

Twenty-third Annual Appomattox Court
House National Historical Park and
Longwood University
Free Civil War Seminar

THE BAHAMAS TO CAMP NELSON

Jarman Auditorium
Longwood University
Farmville, Virginia

Saturday, February 12, 2022

Schedule

Jarman Auditorium
Longwood University
Farmville, VA

Saturday, February 12

- 8:30 a.m. Doors open
- 9:00 a.m. Introduction by Dr. David Coles
- 9:10 a.m. Chuck Ross
The Bahamas during the Civil War
- 10:15 a.m. Ronald S. "Ron" Coddington
Faces of the Civil War Navies
- 11:30 a.m. Ernie Price
Camp Nelson National Monument, America's Complicated Soul
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. Michael C. Hardy
Lee's Body Guard
- 2:45 p.m. Steve T. Phan
Washington, DC, at War: The Civil War Defenses of Washington

***Subject to change**

No reservations necessary. Signs will be posted on the Longwood University Campus. For directions to the campus go to www.longwood.edu. For more information contact Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, Ext. 232.

SPEAKERS

RONALD S. CODDINGTON

Coddington is the Editor and Publisher of *Military Images*, a quarterly magazine that showcases, interprets and preserves photographs of the Civil War period. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *Civil War News*, *Civil War Times*, *The Civil War Monitor*, and other publications. He is a career journalist who has worked for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The San Jose Mercury News* and *USA Today*. He is currently the Editor for *Visuals and Data at The Chronicle of Higher Education*. His latest book *Faces of Civil War Nurses* is Coddington's fifth and final volume in the Civil War Faces series of books published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. The others feature Union soldiers, Confederates, African Americans, and Navy men. Born in New Jersey, Ron earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in illustration from the University of Georgia. He lives in Arlington, VA, with his wife, Anne.

MICHAEL C. HARDY

Hardy has a passion for history. Over the past three decades, he has written about people, places, and events which are frequently overlooked in the grand, sweeping narratives. He is the author of 24 books. His articles have appeared in numerous national magazines, and Michael has been featured on Civil War Talk Radio and in the recent *Blood and Fury: America's Civil War* on the American Heroes Channel. In 2010, Michael was named the North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians, and in 2018, *General Lee's Immortals*, his history of the Branch-Lane brigade, was honored with the James I. Robertson, Jr., Literary Prize. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and, since 1995, has called western North Carolina home.

STEVE T. PHAN

Phan is a Park Ranger and the Chief of Interpretation at Camp Nelson National Monument. He served previously as the historian at the Civil War Defenses of Washington. He has also worked at Gettysburg National Military Park, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Stones River National Battlefield, Rock Creek Park, and Buffalo Soldiers National Monument. A military historian of the Civil War era, Phan's research focuses on military occupation, operational command, and fortifications during the Civil War. He is the author of articles about Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Civil War and the Defenses of Washington. He received nomination for the National Park Service Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation in 2019 and 2020. Phan holds a master's degree in American History from Middle Tennessee State University.

ERNIE PRICE

Ernie is the first permanent superintendent of Camp Nelson National Monument and currently serves in that position. He is originally from Lynchburg, VA, and earned a degree in history from Longwood College and a M.Ed. from Lynchburg College. While in school, he worked numerous summer seasonal jobs in the National Park Service at Appomattox Court House, Richmond National Battlefield, and Roosevelt-Vanderbilt

National Historic Site. After a stint of teaching English in South Korea, Ernie returned to the U.S., met his future wife Minhee and began a permanent career with the NPS in 1998 on the National Mall in Washington, DC. After three years on the Mall, he moved to Ford's Theatre and then to the Natchez Trace Parkway in Tupelo, MS, where his daughter Sora was born. In 2008 Ernie returned to Appomattox Court House as the chief of education and visitor services. For his role in the Footsteps to Freedom program as part of the Appomattox 150th commemoration, Price received the 2015 National Freeman Tilden Award. In 2018 Ernie became the chief of interpretation for El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments in New Mexico until moving to Kentucky in July 2020.

CHUCK ROSS

Chuck Ross is Professor of Physics and former Dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences at Longwood University in Farmville. His study of science and technology in the U.S. Civil War has led to appearances on The History Channel, PBS, the National Geographic Channel and National Public Radio and his work has been featured in US News and World Report, Science, Discover and many other media outlets. He has written three books on that subject: *Trial by Fire: Science, Technology and the Civil War*; *Civil War Acoustic Shadows*; *Never for Want of Powder: The Confederate Powder Works*. His most recent book *Breaking the Blockade* is about the effects of blockade running on Nassau, Bahamas. He and his wife Julie live in Farmville, VA.

This annual seminar is sponsored by:

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park; 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. No reservations needed.

Parking available on Longwood University campus *except* in 24 hour reserved spaces, handicapped, or tow-away zones.

Lunch is available at the Longwood University Dining Hall

The Bahamas during the Civil War: On April 16, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a blockade of the Confederate coastline. The largely agrarian South did not have the industrial base to succeed in a protracted conflict. What it did have—and what England and other foreign countries wanted—was cotton and tobacco. Industrious men soon began to connect the dots between Confederate and British needs. As the blockade grew, the blockade runners became quite ingenious in finding ways around the barriers. Nassau, Bahamas, became a focal point for the blockade running action.

Boats worked their way back and forth from the Confederacy to Nassau and England, and everyone in the Bahamas wanted a piece of the action. Poor men became rich in a single transaction, and dances and drinking—from the posh Royal Victoria hotel to the boarding houses lining the harbor—were the order of the day. British, United States, and

Confederate sailors intermingled in the streets, eyeing each other warily as boats snuck in and out of Nassau's harbor. But it was all to come crashing down as the blockade finally tightened and the final Confederate ports were captured.

Faces of the Civil War Navies: During the American Civil War, more than one hundred thousand men served on ships at sea or on one of America's great inland rivers. From Charleston Harbor to the Mississippi River and other inland waterways across the South, Union gunboats were often the first to arrive in deadly enemy territory. In the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic seaboard, blockaders in blue floated within earshot of gray garrisons that guarded vital ports. And on the open seas, rebel raiders wreaked havoc on civilian shipping. This program covers the stories of sailors on both sides of the conflict.

Camp Nelson National Monument, America's Complicated Soul: Camp Nelson National Monument became the 418th unit of the National Park Service in October 2018. Constructed in 1863 by order of Gen. Ambrose Burnside, this Central Kentucky site served as a major supply depot to support a campaign to Knoxville and East Tennessee. The campaign was successfully executed in the late summer of 1863, but Camp Nelson's story took a dramatic shift in the spring of 1864. The Emancipation Proclamation didn't apply to Kentucky so it was a slave state in the Union. In early June 1864 though, military orders for the Department of Kentucky were issued that allowed enslaved men of fighting age to enlist and be emancipated. During the final year of the war, Camp Nelson became one of the largest recruiting and training stations for United States Colored Troops and a large refugee center for enslaved people. The refugee center became so large that the camp didn't close when the war ended, but remained open until the summer of 1866.

Lee's Body Guard: They considered themselves Lee's Body Guard. Officially, they were known as the 39th Battalion, Virginia Cavalry. They were "hard-bitten, reckless young men who served as couriers" for the senior leadership of the Army of Northern Virginia. Not only were they couriers, but they drove headquarters wagons, scouted, and worked as clerks. While crucial to army operations, they are largely overlooked in the historiography. Discover the roles played by Lee's Body Guard.

Washington, DC, at War--The Civil War Defenses of Washington: By 1865, Washington, DC, was surrounded. An elaborate system of fortifications sat on the high hills, long ridges, and flat plateaus that encircled the capital of the United States. Now, as the Civil War approached its bloody conclusion, 68 major forts supported by 93 detached batteries mounting over 900 guns and connected by 32 miles of military roads made Washington one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world. The Defenses of Washington evolved the course of the war, expanding in size, scope, and firepower in direct response to the campaigns occurring on every side of the city.