

THE PAMPLIN TELEGRAM



FIELD DISPATCHES

Community Engagement



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Field Dispatches
Community Engagement

Letter from the Front
Update from the Park

Attention to Orders
Park News & Events

Top Rail
Programs & exhibits

In the Stores
Items from the Civil War Store

Huzzah! Huzzah!
Volunteer News

Recruits & Conscripts
New Park Members

Coming Events
Park Happenings

Board of Examination
Trivia contest

Pamplin Historical Park
& The National Museum
of the Civil War Soldier



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Questions? Comments? Contributions
to the newsletter? We'd love to hear
from you! Please email us at:
memberservices@pamplinpark.org



LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Update from Pamplin Historical Park

In 1669 the writings of the famous French mathematician, Blaise Pascal, were published posthumously. Entitled *Pensees* (Thoughts), the work was basically a defense of the Christian religion but also included some random conclusions about the human condition and life in general. One of those thoughts has always fascinated me. Pascal remarked, "Cleopatra's nose, had it been shorter, the whole face of the world would have been changed."

Had her nose been smaller, he felt, she would have lacked the dominance and strength of character which, in the physiognomy of her times, a large nose symbolized. Without her impressive olfactory projection, the great men of Rome, Julius Caesar and Marc Antony, might not have fallen under her spell, great civil wars would not have been fought, and today we might be speaking Latin. A stretch, maybe, but who knows? History is linear, it goes from point A to point B, no one has figured out how to go in the other direction, yet.



Ancient coin with Cleopatra's image

I am a big believer in the Contingency Theory of History. This theory suggests that occasionally a small event may cause history to change course, resulting in different outcomes. It is a theory first suggested by a Harvard paleontologist, Steven Jay Gould, who once wondered what would have happened if on the day that life on this planet started it had been raining instead of sunny. How would life on Earth have been affected? That, I am sure Monsieur Pascal would agree, is perhaps a question better left to theologians.

Of course, our own Civil War is replete with contingencies. Recently I went along with other staff members at Pamplin Historic Park on a road trip following the trail of Lee's retreat to Appomattox led by tour guide extraordinaire Gary Helm. Along the way we learned of multiple small events which led to dire outcomes for the Confederacy.



Restored Hillsman House at Sailor's Creek Battlefield

If General Lee's adjutant, Colonel Walter Taylor, had not decided to get married in Richmond on the day the Petersburg lines were broken, would the order directing that rations and supplies be sent to Amelia Court House have been lost or misdirected? Had General John Gordon and his corps followed General Ewell's line of march instead of following the wagon train at Holt's Corner, would the mass surrender of one-fourth of Lee's army at Sailor's Creek have happened? And what if the lumbermen of the 19th Maine regiment had not taken the marching lead of the Union Second Corps on April 6th? Would the Low Bridge at Farmville have burned to the ground without them to skillfully cut away the fire? Could then the Army of Northern Virginia have escaped to fight another day? Who *knows (or nose)?*



*Jerry Desmond
Executive Director*

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

Pamplin Historical Park News & Events

Many people in the 21st century struggle to remove themselves from the present and see historical actions and people's daily lives from the points of view of those who lived in the mid-19th century. Whatever historic sites can do to help their guests better understand the dramatic change over time that has since resulted only aids in narrowing that chronological chasm. In effort to better tell the story of Tudor Hall plantation and help our visitors gain a better comprehension of the context of the time period, this summer the Park add several "interpretive tools" to that particular venue.

After reviewing a number of the historical records available about Tudor Hall, we learned that Joseph and Ann Boisseau were listed in the 1850 agricultural census as producing fifty pounds of honey and beeswax. To help physically show that production additional research was needed to determine what bee hives looked like at that time. When an accurate period image was located, the Park's carpenter, Mike Kelley, constructed a reproduction facsimile. Now, as another means of describing the self-sufficiency that many plantations strove to attain, we have an excellent example to illustrate that to our visitors.



The completed reproduction bee hive at Tudor Hall



Recreated period ash hopper at the Tudor Hall kitchen

It is important that we accurately reflect and describe the labor intensive nature of just about any task on Virginia Southside plantations like Tudor Hall. Enslaved African Americans did the lion's share in both field and domestic work on plantations. To help show our visitors the time consuming process of manufacturing lye soap for laundry, Mike built a period-accurate ash hopper which now rests outside the Tudor Hall kitchen quarter. Filtering rainwater through hardwood ashes produced the lye cleaning agent. Combining lye with animal fat in correct proportions and boiling eventually resulted in soap.

Using only hand tools and starting by splitting an oak log, Interpretive Assistant Gordon Kendrick, manufactured a triangular field harrow, farming implement, which will help us interpret period agriculture. Pulled behind horses or mules, harrows broke up clods of dirt and leveled the deep furrows that resulted from turning over the soil when plowing.

The next time you come to the Park, look for the new interpretive tools that we have added through the craftsmanship of our skilled employees and that help us educate our guests.



*Tim Talbott
Associate Director of Education,
Interpretation, Visitor Services
& Collections*

TOP RAIL

Park Programs & Exhibits

Several years ago the then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. told me that you only needed two things to have a successful and popular museum – the Hope diamond and a live panda bear. Well, not every museum can have that. What we do have here at Pamplin Historical Park is a Smithsonian-quality museum, an ante-bellum plantation home, a beautifully manicured park and the actual fieldworks on the actual spot of the battlefield that led to the end the American Civil War. No one else has that, not even the Smithsonian Institution.

One problem for museums across the country is setting the right admission price for their product. Set it too high and no one will come. Set it too low and the revenue does not pay to keep the lights on, cut the grass, or provide quality educational programming. Here at Pamplin Historical Park, our admission prices are \$13 for adults and \$8 for children. These ticket prices are actually lower than many other local attractions. The single day ticket at Williamsburg, for example, is \$40.99 for adults and \$20.49 for children. However, even at our moderate ticket prices we find that families in the local area are not visiting the park.

So, to celebrate Museum Awareness Day, we decided to have \$1 admission for the weekend of September 23-24. The response was encouraging. Over 600 adults and children showed up to enjoy various activities on the grounds. Most of them came from Dinwiddie, Chesterfield and Prince George counties and Petersburg and Colonial Heights. As I roamed the park I talked with several families (like the one shown in the photograph) who told me they had never been to the park because they could not afford the admission price. One gentleman explained that he drove by the park every day to go to work but had never been inside in 25 years. He brought his extended family of nine members in for \$9. On a regular day it would have cost him \$97.

Of course, we can't do this every day – someone has to pay the executive director's salary. But we do want the local population to enjoy this gem of a park located in their own backyard. So look for more special events in the coming months.



\$1 **ADMISSION**
MUSEUM WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2017

PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK
A National Museum of the Civil War Soldier

SAUCY'S BAR.B.E.C.U.E
4101 BOYDTON PLANK RD.
PETERSBURG, VA 23803
WWW.SAUCYSBBQ.COM
PETERSBURG, VA 804-568-0925

6125 Boydton Plank Rd.
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Jerry Desmond
Executive Director

IN THE STORES

Featured Items from The Civil War Store

Toy Soldiers from W. Britain

“Whether you have ever collected toy soldiers or not I'm sure all of you reading this, at one time or another, have come across the name William Britain. William Britain, Britains, W.Britain and Petite are just four of the names the oldest and most well-known UK toy company has been known as over the years. The exact moment when William Britain Senior turned his hand from 'Brass Clock Maker,' his original trade, to toy maker is unknown. However what is catalogued is the start of toy soldier production, the business which made W. Britain a household name during the 20th Century.” -W.Britain

On February 5th, 2016 the 124-year-old brand was sold to The Good Soldier LLC, located in Holland, Ohio. The new company is owned and operated by long-time toy soldier and model figure collectors. They continue to make traditional toy soldiers in a shiny gloss and additionally produce amazingly authentic and realistic matt finish figures today.

The Civil War Store is now proud to carry figurines from this renowned miniature manufacturer W. Britain. Founded in 1893, W. Britain is the top name in military models. Each figurine is cast metal and hand painted in exquisite detail. A great deal of research using original documentation, measurements and study of original artifacts makes this maker stand apart from the rest.

The Civil War Store has a selection of Confederate and Federal figurines from the Civil War collection, notably featuring Zouaves, and Confederate generals A.P. Hill and George Pickett. We stock a small sampling of figures and accessories available through the W. Britain catalog. Additional products can be special ordered.

Pieces of the Park

Local wood-turner Bill King merges modern design with the natural colors and textures of wood to create unique pieces both artistic and functional available for view and sale in The Civil War Store. His most recent line, The Rustic Collection, includes items made with wood taken from trees harvested right here at Pamplin Historical Park. In this collection King turns the wood while still wet, allowing the pieces to warp as they dry, ensuring that every piece is one-of-a-kind. King incorporates areas of rot and exterior bark, accentuating the imperfections of the material and turning them into beautiful focal points.



Carley Elder
Admissions, Retail
& Collections Manager

Last year Pamplin Historical Park hosted a used book sale during the duration of the 2016 Symposium that was a huge success! We would love to have the opportunity to do so again for the 2017 Symposium. Our stock of used books is almost exhausted though so we are calling on you, our avid Civil War readers to help! If you are looking to make space in your library for shiny new titles, please consider donating your old unwanted and outdated Civil War books to Pamplin Historical Park!

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

Volunteer News

Pamplin Park is fortunate for the help and hard work given by our dedicated volunteers. These individuals have a diverse background and bring a variety of skills and experiences to the Park. Some volunteers prefer to help with special events, come as needed when we are short staffed at duty stations, or come often during a short period of time, such as summer break. Others prefer a set schedule and help out weekly or bi weekly on "their day".

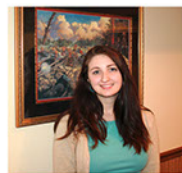
Today we are going to get to know some of the wonderful people, longtime volunteers and newcomers, who help the Park function every Wednesday. Many are familiar with the infectious smile of veteran volunteer, Ty Wyatt. Ty began at the Park after his wife, Gerri, started working here. Both Gerri and former volunteer coordinator, Victoria, thought Pamplin would be a good fit for him. Ty is retired from the advertising business and loves the opportunity the Park gives him to work with people again. He enjoys sharing the Park, its vast structure and history with individuals from many different countries and walks of life as well as working with our staff every week.

One of our newest volunteers, Jessica Thornton, began volunteering at the Park this October. Jessica, a college junior, balances commuting to her classes at Longwood University, a part time job, and volunteering with our administration department. She is currently studying History and plans to earn her Masters in Library Science after finishing at Longwood. Her passion for history, especially the Civil War, first attracted her to Pamplin Park. We are excited to work with and learn more about Jessica in the future!

Stumble upon our Battlefield Center on any Wednesday and you're likely to be greeted by veteran volunteer, Doug Blake. Doug, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel from San Antonio, Texas has been helping people at the Battlefield Center for about four years. He decided to volunteer at Pamplin after realizing how much he enjoyed visiting the park. Doug loves talking with the public about the park and is adept at answering any questions visitors may have.

Longtime volunteer, Regina Davis, is noticeably missing from our introductions. Unfortunately she was out during our interviews. However it would be remiss not to mention her nearly nine years of incredible service.

The Park runs on the generous support of our incredible volunteers. We are so thankful for their help. Without them we could not hope to fulfill our mission of education and preservation!



*Jordan Mock
Membership &
Volunteer Specialist*

**Join
the
Team!**

**Make a valuable contribution
to your museum while doing
something interesting and fun!**

*For more information contact
Volunteer Coordinator Jordan Mock
at (804) 861-2408 or
jmock@pamplinpark.org.*

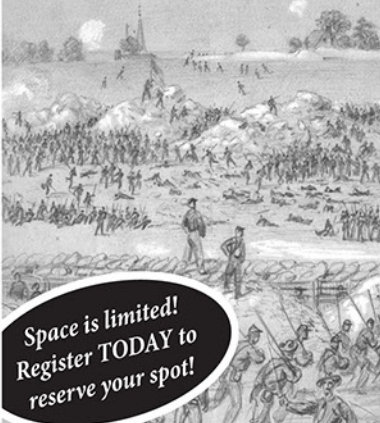
RECRUITS & CONSCRIPTS

New Members to Pamplin Historical Park

Dr. Fernando Gomez & Scott Ingwersen	Glen Allen, VA	Mr. and Mrs. William R. Stephenson	Spring Grove, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Amos Rideout	Stony Creek, VA	Mr. Andy Gallagher	Charleston, WV
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Eastlake	North Chesterfield, VA	Mr. Bob Johnson	Chesterfield, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Crew Jr.	Fairfax, VA	Mr. Brian Ferguson	Colonial Heights, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Unland	Mechanicsville, VA	Mr. Douglas Witsken	Cincinnati, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Marshall	South Chesterfield, VA	Mr. Joe Silvasi	Crewe, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Platz	Colonial Heights, VA	Mr. Justin Louis Coleman Ross	Portsmouth, VA
Mr. and Mrs. George Venturella	Anderson, SC	Mr. Matt Burgess & Mrs. Donna Newbold	Stony Creek, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Hickey	Virginia Beach, VA	Mr. Michael Ives & Joe Trimble	Washington, DC
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory L. Anderson	North Dinwiddie, VA	Mr. Steven O. Suessmann	Emporia, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Wray	Victoria, VA	Mr. William A Wray Jr.	Victoria, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Van Meter	Dinwiddie, VA	Mrs. and Mr. Judith Platz	Colonial Heights, VA
Mr. and Mrs. James Boisseau	Odenton, MD	Mrs. and Mr. June M. Marshall	South Chesterfield, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silvasi	Crewe, VA	Mrs. Christl Henry	North Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. and Mrs. John Rowe	Richmond, VA	Mrs. Ella Grizzard & Mr. Billy Grizzard	Brodnax, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Aviles	Virginia Beach, VA	Mrs. Rita Severn	Chester, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Don Loughridge III	Ivor, VA	Ms. Ann Cuddihy	North Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Bryant	Valentines, VA	Ms. Diane Magee	Ford, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Len Andrews	McKenney, VA	Ms. Erika Quarles	Dewitt, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Emery	Colonial Heights, VA	Ms. Eryn Delaney Hall	Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lynch	Conway, SC	Ms. Michele A. Kawood	North Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Snow	South Chesterfield, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. Sammy L Brown	Blackstone, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. Shane Spor	Concord, NC		
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Pate	Clarksville, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lynn Spain	DeWitt, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Spain	DeWitt, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Squires	Doswell, VA		

Welcome to the Regiment!

SYMPOSIUM TOUR 2017 PART OF THE 21ST ANNUAL
CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM



Successes and Stalemate:
Fifth Offensive Actions
North of the James

With Pamplin Historical Park Historians
Tim Talbott & Gary Helm

Friday, October 20, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Reservations required

Space is limited!
Register TODAY to
reserve your spot!

PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK & THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER
6125 BOYDTON PLANK ROAD, PETERSBURG, VA 23803 • WWW.PAMPLINPARK.ORG

COMING EVENTS



**Reflect & Respect:
African-American History
Weekend**
November 18 & 19, 2017
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Come learn about the
richness of
African-American history
and heritage at Pamplin
Historical Park and The

National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. There will be plenty of educational and entertaining offerings both days, including tours, presentations, living history performances, music, storytelling, demonstrations and much more. The living historians will be portraying USCT soldiers, Charmaine Crowell-White will portray Harriet Tubman, Wisteria Perry will perform demonstration cooking and share African-American storytelling traditions. Joseph McGill of The Slave Dwelling Project will share his experiences from visiting slave dwellings across the nation. The event is free with your Pamplin Historical Park membership or paid park admission.



Voices from the Shadows
October 27 & 28, 2017
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Experience the Park after
dark as costumed guides lead
you on a spine-chilling tour
of the Park's historical sites.
Listen to haunting stories
from the 19th century as you
embark on a hair-raising tour

by lantern light. Reservations required.



Tea & Tidings
December 2, 2017
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Celebrate the holidays at this
annual Christmas event.
Ladies and gentlemen in
period dress will teach 19th
century etiquette while
serving gourmet holiday tea
and tasty treats. Attendees

will also learn history and holiday customs during the Civil War era, including traditional Christmas carols and stories. Reservations required.

BOARD OF EXAMINATION



Trivia Contest

Q: What Civil War regiment got its nickname because its members would often stop on the march to pick fruit off trees? What was the nickname?

You can win, too!

Submit your answer along with your name and address by November 30, to: triviacontest@pamplinpark.org. All correct responses will be entered into a drawing to select a winner. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to The Civil War Store and will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Last Issue's Q & A

Q: Elizabeth Keckly, born a slave, worked for the Lincoln family in the White House. She had previously has a connection to a famous Supreme Court Case. What was the case? And what was her connection?

A: Born enslaved in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Elizabeth Keckley was brought to St. Louis, Missouri in the mid-1840s by Hugh Garland, a lawyer who argued against Dred Scott's suit to obtain his freedom in that famous case in 1857. She was able to purchase her own freedom from Garland two years earlier in 1855 and went on to achieve some fame as the personal dressmaker for Mary Todd Lincoln.

Congratulations to **Jim Burster** of Stanhope, New Jersey! His answer was selected from all correct answers to the last trivia question. Mr. Burster wins a \$25 gift certificate the The Civil War Store.