



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

FORT MONROE HAILS TO THE CHIEF (PART 2 OF 3)

The most significant and most productive visit by a sitting U.S. President was made by Abraham Lincoln for a week in May 1862. Lincoln stayed in Quarters No. 1, where he conferred with Major General John Wool, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and other officials. The result was a successful campaign to capture the port of Norfolk.

On July 3, 1879, President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes and several cabinet officers traveled on board the steamer *Tallapoosa* from Washington to Fort Monroe. They arrived later that day and registered at the Hygeia Hotel. Next morning the party attended a breakfast hosted by Brevet Major General George Getty, the post commander and Artillery School commandant. Hayes and company then went aboard the *Tallapoosa* for an actual fishing expedition, returning in time for supper and a holiday fireworks demonstration. President Hayes is now less remembered than his wife, who banned alcoholic drinks from the White House and thus became known as “Lemonade Lucy.”

The ill-fated James A. Garfield and his family reached Fort Monroe on board the steamer *Dispatch* on June 4, 1881 and also stayed at the Hygeia. Next day Garfield conferred with General Getty and set out on the *Dispatch* to inspect the Norfolk Navy Yard. Unfortunately, just before he reached his destination, a sudden downpour caused him to cancel the visit.

In December 1907 the ever colorful and dynamic Theodore Roosevelt was on hand as the “Great White Fleet” of U.S. Navy warships left Hampton Roads for its historic round-the-world cruise. When the ships returned in February 1909, TR was there to greet them, but on neither occasion did he ever land at Old Point Comfort. However, on May 30, 1906, Roosevelt was the guest speaker at Portsmouth's Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies. After this event, the president and his family boarded the presidential yacht *Mayflower* for a trip to Fort Monroe. There an automobile was waiting to take Roosevelt to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural School (precursor to Hampton University) for his second speech of the day—and to a very different audience.



On November 22, 1910, President William Howard Taft arrived at Old Point Comfort after visits to the Panama Canal Zone and Guantanamo, Cuba, aboard the cruiser *Tennessee*. After a short stay at Fort Monroe, he boarded the *Mayflower*, bound for Washington, DC. He returned here on June 3, 1912, to meet with his fellow trustees at Hampton Normal School, and give a speech to the students, faculty members and administrators.

Time is running out! Order your wreaths today if you haven't had time yet.

Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 13, 2025** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help Casemate Museum Foundation
honor local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a
veteran's grave this December at Arlington
National Cemetery

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or
visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/VA0198P



#KeepMovingForward



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



THE WHARF

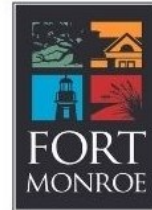
One of the most significant and interesting missions that shaped activities at Fort Monroe was Submarine Mine Planting. For over 40 years the Submarine Mine Complex occupied an enormous, waterfront site. Today, Number 204 and 205 are two of the remaining buildings.

The Wharf was an expansive complex that included the Quartermaster storehouse, cable tank building, mine depot, and sheds for mine cases and anchors. The ramps, tracks, and overhead lift systems were used to maneuver the mines across the docks for loading onto mine planter ships tied to the wharves.



One of the essential functions of the complex, besides preparing the ships to plant mines, was training. Thousands of soldiers, civilians, and contractors were involved in submarine mine training. Beginning in 1917, soldiers completed a new 10-week course and were sent to places such as Cuba, Panama, and San Francisco to support the utilization of submarine mine planting across the globe.

The strategic importance of submarine mines and their use by the U.S. military expanded beyond protecting shorelines. By the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Army Mine Planter Service needed a purpose built, fully encompassing complex. Thus, in 1940 a new submarine mine complex, containing all the characteristics from the image above, was built outside the North Gate of Fort Monroe. The building was later adapted to house the Army's Department of Public Works: which we now refer to, simply, as Building 28.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- ★ **10:00 AM Exhibits in the Park Open to the Public**
Over 40 exhibitors including living history groups, Veterans orgs, and family activities for all ages!
- ★ **11:00 AM Veterans Recognition Ceremony**
Includes JBLE Honor Guard, Armed Forces Salute, Sounding Taps and Flag Planting for the Fallen

AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT

- ★ **11:40 PM Phoebus High School Marine Corps JROTC Drill Team**
- ★ **12:00 PM The Liberty Dolls**
- ★ **1:00 PM William & Mary Cornet Band**
- ★ **1:45 PM Living History Demonstrations**
- ★ **2:00 PM The Doorway Singers, Doorway Salutes!**



Be Sure to Check Out the Streetcar 390 Open House!

Explore the restored 390 Streetcar
Meet local artist Gloria Coker from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Enjoy child friendly activities including a model streetcar
57 Patch Rd, Fort Monroe



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



Two Fort Monroe “Ghost” Stories

As everyone knows, Fort Monroe has a wide reputation for being haunted. However, the time has come to examine the two most celebrated cases in a rational, unsentimental manner. We are referring, of course, to the White Lady and Ezmarelda (or Ezmeralda--spellings vary).

At some unknown date in the 19th century, a Captain Kurtz and his beautiful young wife came to Fort Monroe and moved into one of “The Tuileries” (Quarters 17 and 18), across the street from the Casemate Museum. Although of junior rank, Kurtz was much older than his spouse, which was quite possible, given the U.S. Army's glacially slow promotion system. The captain's duties frequently took him away from the post, leaving his wife lonely and bored. Soon she was neither, having attracted the attention of a handsome young officer, which predictably led to a very serious affair.



During one of his absences, Captain Kurtz returned home unexpectedly, as is often the case with cuckolded husbands in these stories, and found the two lovers in a state of nature. Aside from being out of uniform, the interloper bolted without even rendering a proper hand salute. Kurtz was so filled with rage that he drew his pistol and shot his errant wife dead. And so this unnamed woman became the White Lady, whose spirit wanders the road behind The Tuileries in search of the man who deserted her in her time of greatest need.

The problem with this charming story is that various editions of the Army Register of Commissioned Officers have no listing for a captain named Kurtz at Fort Monroe or any other installation during the period in question. Also, there are no reports of an officer's wife being killed by her husband at Fort Monroe. Curiously, an official survey of buildings at the fort in the 1880s mentions that the area behind The Tuileries was called “Ghost Alley,” probably because it was so poorly lit. Hmmm.

So now we come to the matter of Ezmarelda, who has been spotted lurking within The Chamberlin and turning up at seances. Supposedly, she was staying or working at the first Hotel Chamberlin on March 7, 1920, when a terrible conflagration destroyed the entire structure...and Ezmeralda. However, in the aftermath of this catastrophe, all of the hotel employees and guests were accounted for, Miraculously, there were no casualties, and no human remains were found in the ruins. Facts are such pesky things, aren't they?

Assuming that those two ladies actually existed, what did happen to them? Perhaps they were devoured by the Moat Monster. There are still several dozen other supernatural sightings at Fort Monroe to investigate, but in the meantime have a **Happy Hallowe'en!**

EVENT PRESENTED BY

Fort Monroe Authority, City of Hampton,
Phoebus Partnership & Fort Monroe National Monument



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025



PARADE

Begins at 10:00am

Mellen St. in Phoebus to Continental Park at Fort Monroe

CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION

Ceremony at 11:00am

Followed By Celebration In Continental Park at Fort Monroe
Enjoy Local Restaurants - Businesses - Attractions in Phoebus

JOIN US FOR

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ★ Flag Planting | ★ Living History Interpreters |
| ★ Live Entertainment | ★ Food Trucks |
| ★ Veteran Owned/
Support Exhibitors | ★ Much More! |



MORE INFORMATION

fortmonroe.org
publicprograms@fortmonroe.org
757 - 690 - 8181



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



What's the Big Deal About a Hat?

The Casemate Museum archives contain numerous images of women and men from the turn of the 19th century in various types of head coverings. This hat from

our collection was manufactured in London between 1894 and 1926. Because it is fur-covered staff had it chemically analyzed in 2019. The test revealed it contains mercury; not uncommon for objects such as this because hat-makers at this time applied mercury to pelts (like those of rabbits and beavers) to mat the hair and create a more even textile. This hat currently lives in a sealed container in our collections area!



Who Are the Pamunkey Indians?

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one of 11 Virginia Indian tribes recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the state's first federally recognized tribe, receiving its status in January 2016.

They inhabited the coastal tidewater of Virginia on the north side of the James River near Old Point Comfort and the Chesapeake Bay. The CMF has chosen to honor the tribe on whose lands Fort Monroe was built by selling tribal members crafts in the gift shop.



Pine Needle Basket



Beadwork Bracelet



Blackware Pottery



SHORT HISTORY OF THE PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe was part of the Powhatan paramountcy, made up of Algonquian-speaking tribes. The Powhatan paramount chiefdom was made up of over 30 tribes, estimated to total about 10,000-21,000 people at the time the English arrived in 1607. The Pamunkey tribe made up about one-tenth to one-fifteenth of the total, as they numbered about 1,000 persons in 1607.

When the English arrived, the Pamunkey were one of the most powerful groups of the Powhatan Chiefdom. They inhabited the coastal tidewater of Virginia on the north side of the James River near Old Point Comfort and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Pamunkey tribe is one of only two that still retain reservation lands assigned by the 1646 and 1677 treaties with the English colonial government. The Pamunkey reservation is located on some of its ancestral land on the Pamunkey River adjacent to present-day King William County. The 1646 treaty required annual tribute to Virginia's governor which continues today. As far as anyone knows, they have not missed a payment in 378 years.

Today about 430 tribal members remain, some of who live on the 1,200-acre reservations while others are spread out across the United States.



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



President Lincoln and Fort Monroe



Lincoln is believed to be in the small group at lower center, next to the officer pointing at something with his sword.

Lincoln's birthday is February 12th and President's Day on the 17th, making this a good time to highlight the 16th chief executive's relationship with Fort Monroe.

President Lincoln's first visit was the longest and the most productive. On May 6, 1862, he arrived at Old Point Comfort by steamboat, accompanied by cabinet secretaries Salmon P. Chase and Edwin M. Stanton. He stayed in Quarters No. I, where he conferred with the fort's Commanding General, John Wool, and Flag Officer Louis Goldsborough. The discussion was how to capture the Confederate port of Norfolk.

On May 9 Lincoln was rowed to Fort Wool to observe firing operations of the James rifle and the experimental Sawyer gun. After the guns silenced the enemy batteries at Sewell's Point, Army units from New York and Massachusetts were transported across the Hampton Roads waterway and forced the surrender of Norfolk. Lincoln visited the city on May 11 and sent a congratulatory message to the 78-year-old General Wool. He also travelled by horseback to view the ruins of Hampton caused by the fires and the newly established contraband "slabtown."

According to a soldier's diary, Lincoln paid a brief visit to Fort Monroe during the summer of 1864 to consult with General U.S. Grant about the campaign against Petersburg and Richmond. His final visit was on February 3, 1865, when he met with Alexander Stephens and other Confederate leaders aboard the *River Queen*, anchored just off Fort Monroe. This so-called Hampton Roads Peace Conference failed to end the war and Lincoln returned to Washington, DC without actually going ashore at Fort Monroe.

There is a bizarre footnote to this Lincoln chronicle. After his tragic assassination on April 14, 1865, co-conspirator Samuel Arnold escaped from Washington and reached Fort Monroe where he found work. On April 17, he was arrested and spent four years in prison before receiving a presidential pardon.

Fort Monroe- February 2025

Free Programs & Tours

WED & SAT 11:00 am	KNOWLEDGEABLE MINDS & SKILLED HANDS Black History Month Tour Fort Monroe Authority - 1-hour guided walking tour Starts inside the Visitor & Education Center
THURS & FRI 11:00 am WED & SAT 3:00 pm	GIBRALTAR OF THE CHESAPEAKE TOUR National Park Service - 45-minute guided walking tour Starts outside lower level of the Visitor & Education Center
FRI & SAT 1:00 pm	BLACK HERITAGE AT FORT MONROE TOUR National Park Service - 1- hour guided walking tour Starts outside lower level of the Visitor & Education Center
WED. FEB 26 9:30 am - 10:00 am	FORT FRIENDS (NEW PROGRAM!) Fort Monroe Authority - 30 min program Caregiver and me program - sensory exploration and more! Takes place in the Visitor & Education Center

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2025 ANNUAL EVENTS!

Contraband Commemoration Program..... May 17, 2025
Independence Day at Fort Monroe..... July 4, 2025
African Landing Day August 21-23, 2025
Ghost Walk October 2025
Veterans Day at Fort Monroe..... November 8, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS AND TOURS



757 - 690 - 8181
publicprograms@fortmonroe.org
fomr_interpretation@nps.gov

www.fortmonroe.org
www.nps.gov/fomr





CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



Boy Scouts at Fort Monroe



Feb 8th marks the 115th anniversary of the founding of Boy Scouts of America. In 1918 Fort Monroe chartered its first organization of Boy Scouts as Troop 1.

This Regulation Scout Coat was worn by Eddie Farnsworth at Fort Monroe in the early 1920s. He was a 1st Class Bugler and Platoon Leader with BSA Troop 1. He was commissioned in 1932 as a Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery and had a distinguished career rising in rank to Colonel. BSA Troop 31, the *Moat Monsters*, founded in 1925 is active today at Fort Monroe and traces its lineage to the first troop.

FREE MEMBER TOUR OF THE 1862 LOWER PENINSULA CAMPAIGN SATURDAY MARCH 22ND

CONTACT DENNIS MROCZKOWSKI AT M4SKI@COMCAST.NET FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO RESERVE A SPOT ON THE TOUR.

SUMMARY

From April 4 to June 1, 1862, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac moved up the Virginia peninsula between the York and James Rivers toward Richmond. After the fall of Portsmouth and the scuttling of the ironclad CSS Virginia May 10-11, the Union navy could safely advance up the rivers and protect McClellan's flanks. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, was charged with defending the Confederate capital.



George B. McClellan

Our tour will begin by car at 9:00AM at Fort Monroe in front of the Casemate Museum. We will visit part of the Confederate defensive line along the Warwick River, some Confederate earthworks at the site of the battle of Dam Number One, Confederate earthworks at Yorktown, Redoubts 1, 2 and 4 and the "Bloody Ravine" in Williamsburg ending at the Fort Magruder Inn. The tour will involve easy to moderate walking and last about four hours.



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



FORT MONROE: A Winter's Tale



The recent snowfalls in Hampton and vicinity—the first in several years—remind us that such picturesque and potentially dangerous weather is now a rarity. There is photographic evidence in the Casemate Museum archives to suggest that winters at Fort Monroe/Old Point Comfort were once much more severe many years ago than they are now. The picture above was taken in January 1899. The covered deck in the moat is the Officer's Club deck and the structure adjacent is the landing for the Maid of the Moat. The 40-gun Water Battery is in the right center background.

The historical record begins in late December 1608 with Captain John Smith's foraging expedition by boat to find food for the starving Jamestown colony. A sudden blizzard forced Smith and his crew to land at or near Point Comfort, where they were welcomed by a peaceful tribe of Kicotans. Smith spent the New Year's holiday with these benefactors and later praised their culinary skills, writing that "we were never more merry, nor fed on more plentie of good Oysters, Fish, Flesh, Wild-foule, and good bread...."

Several snowstorms that hit Fort Monroe in late February 1934 merit particular attention, especially one in which melted snow turned to sheets of ice that made transportation by cars and trucks very hazardous and by cyclists impossible. Shipboard travel to icebound Baltimore was suspended for several days.

On the positive side, such conditions have allowed the fort's children to use their sleds, throw snowballs, and build snowmen. It was ever true that one person's miserable environment was another person's winter wonderland.

Agenda

Forty-second Annual Meeting of the The Casemate Museum Foundation, Inc.

10:00 AM

Fort Monroe Visitor Education Center

Second Floor Conference Room

Monday January 27, 2025

- I. Call to Order (President)
- II. Roll Call (Margaret Seitz, Secretary)
- III. President's Remarks
- IV. Review of Minutes
- V. Museum Director's Remarks
- VI. Treasurer's Report (Nancy O'Malley, Treasurer)
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - a. Gift Shop
 - b. Membership
 - c. Fundraising (WAA)
- VII. Old Business:
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Announcements and Adjournment