

Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable  
2015 Newsletters



# *Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable*

**Meeting Place**

*Williamsburg*

Volume XXXIX Number 1

September 16, 2014

## **Carlson Hudson and Amy Miller "The Civil War In Seven Songs"**

The September meeting will be held on the **third Tuesday of September (September 16<sup>th</sup> )\*\*** at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street.

The September 16th meeting will feature Carson Hudson and Amy Miller presenting "The Civil War in Seven Songs". Using themes such as patriotism, home, freedom, bravery, loss, and hope, this program, performed by Carson Hudson and Amy Miller, is a compact and moving study of the catastrophe that overtook America in the 1860s

Carson Hudson is passionate about history. He is a practicing military and social historian, published author, Emmy Award-winning screenwriter, and circus fire-eater. He lectures regularly at museums and colleges on a wide variety of subjects, but his particular interests are the Civil War, military medicine, colonial witchcraft & piracy, and the history of American popular music. In his spare time he likes to sleep.

Amy Edmondson Miller, D.M. (FSU 1989) is Fife Supervisor for the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums in Williamsburg, Virginia, as well as a performer for evening programs. In 2011, she made presentations for the National Flute Association's Annual Flute

Convention, held in Charlotte, North Carolina and for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's First Annual Early Music Festival. She has published three online articles for Flute Focus Magazine on "Fife and Drumming in the Eighteenth Century". Amy recorded a CD of Stephen Foster's music with Carson Hudson entitled, "Hard Times: Stephen Foster Remembered." She and Carson performed monthly programs during 2013 at the Hennage Auditorium entitled, "The Civil War in 7 Songs".

\*\*Note the change in date. The Roundtable will meet on the third Tuesday of the month from September through December of 2014

**Last meeting**, Our May 27th meeting at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre featured Dr. Jonathan L. Stolz presenting "Civil War medicine: myths & misperceptions".

Medical care during the fratricidal struggle that divided our nation 150 years ago harbors many historic misunderstandings about the insurmountable challenges that doctors from the North and South faced. The myths and misperceptions about the two thirds of the war fatalities from disease will be the topic of the discussion. The surgical aspects of care will be presented at another time. The qualification of the physicians, the various maladies, the treatments, and innovations that took place during the war will be highlighted.

Doctor Stolz is a physician who practiced in the specialty of radiology in Reading, Pennsylvania before retiring to Williamsburg in 2004. He has had a longtime interest in the history of medicine in the United States. He has taught courses at William & Mary's Christopher Wren Association including Presidential Illnesses, Civil War Medicine: Myths & Misperceptions, and in the 2014 Fall Semester will present Medicine in Colonial America (1607-1783). In 1863 his great grandfather John Christopher Keatley was appointed as one of the assistant paymasters of the Army of the Potomac by President Lincoln.

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## **Upcoming Meetings and Speakers**

**Please note that all Fall meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month**

- September 16, 2014 - Carson Hudson and Amy Miller - "The Civil War In Seven Songs"
- October 21, 2014 - Drew Gruber - "Preservation of Williamsburg Battlefield Sites"
- November 18, 2014 - Col. Edward Freyfogle (Ret) -"Civil War Surgery"
- December 16, 2014 - Peggy Vogtsberger - "The Battle of Nashville"

## **Upcoming Outside Events**

**2014** Walking historic tours of Isle of Wight. Click [here](#) for details.

## **2014 Anniversary Events**

- **Sept 3, 2014** - Battle of Berryville. Click [here](#) for details

**Sept, 2014** Museum Of The Confederacy 150th Talks. Details click [here](#)

- **September 2014** -New Market Heights

**September 2014** - The National Civil War Museum launches the 150th Civil War Fall Lecture series for four consecutive Saturdays in our education gallery, 1:00pm-2:00pm. These lectures are included in the cost of admission and Free to members.

- **September 6, 2014** – “1864 Photo Extravaganza!” presented by Garry Adelman. Join us as we welcome Garry Adelman for a lively Civil War photography extravaganza.
- **September 13, 2014** - “The Overland Campaign 1864” presented by Gordon Rhea, who will take a critical look at the Overland Campaign, that test of will between the two best generals on each side of the Civil War, Grant and Lee.
- **September 20, 2014** – “The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) in the Civil War” presented by George Wunderlich. We will look at the roles of organizations like the Sanitary Commission, Christian Commission, and others, to see how ordinary citizens pool resources to bring relief and assistance to soldiers in the field....for better and for worse.
- **September 27, 2014** - “Conserving Artifacts from the H.L. Hunley Submarine” presented by Johanna Rivera-Diaz. The talk will begin with a brief description of the sinking of the submarine and cover the conservation of the artifacts that were excavated from the submarine.

**The Williamsburg Battlefield** (historic) made the Preservation Virginia "most endangered sites list". Such a listing wouldn't have been possible without the support and encouragement from the round table. The idea of the list is to bring awareness and interpretation to the sites and not to shame or insult the developers or land owners. We encourage those that use Facebook to "friend" our site which is also listed below.

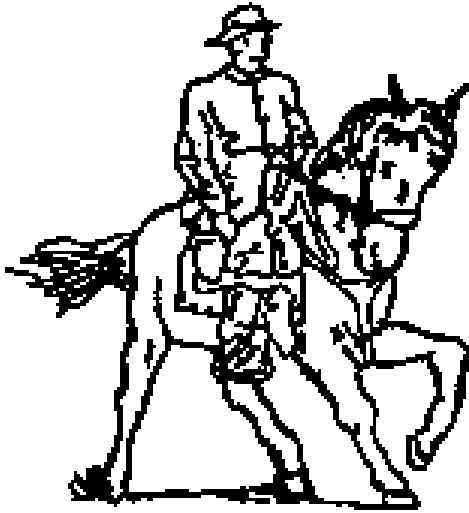
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# *Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable*

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Volume XXXIX Number 2

October 21, 2014

## **Drew Gruber "Preservation of Williamsburg Battlefield Sites"**

The October meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of October (October 21st)\*\* at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street. Drew Gruber will present "Preservation of Williamsburg Battlefield Sites".

As Private Edwin Brown of the 1st Massachusetts Infantry said, "The Battle of Williamsburg has received less importance in history than it has merited." 152 years later Ed's quote is more pertinent than ever. Listed as one of Virginia's 'Most Endangered Sites' in 2014 the battle's continued recognition as one of the most pivotal of the war has been met with continued misinterpretation and subsequent neglect. Drew's presentation entitled; "Preserving Williamsburg's Battlefield" will utilize new research and maps to highlight the areas which have been lost to development as well as the opportunities which still exist for preservation and interpretation. Additionally he will discuss the ongoing efforts of the Williamsburg Battlefield Association as well as the battlefield's value and relevance to our community.

Drew Gruber holds his B.A. in Historic Preservation and a M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning. He was the 2013 Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellow in Texas Civil War History and is working on a biography of Decimus Et Ultimus Barziza. He has authored several

articles about the Battle of Williamsburg and has been actively involved in the Williamsburg Battlefield Association. He was recently appointed by the Governor to serve a four year term on the Commonwealth's Board of Historic Resources. He resides in Williamsburg with his wife Kate.

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- December 16, 2014 - Peggy Vogtsberger - "The Battle of Nashville"

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**2014** Walking historic tours of Isle of Wight. Click [here](#) for details.

**October 24-26, 2014** - Exclusive Bus Tour Highlights North Carolina's Pivotal Role in the Civil War. The exclusive Civil War 150th Anniversary Bus Tour Oct. 24-26 will visit locales where great events occurred and is part of the North Carolina Civil War 150 commemoration, led by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Historian Mark Bradley, considered the authoritative source on North Carolina and the Civil War, will be the on-bus tour guide, sharing talks and presentations.

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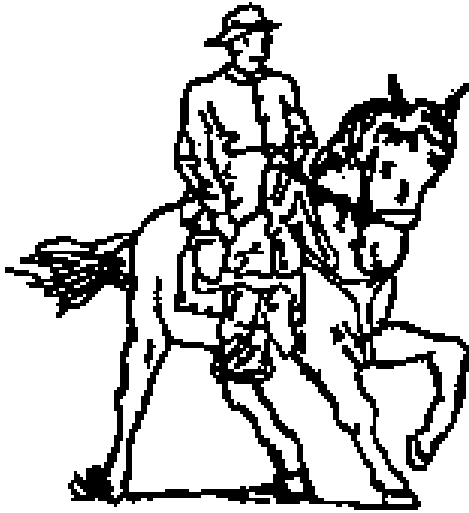
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**November 18, 2014**

**Col. Edward Freyfogle (Ret)  
"Civil War Surgery"**

The November meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of November (November 18th)\*\* at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street.

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**Upcoming Outside Events**

**2014** Walking historic tours of Isle of Wight. Click [here](#) for details.

**November 13, 2014** - "Ours is no longer a divided country": The path to reconciliation in the Shenandoah Valley. Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown from 7-9pm. Professor Jonathan Noyalas will

explore the challenges and factors that made reconciliation possible in the post war Shenandoah Valley. For more information click [here](#).

**December 5-6, 2014** - Candlelight Tours - Stonewall Jackson's HQ at Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters Museum, Winchester. Experience a Confederate Christmas at Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters Museum. For more information click [here](#).

**December 5-6, 2014** - "Capt. Flagg's US Quartermaster City: Prospects of Peace". Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, Harper's Ferry from 11am-5pm. Join over 175 living history volunteers as they help present park visitors with a unique window into the magnitude and scope of Captain Flagg's 1864 US Quartermaster city. For more information click [here](#).

**December 6, 2014** - Christmas on the Bushong Farm at Virginia Museum of the Civil War, New Market from 10am-4pm. Costumed historical interpreters at the Park's Bushong Farm will share traditions of the season from the mid-19th century, including the visit by the Belsnickel. For more information visit the Museum's website [here](#).

**December 12-30, 2014 (selected days)** - Christmas Time in the Valley - Candlelight Tours at Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown. Celebrate Belle Grove's "Christmas in the Valley" complete with themed decorations by regional garden clubs. For more information click [here](#).

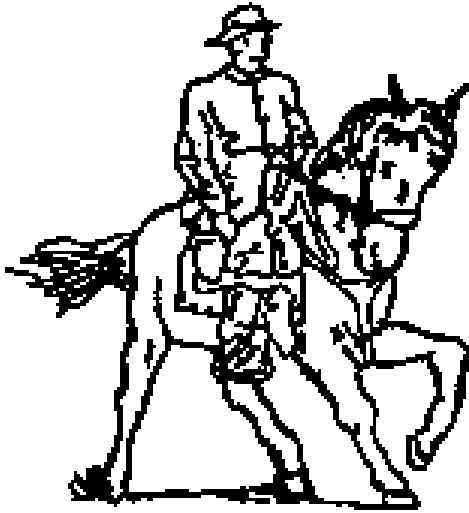
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Volume XXXIX Number 4

December 16, 2014

**Peggy Vogtsberger  
"The Battle of Nashville – Annihilation of an  
Army"**

The December meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of December (December 16th)\*\* at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street.

Join us on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville (the second day of the battle was fought December 16, 1864) as Peggy Vogtsberger presents a Power Point program on the battle, fought December 15-16, 1864. This is Peggy's follow-up on her previous program two years ago on The Battle of Franklin. She continues the story of the end of Hood's ill-fated Tennessee Campaign of 1864. Peggy will present the reasons why Hood entered into Tennessee and what he hoped to accomplish. She will tell how General George H. Thomas, who commanded at Nashville, prepared for this battle. As always, she will go into some tactical detail so we can understand how the battle unfolded. This was one of the most complete Union victories of the Civil War. Her slides will consist of photographs of what little is left of the battlefield today, as well as contemporary photographs. She will end the talk with a strategic understanding of what the results of the two day battle were for both sides.

Peggy Vogtsberger for years served as editor of the newsletter of the WCWRT, was past president and a Member of the Executive Board. She is the author of *A Family in Mosby's Confederacy: The Dulanys of Welbourne*. She founded the John Pelham Historical Association. Peggy learned of Private Frederick Vogtsberger of Co. H, 32nd Indiana Infantry, who as part of an "all-German" regiment fought at Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the Atlanta Campaign. Private Vogtsberger, as part of Buell's Army of the Ohio, was wounded on the second day of Shiloh, April 7, 1862. Last year after almost 30 years she returned to tour these battlefields with a different perspective, as she followed the footsteps of the 32nd Indiana. She has recently founded on Facebook a new group, The Society of the Army of the Cumberland. This was the name given by General George H. Thomas to the veterans of his army, and General Thomas was its first president. In less than two months, it already has 35 members, two who are published authors. She founded the Facebook group not as one who is an "expert" on the subject but one hopes to learn from others. Peggy has recently created for her family a brief history of the 32nd Indiana. She is working on a future talk about the 32nd Indiana as an example of the German immigrant experience in the Union army.

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## **Last Month**

Edward Freyfogle MD presented "Civil War Surgery". His slide presentation focused on the tools of the trade for doctors of the era, operating conditions in the field, and medical advances gained from the medical experiences on the battlefield. While the Union forces had many more medical staff than the Confederates, medical care quality in the south often exceeded that available to the Union forces.

Doctors of that era were often self taught through on the job training. The most significant medical advance from the war was the introduction of ambulance services and triage practices.

Edward Freyfogle MD was born and raised in the heart of the Land of Lincoln, and graduated from Lehigh University and received his medical degree from the University of Illinois. He served in the Illinois National Guard at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, and made a career as



a Urologist in the Army Medical Department, including multiple tours in Germany where he served as the chief of the Surgery Department and also at other overseas locations. He retired after 30 years of service and settled in Williamsburg, and has been active in our roundtable and has served as an officer in the Sons of Union Veterans.

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**Upcoming Meetings and Speakers**

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- **January 27, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** - Eric Campbell Eric Campbell "We scared the hell out of Abe Lincoln - Jubal Early's operations in summer of 1864"
- **February 17, 2015 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)** - "Civil War Ironclads": Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trip Series Film
- **March 31, 2015 (5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** – Patrick Schroeder "A visit to Appomattox with County Clerk George T. Piece"
- **April 28, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** - Preston Nuttall
- **May 26, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** - Brian Steel Wills

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**December 2014 – February 2015** - Museum of the Confederacy [www.moc.org/events](http://www.moc.org/events) Some programs for December 2014 and January and February 2015 are listed below. Check their site for details and reservations.

1. Museum in Richmond

- **January 9, 2015** - Railroad Communications in 1864
- **January 30, 2015** - Unionist in Virginia
- **February 21, 2015** - Symposium: Person of the Year

2. Museum at Appomattox

- **December 11, 2014** - Recollections of the Battle of the Crater
- **January 22, 2015** - What the Civil War is Considered the First Modern War
- **February 26, 2015** - Mc Neill's Rangers

**January 16-17, 2015** - Stonewall Jackson House Museum, Lexington. In honor of Lee-Jackson Day, the Stonewall Jackson House will be open to the public Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17. Tours are on the hour and half-hour with the last tour at 4:30 p.m.

**January 21, 2015** - Stonewall Jackson House Museum, Lexington. Help to celebrate Stonewall Jackson's 191st Birthday! FREE tours of the home will be given on the hour and the half-hour with the last tour at 3:30 p.m. Complimentary hot cider and birthday cake will be provided.

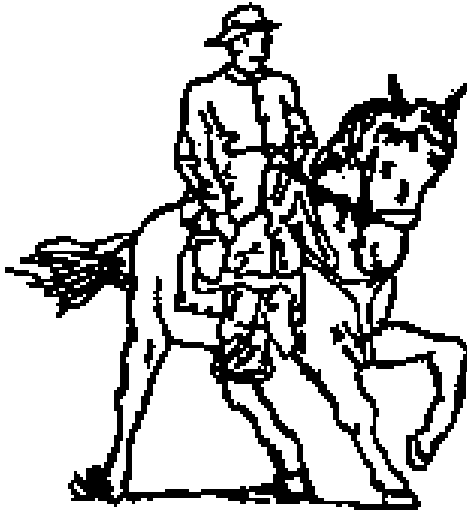
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Volume XXXIX Number 5

January 27, 2015

**Eric Campbell  
"We Scared Abe Lincoln like Hell – Jubal Early's  
Operations in the Summer of 1864"**

The January meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday of January (January 27th)\*\* at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street.

Eric Campbell will present "We Scared Abe Lincoln Like Hell - Jubal Early's Operations in the Summer of 1864" Eric will trace the independent operations of the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps from June through September of 1864. Robert E. Lee dispatched the Second Corps from the Richmond/Petersburg area, under the command of Jubal Early, in June to first drive a Union advance away from Lynchburg, then to clear the Shenandoah Valley of Union occupation, and to threaten Washington D.C. General Early achieved those objectives with unparalleled success and was able to maintain Confederate control of the Shenandoah Valley well into the autumn of 1864 before being forced southward by vastly superior numbers of Union forces.

Eric Campbell is the Chief of Interpretation at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. He has worked as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service for over 28 years, over 20 of those at

Gettysburg National Military Park. He has authored over two dozen articles and essays and the book, *"A Grand Terrible Drama": From Gettysburg to Petersburg, The Civil War Letters of Charles Wellington Reed.*

## **Last Month**

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**February 14-15, 2015** - The Last Stand on the Western Bank: 150th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson, Winnabow, N.C. [Details](#)

**March 13 - 15, 2015** - Appomattox/Longwood 16th Annual FREE Civil War Seminar. A three-day FREE Civil War Seminar!!! Great speakers on topics relating to 1865. Come for some or all programs. No reservation is need. Located at Longwood University Jarman Auditorium.

**March 21-22, 2015** North Carolina's Largest Civil War Re-enactment. In March 1865, 80,000 soldiers descended on the woodlands near the small village of Bentonville. Fighting waged for three days in what would become the largest Civil War battle fought in North Carolina. In March 2015, Bentonville Battlefield State Historic site will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the largest battle ever fought in North Carolina with a weekend chock-full of exciting activities for the entire family. [Details](#)

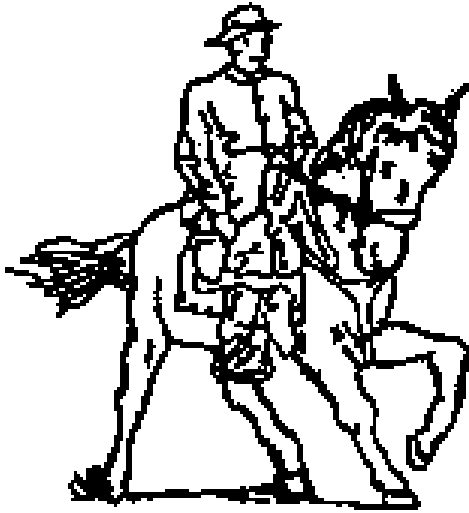
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*Williamsburg Civil War  
Roundtable*

**Meeting Place**

*Williamsburg*

Volume XXXIX Number 6

February 17, 2015

**“Civil War Ironclads”**

The February meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of February, (February 17<sup>th</sup>)\*\* at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street.

Mary Katherine, Michael Durling & Gina DeAngelis from Colonial Williamsburg will present a film, “Civil War Ironclads”: from Colonial Williamsburg’s Electronic Field Trip Series Films.

In the Civil War, both the Union and the Confederacy raced to build armored, steam-powered warships that were the ancestors of today’s navies. In our program, you can meet the people behind and aboard the “ironclads”—and relive the famous 1862 battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack (Virginia).

Civil War Ironclads (Colonial Williamsburg Productions, 2014) is an Electronic Field Trip—an interactive educational program with video, live television, and online components—created by Colonial Williamsburg Education Outreach and produced and broadcast by Colonial Williamsburg Productions. It premiered on March 13, 2014 on public television and cable educational channels nationwide.

Mary Katherine (M.K.) is a young lady reluctantly accompanying her dad, a Civil War buff, to the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. There she meets a young man, Philip Mackey, who knows enough about Civil War ironclads to pique M.K.'s interest in the past, which seems to come to life before her eyes as Philip speaks. When M.K. and her father visit The Mariners' Museum in Virginia, Philip appears again to accompany M.K. through the museum's USS Monitor center, and describes the Union/Confederate race to build the first ironclad ship. As Philip describes for her the battle of Hampton Roads and its significance, M.K. realizes that Philip's gift for making the ghosts of the past come to life ... makes a lot of sense.

Mike Durling is the Manager of Digital Media Services for Colonial Williamsburg Productions. He directs and edits video programs and manages the media archives and many aspects of digital media technology. For 35 years, he has worked in media production for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, during which time he's directed a dozen Electronic Field Trips, two of which have won Emmy Awards. He has a BA in radio, TV, and film from Temple University and an M.B.A from The College of William and Mary. Mike was the director and video editor for Civil War Ironclads, which premiered in March 2014.

Gina DeAngelis is the Senior Editor-Writer in Educational Media at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Gina holds a BA in theater and history and a master's in history. As a freelance writer, she wrote more than 60 published books and articles for young people, and in ten years with Colonial Williamsburg, a number of produced scripts for Emmy Award-winning Electronic Field Trips and other projects, including Yorktown (nominated), Founders or Traitors? (won), "The Gunpowder Incident," "Welcome to Jamestown," and The War of 1812, as well as the upcoming Three Colonies. Other major projects include multiple classroom lesson plans, The Idea of America high-school digital curriculum, and America: The Pocket Guide. Gina was the scriptwriter and teacher guide editor for Civil War Ironclads.

## **Last Month**

Eric Campbell presented “We Scared Abe Lincoln Like Hell - Jubal Early’s Operations in the Summer of 1864” Eric traced the independent operations of the Army of Northern Virginia’s Second Corps from June through September of 1864. Robert E. Lee dispatched the Second Corps from the Richmond/Petersburg area, under the command of Jubal Early, in June to first drive a Union advance away from Lynchburg, then to clear the Shenandoah Valley of Union occupation, and to threaten Washington D.C. General Early achieved those objectives with unparalleled success and was able to maintain Confederate control of the Shenandoah Valley well into the autumn of 1864 before being forced southward by vastly superior numbers of Union forces.

Eric Campbell is the Chief of Interpretation at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. He has worked as a Park Ranger for the National Park Service for over 28 years, over 20 of those at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has authored over two dozen articles and essays and the book, *“A Grand Terrible Drama”: From Gettysburg to Petersburg, The Civil War Letters of Charles Wellington Reed.*

**\*\*Note the change in date.**

**Dues for 2014-2015** are due. Dues for the year are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Please make checks payable to WCWRT.

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Secretary: Teri Teopke

Treasurer: John Hale

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## Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

**Please note beginning in January the meetings will be held on different Tuesdays of the month due to library scheduling**

- **March 31, 2015 (5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** – Patrick Schroeder "A Visit to Appomattox with County Clerk George T. Peers"
- **April 28, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** - Preston Nuttall
- **May 26, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)** - Brian Steel Wills

## Upcoming Outside Events

**February 2015** - Museum of the Confederacy [www.moc.org/events](http://www.moc.org/events)  
Some programs for December 2014 and January and February 2015 are listed below. Check their site for details and reservations.

3. Museum in Richmond

- **February 21, 2015** - Symposium: Person of the Year

4. Museum at Appomattox

- **February 26, 2015** - Mc Neill's Rangers

**February 14-15, 2015** - The Last Stand on the Western Bank: 150th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson, Winnabow, N.C. [Details](#)

**March 13 - 15, 2015** - Appomattox/Longwood 16th Annual FREE Civil War Seminar. A three-day FREE Civil War Seminar!!! Great speakers on topics relating to 1865. Come for some or all programs. No reservation is need. Located at Longwood University Jarman Auditorium.

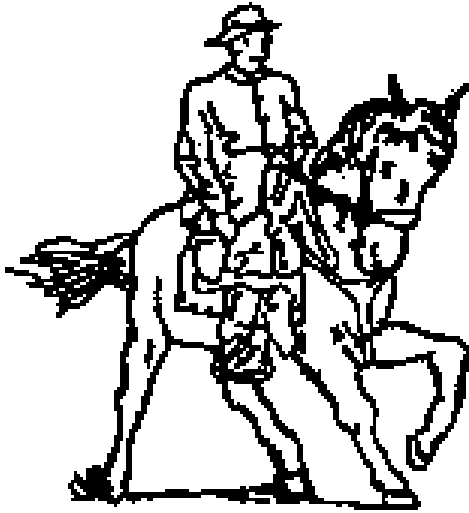
**March 21-22, 2015** North Carolina's Largest Civil War Re-enactment. In March 1865, 80,000 soldiers descended on the woodlands near the small village of Bentonville. Fighting waged for three days in what would become the largest Civil War battle fought in North Carolina. In March 2015, Bentonville Battlefield State Historic site will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the largest battle ever fought in North Carolina with a weekend chock-full of exciting activities for the entire family. [Details](#)

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**Volume XXXIX Number 7**

**March 31, 2015**

*“A Visit to Old Appomattox  
With County Clerk George Peers”*

The March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

Patrick Schroeder will present “A Visit to Old Appomattox With County Clerk George Peers”. Patrick will portray the persona of George Peers, a civilian resident of Appomattox Court House, who will provide eyewitness observations of the military operations and cessation of hostilities in the Appomattox area in April of 1865.

Journey back in time with the former sheriff and county clerk of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, George T. Peers, in a visit to old Appomattox. Attendees will experience a first-person, living history program taking them to Appomattox Court House in the summer of 1867 with Mr. Peers, who was born and raised in the county. He perhaps knew more than anyone about the area from his clerking duties, and he became known as the “Ambassador of Appomattox” as he liked to show visitors and curiosity seekers the sites and tell of the events connected with the surrender.

Mr. Peers will tell some of the early history of Appomattox County, about some of its famous citizens, and the war years leading up to that fateful April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House. Peers will give a recount of the arrival of the armies, the battles in and around the village on April 8 and 9, of Wilmer McLean and his house where the surrender took place, the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, Grant and Lee's meeting outside of his house on April 10, his visits with General Joshua Chamberlain and the surrender ceremony, and his thoughts about post-surrender Appomattox. Peers' narration about the trying days of April 1865 as the towns people were surrounded by nearly 100,000 soldiers, North and South, will take you back to a time when the future of the country was in the hands of two men, and the generosity and respect from Americans to Americans at the end of the nations' bloodiest conflict will speak volumes of the power of Appomattox. George Peers is portrayed by veteran, living history interpreter and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Historian, Patrick Schroeder. The program will last approximately one hour.

Mr. Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was raised in Utica, New York. In the spring of 1990, he graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994-1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author, historian, and tour guide. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

## **Last Month**

The February meeting was held on Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> due to snow storm closings.

Michael Durling & Gina DeAngelis from Colonial Williamsburg will present a film, “Civil War Ironclads”: from Colonial Williamsburg’s Electronic Field Trip Series Films.

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**Upcoming Meetings and Speakers**

- April 28, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) Chris Kolakowski - "The Campaign and Battle of Stones River"
- May 26, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) - Brian Steel Wills "Nathan Bedford Forrest"

## Upcoming Outside Events

### March 2015 American Civil War Museum

- **Saturdays at 12:00 pm - Camp Life of the Common Soldier.** Only a small amount of Civil War soldiers' time was spent on the battlefield. What were they doing when they weren't fighting? Visit with costumed interpreters portraying Union and Confederate soldiers to find out! Program includes a black powder firing.
- **Saturdays at 2:00 pm - From Foundry to Fire!** Learn about the importance of the cannon manufacturing capabilities of Tredegar Ironworks, as well as, the role field artillery played in the Civil War. A costumed artillery crew will explain the process of making and testing the cannon and then demonstrate its use on the battlefield.
- **Saturdays at 1:00 pm American Lives, Richmond Voices: Cannon, Cartridges & Canals.** Join living historians as they portray three fascinating Richmonders in 1863! Tredegar Iron Works owner-operator, Joseph Reid Anderson; Tredegar's canal fleet manager, William Brackens; and Confederate States Laboratory worker, Mary Ryan, will bring wartime Richmond to life in this exciting interactive program.
- **Sunday, March 15 - 1:00 pm - Gallery Tour: Fateful Lightning: Religion and the Civil War.** Join museum educator Sean Kane for a gallery tour focusing on the role religion played in the American Civil War. From the bible's use to justify and condemn slavery to the religious revivals that swept up soldiers in camp, this tour will highlight artifacts that tell the fascinating story of a war in which "both sides read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other." Buy your tickets here.

2015 N.C. Department of Cultural Resources visit

[www.NCCulture.com/CivilWar](http://www.NCCulture.com/CivilWar)

- **March 7 - CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center, Kinston.** Grand Opening. A celebration of a proper home for the CSS Neuse featuring live music, military and civilian displays and new exhibits. Talks by historians Jeffrey Crow, Andrew Duppsstadt and author Wade Sokolosky, musket and artillery drills and more. In March 1865, Confederate forces torched the

Neuse to prevent its capture by Union forces, and it rested at the bottom of the Neuse River until the 1960s. In 2012, it was moved from an exposed site to an enclosed building where original artifacts and illustrations now help the new museum take shape. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.

- **March 21-22** - Bentonville Battlefield, Four Oaks..150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville. Experience cannon reverberations on the original battlefield of 1865. Saturday: "The Fight for Morris Farm;" Sunday: "Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee and Morgan's Stand." See more than 3,500 re-enactors in battle re-enactments that reflect the last Confederate offensive to stop Gen. William Sherman's Carolinas Campaign. Talks by historians Mark Bradley, Mark Smith, David Cecelski and others. Vendors, music and lectures free. Tickets required for battles daily: \$12 adults; \$6 children; two day tickets \$20/\$10. After March 15 tickets \$15 for adults, \$10 children; no combo passes available.
- **April 25-26** - Bennett Place, Durham.. 150th Surrender Commemoration. Re-enactment of surrender negotiations between Union Gen. William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph Johnston, with military escorts. Here ended the Civil War with the surrender of nearly 90,000 troops representing the armies of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Included are military and civilian living history programs, lectures, music, final stacking of Arms for the Army of Tennessee. A week of events that includes the opening of a new museum gallery April 17, preliminary negotiation April 17, and more. Ticket prices vary, some programming free.

**March 7, April 4, June 6, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7** - Learn about the Battle of Smithfield. The tour begins with a presentation at the Isle of Wight County Museum. [details](#)

**March 7, 2015** - A battlefield tour, music, lectures and artifacts, rarely if ever seen, will be part of the Grand Opening Ceremony and ribbon cutting for the CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center March 7 at 10 a.m. in Kinston, N.C. The free public opening will be a feast of entertainment and information

**March 13 - 15, 2015** - Appomattox/Longwood 16th Annual FREE Civil War Seminar. A three-day FREE Civil War Seminar!!! Great speakers on topics relating to 1865. Come for some or all programs.

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**March 22, 2015** - The Hennage auditorium (Dewitt Wallace Museum CW) the Tidewater Virginia Historical Society (TVHS ) will host John Quarstein who will speak on the Impact of the Civil War on Tidewater Virginia. The talk is free and open to the public. For more information see our website - TV-HS.org.

**May 16, 2015** - Upcoming Civil War symposium titled "After the War" at the historic Old Manassas Courthouse, featuring six historians focusing on the end of the Civil War. [details](#)

**August 7 - 9, 2015** - Second Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge [details](#)

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Volume XXXIX Number 8

April 28, 2015

**Patrick Schroeder**

*“A Visit to Old Appomattox  
With County Clerk George Peers”*

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

Patrick Schroeder will present “A Visit to Old Appomattox With County Clerk George Peers”. Patrick will portray the persona of George Peers, a civilian resident of Appomattox Court House, who will provide eyewitness observations of the military operations and cessation of hostilities in the Appomattox area in April of 1865.

Journey back in time with the former sheriff and county clerk of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, George T. Peers, in a visit to old Appomattox. Attendees will experience a first-person, living history program taking them to Appomattox Court House in the summer of 1867 with Mr. Peers, who was born and raised in the county. He perhaps knew more than anyone about the area from his clerking duties, and he became known as the “Ambassador of Appomattox” as he liked to show visitors and curiosity seekers the sites and tell of the events connected with the surrender.

Mr. Peers will tell some of the early history of Appomattox County, about some of its famous citizens, and the war years leading up to that fateful April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House. Peers will give a recount of the arrival of the armies, the battles in and around the village on April 8 and 9, of Wilmer McLean and his house where the surrender took place, the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, Grant and Lee's meeting outside of his house on April 10, his visits with General Joshua Chamberlain and the surrender ceremony, and his thoughts about post-surrender Appomattox. Peers' narration about the trying days of April 1865 as the towns people were surrounded by nearly 100,000 soldiers, North and South, will take you back to a time when the future of the country was in the hands of two men, and the generosity and respect from Americans to Americans at the end of the nations' bloodiest conflict will speak volumes of the power of Appomattox. George Peers is portrayed by veteran, living history interpreter and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Historian, Patrick Schroeder. The program will last approximately one hour.

Mr. Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was raised in Utica, New York. In the spring of 1990, he graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994-1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author, historian, and tour guide. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

## **Last Month**

The March meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. Chris Kolakowski presented "The Campaign and Battle of Stones River"

On the last day of 1862 and the first two days of 1863, the Union Army of the Cumberland and the Confederate Army of Tennessee clashed outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in an engagement that was the Civil War's bloodiest by percentage of loss. This presentation will discuss the battle and its context, and highlight its importance to the Civil War's course.

Christopher L. Kolakowski was born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York in Albany.

Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, the New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Kentucky State Parks, and the U.S. Army. He has written and spoken on various aspects of military history from 1775 to the present. He has published two books with the History Press: *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling for the Bluegrass* and *The Stones River and Tullahoma campaign: This Army Does Not Retreat*. The U.S. Army will shortly publish his volume on the 1862 Virginia Campaigns as part of its sesquicentennial series on the Civil War. He is currently working on a study of the 1941-42 Philippine Campaign, which is scheduled for release in late 2016.

Chris comes to Norfolk having served as Director of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership at Fort Knox, KY from 2009 to 2013. He became the Director of the MacArthur Memorial on September 16, 2013.

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## **Upcoming Meetings and Speakers**

- May 26, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) - Brian Steel Wills “Nathan Bedford Forrest”

## **Upcoming Outside Events**

**April 8 - 12, 2015** - 150th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse [overview](#) and daily [schedule](#) of presenters.

**April 11, 2015** - Performances and Open Houses to Celebrate Women’s History Month at Clara Barton National Historic Site and Glen Echo Park. [Details](#)

**April 25-26, 2015** - Bennett Place, Durham.. 150th Surrender Commemoration. Re-enactment of surrender negotiations between Union Gen. William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph Johnston, with military escorts. Here ended the Civil War with the surrender of nearly 90,000 troops representing the armies of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Included are military and civilian living history programs, lectures, music, final stacking of Arms for the Army of Tennessee. A week of events that includes the opening of a new museum gallery April 17, preliminary negotiation April 17, and more. N.C. Department of Cultural Resources visit [www.NCCulture.com/CivilWar](http://www.NCCulture.com/CivilWar)

**May 15 - 17, 2015** - the Appomattox Campaign Tour [details](#)

**May 16, 2015** - Upcoming Civil War symposium titled “After the War” at the historic Old Manassas Courthouse, featuring six historians focusing on the end of the Civil War. [details](#)



**June 6, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7** - Learn about the Battle of Smithfield. The tour begins with a presentation at the Isle of Wight County Museum. [details](#)

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Volume XXXIX Number 9

May 26, 2015

**Brian Steel Wills**

*“Nathan Bedford Forrest”*

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

Brian Steel Wills will present “Nathan Bedford Forrest”. Dubbed the “Wizard of the Saddle,” and “That Devil Forrest,” Nathan Bedford Forrest rose from private to lieutenant general in the Confederate cavalry during the American Civil War. His application of common sense tactics and ferocious combat leadership by example won for him a reputation as one of the finest commanders of mounted troops on either side in the conflict. Forrest’s most popular maxim was reputedly to reach the battlefield, “first, with the most men,” although his success lay more accurately in the standing order, “Forward men, and mix with ‘em.” His propensity for fighting is reflected in his claim to have slain one more opponent in hand-to-hand combat than the twenty-nine horses shot from beneath him in the war. Yet, he also applied a form of psychological warfare against his opponents that allowed him to defeat opponents with minimal bloodshed. Whether through intimidation or superior tactics and pressure, Forrest achieved remarkable military success.

Born on July 13, 1821 near Chapel Hill, Tennessee, Forrest moved as a young man to Mississippi. Achieving wealth, largely through the slave trade, he established himself as a planter and became a noted personality in Memphis, Tennessee, by the time of the war. Despite a limited formal education, Forrest quickly demonstrated his prowess as a leader. He secured a reputation for bold action at Fort Donelson in February 1862 when he rode out of the latter rather than surrender with the rest of the command and achieved his first significant success as a raider at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on July 13, 1862, where he succeeded in capturing 1,200 men and ample military stores.

These achievements continued in 1862 and 1863 as Forrest's quick strikes often disrupted Union lines of communication and transportation. In April and May, he also demonstrated his wizardry in pursuit of Union raiders under Colonel Abel Streight in North Alabama and subsequently performed the more traditional roles of screening and scouting for the Army of Tennessee in the Tullahoma Campaign and in the fighting at Chickamauga.

Transferring to Mississippi after a fiery confrontation with his superior, Braxton Bragg, Forrest also received a promotion to major general in December 1863. Throughout the spring and summer of 1864, he remained active in the region, engaging W. Sooy Smith in a running fight at Okolona, Mississippi, participating in his most controversial military action when his men attacked and overwhelmed a garrison of Tennessee Unionists and African American troops defending Fort Pillow, north of Memphis, defeating a much larger force of Union cavalry and infantry under Samuel D. Sturgis at Brice's Cross Roads, suffering a wound and setback at Harrisburg or Tupelo, and turning back another Union advance into Mississippi with a sudden dash into Memphis. In the autumn of 1864, the Confederate cavalryman finally moved against William T. Sherman's supply lines in northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, in successful operations around Johnsonville, Tennessee, before serving with John Bell Hood in the disastrous Nashville Campaign.

Promoted to lieutenant general in February 1865, Forrest attempted unsuccessfully to protect Selma, Alabama, from a powerful Union thrust led by James H. Wilson in the spring of 1865, before finally surrendering his command at Gainesville, Alabama, in May. Nathan Bedford Forrest had emerged from the war with near legendary

status as a cavalry commander. Yet, he never escaped the tarnish of his pre-war slave-trading activities, his war-time connection to Fort Pillow, or his post-war affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan. Forrest died in Memphis, on October 29, 1877.

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War. His most recent publications are *The River was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014), *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013) and *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012), which was the recipient of the 2013 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award for the best book on a Civil War topic for the year 2012 presented by the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta.

His biography of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* is currently in reprint as *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest* (University Press of Kansas). This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

Dr. Wills also authored, *The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia*, released in October, 2001, and *No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise*, (2004), both by the University Press of Virginia. *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* appeared in 2006 with Rowman and Littlefield. An updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (Virginia) came out in 2011.

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He is descended from Charles Hasker, a Confederate officer who saw service on the CSS Virginia and the submarine Hunley before its final encounter with USS Housatonic.

## **Last Month**

Patrick Schroeder presented “A Visit to Old Appomattox With County Clerk George Peers”. Patrick will portray the persona of George Peers, a civilian resident of Appomattox Court House, who will provide eyewitness observations of the military operations and cessation of hostilities in the Appomattox area in April of 1865.

Journey back in time with the former sheriff and county clerk of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, George T. Peers, in a visit to old Appomattox. Attendees will experience a first-person, living history program taking them to Appomattox Court House in the summer of 1867 with Mr. Peers, who was born and raised in the county. He perhaps knew more than anyone about the area from his clerking duties, and he became known as the “Ambassador of Appomattox” as he liked to show visitors and curiosity seekers the sites and tell of the events connected with the surrender.

Mr. Peers told some of the early history of Appomattox County, about some of its famous citizens, and the war years leading up to that fateful April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House. Peers will give a recount of the arrival of the armies, the battles in and around the village on April 8 and 9, of Wilmer McLean and his house where the surrender took place, the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, Grant and Lee’s meeting outside of his house on April 10, his visits with General Joshua Chamberlain and the surrender ceremony, and his thoughts about post-surrender Appomattox. Peers’ narration about the trying days of April 1865 as the towns people were surrounded by nearly 100,000 soldiers, North and South, will take you back to a time when the future of the country was in the hands of two men, and the generosity and respect from Americans to Americans at the end of the nations’ bloodiest conflict will speak volumes of the power of Appomattox.

Mr. Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was raised in Utica, New York. In the spring of 1990, he graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About*

Lee's Surrender, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994-1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author, historian, and tour guide. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

**Dues for 2014-2015** are due. Dues for the year are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Please make checks payable to WCWRT.

**2014-2015 Officers of WCWRT:**

President: Bill Miller

Vice-President: Gene Danko

Secretary: Teri Teopke

Treasurer: John Hale

The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers, the immediate past president and other members appointed by the incoming president. Those members include Norm Cooper, Tom Lamb and Michael Moore.

**Upcoming Meetings and Speakers**

The Civil War Roundtable will next meet on September 22, 2015

**Upcoming Outside Events**

**April and May** – NC Department of Cultural resources presents celebrations of the war's end and reuniting the states. [details](#)

**May 15 - 17, 2015** - the Appomattox Campaign Tour [details](#)

**May 16, 2015** - Upcoming Civil War symposium titled "After the War" at the historic Old Manassas Courthouse, featuring six historians focusing on the end of the Civil War. [details](#)

**June 6, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7** - Learn about the Battle of Smithfield. The tour begins with a presentation at the Isle of Wight County Museum. [details](#)

**August 7 - 9, 2015** - Second Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge [details](#)

**Essay Contest Winner** The James City Cavalry is very proud of their 2015 Lt. Col. Allen College Scholarship Essay winner. Miss. Lauren Bridewell of Warhill High School was awarded her \$1000 scholarship at their April meeting. [essay](#)

Visit the **Williamsburg Battlefield Association**

(<http://www.williamsburgbattlefieldassociation.org/>)

(<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsburgBattlefieldAssociation>)

WEBSITE: Be sure to frequently visit the site for newsletter info, announcements, future and past speakers, and an up to date calendar of events in the Civil War world. It's available anytime you need the info. <http://www.wcwrt.org>.