

## American Civil War is Topic at Meeting

By L. Fausz

Nov 5, 2008 - 10:36:58 AM



Scott Williams

The Bermuda Hundred Campaign of the American Civil War was a climatic event during May 1864. Union Major General Benjamin F. Butler moved an army of over 33,000 men into Bermuda Hundred from the James River to cut off the Confederate forces between Richmond and Petersburg. The Battle of Ware Bottom Springs involved 10,000 soldiers; of them, 1,400 died or were wounded in battle. These major battles were fought in Chesterfield County and have been overshadowed by larger events of the time, with these local events almost fading into obscurity.

Over the last 10 years, efforts have been made to document the earthworks. George Fickett recruited Scott Williams for weekend exploration to map earthworks throughout the campaign area. The sites identified have been saved through donations from individuals, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Eagle Scouts, volunteers, and businesses.

Chesterfield County and the Commonwealth of Virginia are preparing for the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Beginning in 2011 through 2015, statewide events will be taking place, and Chesterfield County will not be left behind. The Chesterfield Historical Society, under the direction of the Military History Committee, is creating a driving book containing 25 stops at battlefields and significant sites of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, to be available at the beginning of next year.

Scott Williams, chairman of the Military History Committee of the Chesterfield County Historical Society, will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation of the major battles that were fought in Chesterfield County.

The 20-minute presentation will take place at the November general membership meeting of the

Jefferson Davis Association (JDA) on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 a.m. at the BizWorks Enterprise Center, 2545 Bellwood Rd. Light refreshments and coffee will be served. An RSVP is appreciated for the meeting; to RSVP, call 275-5190.

lfausz@villagepublishing.com | 751-0421

© Copyright by Village Publishing