



The Picket Post

The Central Virginia Civil War Collectors Association

Established 1980

Volume 15, Issue 3

March 2006

Membership Renewal

Time again for the best \$20 you'll ever spend! The roster will go out with the April newsletter, and will include only those paid for 2006. E at envcons@comcast.net if you wish to exclude all or part of your contact info. Renew by using the form from the January newsletter or e for a form.

March Meeting

Our March meeting was held at 7:15 p.m. on Tues., March 7, 2006, at the Hunton Recreation Center. **Best Dug Relic-of-the-Month**. Jack Mountcastle found a nice eagle breast plate and several Williams cleaners.

David Smith displayed a number of items, including an epaulette, NY buttons, a Lined I, and a VA coat. He also found a NHVM button that had several small nail holes from a soldier killing time and actually found the nail also! He took the Relic-of-the-Month with an AVC button.



David Smith's AVC and NHVM buttons.

Jerry Simmons recovered various items, including a silver VA one-piece, a Lined A, and a NHVM button.



Jerry Simmons buttons.

Doug Harris displayed evidence of the fine art of digging relics with his dug shotgun shell. When we are able

to dig this close to relics, our holes can be smaller, and we save energy to dig even more holes!



Doug Harris' shotgun shell.

Jim Livesay found a flaming bomb decoration, probably attached to some sort of horse equipment. The decoration is apparently designed to accommodate a variety of inserts. Jim also displayed an unknown button with an eagle, stars, and lettering.



Jim Livesay's buttons. Hint: turn over to view the second one.

Walter Chalkley showed various large fragments of artillery shells, including part of a 150-lb Parrott shell. He determined that the only gunboat with a 150-lb Parrott rifle was the USS Galena.



Walter Chalkley's fragment of 150-lb Parrott and other artillery fragments.

Mike Philyaw brought a display of various relics, such as a Lined A, a solid-cast Eagle, two regular Eagles, Gardners, along with flat buttons and brass items.



Mike Philyaw's display.

David Garnett out hunting and ready to call it a day when an 11-year-old son of a friend began to find relics. David pushed onward to find a US bit boss, a spur, and several bullets and other items.



David Garnett's US bit boss.

This Month's Display Items. In keeping with this month's theme of insignia, many members brought in insignia from their personal collections. However, the most interesting display item was brought by Mickey Shear. It was a non-dug Virginia tongue that came from a box of various items purchased by his father for \$5!



Yours for under \$5.



Close-up of Ken Mooney's 6th VT Co. I corps badge and Perry Cummings' Provost Guard badge.



Display of insignia.

Lloyd Goddard showed a collection of coffee pots and an 1855 foot officers sword with a naval cutlass guard.



Watch fob and ID tag for 1st Sgt. C. W. Pickering of the 15th NHV (I), and corps badge pin.



Ken Mooney's display of insignia.

March Program. Our speaker was Mike Singer, who gave a presentation on CW insignia. Mike, who has been digging nearly 40 years, spoke of the days when relics, such as many of the insignia he found, were still on top of the ground under leaves!

Mike showed slides of many interesting and rare insignia, and divided his talk among eagle insignia, bugles, cross-cannons, crossed-swords, engineers, hat letters and

numbers, fire department badges, provost marshal badges, veteran's badges, and battle pins.

Mike pointed out that many of the early eagle pins were made of pewter and come from western forts. He explained that engineers built the roads and topographic engineers made the maps. Regarding hat letters, the letter "J" was not used, and, excluding this, company letters ran from A through M. Some number pins are found made with two or three numbers together.

Upcoming Programs

April 2005 – Norman Schools will speak on the Moncure Conway house in Fredericksburg, where a number of soldier items were discovered in the rafters up in the attic.

June 2005 – Craig Bell will speak on the Virginia Manufactory of Arms.

October 2005 – Meeting at the Museum of the Confederacy.

December 2005 – The legendary Dennis Madison Collection (tentative).

David Garnett continues to solicit your ideas for programs and speakers for upcoming meetings.



President	Ben Greenbaum
Vice Pres./Show	Steve Sharpe
Vice Pres./Programs	David Garnett
Secretary	Bob Baird
Treasurer	Tom Carlton



Upcoming Shows & Events

Remember, before traveling any distance to attend a show, be sure to call and verify the dates and time!

April 1, 2006. Living history, "Confederate History & Heritage Program," features military and civilian living history, period music and exhibits at the Historic 1917 Chesterfield County Courthouse (Route 10 and Lori Road, south of Richmond). Noon-3 pm. Free. 804-377-0438.

April 1, 2006. Civil War Day at the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. Living history, National Park Service tours and talks, exhibits, music and more at the Richmond Civil War Visitor Center on the James Riverfront. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 804-226-1981.

April 1, 2006. Special programs commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Five Forks, west of Petersburg. Living history and special ranger talks at the NPS site. Free. 804-265-8244.

April 2, 2006. Pre-dawn lantern walking tour at Pamplin

Historical Park of the site of a Union attack that carried Confederate Petersburg lines in 1865. The guided tour coincides to the minute of the anniversary of the assault. \$7 covers the tour and a buffet breakfast following. Reservations required. 804-861-2408.

April 2, 2006. Special anniversary activities commemorating the 1865 Battle of Petersburg at Pamplin Historical Park, just south of the city. Pre-dawn tour (separate price, reservations) kicks off a day of living history, special programs and tours. Free with park admission. 804-861-2408.

April 2, 2006. Walking tour commemorating Lincoln's visit to Richmond in April 1865. Time, place TBA. Free. Contact the Richmond National Battlefield Park, 804-226-1981.

April 8, 2006. Confederate Memorial Parade begins 2 pm at Broad Street and DMV Drive in Richmond, then continues to Monument Avenue and Hollywood Cemetery. Memorial at the cemetery includes musket and cannon salutes to the Confederate dead buried there. Free. 804-730-2757.

April 8-9, 2006. Living history, special anniversary demonstrations, talks and tours of the Hillsman House at the Sailor's Creek battlefield (state park) east of Farmville. Fee charged. 10 am-3:30 pm. 434-392-3435 (Twin Lakes State Park).

April 8-9, 2006. 34th Annual American Civil War Show held at the Dulles Expo Center (south building) in Chantilly. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association. Featuring over 350 tables of the finest Civil War and earlier military effects, memorabilia, relics, books, paper goods, photos, art, and antique weapons. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-2. 703-823-1958.

April 8-12, 2006. Special anniversary activities at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. All weekend: demonstration of the printing press and paroles. Saturday: Ranger talks on different subjects at 10:20 and 11:20 am and 12:20, 1:20 and 3:20 pm; living history at 2:20 pm. Sunday: Ranger talks 10:20 and 11:20 am and 12:20 and 3:20 pm. Living history 1:20 and 2:30 pm. Monday-Wednesday: ranger talks 11:20 am and 1:20 and 3:20 pm. For a complete list of topics of the ranger talks, see the park website, www.nps.gov/apco, or call 434-352-8987.

April 13, 2006. Lecture, "Defending Virginia, the South, and the Union: Young Virginians during the Civil War Era," by Peter Carmichael at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. 804-358-4901.

April 22, 2006. Bus tour, "Battle of the Ironclads at Hampton Roads," from Richmond includes sites related to the battle in Norfolk, Newport News and Portsmouth. Behind-the-scenes tour of the Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum. Leaves from the Museum of the Confederacy 8 am, returns 6 pm. \$40. Reservations by April 12. Register at 804-649-1861 extension 44 or email scraighead@moc.org.

April 23, 2006. Lecture, "Yellow Tavern and Beyond," history of the area and the 1864 battle. 2 pm at the Meadow Farm park visitor center near Richmond. Free. 804-501-5520.

May 6-7, 2006. Living history weekend at the Exchange Hotel

in Gordonsville, the building was a Civil War hospital, now a medical museum. Medical demonstrations and more. Details: 540-832-2944.

May 13, 2006. Three walking tours commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. All tours on NPS battlefield. 10 am-noon: "A Fuss Over Fence Rails: The Opening Engagement at Laurel Hill" (meets at Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter). 1-3 pm: "A New Way of Fighting: Upton's Attack" (meets at Bloody Angle parking area). 4-6 pm: "The Struggle for the Bloody Angle" (meets at Bloody Angle tour area). All free. 540-373-6122.

May 20, 2006. Bus tour, "An Engineer's View of the Petersburg Campaign," begins at Grant's Headquarters at City Point (Hopewell) and examines the fortifications, railroads, roads and more associated with the campaign. Sponsored by the Petersburg National Battlefield. Fee charged. Reservations required (call after March 1): 804-732-3531 extension 205.

May 20-21, 2006. Drewry's Bluff (Richmond area) anniversary weekend. Ranger tours and talks, living history encampment and demonstrations. 10 am-5 pm Sunday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Free. 804-226-1981.

May 27-28, 2006. Living history at the Civil War Life Museum near the Spotsylvania County visitor center, off Route 1 south of Fredericksburg. Programs 9 am-5 pm, Gatling gun demonstration 11 am and 1 pm. Free for programs. Admission charged to museum and 3-D photograph show. www.civilwar-life.com or 540-834-1859.

May 29, 2006. Memorial Day service at the Fort Harrison National Cemetery, southeast of Richmond. Noon. Free. 804-226-1981

November 18-19, 2006. 26th Annual Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show, presented by the Central Virginia Civil War Collectors Association and the Museum of the Confederacy. 400 exhibitors featuring the finest of Civil War memorabilia. Original weapons, accoutrements, uniforms, artillery items, excavated relics, images, books,

prints, currency, documents, and personal items of the soldier and civilian. Special presentations by the Museum of the Confederacy on Saturday and Sunday. Held at the Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E. Laburnum Avenue. Saturday 9 am – 5 pm; Sunday 9 am – 3 pm. Admission \$6.00. 804-737-5827.

(Thanks to Dennis Madison for the calendar of events for this month's newsletter!)

Map to Hunton Civic Center



MAP NOT TO SCALE

CVCWCA Newsletter

Bob Baird, Editor