

THE PAMPLIN TELEGRAM



FIELD DISPATCHES

Community Engagement



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

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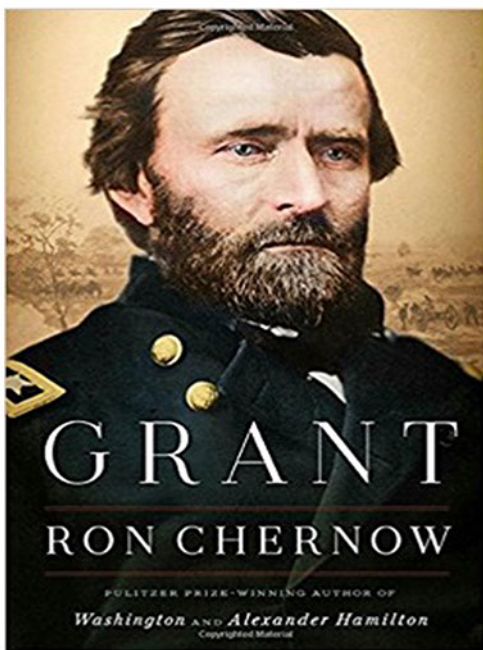
Questions? Comments? Contributions
to the newsletter? We'd love to hear
from you! Please email us at:
memberservices@pamplinpark.org



LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Update from Pamplin Historical Park

Well, I did it. It took eleven evenings at about two hours per evening but I finished it . . . all 1,104 pages of Ron Chernow's new biography of Ulysses S. Grant. I have to say I liked it and give it four thumbs up out of five, with an almost perfect score for the first 600 pages covering Grant's career to April 9, 1865 and three thumbs up for the last 500 pages covering his political career to his death in 1885.



Book cover of *Grant* by Ron Chernow

In his biographies of Alexander Hamilton and George Washington, Chernow had already demonstrated his mastery of narrative history. No story or legend about Grant is left untouched in this volume. In fact Chernow dives directly into what John Updike once called "High Gossip" about Grant's alleged drinking problem. He dismisses several episodes as rumormongering by rivals like Generals Halleck, McClelland, McClellan, and Fremont. Others are downplayed as periods of boredom, inactivity or loneliness (Grant never drank when his wife Julia was with him). But Chernow does not offer apologies or excuses. Grant was an alcoholic, something he struggled with his entire adult life. However, no account of Grant being drunk while in the midst of a campaign or battle has been proven, according to the author.

When told about Grant's "problem" President Lincoln famously said, "Find out what he drinks and give a barrel of it to my other generals." That perfectly sums up the real significance of the matter during the conflict. As long as his drinking does not affect the battle, who cares, he knows how to fight.

Chernow often points to the fact that people constantly watched Grant, close up or at a distance, and then wrote down their observations, especially after he became famous. Because Grant tended to be a quiet man and a man of few words, two camps of thought about "What type of man is he?" developed. During the times he appeared deep in thought (like when he whittled on a piece of wood) he either was developing, like a chess master, some brilliant move or strategy six steps ahead of his opponent or he was thinking of nothing at all. Perhaps the second option is correct. Grant as a student at West Point was no intellectual genius on the level of a McClellan or a Lee. His two best subjects at the military academy were horsemanship and drawing. Grant's greatest strength was not his intelligence but an overriding determination – a determination first to keep pushing ahead and a determination second to not be a failure again.

Of course, Chernow's book is not the first biography of Grant. My personal favorite continues to be Professor Jean Edward Smith's book "Grant" published in 2001 (at "only" 600 pages). William S. McFeely's tome published in 1981 is also a good read, although he tends to be much more critical of Grant during and after the Civil War. Lloyd Lewis' book "Captain Sam Grant," published in 1950 is wonderful, as are the two follow up volumes written by Bruce Catton, "Grant Moves South" (1960) and "Grant Takes Command" (1968). Grant's own personal memoirs published the year of his death, continues to be the finest autobiography by an American general ever written.



Jerry Desmond
Executive Director

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

Pamplin Historical Park News & Events

It is stating the obvious that Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier is an important educational resource to our area. Being in such a position suggests that there is also a certain obligation to provide programming that interests and engages all segments of our population. On November 18-19, 2017, the Park hosted a special event titled "Reflect and Respect," which focused on African American history as it relates to the Park's traditional historical themes. A concentrated effort sought to develop a varied yet thematic schedule of events for both days of the event.



5th U.S.C.T. (recreated) drills with children

On Saturday morning a group Ohio reenactors portraying the 5th United States Colored Infantry engaged our visitors with a program demonstrating how Civil War soldiers trained to load and fire their rifle muskets. Following the firing demonstration, the Park's Interpretive Supervisor, Gary Helm, led a landscape tour of Tudor Hall Plantation. The tour concluded at the Park's recreated Field Quarter where special guest presenter Charmaine Crowell-White provided a riveting first-person portrayal of legendary abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Next, Joseph McGill from the Slave Dwelling Project explained the efforts of that organization to preserve and interpret surviving slave quarters throughout the United States. McGill has drawn awareness to this preservation initiative by spending nights in numerous extant structures that once housed enslaved individuals. After lunch, our USCT friends offered programs about camp life for black soldiers as well as some drill exercises. The Haversacks and Hardtack String Band performed a set of both rousing and emotional African American spirituals and songs popular with the USCT regiments. The day finished with Ms. Crowell-White engaging the audience with African American storytelling traditions at the Tudor Hall kitchen quarter.



Charmaine Crowell-White portrays Harriet Tubman

Sunday offered a number of the same programs as Saturday, but with a few additions. That morning former Park employee, Wisteria Perry, conducted a program on period plantation cooking, explaining the challenges that enslaved cooks faced in their daily work. Later that afternoon, guest speaker Donald West offered a history talk on "African Americans during the Civil War." This engaging presentation discussed the many roles that African Americans played during the conflict, both in the military and on the home front. Our event concluded with yet another portrayal of Harriet Tubman, but this time by actress Pheola Epps, who led guests through an emotional journey describing key events in the life of the woman called Moses.

Plans are in the works to follow up "Reflect and Respect" with a few weekend programs for Black History Month in February. These offerings will keep our momentum going in this area, forward the Park's mission, and hopefully serve a foundational step in building a stronger, mutually beneficial relationship with our local community. We invite you to join us.



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

TOP RAIL

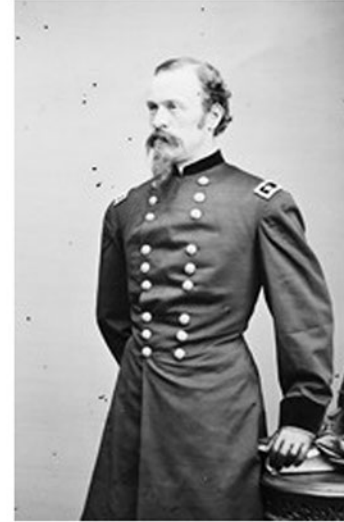
Park Programs & Exhibits

The inaugural meeting of the Petersburg Civil War Roundtable will be held on January 4, 2018 at the Education Center at Pamplin Historical Park at 6:30 PM. The Roundtable will meet on the first Thursday of each month, except June, July and August. We hope to present local and nationally known speakers and recently published authors. Yearly membership dues are \$40, \$20 for Pamplin Historical Park members. A lifetime membership can be purchased for \$100. For those not wishing to become a charter member of this organization a \$5 fee will be charged per meeting.

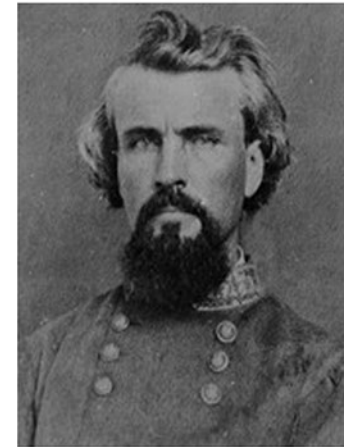
I am pleased to be presenting the first talk at the roundtable. My topic is "Wilson's Raid in Alabama, March-April 1865." In 2015, while working in Birmingham, Alabama I was disappointed that no one in the State was doing anything about the 150th anniversary of General James Wilson's cavalry raid in Alabama, a raid that had a profound effect on the subsequent history of the State. It was the largest cavalry raid of the Civil War. I decided to follow the course of the raid from Gravelly Run in Northern Alabama to Columbus, Georgia, taking photographs of the various places that Wilson's raid touched (and/or torched).

The raid has been pretty much ignored by historians of the Civil War. To my knowledge only one book has been published about it, unfortunately titled "Yankee Blitzkrieg." One major reason for this historic neglect is that there were other more important things going on in other places during March and April of 1865 (hint: Petersburg). Except for the damage caused by Wilson's troopers, the raid had very little effect on the outcome of the war. Yet it remains a fascinating study of the "modern" use of cavalry in the mid-19th century.

The talk will also focus on some of the interesting characters associated with the raid, including; Nathan Bedford Forrest, Emery Upton, Edward McCook, James Chalmers and the "Boy General" himself, James Wilson. Also featured are the burnings of the University of Alabama and Selma, Alabama and the last Civil War battle east of the Mississippi River.



U.S. General James Harrison Wilson



C.S.A. General Nathan Bedford Forrest



Jerry Desmond
Executive Director

IN THE STORES

Featured Items from *The Civil War Store*

The Civil War Store at Pamplin Historical Park is proud to announce we now carry Bone Doctor's line of sauces and spices. Warm up your favorite winter meals with their Fire & Brimstone Hot Sauce or try this recipe off their website for Beef Brisket made with their Premium Spice Blend:

Ingredients:

Whole Untrimmed Brisket or Brisket Flat

Rub:

1/2 cup Bone Doctors' Premium Spice Blend

1/3 cup coarse ground black pepper

1/4 cup Kosher salt

1/3 cup fine ground dark roast coffee

Time: 12-24 hours

Trim fat from brisket to 1/4 inch thick.

Combine ingredients for rub and rub generously onto brisket.

Cover, and let meat rest overnight (12-24 hours) in refrigerator.

While preparing smoker for indirect cooking, let meat sit at room temperature for one hour.

Smoke with indirect heat with a Hickory/Peach wood blend until a temperature probe in the thickest part of the brisket registers 185 degrees. (about 8-12 hours)

Remove brisket from heat, and cover with foil at least 30 minutes before slicing against grain.

Bone Doctors is the culmination of years of experimentation by Dr. David Heilbronner and Dr. Bruce Wilhelmsen, orthopedic surgeons who forged a friendship over a passion for food and flavor. Bone Doctors is a Virginia company, based out of Charlottesville and their Premium Spice Blend is actually made right here in Petersburg at Old Mansion Foods.

All Bone Doctors products are made with NO high fructose corn syrup, artificial colors, flavors, preservatives or gluten, and many are low-sodium – so they make great gifts for those who are health-conscious or have dietary restrictions.



Carley Elder
Admissions, Retail
& Collections Manager

HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

Volunteer News

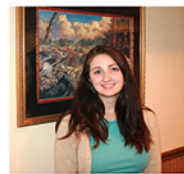
As a 501 (c) (3) non – profit organization Pamplin Historical Park relies heavily on the generous help of volunteers to fulfill our mission of education and preservation. The Park's fifty plus volunteers help with everything from visitors service and administration to maintenance. Many of our volunteers prefer to help on a particular day of the week. Here's a look at men and women who provide valuable support every Thursday.

Carl Craig has been a mainstay at the Battlefield Center for the past 8 years. Carl first became involved with the Park in the early 2000's when he received a Park Membership as a gift. He enjoyed visiting the café and going on our various tours with his son. After retiring in 2009 Carl began volunteering at the Park regularly. He enjoys the structure of coming in on a regular basis and the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. At the moment his favorite part of the Park is the Pamplin Board Room. He very much appreciates everything the Pamplin family has done for the community.

Visitor service volunteer Regina Davis has also been with the Park since 2009. Native of nearby Sussex County, Regina started volunteering because the Park was nearby and needed help. Like many of our members and volunteers Regina is also a "History Nut". She especially loves looking into her family history and genealogy. Regina helps at *Duty Called me Here* two days a week. Her favorite thing about volunteering is that she gets to meet different people every day.

You can find our next volunteer, Sandra Nida, working at the museum or helping out in Administration. Sandra is originally from Ohio but has lived in Virginia for over 45 years. She retired from nursing after working at Southside Regional Medical Center for 38 years. Sandra started volunteering at the Park about 2 ½ years ago after seeing an ad for volunteers. She is interested in history and wanted to do something different in her spare time. Like many of our volunteer Sandra enjoys having the chance to meet a variety of people from other States and Countries.

Pamplin Park is lucky to have a base of dedicated volunteers. Their commitment and hard work keep the park running every day.



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. and Mr. Christine Wynd	Chesterfield, VA	Mr. and Mrs. Wade Hove	Carrsville, VA
Dr. Venkat Mummalaneni & Shobha Mummalaneni	Chester, VA	Mr. Dennis Chris Barton	Kenbridge, VA
Mr. and Dr. Charles F. Santose	Chesterfield, VA	Mr. Gregory Cole Elder	Carson, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Ray Schaefer	Louisburg, NC	Mr. Michael Anthony Whitaker	Anderson, SC
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Bedford	Fort Lee, VA	Mr. Todd Wright and Mrs. Emily Moser-Wright	North Chesterfield, VA
Mr. and Mrs. James Damron	Colonial Heights, VA	Mrs. Barbara Johnson	Sutherland, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Eason	North Dinwiddie, VA	Mrs. Judith W. Pankenier	Ridgefield, CT
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Minton	Amelia Court House, VA	Ms. Nancy Elizabeth Dupree	North Augusta, SC
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Beale	Midlothian, VA	Ms. Pamela Shell Baskervill	Sutherland, VA

Welcome to the Regiment!

Thank You 2017 Capital Campaign Donors! The Capital Campaign Muster Roll of Victory

Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Adcock	Martin Fleming	William and Else Knott	George Rable
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Frederick and Betty Crane	Harold Hyatt	Harold Pearman	Ray Vanderpool
David Davies	Eugene & Jane Jamrozy	Julio & Paula Perez	Adam Venette
Scott F. Davis	Steve Jaren	Ron Perisho	Jon D. Vrana
Edwin and Stephanie Douglas	Robert Johnson	Mark Phillips	Stephen Walker
William Dunkel	Marne Jones	Barabara Pittman	David West
Robert & Teresa Eastep	Roger P. Jones Jr.	Douglas Price	Patty Wheeler
Mark Edwards	Kevin Killingsworth	T. Craig and Ann Prince	George G. Whitaker
Mark Farrington	William and Carol King	Everette Prosis	Preston White Jr
			Robert and Anita Whiting

COMING EVENTS



Petersburg Civil War Roundtable
January 4th, 2018

6:30 p.m.

The (PCWRT) will meet the first Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at Pamplin Historical Park and the

National Museum of the Civil War Soldier from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Annual membership is \$40.00.

Individuals who are already Park members can become members of PCWRT for \$20.00.

Non-members can attend for \$5.00 each meeting.



Black History Month Series
February 10, 2018

1:00 p.m.

Join Wayne Tucker as he speaks on the intriguing life of Elizabeth Keckley. Keckley was born enslaved and lived in Dinwiddie County and Petersburg. She

eventually purchased her freedom with her seamstress skills after being moved to Missouri. With her freedom, she became the premier dress maker in Washington D.C., just before and during the Civil War. Keckley's impressive work led to her selection as the personal White House dressmaker, close friend, and confidante of Mrs. Lincoln.



Valentine Tea
February 10, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Ladies and gentlemen in period dress will teach guests 19th-century etiquette while they enjoy gourmet tea and snacks.

Attendees will also learn about the history of Valentine's Day and traditions of romantic courtship during the Civil War era. Reservations required.



Membership Gala
February 23, 2018

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Park members are invited to RSVP by February 20, 2018 and

those wishing to attend can purchase a Park membership prior to the event or at the door. The evening will feature a State of the Park address by Executive Director, Jerry Desmond, door prizes, raffle items, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, with beer and wine. Rarely seen artifacts will also be on display for attendees to enjoy.

BOARD OF EXAMINATION



Trivia Contest

Q: What is a sockdolager? What is that word's connection to the Civil War?

You can win, too!

Submit your answer along with your name and address by January 31 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: 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?

A: There are actually three regiments known as the "Persimmon Regiment."

The 73rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment gained the nickname in 1862 while marching from Crab Orchard, Kentucky, stopping to pick persimmons on their way to Nashville, Tennessee. The 35th Ohio Infantry gained the nickname due to fifteen of their number being captured in December 1861 in a skirmish where, instead of fighting the Confederacy, the Ohioans chose to find persimmons. The 100th Indiana Regiment gained the nickname while participating in the Vicksburg campaign. On the first day of marching from Memphis, Tennessee to Vicksburg, Mississippi, the regiment disregarded their role as rear guards and, upon finding an orchard of ripe persimmons, took a long time harvesting the fruit, and were arrested as stragglers.

Congratulations Glenna Guntrum of N. Dinwiddie, Virginia! Her answer was selected from all correct answers to the last trivia question. Ms. Guntrum wins a \$25 gift certificate for The Civil War Store.