

The Williamsburg Line

BBQ on the Battlefield!



May 4 @ 11 AM—10 PM

If Old City BBQ had been on the Williamsburg Battlefield in 1862, Gen. George McClellan would not have dilly-dallied in Yorktown. He would have gotten here as quickly as possible and invited all his generals and soldiers to dine there with him. He didn't, but we are! Join the WBA at the Old City BBQ (700 York St., Williamsburg) for lunch or dinner between 11 AM - 10 PM on Saturday, May 4. Present the Battlefield Pop-Up Tour Map & Directions flyer (included with this newsletter) to your host (regardless of whether or not you attended the tour), and a portion of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to the WBA. Fundraising and preservation never tasted so good!

Special Tours—May 3 & 4, 2019

The Marvelous Month of May is almost here, and the WBA has planned several special tours on May 3 & 4 that will discuss the 1862 Battle of Williamsburg and its impact on the town. Don't miss these opportunities to learn more about Civil War Williamsburg. Please join us and bring a friend! **The tours are free, but donations are always appreciated.**

- **May 3 & 4 @ 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM—Civil War Williamsburg Walking Tour.** Join the WBA on a 1-hour walking tour of the historic area of Williamsburg. You will learn what the town was like on the eve of Civil War and what it experienced during and after the May 5, 1862 battle. **Meet your licensed tour guide at the east end of Duke of Gloucester Street in front of the restored Capitol building (500 E. Duke of Gloucester St.).**
- **May 4 @ 9 AM to Noon—Battlefield Pop-Up Tours.** Join the WBA at four separate sites on the battlefield for an interpretation of what occurred there on May 5, 1862. The sites are Redoubt Park, the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) facility, the Fort Magruder historic site, and New Quarter Park's Visitor Center. **The Battlefield Pop-Up Tour Map & Directions flyer included with this newsletter will help you find each tour stop. The flyer is also posted on the WBA Facebook page and website.**

Give Local 757—May 14, 2019

Save the Date ... & Donate!

On **May 14**, the WBA will participate in Give Local 757, a fundraising event for non-profits in Hampton Roads. **Beginning at midnight on May 14 and running for 24 hours, you can make a tax deductible donation to the WBA at www.givelocal757.org.** It's quick and easy, and you might even win a prize!

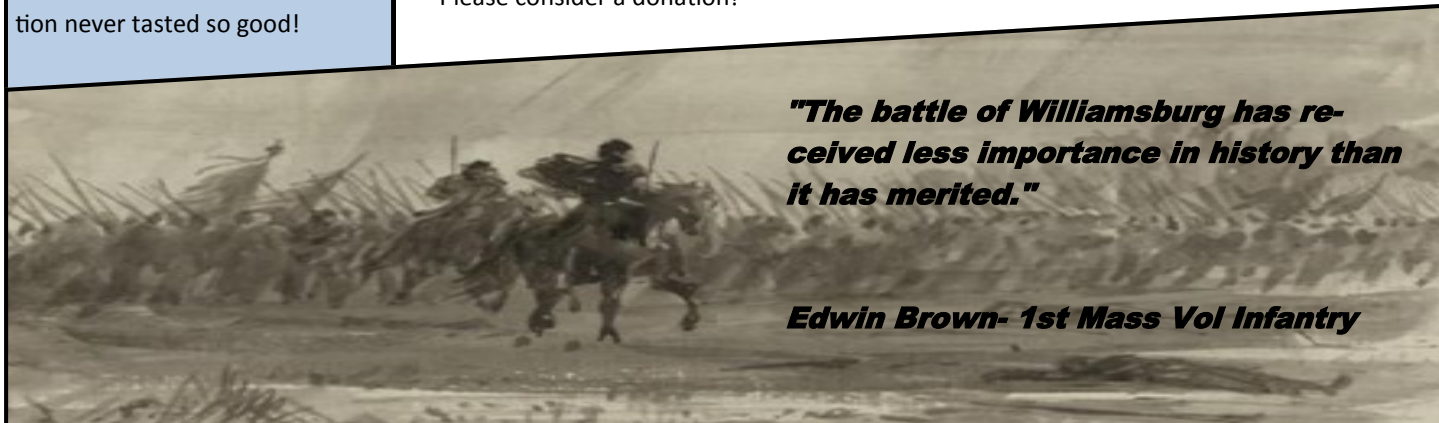
Away on vacation or busy at work that week and worried you might forget to donate? **Beginning May 1, you will have the option on the online donation form to pre-schedule your donation for May 14.**

Please consider a donation!



"The battle of Williamsburg has received less importance in history than it has merited."

Edwin Brown- 1st Mass Vol Infantry



Education & Preservation

Smith Tract Update

The WBA continues to make positive progress toward final acquisition of the almost 4-acre Smith Tract in York County from the American Battlefield Trust (ABT). Before accepting transfer of the property, which has a conservation easement on it, we desire to understand if we can receive tax relief on the property from the County. A reduction in property taxes will allow us to focus our resources on improving the parcel, encouraging visitation, and working on a plan for access and interpretation. We have made formal application to York County for tax remediation and subsequently responded in writing to several questions raised by the County regarding our intended use of the property. The ABT is following and supporting us in this process. **We anticipate a public hearing with York County sometime later in the spring or summer to further present our plans for the Smith Tract to County officials and residents.**

In the meantime, the WBA is fulfilling a stewardship role for the Smith Tract by participating in the ABT's annual Park Day, which was held earlier this month and was attended by about 30 volunteers from the community who helped pick-up trash, trim trees and bushy plants, and remove excess organic debris. Below are some photos from the event. Thank you to everyone who participated !

