



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

### TERESA ROANE

#### MINORITIES IN THE CONFEDERATE MILITARY: COMBAT SUPPORT

Happy New Year from the PCWRT! We begin the New Year with a new speaker, Teresa Roane whose topic is new to us as well, *Minorities in the Confederate Military: Combat Support*.

Multitudes of books have explored the subject of slavery, yet few have been devoted to the topic of “free people of color.” While it may be little known today, a quarter of a million free blacks lived in the South in the year of Southern secession. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau [website](#) shows that 35,766 more free black people lived in the slave-owning South than in the North. This month, we explore the role African Americans played in the Confederate military, a complex topic often debated among Civil War scholars. Our speaker, archivist Teresa Roane tells us, “Make no mistake there were men who carried muskets, but Historians have tried their best to marginalize combat support.”

Teresa was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, and earned her B. A. in history at Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked for eight years at the Richmond Public Library followed by 15 years at the

Valentine Museum’s library. Teresa was the Archivist at the Museum of the Confederacy for 7 ½ years, but on February 10, 2014, she received a chance to embark on a new opportunity. Ms. Roane is now the Librarian and Archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and is the new Corresponding Secretary for the UDC Virginia Division.

Our speaker has served on the boards of Friends of the Richmond Public Library, the Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods and the Historic Richmond Foundation. She is a member of the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson UDC chapter, and has received numerous UDC and SCV award and honors.

Teresa spends her free time reading, watching movies, and walking battlefields. We look forward to her presentation on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, February 18, 2016 - program and speaker to be announced.

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## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016**

### **2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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Individual Membership - \$25.00 / Family Membership – \$35.00

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PCWRT

P.O. Box 1144

Powhatan, VA 23139

### **PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade.

To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting!

### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*I learned to handle a musket very well while in the regiment, and could shoot straight and often hit the target. I assisted in cleaning the guns and used to fire them off, to see if the cartridges were dry, before cleaning and reloading, each day. I thought this great fun. I was also able to take a gun all apart, and put it together again.*

Susie King Taylor  
Nurse, Laundress, Teacher  
33rd United States Colored Troops

### **LOCAL EVENTS**

Don't miss out on events happening all over the Richmond Region. See our Special Events page on our website for links to events of Civil War interest.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

See our website's FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

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## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

January 1st: The Cabinet urged greater success in Missouri, which seemed to be a state out of control. Martial law was introduced to St. Louis but General Halleck was urged to do more by politicians in Washington DC.

January 3rd: Jefferson Davis expressed his concern that Union forces were stationed at Ship Island in the Mississippi Sound. This base was only 65 miles from New Orleans. General 'Stonewall' Jackson started his campaign to disrupt the North's movement of supplies. His targets were the Baltimore to Ohio railway and the Ohio to Chesapeake canal.

January 4th: Jackson's reputation for keeping his men on the move was cemented when Union forces could barely find his 10,000 men who were on the march.

January 6th: The Senate urged Lincoln to replace McClellan because of his seeming lack of activity. However, Lincoln supported McClellan.

January 7th: Three Union gunboats made a sortie along the Mississippi to within three miles of the important Confederate stronghold at Columbus. Their information was fed back to General U Grant.

January 9th: General Grant started his campaign against Columbus.

January 11th: Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned over accusations of corruption and basic incompetence. 100 Union ships transported 15,000 troops to Port Royal, North Carolina, to support the men who are already there.

January 13th: Edwin Stanton became Secretary of War.

January 14th: Lincoln called for a more robust campaign in Missouri. McClelland urged caution.

January 19th: A battle at Mill Spring (sometimes called the Battle of Somerset) led to as many as 195 Confederate troops being killed with 200 taken prisoner. However, the Union's leader in the attack, General Zollicoffer, was killed.

January 25th: By this day, what was left of the Confederate force at Mill Spring had been forced 100 miles to the southwest to Gainsboro, which resulted in the Confederate line having a large gap punched through it.

January 27th: Lincoln issued General War Order Number One. This urged the Union army into action and set February 22nd as the date he expected a major surge in action.

January 30th: The 'USS Monitor' was launched – a revolutionary new vessel designed by John Ericsson. The 'Monitor' marked a new stage in the development of ironclads. Mason and Slidell finally arrived in Great Britain.

January 31st: Lincoln issued his Special War Order Number One. This ordered the army that had been protecting Washington DC to launch an attack on Manassas Junction – as long as the safety of the capital had been ensured – by February 22nd. Great Britain announced that it would remain neutral in the war.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016

### DR. CLAY MOUNTCASTLE

#### THE UNION'S HEAVY HAND: DESTRUCTION IN THE CIVIL WAR

In a letter to General Henry W. Halleck in September 1864, William Tecumseh Sherman wrote, "If the people raise a howl against my barbarity and cruelty, I will answer that war is war, and not popularity-seeking. If they want peace, they and their relatives must stop the war."

Sherman would repeat this sentiment in a communication to the City of Atlanta, "You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out. I know I had no hand in making this war, and I know I will make more sacrifices today than any of you to secure peace. But you cannot have peace and a division of our country."

During his March to the Sea, and then into the Carolinas, William T. Sherman would introduce a level of war against civilians never before seen in this country. Dolly Sumner Lunt, of Covington, Georgia wrote, "My eighteen fat turkeys, my hens, chickens, fowls, my young pigs are shot down in my yard, and hunted as if they were rebels themselves."

However, some under Sherman's command would question these tactics. A Wisconsin private wrote, "I believe this destruction of private property in Atlanta was entirely

unnecessary and therefore ... disgraceful. ... The cruelties practiced on this campaign toward citizens have been enough to blast a more sacred cause than ours."

This month, we welcome Dr. Clay Mountcastle, author of "*Punitive War: Confederate Guerrillas and Union Reprisals*." Dr. Mountcastle's presentation will focus on the level of destruction seen in the Civil War and the historical debate surrounding it.

Dr. Mountcastle is Assistant Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Lee, Virginia and a retired US Army officer. He earned his PhD in History from Duke University and has taught Military History at the United States Military Academy, The US Army Combat Studies Institute, and the University of Washington.

In addition to "*Punitive War*," Clay has authored a chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Diplomatic and Military History, Vol. I*, and "*Battlefield Echoes*" a reoccurring column for *The Civil War Monitor Magazine*

Clay lives with his wife, Dr. Sally Mountcastle, and their three young and highly-energetic children in Moseley, Virginia. We hope you will join us!

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, March 17, 2016 - program and speaker to be announced.

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## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016**

### **REMINDER: 2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **The American Civil War Museum's Symposium "The Road From Appomattox at the Library of Virginia"**

The Museum's 2016 symposium will explore "The Road from Appomattox: Political Violence, Military Conflict, and National Reunion" and feature lectures about violence and the contest over the scope of African-American freedom, a comparative look at the U.S. Army's treatment of Southern civilians and Native Americans, and the relationships between the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. The symposium will consider questions of continuity between Civil War and postwar violence and the role of violence in shaping postwar America. This event will be held at the Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, February 20, 2016, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

The speakers are Dr. Edward L. Ayers, past president of the University of Richmond and author of *The Promise of the New South*; Dr. Douglas Egerton of Lemoyne College, Syracuse, New York, author of *The Wars of Reconstruction: The Brief, Violent History of America's Most Progressive Era*; Dr. Gary W.

Gallagher of the University of Virginia and author of *The Union War and The Confederate War*; Dr. Mark Grimsley of Ohio State University and author of *The Hard Hand of War: Union Military Policy Toward Southern Civilians, 1861-1865*; and Dr. Caroline E. Janney of Purdue University and author of *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*.

The cost of the symposium is \$40 for Museum members and Library donors; \$60 for others. The cost includes a box lunch if registration is submitted by February 16, 2016. Reservations and pre-payment are required. You may obtain a registration form which may be mailed or purchase tickets on line at the Museum's website: [www.acwm.org](http://www.acwm.org). Registration at the door is possible, but lunches will not be available for same-day registrants. For information only contact John Coski at [804-649-1861 ext. 131](tel:804-649-1861) or [jcoski@acwm.org](mailto:jcoski@acwm.org).



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Liberty University's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Seminar

The Liberty University History Department will present its twentieth annual Civil War Seminar, *The Aftermath of the War*, on April 8 – 9, 2016, and it will be held at the Visitors Center on the main campus of Liberty University. The cost for the Friday night kickoff banquet is \$20. Sue Boardman of the Gettysburg Foundation will be the keynote speaker and will speak on her book about the Gettysburg Cyclorama. *The McKenzies* will provide musical entertainment.

Saturday's session will also be held at the Visitors Center and will be free and open to the public.

Saturday's speakers include:

- William C. "Jack" Davis, author and historical consultant to A&E's Civil War Journal. Retired in 2013 as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, Jack will speak on "Grant and Lee at the End of the Civil War" and "Grant and Lee After the War."
- Dr. Chris Smith, Assistant Professor of the Liberty University History Department, will speak on "Lee Surrendered; We Didn't! Texas During the Civil War and Reconstruction."
- Beth White, Military Accounts Record Representative in the Office of Military Affairs at Liberty University, will speak on "The Confederate Soldier and PTSD."
- Kenny Rowlette, Special Projects Coordinator of the Scholarly Communications Department of the Jerry Falwell Library and the Director of the National Civil War Chaplains Museum will speak on "A Backward Look at the Lincoln Assassination: A Look at the Fates of the Secondary Players."
- Craig Caba, the owner of the J. Howard Wert Gettysburg Collection, will host an exhibit, "Lincoln Honors the Dead at Gettysburg." Among the artifacts will be the podium that the 16<sup>th</sup> President used when he delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address, and other items related to the event. This exhibit will be on display at the Visitors Center on Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Again, this exhibition is free and open to the public.

For more information, call [434-592-4366](tel:434-592-4366) or e-mail [ronk@liberty.edu](mailto:ronk@liberty.edu).



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

February 1st: Confederate generals became aware that Union forces were massing along the line of the Mississippi River near Tennessee, and planned to expect a major

Union offensive with the targets thought to be either Fort Henry or Fort Donelson.

February 2nd: Confederate intelligence indicated that the Union's ability to move its men along river systems was not good. However, the Confederates were unaware of Lincoln's order – to attack regardless.

February 3rd: Lincoln again asked McClellan to make a major move for Richmond using the Army of the Potomac. McClellan again showed his usual reluctance to do anything without having it precisely mapped out first. He told Lincoln that he wanted to move troops by sea to the Virginia Peninsula and then push the 40 miles inland.

February 5th: General Grant concentrated his forces for an attack on Fort Henry. He had 15,000 men under his command while the Confederate defenders at the fort numbered 3,200.

February 6th: Union gunboats on the Tennessee River bombarded Fort Henry. The fort commander, General Tilghman withdrew as many men as he could to Fort Donelson but ensured that gunners remained in Fort Henry. By mid-afternoon the walls of Fort

Henry were broken and Tilghman decided to surrender. Only 63 men were left in the fort. Over 3,000 made it to the relative safety of Fort Donelson, which prepared itself for an attack. However, the control of the Tennessee River at that point was very important to the Unionists as it allowed them to make river patrols up to northern Alabama.

February 7th: Grant prepared for an attack on Fort Donelson, which was a far tougher proposition than Fort Henry. Fort Henry was by the river's edge while Fort Donelson was 100 feet above the Cumberland River.

February 8th: Union forces took prisoner 2,527 Confederate troops at Roanoke Island.

February 10th: Grant told his men that they would move on Fort Donelson within 24 hours. The fort was 12 miles from Fort Henry. Grant's large land force was bolstered by a large river force as more Union gunboats joined the attack.

February 12th: 20,000 Union troops moved on Fort Donelson. By the time Grant's men arrived at the fort, it is thought that there were about 18,000 Confederate troops in it.

February 13th: The attack on Fort Donelson started though the gunboats were late in arriving. Artillery fire continued throughout the day and into the night.



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February 14th: Six Union gunboats arrived at Fort Donelson. They accompanied ten transport ships that brought an extra 10,000 Union troops to the fight. The gunboats added an extra 70 guns to the Union's artillery capability. As well as being pounded from the land, the fort was attacked from the river. During the night, the fort's commander, General Floyd, decided that the Confederate force in the fort had to fight its way out and push into open land. Floyd assumed that they had no chance of holding Fort Donelson.

February 15th: One hour before daybreak the Confederates in Fort Donelson attempted their breakout. They had surprise on their side and attacked on just one front but after initial success had to face Union troops sent to reinforce that front. By the afternoon, the Confederates had to return to Fort Donelson. By the end of the day, Fort Donelson was totally surrounded. Union troops surrounded it on three sides on land and the Union gunboats dominated the Cumberland River.

February 16th: At dawn Fort Donelson surrendered. The Confederates had hoped to negotiate terms but Grant told them that "unconditional and immediate surrender can (only) be accepted". The loss of Fort Donelson resulted in the Confederates losing control of Tennessee and Kentucky. Over 14,000 Confederates were taken prisoner.

February 18th: There was much celebration in Washington DC when news reached the

capital of the surrender of Fort Donelson. The First Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond.

February 21st: The Battle of Fort Craig in New Mexico was fought. This saw a Confederate victory against a larger Union force. The Confederates captured six artillery guns from the Unionists.

February 22nd: Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the first President of the Confederate States of America.

February 25th: General Halleck, commander of the Army of the Southwest, sent a series of telegraph messages stating how well the Unionist forces were doing in Missouri – a state seen as a thorn in the side to Federal aspirations. However, these telegraph messages were misleading in that Halleck had yet to achieve anything decisive.

February 27th: Davis was given permission by the Confederate Congress to suspend habeas corpus if he felt it was necessary to do so. Davis asked for martial law to be introduced at Norfolk and Portsmouth – both important naval bases in Virginia.

February 28th: Charleston was captured by Unionist forces. Charleston was to become the capital for the new state of West Virginia.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016

### JOHN V. QUARSTEIN – SURVEY OF CONFEDERATE IRONCLADS

For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, John V. Quarstein joins us on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with a new topic, “Survey of Confederate Ironclads.”

John is an award-winning historian, preservationist, lecturer, and author. He served as director of the Virginia War Museum for over thirty years and, after retirement, continues to work as a historian for the City of Newport News. He is in demand as a speaker throughout the nation.

He 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 fourteen books, including *Fort Monroe: The Key to the South*, *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood*, *Big Bethel: The First Battle*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union’s First*

*Ironclad*. His newest book is *Sink Before Surrender: The CSS Virginia*

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*, was a 2011 Bronze Telly winner. His more recent film projects have been *Pyrates of the Chesapeake* and *Tread of the Tyrants Heel: Virginia’s War of 1812 Experience*.

John 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 hunter and decoy collector. He lives on Old Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, and on his family’s Eastern Shore farm near Chestertown, Maryland.

As always, we look forward to a lively presentation from this most entertaining historian. We hope you will join us!

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - Benjamin Ross, Church Historian, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church on “The Life of John Jasper”



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### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*I shall never forget my extreme fear during the night, and my utter hopelessness of ever seeing the morning light. Terror stricken, we remained crouched in the cave, while shell after shell followed each other in quick succession. I endeavored by constant prayer to prepare myself for the sudden death I was almost certain awaited me. My heart stood still as we would hear the reports from the guns, and the rushing and fearful sound of the shell as it came toward us.*

Mary Loughborough, Vicksburg Mississippi, 1863



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## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016**

March 1st: Richmond was put under martial law while a number of prominent citizens were arrested for proclaiming that the war should be brought to an end.

March 2nd: Confederate forces abandoned Columbus, Kentucky, seen as a major Confederate stronghold but one that was vulnerable to attack after the fall of Fort Donelson.

March 3rd: General Halleck accused General Grant of “neglect of duty, inefficiency and drunkenness”. McClellan gave Halleck permission to arrest Grant if he thought it was necessary. This argument was the result of Grant’s popularity in the North after the capture of Fort Donelson, which Halleck claimed the credit for coupled with Halleck’s lack of any real progress in Missouri.

March 4th: General Robert E Lee was appointed military advisor to Jefferson Davis. Halleck removed Grant from his command. Halleck was appointed commander of all the Union’s western armies – his reward for the victory at Fort Donelson.

March 6th: Lincoln asked Congress to approve Federal funding to assist states thinking about introducing emancipation of slaves legislation. The Confederate Congress agreed that a scorched earth policy could be used in Virginia if Unionist forces broke through. The aim was to ensure that no cotton or tobacco fell into the hands of the North.

March 7th: McClellan moved the Army of the Potomac into Virginia. His target was the Confederate force based at Manassas.

March 8th: Lincoln finally agreed with McClellan’s plan to invade Virginia from the sea. However, the President did insist that sufficient men had to be left behind to defend the capital. The Confederates suffered a heavy defeat at the Battle of Pea Ridge losing nearly 800 men with 1000 captured. The former ‘USS Merrimac’ – now the Confederate ‘Virginia’ – inflicted major losses on a small Union naval fleet of three ships resulting in the North losing 2 ships and 250 men at Hampton Roads. Only the night saved the third ship. The ‘Virginia’ was a heavily armored ironclad that stood up to six full broadsides with little damage done to her. However on the evening of the 8th the ‘USS Monitor’ entered the Hampton Roads.

March 9th: The Army of the Potomac moved off in search of a Confederate force they thought was at Rappahannock – but it was not and they returned to their base at Alexandria without having made contact with the enemy. The ‘USS Monitor’ engaged the ‘Virginia’ at Hampton Roads. After a series of attacks on one another neither saw an opportunity to win and both broke off the engagement. Both ships were simply too heavily armored to be susceptible to the firepower of the other.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2016**

March 11th: Another War Order by Lincoln stated that McClellan was now only commander of the Army of the Potomac. This was a temporary move only to ensure that McClellan could concentrate all his energy on a successful campaign in Virginia.

March 13th: Union forces captured \$1 million of Confederate supplies at Point Pleasant, Missouri.

March 15th: Grant was handed a command once again – he was placed in charge of Unionist forces in Tennessee.

March 17th: McClellan started his campaign to attack Virginia from the coast by moving his troops to Fortress Monroe.

March 19th: The South puts into place a plan to stop the North taking two vital rail lines – the Chattanooga to Georgia and the Corinth to Memphis lines. If the North took either line, they would have an easier route into the South's heartland.

March 23rd: The Battle of Winchester was fought. The South took heavy casualties with 270 killed and as many as 1000 missing. The

North suffered 103 killed with 400 wounded and missing. A large Unionist force gathered at Camp Shiloh and made ready for an attack on Corinth, Mississippi. As the Confederates expected such an attack, their forces in Corinth were being increased.

March 24th: Lincoln became convinced that the South was about to launch an attack on Washington DC and ordered troops who were to have supported McClellan's campaign in Virginia to remain in the capital.

March 29th: The Confederates continued their build-up of men at Corinth, Mississippi, and waited for the North to attack. The size of the force gathered in Corinth showed that the South was not prepared to let the town fall to the North in view of its importance with regards to the two vital rail lines identified by the South.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016**

### **BENJAMIN ROSS, CHURCH HISTORIAN OF SIXTH MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE LIFE OF JOHN JASPER**

John Jasper was born into slavery in Fluvanna County, Virginia on July 4, 1812. After being sent to Richmond to work in a tobacco factory in 1839, he experienced a religious conversion in Capitol Square. "My sins was piled on me like mountains; my feet was sinking down to the regions of despair, and I felt that of all sinners I was the worst. I thought that I would die right then, and with what I supposed was my last breath I flung up to heaven a cry for mercy."

A fellow slave helped him learn to read and write, and Jasper began studying the Bible. He began his ministry in the early 1840s, preaching at funerals of slave and free black parishioners, and giving occasional sermons at the First African Baptist Church. After giving a guest sermon to the Third African Baptist Church in Petersburg, Jasper was invited by that congregation to preach every Sunday.

During the Civil War Jasper was employed to preach to the sick and wounded in the Confederate Hospitals on Chimborazo Hill, and on 19th and Franklin streets. Jasper's accomplishments are remarkable given the fact that he was a slave in the tobacco factories and iron mills of Richmond during the first 25 years of his ministry work, a time

when Virginia law expressly prohibited blacks from preaching.

After the Civil War and emancipation, Jasper established Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, in Richmond. His dynamic leadership had attracted about 2,500 members by 1887, and the church served as a center of religious life in the Jackson Ward neighborhood. He established a Sunday school, and the church also provided social services to help the indigent, young, old, and infirm.

In 1878 Jasper first delivered the sermon for which he became most famous, "The Sun Do Move," in which he expounded on his belief in the fundamental truth of the Bible and the power of God. His dramatic speaking style and vivid imagery attracted national attention, and he gave his sermon in cities throughout the eastern United States for many years. Jasper continued to preach at his church until a few days before his death.

This month, we welcome Benjamin Ross, Church Historian of the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond, who will introduce us to the passions, beliefs, and legacy of this trail-blazing Virginian.

### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, May 19, 2016 - Lawrence M Denton on Unionists in Virginia: Politics, Secession and Their Plan to Prevent Civil War



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*“Here we are, some with whole skins, some with not so whole. Others have been left behind. For myself, I can only wonder that there is a bone left in my carcass when I think of the wholesale carnage through which I have passed. My bruises are inward.*

*It is all over now, and I can only regard it as a hideous dream—the smoking ruins, the sodden field, the trailing banner, the slaughtered thousands and waiting families, the roar of the cannon, the Rebel Yell and Yankee hurrah have all passed away, and we again return to peace.”*

Private John W. Haley, 17th Maine Infantry, June 9, 1865

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### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### 151<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Surrender, Appomattox Court House

April 8, 2016 - April 12, 2016

(All programs start in the Visitor Center lobby unless otherwise noted)

#### Friday April 8, 2016

- 10:20 a.m. The Sweeneys are indeed a wonder by David Wooldridge
- 11:20 a.m. Village Tour by Albert Carter
- 12:20 p.m. “In at the Death”: Sheridan’s March 1865 Central Virginia Campaign by David Wooldridge
- 1:20 p.m. Two Rivers, Two Railroads and a Highway: The Appomattox Campaign by Albert Carter
- 2:20 p.m. The Battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House by Patrick Schroeder (In Visitor Center Theater)
- 3:20 p.m. Why Here? by Ernie Price
- 4:00 p.m. The Battle of Appomattox Station by Patrick Schroeder (on site at battlefield)

#### Saturday April 9, 2016

- 10:20a.m. Battle of Appomattox Court House walking talk/tour with Patrick Schroeder
- 11:20 a.m. Appomattox Campaign by Chris Bingham
- 12:20 p.m. The Battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House by Patrick Schroeder (In Visitor Center Theater)
- 1:20 p.m. Leadership and the Surrender Meeting by Ernie Price
- 2:20 p.m. The Surrenders and Events After Appomattox by Alyssa Holland
- 3:20 p.m. The Surrender and Commissioners Meeting by Chris Bingham
- 5:00 p.m. United States Colored Troops in the Civil War by Morris Lockhart
- 6:00 p.m. A Visit to Old Appomattox with George Peers by Patrick Schroeder (a first person living history program)

\*Throughout the day: Printing Presses demonstration and Paroles (inside the Clover Hill Tavern)



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016

### SPECIAL EVENTS – *Continued*

#### 151<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Surrender, Appomattox Court House April 8, 2016 - April 12, 2016

##### **Sunday April 10, 2016**

- 10:20 a.m. Local Units and the Impact of the War by Chris Bingham
- 11:20 a.m. Appomattox: Where the Nation Reunited? by James Drass
- 12:20 p.m. The Surrender and Commissioners Meeting by Chris Bingham
- 1:20 p.m. After Appomattox by Patrick Schroeder (In Visitor Center Theater)
- 2:20 p.m. U. S. Colored Troops at Appomattox by Chris Bingham
- 3:20 p.m. A Visit to Old Appomattox with George Peers by Patrick Schroeder (a first person living history program)

\*Throughout the day: Printing Presses demonstration and Paroles (inside the Clover Hill Tavern)

##### **Monday April 11, 2016**

- 10:20 a.m. One True American: Ely Parker, Grant's Seneca Indian by David Wooldridge
- 11:20 a.m. Curator's Museum Tour by Joe Williams
- 12:20 p.m. The Surrender and Commissioners Meeting by Brandon Chamberlain
- 1:20 p.m. Going Home: The Confederate Soldier Experience by Ernie Price
- 2:20 p.m. Village Tour by Albert Carter
- 3:20 p.m. Appomattox: Where the Nation Reunited? By James Drass

\*Throughout the day: Printing Presses demonstration and Paroles (inside the Clover Hill Tavern)

##### **Tuesday April 12, 2016**

- 10:20 a.m. The Surrender and Commissioners Meeting by Brandon Chamberlain
- 11:20 a.m. Joshua Chamberlain and the Stacking of Arms by Patrick Schroeder
- 12:20 p.m. Curator's Museum Tour by Joe Williams
- 1:20 p.m. The Surrenders and Events After Appomattox by Alyssa Holland
- 2:20 p.m. Going Home: The Confederate Soldier Experience by Ernie Price
- 3:20 p.m. After Appomattox by Patrick Schroeder (In Visitor Center Theater)

\*Throughout the day: Printing Presses demonstration and Paroles (inside the Clover Hill Tavern)

*Events Subject to Change*



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

April 1st: McClellan had a force of three regiments facing 12,000 Confederate soldiers at Fortress Monroe. In total McClellan had a total force of 112,000 men.

April 3rd: The Senate outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. This was seen to set the precedent that slavery should be abolished in any area over which the Federal government had jurisdiction. There were only 63 slaves in the District but the act set the wheels in motion for the abolition of slavery in all areas controlled by the Federal government.

April 4th: Union forces started a move on Yorktown – the start of McClellan’s campaign in Virginia. The Confederate general Johnston had 17,000 men under his command along an eight-mile front but faced 100,000 Union troops.

April 5th: McClellan’s force continued its push down the Virginia peninsula.

April 6th: 40,000 Confederate soldiers attacked a major Union base at Shiloh. They took the Union force by surprise and used to their good the fact that the Unionist force had not built any major defensive lines around their camp as they believed it would be perceived as a sign of weakness by the South. The fighting was fierce but by nightfall the North had managed to bring up reserves so

that they had 54,000 men to the Confederates 34,000.

April 7th: The North launched a counter-offensive at Shiloh. Like the previous day the fighting was fierce but gunships on the River Tennessee supported the Unionists. “Bloody Shiloh” had no obvious winning side and historians view the battle as a ‘draw’. But the losses suffered by both sides far outweighed any previous battle. The North lost 1754 killed, 8408 wounded and 2885 captured while the South lost 1728 killed, 8102 wounded and 959 men taken prisoner. Of the two sides, the North was better able to cope with such losses so their media portrayed it as a Northern victory.

April 8th: 3,000 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner at Island Number 10 on the Mississippi River.

April 11th: The House of Representatives, in support of the Senate, passed a bill to ban slavery in the District of Columbia. The Unionists captured Fort Pulaski in the mouth of the harbor at Savannah after an eighteen-hour bombardment.

April 16th: President Lincoln signed a bill that outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. President Davis signed a bill that made all males living in the Confederacy aged between 18 and 35 liable for military service.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

April 18th: A Unionist naval fleet assembled at Ship Island in the Mississippi Delta, to begin its move against New Orleans. The route it was scheduled to take was fraught with dangers not least the forts at Jackson and St Philip, which could muster over 170 rifled 63-pounder cannon. The Unionist fleet was under the command of Commodore David Farragut and it carried 15,000 troops who were tasked with taking New Orleans.

April 21st: After three days of bombardment and being hit by over 4,000 rounds Forts Jackson and St. Philip were still functioning.

April 22nd: A Confederate deserter, however, confirmed to Farragut that the damage to both forts had been great. Farragut decided to try to 'run' the forts with his fleet. He told his

subordinates that his philosophy was "conquer or be conquered".

April 24th: By dawn of this day, the Federal naval fleet had passed both forts. However, his fleet had lost 37 men killed and 171 wounded. Farragut steamed to within 18 miles (by river) to New Orleans.

April 25th: Fort Macon in North Carolina fell to Unionist troops. 450 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner. Farragut's fleet arrived in New Orleans and claimed the city.

April 28th: Forts St. Philip and Jackson formally surrendered to Union forces.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016

### LAWRENCE M. DENTON - UNIONISTS IN VIRGINIA

The question of whether the Civil War was preventable is a debate that began after Appomattox and continues today. But even earlier, in 1861, a group of Union-loyal Virginians—led by George Summers, John Brown Baldwin, John Janney and Jubal Early—felt war was avoidable. In the statewide election for delegates to the Secession Convention that same spring, the Unionists defeated the Southern Rights Democrats with a huge majority of the votes across the state. These heroic men unsuccessfully negotiated with Secretary of State William Henry Seward to prevent the national tragedy that would ensue.

This month we welcome author and historian Lawrence M. Denton as he traces this remarkable story of Virginians working against all odds in a failed attempt to save a nation from war.

Larry Denton, an authority on the secession crisis, is a descendant of several Maryland families that pre-date the Revolutionary War. He is a graduate of Western Maryland College, and earned a master's degree, with honors, from Johns Hopkins University. Spanning academia, government and industry, the breath of his professional career influenced his scholarly research and writings on the Civil War.

From 1968 to 1978 he held a variety of academic administrative posts at the Johns Hopkins University. In 1974, he was appointed Director of Academic Services (now Dean of Admissions) and was responsible for the Offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Career Counseling, Student Employment and the Registrar's Office. Denton was known best for leading the national effort to re-establish scholarships based on academic achievement at major universities.

In 1978 he accepted an appointment as Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator (a

Presidential Appointee) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, D.C. At NOAA, he played a major role in establishing an Office of University Affairs, which sought to couple weather research more closely with operations by collocating NOAA facilities on university campuses. His tour in government service included participation in the first scientific delegation to China (in the spring of 1979), where he assisted the United States delegation in negotiating the now long-standing international agreement for the exchange of atmospheric and oceanic scientists.

His career in industry began after leaving NOAA in 1981. He served as a senior consultant to numerous firms involved in upgrading the National Weather Service infrastructure. He represented AAI, Raytheon, GE and Lockheed Martin. These companies played significant roles in building automated surface observing stations, new Doppler weather radars, and a new generation of weather satellites. From 1993 to 2004 he represented The Weather Channel where he played an instrumental role in the production of their highly acclaimed TV series, Forecast Earth.

He has authored three books: *A Southern Star for Maryland: Maryland and the Secession Crisis* (Publishing Concepts, 1995); *William Henry Seward and the Secession Crisis: The Effort to Prevent Civil War* (McFarland & Company, 2009); and *Unionists in Virginia: Politics, Secession and Their Plan to Prevent Civil War* (History Press, 2014). Denton lectures throughout Maryland and in Delaware, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. These books can be ordered at any bookstore or on Amazon.com.

Now retired, he resides on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with his wife Susan near the town of Oxford.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, June 16, 2016 - Charmaine Cromwell-White, Historical Interpreter - The Life of Harriet Tubman

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade. To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting.

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See our website's FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"Well, it is all over now. The battle is lost, and many of us are prisoners, many are dead, many wounded, bleeding and dying. Your Soldier lives and mourns and but for you, my darling, he would rather, a million times rather, be back there with his dead, to sleep for all time in an unknown grave."*

Major General George Pickett, CSA, to his fiancée, July 4, 1863

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

May 1, 1862 - General Butler occupied New Orleans. His administration of the city was to prove controversial.

May 2, 1862 - Unionist forces were massed for an attack on Yorktown. General Johnson, the Confederate officer in charge of the city, knew he would not be able to make a stand against a mass attack and decided to evacuate the city.

May 3, 1862 - Confederate forces started to evacuate Yorktown and withdraw to Richmond. May 4, 1862 - The Army of the Potomac occupied Yorktown in Virginia.

May 5, 1862 - President Lincoln left Washington DC for a meeting with McClellan

at Fortress Monroe. Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of the Treasury Chase accompanied the President. A battle at Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, against a rearguard Confederate force protecting the withdrawal from Yorktown, led to a Union victory but at a cost – 456 dead, 1,400 wounded and 372 missing. Confederate losses were estimated at being between 1,000 and 1,700.

May 7, 1862 - Union forces sailed upriver to Eltham's Landing, Virginia, and landed near West Point. They came under fire from Confederate troops still withdrawing from Yorktown and lost 49 killed, 104 wounded and 41 missing.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016**

### **THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site***

May 9, 1862 - Lincoln met McClellan to discuss the course of the war. Confederate forces abandoned the important naval base at Norfolk. When Unionist forces arrived at the naval base, they found large amounts of stores and equipment.

May 11, 1862 - The 'CSS Virginia' (formally the 'USS Merrimac') was destroyed by the Confederates to stop it falling into the hands of the Unionists. It was too heavily armored to be used on rivers and could not navigate the River James to help Confederate forces at Richmond.

May 12, 1862 - Lincoln announced that as ports Beaufort (North Carolina), Port Royal (South Carolina) and New Orleans were now in Federal hands, the blockade that they had been under would be lifted. Unionist forces occupied Baton Rouge, Louisiana.  
the city as Unionist forces approached.

May 15, 1862 - In New Orleans, the men of the city were kept in order by the presence of a large Unionist force. However, the women of the city made very public what they thought about the Unionist occupation of the city. Butler's response was to issue General Order Number 28. This stated "when any female shall, by word, gesture or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

May 19, 1862 - In a letter to his wife, Jefferson Davis, commented on the lack of resolve he had observed in those defending Richmond.

May 20, 1862 - Lincoln signed the Homestead Act. This act made available 160 acres of government land that would be handed over to a homesteader if he agreed to improve it for five years. Postwar America greatly benefited from this act as it encouraged many to migrate west.

May 21, 1862 - Advanced units of the Army of the Potomac were just eight miles from Richmond. However, McClellan was still cautious about attacking the Confederate capital, as he still believed that he did not have enough troops.

May 23, 1862 - Union forces at Front Royal in the Shenandoah Valley suffered heavy casualties after being attacked by 'Stonewall' Jackson's men. Over 1,000 Union troops were killed or wounded out of a total force of 1,400 men. On the same day, the Confederates suffered a defeat at Lewisburg and lost over 200 men killed, wounded or missing.

May 24, 1862 - Lincoln ordered that 20,000 Unionist troops be sent to the Shenandoah Valley to eradicate the Confederate forces there.  
May 25, 1862 - Lincoln gave McClellan an ultimatum – either attack Richmond or return with the Army of the Potomac to Washington DC to assist in the capital's defense.

May 29, 1862 - To counter Confederate success in the Shenandoah Valley, Unionist strength there was increased to 40,000 men. The North captured Ashland, a town just to the north of Richmond.

May 31, 1862 - A major Confederate attack against the Army of the Potomac started at Fair Oaks. General Joseph Johnson, who was seriously injured by shrapnel, led the attack.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2016**

### **CHARMAINE CROMWELL-WHITE - THE LIFE OF HARRIET TUBMAN**

Born Araminta Ross in Maryland around 1820, the woman who would become Harriet Tubman started life in slavery, and suffered the abuses commonly associated with that “peculiar institution.” While in her teens, she was the victim of a serious head injury while protecting another field hand from an angry overseer. The headaches, seizures, visions, and vivid dreams which occurred throughout her life, were attributed to this early injury. A devout follower of the teachings of the Old Testament, Harriet interpreted these symptoms as revelations from God.

Around 1844 she married a free black named John Tubman and took his last name. A few years later, driven by fears of being sold, Harriet Tubman followed the North Star by

night, and escaped slavery. Over the following years she made the dangerous trip south to escort family members, and other slaves to freedom. By 1860, she had made the journey 19 times, and during the Civil War offered her talents to the Union.

With the recent news that Harriet Tubman will be the first woman honored on U.S. paper currency since Martha Washington’s portrait graced the \$1 silver certificate, our timing could not be better in providing this opportunity to learn more about the woman called Moses. We hope you will join us on June 16th when Historical Interpreter, Charmaine Cromwell-White presents The Life of Harriet Tubman.

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### **NEXT MONTH**

Thursday, July 21, 2016 – Speaker and topic to be announced.

### **PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2016

### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*In they came, some on stretchers, some in men's arms, some feebly staggering along propped on rude crutches, and one lay stark and still with covered face, as a comrade gave his name to be recorded before they carried him away to the dead house. All was hurry and confusion; the hall was full of these wrecks of humanity, for the most exhausted could not reach a bed till duly ticketed and registered; the walls were lined with rows of such as could sit, the floor covered with the more disabled, the steps and doorways filled with helpers and lookers on; the sound of many feet and voices made that usually quiet hour as noisy as noon; and, in the midst of it all, the matron's motherly face brought more comfort to many a poor soul, than the cordial draughts she administered, or the cheery words that welcomed all, making of the hospital a home.*

Louisa May Alcott

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - *Courtesy History Learning Site*

June 1st: Robert E Lee was given command of the Confederate troops defending Richmond following the wounding of General Johnson. A renewed Confederate assault on Fair Oaks resulted in many Confederate casualties – in total the Confederates lost 8,000 men killed, wounded or missing at Fair Oaks. The Unionists lost nearly 6,000 men in total.

June 3rd: Corinth, Mississippi fell to Unionist forces. Their next target was Memphis, Tennessee. A Unionist advance threatened Charleston, South Carolina.

June 4th: The Army of the Potomac prepared for their advance on Richmond.

June 6th: This day dealt two major blows to the Confederates. First, they lost Ashley Turner, considered to be a highly gifted cavalry commander at a time when cavalry units were coming more and more into the war. Second, in a confrontation on the Mississippi, the Confederate Navy lost seven out of eight armed riverboats to a Union fleet that lost none of its seven gunboats. The Confederates lost 80 men killed or wounded and had over 100 taken prisoner. The fleet was

guarding Memphis, which fell to Union forces that day. The victory also meant that the Unionist Navy had effective control of the whole of the Mississippi River where it was navigable.

June 7th: Unionists reconnaissance units came into sight of Richmond. In New Orleans, General Butler sentenced William Mumford to death for tearing down the Union flag flying over the city's mint.

June 8th: 8,000 Confederate troops fought 18,000 Union troops at Cross Keys in the Shenandoah Valley. At the same time another battle took place at Port Republic, four miles along the Valley. Neither battle is conclusive but in total the Unionists lost 850 men killed and wounded. The Confederates lost about 600 men in both battles.

June 12th: After three days rest, Jackson's army made a move to Richmond to support Lee. Jackson's 20,000 men had effectively tied up 60,000 Unionist troops in the Shenandoah Valley. Jefferson Davis had initially feared a two-pronged Unionist attack on Richmond but the work of Lee all but ruled this out.

**CIVIL WAR**  
**POWHATAN**   **ROUNDTABLE**   
*A Society For Civil War Studies*  
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**POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2016**

June 15th: Reports from scouting parties convinced Lee that McClellan's communication lines were very weak. In an attempt to outthink McClellan, Lee sent 10,000 in the direction of the Shenandoah Valley ostensibly to support Jackson—even though they would never get there as Jackson's men were marching at speed for Richmond. Lee hoped that McClellan's poor communication would convince him to keep his 60,000 men in the Valley to fight the extra 10,000 men who marched to be seen by the Unionists – but who were never intended to get to the Shenandoah Valley.

June 17th: President Lincoln was still not convinced that his generals were as offensively minded as he was. Lincoln believed that General John Pope fitted this requirement and appointed him commander of the newly created Army of Virginia.

June 18th: Lincoln wrote to McClellan urging him to attack Richmond. He wrote that with 10,000 less men – those men who had been directed to the Shenandoah Valley – the city was ripe for taking. McClellan viewed the situation differently. He believed that the Confederates had to be exceptionally well dug in and confident of victory if they could allow 10,000 men to leave the city. His response to Lincoln's exhortation to be more aggressive was to be more cautious!

June 19th: Lincoln made it known that he planned to outlaw slavery in all states in America.

June 24th: The first exchange of fire took place between troops near Richmond.

June 25th: McClellan ordered his men to advance on the left flank of Richmond. He also sent a letter to Washington DC that stated that he was facing an army of 200,000 men and that if he lost to them it would not be his fault and that he would die fighting with his men. McClellan made it clear that if he did lose the battle, there was nothing to stop the Confederates attacking the capital.

To the end McClellan remained cautious. But it was a simple fact. If he did lose, what would stop Lee and then Davis entering Washington DC?

June 26th: Lee attacked Unionist forces outside Richmond at Mechanicsville. Lee had decided that attack was his best form of defense. However, an accurate and severe Unionist artillery bombardment threw back the Confederates. Lee withdrew his forces. McClellan remained very cautious and feared that a second attack would be more successful. Despite arguments to the contrary from his in-the-field commanders, McClellan ordered his forward troops to withdraw from their entrenched lines.

June 27th: Lee's men attacked as expected but the Unionists he expected to face were withdrawing across the Chickahominy River. The withdrawal was disciplined but the Confederates did capture a large amount of Union supplies. Lincoln was furious that McClellan had been overcautious.

June 28th: The Union Army continued its withdrawal and destroyed supplies at White House Landing rather than let them fall into the hands of the Confederates.

June 29th: The Army of the Potomac continued its withdrawal.

June 30th: Lee ordered an attack on McClellan's troops with all the 80,000 men at his disposal. However, it was never coordinated and by dusk it was plain that the attack had not been anywhere near decisive. If anything, the failed attack acted as a boost to the Unionists after what had happened in the previous three days.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

*Established 2003*

## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2016

### BILLY KORNEGAY ON “JOHN BROWN'S RAID: VIRGINIA'S CALL TO ARMS”

Whether thought of as a hero or a traitor, a savior or a murderer, John Brown was undeniably a gargantuan figure in the era leading to the Civil War.

Our July program, “*John Brown's Raid: Virginia's Call to Arms*” presented by our own Billy Kornegay, will review the life of John Brown from birth to manhood, and describe certain periods of his life when he was influenced by various political ideologies.

Billy will explore John Brown’s travels to Kansas in response to his son's letters, the ensuing murder of pro-slavery men at Pottawatomie Creek, and the long preparation of the raid on Harper's Ferry, which resulted in his trial and execution.

The fate of other raiders will also be noted, and Billy will examine the impact of how these events led to the secession of Virginia and other states.

Our speaker is a Retired Environmental System Engineer with more than 50 years’ experience in industry (Westvaco), academia (VMI and Georgia Tech), and the consulting field (Parsons).

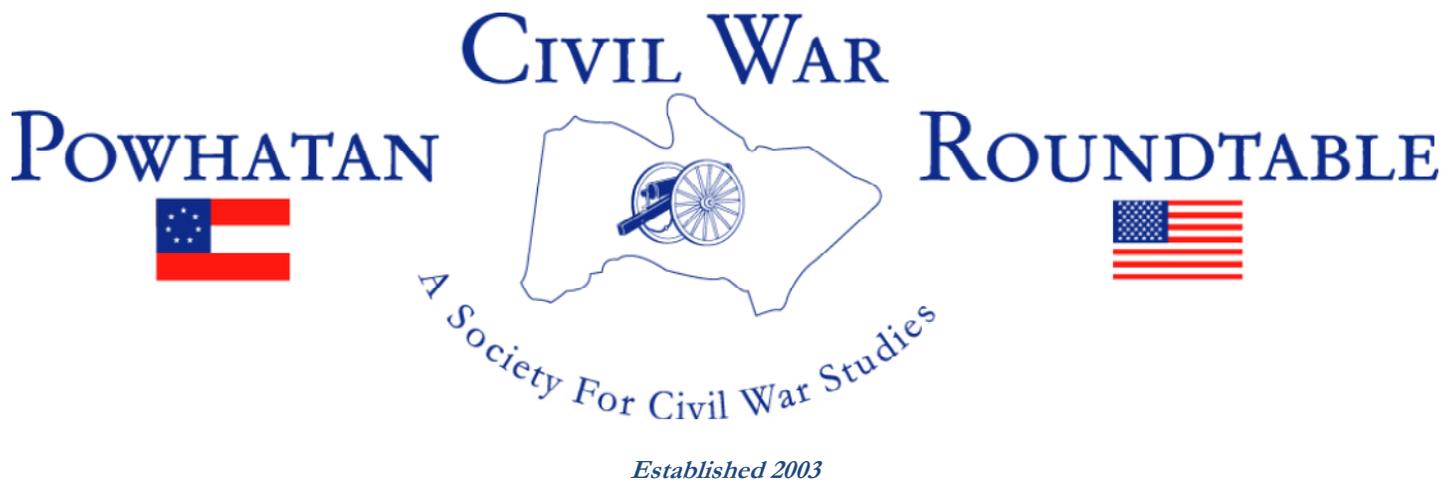
Billy graduated from Powhatan High School and then obtained a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Virginia Military Institute. After completing two years of active duty he earned a M.S in Water Resources, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University. He served a total of 14 years in the Virginia National Guard, US Army and the US Army Reserve.

He is a member of the Water Environment Federation, American Water Works Association and other technical organizations as well as, the American Legion, and numerous organizations that deal with heritage or history including the Powhatan Historical Society, the Powhatan Civil War Roundtable, and the War Memorial Round Table.

Billy retired in 2002 from the Parson Corporation where he was Vice President and Technical Manager of Water and Wastewater Processes worldwide. During his tenure with Parsons Corp that engineering firm was in the top five design firms in America and in most years was either first or second. His travels took him to 26 foreign countries, and 48 of the 50 states.

During his career he authored 4 technical books, contributed chapters in 3 technical books, co-edited 3 Technical Workshops, published or presented more than 80 technical papers as well as presenting several general interest (wine) and historical papers (early settlements, Civil War, WW II). He has served on advisory panels for the Civil Engineering Department at the Virginia Military Institute, and the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois.

Billy resides in Powhatan County with his wife Suzanne within 8 miles of where he was reared.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2016

### NEXT MONTH

Thursday, August 18, 2016 Paul Quigley, Ph.D. on *"How Civil War soldiers celebrated the Fourth of July"*

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"I John Brown am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty, land: will never be purged away; but with Blood. I had as I now think: vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed; it might be done."*

John Brown, December 2, 1859

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

July 1<sup>st</sup> President Lincoln signed a bill introducing Federal income tax of between 3% and 5%.

Lee ordered an attack on a Union position at Malvern Hill, overlooking the James River. Senior Confederate commanders cautioned Lee against this but he ignored their concerns. The attack was a major failure. Communication issues were such that two units led by Longstreet and A P Hill (both of whom had cautioned Lee against the attack) never went into battle despite the fact that both were meant to have played a pivotal role in the attack. The Union force, commanded by McClellan could have launched potentially a devastating counter-attack against the

totally disorganized Confederates but McClellan was more concerned about the greater numbers Lee could call on, which could not be matched by the Army of the Potomac. Therefore, there was no counter-offensive and the so-called 'Seven Day Battle' ended. The Army of the Potomac lost 1582 dead, 7709 wounded and 5958 missing. The Army of Northern Virginia fared worse: 3000 dead, 15,000 wounded and 1000 missing. McClellan ordered his army to pull back – typical of his cautious approach to a campaign, though he was hampered by poor intelligence – while Richmond was saved, even if Lee had not defeated the Army of the Potomac.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

*Established 2003*

## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JULY 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln called on 300,000 men to volunteer for the Union and to serve for 3 years. McClellan's army started to pull back to Harrison's Landing.

July 5<sup>th</sup> Congress was already planning for a post-war America. It authorized the building of the first trans-continental railway. Lincoln signed the Morrill Land Grant Act, which was to allow settlers to take up public land in the west to "tame the prairies".

July 7<sup>th</sup> McClellan wrote to Lincoln protesting that he could not be more aggressive in his campaigning because of the President's order that many of his soldiers be kept in Washington DC to protect the city. McClellan called for more troops: "The rebel army is in our front, with the purpose of overwhelming us by attacking our positions, or by reducing us by blocking our river communications. I cannot but regard our position as critical."

July 11<sup>th</sup> General Halleck was appointed General-in-Chief of the Federal Armies.

July 13<sup>th</sup> Lincoln urged McClellan to start an attack on Richmond.

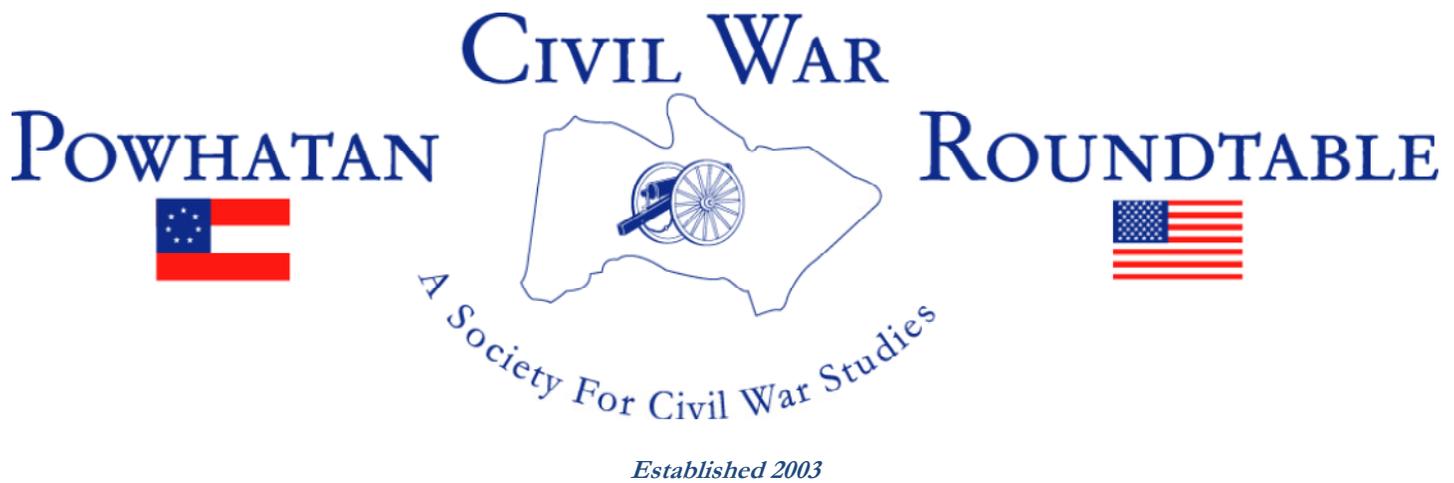
July 14<sup>th</sup> Congress approved the establishment of West Virginia. However, it did not approve Lincoln's plan to compensate any state that abolished slavery.

July 17<sup>th</sup> Lincoln signed the Second Confiscation Act, which granted freedom to slaves who entered Federal jurisdiction.

July 20<sup>th</sup> The Union started a determined campaign in Missouri to rid the state of guerrilla groups (such as the ones led by Nathan Bedford Forest and Colonel John Hunt Morgan). Over the next two months over 500 guerrillas were killed, 1800 wounded and 560 were missing. However, the problems caused by these cavalry-based groups were not resolved.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln presented his Cabinet with his draft emancipation proclamation, which called for the freeing of slaves in states in rebellion against the Union. On this day the North and South also agreed on an exchange of prisoners.

July 29<sup>th</sup> The steamer '290' sailed from Liverpool en route to the Portuguese island of Terceira. Here, '290' was equipped and armed to be a commerce raider. '290' was also renamed to the 'CSS Alabama' – the most famous Confederate naval vessel of the war.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2016

### PAUL QUIGLEY, PhD - HOW CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS CELEBRATED THE FOURTH OF JULY

This month we welcome Paul Quigley, the Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, and the James I. Robertson, Jr. Associate Professor of Civil War History in the History Department at Virginia Tech. The James I. Robertson Jr. Professorship was created in 2005. It was funded through the estate of Vicki Heilig, a resident of Salisbury, N.C., who was committed to Civil War education and preservation.

A lecturer in American history at the University of Edinburgh since 2007, Quigley has distinguished himself among a younger generation of American Civil War historians who are bringing new perspectives to this significant historic event. His particular contribution is to highlight the international dimensions of the war.

Quigley is the author of *Shifting Grounds: Nationalism and the American South, 1848-65*, which won the British Association for American Studies Book Prize, and the Jefferson Davis Award from the Museum of the Confederacy. He has also published articles in journals such as the *Journal of Southern History*, and *Journal of the Civil War Era*.

Among his current research projects are a study of Preston Brooks, the South Carolina Congressman who achieved notoriety by caning Senator Charles Sumner on the floor of the Senate in 1856, and "[Mapping the Fourth of July in the Civil War](#)

*Era*," a collaborative digital humanities project with colleagues in Education, Computer Science, and the Virginia Tech libraries.

In addition to his award-winning scholarship, Quigley is a talented teacher and mentor who has successfully directed numerous undergraduate and graduate research projects and who has created a classroom document reader that is currently under review by the University of Virginia Press.

Quigley also possesses an exemplary track record in service and outreach, including serving five years as associate editor for *Southern Cultures*, a popular magazine with a circulation of thousands that makes the work of scholars broadly accessible, and he is now serving as the book review editor and list editor for H-National, an H-Net listserv.

Since 2007, he has served in a variety of administrative capacities for the master's degree program in history at Edinburgh, and was appointed director of a new online Master of Science degree in history at that institution.

A native of Manchester, England, he holds degrees from Lancaster University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2016

### UPCOMING TOPICS

Thursday, September 15, 2016 - Eric Whittenberg on General John Buford

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade. To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"[I] walk around camp every morning looking for acquaintances, the sick, &c. Can see a dozen most any morning laying around dead. A great many are terribly afflicted with diarrhea, and scurvy begins to take hold of some. Scurvy is a bad disease, and taken in connection with the former is sure death. Some have dropsy as well as scurvy, and the swollen limbs and body are sad to see."*

~Brigade Quarter Master John L. Ransom, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Andersonville~

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

August 2, 1862 - The North rejected an advance by Great Britain to act as a mediator in the war. Secretary of State Seward said that a civil war should be of no concern to outsiders.

August 3, 1862 - McClellan, having been previously instructed to be more aggressive in his campaign against Richmond, was ordered to withdraw to Alexandria, which was a lot closer to Washington DC. This was done to bolster the capital's defense. McClellan claimed that his forces would have been of greater value threatening Richmond.

August 4, 1862 - As a result of the failure of his previous request for volunteers, Lincoln called for 300,000 men to serve for nine months. Despite manpower being an issue, the President refused to accept two African American regiments raised in Indiana.

August 5, 1862 - Captain Alexander A Todd, brother-in-law to the President but fighting for the Confederates, was killed in fighting during an attack on Baton Rouge.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



*Established 2003*

## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

August 9, 1862 - In a clash at Cedar Mountain, the North lost nearly 1,500 men while the South lost just over 1,200. The majority of the casualties were wounded but the medical facilities for looking after these men were crude and basic in the extreme.

August 11, 1862 - General Grant announced that any fugitive slaves, who came into an area under his command, would be employed by the military.

August 16, 1862 - McClellan, under orders, started to move the Army of the Potomac to link up with General Pope's Army of Virginia. Their joint target was Richmond.

August 17, 1862 - An uprising by the Santee Sioux started in Minnesota. Many in the North believed the Confederates orchestrated it. The Sioux concentrated their attacks on white settlers. Over 800 people were killed before the uprising was put down by Federal troops.

August 20, 1862 - General Lee advanced his Army of Northern Virginia to the banks of the River Rappahannock. On the opposite bank was Pope's Army of Virginia. Lee tried unsuccessfully to cross the river while Pope anxiously awaited the arrival of McClellan's men.

August 22, 1862 - Lincoln defended his stand on slavery. Criticized by the 'New York Tribune' for not doing enough about slavery, Lincoln stated that his primary aim was to save the Union. "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and

if I could do so by freeing all the slaves I would do it." At Rappahannock, a Confederate cavalry raid led by Jeb Stuart, got into Pope's headquarters and captured some command officers and Pope's dispatch book. This had vital information in it, such as the number of men under his command, where they were stationed along the Rappahannock and when reinforcements were to arrive. For Lee, this was critical information. The raid continued to build on Stuart's growing reputation as an outstanding if unconventional cavalry officer.

August 23, 1862 - Overnight heavy rain stopped Lee attacking Pope's men as he had planned. However, armed with Pope's dispatch book, Lee now planned to march the bulk of his men around Pope's army cutting them off. To distract Pope's men, a large force of Confederate troops would remain by the banks of the Rappahannock River and engage Pope's men with fire. Lee's whole plan was to isolate Pope's force and then defeat Pope in battle if he did not surrender.

August 25, 1862 - 'Stonewall' Jackson started to move his men from the Rappahannock to get behind Pope. However, Union reconnaissance troops watched his every move and Pope was fully informed as to what was going on in terms of Jackson's movements. Pope, however, faced one major problem. The intelligence reports he received were wrong. Jackson had twice as many men under his command including all of Lee's cavalry. Pope was confident his men would hold off Jackson's force, but he based his assumption on the fact that Jackson only had 33 infantry regiments under his command. In fact, he had 66.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

August 26, 1862 - Jackson took Manassas Junction – the largest Unionist store depot in the area. This left Pope seriously short of supplies and he decided to move his army away from the Rappahannock River to Manassas Junction to recapture the town and his supplies.

August 27, 1862 - Both armies were on the move. Lee wanted to meet up with Jackson while Pope wanted to recapture Manassas Junction.

August 28, 1862 - Jackson was faced with the possibility of being cut off by Pope's men. To lull Pope into a false sense of security, Jackson feigned a withdrawal to the Shenandoah Valley. He then attacked Pope's men at Groveton, near to the Bull Run battlefield. The fighting continued until the night darkness stopped it.

August 29, 1862 - The fighting continued with neither side gaining a clear advantage over the other. Again, only the night darkness stopped the fighting.

August 30, 1862 - The fighting at Bull Run continued for a third day. Jackson's men started to run out of ammunition. Jackson responded to this by ordering an all-or-nothing counterattack. The attack would either win or lose the battle for Jackson. It worked and Pope had to withdraw his forces and ordered a withdrawal to Washington DC. The South lost about 8,500 men killed and wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run while the North lost 12,000 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

August 31, 1862 - A heavy rainstorm hampered the Confederates pursuit of Pope's men.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

### ERIC WITTENBERG ON GENERAL JOHN BUFORD

This month our friend, Eric Wittenberg, returns to Powhatan to share his expertise on General John Buford, who gained his greatest fame and arguably made his biggest contribution of the Civil War, during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Eric first became interested in the exploits of the Federal horse soldiers when he made his first visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park as a third grader. Eric grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania, home to many of the original members of the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry. His favorite story from that trip was of Brig. General John Buford and the heroic First Cavalry Division. Eric's interest in the Civil War grew, and was nurtured during his college years at Dickinson College, located less than one hour from Gettysburg.

Eric is now an attorney in Central Ohio, and works in the business development and litigation arenas. He retained his interest in the Civil War, and in 1991 Eric

tried his hand at writing about the Civil War, and his career as a serious historian began. He is the author of 16 published books (available for purchase on his website, [Rantings of a Civil War Historian](#)) and 24 articles on the American Civil War.

In 1998, his first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award, as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg.

Eric's focus is on the Union cavalry operations in the Eastern Theatre of the Civil War, with a special emphasis on the role played by horse soldiers in the Gettysburg Campaign.

Eric, his wife Susan live in Columbus, Ohio.

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### UPCOMING TOPICS

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – Dr. Charles Ross on "Civil War Acoustic Shadows"

Thursday, November 17, 2016 - Dr. Bruce M. Venter on "Dahlgren's Raid: The Attempt to Assassinate Davis"

### PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*But now, alas! "It is the General!" "He has fought his last fight!" No more forever will you see his proud form leading you on to victory. The profound anguish which we all feel forbids the use of empty words, which so feebly express his virtues. Let us silently mingle our tears with those of the nation in lamenting the untimely death of this pure and noble man, the devoted and patriotic lover of his country, the soldier without fear and without reproach.*

W. Merritt  
Brigadier General of Volunteers, First Cavalry Division  
On the death of General John Buford  
December 22, 1863

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

September 1, 1862 - The Second Battle of Bull Run ended when sections from both sides clashed at Ox Hill. They came across one another just before nightfall during a thunderstorm. In the clash Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearney were killed

September 2, 1862 - General McClellan was recalled to Washington DC by President Lincoln to take charge of the capital's defenses. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight." (Lincoln)

September 5, 1862 - Robert E Lee took his army into Maryland. At the same time the Union's military hierarchy could not make its mind up as to who should lead the Union's army in the field. Maryland was a tempting target for Lee as its fields were full of crops and any move north that he made would bring

fear to those who lived in the capital who would have rightly believed that the city was his priority target.

September 6, 1862 - Within just four days McClellan managed to get together an army of 90,000 men to defend the capital. This feat confirmed to Lincoln his excellent administrative skills. However, McClellan was known to lack tactical ability and someone was needed to command these men in a decisive manner. Lee was well aware of McClellan's failings as a commander.

September 7, 1862 - Lee crossed the Potomac River at Leesburg, Virginia. His move north caused the expected panic in the capital and ships were placed on standby to take the President and his Cabinet out of the city to safety. McClellan was given command of the 90,000 men in the Army of the Potomac.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

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## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

September 8, 1862 - The cause of the Union was not helped by dissension in the most senior ranks of the Union Army. General Pope openly blamed other generals for the failure at Bull Run, while they (Generals Franklin and Porter) cited his incompetent leadership during the battle. Leaving this dispute behind in the capital, McClellan marched his men out to meet Lee away from the city. His army of 90,000 was twice as large as Lee's Army of Virginia but the men in it were very demoralized after the Second Bull Run while Lee's men were full of confidence.

September 9, 1862 - The people of Maryland did not greet Lee's army with any enthusiasm despite his proclamation that his intention was to return the state to the Confederacy – which Lee assumed would sell his cause. The expected provisions were not forthcoming and Lee's army remained short of supplies.

September 10, 1862 - McClellan marched his men to where he knew Lee's army had encamped – Frederick. However, Lee's army marched off on the same day as McClellan gave his order. Lee split his men in two with Jackson ordered to capture Harper's Ferry while he would lead his men to Hagerstown.

September 13, 1862 - In an astonishing twist, two Union soldiers found some cigars where Lee had made his camp. They were wrapped in paper. On this paper was written Lee's next plans for his army – their targets, which part of his army was marching

where etc. This was Lee's Special Order 191. The Confederates knew that they had lost one copy but must have assumed that it was never going to be found by the North

September 14, 1862 - The North, with the knowledge of where Lee was and where he was heading, made a series of attacks on the Confederates at South Mountain. The speed of McClellan's chase unnerved Lee and forced him into changing his plans at the last minute. The problem Lee would face was to ensure that his change of plans got out to his commanders in the field and that they all understood them.

September 15, 1862 - Harper's Ferry fell to Jackson who captured 12,000 Union troops. Jackson left behind an occupying force and then marched at speed to rejoin Lee to consolidate the Army of Virginia once again

September 16, 1862 - Lee's army was at Sharpsburg – as was McClellan's. Lee faced two serious problems. First, he only had 18,000 men with him against 75,000 Union troops. Second, behind where his men were gathered was the Potomac River. So if Lee needed to withdraw, he would have to cross the river. McClellan started his attack with an artillery bombardment. Lee was reinforced when Jackson's 9,000 men arrived. No decisive impact was made one way or the other on this day.

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



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## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

September 17, 1862 - The battle continued at 06.00 with a Union attack at Antietam Creek but in a series of skirmishes as opposed to one great battle. The reason for this is that large parts of the Army of the Potomac did nothing, as their commanders had not received orders to do anything. The reason that the commanders in the field had not received orders was that McClellan had not issued any. By the end of the day, the Confederates had held their line despite the North's overwhelming superiority in terms of manpower.

September 18, 1862 - The two armies continued to face one another at Antietam Creek. Two fresh Union divisions arrived but they were ordered to "rest" by McClellan. Lee started to make plans to withdraw his men.

September 19, 1862 - In the early hours of the 19th, Lee withdrew his men across the Potomac River. Though McClellan believed Lee would strike across the river again, he was wrong. Lee had ordered his

men to the relative safety of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 20, 1862 - McClellan kept his men at Sharpsburg and showed no inclination to pursue Lee's men. However, any thoughts Lee had of taking Maryland were killed off in what McClellan called "a very great battle".

September 22, 1862 - Lincoln expressed his belief that the Battle of Antietam was a victory for the North in the sense that it stopped any plans Lee had for capturing Washington DC. In the same speech, Lincoln declared his intention of abolishing slavery throughout the United States and that this was now a major aim of the Union's war effort.

September 24, 1862 - Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for those who tried to evade the militia draft.

September 28, 1862 - Lee's army of 50,000 men gathered at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

**POWHATAN** **CIVIL WAR** **ROUNDTABLE**



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**POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2016**

**DR. CHARLES D. ROSS ON CIVIL WAR ACOUSTIC SHADOWS**

The careers of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and a number of other prominent Civil War generals were dramatically affected by unusual battlefield acoustics. Commanders who inadvertently placed themselves in an acoustic shadow ran the risk of letting victory slip away. Stranger still, battles inaudible to generals several miles from the fighting were sometimes heard clearly more than a hundred miles from the battlefield!

This month, we welcome historian, author and educator, Dr. Charles D. Ross, who examines the acoustics of six Civil War battles and the unusual role they played in determining command decisions, and inevitably, the outcome of the war.

Dr. Ross has been with Longwood University since 1992, serving as Professor of Physics, Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and as Dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences. He was

awarded a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering, a master's degree in Engineering Physics and a doctorate in Materials Science from the University of Virginia. He won the Maria Bristow Starke Award for Faculty Excellence at Longwood in 2002.

Along with colleagues at the University of Virginia, he was a co-author of a five million dollar National Science Foundation grant involving work on nanotechnology. He has authored *Trial by Fire*, and *Civil War Acoustic Shadows*, which explore the role of science and engineering in military history. This work has led to appearances on The History Channel, The National Geographic Channel, Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio and a consultancy with the FBI and the LAPD.

Charles is married with two children and lives in Farmville.

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**UPCOMING TOPICS**

Thursday, November 17, 2016 - Dr. Bruce M. Venter on "Dahlgren's Raid: The Attempt to Assassinate Davis"

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide."*

~Abraham Lincoln~

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

October 1, 1862 - The Confederate press portrayed Lincoln's emancipation declaration as a recipe for slave insurrection.

October 4, 1862 - The Confederates launched a major attack on Corinth. It was not a success as the Unionists were well dug in and the Confederates lost many men – 1,423 killed, 5,692 wounded and 2,248 missing. The North lost 315 dead, 1,812 wounded and 232 missing.

October 5, 1862 - As the Confederates withdrew from Corinth, their rearguard clashed with a Unionist force at Metamora by the Big Hatchie River. In this action, the Union lost over 500 men while the South lost about 400.

October 8, 1862 - A battle at Perryville in Kentucky led to heavy casualties on both sides. The North lost 916 killed, 2,943 wounded and 489 missing while the South lost 500 killed, 2,635 wounded and 251 missing out of their total of 16,000 men.

October 10, 1862 - Jefferson Davis requested to the Confederate Congress that 4500 African Americans be drafted in to build defenses around Richmond.

October 11, 1862 - The Confederate Congress agreed with Davis but stipulated that anyone who owned twenty slaves or more was exempt from this call-up. This decision was not well received and the less well-off slave owners in the Confederacy started to comment that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight".

October 13, 1862 - Lincoln wrote again to McClellan to urge him to do something. "You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim? If we do not beat the enemy where he now is, we never can, he again being within the entrenchments of Richmond."

# POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



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## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2016**

October 14, 1862 - While the Confederates had failed in Kentucky, they had taken vast amounts of booty that was vital to their supplies. While the Confederate press almost certainly exaggerated what was taken – the claim was that the wagon train was over 40 miles long – large amounts of barreled pork and bacon were taken along with an estimated 1500 horses and 8000 cattle.

October 19, 1862 - In New Orleans, where the Unionists held power, General Butler passed two important pieces of legislation. The first was to raise three regiments of “free colored men” and the second was to introduce the legal precedent that ‘blacks were equal to whites’ in the eyes of the law.

October 25, 1862 - Lincoln once again expressed his concern that McClellan appeared to be doing nothing.

October 26, 1862 - McClellan marched the Army of the Potomac back into Virginia. Whether this was part of a plan he already had or if it was in a direct response to Lincoln’s criticisms is not known.

October 28, 1862 - To avoid getting encircled by the Army of the Potomac, Robert E Lee moved his Army of Virginia further south and, therefore, further away from Washington DC. Lee’s army numbered 70,000 men while McClellan could call on 130,000 men – so it was a wise move. Sections of Lee’s army were ordered to maintain a close observation of McClellan’s men and for two days both sides were less than 2 miles apart but separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains.



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016

### DR. BRUCE M. VENTER ON DAHLGREN'S RAID: THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE DAVIS

The ostensible goal of the controversial Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid on Richmond (February 28–March 3, 1864) was to free some 13,000 Union prisoners of war held in the Confederate capital. But orders found on the dead body of the raid's subordinate commander, Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, point instead to a plot to capture or kill Confederate president Jefferson Davis and set Richmond ablaze. What really happened, and how and why, are debated to this day

This month we welcome the return of Dr. Bruce M. Venter, author of *Kill Jeff Davis: The Union Raid on Richmond, 1864*. Bruce will discuss his detailed and deeply researched account of the most famous cavalry raid, in which he describes an expedition that was carefully planned but poorly executed. A host of factors foiled the raid: bad weather, poor logistics, inadequate command and control, ignorance of the terrain, the failures of supporting forces, and the leaders' personal and professional shortcomings

Our speaker will delve into the background and consequences of the debacle, beginning with the political maneuvering orchestrated by commanding brigadier general Judson Kilpatrick to persuade President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to approve the raid. Venter's

examination of the relationship between Kilpatrick and Brigadier General George A. Custer illuminates the reasons why the flamboyant Custer was excluded from the Richmond raid.

Venter's thoughtful reinterpretations and well-reasoned observations put to rest many myths and misperceptions. He tells, at last, the full story of this hotly contested moment in Civil War history.

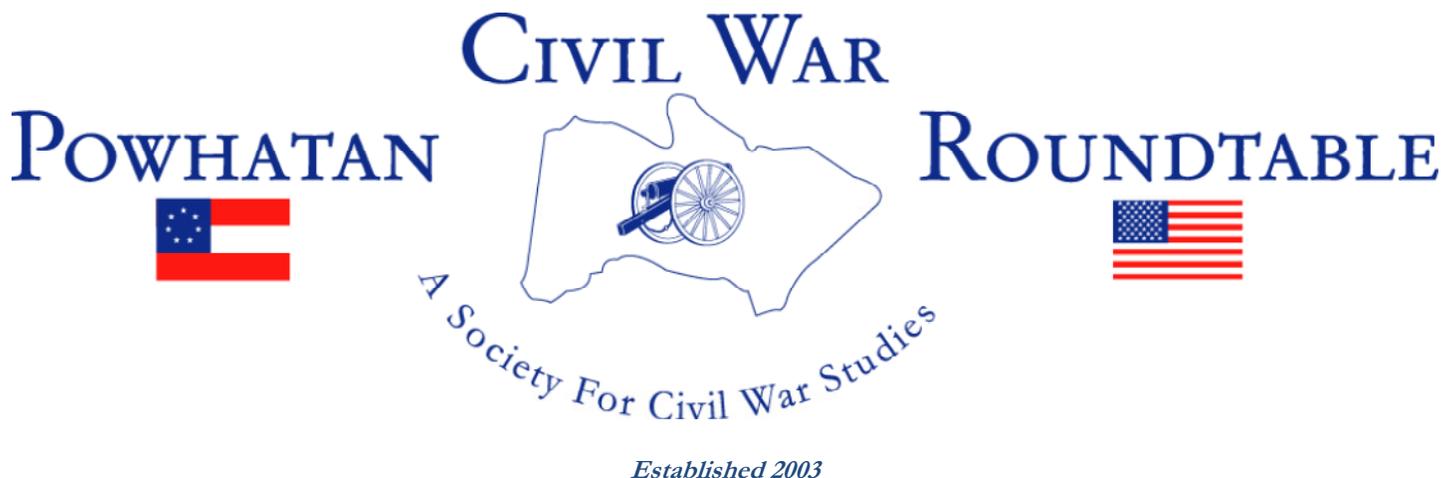
Dr. Bruce M. Venter is president of America's History, LLC, a tour and conference company best known for its annual conference on the American Revolution. He is the author of *The Battle of Hubbardton: The Rear Guard Action that Saved America*. Bruce is also 1st vice president of the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond and frequently lectures on the Revolutionary War, including at Fort Ticonderoga's American Revolution Seminar. He is also known for his character portrayals of General John Burgoyne and Charles Earl Cornwallis.

We look forward to Bruce's presentation at The County Seat on Thursday, November 17, 2016, and hope you will join us.

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### UPCOMING TOPICS

Thursday, December 15, 2016 – Christmas Dinner with music performed by the Judes Ferry Band



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016

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### CIVIL WAR QUOTES

*"Well, it is the people's business, — the election is in their hands. If they turn their backs to the fire and get scorched in the rear, they'll find they have got to sit on the blister."*

Abraham Lincoln

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### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

November 2, 1862 - Grant started his campaign against Vicksburg. However, he faced a major problem in that his lines of communication were too extended and he needed to 'drop off' troops along his route to defend them. This meant that his force was weakened the nearer Grant got to Vicksburg.

November 4, 1862 - There was an election for President and Congress in the states loyal to the Union. The lack of any major Unionist victory was reflected in the results, which showed that the opposition picked up more support than Lincoln's government. In the Senate, Lincoln's supporters, who prior to the election had a majority of 41 seats, saw this slashed to the opposition having a majority of 10 seats.

November 5, 1862 - The blame for the government's poor showing in the election was blamed on McClellan and his lack of action. A decision was made to replace him.

November 7, 1862 - McClellan had placed his army less than ten miles from Lee's army. Lee's force was split in two and McClellan was confident that he could deal a mortal blow against the Confederacy. However, at the same time as he was finalizing his plan of attack, he received two messages.

- The first stated: "By direction of the President of the United States, it is ordered that Major General McClellan be relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and that Major General Burnside take command of the army. By order of the Secretary of War."
- The second from General Halleck stated: "General; on receipt of the order of the President, sent herewith, you will immediately turn over your command to Major General Burnside, and repair to Trenton, New Jersey, reporting on your arrival in that place, by telegraph, for further orders."



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016

November 8, 1862 - General Butler was also relieved of his command of New Orleans. General Banks replaced him. No one was quite sure why Butler was replaced but it is thought that the political hierarchy in the capital believed that he was using his command to boost his own wealth.

November 9, 1862 - General Burnside officially took control of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan left the following day.

November 11, 1862 - Burnside immediately changed McClellan's plan of attack. He believed capturing Richmond was more important than taking on Lee's army. Burnside therefore ordered the Army of the Potomac to Richmond via Fredericksburg. He probably lost the best opportunity the North had of dealing the South a knockout blow by failing to take advantage of Lee's army that was still spilt in two.

November 14, 1862 - Burnside announced that he had reorganized the Army of the Potomac into three "Grand Divisions". Each Division was assigned its own commander and tasked to defend either the left or right flanks or the center of Burnside's force.

November 15, 1862 - The newly reorganized Army of the Potomac started its march on Fredericksburg. The army marched away from where Lee had based his army. There was logic in Burnside's strategy. By marching on Fredericksburg, his army was still close enough to Washington DC to protect the capital. He could also use the Potomac River to bring up supplies to his men via Acquia Creek. Richmond was also only 75 miles from Fredericksburg.

November 17, 1862 - An advance force of Burnside's men reached the outskirts of Fredericksburg but could not cross the Rappahannock River to get into the town because they had no pontoons with them. The Unionists swiftly dealt with a brief Confederate artillery bombardment, which indicated to them that the town was poorly defended. However, Burnside had ordered that no Unionist unit could enter Fredericksburg until suitable communication lines had been established. This gave Lee the opportunity and time to send two divisions to the town.

November 20, 1862 - General Lee arrived in Fredericksburg.

November 21, 1862 - Burnside called on the mayor to surrender Fredericksburg. This was refused and non-combatants were sent from the town.

November 23, 1862 - Bridging equipment finally arrived at Fredericksburg to allow the North to cross the Rappahannock River but in the course of five days, the Confederate force in the town had done a great deal to fortify it. Any attempted crossing would be fraught with difficulties.

November 27, 1862 - President Lincoln visited Burnside at his headquarters. Whereas Lincoln had despaired at McClellan's lack of urgency, he expressed his reservations to Burnside about his commander's desire to launch an attack against a well dug-in enemy while having to cross a river. However, Burnside was not willing to change his plan.

November 30, 1862 - 'Stonewall' Jackson arrived with his men at Fredericksburg bringing the total number of Confederate soldiers in the town to 80,000.



## **POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016**

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We close out our 13<sup>th</sup> year with our annual Christmas dinner at the County Seat Restaurant on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. With holiday music performed by the Judes Ferry Band, we look forward to celebrating the season with our members and guests. Information about upcoming presentations in 2017 will soon follow, and we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### **UPCOMING TOPICS**

2017 events to be announced.

### **PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the PCWRT, or have a special skill to offer, why not consider volunteering? New ideas and new people are the life-blood of any organization, and the PCWRT is no different. We need new volunteers with new ideas to move forward into our second decade. To get involved, please see one of our Leadership Committee members at our next meeting.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

See our website's FAQ page for a list of our most frequently asked questions. Don't see your question addressed there? E-mail us at [info@PowhatanCWRT.org](mailto:info@PowhatanCWRT.org)

### **CIVIL WAR QUOTES**

*"The north wind comes reeling in fitful gushes through the iron bars, and jingles a sleigh bell in the prisoner's ear, and puffs in his pale face with a breath suggestively odorous of eggnog.... Christmas Day! A day which was made for smiles, not sighs - for laughter, not tears - for the hearth, not prison."*

Lt. Col. Frederic Cavada, Christmas 1863, Libby Prison, Richmond



## POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016

### THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1862 - Courtesy History Learning Site

December 1, 1862 - Lincoln addressed the 37th Congress in the capital and once again announced his intention of abolishing slavery within the United States

December 7, 1862 - A battle fought at Prairie Grove left 167 Union soldiers dead, 798 wounded and 183 missing. The Confederates lost 300 killed, 800 wounded and 250 missing

December 10, 1862 - The House of Representatives passed a bill to create the state of West Virginia.

December 13, 1862 - Burnside started his attack against Fredericksburg. However, the delay in doing so allowed Lee's men time to dig themselves into well-fortified positions both in the town and in the hills that surrounded it. All attacks were repulsed. An attack on Confederate troops dug in on Marye's Heights led to many Unionist deaths. By the end of the day the Army of the Potomac had lost 1200 killed, 9000 wounded and 2145 missing. Many of these were at Marye's Heights. The Confederates had lost 570 killed, 3870 wounded and 127 missing. Many of the wounded left out on the battlefield died of the cold during the night. Lee was heard to say: "It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it."

December 14, 1862 - Burnside wanted to repeat the assault on Fredericksburg but was persuaded otherwise by his commanders in the field. The

Army of the Potomac camped out along the Rappahannock River.

December 17, 1862 - General Grant's reputation was tainted when he issued General Order Number 11, which expelled Jews from his department because "they are a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department."

December 20, 1862 - A Confederate force attacked a major Union supply base at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Over \$1 million in supplies was seized along with 1000 prisoners. Such a loss of supplies meant that Grant had to postpone his attack on Vicksburg.

December 23, 1862 - Jefferson Davis names General Butler, formally in charge of New Orleans, an outlaw and an enemy of Mankind. Davis stated that Butler would be hanged if the Confederates captured him.

December 28, 1862 - A unit of Union troops captured a considerable amount of Confederate supplies at Van Buren, Arkansas.

December 31, 1862 - Lincoln met Burnside to discuss what went wrong at Fredericksburg. The ironclad 'Monitor' sank in a storm.