

# CIVIL WAR IN COASTAL VIRGINIA

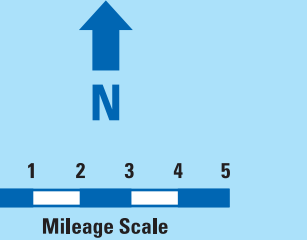
- 1862 Peninsula Campaign Driving Route
- Seven Days Battles Driving Route
- Civil War Trails Site
- Other Civil War Site
- National, State, or County Park
- Information or Welcome Center
- Virginia Capital Trail



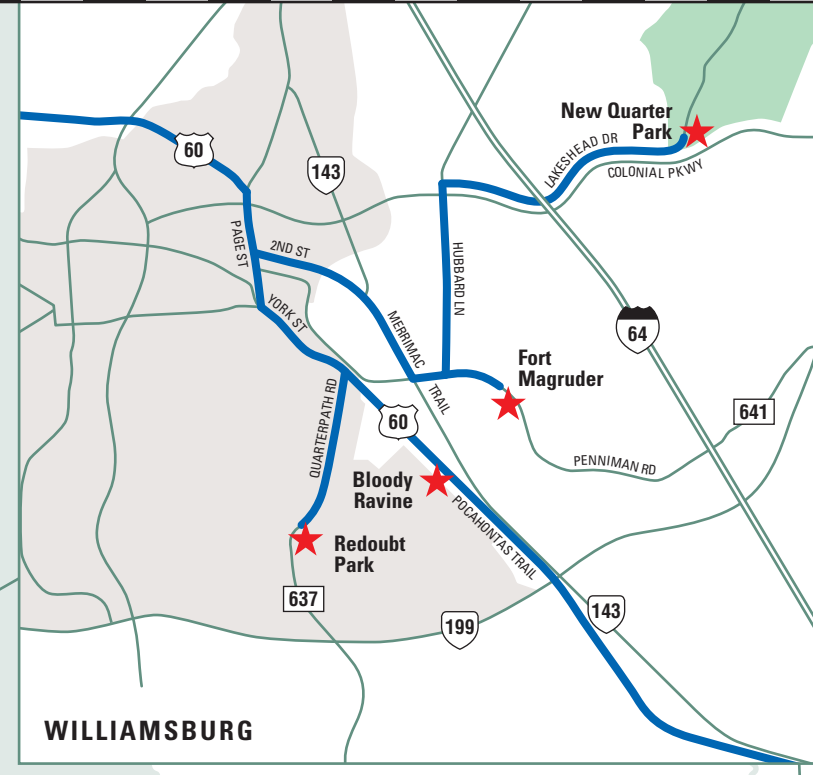
Confederate Water Battery,  
Gloucester Point  
Courtesy U.S. Army Military  
History Institute



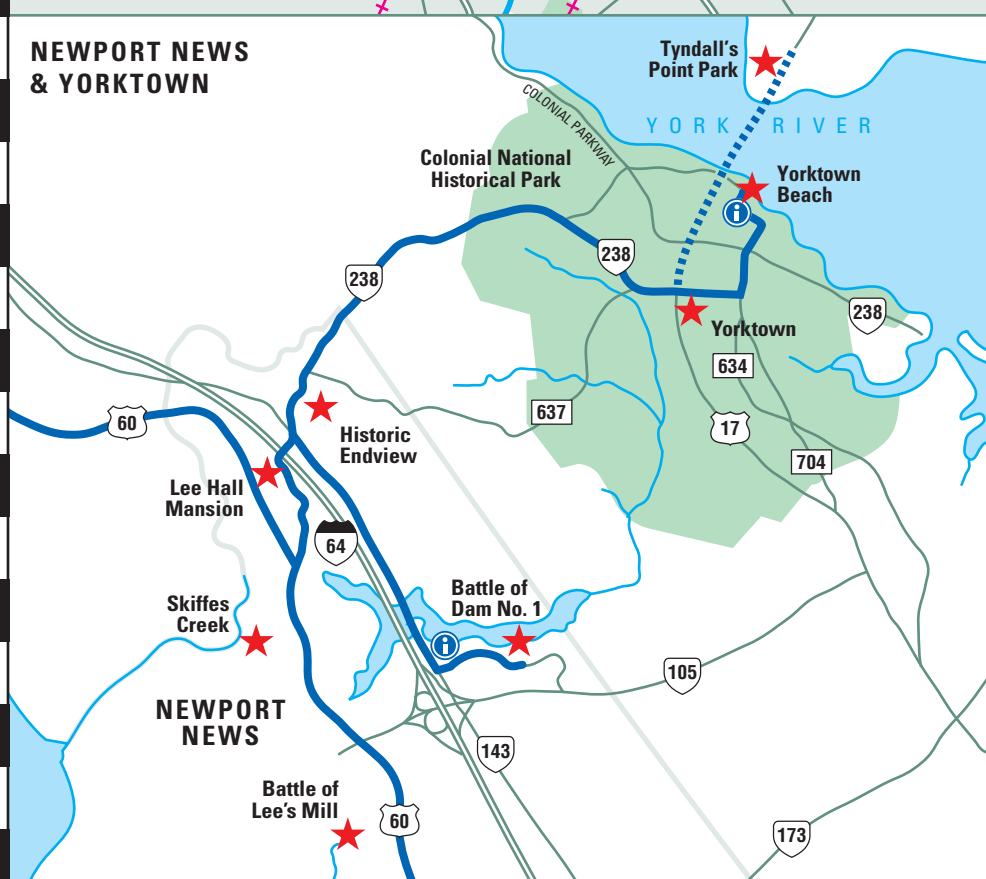
Mary Peake  
Courtesy Hampton University Museum



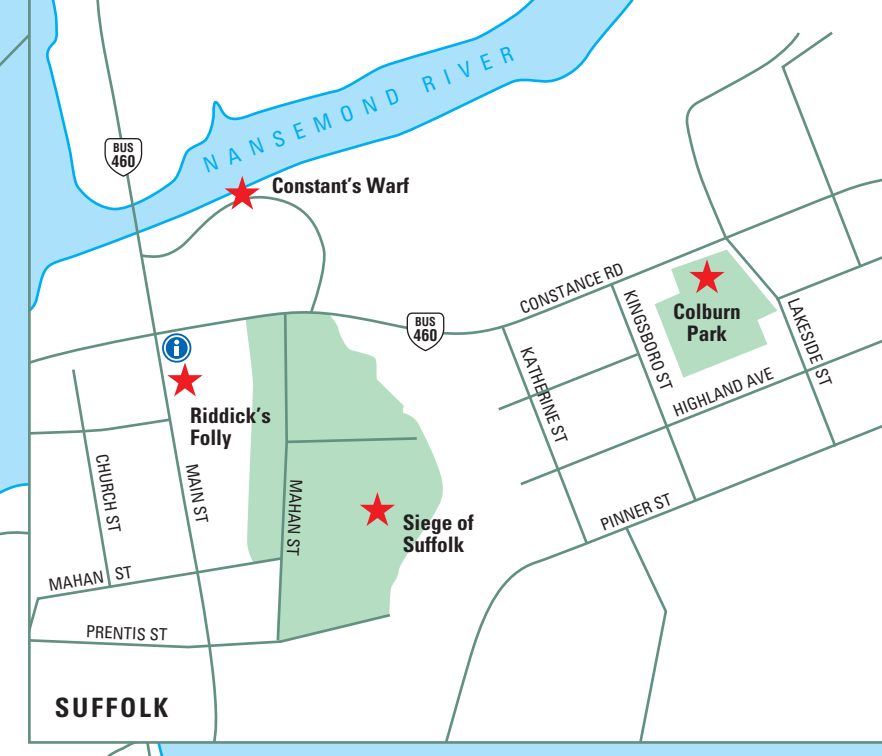
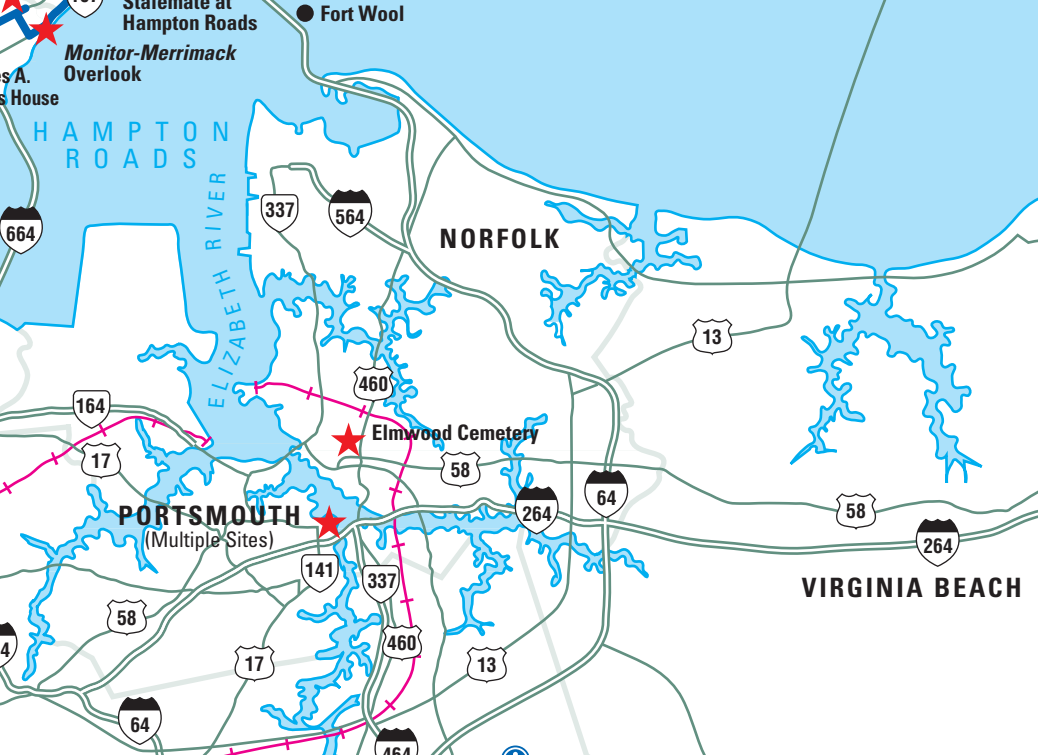
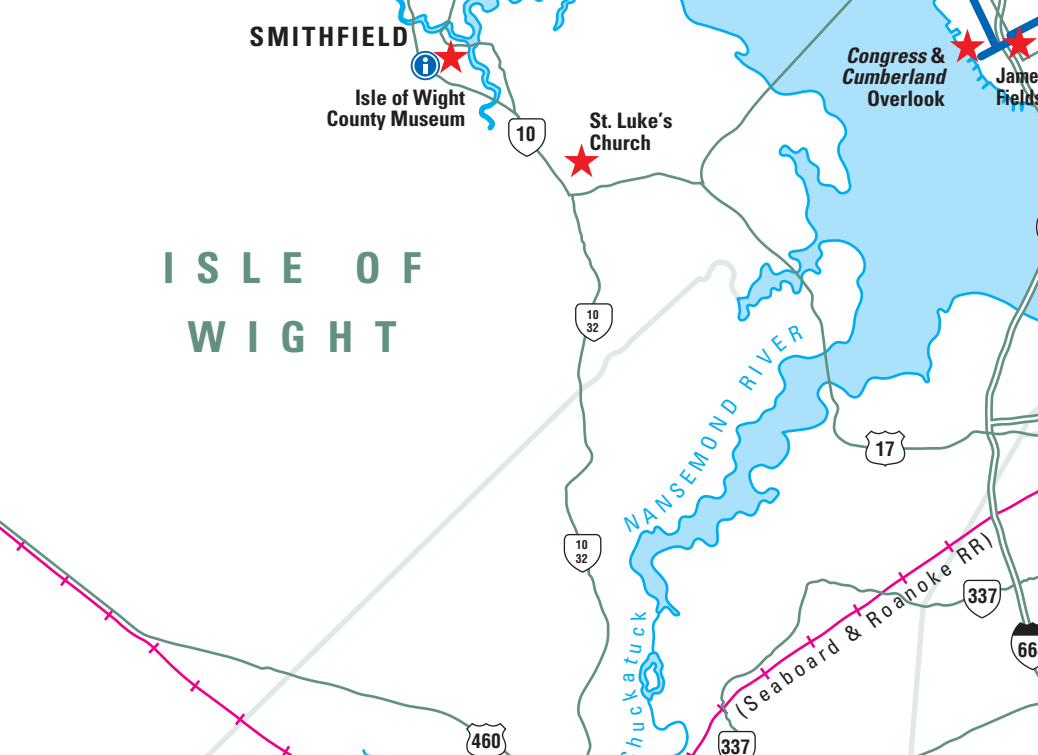
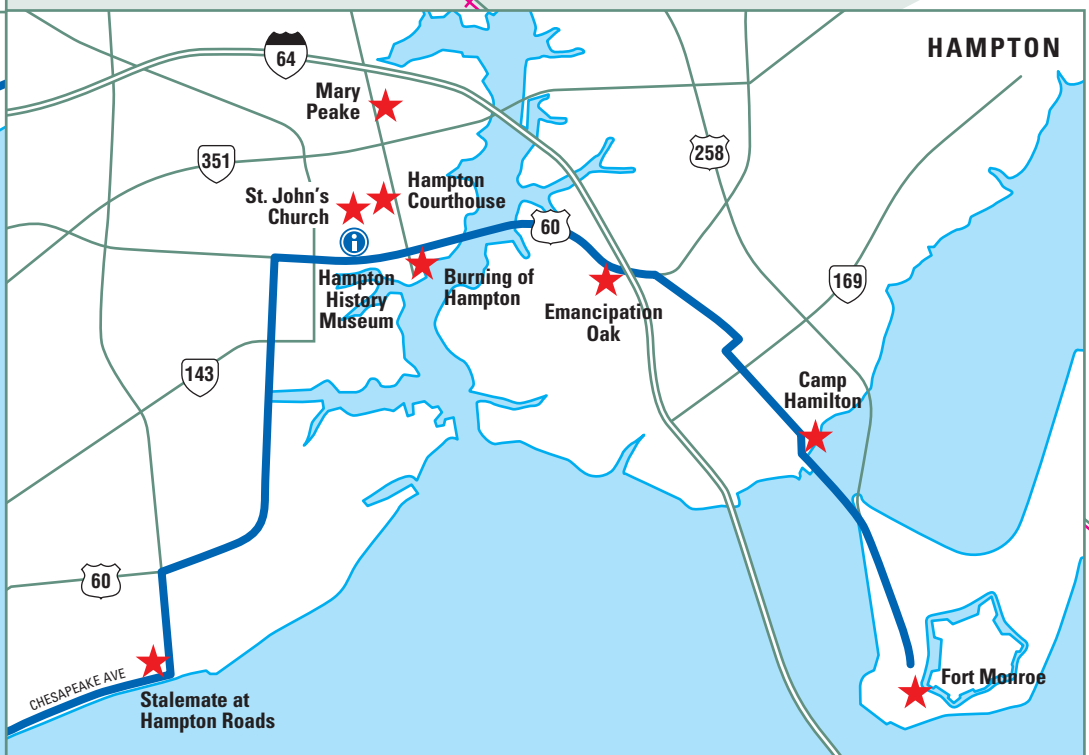
The realities of slavery  
seen during the 1862  
Peninsula Campaign  
led to the creation  
of the Emancipation  
Proclamation.  
The proclamation  
legalized the service  
of Black men in the  
U.S. armed forces.  
Courtesy Hugh Goffinet



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS



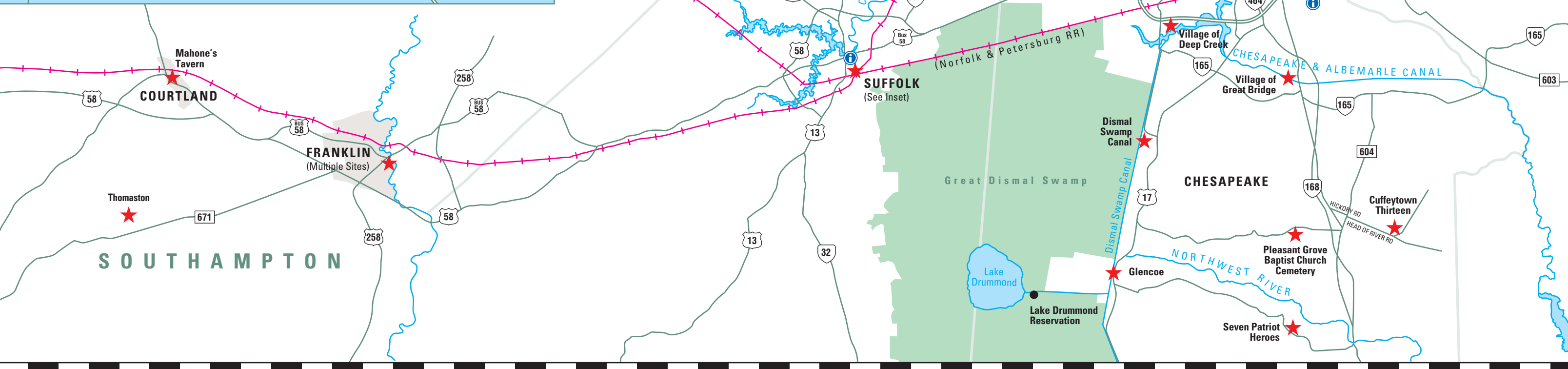
Gilded eagle from the pilothouse  
of the USS *Smith Briggs*, captured  
on February 1, 1864, during the  
Battle of Smithfield  
Courtesy Isle of Wight Museum



Riddick's Folly, an 1837 Greek  
Revival building, was used as a  
Union hospital and headquarters  
of Maj. Gen. J.J. Peck during  
the Siege of Suffolk in 1863.  
Courtesy Riddick's Folly



"Slabtown" was one of several communities  
of Black refugees during the war. - Courtesy Library of Congress





★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE 1862 PENINSULA CAMPAIGN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In the spring of 1862, the Union was desperate to capture the Confederate capital in Richmond. Maj. Gen. George McClellan developed a plan to utilize a vast armada to bring his 120,000 men to Fort Monroe and Newport News Point, and then move west up the peninsula, formed by the York and James Rivers, to Richmond. The campaign began with an amphibious landing so large in scale that it would not be surpassed until the 1944 Allied Normandy landings during World War II. The Union troops then advanced to Yorktown and encountered a strong Confederate defensive line constructed under the direction of Maj. Gen. John Magruder. Many of those earthworks can still be explored on foot throughout Newport News. The Yorktown siege lasted for almost one month, and several sharp battles took place from April to May. The Confederates eventually abandoned Yorktown, the Union troops pursued, and the foes fought a pitched battle at Williamsburg during a rainstorm on May 5, 1862. Two days later portions of both armies fought again at Eltham's Landing near West Point. By the end of May, McClellan's army was at Richmond's doorstep, and Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston counterattacked at the Battle of Seven Pines. Johnston was wounded there and replaced by Gen. Robert E. Lee. From June 25 to July 1, Lee's fierce counterattacks, known as the Seven Days Battles marked the end of the heavy 1862 fighting on the peninsula. A Union army would not get as close to Richmond again until 1864.



Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News offers the only permanent exhibit in the region about the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

1861

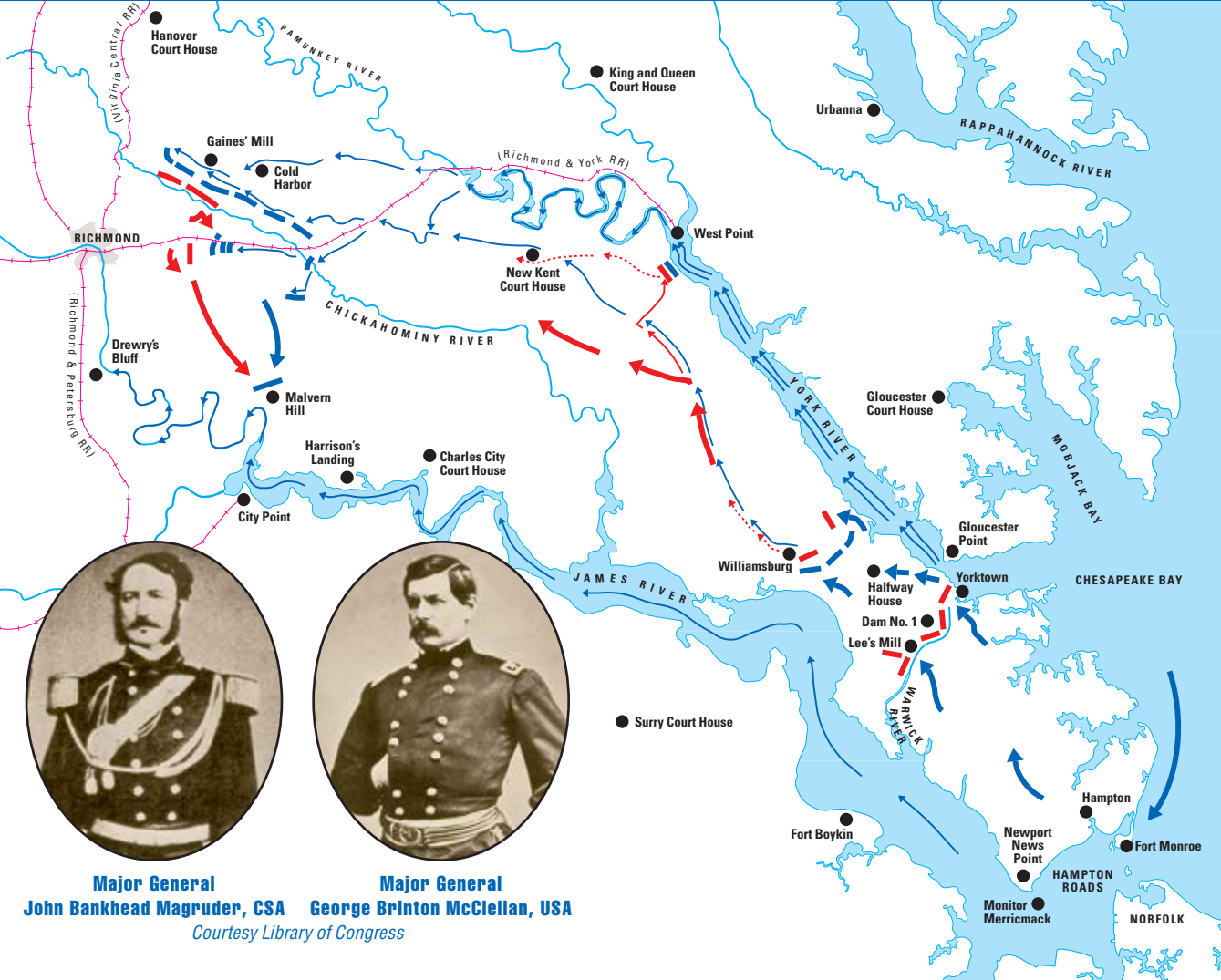
- FEBRUARY Secession Convention  
MARCH 4 President Lincoln inaugurated  
APRIL 12 Battle of Fort Sumter, SC  
APRIL 17 Virginia leaves the Union  
MAY 24 "Contraband Decision"  
JUNE 10 Battle of Big Bethel  
AUGUST 7 Burning of Hampton

1862

- MARCH Peninsula Campaign begins  
MARCH 9 Battle of Hampton Roads  
APRIL 3 – May 3 Siege of Yorktown  
APRIL 5 Battle of Lee's Mill  
APRIL 16 Battle of Dam No. 1  
MAY 5 Battle of Williamsburg  
MAY 7 Eltham's Landing  
MAY 9 Norfolk occupied by U.S. Army  
MAY 11 CSS *Virginia* is destroyed  
MAY 27 Battle of Hanover Court House

- JUNE 12 – 15 Stuart's Ride Around the U.S. Army  
JUNE 25 – JULY 1 Seven Days Battles  
OAK GROVE (June 25)  
Beaver Dam Creek (June 26)  
GAINES' MILL (June 27)  
Savage's Station (June 29)  
Battle of Glendale (June 30)  
Malvern Hill (July 1)  
SEPTEMBER 22 Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

1863



Major General John Bankhead Magruder, CSA



Major General George Brinton McClellan, USA

Courtesy Library of Congress

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ A HISTORIC HIKE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Civil War left its mark on the landscape of Coastal Virginia. From Redoubt Park to Fort Nonsense, Fort Huger to Yorktown, and numerous sites in between, many of the earthworks built during the war still stand. Earthworks are exactly as the term suggests: fortifications built of earth that were often reinforced or supported with woven baskets, lumber, or cut trees. As you explore the region, you will see that these earthworks come in all shapes and sizes. Square redoubts, triangular redans, and trenches were constructed to guard roads or prevent enemy ships from sailing by. They are also reminders of the incredible science, technology, engineering skills, and labor that helped create them. Today, you can walk alongside and around many



of these incredible fortifications that have survived the test of time. Miles of hiking trails await, so be sure to plan some extra time during your trip to explore on foot.

Newport News Park preserves one of the longest intact sets of Civil War earthworks in the nation. Over six miles of easy hiking trails allow you to weave in between the fortifications.

- JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 1 Battle of Smithfield  
FEBRUARY 6 Wistar's Raid on Richmond  
APRIL 9 CSS *Squib* at Newport News  
MAY 4 Overland Campaign begins  
MAY 11 Battle of Yellow Tavern  
MAY 24 Battle of Wilson's Wharf  
MAY 31 – JUNE 12 Battle of Cold Harbor  
JUNE 12 – 18 U.S. Army crosses the James River  
SEPTEMBER 29 – 30 Battle of New Market Heights

1864

- FEBRUARY 3 Hampton Roads Peace Conference  
MARCH 3 Freedmen's Bureau established  
APRIL 2 – 3 Richmond occupied by U.S. Army  
APRIL 9 Confederate Army surrenders in Virginia  
APRIL 14 President Lincoln shot  
APRIL 15 President Lincoln dies  
APRIL 26 Confederate Army surrenders in North Carolina  
MAY 10 Confederate President Davis imprisoned at Fort Monroe

FREEDOM'S FORTRESS



Fort Monroe quickly ran out of space, and the refugees began rebuilding portions of what are today downtown Hampton and Phoebus. — Courtesy Library of Congress

On May 23, 1861, three enslaved men—Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, and James Townsend—made their way toward Fort Monroe under a bright and nearly full moon. The slightest sound or misstep could easily have betrayed their perilous flight for freedom, but they made it. The following day Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler interviewed the three men and later dismissed an appeal from a Confederate officer for their return. Butler claimed the Black men were now “contraband” of war. Word quickly spread across Coastal Virginia, and freedom seekers—men, women, and children—streamed into Fort Monroe, earning the nickname “Freedom’s Fortress.” By war’s end, tens of thousands of refugees had made it to “Slabtown” and the “Grand Contraband Camp.” Families were reunited, and a thriving new community was born. These freedom seekers risked their lives, enslavement, and severe punishment to force the issue of emancipation to the forefront of the Civil War militarily, politically, and socially.

PHOTOS FROM THE FRONT

Photographs taken during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign were among the first widely published battlefield images in the world. Photos taken at Coastal Virginia locations brought the reality of war into the homes of American families, in both the North and the South. Imagine standing on the beach at Yorktown, listening to shouted orders and the sounds of army life, as the photographer taking this image would have done. These adventurous photographers often followed the armies in wagons equipped as studios. In their mobile darkroom, they poured a light-sensitive liquid called collodion over a glass or tin plate that was then carefully rushed to the camera. The cap on the camera lens was uncovered, exposing the sensitized plate to light and creating an image. Exposure times lasted just a few seconds. The plate was hustled back to the darkroom to be developed. It is hard to imagine, but these early pioneers of photography helped advance this art so that today you can effortlessly snap photos and post them in seconds!

Can you stand in the footsteps of this famous photo? Give it a try! Share your photo and use #civilwartrails.



Federal artillery park, Yorktown  
Courtesy Library of Congress

BLAZING A NEW TRAIL



Company E, 4th U.S. Colored Infantry, at Fort Lincoln near Washington, DC  
Courtesy Library of Congress

Black men and women fought for their freedom long before the Civil War began in 1861. The Underground Railroad helped countless families escape the horrors of slavery. Although little has been known about the routes or safe houses that made up this network, more details and stories are now being uncovered. Mary Peake was an early educator who risked retribution for teaching young Black men and women to read and write. James A. Fields rose from enslavement to become a Delegate in the Virginia General Assembly. Their stories remind us of the Civil War struggles that did not happen on the battlefields. Siah Hulett, like many Black men who self-emancipated, would go on to serve in the U.S. Navy. Many others would join the U.S. Colored Infantry, Artillery, and Cavalry units. Charles Veal(e) from Portsmouth served with the 4th U.S. Colored Troops and was one of 14 Black men awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions during the Battle of New Market Heights. As you travel across Coastal Virginia, you will follow the footsteps of these tenacious trailblazers.

A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

As you explore Coastal Virginia, you'll notice fighter jets flying overhead and large ships sailing by or docked in the shipyards. More than 80,000 active-duty personnel support more than a dozen modern military installations here. Many modern military marvels can be traced to when radical new innovations were tested in the region during the Civil War. Most famously, naval history was changed forever during the Battle of the Ironclads on March 9, 1862, when USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* battled each other for control of waterways. During the Peninsula Campaign, both Confederate and Union observers peered from balloon baskets at earthbound forces, the first use of airborne battlefield reconnaissance in the Americas. The Civil War also witnessed the first large-scale deployment of land mines. On May 4, 1862, Confederate soldiers hurriedly buried land mines in the streets of Yorktown before abandoning the Warwick-Yorktown Line. This was the first operational use of land mines in American military history and killed or injured more than three dozen Union troops. Other technological



Thaddeus Lowe's balloon was used to help survey Confederate forces throughout the campaign  
Courtesy Library of Congress



Battle of the Ironclads  
Courtesy Library of Congress

advances included the use of the forerunner of the modern machine gun, a “coffee mill” gun employed during the Battle of Williamsburg, and telegraph cables that allowed commanders to send “text messages” from the battle lines to generals, politicians, and reporters eager for breaking news.

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Cover: “The Battle of Williamsburg, Gen. Hancock’s charge, May 5, 1862.”  
Courtesy Library of Congress

Check in on Twitter or Facebook, and snap a photo for Instagram and use our hashtags:  
#civilwartrails  
#openairmuseum



For more information visit:  
CivilWarTrails.org

VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR TRAILS

CIVIL WAR IN COASTAL VIRGINIA



Create Some History of Your Own  
Armed with this map, you'll find our nation's incredible story unfolding before you. Civil War Trails signs will fuel your imagination as you travel rural byways through fields where thundering cavalry charges took place or in charming downtowns where the formerly enslaved became freedom fighters.

Use this map to follow the 1862 Peninsula Campaign turn by turn, or to create a customized path to learn more about Black trailblazers like Mary Peake and Siah Hulett. Keep the map handy as you explore Coastal Virginia, and keep your eyes peeled for the directional signs seen below.

While you're “on the Trails” you'll find more than historic sites. Follow our tips on how to travel like a local. As you pass by breweries, wineries, distilleries, and restaurants—stop. You won't regret it. Grab a souvenir from a local artist, or find a treasured antique as you explore the area. Coastal Virginia also offers incredible places to hike and cycle. You can even paddle between some Civil War Trails sites, so be sure to bring your most adventurous travel partner!

Check out the “Plan Your Trip” section of this brochure for additional information on amenities throughout the region. Follow Civil War Trails and create some history of your own!



Ironclad Distillery Co., Newport News  
Courtesy Ironclad Distillery Co.



Follow these signs to more than 1,400 Civil War sites.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PLAN YOUR TRIP ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The following further explore and expand upon the stories of the Civil War:

- Charles City County, Virginia**  
charlescity.org/visit  
804-652-1516
- Visit Gloucester**  
visitgloucesterva.org  
866-847-4887
- Visit Chesapeake**  
visitchesapeake.com  
757-382-6411
- Fort Monroe Authority**  
fortmonroe.org  
757-690-8181
- Fort Monroe National Monument**  
nps.gov/fomr  
757-722-3678
- Visit Franklin Southampton, VA**  
visitfranklinsouthamptonva.com  
757-562-1958
- Visit Gloucester**  
visitgloucesterva.org  
866-847-4887
- Visit Hampton, VA**  
visithampton.com  
757-727-1102
- Hampton History Museum**  
hamptonhistorymuseum.org  
757-727-1102
- Mathews County**  
visitmathews.com  
804-725-4229
- Newport News**  
newport-news.org  
757-886-7777
- Visit Norfolk**  
visitnorfolk.com  
757-664-6620
- Visit Portsmouth**  
visitportsva.com  
757-393-5111
- Visit Richmond, VA**  
visitrichmondva.com  
804-782-2777
- Smithfield & Isle of Wight**  
genuinesmithfieldva.com  
800-365-9339
- Visit Suffolk Virginia**  
visitsuffolkva.com  
757-514-4130

- Virginia Beach**  
visitvirginiabeach.com  
757-385-4700
- Virginia's Eastern Shore**  
visitesva.com  
757-331-1660
- Visit Williamsburg**  
visitwilliamsburg.com  
757-229-6511
- Visit Yorktown, Virginia**  
visityorktown.org  
757-890-5900



The African American experience—from the first “20, and odd” Africans brought to these shores in 1619, to the Contraband Decision and Emancipation, to Human Computers and the Space Race —is yours to explore at the Hampton History Museum.  
Courtesy Hampton History Museum

VIRGINIA IS FOR HISTORY LOVERS



Emancipation Oak at Hampton University  
Courtesy Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau



The Mariners' Museum and Park/USS Monitor Center, Newport News  
Courtesy The Mariners' Museum and Park