

# THE PAMPLIN TELEGRAM



## FIELD DISPATCHES

Community Engagement



Volume 13, Issue 2  
Spring 2018

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



## LETTER FROM THE FRONT

*Update from Pamplin Historical Park*

Having spent most of my professional life following the exploits of soldiers from my home state (Maine), it is gratifying to find that the Pine Tree State was well represented during the “Breakthrough” battle in Petersburg on April 2, 1865. In command of the Third Brigade, Second Division of the 6th Corps was Colonel Thomas Worcester Hyde from Bath, Maine. After the war, he wrote an excellent book about his service entitled “Following the Greek Cross.” Hyde, who following the war would be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions at the Battle of Antietam, described preparations for the early morning charge in his book.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL T. W. HYDE

“General Wright came to my line to select a place to form the corps, and finally hit upon the left of Fort Fisher. The ground over which we were to charge had been burned over, and five formidable lines of abattis must be passed before reaching the fortifications. General Wright told me we would attack in a wedge-like formation, and that my brigade should be the point of the wedge. Some of my pickets that afternoon called my attention to an opening in the abattis through which our friends in butternut were accustomed to come out to cut wood and go on picket, and said they had noticed there was always a large camp-fire beyond the forts, that was in line with this opening, and that if we should direct ourselves on that fire we could get through the abattis easily.”

Hyde continued, “This is an illustration of the cleverness of the American private soldier. In the present instance it is possible that our assault was saved from disaster by this simple bit of information. I summoned the six regimental commanders and we went up a signal tower behind our camps, and with the heads of my discourse on the back of an envelope I have still preserved, and a copy of which is below, I delivered a lecture on what was to be done, and directed them to repeat the same to their officers, 1st and color sergeants.”

1. Fall in at midnight
2. Leave knapsacks and canteens in camp
3. Load without capping
4. File out to left of Fort Welch along ravine and form as follows -  
43rd N. Y., Milliken; 77 N.Y., Caw: 350 men  
1st Maine Vet., Fletcher, 350 men  
49th N.Y., Holt; 122d N.Y., Clapp; 400 men  
61st Penn., Crosby; 500 men
5. Forty sharpened axes on front rank.
6. Signal to start, - a gun from Fort Fisher, one half hour before daybreak
7. Guide on Rebel camp-fire, over burnt ground and through openings in abattis.
8. When inside, keep right on and cut Southside R.R.

“There was much to do that evening getting ready for what we then believed to be the final campaign. A heavy mist made the moonless night more dark and gloomy, and the raw air of midnight saw us quietly moving to our allotted places. My first thought after getting the brigade in position was to look for the camp-fire that was to be our bright beacon, and there it was shining, peacefully through the mist.”

Following the successful charge, Colonel Hyde commented about the performance of the 61st Pennsylvania regiment which was made up of 200 veterans and 300 drafted men. “As we started the charge, the 300. . . disappeared and we never heard of them afterwards, but the 200 old men took two of the five colors captured by the brigade. The 200, in my opinion, should all have large pensions, and the 300 should all have been shot or hung.”



*Jerry Desmond*  
*Executive Director*

## ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

Pamplin Historical Park News & Events

### Petersburg Civil War Roundtable

An exciting new general-audience education initiative is occurring monthly at Pamplin Historical Park! Starting last January, the Park began hosting the Petersburg Civil War Roundtable (PCWRT). The PCWRT's mission as outlined in its constitution states that the organization, "is dedicated to the study, preservation, and discussion of the people and events that were part of the War Between the States (1861-1865)."

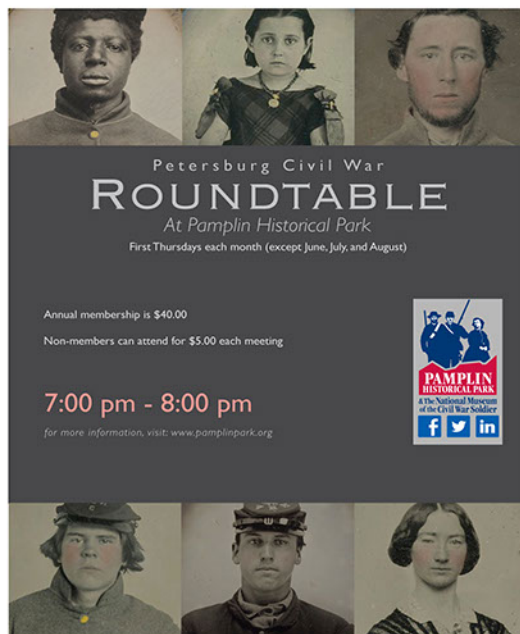
Civil War Roundtables began in the mid-twentieth century with the aim of building local communities of enthusiasts and creating opportunities for them to come together to learn about the military, political, social, and economic aspects of the American Civil War and how the events and people of that period still impact us today. Since then hundreds of Roundtables have emerged, all functioning as independent organizations.

The PCWRT's elected officers are: Tim Talbott as president; Chris Calkins, vice-president; Jerry Desmond, treasurer; and Bill Heinrich, secretary. The PCWRT meets the first Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at 7:00 p.m. in the Park's Education Center at 6523 Duncan Road.

Those interested in becoming a member of the PCWRT can choose to be a lifetime member for \$100.00, or an annual member for \$40.00. Those who are already Pamplin Park members can join the PCWRT for \$20.00. In effort to bring in the new generation of Civil War enthusiasts, a high school and college student free is only \$10.00.

An impressive list of speakers are in order for the remainder of 2018. On May 3, Dr. Brian Steel Wills, from Kennesaw State University, will speak on his recently published book *Inglorious Passages: Non-Combat Deaths in the Civil War*. After a break for the summer months: Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr, will be speaking in September; Dr. Brian McKnight in October, Dr. Christopher Hamner in November, and Jonathan Noyalas in December.


I would like to invite you to join us at the PCWRT. As we grow, we hope to include non-meeting activities and outside opportunities for our member to learn. For more information, you can visit the PCWRT website at <https://petersburgcwr.com>.



Petersburg Civil War  
**ROUNDTABLE**  
At Pamplin Historical Park  
First Thursdays each month (except June, July, and August)

Annual membership is \$40.00  
Non-members can attend for \$5.00 each meeting

**7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
for more information, visit: [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org)



PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK  
A National Museum of the Civil War Soldier

f t in



February 2018 PCWRT speaker Ed. Ayers autographs a copy of one of his books, for an attendee.



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

## TOP RAIL

Park Programs & Exhibits

### WE'RE NUMBER 1!

I am pleased that Trip Advisor ([https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60931-Activities-Petersburg\\_Virginia.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60931-Activities-Petersburg_Virginia.html)) now ranks Pamplin Historical Park as the number one tourist attraction in the area, giving the park a 5 Star rating. This top ranking had been held by a nearby battlefield park for a long time. As you go to the web site read the comments left by visitor's to the park. Most are pleasantly surprised by how much they learned, how well-kept and beautiful the grounds of the park are and the knowledge base and friendliness of the park staff. Many thanks to those who took the time to comment on Trip Advisor, we are proud as punch.

For the first time in many years members of the PHP staff recently attended the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) held this year in Norfolk, Virginia. VAM was founded in 1968, so this conference celebrated 50 years of service to the Virginia museum community. Staff members Amanda Bennett, Carley Elder, Gary Helm, Amanda Powell, Colin Romanick, Tim Talbott, Christine Wuebker and I met with other museum professionals from across the state and attended thought-provoking sessions about important current museum issues and practices. We are already looking forward to next year's conference in Lynchburg.

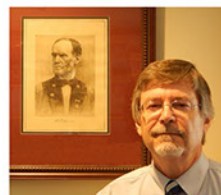
As mentioned in the previous page, the next Petersburg Civil War Roundtable meeting will be held on May 3, 2018. Dr. Brian S. Wills, Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University, will be talking about non-combat deaths in the war. The mission of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era is to provide quality programming and resources that enable scholars, students, and enthusiasts to study the causes, nature and outcomes of the conflict, as well as the role that Georgia and the South played in this nation's greatest calamity. The Center's website, at <http://cwc.hss.kennesaw.edu/>, has a great timeline page that covers what happened during the war on a particular date plus a page of Civil War terms. It also has a page on how to pronounce some of the more difficult words or names of the war; for example coup d'oeil (KOO-DOY) - the epitome of officers blessed with a high degree of military acumen - an ability to ascertain the ground, in short order, and identify areas of strategic importance. Check it out.



# Pamplin Historical Park

248 Reviews

#1 of 27 things to do in Petersburg



Jerry Desmond  
Executive Director

## IN THE STORES

Featured Items from The Civil War Store

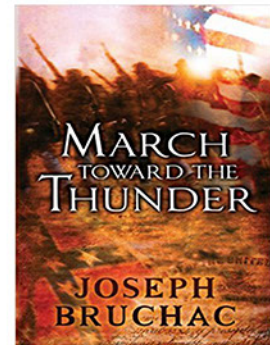
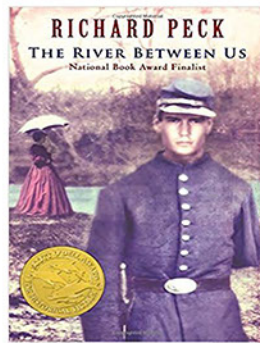
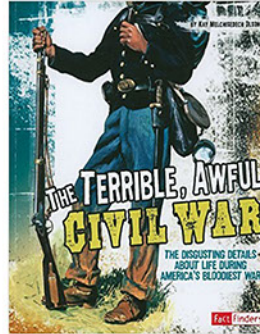
### Learning Can be Fun

With school season upon us the Civil War Store is stocked and ready for young history enthusiasts! Looking for a gift that doesn't run on batteries? –we carry reproductions of the toys children played with during the Civil War era such as wooden tops, dice, jaw harps, cup & ball, dominoes, buzz saw noise makers, and more. We also have everything you need to outfit your own little soldier: kepi, a Union or Confederate uniform printed T-shirt, canteen, spyglass, reproduction maps and currency, and toy pistol!

We've also greatly expanded our collection of Civil War books for children and young adults. For avid scholars we have a range of non-fiction titles including a selection of important Civil War Era figures from the "Who Was" series, a New York Times best-selling series of illustrated biographies published by Penguin Random House, and firsthand accounts of actual children who lived through the war in the diaries of Carrie Berry and William Bircher. Meanwhile "The Terrible Awful Civil War" makes learning history fun for children who may otherwise be less interested, with its vivid tongue-in-cheek descriptions of the gross, stinky, and frankly more disgusting aspects of soldier life.

Alongside the classic fictional novels like Little Women, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and The Red Badge of Courage, we now have exciting new stories.

"March Towards Thunder" by Joseph Bruchac, tells the story of the Civil War from a unique perspective, that of Louis Nolette, a fifteen-year old Abenaki Indian from Canada. While living in New York in 1864, Louis is approached by a Union recruiter and convinced to enlist by the offer of a good wage. He joins an Irish brigade, and being neither American nor Irish, recounts his experiences in the war through the lens of an observer. His encounters with generals, a disguised female soldier, a captured Rebel, and a United States Colored troop introduce the reader to a wide spectrum of views regarding the war.



"The River Between Us" by Richard Peck, winner of the Scott O'Dell award for historical fiction, tells the story of Tilly Pruitt. In 1861 two mysterious young women, high-society Delphine Duval and dark-skinned Calinda come to town, Tilly's mother offers them room and board despite the rumors surrounding them. When Tilly's brother Noah runs away to join the Union Army, and Tilly and Delphine go after him. During their journey Tilly uncovers the secret linkin Delphine and Calinda and why they left their home. "The River Between Us" is both a stimulating mystery and bold account racism and the harsh realities of war.

Or if you have a child who isn't a fan of reading, trying checking out some of the fun graphic novels in the "Nickolas Flux History Chronicles" or "Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales!" We have something sure to appeal to every age and interest level!



Carley Elder  
Admissions, Retail  
& Collections Manager

## HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

*Volunteer News*

A new year usually means new beginnings and opportunities for change. That is certainly true for the Volunteer Program here at Pamplin Historical Park. I am happy to announce that I, Christine Wuebker, took over the role of Volunteer Coordinator in January. I am the Senior Education and Interpretation Specialist here at the Park and I now get to add coordinating all volunteer activity to my list of responsibilities. I am excited to take on this new challenge and looking forward to the prospect of getting to know all of our incredible volunteers. I have two main goals for the new year. One is to recruit new volunteers and the second is to help provide new opportunities for our volunteers.

We started the year by hosting several volunteer open houses to allow potential recruits a chance to visit the Park and see what we are all about. We had several people stop by and were delighted to add a handful of new volunteers to the ranks. If you ever happen to stop by on a pleasant spring day, you will likely see hundreds of school kids coming and going about the Park and the volunteers play a vital role during those visits. Every child and chaperone that visits the Park on a field trip is given the opportunity to tour *Duty Called Me Here* with their group. Which means approximately every half hour there are roughly 50 school children, teachers and chaperones entering the gallery with audio headsets while another 50 or so are leaving it and returning their headsets. The responsibility of passing out, collecting, organizing, resetting, and often cleaning these audio players falls largely on our amazing volunteers. It is the reason the need for new volunteers is so critical.

If hordes of school children is not your cup of tea, we are starting to offer other options for our volunteers. Some are completely brand new whereas others have not be available in recent years but, are making a comeback. One of the newer events is the Civil War Round Table that was started in January. A group of staff members wanted to give staff, volunteers, and members of the community a place to come and hear speakers talk about various aspects of the Civil War. The Park also had its first ever Members' Gala in February. It gave members, staff, and volunteers an occasion to mingle in a more social atmosphere as well as allowed volunteers to showcase their other talents. The bartenders for the evening were two long time volunteers. In March, we hosted our first ever 5K trail run at the Park. A handful of volunteers were at the halfway point passing out water to the participants. Additionally several volunteers from Fort Lee stood out on the race route directing runners and making sure no one became injured. We still have our Victorian Teas that provide volunteers with an opportunity to dress in costume and help serve tea and snacks. Plans are being made to add to these costume opportunities, with more special events in addition to everyday programming this summer. We may even encourage some of our volunteers with green thumbs to help us plant and maintain our Tudor Hall gardens. As the year progresses, hopefully more new and exciting experiences will present themselves for our volunteers.

The year 2018 has just begun, but as you can see lots of new beginnings and chances for change have already occurred here at Pamplin Historical Park with the Volunteer Program. We are even now welcoming new volunteers and creating new opportunities for involvement with the Park. Who knows where the rest of the year may take us.



*Christine Wuebker  
Senior Education, Interpretation  
& Volunteer Specialist*

## RECRUITS & CONSCRIPTS

*New Members to Pamplin Historical Park*

Dr. Javid E. Siddiqi	Chesterfield, VA	Mr. James F. Lane	Chesterfield, VA
Kari Weston	Dinwiddie, VA	Mr. Jason Chandler	Dinwiddie, VA
Major Mark Morrison	Fort Lee, VA	Mr. Jeffery A. Stephens	New Carrollton, MD
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas E. Kemerer	Emporia, VA	Mr. John K. McEwen & Ms. Delores Lee	South Chesterfield, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Lyons	Chesterfield, VA	Mr. John M. Erbach	Chesterfield, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Johnson	McKenny, VA	Mr. L. G. Fernando	Chester, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Yohn	Midlothian, VA	Mr. Michael A. Cherry	Colonial Heights, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Maslowski	Chester, VA	Mr. Michael Campbell	Emporia, VA
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Seitz	Calabash, NC	Mr. Randall Kinnersley	Nashville, TN
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hansen	Williamsburg, VA	Mr. Roger Link	Midlothian, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory P. Sainato	Bracey, VA	Mr. Tom Silvestri	Richmond, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Johnston	St. Stephens Church, VA	Mrs. and Mr. Melody Bage	Hopewell, VA
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Hartle	Petersburg, VA	Mrs. Gail Drumgoole	Dewitt, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Mullins	Suffolk, VA	Mrs. Karen S. Danforth	Reseda, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Paul	Amelia Courthouse, VA	Mrs. Rachel Koenig	Midlothian, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Burnett	Montpelier, VA	Mrs. Susan Airis Epes	Montgomery Village, MD
Mr. Billy H. Johnson	Chesterfield, VA	Mrs. Velda Moog	West Chester, PA
Mr. Charles E. Dane	Hopewell, VA	Ms. Annette Smith-Lee	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Charles Moss	Dinwiddie, VA	Ms. Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Charlie Cuthbert	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Becky McDonough	Hopewell, VA
Mr. Craig Richards	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Beverly A. Coleman	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Daniel Niide	Honolulu, HI	Ms. Deborah D. Howard	North Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. Darrin Hill	Petersburg, VA	Ms. Janice Denton	Hopewell, VA
Mr. Dennis J. Hickey	Springfield, VA	Ms. Kathryn Gosciewski	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Douglas E. Smith	Colonial Heights, VA	Ms. Kristina Vicente	Petersburg, VA
Mr. Floyd M. Brown, Jr.	Disputanta, VA	Ms. Kristine Boodram	South Prince George, VA
Mr. Frank McCracken	Midlothian, VA	Ms. Marlene J. Waymack	Prince George, VA
Mr. George Puchovich	Mechanicsville, VA	Ms. Michelle Hamilton	Ruther Glen, VA
Mr. Gerald Howard	Church Road, VA	Shirl Rhodes & Sonja Alvis	Dinwiddie, VA
		The Honorable Ralph Northam	Richmond, VA

*Welcome to the Regiment!*

Join  
the  
Team!

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

For more information contact  
Volunteer Coordinator Christine Wuebker  
at (804) 861-2408 or  
[cwuebker@pamplinpark.org](mailto:cwuebker@pamplinpark.org).

## COMING EVENTS



**Park Day**  
April 14, 2018  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Volunteers are invited to participate in this national event to beautify and bring

attention to our national historic parks.

Volunteers are asked to pre-register by calling Chris Banchero, Chief Park Ranger at (804) 861-2408 or email him at [cbanchero@pamplinpark.org](mailto:cbanchero@pamplinpark.org) for more information. Participants will meet in The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier at 1:00 p.m. and should wear loose comfortable clothing. Water will be provided. This is a rain or shine event.



**Historic Garden Week**  
April 24, 2018  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
The Park is participating in the Garden Club of Virginia's, Historic Garden Week. Tudor

Hall Plantation is featured in the Petersburg-Dinwiddie County tour. This event is held in conjunction with the Petersburg Garden Club. Tour tickets must be purchased through the Petersburg Garden Club \$30 in advance and \$35 day of tour.

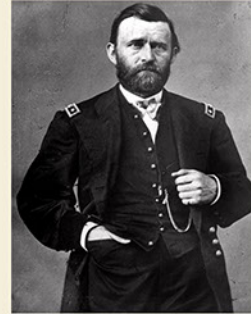
Check specific tours and purchase options at <http://www.vagardenweek.org/main/tours>. This is a rain or shine event.



**Memorial Day**  
May 28, 2018  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
The Park will offer a full schedule of daily programs on Memorial Day, Monday May 28. The Park will open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and activities are included with regular museum admission. A

Breakthrough Battlefield Tour will give visitors a chance to learn about the events of April 2, 1865 which is followed by bugle calls and a Civil War camp life demonstration. The viewing of "War So Terrible" which follows two Civil War soldiers, Benjamin Franklin Meyers of the Union and Andrew Jackson Stewart of the Confederacy, will be shown in the Battlefield Center.

## BOARD OF EXAMINATION



### Trivia Contest

**Q:** General U.S. Grant, not a music connoisseur, once said he only knew two songs – one was "Yankee Doodle." What was the other song?

### You can win, too!

Submit your answer along with your name and address by April 30th, to: [triviacontest@pamplinpark.org](mailto: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:** What is a sockdolager? What is that word's connection to the Civil War?

**A:** As well as its literal meaning of a heavy or knock-down blow, sockdolager also came to mean something that was exceptional in any respect, especially, the Oxford English Dictionary says, a particularly large fish. Its origin is possibly a construction from "sock" to hit hard and a comical mangling of "doxology" (a notion of finality)

The particular claim to fame of sockdolager is that a close relative of it was supposedly almost the last word President Lincoln heard while watching a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865. In Tom Taylor's play *Our American Cousin*, there occurs the line "Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, you sockdologising old man-trap", and as the audience laughed, John Wilkes Booth fired the fatal shot that resulted in the 16th President's death early the next day.

Washburn is often identified as a Brigadier General, although his appointment was never officially confirmed. Due to the date of his death, Washburn is also an acceptable answer to the question.

Congratulations Karen Wisniewski of Bridgewater, New Jersey! Her answer was selected from all correct answers to the last trivia question. Ms. Wisniewski wins a \$25 gift certificate for The Civil War Store.