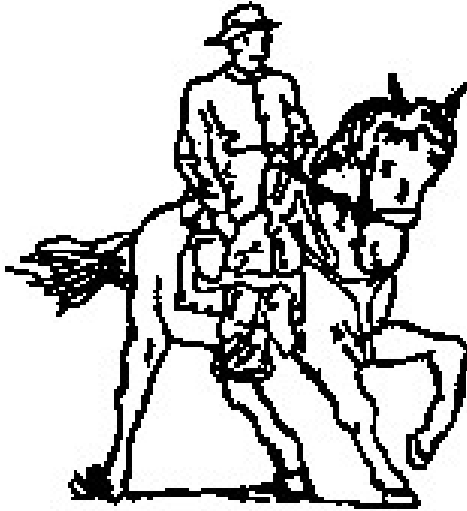


Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable
2022 Newsletter
September 2021 to May 2022



Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

***Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA***

Volume LII Number 1

September 28, 2021

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7 PM**

**Chris Mackowski
“The Battle of Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle”**

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, Chris Mackowski will present: “The Battle of Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle”. For twenty-two straight hours, in torrential downpours, up to their knees in mud and blood, Federals and Confederates slugged it out in the most intense sustained hand-to-hand combat of the war. A panoply of horror, one soldier called it. A Saturnalia of blood. Hell’s Half-Acre. The slaughter pen of Spotsylvania. Most remember it simply as the Bloody Angle.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War. He is the series editor of the award-winning [Emerging Civil War Series](#), published by Savas Beatie, and the “Engaging the Civil War” Series, published in partnership with Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable Newsletter

Southern Illinois University Press. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at [Stevenson Ridge](#), a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has also worked as a historian for the National Park Service 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. Chris has authored or co-authored a dozen books on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves on the board of directors for the [Central Virginia Battlefields Trust](#) and the advisory board of the [Civil War Roundtable Congress](#).

For a listing of his publications, click [here](#).

Last Meeting

On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, Matt Atkinson presented "The Battle of Gettysburg – A Simple Overview". The name Gettysburg is synonymous with American History. Three days of battle that brought the country from the brink of destruction to a "new birth of freedom" at a cost of 51,000 casualties.

Today, despite Gettysburg being one of the most studied battles in the world, many Americans do not even have a simple understanding of the battle. If you are one of those people, this program is for you.

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- **Wednesday, October 26, 2021** – Doug Crenshaw – “Fort Harrison”
- **Tuesday, November 23, 2021** - Dr. Charles Ross - “Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the Civil War”
- **Tuesday, December 21, 2021** - John Fox III - “The Confederate Alamo – Fort Gregg”
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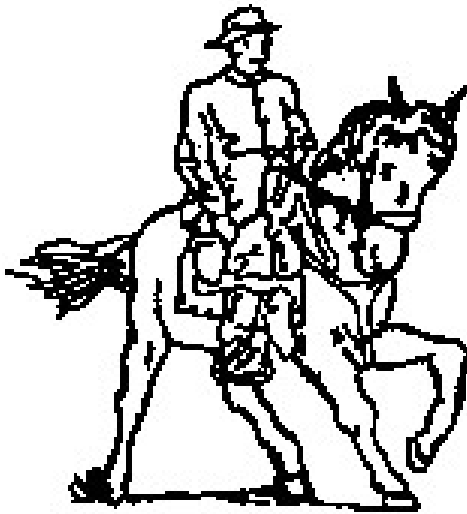
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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

***Williamsburg Library Theatre
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Williamsburg, VA***

Volume LII Number 2

October 26, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Doug Crenshaw Fort Harrison and

“Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin’s Farm”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday**, October 26, 2021, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

Doug Crenshaw will present “Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin’s Farm”.

From mid-July of 1864 until April 1865, Union and Confederate Armies in Virginia were locked down in static siege-like actions which were primarily focused upon the areas around Petersburg.

The Confederate defenses that extended north of the James River and east of Richmond, the so-called “Henrico Front”, seems to have

been unfairly relegated as a “backwater” to the actions that were taking place south of the Appomattox River. However, the soldiers, both Rebel and Yank, who were hunkered down and fighting and dying in those defenses may have taken exception to that characterization.

In late September 1864, Ben Butler took his Army of the James across that river to launch a surprise attack and capture Richmond. The attack came close to success... but why did it fail?

Please join us in person or via Zoom as Doug Crenshaw will look at the events and reasons for the failed attack at Chaffin's Farm, and its long-term consequences.

Doug Crenshaw studied history at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Richmond. A volunteer for the Richmond National Battlefield Park, he is a Board member of the Richmond Battlefield Association, president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable, and is a speaker, presenter and tour leader. His book, *Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin's Farm*, was nominated in the nonfiction category for a Library of Virginia Literary award. Doug has also written *The Battle of Glendale: Robert E. Lee's Lost Opportunity*, and *Richmond Shall not be Given Up!* a survey and tour of the Seven Days campaign, which was a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished writing award. Doug has just completed a guidebook on Civil War Richmond with Bert Dunkerly, a book on the Peninsula Campaign with Drew Gruber, and is also working on a book about the Seven Days.

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

**Williamsburg Library Theatre
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Volume LII Number 3

November 23, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Dr. Charles D. Ross

“Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the Civil War”

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Dr. Charles D. Ross will present a program about the Union efforts to implement and enforce a naval blockade of the Confederacy during the Civil War.

On April 16, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a blockade of the Confederate coastline. The largely agrarian South did not have the industrial base to succeed in a protracted conflict. What it did have—and what England and other foreign countries wanted—was cotton and tobacco. Industrious men soon began to connect the dots between Confederate and British needs. As the blockade grew, the

blockade runners became quite ingenious in finding ways around the barriers.

Boats worked their way back and forth from the Confederacy to Nassau and England, and everyone from scoundrels to naval officers wanted a piece of the action. Poor men became rich in a single transaction, and dances and drinking—from the posh Royal Victoria hotel to the boarding houses lining the harbor—were the order of the day. British, United States, and Confederate sailors intermingled in the streets, eyeing each other warily as boats snuck in and out of Nassau. But it was all to come crashing down as the blockade finally tightened and the final Confederate ports were captured.

The story of this great carnival has been mentioned in a variety of sources but never examined in detail. *Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the Civil War* focuses on the political dynamics and tensions that existed between the United States Consular Service, the governor of the Bahamas, and the representatives of the southern and English firms making a large profit off the blockade. Filled with intrigue, drama, and colorful characters, this is an important Civil War story that has not yet been told.

Dr. Charles D. Ross is Professor of Physics and former Dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences at Longwood University in Farmville. His study of science and technology in the U.S. Civil War has led to appearances on The History Channel, PBS, the National Geographic Channel and National Public Radio, and his work has been featured in US News and World Report, Science, Discover and several other media outlets. He has written three books on the subject: "Trial by Fire - Science, Technology and the Civil War"; "Civil War Acoustic Shadows"; "Never for Want of Powder - The Confederate Powder Works". His most recent book, "Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the Civil War" examines the effects of blockade running on Nassau, Bahamas. Chuck and his wife Julie reside in Farmville, Virginia.

Last Month

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The Confederate defenses that extended north of the James River and east of Richmond, the so-called “Henrico Front”, seems to have been unfairly relegated as a “backwater” to the actions that were taking place south of the Appomattox River. However, the soldiers, both Rebel and Yank, who were hunkered down and fighting and dying in those defenses may have taken exception to that characterization.

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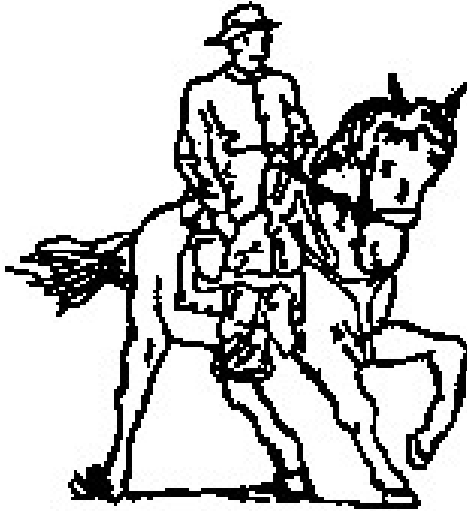
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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

**Williamsburg Library Theatre
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Williamsburg, VA**

Volume LII Number 4

December 21, 2021

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Dr. Paul Severance

“The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies: Facts and Wishful Thinking”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

Dr. Paul Severance will present “The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies: Facts and Wishful Thinking”. Please note the change in presentation due to a last-minute conflict for the previously scheduled speaker.

The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, being the very first time an American President was murdered in office, had a cataclysmic impact and effect on the American national consciousness, as well as the very course of U.S. History since April

15, 1865 (especially with respect to Reconstruction, reconciliation, and reunification).

Although the “formal” historical record of Lincoln’s assassination clearly established that John Wilkes Booth and a small cohort of sheepish, compliant followers dedicated to Booth’s fanatical interpretations of the threat posed by Abraham Lincoln to the then-perceived “American Dream” of a pluralistic democracy and a republic form of government, engaged in a small conspiracy to kidnap Abraham Lincoln as a “Primo” bargaining chip in exchange for Confederate POW’s in the waning period of the war when the Confederacy was starved for manpower. However, as has been the case in several high-profile political assassinations and attempts at assassination in America, several different (and captivating) theories have emerged, gained traction, and achieved varying levels of prominence and support. Arguably some of these “theories” are both plausible and engaging (not to mention “entertaining”). However, on closer scrutiny, they are largely based on “snippets of evidence” and wishful dendritic extensions (historical “linkages” and assumed events) to achieve full-scale conspiracy theories (much like blowing smoke into a mouse to eventually achieve an elephant).

However, given the historical record, most of these conspiracy theories are simply fanciful thoughts of imagination by what may be considered as individuals sublimely and happily spinning around the eighth orbit of a long-standing, well-established nucleus of historical reality. Nonetheless, these conspiracy theories continue up to the present day exist and are - - in the main - - extremely intriguing.

Our speaker for this session, much like John Batchelder at Gettysburg, is the self-appointed research historian and head docent at the Lincoln Assassination Conspirators’ Restored Trial Courtroom at Fort Lesley McNair in Washington, DC. Dr. Severance will endeavor to “unpack” and de-construct several of the salient conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Some of these conspiracies extended to the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Pius IX, the U.S War Department

and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, the government of the Confederate States of America, and various “disgruntled” elements of Northern society that allegedly harbored a tangible distrust - - and even vitriolic hatred - - of Abraham Lincoln and his wartime politics, policies, and decisions as Chief Executive and Commander-in-Chief of Union military forces.

Dr. Severance is both a 30-year veteran of service as an infantryman and aviator in the United States Army. He has also served for 25 years as a professor of strategy and, subsequently, professor of military science at the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, DC, where he developed and taught numerous courses in military strategy and warfare, war studies, military strategy and logistics, defense strategy and resourcing, maritime security and strategy, and military geography. He was also the director of the Gettysburg Studies program at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), and subsequently, the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at NDU. Dr. Severance has conducted over 275 staff rides at Gettysburg, as well as numerous staff rides at Antietam, Manassas, Fredericksburg, and the Seven Days Battle as well as professional field studies at Normandy, Operation Market Garden (“A Bridge Too Far”), and the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. He is currently a Visiting Professor of Military History at NDU where he co-teaches a course on viewing the American Civil War Through the Lens of Strategic Logic.

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

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Volume LII Number 5

January 25, 2022

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

Kevin Pawlak “In The Wake of Antietam: The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Kevin Pawlak will present “In The Wake of Antietam: The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862”. Following the bloodiest single day in American history at the Battle of Antietam, the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia rested and refitted on either side of the Potomac River. By late October 1862, the Federal army crossed into Virginia once more, armed with a plan to capture Richmond and defeat the Confederacy.

The ensuing battles that erupted in the Loudoun Valley and beyond raged for two weeks and added several hundred casualties to the nation's growing list of names in an indecisive campaign. It proved to be George McClellan's last campaign as a field commander in the Civil War.

Kevin Pawlak is the Historic Site Manager of Ben Lomond Historic Site and Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and serves as a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. He graduated from Shepherd University in 2014, majoring in History with a concentration in Civil War and 19th Century America and minoring in Historic Preservation. Kevin previously worked at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is on the Board of Directors for the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the Antietam Institute. He is also a regular contributor to the Emerging Civil War online blog. He is the author and co-author of four books, including *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign*

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Upcoming Outside Events

- **February 12, 2022** - Appomattox/Longwood Annual Free Civil War Seminar [details](#)
- **February 19, 2022** - American Civil War Museum presents "The Soldier's Civil War. [details](#)

Williamsburg's Egger Tract purchase [details](#)

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Meeting Place

***Williamsburg Library Theatre
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Volume LII Number 6

February 22, 2022

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM

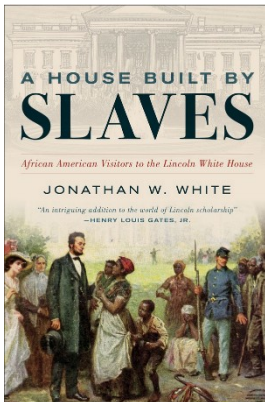
Jonathan W. White, PhD

“A House Built By Slaves – African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

Prior to the Civil War, African Americans were almost entirely excluded from the White House, other than as servants or slaves. However, during the war, the racial color line was broken down as African Americans claimed the First Amendment right to petition the government. For the first time in the history of the United States, they saw the president as *their* president and the White House as *their* people's house. Between 1862 and 1865 Lincoln welcomed hundreds of African Americans into his White House office and at public receptions. This talk will explore the remarkable story of the

relationship that developed between Abraham Lincoln and the black community during the crucible of the Civil War.



Jonathan W. White is associate professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University. He is the author or editor of thirteen books, including *Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln* (2014), which was a finalist for both the Lincoln Prize and Jefferson Davis Prize, a “best book” in *Civil War Monitor*, and the winner of the Abraham Lincoln Institute’s 2015 book prize. He serves as vice chair of The Lincoln Forum, and on the boards of the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Abraham Lincoln Institute, and the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, as well as the Ford’s Theatre Advisory Council. His most recent books include *Midnight in America: Darkness, Sleep, and Dreams during the Civil War* (2017), which was selected as a “best book” by *Civil War Monitor*; and *“Our Little Monitor”: The Greatest Invention of the Civil War* (2018), which he co-authored with Anna Gibson Holloway. In October he published *To Address You As My Friend: African Americans’ Letters to Abraham Lincoln* with the University of North Carolina Press, and in November he will publish *My Work Among the Freedmen: The Civil War and Reconstruction Letters of Harriet M. Buss* with UVA Press. In February 2022 he will publish *A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House*.

Last Month

On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Kevin Pawlak presented “In The Wake of Antietam: The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862”. Following the bloodiest single day in American history at the Battle of Antietam, the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia rested and refitted on either side of the Potomac River. By late October 1862, the Federal army crossed into Virginia once more, armed with a plan to capture Richmond and defeat the Confederacy.

The ensuing battles that erupted in the Loudoun Valley and beyond raged for two weeks and added several hundred casualties to the nation's growing list of names in an indecisive campaign. It proved to be George McClellan's last campaign as a field commander in the Civil War.

Kevin Pawlak is the Historic Site Manager of Ben Lomond Historic Site and Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and serves as a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. He graduated from Shepherd University in 2014, majoring in History with a concentration in Civil War and 19th Century America and minoring in Historic Preservation. Kevin previously worked at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is on the Board of Directors for the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the Antietam Institute. He is also a regular contributor to the Emerging Civil War online blog. He is the author and co-author of four books, including *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign*.

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **Tuesday, March 22, 2022** - Shelly Liebler "Fort Pocahontas – Action at Wilson's Wharf"
- **Wednesday, April 13, 2022** - Dr. Curt Fields & Thomas Jessee, portraying General Ulysses S. Grant & General Robert E. Lee, respectively: "Appomattox – The Last Forty-Eight Hours"

- **Tuesday, May 24, 2022** - Dr. Jerry Wooten - "Johnsonville"

Upcoming Outside Events

- **February 12, 2022** - Appomattox/Longwood Annual Free Civil War Seminar [details](#)
- **February 19, 2022** - American Civil War Museum presents "The Soldier's Civil War. [details](#)

Williamsburg's Egger Tract purchase [details](#)

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

***Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA***

Volume LII Number 7

March 22, 2022

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:30 PM**

Shelly Liebler “Fort Pocahontas - Action At Wilson’s Wharf”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Zoom details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

Fort Pocahontas, a little-known Civil War earthen fortification, is located on the northern bank of the James River, less than ten miles west of the Chickahominy River along Virginia Route 5. The Fort, truly a hidden treasure, was purchased by Harrison Tyler, the grandson of President John Tyler, in order to preserve the works from modern development. Mr. Tyler opens the property to the public once a year to enable reenactors to commemorate the battle that took place at the Fort in the summer of 1864.

Among the many lesser-known battles in the Civil War was the Action at Wilson's Wharf fought at Fort Pocahontas in Charles City County, Virginia.

Shelly will not only discuss the strategies of this land/sea battle, but also explain how it fits into the broader scope of the Civil War atmosphere of 1864.

A native of Wisconsin, Shelly Liebler is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire with a degree in journalism. She had a 15-year career in marketing, sales and administration before raising her family and home educating her sons. It was while teaching American history that she developed a passion for the Civil War.

In 2021 she joined Sherwood Forest Plantation Foundation and Fort Pocahontas LTD as executive assistant and docent, telling the tales of John Tyler and his presidency. Shelly is also a freelance photographer and loves conveying the stories of the Civil War through her images. She has photographed many historic sites, formerly sharing photos and history stories via the facebook group: "Chasing History: the Civil War". Her photography has appeared in many places including the Civil War News and websites for Fort Pocahontas, the Richmond National Park Service, [bicycling.com](https://www.bicycling.com), Virginia State Parks, and the Center for Civil War Photography.

Shelly resides in Williamsburg with her teenage sons, Nathan and Ian – who have participated in many Civil War road trips over the years. She is also a researcher for the 12th Mississippi Infantry, part of the Featherston/Posey/Harris Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. Shelly never passes up an opportunity to talk about American history.

Last Month

On February 22, Dr. Jonathan White presented "A House Built By Slaves – African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House".

Prior to the Civil War, African Americans were almost entirely excluded from the White House, other than as servants or slaves. However, during the war, the racial color line was broken down as

African Americans claimed the First Amendment right to petition the government. For the first time in the history of the United States, they saw the president as *their* president and the White House as *their* people's house. Between 1862 and 1865 Lincoln welcomed hundreds of African Americans into his White House office and at public receptions. This talk will explore the remarkable story of the relationship that developed between Abraham Lincoln and the black community during the crucible of the Civil War.

Jonathan W. White is associate professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University. He is the author or editor of thirteen books, including *Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln* (2014), which was a finalist for both the Lincoln Prize and Jefferson Davis Prize, a "best book" in *Civil War Monitor*, and the winner of the Abraham Lincoln Institute's 2015 book prize. He serves as vice chair of The Lincoln Forum, and on the boards of the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Abraham Lincoln Institute, and the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, as well as the Ford's Theatre Advisory Council. His most recent books include *Midnight in America: Darkness, Sleep, and Dreams during the Civil War* (2017), which was selected as a "best book" by *Civil War Monitor*, and *"Our Little Monitor": The Greatest Invention of the Civil War* (2018), which he co-authored with Anna Gibson Holloway. In October he published *To Address You As My Friend: African Americans' Letters to Abraham Lincoln* with the University of North Carolina Press, and in November he will publish *My Work Among the Freedmen: The Civil War and Reconstruction Letters of Harriet M. Buss* with UVA Press. In February 2022 he will publish *A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House*.

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- **Tuesday, May 24, 2022** - Dr. Jerry Wooten - "Johnsonville"

Upcoming Outside Events

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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

*Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
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Volume LII Number 8

April 13, 2022

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:30 PM

**General Ulysses S. Grant (portrayed by Curt Fields) and
General Robert E. Lee (portrayed by Thomas Jessee)
Present**

“Appomattox – The Last 48 Hours”

Join us for this special meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 PM on **WEDNESDAY**, April 13, 2022 at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre.

This presentation will also be presented via Zoom. Details for the Zoom link will be provided by a follow up meeting announcement several days prior to the meeting date.

The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac and Army of the James had been locked in static siege warfare in the Richmond and Petersburg area since June of 1864. On April 2, 1865, a concentrated Union attack achieved a breakthrough which compelled the Army of Northern Virginia to evacuate the defenses and move in a westerly direction. Union forces took up the

pursuit on parallel paths until the forces converged in battle in the vicinity of Sailor's Creek on April 6. The Army of Northern Virginia suffered a devastating defeat but continued the westward trek to the vicinity of Appomattox Court House

The presentation of "Appomattox - The Last 48 Hours" tells the story of the exchange of letters that transpired between General Grant and General Lee. The initial letter was sent from General Grant to General Lee on April 7, 1865, hence the reference to 48 hours. General Lee replied, and an exchange of correspondence between the opposing leaders continued through April 8th and the morning of April 9.

We're all familiar with the meeting that took place on the afternoon of April 9 in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home in the village of Appomattox Court House. Our presenters, Curt Fields as General Grant and Thomas Jessee as General Lee, will be in full uniform as they narrate the respective correspondence and provide commentary related to the conditions and events that were occurring during that 48-hour period prior to their meeting.

It is relevant to note that our two Generals have performed this program at the Appomattox Court House NHP during the annual commemorative events related to the surrender. Their program at Appomattox is conducted on the porch of the McLean House to an audience seated in the front yard. They will be in Appomattox for this year's annual commemorative events prior to their travel to Williamsburg on April 13. Their presentation of this program to our Roundtable will be the first time that it is being presented outside of Appomattox.

Last Month

On March 22nd, Shelly Liebler presented "Fort Pocahontas – Action At Wilson's Wharf". Fort Pocahontas, a little-known Civil War earthen fortification, is located on the northern bank of the James River, less than ten miles west of the Chickahominy River along Virginia Route 5. The Fort, truly a hidden treasure, was purchased by Harrison Tyler,

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **Tuesday, May 24, 2022** - Dr. Jerry Wooten - "Johnsonville"

Upcoming Outside Events

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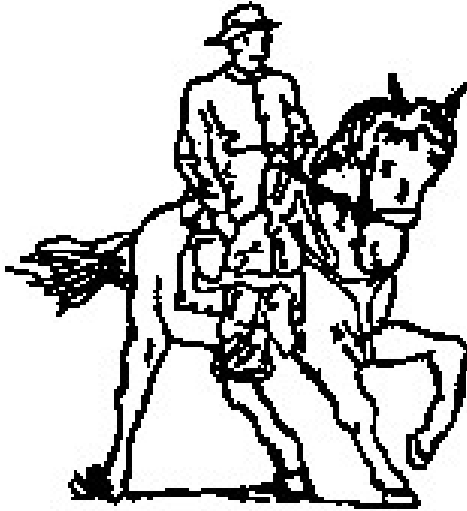
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Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

***Williamsburg Library Theatre
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Volume LII Number 9

May 24, 2022

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 6:30 PM**

**Dr. Jerry Wooten
“Johnsonville”**

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On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, Dr. Jerry Wooten will present “Johnsonville”.

Too often the Civil War in Tennessee is defined in popular memory by its major national battlefield parks, such as Shiloh, Chattanooga, Fort Donelson and Stones River. In the 21st century, more so than in the past, historians have been asking different questions of the state’s Civil War experiences. What about the long federal army occupation? What was the impact of enslaved peoples becoming

contraband laborers? Where were Unionist supporters across the entire state, not just East Tennessee? What are linkages between occupation, emancipation, and free black community building? Why have we ignored—outside the battles of Fort Donelson and Memphis—the dominance of the federal navy in the war? How significant was control of the inland river system that divided east and middle Tennessee in the strategy and fighting of the Civil War in Tennessee?

Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4-5, 1864, by Dr. Jerry Wooten, takes important steps toward answering these significant questions. Of the more than three dozen designated nationally significant battles in Tennessee, Johnsonville's significance was recognized by only a handful of specialists. But now with Wooten's comprehensive treatment of Johnsonville as a military base, battleground, and launching ground for emancipation, its transformative story will gain new audiences

Jerry Wooten is originally from Clarksville, Tennessee. He received his Bachelor's degree in American History from Austin Peay State University and his Master's Degree from Murray State University in Historic Preservation. In 2015, Jerry completed his Ph.D. in Public History at Middle Tennessee State University with a concentration in Resource Management. Jerry's dissertation is entitled: Johnsonville: The Evolution, Defense, and Demise of the Union's Tennessee River Supply Depot, 1790-1890.

In December 2016, Jerry moved to his current position as park manager of Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park located on the grounds of the historic 1853 Tennessee State Capitol in downtown Nashville. Since his tenure, Jerry has helped transform the park from original operations established in 1996 to another award-winning park winning consecutive Awards of Excellence for Innovation (2018), Sustainability (2019), and Interpretation (2021).

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- **October 25, 2022** - TBA
- **November 22, 2022** - Michael Block: "The Battles of Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford – November 7, 1863: 'Only One Shout, Then a Terrible Silence'"
- **December 20, 2022** - Dr. Johnathan Noyalas: "TBA"
- **January 24, 2023** - TBA
- **February 28, 2023** - TBA
- **March 28, 2023** Michael Moore: "John Taylor Wood and The Rebel Horse Marine"
- **April 25, 2023** - Dr. Lorien Foote: "Union Soldiers on the Loose in the Confederacy"

- **May 23, 2023** - Dennis Frye: "Stonewall Jackson's Greatest Victory: Harper's

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