



PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK

& THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Many Thousands Go: African Americans and the Civil War” Series: Was It A Massacre at Fort Pillow?

PETERSBURG, VA - Join Brian Steel Wills, Kenneth Asbury Professor of History at the University of Virginia's College at Wise and author of *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*, as he presents, “Fort Pillow - Massacre?” Did a massacre actually occur? He will explore all aspects of the controversy in this presentation. Following the talk, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session.

This special presentation takes place at Pamplin Historical Park's Education Center on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. Professor Wills will be available to sign his new book from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and after the lecture from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The event is FREE with paid Park admission, and is FREE to all Park Members.

The Battle of Fort Pillow occurred on April 12, 1864 in Henning, Tennessee, becoming one of the most controversial battles of the Civil War. Confederate soldiers captured the fort and killed most of its inhabitants, primarily Union soldiers of African descent. According to Andrew Talkov, Chief of Interpretation, Training & Program Development at Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, “Rumors of a ‘massacre’ traveled through the ranks of African American soldiers and were felt as far away as Petersburg and Richmond. African American soldiers who fought at the Battle of the Crater, near Petersburg in July 1864 were heard to have cried, ‘Remember Fort Pillow!’ as they charged into battle.” Fort Pillow has since been a topic of great discussion and debate.

Visitors can learn more about Fort Pillow and the role of the African American in the Civil War by visiting the Park's current exhibit, “Many Thousands Go: African Americans and the Civil War” located in the Battlefield Center. Wills' talk is the last in a series of special presentations and lectures accompanying this exhibit. The “Many Thousands Go: African Americans and the Civil War” exhibit ends May 31, 2007.

In addition to the Fort Pillow lecture and a visit to the exhibit, visitors can walk through the Park to encounter living history programs presented by costumed interpreters. The Military Encampment depicts soldier life during the Petersburg Campaign with interpreters performing musket firings and other military demonstrations. Tudor Hall Plantation features programs which focus on the lives of civilians in southern Virginia, and the impact the fighting around Petersburg had on their lives. These programs are included with Park admission. Daily admission for adults is \$13.50, seniors (62+) \$12, children (6-11) \$7.50, and children under 6 free.

Pamplin Historical Park is located just 30 miles south of downtown Richmond and 7 miles south of Historic Old Towne Petersburg. Take I-95 south to I-85 south, and Exit 63-A. Travel approximately 1 mile on historic Boydton Plank Road to the Park entrance, located on the left.

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One of "Virginia's Best Places to Visit" according to the Travel Channel, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier is located on the Breakthrough Battlefield of April 2, 1865. Designated a National Historic Landmark, this 422-acre Civil War campus located in Dinwiddie County, Virginia offers a combination of interactive multimedia museums and hands-on educational experiences. The Park has four world-class museums, three historic antebellum homes and costumed living history programs daily. Civil War Adventure Camp, one of the Park's newest programs, provides visitors of all ages an opportunity to live the life of a Civil War soldier. For more information, please visit www.pamplinpark.org or call 804-861-2408.