

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83300223/>

Fort Monroe roads, buildings being repaired

Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com

10:30 pm, April 14, 2015

They return each morning and fan out through the historic Army post with specific jobs – some work in trenches while others maintain the lawns or are hunkered deep inside buildings.

Contracted companies hired by the Fort Monroe Authority bring 75 to 100 people to the property each day to perform an array of jobs, authority project manager Gary Miller said.

That work will become more evident as the authority finalizes contracts and contractors begin work on the roads and sidewalks.

Using \$6.5 million from the Virginia Department of General Services, Fort Monroe Authority officials have spent the past year paying particular attention to basic infrastructure the Army appears to have let fall by the wayside.

This year, bridges are being inspected, sidewalks will be brought up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards and traffic lights will be upgraded. Two buildings are undergoing renovations.

"We want to get everything so it's up to the standards that are expected," said Casemate Museum historian W. Robert Kelly.

Here is a rundown of work being done on Fort Monroe this year:

- The postern gate leading pedestrians from Ingalls Road, inside the moat to an entrance near the Casemate Museum was repaired when engineers found failing concrete on the structure. The bridge has since reopened.
- A contractor will install 55 sidewalk ramps along Fenwick, Ingalls, Patch and Bernard roads. The ramps will serve disabled pedestrians. Many of the existing ramps were not compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

- A contractor will replace 28 traffic light signals at the property's entrance and three vehicle entrances to the inner moat with new light-emitting diode (LED) light heads. Four pedestrian signal heads at the north gate and east gate entrances will also be replaced.
- Fort Monroe officials plans to hire an engineer to design and install a spillway near the Mellen Street entrance that will help direct rain water off the roadway and into Mill Creek. Large puddles now form on the street after significant storms.
- A contractor will repair concrete sidewalks and patch potholes on the roads as needed.

Workers are also close to replacing all of the property's fire hydrants. Army hydrants do not connect with Hampton fire hoses, meaning each truck would need an adapter or the hydrants would need to be upgraded. Sewer pipes and manholes at 16 sites on the property are being repaired and a pump station is being upgraded, according to a report authority Executive Director Glenn Oder will give to the board of trustees on Thursday afternoon.

Contractors are renovating the former post office at Ingalls and Fenwick roads — the authority will use the building as its headquarters. That work is expected to cost \$340,000.

"We plan for it to an extent, but we run into some issues with every project that drives up the cost," Miller said of the renovations taking place in historic buildings.

The authority has also hired companies to install elevated tankless water heaters and elevated electrical system improvements in each building and upgrade sump pumps in 28 basements on the western portion of the property.

Brauchle can be contacted by phone at 757-846-4361.

<http://www.defensecommunities.org/headlines/tourism-zone-to-provide-development-incentives-at-ft-monroe/#>

Tourism Zone to Provide Development Incentives at Ft. Monroe

April 12, 2015

The Hampton City Council last week created a tourism zone at the former Fort Monroe, Va., a designation providing tax incentives and financing options for hotels, restaurants and other tourism-related projects.

The council established two zones, covering multiple neighborhoods. “Those areas are ripe for tourism-related growth and development,” said Hampton Economic Development Director Leonard Sledge.

The most significant incentive localities can offer a developer under the state initiative is a tax arrangement covering up to 30 percent of a project’s total construction cost, reported the Daily Press. This gap financing is recouped by the additional sales tax generated by the project that would ordinarily go to the state and city.

The gap financing would be obtained through a private lender, so the city is not on the hook if the debt service is not paid. “I cannot emphasize this enough — it is the developer’s debt to pay,” Sledge said.

Other incentives localities with tourism zones can offer developers include waiving or reducing fees, and expedited permit reviews.

Much of Fort Monroe, located on the Virginia shore of the Chesapeake Bay, was designated a national monument by President Obama in November 2011. The designation covers 325 acres at the historic site, including 90 acres around the stone fort. The monument takes up about 58 percent of the total acreage of the shuttered installation.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83360250/>

Fort Monroe YMCA opening May 30

Robert Brauchle

1:14 pm, April 22, 2015

The Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA is holding an open house on May 9 at its new location on Fort Monroe.

The YMCA plans to open the Ruckman Road center on May 30, according to the group's website.

The open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Anyone who signs up on that day will have the joining fee waved.

The YMCA will open in a historic building the Daily Press highlighted in this March article.

For more information about the YMCA and the services available at the new location can be found here.

<http://www.styrk.com/posts/fort-monroe-cost-to-hampton-not-being-paid>

Fort Monroe cost to Hampton not being paid

April 21, 2015 10:50 PM EDT

Fort Monroe Authority board members placed a debate between the state and city of Hampton squarely on the shoulders of the General Assembly during a Thursday afternoon conversation about the cost of city services at the historic Army post.

"The taxpayers of the city of Hampton are subsidizing the fort's operations," said newly appointed board member James Moran.

Moran represented the 8th congressional district in Northern Virginia from 1991 to 2014 and was appointed earlier this year to the Fort Monroe board. Thursday was his first meeting.

"The (state) legislature seems to be the principal problem," he said.

The city provides services such as police and fire protection and refuse collection on Fort Monroe. The 30 to 40 children living on the property attend Hampton City Schools.

So when the city charged the authority close to \$1.2 million earlier this year for those services, the General Assembly instead earmarked just \$983,000.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe's budget would have given the city another \$346,000 a year, but the House and Senate said no.

City Manager Mary Bunting has said the city will continue to provide services, although the gap between what is charged and what is paid is keeping the city from doing more on the property. She has not gone as far as saying the city will purposefully slow its rate of work on Fort Monroe or skip the property altogether if the full bill isn't paid.

The bill for services is expected to increase, as the authority receives more property from the Army, to as much as \$1.6 million, Fort Monroe Authority Deputy Executive Director John K. Hutcheson said.

"The General Assembly is responsible for coming up with the money that's given to the fort, then we pass it along to the city," he said.

Moran said he's concerned there could be potentially a \$500,000 gap between what the city charges for services and the amount made available by the General Assembly to pay that bill.

Del. Gordon Helsel, R-Poquoson, who sits on the Fort Monroe board, said the property remains "at the top of people's list."

Hsel added: "There's interest in the payment -- I can't say it's widespread, but it's something we look at every year."

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4361 or rbrauchle@dailypress.com. Follow him on Twitter, [@dp_brauchle](https://twitter.com/dp_brauchle) and on Facebook, facebook.com/hamptonnews.

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<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83355103/>

Tangled web of dollars ties Virginia localities back to state

Travis Fain, tfain@dailypress.com

8:27 pm, April 21, 2015

State money flows to localities through a complicated collection of funding streams.

Highway maintenance money comes from the state. So does pay for constitutional officers, such as commonwealth's attorneys and treasurers.

The state pays part of the tab for E-911 services, which also get broken down into different streams. The state pays per diems for inmates in jails, though that doesn't always cover actual costs. It also picks up a percentage of new jail construction.

It pays sheriff's deputies, and in this year's budget boosted starting salaries high enough that families of the lowest-paid deputies won't qualify for food-stamps anymore.

There's 599 money for city police forces, named for the legislation that created this funding stream in 1979, as part of a package deal meant to slow down annexations.

There's library aid, airport subsidies and transit money to buy new buses. Foster care and adoptive services funding comes through from the state, as does workforce training money.

Lisa J. Cipriano, budget director for Newport News, figures that out of 260 or so revenue line items in her city's budget, probably 60 come from the state. And that doesn't include school funding.

"The same thing is happening in a different way to schools," Cipriano said.

Virginia's local governments are tied to state government through these tentacles of funding and mandate. The cities and counties are creatures of the state, with only the powers granted by the state.

The biggest local sum in the state budget flows to schools. That ranges from about \$10 million for Poquoson this year to \$174 million for Newport News. The total statewide is about \$6.26 billion.

Generally, state aid covers somewhere between 65 and 75 cents out of every dollar local school boards spend, except in wealthier areas, such as James City County and Williamsburg, where the state only picks up about half the school bill.

State support for schools is hovering at pre-recession levels, despite a rise since then in overall state government revenues. That has meant staff cuts for a number of Peninsula systems, and as many as four more students more on average in secondary-school classrooms.

Funding has trended down for localities, too, Cipriano said. She said Newport News has lost a total of \$8 million to state funding cuts since 2009.

But the state boosted funding this year for the teachers' retirement fund. It also funded a 1.5 percent raise for teachers, though that's complicated because teachers aren't all paid the same way. For state-paid teachers, the state will put in half of what the raise costs, provided localities fund the rest.

For teachers paid only by localities, salary increases must be funded out of local coffers.

The state pays some of the costs of local voter registrar operations, though the legislature balked this year at Gov. Terry McAuliffe's request to spend \$28 million on new voting machines.

That, legislators said, should remain largely a local expense. With the state decertifying a type of touch screen earlier this month, a number of localities need to buy new ones before the coming elections. York County is one of them.

Aside from the regular streams of funding, there are all sorts of small-time particulars to the state-and-local financial marriage. Hampton, for example, gets about \$984,000 a year for Fort Monroe, the former Army post the state now owns and is redeveloping.

This is called a "Payment in Lieu of Taxes," or PILOT, which is exactly what it sounds like. It's not necessarily reflective of the amount a private owner would pay in taxes. The state gets a discount, and the annual payment is set out in the state budget.

Hampton has been lobbying lawmakers and the governor for an increase. The city convinced McAuliffe this year, but the extra money he set aside got stripped by the General Assembly. The city argues that regular taxpayers foot the bill, with Fort Monroe consuming more city services than it pays for.

There are also short-term projects — seed money for various local initiatives. Hampton has gotten millions from the state to help buy land around Langley Air Force Base, for example, to try to protect it from any future base closings.

Sometimes, during its circuitous route into local coffers, not all the promised funding makes it back. Funding formulas in state code aren't always fully funded, Cipriano said. The state will

often hold back alcohol tax revenues that localities believe they are due, diverting that money to the state budget instead, Cipriano said.

The same goes for traffic fines. Just this year, through an obscure paragraph in the latest state budget, lawmakers increased the state's cut.

"A nice way to put it is, the state is benefiting from locally generated taxes and fees," Cipriano said, "diverting the revenue that should be rightly reallocated back to the localities."

The state cut localities a break this year, though, on reversion. That's a policy that, every year since 2009 except for 2014, required localities to send a portion of their state funding back to Richmond. Last year that was about \$30 million statewide.

"We're given the knife to cut ourselves," Cipriano said.

That won't be required this year, assuming the state's rosier revenue picture holds. Then again, last year's call went out in the fall, as state revenues waned.

Daily Press reporter Dave Ress contributed to this report. Fain can be reached by phone at 757-525-1759.

<http://hrscene.com/hampton-roads-philharmonics-finale-concerts/>

Hampton Roads Philharmonic's Finale Concerts



If you haven't yet seen the Hampton Roads Philharmonic yet this season, you have two more chances before the season ends! Admission is free and open to the public and donations will be gratefully accepted. Details for the final concerts are as follows:

Saturday, May 9th at 7:30 PM at the Fort Monroe Theater, 41 Tidball Street, Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

Sunday, May 10th at 3 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 514 South Armistead Avenue, Hampton, Virginia 23669

The Philharmonic will perform "The Impresario" a short comedic overture by Wolfgang Mozart followed by the exciting "Hungarian March" by Hector Berlioz. Soloist Matt Gold will close out the first half with Giovanni Bottesini's Double Bass Concerto No. 2. The second half of the program will feature Edward Grieg's "Symphonic Dances". Similar in scope and structure to a symphony, it is a collection of four symphonic dances that range from loud and boisterous to soft and introspective.

The Hampton Roads Philharmonic was established in the summer of 2013 and to date has 45 musicians including music teachers, military musicians, and a variety of talented professional and amateur players. The orchestra rehearses weekly in the former US Army Band Room at Fort Monroe under the baton of Music Director Steven Brindle. Through a unique relationship with the Fort Monroe Authority the Philharmonic was named "Orchestra in Residence" at Ft. Monroe and is proud to continue the Fort's long-standing musical traditions. For more information please visit www.hrphil.org and www.facebook.com/HRPhil or call (757) 725-7369.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83476543/>

Girl Scout Ranger program created at Fort Monroe

Robert Brauchle

3:14 pm, May 6, 2015

A national program partnering Girl Scouts of the USA and the National Park Service to give girls an opportunity access outdoor projects is coming to Fort Monroe National Monument.

The newly formed Girl Scout Ranger Program give girl scouts and opportunity to "participate in a variety of organized educational or outdoor service projects" helping them earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The award is the highest honor and achievement in girl scouting, according to a news release announcing the program.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument, is a Girl Scout alumna and a recipient of the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Girl Scouts have also had a unique role on Fort Monroe. The property's Casemate Museum is displaying its Sisterhood on the Fort exhibit, which highlights the history of girl scouts on Fort Monroe beginning with 1926.

The museum is free and open to the public.

For more information about visiting the Casemate Museum, visit www.fmauthority.com.

For more information about the scouting program, visit www.nps.gov.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83464731/>

Deadrise seafood restaurant now open on Fort Monroe in Hampton

David Nicholson

12:06 pm, May 5, 2015

The Deadrise has risen.

The new seafood restaurant at the Old Point Comfort Marina on Fort Monroe in Hampton is now open daily for dinner.

Owner Gary McIntyre calls the cuisine traditional but with a contemporary twist.

“When I was a kid we had seafood houses that explored regional cuisine,” says McIntyre, “so I wanted to pay homage to the traditional fish house but put a little spin on it and make it current.”

His chalk board menu includes daily fish specials and other seafood items. There’s a burger, T-bone steak and Smithfield pork chop as well.

Indoor and outdoor seating is available, and no reservations are taken, according to the Facebook page.

Hours are 5 to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday. Special 3 to 8 p.m. hours on Mother’s Day. Lunch hours are coming soon.

The Deadrise Seafood Restaurant. Old Point Comfort Marina, 100 McNair Drive, Hampton.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83601307/>

A weekend of living history

Mike Holtzclaw, mholtzclaw@dailypress.com

4:58 pm, May 21, 2015

There are two different ways to look at Memorial Day weekend — as an extended break from work and school to have fun with the family, or as a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in our nation's military.

The two concepts do not have to be mutually exclusive.

The Hampton Roads region, so rich in American history, offers several opportunities this weekend to reflect on American history in a setting that is both enjoyable and respectful.

Yorktown is famous as the site of the final battle of the Revolutionary War, but this weekend will mark a celebration of that battlefield's history in the *Civil War*. On Saturday and Sunday, the battlefield will feature Union and Confederate re-enactors (artillery, cavalry and infantry) demonstrating 19th-century military tactics.

A Confederate hospital will be set up inside the Nelson House, with demonstrations of surgical procedures as they were done during the Civil War. Guests also can check out the exhibit "On Historic Ground," with details about the area's history in the Civil War.

"It's important for parents to bring children out here, not just to see the Revolutionary War, but also to know the role that the area played for the Civil war as well," said Mike Byrd, public information officer for the Colonial National Historical Park. "With the volunteers and the people who do demonstrations, we tell a good story here — and it's a great way for people to learn about history."

Byrd said the U.S. Coast Guard training center will provide dozens of volunteers to place small flags on the 1,596 gravesites in the national cemetery. At 1 p.m. Sunday, a wreath-laying ceremony will be held, and guests are invited to lay flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers.

In Newport News, there will be a ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday at the Victory Arch, located at 25th Street and West Avenue. The arch was constructed in 1919 at the spot where troops disembarked from warships returning from World War I. After the ceremony, guests are encouraged to visit the Virginia War Museum near Huntington Park. The museum offers a \$1 discount on admission on Memorial Day.

There also will be a ceremony at Hampton National Cemetery at 10 a.m. Monday. The cemetery is located at Cemetery Road and Marshall Avenue, and the ceremony will be held on the side of the cemetery nearest to Hampton University. It will include a color guard, music from the U.S.

Navy Fleet Forces band, and the laying of wreaths on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers.

The U.S. Army TRADOC band will perform a free concert at Newport News City Center at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

In Gloucester, re-enactors will encamp on Main Street's court circle on Saturday, with a wreath-laying ceremony scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Fort Monroe, one of the region's most significant military historical sites, will dedicate much of the weekend to the anniversary of the "Contraband Decision" — the May 1861 declaration by Union Major Benjamin F. Butler to grant asylum at the fort to three Hampton slaves as "contraband of war."

Soon their numbers grew to the thousands and then the tens of thousands in Hampton, drawn to the military installation that they called "Freedom's Fortress."

"We will be commemorating the decision that took place here that was a landmark step toward that role of universal freedom for all citizens," park ranger Aaron Firth said. "This weekend is a great opportunity to come out to Fort Monroe and learn about its history. It's a place that has seen a lot of military service, and Memorial Day is a chance to be able to draw that connection from the people who have paid the ultimate price to the place that was known as Freedom's Fortress."

There is no admission charge at Fort Monroe.

The weekend's events will start with a freedom concert at Continental Park at 7 p.m. Friday featuring local choirs, musicians and dancers. Saturday will bring living history tours (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.) and other family activities. At 7:30 p.m. Sunday, a ceremony at Cannon Park will note the historical significance of the Contraband Decision.

Holtzclaw can be reached by phone at 757-928-6479. Follow his entertainment blog at dailypress.com/popcorn.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83603235/>

DP list: Free spring, summer concerts in Hampton Roads

Mike Holtzclaw, mholtzclaw@dailypress.com

8:10 pm, May 21, 2015

Fort Monroe's Music by the Bay: The historic fort hosts a series that starts Friday, June 5, then shifts to its regular Thursday dates. Shows are at 7 p.m. at Centennial Park unless otherwise noted.

Schedule — June 5: U.S. Army TRADOC Band; June 11: U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band Rhythm and Blue Jazz Ensemble; June 18: U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band Langley Winds at the Fort Monroe Theatre; June 25: Virginia Armed Forces Youth Wind Ensemble; July 4: (Saturday) U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Four Star Edition (8 p.m. show); July 9: U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band Brass Ensemble; July 16: U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Four Star Edition; July 23: Tidewater Winds with John Philip Sousa IV; July 30: U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Brass Band; Aug. 6: U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Wind Ensemble; Aug. 13: U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band Rhythm and Blue Jazz Ensemble; Aug. 20: U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Four Star Edition; Aug. 27: U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83602275/>

Group walks length of James River praying for its health

Ali Rockett, alrockett@dailypress.com

6:20 pm, May 21, 2015

Despite the pouring rain and blisters covering her heels, Sharon Day kept a quick pace as she walked south on Jefferson Avenue Thursday.

Barely audible over the rush of traffic and splattering rain, beads banged against the copper pail she carried filled with water from the James River. Day said the rhythm reminded her with each step why she had to keep moving.

"Water is life. Water is life," she said, mimicking the beat of the beads.

Day, an elder of the Ojibwe American Indian tribe in Wisconsin, and four companions have carried the pail since May 11, when they started their trek at the headwaters of the James River in western Virginia. They filled their pail with water there to begin the journey.

Their destination is Fort Monroe, where on Friday they will return the water to the river.

"The river starts pure and clean," Day said. "As she flows, she grows dirty. We humans are polluting her. Giving her a little drink of herself, we are saying, 'This is how you began, clean and pure, and this is how we wish for you to be again.' "

In all, the group will have traveled 340 miles — mostly covering the distance on foot, though they did some rafting and canoeing. Usually only one person walks at a time, trading off about every seven-tenths of a mile so they can rest in one of two follow cars.

Along the way, they pray and sing over the water for its healing.

The Ojibwe treasure water as the gift of life, Day said. She leads walks such as this one all over the country.

Hampton resident and Meherrin Nation member Diane Stephenson participated in a walk along the Ohio River led by Day in 2014. Returning home, Stephenson learned that a train bound for Yorktown derailed and spilled more than 29,000 gallons of oil into the James River.

Stephenson asked Day to plan a walk here.

"Virginia is like ground zero for contact with indigenous people," Stephenson said. "There's such a need to heal."

Day said the walk is just the start of the river's healing. It needs people to help clean it up by volunteering their time with groups such as the James River Association, which helped plan the group's route.

On Thursday, the group made its way from Williamsburg on Route 199 to Highway 143. They took Jefferson south through Newport News and cut across the Peninsula on Pembroke Avenue, ending in downtown Hampton, where the Hampton History Museum is putting them up in a hotel for the night.

A ceremony is scheduled for Friday at 10 a.m. behind The Chamberlin on Fort Monroe to return the water to the river. It is open to the public.

Rockett can be reached by phone at 757-247-4942.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83602996/>

Civil War 150: Jefferson Davis began imprisonment at Fort Monroe

Mark St. John Erickson, merickson@dailypress.com

8:14 pm, May 21, 2015

Jefferson Davis was no stranger to Fort Monroe when — as the captive head of the defeated South — he arrived off Old Point Comfort aboard the Union steamer William P. Clyde on May 19, 1865.

A decade earlier he'd come as Secretary of War, prompting not only thunderous salutes from the fort's guns but also — on one occasion — a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the sky with both his name and that of President Franklin Pierce.

The West Point graduate and Mexican War veteran also had directed the garrison in a special review at the parade ground, impressing the president, the rest of the Cabinet and their wives with his superb horsemanship and warlike bearing.

But when Davis and his captors landed at the Engineers Wharf on the afternoon of May 22, he was greeted by a traitor's corridor formed by two long lines of grim-faced, blue-clad soldiers — and it extended all the way from the dock to the imposing Water Battery and the east postern bridge.

More troops stood at attention inside the ramparts, marking the ignominious path down which the beaten Confederate leader and his guards would march to his prison cell in a ritual procession of dishonor.

Even with this humiliating reversal of fortune, however, Davis did not feel the full depths of his fall until the following day.

That's when his jailers shackled his legs in the signal moment of his darkest despair — yet also provided a figure who rarely had been popular during a brutally costly war with unexpected salvation.

"The North united in mourning their slain president — and they made Abraham Lincoln an icon of the sacrifices they'd made to save the Union," says J. Michael Cobb, retired curator of the Hampton History Museum.

"But the South united in anguish over Davis' imprisonment — and how it underscored their huge losses of life and property and the deep disgrace of their defeat. Everybody in the South suffered during and after the war — and they made Davis an icon of that suffering and loss."

A rebel scorned

Almost from the time of his May 10 capture in Georgia, Davis was the target of Northern newspapers bent on his humiliation.

Cartoon after cartoon showed a wild-eyed caricature trying to escape his pursuers by donning a skirt, bonnet and petticoats, though — as Casemate Museum Director Robin Reed explains — the woman's overcoat he wore was likely picked up in the dark by mistake, while the black shawl that draped over his shoulders had been thrown there by his wife in an attempt to protect her ailing husband from the cold, damp weather.

Just as biting as these attacks on Davis' manhood, however, was the spectacle of his reception at Fort Monroe, where he was treated not as a former head of state but rather as a defeated traitor.

"That double line of soldiers was meant to tell him he had lost — that his so-called country had been not only defeated but conquered," says John V. Quarstein, author of several books on the Civil War in Hampton Roads.

"It also was meant to tell him that — as far as the Union was concerned — he had betrayed his trust as a West Point graduate, an officer in the U.S. Army, a United States senator and a secretary of war in a way that had completely stripped him of his honor."

The May 23 shackling figured largely in this campaign of humiliation, too, and would have been carried out right away had not Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck stayed Secretary of War Edwin S. Stanton's original orders when he arrived at the fort to witness Davis' arrival.

But the sting was just as bitter when Fort Monroe commander Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles and officer-of-the-day Capt. Jerome E. Titlow finally entered their prisoner's casemate cell with a blacksmith, his assistant and a cadre of sentries to put the defiant Davis into leg irons.

Titlow later wrote sympathetically of the dramatic struggle, in which Davis resisted violently and had to be subdued.

"I will say here that it was anything but a pleasant sight to see a man like Jefferson Davis shedding tears," the Pennsylvania artilleryman recalled.

"But not one word had he to say."

Davis himself knew exactly what the shackles and chains meant, and he later told his Union army surgeon — Lt. Col. John J. Craven — that "the object was to offer an indignity both to myself and the cause I represented.

"I resisted as a duty to ... my countrymen, and to myself."

"Look at it the way Davis did," Quarstein says.

"He was a big-time slave owner — and shackling was what you did to slaves. So this was the ultimate disgrace."

Tormented icon

Two days after Davis was restrained, the news leaked to the Philadelphia Inquirer's Old Point correspondent, whose sensational May 27 story — headlined "HE IS SECURELY MANACLED" — sparked widespread disapproval among many prominent northerners.

"There were people who wanted to shoot him. There were people who wanted to hang him," Casemate Museum historian Robert Kelly says, describing the strong sentiment to punish Davis not just for treason but also the mistreatment of Union prisoners and the assassination of Lincoln.

"But there were also others who wanted to put the charges against Davis aside and get on with the business of healing the country."

So influential were these voices that — only one day after the story broke — the War Department ordered that Davis be unshackled.

Stanton started to backpedal even before that, sending Miles an artful message asking him to "Please report whether irons have or have not been placed on Jefferson Davis. If they have been, when it was done, and for what reason, and remove them."

Still, even without shackles, Davis languished in his casemate cell, which had been hastily converted from an officers quarters by bricking in the interior windows and walls, then installing stout iron bars on the gun embrasure overlooking the moat.

Almost immediately, Craven asked that his patient be permitted to resume his use of tobacco, since he was suffering intense withdrawal from his longtime habit. He also recommended that Davis be moved to other quarters because of what he described as the damp and unhealthy conditions inside the casemate.

"His health had never been good," Reed says.

"He suffered from recurring bouts of neuralgia. He suffered from recurring bouts of yellow fever, which had killed his first wife. He suffered lifelong pain from a wound he suffered in the Mexican War. And by the time he was captured and sent to Fort Monroe, he was pretty thin and haggard."

In the North, every report suggesting that Davis was being mistreated was met with widespread scorn and ridicule, including such satirical responses as a June 1865 cartoon in which a figure of Davis — complaining about the simple soldier's fare delivered by a black servant — is countered by Union soldiers describing the rotten food they faced at Libby and Andersonville prisons.

In a biting image drawn by Thomas Nash, the figure of a swooning Davis and his worried Union physicians is countered by images of Federal soldiers starving at Andersonville.

"Treason must be made odious," Nash wrote.

In the South, however, the response to each new report can be seen in the pages of the Richmond Examiner, whose descriptions of the former president's "desperate conditions" at Fort Monroe focused as much on the growing tide of sympathy among his former countrymen as the plight of his confinement.

"(He) is languishing in a long and unjust confinement that arouses the keenest emotions of the southern heart," the paper stated, despite having attacked Davis frequently and often personally during the war.

Growing freedom

Three months after being imprisoned, Davis received permission to walk outside his cell escorted by a guard.

Soon his health and diet improved, Craven reported, and his spirits rose still more after being allowed to correspond with his wife.

In early October, the conditions of his confinement relaxed again when Miles approved the surgeon's request to move Davis to more expansive quarters.

"It was a very difficult environment inside the casemate," Kelly says, "and when he's moved to Carroll Hall it helps almost immediately."

Davis himself rarely if ever complained, the historian adds, but his wife became the center of a letter-writing campaign that stirred up opposition in the North and provoked sympathy at home.

A year after watching her husband vanish inside the moat, she swayed authorities to allow her to join him at Carroll Hall. But that small victory didn't stop her ceaseless efforts to portray his treatment in the darkest and most deplorable light.

Taking her case to Washington, D.C., she proved persuasive in person, too, and on May 24, 1866, she won permission for Davis to roam inside the ramparts.

"Jefferson Davis allowed the freedom of the fort," the newspapers reported, noting how the orders came the day of her visit.

Still, another year would pass before Davis was released on bail, partly because of strong support from such prominent Northerners as publisher Horace Greeley and transportation magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt — and partly because of worry about the impact of his confinement on his health.

The charge of treason was dropped at the same time — and that would be followed in December 1868 by President Andrew Johnson's proclamation of amnesty, then in February 1869 by the government's decision to drop its case.

Martyrdom

Long before their former president's release, however, many Southerners had embraced the worst if relatively short-lived episodes of his imprisonment as a cause around which to rally.

"The Secretary of War (must want) to kill his captive rather than let him be tried," a writer to the Georgia Weekly Telegraph complained in August 1866.

"It makes no difference now what the government may do to this man, his fame is world-wide as a martyr: Davis is a martyr to the 'lost cause.' "

Those feelings intensified after Davis' death in 1889 and a funeral attended by tens of thousands.

"The Grandest Funeral Seen in the South," the New York Times reported.

"New Orleans Draped in Mourning and Thronged with Visitors."

Thousands more would turn out four years later to see Davis' funeral train as it transported his remains across the South to its final resting place in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Church bells tolled, choirs sang and children draped the train tracks with flowers in memory of their martyred leader.

"This is something that started at Fort Monroe," Cobb says.

"People from all over the South sent him things — letters of support, tokens of concern and affection, even little mementos made by children to remember the fallen Confederacy. And that's because they felt the same loss and suffering he did."

Erickson can be reached by phone at 757-247-4783.

Online coverage

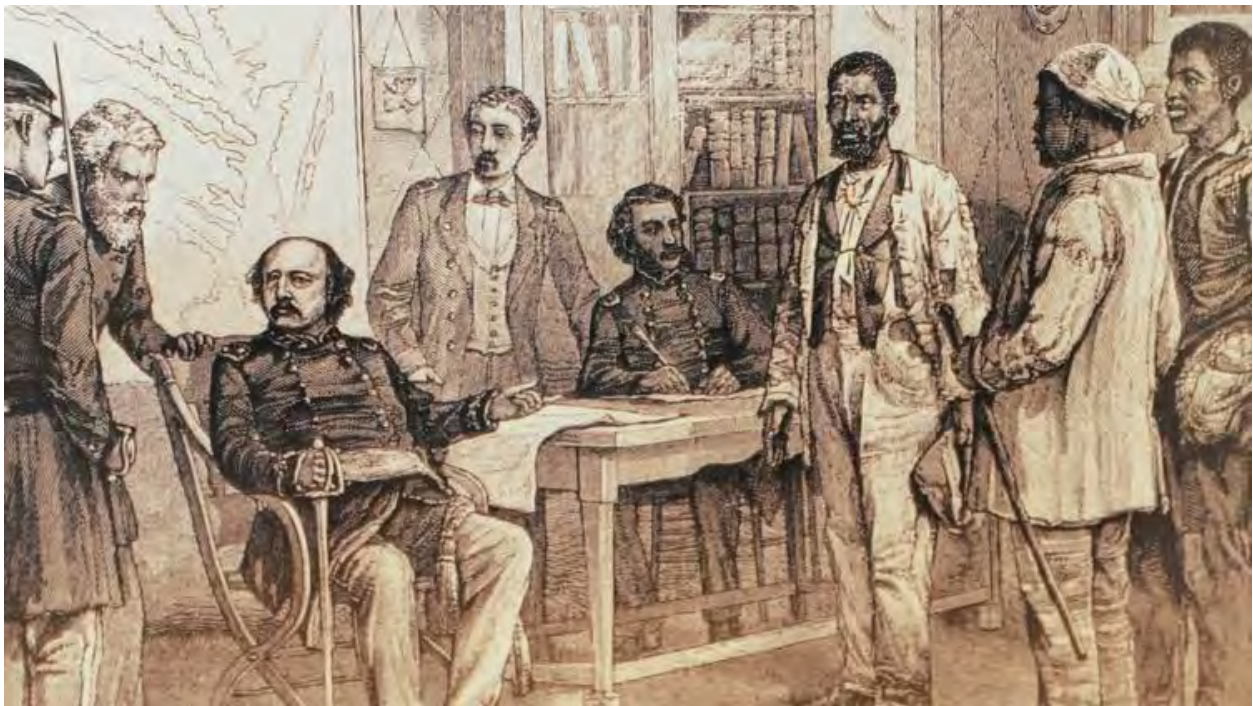
Go to www.dailypress.com/history to see video and photos exploring Davis' imprisonment at Fort Monroe.

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83594306/>

Fort Monroe commemorates 'contraband decision' of 1861

Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com

9:48 pm, May 20, 2015



The proclamation originated at Fort Monroe and rippled across the war-torn landscape: Escaped slaves will no longer be returned by the Union Army to their owners and instead will be confiscated as contraband of war.

Union Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's decision — made on May 24, 1861, at Old Point Comfort — changed the landscape of the Civil War and put pressure on President Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

Butler's decision is being commemorated this month through a series of events that aim to take participants back to the 1860s so they can experience its repercussions.

"The actions of these three (escaped) slaves is really what began the freedom movement," historian William B. Wiggins said. "It spurred the reaction of officials ... it was the prelude to freedom which may not have come had it not been for these individuals."

Commemoration organizers will hold living history tours May 23. Period actors will walk participants from Cannon Park to Fort Monroe's western gate, where escaped slaves Frank Baker, James Townsend and Sheppard Mallory first requested asylum at the stone fortification.

Participants who received asylum then could be recruited into the Union Army or Navy's colored units. Women and children will learn what life was like as contraband while the men were away.

Actors from New York's 99th Company, the Tidewater Marine Living History Association as well as a Civil War surgeon will be on hand for the event.

"We want people to experience what it was like being there and just what these people would have felt knowing they would not be returned," National Park Service Ranger Aaron Firth said.

A May 24 ceremony will include performances and songs believed to be sung by escaped slaves, said Hugh Harrell III, of the Weyanoke Association for Red-Black History and Culture.

"History can be hard to talk about, especially if it was a painful part of our history," said Chadra Pittman Walke, of the Sankofa Project. "But this is a part of history that helps shape who we are today, which makes it an American story."

Firth said the event intentionally includes interactive elements that will be used to educate participants about the events as they unfolded 154 years ago.

"People really get to take on the role of freedom seekers, which brings the experience to another level," he said. "And the struggle for freedom is still something people experience today. It's a story that can be told around the world that people can relate to."

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-846-4361.

LIVING HISTORY TOURS

154th anniversary of the "contraband decision"

11 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 23 at 3 Ruckman Road.

Children's activities 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Casemate Museum.

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

7:30 p.m. May 24 at 3 Ruckman Road

For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/fomr> or call 757-722-3678.

FREEDOM CONCERT

7 p.m. May 22 at Continental Park

Features local choirs, musicians, and dancers

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-evg-hampton-travel-writers-tour-20150525-story.html>

Selling Hampton: Travel writers see 400 years of history in a single day



By Robert Brauchle rbrauchle@dailypress.com

MAY 25, 2015 H AMPTON — Before the overseas voyagers landed at Strawberry Banks, before the forts were built and the colonies expanded, there stood a live oak tree that still lives today.

"Imagine the stories this tree could tell if it could talk," said Fort Monroe National Park Superintendent Kirsten TalkenSpaulding, standing beneath the Algernourne Oak on the monument's parade grounds. "Someday, I'm waiting for an enterprising writer to write a book from the perspective of this tree – think about all the things it has seen in the past 500 years."

One of those writers may have been standing in front of her.

The Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau invited a Daily Press reporter to join a group from the Society of American Travel Writers on a daylong tour of the city.

Provided as a free event to the Daily Press, and to the travel writers, the tour shined a light on how Hampton sells itself as a destination ingrained with a deep history, unique foods and scenery, and as a place that celebrates its role in aviation and space travel.

The writers group's eastern chapter was in Portsmouth for its annual conference in mid-May. Organizers set aside a day for attendees to choose among a handful of nearby destinations to tour — close to 20 picked Hampton.

"All of the localities pitch in to help subsidize the costs," said Ryan Downey of the Hampton Convention and Visitor's Bureau. "Anyone who asks why we get involved with things like this, it's because these people will be writing about our city.... It provides coverage that we might not otherwise get."

For travel writers requesting individual tours, the convention and visitors bureau normally confirms that travel writers have specific assignments from editors, and that they're not just fishing for a subsidized trip, Downey said.

"We need to know they're working on something before we agree," he said.

The morning of the tour, TalkenSpaulding beckoned the writers group to stand with their hands on the Algernourne Oak as she recited the events the tree experienced – from the Native Americans occupying the spit of land, as a vacation destination through the Civil War and into the Army decommissioning in 2011.

"These events impacted not just Fort Monroe or the area, but the country as it developed into the nation it is today," the ranger said.

How do you sell a city that lies between Virginia Beach and the historic triangle of Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown? The visitor bureau's answer: Show them a little of everything — including Fort Monroe, the Virginia Air and Space Center and an abbreviated ride on the Miss Hampton II.

Throughout the day, the writers were given a healthy dose of the city's military might, its flirtation with flight and later space travel and its forays into war.

"There are so many compelling stories to tell adults and children alike about how Fort Monroe has impacted this country's history," Casemate Museum Director Robin Reed said.

A touch exhausted from a flight back from Mexico and a fourhour drive the day before, Ian and Tonya Fitzpatrick were the only writers on the Hampton trip with a focus on capturing audio for a radio program.

The Silver Springs, Md., couple own World Footprints, a travel writing company that focuses on "socially responsible travel and lifestyle," according to their website.

The couple said they want to bring listeners into areas not otherwise explored by travel writers by focusing on history and culture off the traditionally beaten path. While Williamsburg, Yorktown and Virginia Beach are typical travel destinations, the Fitzpatricks wanted to explore Hampton and specifically Fort Monroe.

Tonya Fitzpatrick said the city's history with Africans was particularly interesting — a Dutch ship carrying a cargo of Africans first arrived in English speaking America at what is now Fort Monroe in 1619, and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler declared escaped slaves "contraband of war" during the Civil War, meaning they would not be returned to their southern masters once arriving at Fort Monroe.

Tonya Fitzpatrick said she wished the tour could have been more in depth with the city's African-American history. But she understood the time constraints.

Elizabeth Harryman lives in southern California but works for a AAAowned magazine that covers Hampton Roads.

Harryman needed content for Tidewater Traveler, so she spent the day scribbling notes and taking pictures.

"The more I learn about Hampton, the more I feel like the rest of the country should know about it as well," she said.

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 7578464361

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83666901/>

YMCA now open at Fort Monroe

Sarah J. Ketchum, sketchum@dailypress.com

6:37 pm, May 30, 2015

HAMPTON — A piece of history has returned to Fort Monroe.



The Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA opened its newest branch Saturday in the same historic building in which the fitness center was once located. The building, at 8 Ruckman Road, first opened in 1903 as a respite for soldiers on the military base. It underwent several changes over the years, including an \$11 million renovation in 2002, but closed in 2011 when the base was decommissioned.

About 50 YMCA staff with a handful of others attended an opening ceremony. Speakers shared the historical significance of the property, as well as the organization's vision to serve the community, regardless of ability to pay.

The Fort Monroe branch is an extension of the Hampton YMCA, which gave more than \$400,000 in scholarships last year, Fort Monroe Authority Deputy Executive Director John Hutcheson said at the ceremony.

The YMCA is about developing the community, teaching social responsibility and giving kids a safe place to play, he said.

"We're here to serve the community."

Inside the building, there are a few new features unique to the branch. Cyclists can enjoy a dark room with fiber optic lights and a screen to view scenery.

The main room on the first floor houses a functional gym. The large piece of equipment has multiple workout devices, such as bungee straps, weighted balls, weight machines, bars and a climbing rope. The device is an entire gym in one piece, Hampton YMCA Senior Wellness and Program Direction Lee Grandison said.

"Anyone from health-seeker to ninja warrior can have a good experience on it," she said.

Kimberly Quezada watched as her husband, 12-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter played on the gym. She said the family came to the opening because they live on Fort Monroe and are considering joining.

"I think it's good for the families who live here," she said. While pointing to her husband, she added, "I think he's going to be here a lot."



Ketchum can be reached by phone at 757-247-7478.

<http://www.app.com/story/news/local/monmouth-county/government/2015/05/29/tyler-perry-answer-revived-fort-mcpherson/28158883/>

Sentry on the Chesapeake

Jutting out into the Chesapeake Bay, Fort Monroe has been a key defensive site for centuries. Now, however, its historical status and eight miles of waterfront make it more valuable for tourism or residential purposes.

"We wanted to bring people here and that's what we did," said Glenn Oder, executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority. "As people came here they started asking about the (existing Army) houses, now our residences are almost full."

Oder said they want to build off of people's desire to be at the fort, a national landmark that is now attracting 100,000 tourists a year, and use that to ultimately create jobs through commercial development.

Tale of four forts

The status of four forts targeted for closure in 2005. Each was decommissioned as an active installation by Sept. 15, 2011.

Fort Monmouth, Eatontown, Oceanport, Tinton Falls

History: The Army, recognizing that its Signal Corps was insufficient for wartime communications support, founded Fort Monmouth in 1917. Many famous pieces of military technology, including the homing pigeon, walkie-talkie, night vision and thermal imaging, were developed at least in part at Fort Monmouth. It was also home to the U.S. Military Preparatory Academy, which was designed to train enlisted members of the Army to qualify for entrance into the United States Military Academy in West Point.

Size (2005): 1,126 acres, 5.1 million square feet of buildings

Population (2005): 8,330 (4,812 civilians)

Today: The Army expects to transfer the remaining 570 acres to the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority this summer, marking the end of their involvement in the direction of the base. CommVault, a data management firm, purchased 55 acres in January 2013 and has established its new headquarters in the Tinton Falls section of the fort. Nine months after that deal closed, Acute Care purchased 27 acres containing the Paterson Army Health Clinic in Oceanport and is in the process of renovating that building for use as medical care facility.

Fort Gillem, Forest Park, Ga.

History: A supply depot positioned southeast of Atlanta, Fort Gillem was established in 1941. Known previously as the Atlanta General Depot, the fort played a key role in resupplying troops overseas, as well as training auto mechanics and field engineers for support missions in WWII and the Korean War. In 1970, it was deactivated and made a sub-installation of Fort McPherson.

Size (2005): 1,531 acres, 5.2 million square feet of buildings.

Population (2005): 3,213 (754 civilians)

Today: Kroger, the nation's largest supermarket chain, bought 253 acres a year ago and is developing a 2-million square foot regional distribution center. The warehouse will employ 750 people, which is about as many as vacated the fort with the Army. One significant complication is groundwater contamination of about 170 acres from what Fred Bryant, executive director of the Urban Redevelopment Agency for the city of Forest Park, described as "buried petroleum products" that leached into the water table. This probably rules out development of the affected space for the foreseeable future, but it has also slowed their ability to shop about 100 acres of land whose environmental health is unknown.

Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.

History: The 1885 installation was conceived to house an artillery regiment, but the base changed roles several times following the Spanish-American War. In World War I, it was an officer's training camp and hospital. By the start of World War II, the base was reimagined as a medical station with 558 beds. After the war, Fort McPherson became a communications and transportation hub and has served as headquarters for multiple major commands.

Size (2005): 572 acres, 2.2 million square feet of buildings

Population (2005): 4,665 (1,869 civilians)

Today: A pair of credit unions, which were operating onsite before the closure, purchased their land from the Army and remained. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs bought one of the existing medical buildings and transformed it into an outpatient clinic. Those three operations, plus the caretaker and McPherson Redevelopment Authority, represent the entire population of the fort. However, production tycoon (and Atlanta resident) Tyler Perry is nearing an official commitment to buy 330 acres of the fort — for \$30 million — to house an expanded version of Tyler Perry Studios. The proposed deal is not without controversy, as the studio is not viewed as a big generator of jobs for an area of Atlanta that could really use the opportunities.

Fort Monroe, Hampton Va.

History: James Monroe, America's fifth president, was still alive when the fort bearing his name began construction in 1819. The largest stone fort ever built in America, the construction of Fort Monroe was an arduous task, taking 15 years to complete. As one of the few Union strongholds in Virginia, Fort Monroe served a pivotal role in the Civil War. It became the headquarters for the Army Ground Forces and headquarters for command of the armies of the continental U.S. in 1946 and the Army's Training and Doctrine Command in 1973. The fort was designated a national monument in 2011.

Size (2005): 565 acres, 2.5 million square feet of buildings

Population (2005): 3,217 (1,405 civilians)

Today: The Army signed over houses on the base to the Fort Monroe Authority — in a unique move to accommodate the redevelopment authority's wishes — a year before the base closed. Glenn Oder, the FMA's executive director, said it wanted people to live and play on the fort's grounds. Only one of 162 residences on the fort is not occupied; its beaches are open to the

public and they have events and a museum that draw 100,000 visitors every year, Oder said. Those permanent residents and tourists will fuel job creation, he added.

Sources: Fort Monroe Authority; Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority; McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority; Urban Redevelopment Agency, Forest Park, Ga.; Fort U.S. Department of Defense

<http://touch.dailypress.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-83360250/>

Fort Monroe YMCA grand opening is Saturday

Robert Brauchle

11:21 am, May 29, 2015

The Peninsula Metropolitan YMCA plans a grand opening at its location at Fort Monroe on Ruckman Road on Saturday, according to the group's website.

The open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Anyone who signs up Saturday will have the joining fee waved.

The facility will officially open on Monday, June 1.

The YMCA will open in a historic building the [Daily Press highlighted in this March article](#).

For more information about the YMCA and the services available at the new location can be found [here](#).

<http://www.13newsnow.com/story/news/military/2015/05/26/va-and-hampton-come-together-for-wheelchair-athletes/27980805/>

V.A. and Hampton come together for wheelchair athletes



[Mike Gooding](#), 13News Now 7:48 p.m. EDT May 26, 2015

HAMPTON, Va. (WVEC) -- A major breakthrough for spinal cord injury patient-athletes from the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Now, they have a place to play.

A recent agreement with the city of Hampton has provided a location for wheelchair-bound veterans to practice "Power Soccer" skills. **It's at the old Fort Monroe Community Center.**

"I think it's very important that the city hasn't forgotten about us, to let us know we're still a part of the community and can achieve," said Army veteran and wheelchair athlete Lorenzo Hughes. "So it's very important for us to have this outlet."

They are spinal cord injury patients who, with their motorized wheelchairs, are now able to hone their skills of dribbling and goal-scoring. The former soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are able to compete once again, improving their quality of life dramatically.



WVEC

Peer program at Hampton V.A. receives national recognition

"It is totally enhanced," said disabled veteran Steve Belechak, who serves as the athletes' volunteer coach. "And the reason it's enhanced is, not only do they get physical workout here, they're going to come out sweating by the end of the day. Second thing is the team camaraderie. Getting away from the V.A. hospital grounds."

The partnership between the city and the V.A. began back in April. Both sides seem delighted. "It's awesome," said Karen Harden, who is the Senior Recreational Professional for the City of Hampton. "We just amped up the quality of life for people who wouldn't normally have a chance to do it, so it's great.":

Hampton V.A. Medical Center Director Michael Dunfee agrees. "It's a great partnership with the city of Hampton. It's wonderful to be in a community that's so focused on veterans issues and the military."

Organizers hope other V.A. hospitals, like the ones in Richmond and Salem, put together Power Soccer teams of their own, so the patients from the various medical centers can eventually compete against each other.

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/community/disaster-at-civil-war-s-end-got-lost-amid-bigger/article_7c905f6a-fd19-5fe6-a61f-f4a3410680a8.html

Disaster at Civil War's end got lost amid bigger news of the day

Posted: Sunday, June 7, 2015 2:00 pm

[Disaster at Civil War's end got lost amid bigger news of the day](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/community/disaster-at-civil-war-s-end-got-lost-amid-bigger/article_7c905f6a-fd19-5fe6-a61f-f4a3410680a8.html)

By Stephen T. Jackson For The Herald Bulletin

The greatest maritime disaster in United States history occurred April 27, 1865, when a Mississippi River side-wheeler steamboat named the Sultana had three of its four boilers explode. The resulting fire burned the ship to the water line and it sunk near Memphis, Tennessee.

Surprisingly, news of the disaster did not even rate front page coverage in newspapers throughout the nation.

The official death toll as established by the United States Customs Service was 1,800, with 491 of those being Hoosiers.

There were 2,427 people packed onto the overcrowded vessel that had a legal capacity was 376. Most of the passengers had been former POWs imprisoned by the Confederacy at Alabama's Cahaba and Georgia's Andersonville prison camps.

With the war's end they had been released and were heading home on a ship contracted by the U.S. government. Many of the former prisoners were in a weakened condition after months of poor treatment and lack of sufficient food and clean water. When they boarded the Sultana at Vicksburg, Mississippi, they thought their suffering was over.

There are two reasons which explain why this unusual lack of news coverage took place. The first involved the ongoing and unfolding events of the assassination of our 16th president.

The day before, April 26, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln's murderer, John Wilkes Booth, had been found and killed on a farm in northern Virginia. That culminated a 12-day manhunt that had captivated the nation, or at least the northern states. Booth had become the most-wanted man in America, a distinction that, oddly enough, he may have found rather gratifying.

As eventful as Booth's capture was, one would think the loss of 1,800 Union soldiers in one fell swoop would warrant more than back-page news.

This leads to the second reason for lack of front-page coverage. I believe it reflects how calloused the nation had become at the war's end to the reporting of losses far greater than these. Eighteen hundred lives lost just wasn't major news any longer!

America's Civil War ended in 1865. All that remained was how and where it would end.

When the year began, Gens. Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee were still locked in the stalemate that had begun in June the previous year just 20 miles south of Richmond, Virginia, at Petersburg. Lasting 10 months, it went down in history books as the Siege of Petersburg, the war's longest. Lee's army was the last hope of the dying Confederate cause.

Early in February, Confederate President Jefferson Davis sent Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens and two officials to meet with Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward on a vessel at Hampton Roads near Fort Monroe, Virginia.

The purpose was to discuss peace terms. Neither side was willing to concede to the other's demands. The conference ended with both sides now aware that the outcome would be decided on the battlefield and not at a conference table.

On March 4, President Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address in which he outlined plans for his second term. Then, in a statement directed at the southern people, he announced to the entire country his post-war plans when he spoke the words that defined him as a man for all time, "with malice towards none; with charity for all." Six weeks later, he was a victim of an assassin's bullet.

By the end of March, the siege at Petersburg was undergoing rapid changes with both sides attempting to bring it to an end. Lee could no longer hold on and was forced to withdraw westward, leaving the back door to Richmond wide open. Union forces then entered the city; the cost was measured in the thousands of lives lost during four years spent attempting to gain its control.

Lee finally surrendered to Grant what was left of his once-proud Army of Northern Virginia on April 9 at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. He had hoped to link up with Gen. Joe Johnston and what was left of his forces in North Carolina, but Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman had other plans. On April 26, Johnston surrendered to Sherman.

All that was left of the Confederacy were scattered forces in small numbers under Gen. Richard Taylor in Mississippi and Alabama. With no hope left, he surrendered them on May 4.

With the fall of Richmond, Confederate President Jefferson Davis fled south but was captured in Georgia May 10. He was sent to Fort Monroe, where he was imprisoned 12 days later. He would remain there until granted a general amnesty by President Andrew Johnson on Christmas Day, 1868.

Seemingly the war was over; however, on May 13 the last battle of the Civil War was fought along the Rio Grande River at Palmito Ranch, Texas. It was, strangely enough, a Confederate victory, albeit a pyrrhic one. It was significant to people living here in Madison County.

The 34th Indiana Infantry Regiment was comprised of many of our county's boys and others from nearby counties. They had received their training at Anderson's Camp Stilwell before leaving in the late fall of 1861.

They had distinguished themselves in several key battles and up to Palmito Ranch had never been on the losing side in any engagement in which they participated. Not only was this their first and only loss of the war, but they also gained another sobering distinction. Jeff Williams of Company B became the last Union soldier killed in the Civil War. He was from Jay County.

Williams was one of approximately 620,000 men who died during the war; a figure that continues to be debated today. Analysts have determined that the numbers of Civil War dead were not equaled by the combined toll of all American dead in all other American conflicts until sometime during the Vietnam War.

To put it another way, 5 percent of the nation's population of 30 million at the war's beginning never made it home. To emphasize the impact of that number in terms of today's population, the losses would be in excess of 6 million.

<http://yesterdaysisland.com/civil-war-shipwreck-0604201412/>

Civil War Shipwreck

June 4, 2015 | Filed under: [Nantucket History & People](#) and tagged with: [civil war](#), [satacona](#), [shipwreck](#)

• *by Amy Jenness – author of On This Day in Nantucket History* •

On June 10, 1865 a ship carrying soldiers who had fought for the North in the Civil War under General William Tecumseh Sherman went aground on Smith's Point. The ship, *SS Satacona*, grounded in a thick fog near the head of Hither Creek. For some of the ship's passengers, this would be their second wreck in two days. Their troop ship Admiral Dupont had collided with the *Satacona* and sank off Cape May, New Jersey, two days prior.

The first word Nantucket citizens had of the June 10th Madaket grounding was when the soldiers marched through town at 8 a.m. and boarded a steamship that was preparing to sail for the mainland. Citizens scrambled to provide food and clothing for the soldiers before they departed and returned to Fort Monroe.

Although the Civil War ended on May 9, 1865, the soldiers were still on active duty at the fort and had been on leave when the collision occurred. Located in the Chesapeake Bay, Fort Monroe was a pivotal Union stronghold throughout the war and also became a symbol of freedom when commanders used it to house refugee slaves. They escaped southern slavery and went to the fort after a Union Army decree that all slaves behind their lines would be protected. The policy was called the "Fort Monroe Doctrine." On May 10, 1865 former Confederate president Jefferson Davis was captured and taken to Fort Monroe where he was jailed awaiting a bail bond issue.

Davis would wait two years for the hearing and his long imprisonment in harsh conditions made him a martyr in many people's minds. He was indicted for treason in May 1867, but was never tried—the federal government feared that Davis would be able to prove to a jury that the Southern secession of 1860 to 1861 was legal. Later that month Davis was released on bail, with several wealthy Northerners helping him pay for his freedom.

The island had remained mostly neutral during the American Revolution and the War of 1812, with many citing their Quaker beliefs (which condemned the violence of war) as the reason, but nearly 400 Nantucket men fought for the North in the Civil War and 70 ultimately died in combat. Many Nantucketers opposed slavery and the island hosted several anti-slavery conventions in the 1840s. As during previous wars, the Civil War disrupted the island as dozens of whaling vessels were put into service by the Union, or sunk in southern harbors to blockade Confederate vessels. In addition, Nantucket's already suffering whaling industry declined further as able men left to fight and as other whaleships were destroyed by Confederate raiders. When the war ended in 1865, Nantucket whaling would never be able to recover.

The island celebrated the end of the war. The April 15, 1865 edition of the *Inquirer & Mirror* reported, "Considerable excitement was manifested in our usually quiet town, on Thursday afternoon last, upon the reception of the glorious news of the surrender of Gen. Lee and his army. Salutes were fired, flags were displayed from public and private buildings, and the bells on various churches were rung in honor of the glorious event. In the evening Young America

collected its materials, and kindled a huge bonfire on the centre of Main Street, fireworks were displayed, the room of Engine Co. No. 8 was brilliantly illuminated, and several of our citizens made speeches in front of the Customs House (Pacific Club); the demonstration closing by the singing of patriotic airs.”

In the same issue, the editor wrote, “Richmond has fallen! This stronghold of rebel treason, with its manifold forms of pretended nationality, its bogus system of finance, its mock legislation, has yielded to our advancing armies. For four long years, it has menaced the North; its formidable intrenchments, sheltering a powerful military force, have baffled the generalship of our officers, and severely tested the endurance of our loyal troops. But it has surrendered at last, and black soldiers – negroes – of whom Chief Justice Taney once famously declared: “They have no rights which a white man is bound to respect!”

What an astonishing picture to hold up before the aristocrats of the Old World! What a revolution of ideas in the New? The nucleus of the rebellion invested and throttled by Gen. Weitzel’s colored brigades! Governor Andrew speaks truly, in his congratulatory dispatch to Secretary Stanton, “The colored men, received late, got in first, and thus is the Scripture fulfilled.” The nation is glad of it.”

<http://plantpop.tumblr.com/post/120625245954/historic-garden-week-2016-guide-book-cover-shoot>

Historic Garden Week 2016 Guide Book Cover Shoot

The Garden Club of Virginia invited us to accompany them on the cover shoot for their 2016 Historic Garden Week Guide Book. Join us as we visit Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton, VA and talk with some of the folks that are tasked at capturing the perfect photograph to grace next year’s guide book.

JUN. 3 2015
VIA YOUTUBE.COM