

BATTLE OF SMITHFIELD: Lecture and Walking Tour

2 p.m. Saturday

March 4, June 3, Aug. 5 and Oct. 7, 2017

A Special Program of the Isle of Wight County Museum



Join us for this informative lecture and walking tour.

The Battle of Smithfield was a relatively small skirmish during the American Civil War – taking place from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, 1864.

In 1863 and early 1864, Confederate units harassed Union gunboats on the Nansemond River and operated with relative impunity in the Smithfield area. Union Navy and Army commanders cooperated in a joint operation by sending landing parties into the towns of Chuckatuck in Nansemond County – present day Suffolk, Virginia - and Smithfield in to converge and trap an offending rebel unit.

The plan went awry when Union troops marching south from Smithfield encountered Confederate troops. Both sides disengaged and pulled back. On Feb. 1, 1864, cannons were fired down Main Street. The Union gunboat USS *Smith-Briggs* was sent to rescue the detachment but was destroyed.

Nearly the entire landing force was captured and sent off to the Confederate prison near Andersonville, Ga.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

Location

103 Main Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
(757) 356-1223
\$2 admission for adults