

Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable
2016 Newsletters



*Williamsburg Civil War
Roundtable*

Meeting Place
Williamsburg

Volume XL Number 1

September 22, 2015

J. Michael Moore

“The Atlanta Campaign”

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

J. Michael Moore is presenting a program on the Atlanta Campaign. As a part of General in Chief U.S. Grant’s grand strategy for 1864, Major General William T. Sherman’s Western armies were to maneuver from Chattanooga against General Joseph E. Johnston’s Army of Tennessee toward Atlanta with the objective of destroying Johnston’s army and the Confederate interior war industries. By 1864, Atlanta was an important hub in the Confederate war machine second only to Richmond as an arsenal, manufacturing, and rail center. Atlanta was also known as the “Gate City to the South” guarding the interior of the Deep South. Moore will discuss the background, personalities, and ramifications of the Atlanta Campaign.

J. Michael Moore is the curator for Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation. Mr. Moore received a bachelor of arts in history from Christopher Newport University and a master of arts in history from Old Dominion University. Moore has led battlefield tours in Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. In addition, he is a

popular lecturer for CNU's LifeLong Learning Society. Mr. Moore has also co-authored two books – *The Peninsula Campaign of 1862: A Military Analysis* in 2005 and *Yorktown's Civil War Siege: Drums Along the Warwick* in 2012. Moreover, Michael has served as the editor and photographic editor for eleven books and written articles for *Virginia Cavalcade*, *North & South*, and *Military Collector & Historian*. In recognition of his work in public history, the Governor of Kentucky commissioned Moore a Kentucky Colonel in 2014. He is a Newport News native and resides in Historic Yorktown.

Last Month

Brian Steel Wills presented "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.

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.

Dues for 2015-2016 are due. Dues for the year are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Please make checks payable to WCWRT. Registration [form](#)

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- October 27, 2015 - Erick Bush - "Selma - Alabama's Arsenal City in the Civil War"
- November 24, 2015 - Dr. James I. Robertson - "Robert E. Lee - The Postwar Years"
- December 15, 2015 - Carson Hudson - "The President is Dead! A Photographic Study of the Lincoln Assassination"
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- March 22, 2016 - Matthew Laird: "Searching for Slabtown: The Archaeology of Hampton's Grand Contraband Camp"
- April 26, 2016: Ulysses s. Grant: "The Overland Campaign - Forty Days in Hell"

Upcoming Outside Events

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](#)

September 2015 - The National Civil War Museum (Harrisburg, PA) announces the speakers for the 2015 Civil War Fall Lecture Series. The Lectures will be held Saturdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm in the Education Gallery, first floor. The Civil War Fall Lecture Series is included in the cost of admission and free to members of the Museum.

- **September 05** - Garry Adelman presents "1865 and Beyond: The people, places and events that created the legacy of the Civil War." This program will show case unique photographic images of the period.
- **September 12** - Carl Westmoreland presents "The 13th Amendment—the Second Step of the Ongoing Journey to Full Citizenship".
- **September 19** - Dr. Brian Mathew Jordan presents "The War Over the Peace: Reconstruction After the Civil War."
- **September 26** - Author and Historian Kevin M. Levin presents "Black Confederates Out of the Attic and Into the Mainstream"

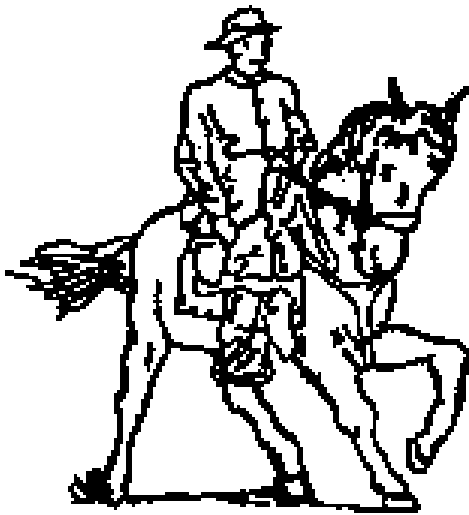
Essay Contest Winner The James City Cavalry is very proud of their 2015 Lt. Col. Allen College Scholarship Essay winner. The Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable co-sponsored this contest. Ms. Lauren Bridewell of Warhill High School was awarded her \$1000 scholarship at their April meeting. [essay](#)

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

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Volume XL Number 2

October 27, 2015

Erick Bush

“Selma-Alabama’s Arsenal City in the Civil War”

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

This month’s meeting will feature Erick Bush presenting “Selma - Alabama’s Arsenal City in the Civil War”. The city of Selma, Alabama was transformed into the Confederacy’s second most important war manufacturing center, outside of Richmond. Key war support industrial activities were located in Selma due to its secure location in the interior of Alabama. The Civil War in Selma also has critical connections to Virginia, through the Civil War experiences of Gatesby Jones, Josiah Gorgas, and Franklin Buchanan. Selma was essential to the Confederate war effort, especially with the construction of the CSS Tennessee ironclad and the Brooke cannon. Several of Union President Abraham Lincoln’s Confederate relatives called Selma home. The city of Selma provided critical support to Confederate operations in the field, especially in places such as Mobile, Charleston, and Atlanta. An impressive network of ironworks was developed in North and Central Alabama to supply the sprawling Selma Arsenal, Ordnance Works, and Navy Yard. A series of well engineered earthworks and fortifications were constructed around

Selma to defend this critical industrial center. As a testament to the importance of Selma, it produced “half of the cannon and two thirds of the fixed ammunition” for the Confederacy in 1864-1865. The largest cavalry raid of the Civil War, under the command of Major General James H. Wilson, targeted and destroyed Selma during the final stages of the Civil War.

Erick Bush is a Civil War historian, with a specialization on the Civil War in Central Alabama. His particular areas of focus are Alabama’s Confederate ironclads and Wilson’s Cavalry Raid in Central Alabama. He has previously lectured on a number of Alabama and Virginia related topics to Civil War Round Table and history enthusiast groups in England, Ohio, Alabama and Texas. His first talk on the Civil War in Alabama was at the Royal Army Museum in London in 2005. He has a recurring article series entitled “Letter >From Civil War Alabama” in the magazine “Crossfire”. He recently developed a web page which brings together key aspects of the Battle of Big Bethel. This year, Erick was one of the featured speakers at an American Civil War Conference in the United Kingdom, with talks entitled “Alabama in 1865: The Confederacy’s Final Chapter” and “Jefferson Davis at Fort Monroe”. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the University of Alabama, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. He is a member of the American Civil War Round Table (UK) and Williamsburg Civil War Round Table.

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J. Michael Moore presented a program on the Atlanta Campaign. As a part of General in Chief U.S. Grant’s grand strategy for 1864, Major General William T. Sherman’s Western armies were to maneuver from Chattanooga against General Joseph E. Johnston’s Army of Tennessee toward Atlanta with the objective of destroying Johnston’s army and the Confederate interior war industries. By 1864, Atlanta was an important hub in the Confederate war machine second only to Richmond as an arsenal, manufacturing, and rail center. Atlanta was also known as the “Gate City to the South” guarding the interior of the Deep South. Moore will discuss the background, personalities, and ramifications of the Atlanta Campaign.

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Upcoming Outside Events

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](#)

October 16-18, 2015 - While you're at the battlefield, be sure to take advantage of the host of programs commemorating the 151st Anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek (fought on October 19, 1864). For more information, see the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation website [here](#), Belle Grove Plantation's website [here](#), or view and download Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park's outstanding 24-page commemorative event guide, "Remembering Cedar Creek," by clicking [here](#).

April 6-9, 2016 – In 1864, the Civil War turned to “total war” – and the world turned to fire. The effects were especially dramatic in Georgia, where the Atlanta Campaign was followed by Sherman’s March to the Sea; and in Virginia, where the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign included “The Burning” of the Valley. In April the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) will look back at those events and their aftershocks with a special four-day conference in Atlanta, Georgia. [details](#)

Essay Contest The James City Cavalry is sponsoring their 2016 Lt. Col. Allen College Scholarship Essay in conjunction with the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable and the United Daughters of the Confederacy- Williamsburg. For contest rules and details [click](#) here.

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November 24, 2015

Dr. James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr.

“Robert E. Lee – The Postwar Years”

The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

Dr. Robertson will present – “Robert E. Lee – The Postwar Years. Robert E. Lee has traditionally been regarded as a leader in fostering postwar reconciliation between North and South, That has been a major reason for the national admiration in which he is held. Recently, however, revisionists have charged that Lee harbored a deep anger at having to surrender, and that this anger proved a hindrance to the new union that came from the Civil War. Dr. Robertson will present his interpretation of Lee's conduct after the gunfire ceased.

One of the most distinguished names in Civil War history, Dr. Robertson served as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission in the 1960s and worked with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He then taught 44 years at Virginia Tech, where his upper division course on the Civil War era attracted 300 or more students per semester and made it the largest class of its kind in the nation. He received every teaching award given by Virginia

Tech. At his retirement in 2011, the University named him Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.

The Danville, VA, native is the author or editor of more than 40 books, including biographies of Gens. Robert E. Lee and A. P. Hill, several works on the common soldiers, and three studies written for young readers. His massive biography of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson won eight national awards and was used as the base for the Ted Turner/Warner Bros. mega-movie, "Gods and Generals." Robertson was chief historical consultant for the film.

The recipient of every major award given in Civil War history, and a lecturer of national acclaim, Dr. Robertson is probably more in demand as a speaker than anyone else in the Civil War field.

He holds a Ph.D. degree from Emory University and honorary doctorates from Randolph-Macon College and Shenandoah University.

Robertson is a charter member (by Senate appointment) of Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and is actively engaged in the state's sesquicentennial observances.

He is the Father of the traditional state song, "Our Great Virginia," approved by the General Assembly in March, 2015.

Robertson has just completed AFTER THE CIVIL WAR published by National Geographic Society October 2015. His annotated edition of John B. Jones's A REBEL WAR CLERK'S DIARY debuted at MOC in Appomattox on September 26 in two volumes published by the University of Kansas Press.

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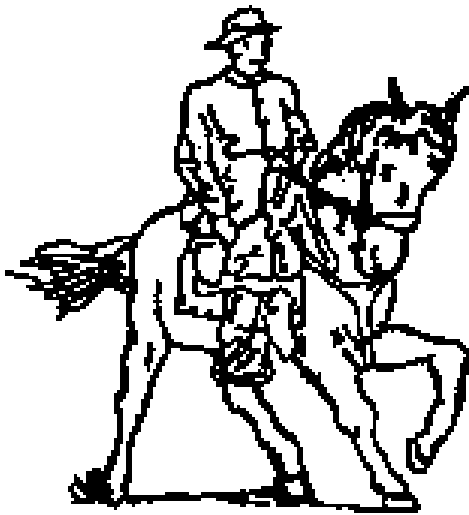
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Volume XL Number 4

December 15, 2015

Carson Hudson

“The President is Dead”

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

The December speaker is Carson Hudson. Carson will present “The President is Dead! A Photographic Study of the Lincoln Assassination”. Join historian Carson Hudson as he tells the story of President Lincoln’s assassination through the examination and analysis of period photographs.

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.

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- May 24, 2016 – John Quarstein "The Battle of Mobile Bay"

Upcoming Outside Events

December 12, 2015 – "Christmas on the Monitor". Enjoy a themed Christmas dinner at the Mariner's Museum. ([details](#))

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

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Volume XL Number 5

January 26, 2016

Chris Mackowski

“That Furious Struggle - Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy”

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 7pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 515 Scotland Street.

The January speaker is Chris Mackowski, Ph.D. He will present "That Furious Struggle - Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy". Chris is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University. He also works as a historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. With Kris White, he is co-founder of Emerging Civil War. Together, they have co-authored *Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House*; *Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg*; *The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson*; *Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*; and *Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem*

Church. He's also written books on the battles of Wilderness and Chancellorsville. Mackowski and White have written for Civil War Times and America's Civil War and have co-authored monograph-length articles on Spotsylvania for Blue & Gray.

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Upcoming Outside Events

February 6, 2016 - "After Appomattox". The seventeenth annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University free civil war seminar. ([details](#))

February 6, 2016 - The Civil War in Williamsburg led by J. Michael Moore, curator, Lee Hall Mansion. Walk to the two earthworks within New Quarter Park. Learn more about the Peninsular Campaign battles of 1862. York County Parks and recreation 757-890-3500.

February 20, 2016 - American Civil War Museum presents its 2016 symposium, “The Road From Appomattox”. [details](#)

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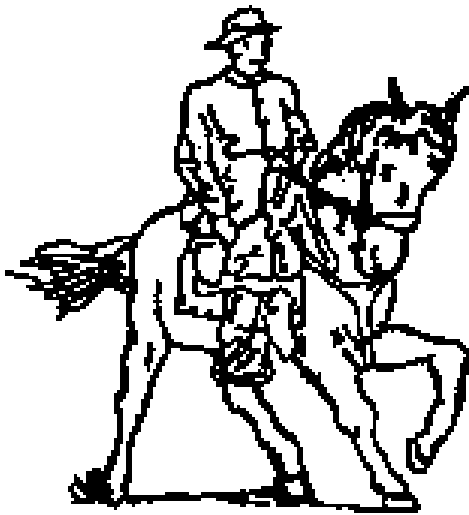
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Volume XL Number 6

February 16, 2016

Peggy Vogtsberger

**“An All German Regiment-
The 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry”**

The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Our guest speaker Peggy Vogtsberger will present "The 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, an all-German regiment". This regiment consisted of German immigrants, many who fled Germany as a result of the failed Revolution of 1848. Most had been in this country slightly more than a decade when the Civil War began. Peggy will discuss what motivated these men to endure three years of hardship and death to fight for a country not their own. She will discuss how they perceived their experiences as soldiers differently than those of "the Americans." The regiment, enlisted for three years, was part of the Army of the Ohio and later the Army of the Cumberland. They fought at Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and in the Atlanta campaign. She was fortunate to discover paintings and drawings of the regiment as well as published personal letters, some which she will share with us during her program. About fifteen years ago, Peggy discovered she had a personal connection to this regiment--Private Frederick Vogtsberger served in Company H.

Miss Vogtsberger has served as past editor and president of the

Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. She is the author of *The Dulanys of Welbourne: A Family in Mosby's Confederacy* (Rockbridge Publishing, 1995). She has long had an interest in Major John Pelham and wrote an introduction to the reprint of Pelham's biography, *The Life of the Gallant Pelham* by Philip Mercer. In October 2014 she began a Facebook group, The Society of the Army of the Cumberland, which now has over 100 members, including (besides herself) five published authors. She is a frequent speaker to the Round Table. She is always reading and researching and hopes to develop a future program on General Patrick Cleburne and his proposal to emancipate slaves during the Civil War.

Last Month

The January speaker was Chris Mackowski, Ph.D. He presented "That Furious Struggle - Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy". Chris is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University. He also works as a historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. With Kris White, he is co-founder of Emerging Civil War. Together, they have co-authored *Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House*; *Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg*; *The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson*; *Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*; and *Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church*. He's also written books on the battles of Wilderness and Chancellorsville. Mackowski and White have written for Civil War Times and America's Civil War and have co-authored monograph-length articles on Spotsylvania for Blue & Gray.

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- March 22, 2016 - Matthew Laird: "Searching for Slabtown: The Archaeology of Hampton's Grand Contraband Camp"
- April 26, 2016: Ulysses s. Grant: "The Overland Campaign - Forty Days in Hell"
- May 24, 2016 – John Quarstein " The Battle of Mobile Bay"

Upcoming Outside Events

February 6, 2016 - "After Appomattox". The seventeenth annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University free civil war seminar. ([details](#))

February 6, 2016 - The Civil War in Williamsburg led by J. Michael Moore, curator, Lee Hall Mansion. Walk to the two earthworks within New Quarter Park. Learn more about the Peninsular Campaign battles of 1862. York County Parks and recreation 757-890-3500.

February 20, 2016 - American Civil War Museum presents its 2016 symposium, "The Road From Appomattox". [details](#)

March 19-20, 2016 - "154th Anniversary of First Kernstown", Kernstown Battlefield, Winchester VA. The Kernstown Battlefield Association will commemorate the 154th anniversary of the First Battle of Kernstown. On Saturday, March 19th, Gary L. Ecelbarger, author of "We Are In For It!" The First Battle of Kernstown, will be giving a guided tour of the battlefield at 9 am. Other activities, including tours of the battlefield, the 1854 Pritchard House and live fire artillery demonstrations, will continue throughout the weekend. 610 Battle Park Dr., Winchester. For more information, go to www.kernstownbattle.org.

April 6-9, 2016 – In 1864, the Civil War turned to "total war" – and the world turned to fire. The effects were especially dramatic in Georgia, where the Atlanta Campaign was followed by Sherman's March to the Sea; and in Virginia, where the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign

included “The Burning” of the Valley. In April the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) will look back at those events and their aftershocks with a special four-day conference in Atlanta, Georgia. [details](#)

Essay Contest The James City Cavalry is sponsoring their 2016 Lt. Col. Allen College Scholarship Essay in conjunction with the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable and the United Daughters of the Confederacy- Williamsburg. Submissions are due by March 1, 2016. For contest rules and details [click](#) here.

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*Williamsburg Civil War
Roundtable*

Meeting Place

Williamsburg

Volume XL Number 7

March 22, 2016

Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., RPA

**“Searching for Slabtown: The Archaeology of
Hampton’s Grand Contraband Camp”**

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

In the summer of 2014, the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. (JRIA) conducted an archaeological investigation on behalf of the City of Hampton to identify and document a portion of the Grand Contraband Camp, a large settlement of recently enslaved African Americans who came to the Union-controlled area around Fort Monroe seeking to begin new lives in freedom. The project area, which is located in downtown Hampton at the intersection of Armistead Avenue and Lincoln Street, has been heavily disturbed by later development. Yet, JRIA’s targeted testing revealed a dense concentration of intact features evidently associated with the Grand Contraband Camp, and the subsequent occupation of African American families who purchased lots on the property in the early 1870s. As a result of this study, it is clear that the surviving archaeological remains of the Grand Contraband Camp offer a unique opportunity to further explore the African American experience in Virginia during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Dr. Matthew Laird is Partner and Senior Researcher with the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. A native of Ottawa, Canada, he earned a Ph.D. in American History from the College of William and Mary, specializing in the colonial period. Over the past 20 years, he has worked as an historian and archaeologist in the cultural resource management field, investigating diverse sites across Virginia, from prehistoric Native American camps to NASA facilities. Dr. Laird co-directed the 2014 archaeological investigation of the Grand Contraband Camp site in Hampton. This project further has further encouraged his research interest in the archaeology of urban enslavement, which began when he helped to unearth the notorious Lumpkin's Slave Jail Site in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom district.

Last Month

Our guest speaker Peggy Vogtsberger presented "The 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, an all-German regiment". This regiment consisted of German immigrants, many who fled Germany as a result of the failed Revolution of 1848. Most had been in this country slightly more than a decade when the Civil War began. Peggy discussed what motivated these men to endure three years of hardship and death to fight for a country not their own. She will discuss how they perceived their experiences as soldiers differently than those of "the Americans." The regiment, enlisted for three years, was part of the Army of the Ohio and later the Army of the Cumberland. They fought at Shiloh, Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and in the Atlanta campaign. She was fortunate to discover paintings and drawings of the regiment as well as published personal letters, some which she will share with us during her program. About fifteen years ago, Peggy discovered she had a personal connection to this regiment--Private Frederick Vogtsberger served in Company H.

Miss Vogtsberger has served as past editor and president of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable. She is the author of *The Dulanys of Welbourne: A Family in Mosby's Confederacy* (Rockbridge Publishing, 1995). She has long had an interest in Major John Pelham and wrote an introduction to the reprint of Pelham's biography, *The Life of the Gallant Pelham* by Philip Mercer. In October 2014 she began a Facebook group, The Society of the Army of the Cumberland, which now has over 100 members, including (besides herself) five published authors. She is a frequent speaker to

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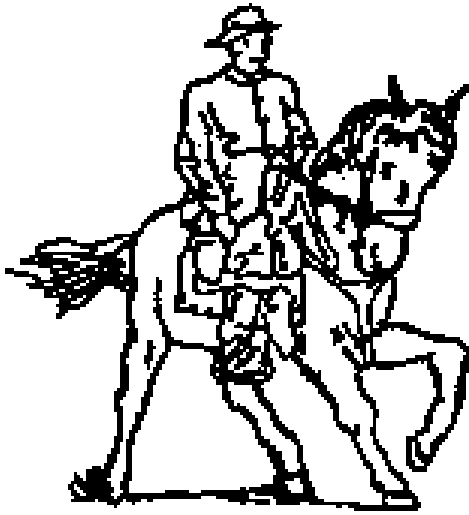
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*Williamsburg Civil War
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Volume XL Number 8

April 26, 2016

Ulysses S. Grant

“The Overland Campaign - Forty Days in Hell”



Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at the Williamsburg Public Library Theatre at 7 PM on Tuesday evening, April 26, 2016.

The audience will be transported back to the summer of 1865. After four years of war, peace has finally returned throughout America.

Americans, both north and south, are beginning the process of reestablishing a life of normalcy.

Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant is still in command of all forces of the U.S. Army. Demobilization of the Army's volunteer units is underway, and the General is finally able to spend a few moments to reflect upon the momentous events that have taken place since his elevation to overall command.

The General, escorting Mrs. Grant, will join us to discuss his recollections of the major offensive that took place in Virginia during the late spring of 1864. He identifies his remarks as "The Overland Campaign – Forty Days in Hell".

At the conclusion of General Grant's presentation, we'll be whisked back to present day Williamsburg. Our contemporary General will be available to answer questions and to share his experiences in portraying the identity of one of America's most famous persons.

Last Month

Dr. Matthew Laird presented "Searching for Slabtown: The Archaeology of Hampton's Grand Contraband Camp".

In the summer of 2014, the James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. (JRIA) conducted an archaeological investigation on behalf of the City of Hampton to identify and document a portion of the Grand Contraband Camp, a large settlement of recently enslaved African Americans who came to the Union-controlled area around Fort Monroe seeking to begin new lives in freedom. The project area, which is located in downtown Hampton at the intersection of Armistead Avenue and Lincoln Street, has been heavily disturbed by later development. Yet, JRIA's targeted testing revealed a dense concentration of intact features evidently associated with the Grand Contraband Camp, and the subsequent occupation of African American families who purchased lots on the property in the early 1870s. As a result of this study, it is clear that the surviving archaeological remains of the Grand Contraband Camp offer a unique opportunity to further explore the African American experience in Virginia during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- May 24, 2016 – John Quarstein “The Battle of Mobile Bay”

Upcoming Outside Events

April 2, 2016 — Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier will host its 10th annual Breakthrough Anniversary Tour. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Civil War soldiers on an exclusive tour of the Park's historic grounds. [details](#)

April 6-9, 2016 – In 1864, the Civil War turned to “total war” – and the world turned to fire. The effects were especially dramatic in Georgia, where the Atlanta Campaign was followed by Sherman's March to the Sea; and in Virginia, where the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign included “The Burning” of the Valley. In April the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) will look back at those events and

their aftershocks with a special four-day conference in Atlanta, Georgia. [details](#)

April 8, 2016 - April 12, 2016 -Appomattox Court House National Historical Park 151st Anniversary of the Surrender [details](#)

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Volume XL Number 9

May 24, 2016

John V. Quarstein

“The Battle of Mobile Bay”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at the Williamsburg Public Library Theatre at 7 PM on Tuesday evening, May 24, 2016 for John Quarstein’s presentation of “The Battle of Mobile Bay”. John will describe the dramatic naval action which featured the confrontation between the Union’s Rear Admiral David G. Farragut and Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan. This is the battle that is remembered for Admiral Farragut’s famous order...“damn the torpedoes...!”

John V. Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist, lecturer, and author. He served as historian for the city of Hampton’s 400th anniversary. He previously worked for thirty years as the director of the Virginia War Museum and as consultant to The Mariners’ Museum’s MONITOR Center. Quarstein is now serving as the Chief Development Officer for the USS MONITOR Foundation at The Mariners’ Museum.

Quarstein has been involved in a wide variety of historic preservation initiatives including the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like Redoubt Park in Williamsburg or Lee’s Mill Park in Newport News as well as historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and

Endview Plantation. His current preservation endeavors feature the Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, Causey's Mill, Big Bethel Battlefield and Fort Monroe. John Quarstein also serves on several boards and commissions such as Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Advisory Council and the Newport News Sesquicentennial Commission.

John Quarstein is the author of fifteen books, including *FORT MONROE: The Key To The South*, *A History Of Ironclads: The Power Of Iron Over Wood*, and *Big Bethel: The First Battle*. Quarstein's volume, *The Monitor Boys: The Crew Of The Union's First Ironclad*, received the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. 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* is a Bronze Telly winner.

Quarstein 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 collector. He lives on Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, and on his family's Eastern Shore farm near Chestertown, Maryland.

Last Month

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **September 27, 2016** - Robert E. L. Krick – “Frayser’s Farm/Glendale: The Penultimate Fight of the Seven days Campaign, and a Battle Known by Six Different Names”

Upcoming Outside Events

April-May, 2016 - American Civil War Museum programs [details](#)

May 21, 2016 - Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier brings back its popular Summer Tour Series with a program examining the combat at the Hart Farm during the Petersburg Breakthrough. [details](#)

June-August 2016 - The National Civil War Museum (Harrisburg, PA) announces their living history schedule for the 2016 spring/summer season. Encampments include Confederate & Union infantry units, loading and firing demonstrations and much more! [details](#)

Winning essay in SCV Scholarship Contest is awarded to Miss. Kayla Coghlan of Jamestown High School. [essay](#)

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