

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter November 2014

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are at the Jury Room in the Court House in Cape May Court House, and start at 6:30pm

20 November: John Burke will be lecturing on the subject of the Battle of Franklin **Refreshments:** Mike & Barbara Golla
4 December: Buffet dinner at the Joy Buffet in Rio Grande, starting at 6pm. Adults pay \$11.99 each for dinner, 6.49 or 7.49 each for children. Please call Pat Munson-Siter if you will be going so she can let the restaurant know how many people to expect.

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner
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Secretary: Pat Munson-Siter
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Treasurer: Jim Marshall
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Minutes of the Business Meeting 16 Oct 2014

President Runner called the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those who stand in harm's way to protect us. He also called for prayers for those of our members and their families who are facing major health issues.

Dues next year – Rising costs for materials (newsletters, postage, etc) as well as higher speaker's fees (including lodging for some speakers) is eating into our operating budget. It has been more than 10 years since our last dues increase. Treasurer reports that he ran the numbers, and increasing the dues to \$30 would allow us to take in about what we are spending. It was also decided to end the extra \$5 for 'family membership.' Suggestion was made to up dues to \$35 for those members who want us to mail them a hardcopy of the newsletter to cover copy and postage costs. After much debate, the motion to increase the dues to \$30, \$35 for membership with mailed newsletter, was seconded and approved.

Further, it was decided that as of 1 January 2015, the only members receiving hard copies of the newsletter will be those who have specifically requested them. In the past, we have been sending hard copies to anyone who had not specifically requested email copies only. So if you want to get a hard copy, EMAIL THE SECRETARY ASAP!!! And remember that she has a new email address as the old one got hacked.

President Runner reports that the Kindle Ford promotion to raise money for various nonprofit groups in the county has included money that will be donated to the Round Table. As a reminder, if you get your oil changed, or other work done on your vehicle at Kindle, ask for one of their donation cards, mark the Round Table as your chosen organization to receive the donation, and we will eventually get a check from Kindle.

Treasurer Marshall gave his report. We started this month's reporting period with \$1686.01. After all bills

written in the period have cleared, we will have \$1112 left in the operating budget.

Need stationary etc for thank you letter to Kindle after we get the donation check from them. Jim has some on hand and will take care of the letter.

Richard S. from the Old Baldy Round Table reminded the group that Old Baldy is now meeting in the Camden area rather than Philadelphia. They are presenting a series of lectures at Camden College. Check their website at ***** for more information; and he has also been bringing some of their newsletters and other publications with him when he visits with us.

Where do we want to hold our Christmas dinner meeting? Consensus was that holding it in the Jury Room has not been very comfortable considering the constraints on cleaning up, availability of utensils to cut food, etc. All attending the meeting agreed that we would prefer another venue for the Christmas meeting. Several possible venues were suggested. The one we are looking at is the Joy Buffet in Rio Grande next to the Office Depot (Route 9) and across the street from the Lowes and Walmart. In addition to being reasonably priced (\$12 per dinner for adults, \$8 for children) they have quite a lot of non-Chinese food if any of our members or their guests prefer it; two tables of salads, fruits, and veggies; pizza, mac and cheese, etc. as well as steaks and other seafood. They also have two side rooms where groups can meet apart from the rest of the main room. If you are interested in attending the Christmas dinner, please contact the secretary so she can get an idea of how many people will be attending the dinner.

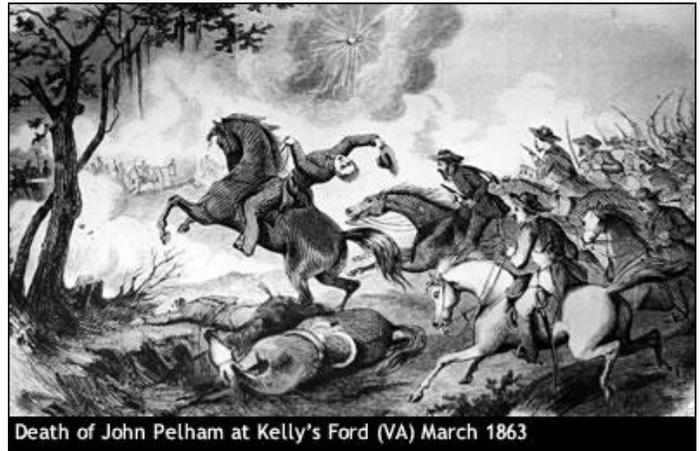
There being no further business to be discussed, the business part of the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Munson-Siter
Secretary

NOTE: Mike Houdart, long time member of the Round Table, had triple bypass surgery on 31 October. Mike, we hope you are recovering well, and hope to see you at a meeting sometime in the future!

REMINDER: Dues for 215 are now coming due; please pay Jim Marshall \$30 in the next few months for your 2015 membership.



Death of John Pelham at Kelly's Ford (VA) March 1863

Civil War Calendar for December

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| | | 1860 |
| December | 20 | South Carolina secedes |
| | | 1861 |
| No major events | | |
| | | 1862 |
| December | 11 | Union army crosses Rappahannock River into Fredericksburg |
| | 13 | Battle of Fredericksburg |
| | 31-Jan 2 | Battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro) (TN) |
| | | 1863 |
| No major events | | |
| | | 1864 |
| December | 15-16 | Battle of Nashville |
| | 21 | Savannah occupied by Union troops |



December 2014

Civil War Re-Enactments and other Events

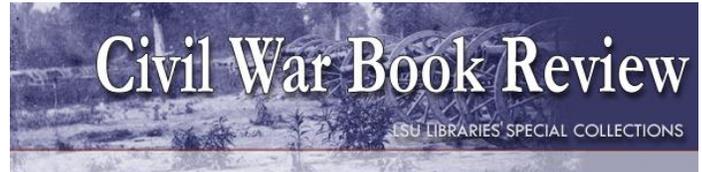
- 4 DC Lecture/reception with Chris DeRose and Michael Beschloss, at President Lincoln's Cottage, Upshur Street and Rock Creek Road NW, Washington. 6

pm reception; 6:30 pm lecture. \$10 each.
Reservations: lincolncottage.org

- 4 VA Lecture, "A Gunner in Lee's Army: The Civil War Letters of Thomas Henry Carter to his Wife," at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. vahistorical.org
- 5-6 VA Candlelight tours of the Stonewall Jackson Headquarters (and other museums) in Winchester. 6-8 pm Friday, 3-7 pm. Saturday. winchesterhistory.org
- 6 VA Lecture, "Siege of Petersburg: Diversity of Perspective," at the Petersburg National Battlefield Park visitor center. 2 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete
- 6 VA Living history, "Christmas on the Farm" with music, games and demonstrations at the New Market Battlefield. 10 am-4 pm. vmi.edu/vmcw
- 6 PA "An Evening with the Painting," after-hours extended look at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 5 pm. \$20. gettysburgfoundation.org
- 7 VA Living history, "Christmas in Camp," decorations, drills and camp at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Noon-4 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.
- 10 VA Talk, "Battle of Staunton River Bridge," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org
- 13 MD "'Tis the Season," special tours and refreshments at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. noon-4 pm. Free. surrattmuseum.org
- 13 VA "Holidays at Liberia," at Liberia, a Civil War headquarters building in Manassas. \$15. Times, details: manassasmuseum.org
- 13 VA Living history, "Christmas in Camp," camps, period decorations and more at Fort Ward in Alexandria. \$2. forward.org
- 13-14 VA Antebellum Saint Nicholas program at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical Park near Amelia. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, noon-5 pm Sunday. 804-561-7510.
- 20 VA Talk, "The Last Christmas in the Confederate White House," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with museum admission. moc.org
- 20 VA Living history, "19th-Century Christmas at Ellwood," at Ellwood Manor, a Union headquarters during the Battle of the Wilderness

just off Route 20 near Route 3 west of Fredericksburg. 10 am-5 pm. Free. fowb.org

- 20 VA Walking tour, "Fort Boykin," Confederate James River fort, 7410 Fort Boykin Trail near Smithfield. 3 pm. Free. historicismleofwight.com
- 28 VA Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield 1-4 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete



From the January 2015 issue of *America's Civil War*

Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion, written by Harold Holzer, pub by Simon & Schuster, \$37.50; review by Louis P Masur

Abraham Lincoln understood the power of the press. From early in his career, he subscribed to multiple papers, courted editors and tracked reports of his remarks. Following the debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858, he gathered newspaper transcripts of his speeches and had them published. Lincoln so firmly grasped the influence of the press that he became a partner in a German language paper in Springfield – and concealed his ownership. Newspapers shaped public opinion and ‘he who moulds public sentiments,’ Lincoln proclaimed, ‘goes deeper than he who enacts statues or pronounces decisions.’

That insight from 1858 serves as the epigraph for Harold Holzer’s sweeping work. It has been more than 60 years since anyone has written on this vast topic, and for good reason. A study of Lincoln and the press requires biographical expertise as well as knowledge of the history of journalism. Holzer; of course, is a prolific Lincoln scholar. But earlier in his career he also was a newspaper reporter and press secretary. In this book, he has drawn on a lifetime of experience and study to produce the definitive work on the subject.

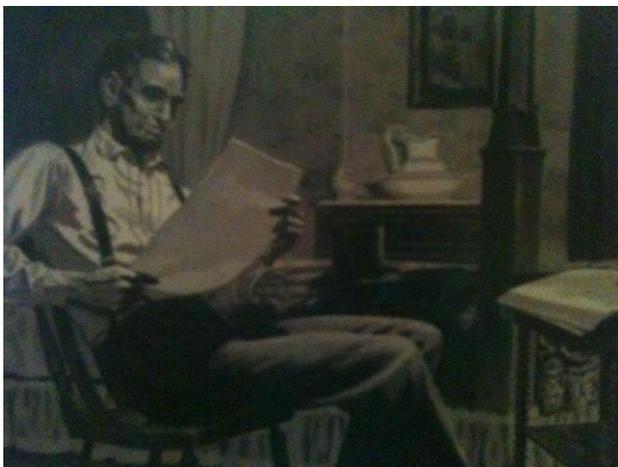
Throughout the book, Holzer weaves together Lincoln’s story with an account of the careers of many prominent editors, perhaps none more important than Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*, James Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald*, and Henry J Raymond of *The New York Times*. Greeley provoked and embarrassed the administration; Bennett once called Lincoln a “joke

incarnated,' Raymond supported William Seward in 1860. Each editor was represented in a clippings file that Lincoln labeled 'Villainous articles.' The story of Lincoln's relationship with these men, and how it shaped the war effort, constitutes a central focus of the book.

In one well-known example from August 1862, Greeley excoriated the president in an editorial for not moving against slavery, and Lincoln responded publicly with a piece in the conservative *National Intelligencer* reassuring Americans that he would not interfere with slavery unless he had to, yet at that moment he had already prepared a draft of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Holzer labels the episode an example *par excellence* of 'Lincoln's genius for synchronized press manipulation.'

Tempestuous Greeley could be kept in check; Democratic editors opposed to the war posed a more alarming threat. Administration efforts to censor the press included controlling telegraph lines, suppressing military news, shutting down presses and imprisoning newspapermen. Lincoln made few overt comments on the subject in the summer of 1861, as several editors were jailed, but his 'silence, deflection, and disinformation,' Holzer notes, amounted to approval. Two years later, again using the device of a published letter, Lincoln defended as constitutional the measures his administration had taken to suppress the rebellion.

Through the lens of Lincoln and reportage, Holzer offers an important perspective on the war and has unearthed fresh material. An added pleasure of the volume is the numerous portraits and cartoons that are not simply illustrative but are made integral to the story he tells. *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* deserves a wide audience and a place on the list of essential Civil War books.



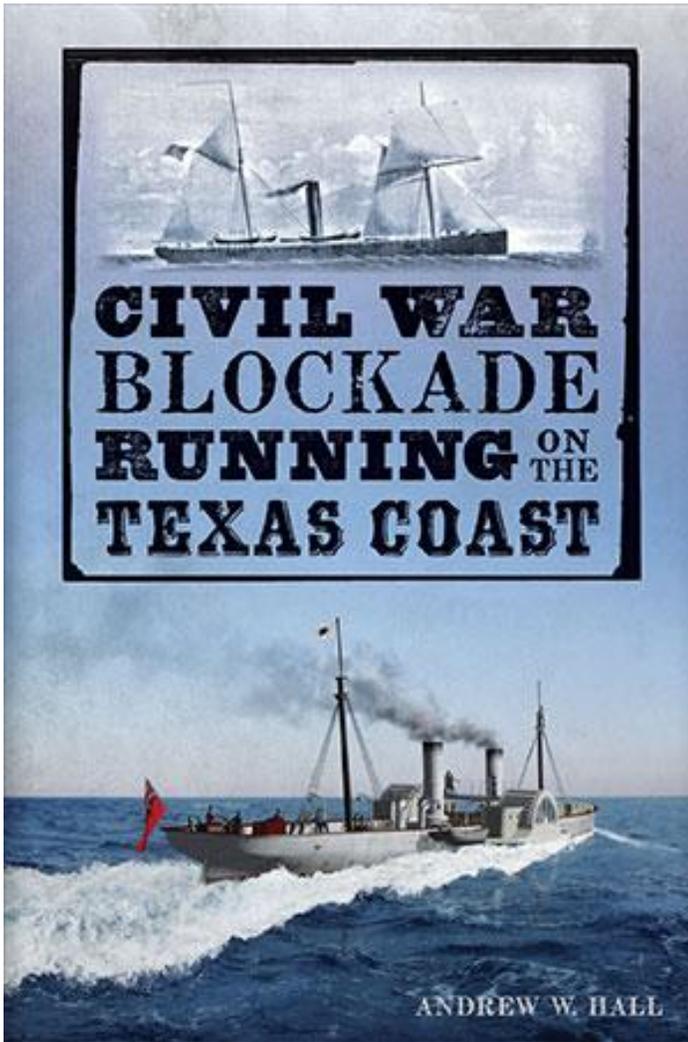
On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933 – 2013; written by Jennifer M. Murray, University of Tennessee Press, \$49; reviewed by Ethan S Rafuse

Gettysburg stands out among Civil War battlefields not only because of the great battle fought there in July 1863, but also because it is where Abraham Lincoln powerfully articulated the larger meaning and purpose of the battle, war and republic. Moreover, the battlefield is far enough away from major population centers to spare it from the sort of development that has inflicted irreparable damage to so many other battlefields, but close enough for convenient family trips – and easily accessible due to the very road network that made the town a thoroughfare for armies in 1863.

Managing the battlefield in the seven decades since the National Park Service assumed direction of Gettysburg National Military Park and the Soldiers' National Cemetery has been no easy task. On the one hand, there is the delicate balancing act of ensuring that Gettysburg is accessible to a broad public without compromising the physical integrity of the site. Then there is the enduring challenge of honoring – while also accurately describing and interpreting – the events of 1863 in a way that satisfies the battlefield's various constituencies, who often disagree sharply about the war and those who fought it, the purposes of national parks and the relationship of the battlefield to the local community.

Jennifer Murray provides a readable, interesting and generally sympathetic – though by no means uncritical – account of NPS efforts at Gettysburg since 1933, with John Latschar receiving particular praise for his work as superintendent between 1994 and 2009. (The Licensed Battlefield Guides of the 1940s and 1950s and other commercial interests do not come across so well.) She also offers clear and compelling analysis of how broader developments in American life and scholarship on the Civil War have affected NPS efforts at Gettysburg, with the latter clearly reflected in the recent shift in the interpretive focus from the "High Water Mark" to "A New Birth of Freedom." By doing so, Murray makes a valuable (though rather steeply priced) contribution to the growing body of literature on American's Battlefields.





New Book Highlights Civil War Blockade Running Along the Texas Coast

By: Richard Varr

Wednesday, July 02, 2014

History and Civil War buffs will find new meaning to the wartime concept of “blockade running” in a new book by a Texas Gulf Coast author.

In *Civil War Blockade Running On The Texas Coast*, writer and researcher Andrew Hall tells the story of how the upper Texas coast and the port of Galveston were instrumental in the movement of foreign imports to supply Confederate troops, since the Union had already seized many Southern ports.

“Galveston and Texas were too far west to play much of a direct role in the war in the East, but Texas did provide lots of troops and supplies to the Confederate war effort,” explains Hall. “Most of the steamships running the blockade into Galveston or other points on the coast ran out of Havana, Cuba or Vera Cruz, Mexico, both of which were officially neutral parties in the Civil War.”

In particular, Hall’s book covers the naval blockade of the Texas coast in 1861-65. He explains

blockade-running occurs in wartime when one nation establishes a blockade of its enemy, to cut off that enemy from outside supply or reinforcement. “Blockade-running is the effort to move people, munitions or supplies through or around the blockade,” he says. “Blockade-running can take many forms – at sea, carrying supplies through enemy lines on land, or across a neutral border, as at Brownsville/Matamoros during the Civil War.”

Below, the author answers questions about his book and what inspired him to write it. *Civil War Blockade Running On The Texas Coast* is available at the Galveston Historical Foundation’s Eighteen Seventy One store located at 2217 Strand, the Galveston Bookshop on 23rd Street and through online outlets.

Q&A with Author Andrew Hall

What inspired you to write the book?

It’s a subject that I’ve been interested in for a long time, as I discuss in the beginning of the book. Over time, I realized that most books on the subject – not just focusing on Texas, but covering the subject across the war – tended to be either very academic or very unreliable, the latter repeating a lot of lore that doesn’t always hold up well to close scrutiny. My hope is that this short work will bridge that gap, telling an engaging story while still reflecting accurate research. If this book gets readers interested in the subject and prompts them to pursue it further, that’s the best outcome of all.

What role did Galveston play during the Civil War as a port, and how important was it for successful blockade running along the Texas coast to keep the Confederacy alive?

Galveston and Texas were too far west to play much of a direct role in the war in the East, but Texas did provide lots of troops and supplies (especially beef on-the-hoof) to the Confederate war effort. (There was, for example, no continuous rail connection between Texas and the rest of the Confederacy.) Blockade-running into Texas provided munitions and supplies mostly for use in what was termed the Trans-Mississippi (i.e., west of the Mississippi River), but it was very important for that purpose.

Galveston and Houston were particular strategic targets for the Federals, because Galveston had the best natural harbor west of the mouth of the Mississippi, and Houston was a rail hub with lines stretching well into the populated interior of the state. Union forces captured Galveston in the fall of 1862 with the idea that it could be the jumping-off point for a major invasion of the state, but that idea got tossed when the Confederates re-took the port on January 1, 1863. (That is, by the way, the only example of a Confederate port being retaken by C.S. forces during the war.) The Federals tried again in September 1863 at

Sabine Pass, but were beaten back by a small force of Confederate artillerymen. After that, they didn't attempt another invasion of this part of Texas for the rest of the war.

Please discuss how the steamships would make trips from Cuba to Galveston's port and what goods the ships were carrying.

Most of the steamships running the blockade into Galveston or other points on the coast ran out of Havana, Cuba, or Vera Cruz, Mexico, both of which were officially neutral parties in the Civil War. A steamship would typically make the run between Havana and Galveston in four or five days; a sailing vessel might take much longer, depending on the weather conditions.

Blockade running under sail on the Texas coast went on all through the war, but with steamships it only picked up significantly toward the end, after Mobile, Alabama was cut off by the Union navy in August 1864. Through the last few months of the war, the big runners (some over 200 feet long) were coming in and going out frequently.

As originally conceived, the Confederate government believed that a combination of profit and patriotism for the southern cause would be sufficient to ensure that needed supplies would be brought into the Confederacy. (Keep in mind that the vast majority of blockade runners were entirely private business ventures that the Confederate government had little direct control over.) What they found, though, was that high-end civilian goods brought a much higher profit for the blockade runners than munitions or basic materials, and so only a small proportion of goods brought in on blockade runners contributed directly to the war effort. The Confederate government passed a law in early 1864 requiring that half of all inbound and outbound cargo space be allotted for C.S. government consignments, but even in early 1865 most of the remaining space was filled with expensive civilian goods, rather than strictly military supplies, because the former brought a much higher profit for the runners. Profit trumped patriotism.

Also, please discuss shipwrecks including the famous blockade runners Denbigh and Will o' the Wisp and the blockaders USS Arkansas and USS Hatteras. Are they found? If so, what was found on them?

I've had the good fortune to work with the archaeological teams on four shipwrecks of vessels that were part of blockade-running on the Texas coast. The most important of these is Denbigh that was shelled and burned at Galveston in late May 1865, the last runner to be caught and destroyed here. That was a project of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, and involved four years' worth of diving summer field seasons, to excavate parts of the interior of the ship. We discovered that whatever was left

of the (inbound) cargo after the original fire had probably been salvaged soon after, so there wasn't much left of that. But we were able to do a very thorough documentation of the ship's structure and machinery that gives additional insight on their technology and operations.

The wreck we believe is Will o' the Wisp was located during a survey after Hurricane Ike, in the winter of 2008-09. Like all these wreck, that site is mostly buried in the sand, but a lot of it was exposed by wave scouring during the storm. I and several other volunteer Marine Stewards with the Texas Historical Commission had the opportunity to begin recording this wreck in the summer of 2009, and what we found fits very well with the historical record of that runner's construction. We do need to go back, though, and collect more data that will, we hope, firmly establish that ship's identity.

USS Arkansas was originally a civilian ship, Tonawanda, purchased for the Union navy and used as a supply vessel, running up and down the Texas coast during the latter part of the war, bringing fresh provisions, mail, spare parts, munitions, replacement crews and a hundred other things to the ships stationed off the various ports and inlets. USS Arkansas suffered a terrible outbreak of yellow fever during the war, one of the worst aboard any blockade ship. After the war, the Navy sold her and her new owners changed her name back to Tonawanda. She was wrecked in the Florida Keys in 1866. I had the opportunity to help lead an underwater archaeology field school with the PAST Foundation that recorded the site, part of the National Marine Sanctuary there.

USS Hatteras was a Union gunboat that, like USS Arkansas, was originally built as a civilian vessel. She captured several blockade runners in the Gulf of Mexico before she had the misfortune to run into the famous Confederate raider CSS Alabama in January 1863. Alabama was a purpose-built warship, and the fight was over in just 13 minutes. In 2012 I was able to assist with historical research on a multi-agency project on the Hatteras site, led by NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program and supported by the Edward E. and Marie L. Matthews Foundation, ExploreOcean, and Teledyne BlueView. It was a project to test a new underwater 3D mapping technology that has great potential for recording historic shipwrecks. It was great project.

Andrew Hall is a native of the Texas Gulf Coast and a longtime researcher and author, specializing in local maritime and Civil War history. Working with the Texas Historical Commission, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, the PAST Foundation and other groups, Hall has had the opportunity to help archaeologists record multiple historical shipwrecks.

Richard Varr is a well-rounded freelance writer with more than 25 years writing experience. A member of the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW), he

specializes in travel, feature and business writing and is the author (main contributor) of the Dorling Kindersley EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDE TO PHILADELPHIA AND THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH COUNTRY. Richard currently lives in Houston and contributes to a variety of magazines and websites, with particular focus on highlighting destinations for cruise and RV publications. Visit his own blog at varrtravel.wordpress.com.

Development threatens Williamsburg Battlefield

Written By: Aine Cain September 8, 2014



In 2010, the Civil War Trust released a report declaring the Williamsburg Battlefield “At Risk.” AINE CAIN / THE FLAT HAT

One only has to walk down Duke of Gloucester Street to see that Williamsburg’s primary export is history. Stroll past Merchant’s Square and you’re suddenly in the 18th century. Tourists donning tricorn hats shuffle around Colonial Williamsburg’s Revolutionary City. A reenactor portraying Marquis de Lafayette or Benedict Arnold might even gallop past you on horseback.

How then, did the site of a battle named for the city come to be included on a list of Virginia’s most endangered historical sites? In April, [Preservation Virginia](#) featured the Williamsburg Battlefield in its list of most endangered historical sites in Virginia. The battle’s name, “The Battle of Williamsburg,” can be a bit misleading — the site actually spreads across three municipalities, James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg.

Since the early 1990s, an estimated 2,000 or more acres of the site have disappeared. [In a 2009 study](#), Congress’ Civil War Sites Advisory Commission classified the battlefield as Class B (“had a direct impact on the war”) and priority II (“in need of additional protection”), with only 3 percent of the site protected. The report also said that 1,000 acres of the total 10,000 within the battlefield boundaries are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010, the Civil War Trust declared the site “At Risk.”

Preservation Virginia’s Director of Preservation Initiatives and Engagement Justin Sarafin compiles Preservation Virginia’s annual “most endangered” list. The Williamsburg Battlefield Association submitted the site to Preservation Virginia for consideration. [The Williamsburg Battlefield Association’s Facebook page](#) has 1,942 likes at press time and outlines its commitment to advocacy and education.

Sarafin noted that Preservation Virginia enjoys success in preserving endangered sites, but acknowledged that Williamsburg Battlefield’s situation is complicated, due to multiple owners interested in developing the site. “It’s not about freezing something in time, having it exist in a vacuum,” Sarafin said. “It’s not that at all. Development happens. We want it to happen in an intelligent way in

consideration of historic resources and assets that, in almost every case, benefit whatever development’s happening and maintain a sense of place. These things have to work hand in hand. It’s not saying ‘no’ to any type of change — it’s encouraging people to think more responsibility about the kinds of changes they want to make to historic fabric and landscapes, whether they’re untouched or they’ve already been altered.” Riverside Healthcare Association owns most of the City of Williamsburg’s portion of the battle site. In 2005, the lower portion of this property was rezoned to the ED Economic Development District in 2005 for a combination commercial, residential and medical development. The 2013 Williamsburg Comprehensive Plan supports this construction on the ED District portion of the property adjacent to Route 199, and a residential development for the property north of Tutter’s Neck Pond. The entire area can have up to 1,362 dwelling units, with 384 currently under construction. Riverside Doctors’ Hospital opened in April 2013.

City of Williamsburg Planning Director Reed Nester noted that developers have made efforts to preserve portions of the site. “The development of plans for ‘Quarterpath at Williamsburg’ by Riverside Healthcare System resulted in the construction of the 21 acre Redoubt Park on the east side of Quarterpath Road north of Tutter’s Neck Pond,” Nester said in an email. “Redoubts #1 and #2, which supported the defense of Fort Magruder, have been preserved and interpreted as a part of the park.”

It has been proposed that the gravel portion of Quarterpath Road should be converted into a paved multi-use path to preserve the setting of the redoubts.

Nester said that, as part of the initial rezoning of the property that occurred in 2005, Riverside Healthcare donated 21.5 acres of land for Redoubt Park, which contains Redoubts #1 and #2 along the defensive line. The park includes an interpretation of Redoubt #1 and a walking trail connecting the two forts located within one of the City of Williamsburg’s six Archaeological Protection Districts.

Historian Lisa Heuvel said she does not believe these preservation efforts are enough.

“We can’t afford to lose any more of this battlefield, or others, than the nation already has,” Heuvel said. “By July 2009, the Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report stated that only 342.52 acres were protected out of 10,369 acres in the study area. It’s a race against the clock.”



Part of the Riverside Healthcare development stretches in the core battlefield boundaries. AINE CAIN / THE FLAT HAT Nester expressed confidence that continued development will not remove historical resources from the battlefield site.

“As development of Quarterpath at Williamsburg continues, there is opportunity to include additional interpretation of the Battle of Williamsburg,” Nester said. “This could include walking trails and interpretative signage, and could build on what has been done with Redoubt Park. The Bloody Ravine, that was an important part of the battle, is located north of the

area now being developed, and is split between the City of Williamsburg and James City County.”

Roberts District Supervisor of the James City County Board of Supervisors John J. McGlennon said that the area’s preservation outlook is limited, because much of the battlefield has already been developed.

McGlennon said that James City County now requires that development proposals document historical significance. If indication of historical significance is detected, the county requires that the site undergo a full archaeological examination before development proceeds.

In addition to serving as a historical site, battlefields may function as an economic asset. The Williamsburg Battlefield could attract Civil War visitors, who, in Virginia, stay twice as long and spend twice as much as average Virginia tourists, according to a report by the Civil War Trust. The same report found that 20 Civil War sites from Gettysburg to Chickahominy contributed \$11.7 million annually to local government tax revenues, generating a total of \$32.7 million tax dollars. Williamsburg Battlefield Association member Drew Gruber explained the logic behind the “development through conservation” movement.

“Open space conservation is still development,” Gruber said. “When you conserve a section of space, you’re preserving not only the fiscal vitality of the development that’s around it, but the social vitality. ... Lately, if you preserve a section of open space in the middle of, say, a subdivision ... because of the demand, the property values stay nice and high, because there’s a green space for people to walk on, bike on and have a community garden on. Conservation unto its own, is not just an equalizer and a form of community development, but is also fiscally sustainable.”

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
www.cmccwrt.com



Walter Zaremba represents District 1 of York County, where part of the battlefield is located. Recently, the county did not rezone a tract of land owned by the Egger family, who wanted to have the property rezoned to facilitate residential development.

“Battlefield reenactment is a huge niche market that the Historic Triangle currently ignores,” Zaremba said in an email. “This is a shame because this means that battlefields will not be valued and therefore remain at risk for development. ... Why aren’t we telling the story of these battlefields? I think the reluctance stems from the fact that Virginia fought on the wrong side of this war. Gettysburg is a thriving example of America’s interest in this history.”

Author of Civil War Williamsburg and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Program Manager Carson Hudson said that Virginia encounters the problem of having to choose to interpret one time period over another. With pre-contact Native American tribes, 17th century explorers, 18th century colonists and 19th century soldiers all competing to have their stories told, it can be difficult to choose what is of primary importance. Hudson said that the impulse to preserve should not be ignored.

“In America as a whole, **we are letting a lot of our past slip away**,” Hudson said. “I’m not saying we need to preserve every square foot where George Washington’s horse stood or anything like that, but there are places that are hallowed ground and, at the Battle of Williamsburg, there were Americans who fought and died to preserve or destroy the Union, depending on their viewpoint.”



BALLOON VIEW OF THE SEAT OF WAR.

I I