his Mother, Wife and child. Little Walter is only thirteen months old. Mrs. Duval has been away during all this sad and distressing time, she went to see her Sisters who have lost their two brothers.

~Anita Dwyer Withers~

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

November 1st: General George B. McClellan, aged 35, took up his post as overall commander of the United States Army. General Frémont agreed to an exchange of prisoners in Missouri – but such action could only be carried out with the express support of the President.

November 2nd: General John C. Frémont was formally relieved of his command and was replaced by General David Hunter.

November 3rd: Jefferson Davis and his senior army commanders disagreed on how the Confederacy should proceed. His major

opponent was General P.G.T. Beauregard. Jefferson tried to bring onto his side commanders he felt shared his views such as General Robert E Lee.

November 4th: A Union naval force arrived at Port Royal, SC. An anchorage here gave the Unionists dominance along the whole coast of South Carolina and allowed the blockade to be better enforced.

November 6th: Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy. Alexander Stephens was appointed Vice-President.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2015

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

November 7th: A battle at Belmont, Missouri, left about 100 Unionist and 261 Confederate soldiers dead. Over 1000 men were reported as missing from both sides.

November 8th: Two Confederate commissioners (John Slidell and James Mason) joined a British ship, the 'Trent', in Havana en route to the UK. In international waters, the 'USS San Jacinto', forced the 'Trent' to heave to and surrender Slidell and Mason. Once this is done, the 'Trent' was allowed to continue with both men's families on board – but not them.

November 12th: McClellan announced a major shake-up of the Union command structure. The Department of the West was split into three new departments – New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri. Previously one man had commanded all of these. Now, each new department had a new commander.

November 15th: Slidell and Mason were landed at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Political bigwigs in Washington DC were quick to congratulate Captain Wilkes of the 'USS San Jacinto' with some even suggesting that the 'Trent' itself should have been taken in as well. However, once the celebrations died down it became apparent that Wilkes had acted as he did in international waters against a ship belonging to the world's greatest naval power. There was a fear that the UK would be pushed into supporting the Confederacy as

a result of this. Postmaster-General Blair and Senator Sumner of Massachusetts called for Slidell and Mason to be released with due speed.

November 19th: Davis called for the construction of a major rail network in the Confederacy to allow for the rapid movement of troops and supplies.

November 24th: Commissioners Slidell and Mason were moved to Massachusetts amid fears in Washington DC that the episode might lead to war between the UK and the North.

November 27th: News of what happened to the 'Trent' finally reached London and the outcry was immediate.

November 30th: The British Foreign Secretary, Lord John Russell, wrote to the British ambassador in Washington that he, on behalf of the British government, was to express in the strongest terms Britain's outrage over what happened to the 'Trent'. Lyons was to demand the immediate release of Slidell and Mason and a formal apology from the Federal government. In a private letter, Russell told Lyons to give the Federal government 10 days before closing the embassy and cutting diplomatic relations. The Royal navy was put on alert and the Guards regiments were told to prepare to sail to Canada.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015

STAN CLARDY – THE STORY BEHIND THE SONGS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PCWRT!

This month we close out the year, and celebrate the season with our friend Stan Clardy.

Southern born and bred, Stan was raised in a small town in south Georgia, and has been a resident of North Carolina since 1991. Stan has been exposed to different types and styles of music since childhood, and has performed classic hits from a wide variety of artists and originals with his guitar, and his "band in a box" since 1978. His versatility with different styles of music contributes to his unique sound

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. He and his

wife, Cathy have been traveling the south since 1998 performing the play for historic groups, reenactments, living history organizations, schools and family reunions.

Stan has produced and recorded five CD's of music; *Soldiers in Gray*, *Southern Stars*, *God Save the South*, *TimeLight Music*, and *Wayfaring Stranger*. In May of 2003 Stan released his first book, *TimeLight, a Journey into the Past*, a fictional historical account about the Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley*, and the siege of Charleston during 1863-1864. He participated in honoring the last Hunley crew April 17, 2004.

On Thursday, December 17th Stan will perform *The Story Behind the Songs*, original songs and as he says, "hits from the 60s.... the 1860s."

We hope you will join us the County Seat Restaurant and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, on what is sure to be a touching and inspired evening.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, January 21, program and speaker to be announced.

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

December 25th

My dear sister,

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

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

Tally Simpson

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

December 1861 saw a continuing fraught relationship between the president, Abraham Lincoln, and the man he appointed as overall commander of the North's army, General George McClellan. Lincoln continued to question the timidity of McClellan's approach, while McClellan continued with his assertion

that if got it wrong, the whole of the North could suffer as a consequence.

December 1st: President Lincoln expressed his concern to General McClellan that the Union armies did not seem to be doing anything substantial.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

December 2nd: Congress gave its permission for the suspension of habeas corpus in Missouri.

December 3rd: Lincoln gave his State of the Union address to Congress. The Union started its move against New Orleans when *USS Constitution* arrived at Ship Island at the mouth of the Mississippi River carrying the 26th Massachusetts Regiment.

December 4th: Great Britain announced an embargo on all exports to the US

December 5th: The Secretary of War announced that Union strength stood at 660,971 men, of whom 640,637 were volunteers.

December 6th: It was announced that the Treasury could cope with a war that ended by mid-1862, but if it lasted longer than this then the Treasury's income would be far outweighed by its outgoings, and taxes on most things would have to be increased to fund the war.

December 7th: In a scene that mirrored the *Trent* incident, the *USS Santiago de Cuba* stopped a British ship, the *Eugenia Smith* and a Southerner called J W Zacharie was taken off. Zacharie was a purchasing agent for the Confederacy.

December 9th: The Senate approved the setting up of the Joint Committee on the

Conduct of the War. This recognized that previous comments made to the Confederacy, stating that states rights would not be interfered with once the war was over, was no longer the case and that the internal affairs of the rebel states would be reformed regardless, and that the Union would be upheld.

December 10th: The Confederacy admitted Kentucky to its membership despite the overwhelming evidence that the state was about to fall to Unionist forces.

December 11th: Charleston was damaged as a result of a fire that swept through the city. Charleston was the most important port in South Carolina.

December 12th: The success of the Union's navy along the South's coastline was such that cotton farmers started to burn their crop in fear that it might fall into the hands of the Union.

December 18th: Lord Lyons, the British ambassador in Washington DC, received a message from the British government that he was to demand the release of Mason and Slidell. If the Union failed to do this within 10 days, he had instructions to break off diplomatic relations.

December 19th: Lyons met the US Secretary of State, Seward.

December 20th: Two British warships arrived in Canada as a result of the *Trent* affair.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

December 21st: The meetings between Lyons and Seward continued. Both Seward and Lincoln recognized that there was a real risk of war with the British if their demands went unheeded.

December 23rd: The Cabinet was advised by Seward that Captain Wilkes made an error in taking Mason and Slidell off, and that he should have brought the *Trent* and its "contents" in, as the ship had violated its neutral status. Seward made it clear that the seizure of the Confederate commissioners was unlawful, whereas the seizure of the *Trent* as an entity would have been lawful.

December 24th: Congress passed a series of duties that were to be added to tea, coffee, sugar and what were classed as "luxury goods".

December 25th: Despite it being Christmas Day, the Cabinet and the President were in discussions on what to do with Mason and Slidell. Fighting was reported at Fort Frederick in Maryland and Cherry, western Virginia.

December 26th: It was announced that Mason and Slidell would be released because their arrest was illegal. It was further announced that Captain Wilkes had acted without the knowledge of the government.

December 30th: Mason and Slidell were handed over to Lord Lyons. They were immediately put on a ship to England. Lyons then released his own interpretation of the law regarding "neutral nations," and it was at odds with Seward's and, ironically, found support among many Americans. However, with the issue resolved, relations between the North and Great Britain improved.

December 31st: President Lincoln pressed his army commanders for more action.