

Civil War Sesquicentennial committee formed for Lancaster

LANCASTER—A committee for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War has been formed in Lancaster County.

The committee was formed at the request of the Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to plan events to educate and inform the citizens of Lancaster County about the American Civil War and its influence on the area, said chairman William Chapman.

The Sesquicentennial will begin in 2010 and continue through 2015 and will be commemorated through conferences, museum exhibits, and other events, said Chapman. Each of these events will mark a specific point in the Civil War.

One of the committee's primary goals is to coordinate, link, and unify events and activities throughout the state as part of the Sesquicentennial commemoration. This is no small task, as Virginia has more Civil War sites than any other state, he explained. Every city and county in Virginia has a history of the crucial role it played during the nation's most traumatic moments—there is not an area of the state that was untouched by the war.

Each locality has been asked to form a Local Sesquicentennial Committee to work with the commission, plan events and activities that are meaningful to the community, and promote its Civil War history during the commemoration, said Chapman.

The Lancaster committee is composed of directors of local museums and organizations, and local historians, and is chaired by Chapman, a Lancaster High School student.

Other members of the committee include Terri Thaxton of the Steamboat Era Museum,

Karen Hart of the Mary Ball Washington Museum, Edward Trexler, author of *Civil War, Northern Neck*, Louise Jesse of the Historic Resources Commission, Camille Bennett of The Foundation for Historic Christ Church, Agnes Lee of the Kilmarnock Museum and Bob McKenney of the Northern Neck Geological Society. The committee meets at the Steamboat Era Museum to discuss their plans for the Sesquicentennial.

To learn more about the Sesquicentennial, visit virginia-civilwar.org, or email Chapman at william@enonhall.com.

The Rappahannock Record
March 19, 2009