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## **NINETEENTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT AT FORT POCAHONTAS**

### *152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of The Action at Wilson's Wharf*

**CHARLES CITY, VA, March 26, 2015** -- On Saturday, May 21 & Sunday, May 22, 2016, Fort Pocahontas at Wilson's Wharf will come alive through Civil War living history, civilian presentations, fort tours and battle reenactments of the May 24, 1864 action at Wilson's Wharf. Located between Richmond and Williamsburg in Charles City, Virginia, the fort will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day.

"Virtually untouched for more than 145 years, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources has recognized Fort Pocahontas as 'one of the best-preserved fort sites' in America," said William B. Tyler, great-grandson of 10<sup>th</sup> US President John Tyler and proprietor of the fort. "We thank previous attendees and invite the public to our 19<sup>th</sup> reenactment this year."

Joe Funk, the grandnephew and first-person presenter of Brigadier General Godfrey Weitzel, the engineer who drew the original fort design, will command the event as he has since its inception. Reenactors from across the country will relive history by portraying United States Colored Troops (USCTs), U.S. and C.S. Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Navy. Sutlers will sell reproductions of Civil War-era merchandise and clothing. An 11am artillery demonstration on Saturday and Sunday will provide a unique opportunity to witness the firing of an 1841 8-inch mortar. On both days, historian William Potter will speak at 12:30 p.m. and provide commentary for the 1 p.m. battle.

Spectators are invited to take self-guided tours of the fort and the military and civilian camps within it. Family-friendly living history activities on both days will include a scavenger hunt; period song, dance and theatre; doll and quilt-making; writing in secret code; military

recruiting and drilling; and first-person interpreters. Breakfast and lunch fare by DeFazio's Catering of Richmond will be offered on-site.

Admission is free for residents of Charles City. Regular admission is \$10 per adult and \$8 per student per day. Discounts are available for two-day tickets and groups of 10 or more. Tickets will be sold at Fort Pocahontas each day of the event, located off Route 5, on Rt. 614, 13150 Sturgeon Point Road, Charles City, Virginia 23030. Visitors are advised to wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes. **All proceeds from this event will support the preservation efforts at Fort Pocahontas, a non-profit organization.** For more information, please visit [www.fortpocahontas.org](http://www.fortpocahontas.org), call (804) 829-9722, email [fortp@sherwoodforest.org](mailto:fortp@sherwoodforest.org), or follow us on [Facebook](#).

### **More about Fort Pocahontas:**

The 1864 earthen fort was built and manned by hundreds of USCTs under the direct command of Brigadier Generals Edward Augustus Wild and Benjamin Butler. Captain A. R. Arter, a Union soldier at Fort Pocahontas in 1864, described in a letter that the fortification was "one of the best arranged breastworks I have seen." The 1864 action at Wilson's Wharf resulted in a decisive victory for outnumbered USCTs over more than 2,500 attacking Confederate cavalry led by Major General Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee's nephew.

The restored Delk/Binford House contains archeological artifacts unearthed by The College of William and Mary. Artifacts from the site date to the area's earliest inhabitants, the Native Americans. The deep water port, known as Wilson's Wharf, was used during the American Revolution for shipping tobacco and during the nineteenth century for passengers traveling on the ferry boat *Pocahontas*. In May 2002, a corps of volunteer reenactors constructed a 20-foot signal tower for demonstrations and training purposes. In 2003, a historically accurate artillery platform was reconstructed in the East Bastion.