



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

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## **Pamplin Historical Park Acquires Gladstone African American Civil War Collection**

Dinwiddie, Virginia

Many Civil War collectors and historians consider William Gladstone's collection of African American documents, photographs, and objects the finest personal collection of its kind in the world. That collection is no longer personal.

Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, a private museum complex located thirty miles south of Richmond, Virginia acquired the Gladstone Collection in February. Valued at more than \$1,300,000, park officials indicated that Mr. Gladstone conveyed his unparalleled collection for much less than full market value. "Bill Gladstone is a friend as well as a business partner," said the Park's director, A. Wilson Greene. "He wanted his lifetime collection to be at Pamplin Historical Park and we are proud to be its perpetual caretakers." The Park purchased Gladstone's Civil War photograph collection in 2004.

A native New Yorker but long-time resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, Mr. Gladstone assembled his collection over a period of more than thirty years. In the process, he earned a reputation as an expert on the history of black troops from the Civil War era and published a much-acclaimed book on the subject.

Pamplin Historical Park acquired more than 1,600 individual items in the collection, including 544 carte de visites of African Americans, nearly three hundred original documents, 67 three-dimensional objects, many of them unique, and newspapers, prints, and patriotic envelopes.

"There is enough material in Bill's collection to present dozens of specialized exhibitions," said Greene. In fact, Pamplin Historical Park will prepare a special exhibit using the Gladstone Collection to debut in February 2006 in conjunction with Black History Month. The exhibit will be displayed in the Park's new changing exhibits gallery at the Battlefield Center.

Park Curator Randy Klemm has invested hundreds of hours cataloguing the new collection and entering it into the Park's museum database. Scholars, researchers, and other museums may contact Klemm for information regarding the Gladstone Collection. "Anyone publishing about African Americans in the Civil War or museums interested in borrowing items should contact us," observed Klemm. The Park makes its photographs and images available for publication and loan in accordance with typical museum policies.

Pamplin Historical Park is a 422 campus located in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, near Petersburg. The Park contains four museums, four historic structures, more than three miles of interpreted trails through the April 2, 1865 Breakthrough Battlefield, and is home to the Civil War Adventure Camp. For more information, call 804-861-2408 or visit [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org).