

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

***LESSER KNOWN ENGAGEMENTS AND  
SOME CIVIL WAR PHOTO SLEUTHING***

*Jarman Auditorium*  
Longwood University  
Farmville, Virginia

Saturday, February 3, 2024

# Schedule

Jarman Auditorium  
Longwood University  
Farmville, VA

## Saturday, February 3

- 8:30 a.m. Doors open
- 9:00 a.m. Introduction by Dr. David Coles
- 9:10 a.m. James Morgan  
*Six Miles to Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell: The Battle of Secessionville*
- 10:15 a.m. 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*
- 11:30 a.m. Kurt Luther  
*Civil War Photo Sleuthing: Past, Present, and Future*
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. William C. Davis  
*Little Battles that Changed the Big Valley: New Market and Piedmont*
- 2:45 p.m. Keith Harvey  
*Forgotten Glory: The Campaign and Battle for Lynchburg*

**\*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](http://www.longwood.edu). For more information contact Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, Ext. 232.

## **SPEAKERS**

### **WILLIAM C. DAVIS**

William C. Davis, a native of Independence, Missouri, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sonoma State University in northern California, then spent twenty years in editorial management 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. He is the author or editor of more than sixty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. Davis was the on-camera senior consultant and commentator for 52 episodes of 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, and has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including "The Blue and the Gray," "George Washington," "The Perfect Tribute," and 2015's "Field of Lost Shoes" which was partially based on his book *The Battle of New Market*. 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 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. In 2015 the Lincoln Forum named him recipient of the Richard Nelson Current Award and the Ulysses S. Grant Association gave him its John Y. Simon Award. Davis was a member of the Advisory Board of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and serves on several other consultative bodies, and has been an occasional consultant to the Virginia State Police on cold case homicides.

### **KEITH HARVEY**

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.

### **KURT LUTHER**

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, where his family eventually settled after "Morganza," the family plantation some 40 miles upriver from

Baton Rouge, was destroyed during the Civil War. Morgan 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. He is a member of the board of the Friends of Charleston National Parks. Morgan is a past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable in Leesburg, VA, and a co-founder and chairman of the Friends of Ball's Bluff. He served on the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and on the board of the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Morgan is the author of two books. One is a tactical study of Ball's Bluff titled *A Little Short of Boats: the Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*. The second is the recently published, *Six Miles from Charleston, Five Minutes to Hell: the Battle of Secessionville, June 16, 1862*. Morgan 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.

### **ZACHARY PITTARD**

Zachary Pittard, a native of Southside Virginia, has worked in public history for nearly twelve years. After Pittard graduated high school in 2011, he set off for Longwood University. There, he studied and honed his passion for history in the LU History Department, studying under the direction and guidance of Dr. David Coles. An internship at Sailor's Creek Battlefield led him to a career in parks and museums. After five years at Sailor's Creek, Pittard worked for four years at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Afterwards, he went back to Virginia State Parks at Sailor's Creek and Staunton River Battlefields. While back with State Parks, 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. Pittard currently works at Pamplin Historical Park as the Director of Education and Interpretation.

#### ***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; and Eastern National Bookstore.

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***

***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 covers the background of, and lead-up, to the campaign as well as the final battle itself. It 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.

***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 the passage of time has magnified some challenges, but also unlocked exciting new possibilities. The program will show 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. Specifically, the speaker will focus on two projects developed by his research lab at Virginia Tech. Civil War Photo Sleuth ([www.civilwarphotosleuth.com](http://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com)) combines community expertise and facial recognition to help users identify unknown soldiers in Civil War-era photos. The site has about 20,000 registered users and 50,000 Civil War-era photos and has been featured by *TIME* magazine, *Smithsonian* magazine, and *The History Channel*. Civil War Twin ([www.civilwartwin.com](http://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 better known than Piedmont, yet did Piedmont bear 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.