



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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

REMINDER: 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your Membership Dues for 2019 will soon be due. Again, with no increase in price to PCWRT Membership, we hope you will encourage friends and neighbors to also join. All dues must be received by March 31, 2019 to insure continuation of your membership

- 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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

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

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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



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2019

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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2019

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.

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



A Society For Civil War Studies

Established 2003

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

JOHN V. QUARSTEIN – THE H. L. HUNLEY

We are excited to welcome on March 21st, our dear friend, historian, preservationist, lecturer and author, John V. Quarstein, who will explore the legend of the Confederate submarine, *H.L. Hunley*.

John is the Chief Development Officer at The Mariners' Museum and Park, Director of the *USS Monitor* Center and Foundation, and Historian of the City of Newport News. John served as director of the Virginia War Museum for over thirty years and, is always in demand as a speaker throughout the nation.

John 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.

Our speaker is the author of numerous books, including *Fort Monroe: The Key to the South*, *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood*, *Big Bethel:*

The First Battle, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*. His newest book is *Sink Before Surrender: The CSS Virginia*

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

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

We hope you will join us on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the County Seat Restaurant!

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 corned beef, cabbage, red potatoes and dessert. Reservations must be received by March 19th.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, April 18, 2019, Speaker and Topic TBA.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

IN MEMORIAM

With heavy hearts we must announce that William Garnett, a long-time PCWRT member and volunteer, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 18, 2019. William was the first person in his family to attend college when he began at Hampden-Sydney College. After transferring to the Medical College of Virginia to complete his pharmacy degree, he was selected as a member of Rho Chi Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy, and graduated in 1969.

William was introduced to the beautiful and intelligent Mary Anne Thompson by his pharmacy school roommate. They married in 1970 and after working as a pharmacist at MCV, he pursued further education to receive his PharmD from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. Upon graduation, he became a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for three years.

In 1976, an opportunity arose to return to the Medical College of Virginia as a professor and he returned home to the state he loved. William loved his work, but it did not define him and he was a very humble man. Many of his friends outside of pharmacy circles may never have known that he had a national reputation in his field. His research primarily focused on epilepsy and gastroenterology and he was an important part of introducing a large number of the pharmaceuticals to market which are still helping epilepsy patients today.

He loved teaching, researching, writing and advising many students in their doctoral work as MCV transitioned into VCU. Through it all, he loved puns and his eyes twinkled when he was telling a joke, which was most of the time.

We at the PCWRT valued William's dedication, and are grateful for the many excellent speakers he scheduled for us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Mary Anne, and his family. He will be greatly missed.

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

What a cruel thing is war; to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world! I pray that, on this day when only peace and good-will are preached to mankind, better thoughts may fill the hearts of our enemies and turn them to peace. ... My heart bleeds at the death of every one of our gallant men.

Robert E. Lee, December 1862

LOCAL EVENTS

American Civil War Museum's HHH

Elizabeth Van Lew and the "one absorbing desire of her heart"

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

Location: 23rd and Main

One of Richmond's unsung heroines is also one of its most reviled villains. Explore the life and legacy of this Richmond native, slaveowner, abolitionist, and spymaster. How did she infiltrate the Confederate government? How has her image evolved over time?

Speaker: Tally Botzer, ACWM / Cost: Free



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

By March 1865 the situation for the South was hopeless. Despite this obvious military point, Sherman continued with his policy of destroying anything that might assist the South.

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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

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

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 2019

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STRINGFELLOW SPY FOR JEB STUART, AND UNSUNG HERO OF THE CIVIL WAR

Born on June 18, 1840, Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow volunteered to fight for the Confederacy, but was turned down due to his slight build. At five foot eight, and 100 pounds, Stringfellow endeavored to prove his value by reconnoitering the Powhatan Troop, Company E of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry. The seemingly frail 21 year old captured three guards at gunpoint and marched them to the Company Commander's tent. Persuaded that the young man had some skills to offer, he was sworn in on May 28, 1861.

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

This month, we are excited to present Charles Wissinger, the Director of Operations at [Richmond Discoveries](#), a non-profit organization, founded in 1985 to provide

educational and historical tours, and Richmond's oldest educational tour company.

Charles is a professional actor who loves history. A graduate of Ferrum College with a BA in Theatrical and Performing Arts, he has worked on stage, in films, television, and commercials. Our speaker has combined his love for acting with his love for history by researching and creating an interpretation of historical figures, from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812 and World War II, that played significant roles in the development of the United States of America.

Charles started working in living history as a Re-enactor recreating the Second Virginia Convention where Patrick Henry gave his famous 'Liberty or Death' speech. Since then Wissinger has expanded his repertoire to include portraying James Madison, writer of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the Revolution; Major John Andre, the British officer who convinced Benedict Arnold to change sides; Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner; Edgar Allan Poe, author, poet, editor, literary critic; Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow, spy for J.E.B. Stuart and unsung hero of the Civil War; and Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II.

See our website, and click [here](#) for more information on Charles and Richmond Discoveries. We eagerly anticipate this presentation. Join us!

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, May 16, 2019 - Sarah Bierle presenting on the Battle of New Market.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2019

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. This month's main course is roast turkey, veggie, stuffing, mashed potato, and dessert. Please specify your dining preference when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting.

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

Lee, the result of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood, by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the C.S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.

~ Ulysses S. Grant in a letter to Robert E. Lee April 7, 1865 ~

LOCAL EVENTS

History Happy Hour RVA: Diamonds, Education, Emancipation and Race: The Family of Silas Omohundro

Location: Havana 59

Silas Omohundro was a white slave trader in pre-Civil War Richmond. His third wife Corinna and their children were legally his human property. Encounter the contrasts between Silas' family and material life and that of the enslaved people he bought and sold.

Speaker: Emmanuel Dabney, Historian

Cost: Free

Program Date: Monday, April 8, 2019 - 6:30pm

Pamplin Park, Park Day 2019

April 13 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This annual event is sponsored by the Civil War Trust and brings history enthusiasts together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine. Join the Pamplin Historical Park team to help beautify aspects of our 424-acre park.

“Since 1996, the Civil War Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War — and now Revolutionary War & War of 1812 — battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. Activities are chosen by each participating site to

meet their own particular needs and can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and trail buildings.”-Civil War Trust

Volunteers should meet at The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier (Park Entrance) dressed in work attire. Water, gloves, and eye protection will be provided to volunteers. Pre-registration is required. For more information and pre-registration call (804) 861-2408.

Book Talk: Raising the White Flag: How Surrender Defined the American Civil War

Location: White House of the Confederacy

The American Civil War began with a laying down of arms by Union troops at Fort Sumter, and ended with a series of surrenders, most famously at Appomattox Courthouse. In the intervening four years, both Union and Confederate forces surrendered en masse on scores of occasions. In no other American war did surrender happen so frequently.

David Silkenat will discuss his book which provides the first comprehensive study of Civil War surrender, focusing on the conflicting social, political, and cultural meanings of the action.

Cost: Free

Program Date: Saturday, April 20, 2019 - 2:00pm



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2019

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1865 - 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.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2019

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

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."

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.

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.

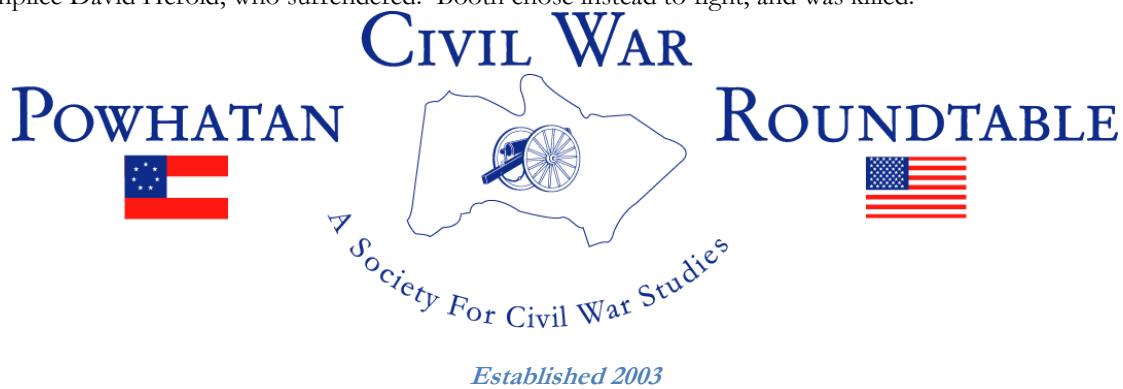
April 21, 1865 - Lincoln's body started its journey to Springfield, Illinois.

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 2019

THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET

This month we welcome Sarah Kay Bierle to discuss the events featured in her new book, *Call out the Cadets*, about the Battle of New Market.

Sarah Kay Bierle is co-managing blog editor for Emerging Civil War. She has a B.A. in History from Thomas Edison State University and is exploring and enjoying her career path as a historian, writer, speaker, and living history enthusiast.

“History, research, and writing are my passion,” she says. “I desire to make history more understandable and accessible to Americans who stumble through school thinking history is a collection of random dates, places, and events. Through thought-provoking writing, I want people to reconsider the past and find lessons which may inspire them to live more courageously today.”

Sarah’s website, [Gazette665](http://www.gazette665.com) is dedicated to helping the public learn about history through quality publications and exciting events. To date, the company has published three books

and over 400 blog posts, and has recently launched a YouTube Channel and first history video series, which focuses on Sarah’s new non-fiction book, *Call out the Cadets*, about the Battle of New Market.

Much of Sarah’s research focuses on real people and their trials and successes of everyday life in challenging eras, with a primary focus on the Civil War. Her interests include the war’s effects on maritime industry, the civilians’ struggles, surgeons and medical care, and officers and families of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. She has published an award-winning, historical novel about civilians at the Battle of Gettysburg, a collection of historical Christmas stories, and a historical novel about the Civil War’s effects on a lighthouse family.

When not researching and writing, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading classic literature, quilting, and traveling. She maintains a personal history blog at <http://www.gazette665.com>, and you can follow Sarah on Twitter [@sarahkaybierle](https://twitter.com/sarahkaybierle)

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. This month’s main course is Shrimp Alfredo, salad, and dessert. Please specify your dining preference when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, June 20, 2019: Gary Dyson, a Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans



CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Put the boys in, and may God forgive me for the order."

General John C. Breckinridge

LOCAL EVENTS

Book Talk: The Million-Dollar Man Who Helped Kill a President: George Washington Gayle and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Program Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019 - 1:00pm

Location: Historic Tredegar

Cost: Included with admission; free to ACWW members

Think you know all there is to know about President Lincoln's assassination? Think again, as attorney and author Christopher Lyle McIlwain delves into the story of George Washington Gayle, the man behind the deadly scheme to kill Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward.

Christopher Lyle McIlwain, Sr., has been practicing law for more than three decades in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. His other passion is the study of nineteenth century history. He is the author of two previous books, *Civil War Alabama* (U. of Alabama Press, 2016), the winner of the McMillan Prize, and *1865 Alabama: From Civil War to Uncivil Peace* (U. of Alabama Press, 2017). Chris has also published several articles in a variety of history journals.

Memorial Day at Pamplin Park May 27 - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier will offer a

full schedule of daily programs on Memorial Day, Monday May 27. The Park will open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and activities are included with regular museum admission.

A special Memorial Day program will begin at 12:30 p.m. During this program, visitors will hear Jake Wynn, Director of Interpretation at the [National Museum of Civil War Medicine](#), speak about [Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office](#) in Washington D.C. Barton's efforts helped thousands of family members and friends find out the fate of their soldier loved ones in effort to hopefully reunite or gain closure. The program will also include an artillery firing followed by the presentation of the colors and a playing of Taps.

A Breakthrough Battlefield Tour will give visitors a chance to learn about the events of April 2, 1865 which is followed by bugle calls and a Civil War camp life demonstration. The viewing of "War So Terrible" which follows two Civil War soldiers, Benjamin Franklin Meyers of the Union and Andrew Jackson Stewart of the Confederacy, will be shown in the Battlefield Center. Programming will conclude with Civil War musical selections performed by the Haversacks & Hardtack String Band in the Education Center.

All events and activities included with Park admission.



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

May 1st - A military commission made up of eight army officers was established by President Johnson to try the people arrested for Lincoln's assassination.

May 2nd - Johnson offered a reward of \$100,000 for Jefferson Davis. Johnson, along with many other people in the North, believed that Davis had been complicit in Lincoln's assassination. Thinking Southerners would rally around him, Davis met with the army commanders he had left, and told them that the fight could go on. They told him bluntly that it could not.

May 4th - President Lincoln was buried in Springfield, Illinois. The remaining forces for Alabama, Mississippi and eastern Louisiana, some 42,000 Confederate troops, surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama.

May 9th - Davis disbanded the large retinue of troops protecting him and chose to travel in a much smaller group. Those who had been protecting Davis were ordered to go home.

May 10th - President Johnson declared resistance "may be regarded as virtually at an end." Jefferson Davis was captured at Irwinsville, Georgia, by men from the 4th Michigan Cavalry.

May 12th - Those accused of being involved in the assassination of Lincoln were put on trial. All pleaded not guilty. However, the mood of the country was barely forgiving and this resonated with those in charge of the military commission. Mercy was not expected. Even Mary Surratt, who owned the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth stayed, was on trial for her life. All eight arrested were found guilty and four, including Surratt, were sentenced to death. These four were hanged on July 7th, despite many calls for clemency for Surratt. The four not condemned received prison sentences; one died in prison but by 1869 the other three had all been pardoned.

May 22nd - Johnson announced that all trade restrictions with Southern ports, with the exception of Galveston, La Salle, Brazos Santiago and Brownsville, would be lifted effective July 1st. Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

May 23rd - The Army of the Potomac paraded through the streets of Washington DC.

May 24th - Sherman's army, which had done so much to weaken the military ability of the South, paraded through the capital. Sherman was still not popular with some political figures in the government, primarily Secretary of War Stanton. However, his military achievements in the field were considerable in that he achieved what he set out to achieve, regardless of the method.

May 27th - Johnson ordered the release of many of those held as prisoners of war.

May 29th - Johnson issued a general amnesty for those who had fought against the North. All property was restored except for slave ownership. However, there were exceptions. Senior political and military figures had to personally apply for a pardon, as did those who had left a military or judicial position in the North to join the Confederate Army. However, Johnson was generous in this and by the end of 1865, he had granted 13,000 pardons.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2019

A CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS WITH GARY DYSON

Gary L. Dyson is a resident of Mount Airy, Maryland. He graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in natural resources and is a Marine Corps veteran. Despite his previous vocations in engineering and as an environmental specialist he has always been a history buff, sometimes a French and Indian War reenactor, and presently a genealogist. The study of the American Civil War has been his passion since he was a pre-teen, and living near the major battlefields of the east helped cultivate that passion. First person accounts are his favorite, and having family ancestors that "saw the elephant" enable new accounts to be told.

The subject of his book, *A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans* is Albert Gaius Hills, a relative of his wife, Emily. He lived from 1829-1879, not quite reaching fifty. As a correspondent for the Boston Journal from before the war until 1863 he witnessed the war in the Gulf and on the Mississippi. Knowing the dangers he might face he took out a life insurance policy before heading to war. Ever the entrepreneur he took special note of the sights along the Gulf and pondered the possibilities of economic potential. He made particular notes of ships and officers and Union efforts against Biloxi and Pensacola. As he entered the Mississippi

on April 1, 1862, he was honest about the fears he had entering enemy territory. He mentions that he was under fire on multiple occasions during the assault on Forts Jackson and St. Phillip and received his reports from ships in the battle by rowing his "press gig" from ship to ship, fighting the strong current to cover the story. After the forts fell he covered the early occupation while anchored off Algiers (Slaughterhouse Point) but it is not certain if he ventured into the city. He knew both Butler and Banks very well and supported the efforts to return Louisiana to the Union. While in New Orleans he served in the 4th Louisiana Native Guards and became co-editor of *The Era*.

Transcribing his detailed journals and war reports was as challenging as it was rewarding. His handwriting was terrible and now the author needs reading glasses. Had he lived a few years longer Hills would likely have published these himself, but the added narrative helps tie things together and make more sense out of them.

We are excited to welcome this speaker to the Roundtable this month, and Gary will have his book, *A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans* available for purchase at our meeting. We hope you will join us!

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. This month's main course is tossed salad, fried chicken, baked sweet potato, peas & corn and dessert. Please specify your dining preference when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2019

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, July 18, 2019: Dan Welch, on the Gettysburg Campaign

LOCAL CIVIL WAR PROJECT

In Search of the Powells by Allison Herring

This unique blog by local Civil War researcher Allison Herring, details her experiences researching of Harriet Lee Powell and her family, who operated a boarding school for girls in Winchester, VA that attracted the daughters of elite families across the state. As a result of the Civil War, the Powells closed the school, and the family fled Winchester in the spring of 1862. With no income, and nowhere to go, they had to separate and endure that catastrophe on their own. Their letters record a complete account of life at the various homes where they lived and the events they witnessed.

Click [here](#) to go on this adventure with Allison.

LOCAL EVENTS

American Civil War Museum on June 22 - Philip Gerard on his new book: The Last Battleground: The Civil War Comes to North Carolina.

To understand the long march of events in North Carolina from secession to surrender is to understand the entire Civil War—a personal war waged by Confederates and

Unionists, free blacks and the enslaved, farm women and plantation belles, Cherokee braves and mountaineers, conscripts and volunteers, gentleman officers and poor-bucker privates. In the state's complex loyalties, its sprawling and diverse geography, and its dual role as a home front and a battlefield, North Carolina embodies the essence of the whole epic struggle in all its terrible glory.

Philip Gerard presents this dramatic convergence of events through the stories of the individuals who endured them—reporting the war as if it were happening in the present rather than with settled hindsight—to capture the dreadful suspense of lives caught up in a conflict whose ending had not yet been written. As Gerard reveals, whatever the grand political causes for war, whatever great battles decided its outcome, and however abstract it might seem to readers a century and a half later, the war was always personal.

Philip Gerard is professor of creative writing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. His previous books include *Down the Wild Cape Fear*.

CIVIL WAR
POWHATAN    ROUNDTABLE
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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2019

Feeding Body & Soul - June 22 @ 10:30 am - June 23 @ 4:00 pm

Feeding Body & Soul programs will include several 30-minute cooking demonstrations at both the Tudor Hall Plantation and the Military Encampment areas. These programs will occur multiple times daily, so that visitors will have several opportunities to view them regardless of when they arrive.

Staff in period attire at Tudor Hall will demonstrate open hearth cooking skills and meal preparation for several common dishes. Visitors are invited to join in on discussions to include period methods of acquiring ingredients, preservation, preparation, and serving meals.

Visitors can also join soldiers at the nearby Military Encampment as they demonstrate camp fire cooking skills by preparing a few common soldier meals. Explanations on how period military rations were prepared, packaged, transported, and distributed will also be provided.

A special Tudor Hall Plantation walking tour titled "Feeding Body and Soul: Plantation Foodways" will be offered at 11:00-11:45 am, and again from 2:00-2:45 pm. The Tudor Hall walking tour for this special event weekend will focus on and incorporate the various garden vegetables and edible demonstration crops that are grown at Pamplin Historical Park. Particular attention will be paid to explaining the similar and different items that plantation owners and the enslaved consumed in their diets. This includes the means of production, primary methods of preparation, and how food was distributed on many Southside Virginia plantations.

The Breakthrough Battlefield Tour will also be offered twice during the day, from 1:00-1:45 pm, and again from 3:00-3:45 pm. Additional emphasis will be placed on Grant's ever-lengthening and Lee's ever-shortening supply lines, the US Military Railroad, and how these factors improved or threatened the common soldier's ability to receive rations. A discussion about soldier morale, which was partly linked to their diets, will also be included.

All event programs are included with regular daily paid admission.

I Spy: A Civil War Spy Academy - June 25 @ 9:00 am - June 26 @ 4:30 pm

During this two-day camp, participants will hear the stories of several Civil War spies, both Union and Confederate, who did what they could to help their cause through covert means. Campers will learn about the skills needed to be an effective spy; everything from code breaking to effective disguises. Campers will also discover some the technology used during the Civil War that assisted spies in their work. The telegraph and the hot air balloon were both relatively new inventions that clandestine agents exploited during the war. By the end of the experience, not only will campers have a better understanding of spying during the Civil War but, they will also have had a hands-on experience pretending to be spies and complete a group spy mission. The camp is open to ages 8-11. Each day of the camp is from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Campers must pre-register and make payment. Camp cost is \$100 per camper. Call (804) 861-2408 for more information and to pre-register for the camp.