



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STRINGFELLOW SPY FOR JEB STUART, AND UNSUNG HERO OF THE CIVIL WAR

Born on June 18, 1840, Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow volunteered to fight for the Confederacy, but was turned down due to his slight build. At five foot eight, and 100 pounds, Stringfellow endeavored to prove his value by reconnoitering the Powhatan Troop, Company E of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry. The seemingly frail 21 year old captured three guards at gunpoint and marched them to the Company Commander's tent. Persuaded that the young man had some skills to offer, he was sworn in on May 28, 1861.

Coming to the attention of J.E.B. Stuart, who referred to Stringfellow as "A young man of extraordinary merit," he was asked to become Stuart's personal scout, and proceeded to spend the war gathering intelligence in imaginative ways. By posing as a dentist, and hiding under the petticoats of an Alexandria woman to escape Union troops, his espionage exploits became the stuff of legends. Crossing the enemy's lines multiple times, he eventually drew attention to himself by refusing to drink to Lincoln's health. Stringfellow was captured, exchanged, and captured again. Escaping near the end of the war, Frank Stringfellow was 25 years old, penniless, with a \$10,000 price on his head. When the war was over, he made his way to Canada to try to start anew.

To begin the New Year, we are excited to present Charles Wissinger is the Director of Operations at [Richmond Discoveries](#), a non-profit organization, founded in 1985 to

provide educational and historical tours, and Richmond's oldest educational tour company.

Charles is a professional actor who loves history. A graduate of Ferrum College with a BA in Theatrical and Performing Arts, he has worked on stage, in films, television, and commercials. Our speaker has combined his love for acting with his love for history by researching and creating an interpretation of historical figures, from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812 and World War II, that played significant roles in the development of the United States of America.

Charles started working in living history as a Re-enactor recreating the Second Virginia Convention where Patrick Henry gave his famous 'Liberty or Death' speech. Since then Wissinger has expanded his repertoire to include portraying James Madison, writer of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the Revolution; Major John Andre, the British officer who convinced Benedict Arnold to change sides; Francis Scott Key, author of the Star Spangled Banner; Edgar Allan Poe, author, poet, editor, literary critic; Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow, spy for J.E.B. Stuart and unsung hero of the Civil War; and Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II.

See our website, and click [here](#) for more information on Charles and Richmond Discoveries. We eagerly anticipate this presentation, and look forward to kicking off 2018 with a bang. Join us!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, February 15, 2018, Speaker and topic TBA

NEW MENU OPTIONS

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EVENTS OF INTEREST

2018 marks the 200 anniversary of the John Brockenbrough Mansion in Richmond. Over the years, it has served many roles, most famously that of Executive Mansion of Jefferson Davis and his family from 1861-1865. While those four years cemented the house's importance in history, it also was a private residence (1818-1861), a headquarters of Union occupying forces during Reconstruction (1865-1870), the Richmond Central School (1871- 1894), home to The Confederate Museum (1896-1976), and the fully restored White House of the Confederacy (1988-present). It was one of the first places designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The American Civil War Museum will mark this bicentennial with a series of monthly programs that focus on the broad sweep of the house's history and the people who made it. The programs will feature a variety of formats, from panel discussions to interactive tours to "eyewitness" storytelling sessions. The bicentennial programs will be held within the house itself at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. They are free to Museum members and \$10 for the general public (includes museum admission). A series subscription for the year is available for \$100. All proceeds go directly to the White House of the Confederacy.

See our website, and click on the links below for more information:

- [**JANUARY 13: Life in Pre-War Richmond**](#)
- [**FEBRUARY 3: Architecture of 1201 E. Clay St.**](#)
- [**MARCH 3: The Influence of High Society Women**](#)
- [**APRIL 14: Seizing Freedom**](#)
- [**MAY 5: Jefferson Davis' Military Aides**](#)
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- [**NOVEMBER 3: From Shrine to Museum**](#)
- [**DECEMBER 1: Restoring the House at 12th and Clay**](#)



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REMINDER: 2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your Membership Dues for 2017 are now due. With no increase in price to PCWRT Membership, we hope you will encourage friends and neighbors to also join. All dues must be received by March 31, 2017 to insure continuation of your membership

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

Membership includes 12 newsletters per year and entitles you to membership rates at our monthly dinner meetings.

Remit your membership today to:
Powhatan Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 1144
Powhatan, Virginia 23139

PCWRT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

January 1, 1864 - The weather greatly hindered nearly all forms of military activity. Sub-zero temperatures occurred as far south as Memphis, Tennessee.

January 2, 1864 - General Banks led his campaign against Galveston by moving along the Texan coast.

January 3, 1864 - Chronic inflation hit the South especially hard. Basic foodstuff was 28 times more expensive in the South than in

1861. During the same time, wages only went up by 3 to 4 times.

January 4, 1864 - Lee was given permission by Jefferson Davis to commandeer food in Virginia. Such a measure may have helped his troops but not the people of the state.

January 5, 1864 - General Banks was encouraged by General Halleck to be more aggressive during his offensive. Halleck envisaged Union troops in Galveston by the spring.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site – *continued*

January 7, 1864 - Lincoln commuted the death sentence imposed on a Union deserter. His move, as commander-in-chief, was not well received by the Union's military hierarchy who felt that it would undermine discipline. Union desertion was at an all-time high, especially in the Army of the Potomac. Often, men were paid a bounty to enlist, only to desert, and enlist again to collect another bounty. Others paid \$300.00 to avoid the draft, or hired substitutes when drafted. Big cities saw a boom in "substitute brokers" who, for a fee, would find a substitute for those unwilling to serve.

January 8, 1864 - David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 10, 1864 - The Confederacy responded to its economic plight by printing more money. Foreign governments were unwilling to lend money, and only accepted gold for the payment of weapons. The North made matters worse for the South by printing counterfeit Confederate notes, which made confusion endemic.

January 11, 1864 - Senator John Henderson (Missouri) proposed within the Senate that slavery should be abolished throughout the USA.

January 18, 1864 - Protest meetings were held in North Carolina regarding the conscription policy of the Confederacy. All white males between 18 and 45 were required to enlist – shortly to increase to all males between 17 and 60.

January 19, 1864 - Pro-Union supporters met at Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 21, 1864 - Pro-Union supporters met in Nashville, Tennessee.

January 23, 1864 - Lincoln approved a plan that allowed plantation owners to hire those who had previously worked as slaves on their plantations.

January 26, 1864 - Lincoln commuted another 9 planned executions, as he did not want to "add to the butchering business". On the same day he approved a plan to improve trade between the Union and those parts of the Confederacy now under Union control.

January 31, 1864 - Lincoln stated that he hoped all former slaves who wanted to fight for the Union would swear the oath but that it was not an absolute requirement. The same was true for those men who had been in Confederate ranks – swearing loyalty to the Union was preferred but was not absolute.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2018

EDWARD S. ALEXANDER

THE DAWN OF VICTORY – PETERSBURG, APRIL 2, 1865

By April 2, 1865 the Civil War had been raging for four years, plunging the country into disarray, and ravaging much of the South. The city of Petersburg had endured ten months of siege, when the final assault on the Confederate defenses surrounding the city fell during the battle known as The Breakthrough.

This Union victory saw the loss of more than 7000 men both Union and Confederate, including Confederate General A.P. Hill, and would lead to the fall of Petersburg, the start of Lee's retreat, the evacuation of Richmond, and eventually, the end of the war.

This month we welcome Edward S. Alexander is a park ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park & the National

Museum of the Civil War soldier in Petersburg, Virginia, where he is responsible for managing the park library, developing and delivering battlefield and campaign tours, and constructing interpretive walking trails for the park and Civil War Trust-preserved sites in the county.

A 2009 graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Edward has previously worked with Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Edward is the author of the forthcoming Emerging Civil War Series book Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg.

NEXT MONTH

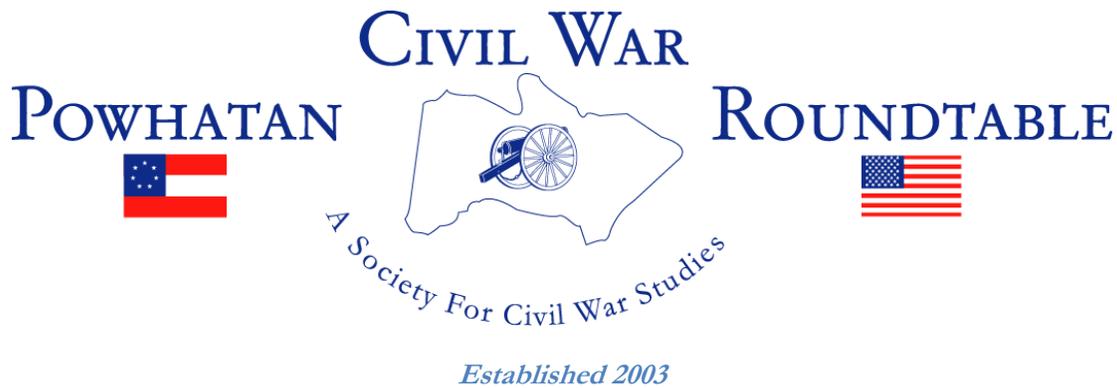
Thursday, March 15, 2018, Speaker and topic TBA

IMPORTANT NOTE

January's meeting on Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow was postponed due to inclement weather, and will be rescheduled.

NEW MENU OPTIONS

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

“Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also.”

~ Ulysses S. Grant to General Meade, April 9, 1864 ~

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

February 1, 1864 - President Lincoln ordered another 500,000 men to be drafted to serve for three years or for the duration of the war.

February 3, 1864 - Life in the Confederacy became more difficult when on this day Jefferson Davis suspended habeas corpus for those accused of spying, desertion or association with the enemy. Such a move increased Davis' unpopularity. Sherman started his march to destroy the Mobile/Ohio railway. His army consisted of 20,000 men. Sherman had by now decided to destroy as much Southern property as he could. When the war started any deliberate attack on civilians was all but unheard of. Now it was to form a specific part of Sherman's tactics in the South. He believed that by inducing fear and terror, he could bring the war to a swift end. Confronting Sherman's army was a Confederate force that also numbered 20,000.

But they were demoralized, poorly equipped and poorly fed.

February 5, 1864 - Sherman's army reached Jackson, Mississippi. His final target was Meridian.

February 6, 1864 - The South banned the import of all luxury goods.

February 9, 1864 - 109 Union officers escaped from Libby Jail in Richmond. It was the largest escape of its kind during the war. 59 made it back to Union lines, 48 were recaptured and 2 men drowned.

February 14, 1864 - Sherman's army entered Meridian and started to systematically destroy it. Hotels, hospitals and storehouses (once what was in them was removed) were set alight.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site *continued*

February 16, 1864 - The Confederates under General Polk made a half-hearted attempt to confront Sherman. However, Sherman was so confident of success that he left half his men – 10,000 – in Meridian to complete their destructive work.

February 17, 1864 - Conscription in the South is extended to all white 17 to 50 year olds. Opposition to this was widespread and included the Confederacy's Vice-President!

February 20, 1864 - A Union force of 5,500 men confronted a similar number of Southern troops at Olustree, Florida. The Confederates were successful as the Union troops (many of whom were 'substitutes') turned and fled. Many of the Union troops were armed with the new Spencer rifle and nearly 1,600 of these were left behind.

February 24, 1864 - Congress agreed to reinstate the rank of lieutenant general. Grant is given this rank and became the supreme military commander of the army, though still answering to the commander-in-chief – Lincoln. The president also agreed to a plan to compensate farmers to the tune of \$300 for every slave they allowed to go free and who enlisted in the Union Army. Jefferson Davis appointed his friend, General Bragg, to have full control of all the South's military operations. Many senior Confederate officers expressed their opposition to this appointment.

February 27, 1864 - Union prisoners started to arrive at the stockade at Andersonville, Georgia. Conditions and treatment there meant that by the end of the war, this prison was to have a notorious reputation.

February 28, 1864 - The North launched a cavalry attack against Richmond. The idea was to free Union prisoners held at Belle Isle and race back to Union lines. Lincoln considered that such a raid would have enormous propaganda value if it succeeded. It was to go wrong from the start.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

JOHN V. QUARSTEIN

CONFEDERATE PIRATES: THE CAPTURE OF THE ST. NICHOLAS

Historian, preservationist, lecturer and author, John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus of the *USS Monitor* Center, will join us on Thursday, March 15th. John served as director of the Virginia War Museum for over thirty years and, after retirement, is in demand as a speaker throughout the nation, and will discuss the capture of the *St. Nicholas* by a crew of Confederates

The daring capture of the steamer *St. Nicholas* on June 2, 1861, in the Potomac River was the Union's first charge of Confederate piracy during the Civil War. Captain George Hollins, CSN, and adventurer Lieutenant Colonel Richard Thomas Zarna captured the ship using an elaborate ruse. Their plot focused around a flirtatious French "lady" known as Madame La Force, three heavy trunks, and a cunning disguise. The pair were proclaimed vicious pirates in the North, and treated like heroes throughout the South.

Our speaker 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 numerous 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!



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, April 19, 2018, Sarah Bierle - Power and Patriotism of Civilians in 1861

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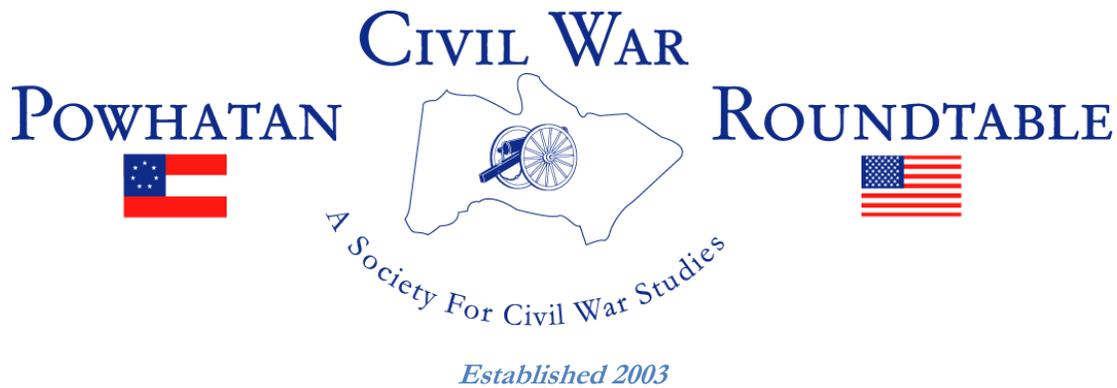
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See our website for more information.



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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

March 1, 1864 - The Dahlgren cavalry raid on Richmond started to go badly wrong. Having ridden for 36 hours, both men and horses were exhausted. The Confederate defenders had known about the raid and had prepared accordingly. An experienced cavalry unit from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was brought in to Richmond and chased the Unionist cavalry force out of the city. By the time the raid formally ended the Unionists had lost 340 men and 500 horses. It was a propaganda coup for the South and should have been a disaster for the North but the raid was sold as a success as it concentrated on the dilapidated state of the Confederate capital – as witnessed by those on the raid.

March 2, 1864 - Grant was formally promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the title General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States.

March 9, 1864 - Grant received his new command in a ceremony attended by the whole Cabinet. Many politicians expected him to work out of Washington. Therefore, there

was much surprise when Grant announced that he was going to set up his command in the field with the Army of the Potomac. While a number of politicians in Washington had tried to get Lincoln to dismiss Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, Grant expressed his full confidence in his leadership.

March 17, 1864 - Grant, observing a request from Halleck, relieved the general of his command and appointed him chief-of-staff. Grant announced that the Union's military headquarters would be with the Army of the Potomac. Grant made the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia his primary aim.

March 18, 1864 - Sherman was given formal command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.

March 27, 1864 - Sherman, in Vicksburg, was making hard and fast plans for his campaign against Atlanta. These included calling in Union troops from elsewhere such as A J Smith's corps from Alexandria, Louisiana.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

SARAH BIERLE - POWER AND PATRIOTISM OF CIVILIANS IN 1861

After being spectators during the war's early battles, civilians on both sides of the conflict would soon become participants and victims of the war's intensifying horrors.

This month we welcome Sarah Kay Bierle to discuss the role of civilians during the first year of the Civil War.

Sarah Kay Bierle is co-managing blog editor for Emerging Civil War. She has a B.A. in History from Thomas Edison State University and is exploring and enjoying her career path as a historian, writer, speaker, and living history enthusiast.

“History, research, and writing are my passion,” she says. “I desire to make history more understandable and accessible to Americans who stumble through school thinking history is a collection of random dates, places, and events. Through thought-provoking writing, I want people to reconsider the past and find lessons which

may inspire them to live more courageously today.”

Much of Sarah’s research focuses on real people and their trials and successes of everyday life in challenging eras, with a primary focus on the Civil War. Her interests include the war’s effects on maritime industry, the civilians’ struggles, surgeons and medical care, and officers and families of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. She has published an award-winning, historical novel about civilians at the Battle of Gettysburg, a collection of historical Christmas stories, and a historical novel about the Civil War’s effects on a lighthouse family.

When not researching and writing, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading classic literature, quilting, and traveling. She maintains a personal history blog at <http://www.gazette665.com>, and you can follow Sarah on Twitter [@sarahkaybierle](https://twitter.com/sarahkaybierle)

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, May 17, 2018 - Speaker & Topic TBA

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. April’s main course will consist of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce & dessert. Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by April 17th.



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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

We passed beyond...the turn of the road [at] 'Willis Hill'... Crowds of women and children had sought refuge in this sheltered spot and as night drew on they were in great distress... Some few had stretched blue yarn counterpanes or pieces of old carpet over sticks, stuck in the ground-and the little ones were huddled together under these tents, the women were weeping the children crying loudly, I saw one walking along with a baby in her arms and another little one not three years old clinging to her dress and crying "I want to go home" My heart ached for them...

Jane Beale describing civilians fleeing Fredericksburg - 1862

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April 2, 1864 - The improving weather resulted in action throughout all theatres of war.

April 6, 1864 - The Constitutional Convention of Louisiana, meeting in New Orleans, adopted a new state constitution that abolished slavery.

April 8, 1864 - The US Senate passed a joint resolution by 38 to 6 to abolish slavery. It also approved of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Union forces suffered a defeat at Sabine Cross Roads. They lost 113 killed, 581 wounded and 1541 missing or captured. The South suffered total losses of 1000 men.

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

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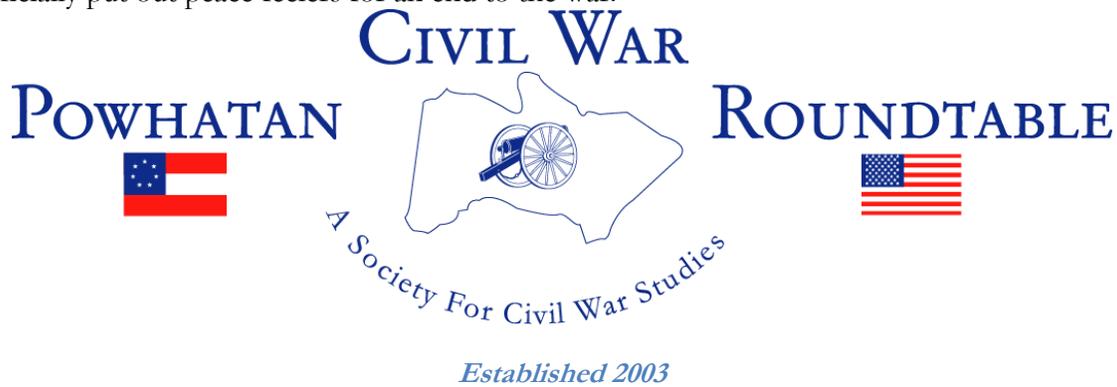
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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

SARAH BIERLE - POWER AND PATRIOTISM OF CIVILIANS IN 1861

After being spectators during the war's early battles, civilians on both sides of the conflict would soon become participants and victims of the war's intensifying horrors.

This month we welcome Sarah Kay Bierle to discuss the role of civilians during the first year of the Civil War.

Sarah Kay Bierle is co-managing blog editor for Emerging Civil War. She has a B.A. in History from Thomas Edison State University and is exploring and enjoying her career path as a historian, writer, speaker, and living history enthusiast.

“History, research, and writing are my passion,” she says. “I desire to make history more understandable and accessible to Americans who stumble through school thinking history is a collection of random dates, places, and events. Through thought-provoking writing, I want people to reconsider the past and find lessons which

may inspire them to live more courageously today.”

Much of Sarah’s research focuses on real people and their trials and successes of everyday life in challenging eras, with a primary focus on the Civil War. Her interests include the war’s effects on maritime industry, the civilians’ struggles, surgeons and medical care, and officers and families of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. She has published an award-winning, historical novel about civilians at the Battle of Gettysburg, a collection of historical Christmas stories, and a historical novel about the Civil War’s effects on a lighthouse family.

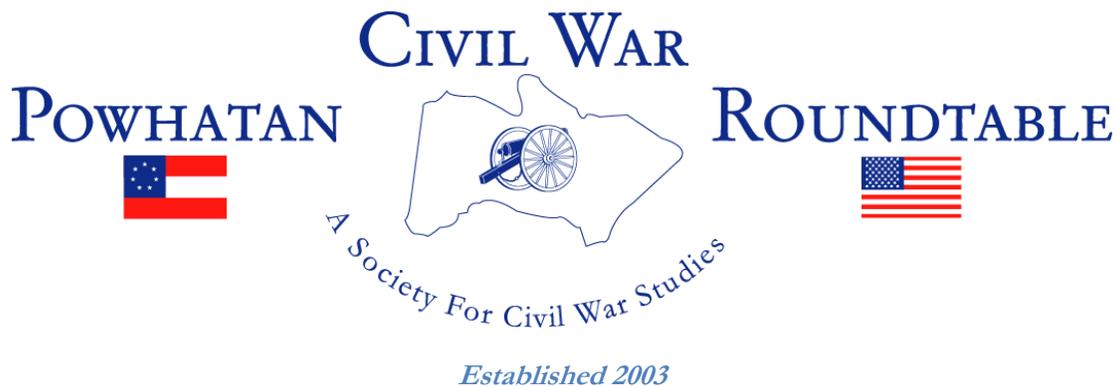
When not researching and writing, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading classic literature, quilting, and traveling. She maintains a personal history blog at <http://www.gazette665.com>, and you can follow Sarah on Twitter [@sarahkaybierle](https://twitter.com/sarahkaybierle)

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, May 17, 2018 - Speaker & Topic TBA

MENU OPTIONS

The County Seat offers our members and guests a main course, or the soup and salad bar. April’s main course will consist of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce & dessert. Please specify your dining preference (main course or soup and salad bar) when you submit your pre-paid reservation, which is due the Tuesday prior to each meeting. This month reservations must be received by April 17th.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

REMINDER: 2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your Membership Dues for 2017 are now due. With no increase in price to PCWRT Membership, we hope you will encourage friends and neighbors to also join. All dues must be received by March 31, 2017 to insure continuation of your membership

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

Membership includes 12 newsletters per year and entitles you to membership rates at our monthly dinner meetings.

REMINDER

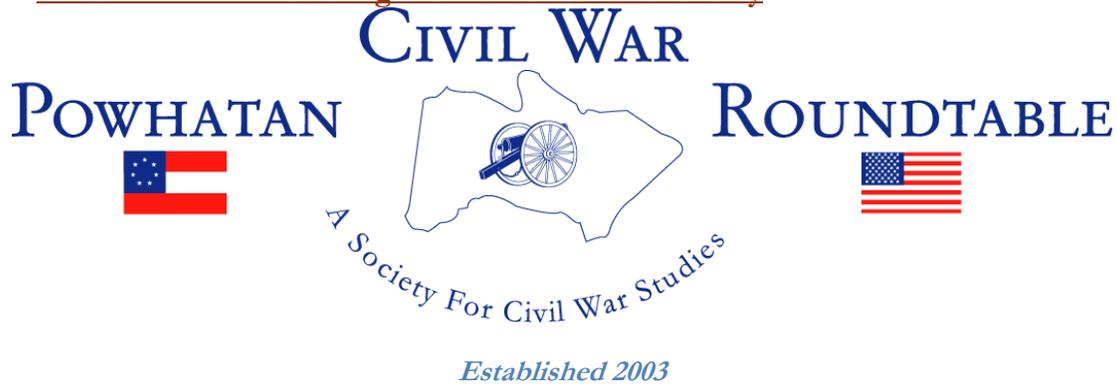
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The American Civil War Museum will mark this bicentennial with a series of monthly programs that focus on the broad sweep of the house's history and the people who made it. The programs will feature a variety of formats, from panel discussions to interactive tours to "eyewitness" storytelling sessions. The bicentennial programs will be held within the house itself at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. They are free to Museum members and \$10 for the general public (includes museum admission). A series subscription for the year is available for \$100. All proceeds go directly to the White House of the Confederacy.

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- [**MAY 5: Jefferson Davis' Military Aides**](#)
- [**JUNE 2: The Complex Relationships of Servitude**](#)
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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

We passed beyond...the turn of the road [at] 'Willis Hill'... Crowds of women and children had sought refuge in this sheltered spot and as night drew on they were in great distress... Some few had stretched blue yarn counterpanes or pieces of old carpet over sticks, stuck in the ground-and the little ones were huddled together under these tents, the women were weeping the children crying loudly, I saw one walking along with a baby in her arms and another little one not three years old clinging to her dress and crying "I want to go home" My heart ached for them...

Jane Beale describing civilians fleeing Fredericksburg - 1862

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

April 2, 1864 - The improving weather resulted in action throughout all theatres of war.

April 6, 1864 - The Constitutional Convention of Louisiana, meeting in New Orleans, adopted a new state constitution that abolished slavery.

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



A Society For Civil War Studies

Established 2003

POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2018

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

EDWARD ALEXANDER – THE THREE BURIALS OF A.P. HILL

Just seven days before Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, during the Third Battle of Petersburg, General Ambrose Powell Hill was fatally wounded on April 2, 1865. During to the chaos of those waning days of the Civil War, as the southern army attempted to evade Union forces, and the Confederate government prepared to evacuate the capital, the remains of the fallen Virginian began a restless journey that would last decades.

With the roads filled with evacuees, and 100 miles to the A.P. Hill's home county of Culpeper, his family made the decision to hastily bury the General in the Winston family burial site, near the site of the old Bellona Arsenal, south of the James River. Two years after the end of the war, Hill's family consented to the wishes of the General's staff, and agreed to have his body reinterred in Hollywood Cemetery. Nearly three decades later, the decision was made to disinter the remains of General again, which

were reburied under a statue of Hill, at the intersection of Laburnum Avenue and Hermitage Road.

This month we again welcome Edward S. Alexander, park ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park & the National Museum of the Civil War soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Edward is responsible for managing the park library, developing and delivering battlefield and campaign tours, and constructing interpretive walking trails for the park and Civil War Trust-preserved sites in the county.

A 2009 graduate of the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Edward has previously worked with Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Edward is the author of the forthcoming Emerging Civil War Series book Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg.

NEXT MONTH

Thursday, June 21, 2018 - Dan Davis - Battle Flags

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

REMINDER

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POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

I was not favorable to the second disturbance and removal of the General's remains, and I believe such were the feelings of a majority of his surviving relatives, as we believe it was wholly unnecessary and furthermore, we think it would have been far more desirable had the monument been erected over the grave in the most beautiful God's Acre in his native State, and where he has been sleeping for nearly a quarter of a century.

Very respectfully, G. Powell Hill

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THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

May 1, 1864 - General Sherman started his advance on the Army of the Tennessee.

May 2, 1864 - The first skirmishes between Sherman's troops and the Army of the Tennessee occurred. President Davis also told the Confederate government that there was no hope of any form of recognition of the Confederacy by foreign governments.

May 3, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac was ordered to start its campaign against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Grant claimed that the men in the Army of the Potomac were "in splendid condition and feel like whipping somebody".

May 4, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac, numbering 122,000 men, crossed the River Rapidan in pursuit of Lee's army. Lee had 66,000 men under his command. General Sherman's men prepared for their march on Atlanta. He had 98,000 men under his command.

May 5, 1864 - Grant and Lee's troops engaged en masse for the first time in this campaign. Fighting in the 'Wilderness', Lee's troops had the advantage because the terrain was covered in scrub oak, stunted pines and sweet gum. All this made concealment easy and made Grant's task far more difficult despite a 2 to 1 superiority in terms of troop numbers.

May 6, 1864 - The Battle of the Wilderness continued. Neither side could claim victory at the end but in terms of casualties the Union could afford to lose more men than the South. The North lost 2236 dead, 12,037 wounded and 3383 missing. The Confederates lost 7,500 men in total.

May 7, 1864 - After a short rest the Army of the Potomac moved off again. This time Grant headed towards Richmond. This time it was Lee who had to be wary of Grant's movements. The Army of the James was already threatening Richmond to the South.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

May 8, 1864 - An attempt by Grant to get his army between Lee and Richmond failed when the Union's V Corps failed to take Spotsylvania Cross Roads. Sherman continued his march on Atlanta with little, at present, to stop him.

May 9, 1864 - Well-placed and well-dug trenches ensured that the Confederate force opposing Grant was difficult to move and there was a temporary halt to major attacks between Lee and Grant with the Union engaged in a series of reconnaissance raids as opposed to anything more.

May 11, 1864 - The Army of the Potomac spent the day maneuvering into position for an attack primed for

May 12th. Six miles from Richmond, J E B ('Jeb') Stuart was killed in a skirmish. The South lost one of its most talented commanders.

May 12, 1864 - The North's attack against Lee's army started at 04.30. Their initial assault was a success but a Confederate counter-attack ensured that the North was unable to capitalize on this. The fighting in an area known as 'Bloody Angle' – part of the South's entrenchments – was some of the bloodiest of the war.

May 13, 1864 - The fighting for 'Bloody Angle' near Spotsylvania ended at 04.00. The North had lost 6,800 men, the South 5,000. Once again, the Army of the Potomac could afford the losses while the South could not.

Grant continued his aggressive approach of looking for Lee's army. There was little doubt that Grant's confidence of victory rubbed off on his men. Sherman encountered determined opposition at Resaca. Here the South had built extensive entrenchments and they proved a major obstacle for Sherman and his army.

May 14, 1864 - Heavy rain meant that all forms of movement were curtailed around Spotsylvania.

May 15, 1864 - A Union force commanded by General Sigel was defeated at New Market. Sigel had been sent to defeat Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. In this he failed. On the side of the successful Confederates was Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the officer with the same name who found fame in World War Two. Sigel was relieved of his command on May 19th. Sherman was unable to make a breakthrough at Resaca.

May 16, 1864 - The North suffered a major defeat at Drewry's Bluff and lost 25% of their manpower during the battle – 4160 men killed and wounded out of 18,000. The blame was later directed at the lackluster leadership of General Butler.

May 18, 1864 - When the rain stopped Grant launched another unsuccessful frontal assault on Lee's positions. With increasing casualties, Grant called off the attack. He had clearly underestimated just how well the Confederates entrenchments had been made.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

May 19, 1864 - Buoyed by his successes, Lee turned to the Confederates II Corps and ordered an attack on Union lines. This led to heavy fighting between both armies but neither one gained an advantage. By the end of the day the fighting around Spotsylvania had come to an end. The Army of the Potomac had lost 17,500 men. Combined with the loss of men at the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 33,000 men out of 122,000 in just one month – 27% of the Army of the Potomac's total. However, Grant still had an army nearly 90,000 strong. There are no accurate figures for Lee's losses for the same period but they were undoubtedly high. While the Union could sustain their losses, however unpalatable the figure, the South could not.

May 20, 1864 - Sherman continued his advance to Atlanta.

May 23, 1864 - Grant continued in his policy of shadowing Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He had a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of troop strength. The cause of the South was not helped when Lee was taken with a fever and had to retire to bed.

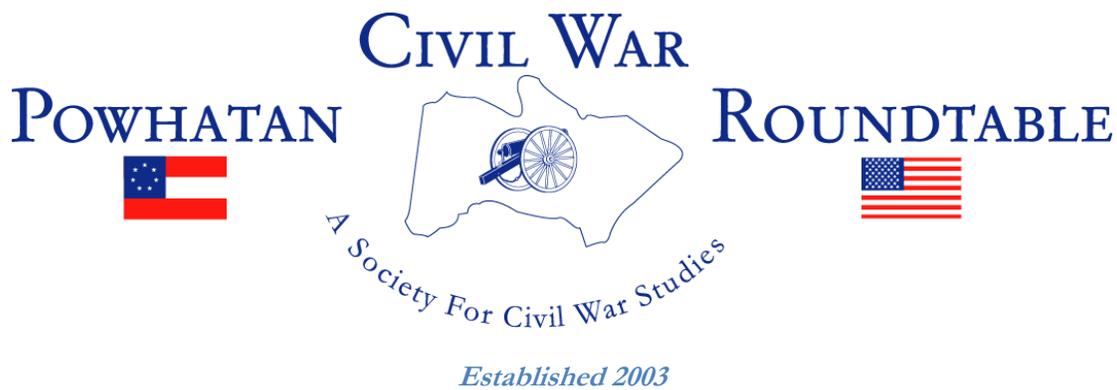
May 24, 1864 - One of the consequences of Sherman's advance was that he had extended supply lines. On this day a raid by Confederate cavalry on his lines led to the destruction of large quantities of supplies. There was not a great deal Sherman could do about this, as he wanted to continue with his advance to Atlanta and the Confederates were skilled at quick cavalry attacks.

May 28, 1864 - The Army of Northern Virginia moved towards Cold Harbor. By doing this Lee had placed his army between Grant and Richmond.

May 29, 1864 - Lee entrenched his positions around Cold Harbor.

May 30, 1864 - Rather than shy away from contact with Lee, Grant maintained his aggressive stance and faced his army at Cold Harbor.

May 31, 1864 - Sherman's advance on Atlanta was stalled by Confederate troops commanded by J E Johnston. Their tactics, while never going to defeat Sherman, were sufficient to slow down his army to, on average, just one mile a day.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2018

DANIEL T. DAVIS - YELLOW TAVERN

For nearly two years, Confederate cavalryman James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart held the upper hand against his Northern counterparts. Even after the pivotal battle of Brandy of Station in June, 1863, Stuart remained a thorn in the side of the Federals. But in the spring of 1864, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan took command of the Army of the Potomac's cavalry. Sheridan possessed an aggressive air that matched Stuart and exceeded that of his predecessors. It was not long before the two would meet on the field of battle. The engagement came on May 11, 1864, several miles north of Richmond and ultimately cost Stuart his life.

This month, author and historian Daniel T. Davis will discuss the lost battle of Yellow Tavern. He will examine the events leading up to the battle, its tactical aspects and its

aftermath. Dan will also discuss the death of Stuart, its impact on the Army of Northern Virginia and ramifications for Robert E. Lee's cavalry.

Our speaker, graduated from Longwood University with a B.A. in Public History in 2005. He worked for five years as a historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and Appomattox Court House National Historic Site. He is the webmaster for Emerging Civil War, a public history-oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to the American Civil War, and is the co-author of *Fight Like the Devil: The First Day at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863*, *Out Flew the Sabres: The Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863* and *Calamity in Carolina: The Battles of Averasboro and Bentonville, March 1865*, which he will have available for purchase.

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Thursday, July 19, 2018, Chris Mackowski - Topic TBA

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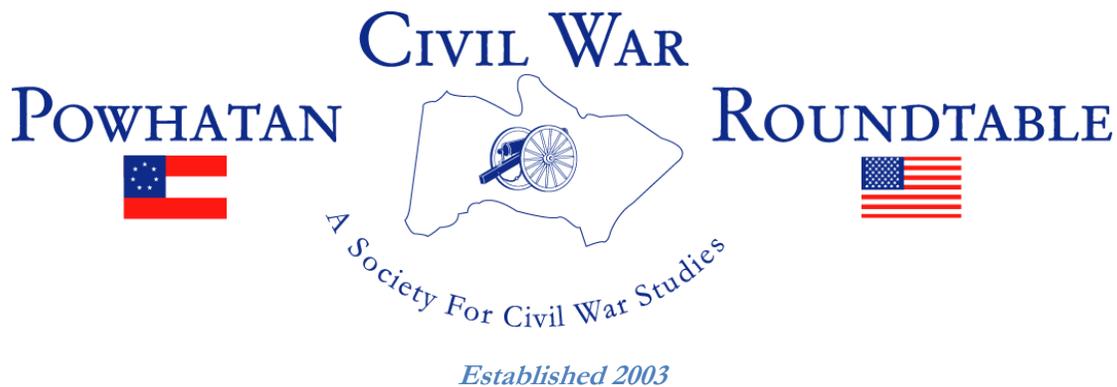
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CIVIL WAR QUOTES

"Go back! Go back, and do your duty, as I have done mine, and our country will be safe. Go back! Go back!" I'd rather die than be whipped!"

~General JEB Stuart, May 11, 1864~



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

June 1, 1864 - The Battle of Cold Harbor started. Grant attacked Lee's position near to the 1862 Seven Days battlefields. Sherman sent out nearly 7,000 troops (3,000 cavalry and nearly 4,000 infantry) to hunt down the cavalry of Bedford Forrest, who continued to be a serious problem along Sherman's supply lines. It was Bedford Forrest's cavalry that was associated with the Fort Pillow, Tennessee incident.

June 2, 1864 - Grant spent the day improving the entrenchments of his army. Having captured the Allatoona Pass, Sherman was able to speed up his drive to Atlanta.

June 3, 1864 - At 04.30 Grant launched a major attack on Lee's positions at Cold Harbor. However, Lee's men were well dug in and in just one hour the Union force lost 7,000 men. The Confederates lost 1,500 men. At 12.00 Grant called off the attack. If the attack had been successful nothing would have stopped Grant and the Army of the Potomac getting to Richmond – just eight miles away. Those living in the city could hear the cannon fire.

June 5, 1864 - The South suffered a major defeat at Piedmont in the Shenandoah Valley. A Confederate force of 5,000 suffered 1,500 casualties, including the loss of their commanding officer, General W E Jones. The

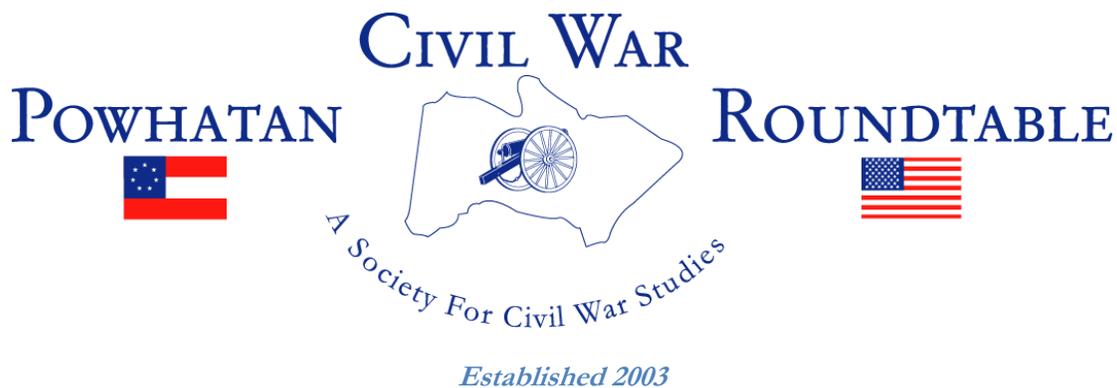
Confederate army was incapable of sustaining a 30% loss.

June 6, 1864 - Union troops commanded by Major-General David Hunter destroyed much private property in the Shenandoah Valley.

June 8, 1864 - Lincoln received the nomination from the National Union Convention to stand for president in the forthcoming election. The party platform was that there should be no compromise with the South.

June 10, 1864 - The Confederate Congress introduced military service for all men in the South aged between 17 and 70. Bedford Forrest defeated a large Union force at Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi. Forrest had 3,500 men under his command while the Union cavalry force, commanded by General Samuel Stugis, stood at 8,000. The Union army suffered over 25% casualties (a total of 2,240) to Forrest's total loss of 492 men.

June 12, 1864 - After some days of military inactivity, the Army of the Potomac moved out of its lines at Cold Harbor. However, while the army had not been fighting, it had been constructing better roads and pontoons to allow for the swifter movement of men and supplies. Such planning paid off.



POWHATAN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2018

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR 1864 - Courtesy History Learning Site

June 13, 1864 - Lee withdrew his army to Richmond in the belief that Grant had built the roads and pontoons to allow his army to get behind the Army of Northern Virginia and attack Richmond. Lee was wrong in his assessment.

June 14, 1864 - The South lost one of its top generals, Leonidas Polk. Killed by artillery fire on Pine Mountain, Polk was not a great strategic commander but he was popular with his men and his loss was a bitter blow to the morale of the Army of the Tennessee.

June 15, 1864 - The North started a major assault on Petersburg, the 'backdoor to Richmond'.

June 16, 1864 - More units from the Army of the Potomac joined the attack on Petersburg. Against the odds, the defenders held out.

June 17, 1864 - The defenders of Petersburg managed a counter-attack. It was not successful, but it did stop the Union troops from advancing any nearer to Petersburg.

June 18, 1864 - Lee's main army arrived at Petersburg to bolster the city's defenses. The North carried out the last of its attacks – the four days fighting for Petersburg had cost the Union 8,000 men.

June 20, 1864 - Grant decided to besiege Petersburg. He concluded that even the Army

of the Potomac could not sustain further heavy losses.

June 21, 1864 - President Lincoln paid a visit to the Army of the Potomac. Grant enlivened the command of the army by appointing new generals. He hoped that new blood would invigorate the way the Army of the Potomac is led. One of his appointments was General David Birney who was given the command of II Corps.

June 22, 1864 - The Confederates launched a ferocious attack on Birney's II Corps at Jerusalem Plank Road. Birney lost 604 killed, 2494 wounded and 1600 captured. The Confederates lost in total 500 men.

June 25, 1864 - Union forces started to build a tunnel underneath one of the main Confederate redoubts in Petersburg.

June 27, 1864 - Sherman launched a major attack against Confederate positions at Kennesaw Mountain. The North's forces were stopped just short of the Confederates front line. Union losses were 2,000 killed or wounded out of 16,000 men.

June 28, 1864 - Though they held Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain, the South knew that it was only a matter of time until it fell, such was the size of the force they were facing. Their commander here, Johnston, decided to pull back to the Chattahoochee River.