

Topic Summaries Continued

Civil War Photo Sleuthing: Past, Present, and Future.

People have struggled to identify unknown soldiers and sailors in Civil War photos since even before the war ended. This talk traces the 160-year history of Civil War photo sleuthing, showing how technologies like social media, facial recognition, and digital archives allow us to solve photo mysteries that have eluded families and researchers for a century and a half. The speaker will focus on two projects developed by his research lab at Virginia Tech. *Civil War Photo Sleuth* (www.civilwarphotosleuth.com) combines community expertise and facial recognition to help users identify unknown soldiers in Civil War-era photos. *Civil War Twin* (www.civilwartwin.com), developed in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust, allows users to take a selfie and find Civil War soldiers and civilians who look like them, while learning about both Civil War history and artificial intelligence.

Little Battles that Changed the Big Valley: New Market and Piedmont.

Though similar in size and not far apart in time or distance, these two engagements had vastly different outcomes. New Market is significantly better known than Piedmont, yet did Piedmont bare more significant results? Strategy, battlefield movements, soldier exploits and primary source accounts will provide insight into the events on these hard-fought battlefields.

Forgotten Glory: The Campaign and Battle for Lynchburg.

In June of 1864, the City of Lynchburg, Virginia became a primary objective for Union forces launching an offensive into the heart of the Confederacy. This program will use a variety of primary sources to provide a greater understanding of what soldiers on both sides experienced during the Campaign and Battle for Lynchburg. The stories of these soldiers illustrate often overlooked deeds of daring and sacrifice that deserve to be told.

This Annual Seminar is Sponsored By:

Appomattox Court House Historical Park, Eastern National Bookstore, The Department of History, Political Science, & Philosophy, and the Center for Southside Virginia History at Longwood University

This seminar is FREE and open to the public.

Parking is available in the Wheeler Lot, at the corner of High Street and Griffin Blvd.

For directions to the campus go to www.longwood.edu

Signs will be posted on the Longwood University Campus.

Lunch is available at the Longwood University Dining Hall and Upchurch Student Union

No Reservations Necessary.

For more information contact Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, Ext. 232 or Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220

Longwood
University

Twenty-fifth
Annual

Appomattox Court
House National
Historical Park
and Longwood
University

**Lesser Known
Engagements & Some
Civil War Photo
Sleuthing**

Free and Open to the
Public
Face Coverings
Optional

Date:
Saturday,
February 3, 2024

Time:
8:30am to 5:00pm

Jarman Auditorium
Longwood University
Farmville, Virginia

SEMINAR SCHEDULE
JARMAN AUDITORIUM
LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

Saturday, February 4, 2023

8:30am

Doors Open

9:00am

Introduction by Dr. David Coles

9:10am

James Morgan

***Six Miles to Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell:
The Battle of Secessionville***

10:15am

Zachary Pittard

***“One of the most brilliant affairs of the war:”
The Battle of Staunton River Bridge and a
Reevaluation of the Wilson-Kautz Raid***

11:30am

Kurt Luther

***Civil War Photo Sleuthing: Past, Present, and
Future***

12:30pm

Lunch

1:45pm

William C. David

***Little Battles the Changed the Big Valley: New
Market and Piedmont***

2:45pm

Keith Harvey

***Forgotten Glory: The Campaign and Battle for
Lynchburg***

SPEAKERS

William C. Davis received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sonoma State University in northern California, then spent twenty years in the magazine and book publishing industry, before leaving in 1990 to spend the next decade working as a writer and consultant here and abroad. In September 2013 he retired after thirteen years as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. He is the author or editor of more than sixty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history. Davis was the on-camera senior consultant and commentator for the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal," as well as a number of other productions on commercial and Public Television, and for the BBC. He is the only four-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in Confederate and Civil War History. His most recent book, *The Whartons' War: The Civil War Correspondence of General Gabriel C. Wharton and Anne Radford Wharton, 1863-1865*, has just been published by University of North Carolina Press.

Keith Harvey is a native of Campbell County, Virginia, and graduate of Randolph College. He grew up hearing stories of Civil War ancestors and taking trips to battlefields with family members. Harvey worked for the Lynchburg Museum System and at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park as a living history interpreter, and is now the Site Director of the American Civil War Museum-Appomattox and a freelance author and historian.

Dr. Kurt Luther is an associate professor of computer science and (by courtesy) history at Virginia Tech and a founding member of the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia. He is also a senior editor at *Military Images* magazine <https://militaryimagesmagazine.com/>, where he has published a column on Civil War photo sleuthing for nearly a decade. He holds a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech.

Jim Morgan, a lifelong Civil War enthusiast, Morgan is a native of New Orleans, grew up in Pensacola, Florida, and lived for 24 years in northern Virginia before moving to Charleston in 2018. He is a co-founder and current president of the Fort Sumter Civil War Round Table in Charleston, is a past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable, and a co-founder and chairman of the Friends of Ball's Bluff. Morgan is the author of two books: *A Little Short of Boats: the Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*, and *Six Miles from Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell: the Battle of Secessionville, June 16, 1862*. Morgan also contributed a chapter on the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War for *Turning Points of the Civil War*, part of the Emerging Civil War series published in 2018. He also has written for *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *The Artilleryman*, *Blue & Gray*, and other periodicals.

SPEAKERS Continued

Zachary Pittard, a native of Southside Virginia, has worked in public history for nearly twelve years. While a student Longwood University he completed an internship at Sailor's Creek Battlefield that led him to a career in parks and museums which has included stops at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, as well as Sailor's Creek and Staunton River Battlefields. Pittard completed his Master's Degree in History from Virginia Commonwealth University with the defense of his thesis "Mecklenburg is thoroughly aroused: An Examination of Confederate Nationalism and Nationhood in Mecklenburg County, Virginia." He serves as a member on the Board of Directors for the Appomattox-Petersburg Preservation Society, and currently works at Pamplin Historical Park as the Director of Education and Interpretation.

Topic Summaries

Six Miles to Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell, The Battle of Secessionville. The June 16, 1862, Battle of Secessionville was an afterthought to the unsuccessful James Island campaign which began in early June of that year. The actual attack was poorly planned by the Federal commander, Brig. Gen. Henry Benham, though his men came very close to success. Had that happened, it is entirely possible that Charleston itself might have fallen within a matter of weeks, thereby changing the entire tenor of the war. The program is based on the author's tactical study of the fight titled *Six Miles to Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell*, published by Savas Beatie in 2022.

“One of the most brilliant affairs of the war:” The Battle of Staunton River Bridge and a Reevaluation of the Wilson-Kautz Raid. While often overlooked, the 10-day June 1864 Wilson-Kautz Raid serves as a signature feature in the opening operations of the Siege of Petersburg. This reevaluation intends to rekindle the importance of the raid and its impact on the war in Southside Virginia.

Speakers and Schedule Subject to Change