

VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION
Report of the Executive Committee
Speaker of the House of Delegates William J. Howell, Chairman
May 16, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee members present: Speaker William J. Howell, Senator Charles J. Colgan, Sr., Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr., Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter, Dr. Paul A. Levensgood and Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. (by teleconference). Commission member Jack Ackerly was also present.

I. Call to Order

Speaker Howell called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

II. Civil War 150 HistoryMobile – 2011 Travel Schedule Recommendations

Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director

Roy Knox, Vice President of Administration and Finance, Virginia Tourism Corporation

Elizabeth Heffernan, HistoryMobile Logistics Manager, Department of Motor Vehicles

Ms. Jackson updated Commission members on the status of several components of the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile, reporting that the design/build project is on schedule and on budget. The project team conducted a successful inspection of the trailer in April. Contracts concerning the donation of a tractor by Volvo for the project are currently under review. Ms. Jackson also distributed the finalized designer renderings of the exterior of the HistoryMobile and extended the Commission's appreciation to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Virginia Historical Society for their partnership in the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile project. Further, she reported that the Commonwealth Transportation Board is considering funding of interactive kiosks that will travel with the HistoryMobile, highlighting scenic roads and tourism information throughout Virginia.

Ms. Jackson then reviewed the hosting requirements and procedures established for localities to request a visit by the HistoryMobile and presented for approval by the Executive Committee a tentative schedule for 2011. To maximize the range and efficiency of the HistoryMobile, the travel schedule will include some extended regional tours (two weeks or more) in rural communities and parts of the state that have limited access to museum exhibits.

Executive Committee members inquired as to whether the HistoryMobile travel schedule included the State Fair of Virginia and other local community fairs. Elizabeth Heffernan, Logistics Manager, indicated that the HistoryMobile will travel to local fairs as they fit into the schedule. Staff members have been working on arrangements to exhibit at the State Fair of Virginia in 2012. Committee members inquired about buying bulk diesel

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fuel for the HistoryMobile. Ms. Heffernan indicated that the Department of Motor Vehicles already has contracts in place for this purpose.

The Executive Committee approved the draft schedule and thanked staff and partners for their hard work.

III. Update on Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access

Sandy Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

Laura Drake Davis, CW 150 Project Archivist – Western Region

Renee Savits, CW 150 Project Archivist – Eastern Region

Dr. Treadway offered brief commentary on the overwhelming success of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project. The project has far exceeded expectations in terms of response from the public and items discovered and scanned. Dr. Treadway thanked Executive Committee members for their support of the project and introduced Laura Drake Davis and Renee Savits, the Civil War 150 Project Archivists, who indicated that the project team has conducted 53 scanning events in 38 localities with an additional 48 events scheduled through June 2012. Staff members have collected an estimated 11,000 images. If the average number of images collected per event holds, the Legacy Project will have produced more than 35,000 images by the end of the collecting and scanning phase of the project.

Ms. Davis continued by showing Executive Committee members some examples of images uncovered by the Legacy Project team, including:

- (1) A drawing by a soldier serving in the 90th Pennsylvania Infantry regiment of General Grant's headquarters collected in Warrenton, Virginia;
- (2) Photos of former slave, Mary Alice Mitchell, noted as a fiercely independent person who after the Civil War became a substantial land owner;
- (3) The Diary of Frederick Watkins, a soldier with the 4th New York Light Artillery who later served as Captain of the 100th United States Colored Troops Regiment. The diary has a bullet hole through the middle of it and is reported to have saved its owner's life as it was carried in his breast pocket, stopping the bullet before it reached his heart;
- (4) The discharge papers of Oliver Henry, a descendant of Patrick Henry and a native southerner who fought for the Union; and
- (5) Several significant pieces of Civil War memorabilia including a slave trading tag from a slave auction house.

Members of the Executive Committee asked if there is a mechanism by which people outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia can contact the project team to donate materials. Ms. Drake-Davis explained that a remote donation procedure is in place and

the project team has received requests from Ohio, California, and Florida. Additionally, project staff is hosting a joint event with Tennessee archivists in Bristol next week.

Following the presentation, Dr. Treadway outlined the budget and remaining costs of the project. Due to the enthusiastic response from the public, the workload and travel requirements of the project have increased significantly, causing an anticipated gap in funding in the spring of 2012. Committee members discussed options for bridging the gap and asked Ms. Jackson to discuss the availability of funds for the project.

Delegate Lingamfelter made a motion to endorse continuation of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project through Spring 2015, and to transfer to the Library of Virginia \$200,000 for its continuation. The motion was seconded by Senator Colgan and passed unanimously.

The Speaker thanked the Library of Virginia for its efforts and remarked that the project has been a wonderful investment. He noted that the project was originally conceived by former Commission member and Member of the House of Delegates Albert C. Eisenberg.

IV. Sesquicentennial Tourism Marketing Program: Recommendations

Steve Galyean, Development Director, Virginia Tourism Corporation

Mr. Galyean briefed Executive Committee members on the fifth round of grant applications for the Commission-sponsored sesquicentennial tourism marketing program. Mr. Galyean noted that of five grant applications received, the grant review committee recommended two for funding as follows:

1. Washington County Local Sesquicentennial Committee

“Entertain Your Sense of History: Abingdon’s 2011–2012 American Civil War Commemoration Program.” Funds will be used to attract local, state, regional, and national attention to Civil War history in Abingdon, with commemoration programs and promotions that present a balanced view of the local history and the culture of the era, using a Barter Theatre play and outdoor events.

Requested Amount: \$1,844.60

Partners Match: \$1,844.60

Partners: Abingdon Convention & Visitors’ Bureau, Barter Theatre, Washington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

2. Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department

“Civil War Trails Enhancement Project in Chesterfield County.” Funds will be used to (1) encourage visitation to its sites by enhancing its Civil War Trails program with two additional signs that detail the Civil War military strategy of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign; (2) produce a new Civil War brochure to guide visitors to seven county sites and two National Park Service sites; and (3) provide website and print advertising in *Civil War Traveler*.

Requested Amount: \$5,000
Partners Match: \$5,000

Partners: Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department, Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, Chesterfield County Department of Economic Development, Chesterfield County Department of Public Affairs, and Richmond National Battlefield Park.

The next grant cycle will open in June 2011.

The grant recommendations were considered en bloc. Delegate Scott Lingamfelter made a motion that the grants be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Colgan and passed unanimously.

V. Update on *An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia*
Paul Levensgood, President and CEO, Virginia Historical Society

Dr. Levensgood updated Executive Committee members on visitor statistics to the Commission-sponsored museum exhibition, *An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia*. Approximately 30,000 people have visited the exhibition through the first week of May, including 36 group tours. Visitors have been diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, and distance traveled. The exhibition has enjoyed extensive media attention with articles in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, *The Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Dr. Levensgood noted that the traveling panel exhibit based on the larger gallery exhibit is available to travel to venues that cannot provide the necessary space or security to host the gallery exhibition. Since the panel exhibit is not staffed, the Virginia Historical Society is making use of QR codes for use with smart phones to enhance visitor experiences.

VI. Staff Update and Approval of Logo Requests
Cheryl L. Jackson, Executive Director

Ms. Jackson updated Executive Committee members on other Commission activities including a new "Tracking the Sesquicentennial" web resource, which allows users to download information on sesquicentennial activities throughout the state and track the HistoryMobile.

Ms. Jackson reminded members of the 2011 Signature Conference, *Military Strategy in the American Civil War*, to be held at Virginia Tech this weekend, May 21, 2011. The next Signature Conference will be held at Virginia Military Institute on March 22, 2012.

In accordance with the procedure established by the Executive Committee, Ms. Jackson presented a list of applications to affix the Commission's logo that have been given provisional authorization by staff. The list includes the following:

1. Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association (Print ad, program guide)
2. Washington County Sesquicentennial Committee (Flyer)
3. Sky Meadows State Park (Brochure, flyer)
4. Montgomery County Sesquicentennial Committee (Brochure)
5. Sully Historic Site (Flyer, poster, press release)
6. Town of Ashland, VA (Tour material)
7. *Virginia Living* magazine (Magazine article)
8. Charlotte County Sesquicentennial Committee (Website)
9. Green Spring Gardens; Fairfax County Park Authority (Press release, flyers, bulletin boards)
10. Mecklenburg County CW 150 Committee (Flyers, press releases)
11. Charlotte County Sesquicentennial Committee (Signs, seminar materials, newspaper article)
12. York County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (Table throw or runner for conference tables)
13. Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance (Brochure and tourist map)
14. Fairfax County Sesquicentennial Committee (Invitation, event program)
15. Warren County & Town of Front Royal Sesquicentennial Committee (Maps)
16. Charles City County Sesquicentennial Committee (Newspaper article, tourist map, Facebook page)
17. Pamplin Historical Park (Banner)
18. Prince William County (Website)
19. Staunton Public Library (Large panel display)
20. York County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (Committee brochure/ calendar)
21. *Cooperative Living* magazine (Magazine article)
22. McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia (Flyers)
23. Fauquier Historical Society (Brochure)
24. Remington Community Partnership, Inc. (Flyer, poster, two medallion signs)
25. Town of Vienna, VA (Website, promotional material)
26. Fairfax County History Commission (Brochure, flyer, poster, website, supporting material)
27. Fauquier County Department of Economic Development (Print ad)
28. VMI Museums (Print ad)

Delegate Algie Howell moved that staff recommendations for approval of logo applications be given final approval by the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Colgan and passed unanimously.

Logo requests that were not recommended for approval by staff were tabled.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.