



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

BOBBY WILCOX ON “ESPIONAGE IN POWHATAN”

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, Bobby Wilcox!

A longtime area resident, Bobby has been a student of the Civil War since the age of seven. Bobby, along with Max Travis founded the Powhatan Civil War Roundtable in 2003. What began as a conversation in the back room of The Virginia Pantry has grown to the community educational series we know today.

He was also the co-host of the Richmond radio show "Civil War Forum" for seven years. Presently, he and his wife Mary Anna are restoring the legendary WSVS Radio Station in Crewe, Virginia and formed the Historical WSVS Radio Museum.

His talk this month will be "Espionage in Powhatan," which led to the Battle at Sailor's Creek.

We eagerly anticipate this presentation, and look forward to kicking off 2019 with a bang. Join us!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, February 21, 2019, Phillip Greenwalt - Topic TBA

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. Please specify your dining preference when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month's main course is tossed salad, roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. Reservations must be received by January 15th.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Thank you to Trish and Allen Minter for their years of leadership to the PCWRT. This month, we welcome Lyn & Pat Whitmer into their leadership roles!

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.



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REMINDER: 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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- Individual Membership - \$25.00 Family Membership - \$35.00

Membership includes 12 newsletters per year and entitles you to membership rates at our monthly dinner meetings.

LOCAL EVENTS

History Happy Hour RVA: Fight Like a Girl

Location: Capital Ale House, 623 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

They were wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters –but also soldiers. For much of modern history, women have gone to the battlefield, so there is no surprise they did this during our country's deadliest war.

Speaker: Morgan Floyd, ACWM

Cost: Free

Program Date: Monday, January 14, 2019 - 6:30pm

Foundry Series: Politics and the Supreme Court

Location: Historic Tredegar, RVA

Co-sponsors and Partners: John Marshall Foundation

Even during the Civil War era, political parties attempted to influence the makeup of the Supreme Court to further political agendas. Uncover how Lincoln and the Republicans reshaped the Court to advance the twin causes of liberty and union.

Featuring: Dr. Timothy Huebner, Rhodes College, Memphis

Moderated by Dr. Henry L. Chambers, University of Richmond School of Law

Cost: Public \$10.00; American Civil War Museum Members \$8.00

[Make A Reservation](#)

Program Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Waters of Hope and Despair: African Americans and the Chesapeake Bay

February 2 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Pamplin Historical Park, 6125 Boydton Plank Road

Petersburg, VA 23803

Join Wisteria Perry of the Mariner's Museum as she explores the life of African Americans along the Virginia's nearby Chesapeake Bay.



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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name — liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names — liberty and tyranny.

President Abraham Lincoln, April 18, 1864

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 PowhatanCWRT@gmail.com

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1865 - 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.



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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1865 - Courtesy History Learning Site *continued*

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.

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 2019

PHILLIP GREENWALT

"IF THIS VALLEY IS LOST" THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPAIGN OF 1864

Sweep the Shenandoah Valley "clean and clear," Union General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant ordered in the late summer of 1864.

His man for the job: Maj. Gen. "Little Phil" Sheridan, the bandy-legged Irishman who'd proven himself just the kind of scrapper Grant loved. Grant turned Sheridan loose across Virginia's most vital landscape, the breadbasket of the Confederacy.

This month, we welcome author and National Park Historian Phillip Greenwalt, co-author of *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864*.

Our speaker is a full-time contributor to *Emerging Civil War*, a public history-oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to the American Civil War. He is also the co-founder of *Emerging Revolutionary War* (www.emergingrevolutionarywar.org).

Phill is currently a Supervisory National Park Ranger of the Shark Valley District of Interpretation and Visitor Services of Everglades

National Park. Prior to his current position, Phill spent seven years as a historian with the National Park Service at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and Thomas Stone National Historic Site. He started with the National Park Service as a historical interpreter intern at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He has also had the honor to be on official details for the Sesquicentennial of the surrender at Appomattox Court House, and the Bicentennial of the Battle of Fort McHenry and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

In addition to *Bloody Autumn*, our speaker is also the co-author with Daniel Davis of, *Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battle of Cold Harbor*, and *Calamity in Carolina: The Battles of Averasboro and Bentonville*. With Rob Orrison, he is currently working on the first book in the new *Emerging Revolutionary War Series*, due out next year.

Phill graduated from George Mason University with a M.A. in American History and also has a B.A. in history from Wheeling Jesuit University.

Join us on February 21st at the County Seat!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, March 21, 2019, John V. Quarstein presenting on the *H.L. Hunley*.

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. Please specify your dining preference when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month's main course is roast pork, saffron rice, tossed salad, veggie, and dessert. Reservations must be received by February 19th.

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.



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LOCAL EVENTS

Pamplin Park Valentine Tea

February 9 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

At Pamplin Historical Park's Valentine Tea ladies and gentlemen in period dress will teach guests 19th-century etiquette while they enjoy gourmet tea and snacks. Attendees will also learn about the significance of flowers and how to create the perfect bouquet.

Park Members \$20, Non-Park Members \$24

History Happy Hour RVA: Freedom's First Generation

Program Date: Monday, February 11, 2019 - 6:30pm

Location: Triple Crossing Brewery - Fulton, 5203 Hatcher Street, Richmond VA 23231

Discover the stories of African Americans, who were the first of their generation to experience freedom after the Civil War and emancipation. Find out what the research at East End and Evergreen cemeteries has revealed.

Speakers: Brian and Erin Palmer, Friends of East End Cemetery

Cost: Free

Book Talk: "September Morn the Dunker Church of Antietam Battlefield"

Program Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019 - 1:00pm

Location: White House of the Confederacy

Heavily damaged during the battle of Antietam, the Dunker Church served as a hospital after the battle and later suffered collapse before being rebuilt. Discover how the history of this church is interwoven with that of Stonewall Jackson, Clara Barton, Abraham Lincoln, and even Mark Twain. With author Terry Barkley. Terry Barkley served as archivist and museum curator at Bridgewater College in Virginia, a Brethren-related institution and holds degrees and a graduate certificate from the University of North Alabama, The Citadel, University of Alabama, and Harvard University. He retired in 2012 as director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA) at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Illinois. That same year he delivered the 150th anniversary commemorative lecture on the Dunker Church of Antietam Battlefield at the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in St. Louis. Terry has also lectured in the Dunker Church at Antietam National Battlefield. He is an independent scholar and musician and lives in Lexington, Virginia. This is his fourth book.

Cost: Free



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AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM 2019 SYMPOSIUM

Program Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019 - 9:30am

Location: Library of Virginia

The 2019 Symposium will share with attendees some of the ideas and insights that have informed the planning of the American Civil War Museum's new flagship exhibition, "A People's Contest: Struggles for Nation and Freedom in Civil War America." The symposium will feature the historian advisers who helped shape the exhibit lecturing on the importance of military history, of African Americans, and of Southern Unionists, and fundamental questions of causation and "contingency" in the Civil War.

In addition to the historian advisers, the symposium will feature a keynote address by Jon Meacham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Thomas Jefferson, George H. W. Bush, and most recently, author of *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. The symposium will be held at the Library of Virginia (800 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia, 23219) on Saturday, March 2, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 pm.

Other speakers include:

- Dr. Edward Ayers is Tucker-Boatwright Professor of History and President Emeritus, University of Richmond, and president of the Museum's Board of Trustees.
- Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander is Professor of History and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Norfolk State University and formerly director of the Joseph Jenkins Roberts Center for African Diaspora Studies.
- Dr. Paul Quigley is James I. Robertson, Jr., Associate Professor in Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech and director of the Center of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies.
- Dr. Kathryn Shively is Associate Professor of History at Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Dr. Elizabeth Varon is Langbourne Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia and associate director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History.

Cost: \$65; \$40 for ACWM members; \$20 for students [Make A Reservation](#)

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1865 - 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.



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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1865 - Courtesy History Learning Site

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.

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.

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.