

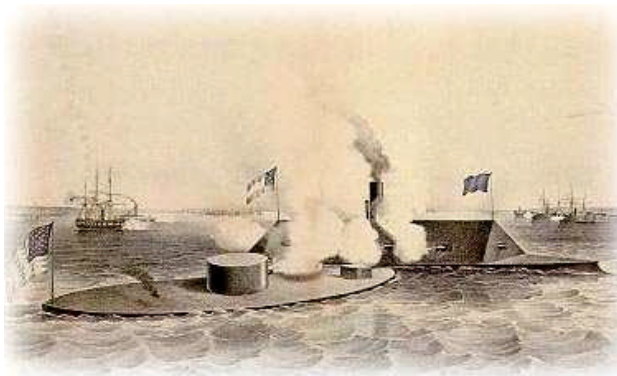
POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

✧ A Society for Civil War Studies ✧

In the Monitor's Turret with Jeff Johnston

At the outbreak of hostilities in April 1861, wooden warships were the norm and a Confederate Navy was non-existent. Following the Federal abandonment of the naval shipyard at Norfolk, the Confederates took possession and raised the scuttled warship *USS Merrimack*, bolted iron plating to her sides, and rechristened her the *CSS Virginia*. Then, they prepared to do battle with the Yankee fleet blockading their harbor.

Realizing that they had no warship which could defeat the South's 10 gun ironclad, a worried United States Navy commissioned the brilliant inventor, John Ericsson to build the vessel which he felt could destroy the *Virginia*, or any other Confederate ship - the *USS Monitor*. Unusual in appearance and resembling a "cheese box on a raft," the *Monitor* was defined by its innovative, revolving turret containing two 11 inch Dahlgren guns.



On March 9th 1862, the Ironclads *CSS Virginia* and *USS Monitor* clashed in the waters off Newport News, Virginia. Battling to a draw, the *Virginia* would never see combat again, while the *Monitor* and many of her crew would soon be lost, foundering in rough seas off Cape Hatteras, her final resting place unknown for over a century.

But that's just the beginning of the *Monitor's* story. Discovered in 1973, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and designated a marine sanctuary in 1975 the *Monitor* is finally yielding some of her many secrets.

Please join us on February 17th when we welcome marine archeologist Jeff Johnston of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, who will bring us up to date on the continuing saga of the legendary USS Monitor.

February 17th, 2005 ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ the County Seat Restaurant ~ Powhatan

\$14.00 for PCWRT members ~ \$16.00 for non-members

Price includes dinner, soft drink, dessert, tax & gratuity

THIS IS AN ARCHIVAL POSTING FOR A PAST EVENT.