



# PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK & THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

6125 Boydton Plank Road, Petersburg, VA 23803 • 1-877-PAMPLIN/804-861-2408 • [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org)

Contact: Randy Klemm, Curator of Collections, [rklemm@pamplinpark.org](mailto:rklemm@pamplinpark.org)

## **Pamplin Historical Park Acquires Wooden Beams from Libby Prison**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2007

Petersburg, VA – Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier recently acquired wooden beams that were once used as floor joists in Libby Prison. Few Civil War buildings earned more fame than Libby Prison, once a warehouse along the James River in Richmond. This four-story complex of three brick structures housed Union prisoners of war between 1862 and 1865. The wooden joists, weighing 250 pounds each, supported the floors upon which some 50,000 Northern captives tread.

When the Civil War ended, investors purchased the prison for \$23,000. After careful disassembly, they moved the building to Chicago, all at a cost of over \$200,000. Meticulously reassembled, the building operated as “The Great Libby Prison War Museum” from 1889 until it closed in 1899. The building was again dismantled, but this time many of the building’s materials, including the beams, became part of a barn in Indiana. The Chicago Coliseum now stands on the spot where the prison museum once stood.

Some of the beams and a recently acquired lockset from Libby Prison are now on display in The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier as part of an expanded prison exhibit. Curator, Randy Klemm, remarked, “Visitors to Pamplin Historical Park find that as the artifact collection grows, the exhibits are enhanced, so if you have been to the Park in the past it is worth your time to look again.”

###

*One of “Virginia’s Best Places to Visit” according to the Travel Channel, and recently designated as a National Historic Landmark, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier is a 422-acre Civil War campus located in Dinwiddie County, Virginia offering a combination of high-tech museums and hands-on experiences. The Park has four world-class museums, four antebellum homes and costumed living history every day. The Park is also the site of the Breakthrough Battlefield of April 2, 1865 and America’s newest participatory experience, Civil War Adventure Camp. For more information, please call 804-861-2408 or visit [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org).*