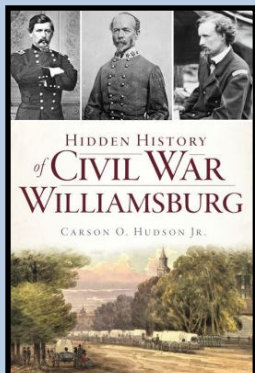




WILLIAMSBURG BATTLEFIELD ASSOCIATION

The Williamsburg Line

New Book!



Each year, thousands of visitors from around the country visit the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's re-created eighteenth-century capital of Virginia to learn about the past and walk where the Founding Fathers walked. The fact that the same ground was later soaked with the tears and blood of their children and grandchildren during our tragic Civil War is frequently forgotten. In this expanded and revised version of *Yankees in the Streets: Forgotten People and Stories of Civil War Williamsburg*, local historian Carson Hudson tells the stories of this hallowed ground and the people who walked it. *Hidden History of Civil War Williamsburg* is available through Colonial Williamsburg Bookseller, Amazon and Barnes & Nobles.

Smith Tract Update

In our April newsletter, we indicated that the WBA was expecting a public hearing in York County during the summer to allow us the opportunity to present our plans for the Smith Tract and to advocate for property tax relief, which we desire before accepting ownership of the land from the American Battlefield Trust (ABT). The hearing was never scheduled, as we learned in advance that our request would not be fully supported. So, for the immediate future, title and ownership of the Smith Tract will remain with the ABT while the WBA and ABT focus acquisition, preservation, and conservation efforts on other core Williamsburg battlefield lands.

The WBA, with your support, will continue to act as a local steward for the Smith Tract. Our annual Park Day cleanups have signifi-

cantly reduced litter, fallen trees, and unwanted overgrowth on the property. We have also posted signs prohibiting relic hunting and unapproved visits. Local law enforcement has additionally pledged its support to monitor the property. **The removal of artifacts from any battlefield site destroys evidence for reconstructing and interpreting the fighting that occurred. Artifacts are the cookie crumbs that enable historians to determine who fought where and when. When an artifact is removed from the ground, the information provided by it is gone forever.** If you are a supporter of the WBA or ABT who lives in Williamsburg and see trespassers on the Smith Tract or other areas of the battlefield, please report it. It is important to maintain these properties for present and future generations.

State of the Williamsburg Battlefield

The WBA recently compiled the following information for the ABT. In 2009, the updated Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report showed that only 3% of the Williamsburg battlefield was protected. The report also reclassified the site as a Level 3 priority, indicating that additional protection was needed for this Class B battlefield that "had a direct impact" on its respective campaign and the war. In 2010, the Civil War Trust declared the battlefield "at risk," and in 2014, Preservation Virginia classified it as one

of Virginia's eleven most endangered sites.

Since the updated 2009 CWSAC report and the 2010 and 2014 reclassifications, the undeveloped portions of the battlefield have continued to be lost to development. The 2009 CWSAC report noted that only 1,000 acres of the total 10,369-acre study area were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the WBA estimates there are now only 450 undeveloped acres of battlefield remaining. That's around 4%.



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

Edwin Brown- 1st Mass Vol Infantry

Faces of the Fight

"I am as true a Confederate today as I was when I first rode from Warrenton to Manassas."

~ William Henry Fitzhugh Payne, 1903

William H. F. Payne might well have been writing his own epitaph when he penned those closing words in a letter to VMI in December 1903, just three months before his death. All his life, Payne had an intense love for the South and his home state of Virginia. Though a successful lawyer and civic leader before and after the war, he was best remembered by his contemporaries for his abilities as a soldier.

Born January 27, 1830, Payne was raised in Warrenton, VA where he helped his father breed horses. He enrolled at VMI in 1846 but was expelled before graduating for participating in a prank. The Board of Visitors later offered to re-enroll him, but by that time, Payne had decided to pursue law at the University of Virginia. In 1851, he established a law practice in his hometown and the following year married his cousin, Mary Elizabeth Winston Payne, with whom he had ten children. His energy and abilities got him elected Fauquier County's Commonwealth's Attorney at the young age of 25, a position he held until Reconstruction.

Events in the country during the 1850s generated discussions of disunion throughout the South and many towns raised militias. Payne assisted in the formation of a volunteer cavalry called the Black Horse Troop. When Virginia seceded in April 1861, Payne left his law practice and enlisted as a private with the Black Horse but was quickly voted its captain. Payne and the Black Horse quickly distinguished themselves at the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861 when they captured 16 artillery pieces. For his efforts, Payne was awarded breakfast with Confederate President Jefferson Davis and promoted to major. Later that fall, the Black Horse officially entered Confederate service as Co. H 4th VA Cavalry.

In the spring of 1862, the Confederate army moved south from Manassas to Yorktown on the Virginia Peninsula to confront a large Union army moving west towards the Confederate capital at Richmond. Confederate Gen. Johnston determined in early May, though, to evacuate Yorktown and withdraw up the pen-

insula through Williamsburg to Richmond's defenses. On May 4, the 4th VA Cavalry acted as rearguard for the retreating army. Late in the day, Union cavalry caught up to the rearguard just east of Williamsburg and clashed on the Yorktown Road near the Smith Tract now preserved by the American Battlefield Trust. During the fighting, the 4th's Lt. Colonel was wounded, and leadership fell to Payne. Darkness ended the encounter, but the Battle of Williamsburg had only just begun.



Brigadier General William H. F. Payne, ca. 1865 (courtesy American Civil War Museum)

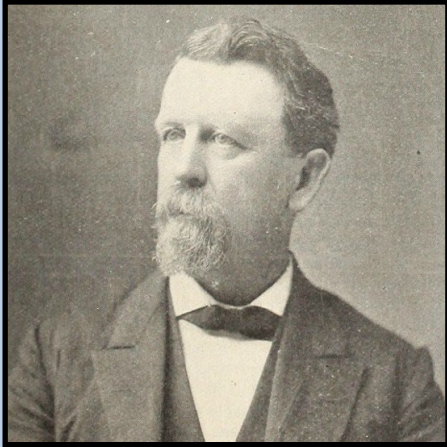
A persistent, chilly rain came during the night that slowed the Confederate withdrawal and forced troops to occupy the Williamsburg line of defenses. Early on May 5, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart ordered Payne to reconnoiter the Yorktown Road. This time, Payne's cavalry encountered Federal infantry near the Smith Tract. During his regiment's withdrawal, Payne was struck in the face by a ball that broke his right upper jaw, knocked out four teeth, passed through the arteries of his tongue, and knocked out three more teeth as it exited the left side of his face. Payne fell from his horse and recalled later having the sensation of drowning in his own blood. He would have bled to death had it not been for the quick actions of Sgt. Edmund S. Pendleton, a man of remarkable skill and bravery who carried a secret in his pocket (see inset next page).

Sgt. Pendleton, or rather Dr. Pendleton, immediately recognized Payne's peril, and dismounting his horse, thrust his hand into the major's mouth to pinch

the bleeding arteries. The two men lay on the battlefield in this position for hours, unable to be removed due to the hail of bullets over their heads. Eventually, during a lull in the fighting, Payne was lifted from the field in a blanket. He recalled in his letter to VMI that, "Pendleton walked by my side with the arteries of my tongue in his hand, and we were lifted into and out of the ambulance together, as he feared to release his hold; and when we reached the surgeon, Pendleton's fingers had become so cramped that they had to be pulled apart." Pendleton suffered temporary paralysis in his fingers.

William H. F. Payne (cont.'d)

The Soldier-Doctor



Edmund S. Pendleton was born in the small town of Iron Gate, VA in 1833. The son of a doctor, he also pursued medicine and graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1854. He had a successful medical practice in Goochland County, VA before the war. An enthusiastic Confederate, he left his practice and enlisted with the Goochland Dragoons. This militia unit became Co. F 4th VA Cavalry, and Pendleton served as its 1st sergeant until promoted to assistant surgeon in 1863. He was so respected as a civilian physician that he carried a discharge paper in his pocket throughout the war, but never exercised the privilege. Following the war, he returned to his practice and served in Virginia's General Assembly during the 1870s. He was active in his local Confederate Veterans' Camp and church. He died in 1909 in the same small town where he was born.

Major Payne was taken into Williamsburg to the home of William Peachy (restored and interpreted today by Colonial Williamsburg as the Peyton Randolph House). Given little chance of survival, he was unable to leave with the Confederate army during the night and became a Union prisoner on May 6. A Union surgeon closed his wounds and fashioned a rubber mask to hold his jaw in place while it healed. Unable to talk and only able to receive fluids through a rubber tube, Payne's already small, 5'-6" frame of 156 pounds had diminished to 95 pounds by June 1 when he received a welcome surprise, the arrival of his wife, who had been through quite an ordeal herself (see inset). Mary quickly took over her husband's care, and he began to regain strength. Considered unfit for combat, Payne was paroled, and the couple returned home to Warrenton in late June.

Though convalescing and still weak, Payne, who had now been promoted to Lt. Colonel, never personally considered himself out of action and proved so a mere week after his return home when two Union videttes entered town. Payne and a friend gathered a meat knife and hatchet and successfully ambushed and captured the startled cavalymen, who had ridden out of

sight of their command. The knife came back into Payne's possession after the war, and he inscribed his name into the handle.



Meat knife used by Payne to capture two Union videttes (courtesy Fauquier Historical Society)

Gen. J.E.B Stuart personally delivered Payne his exchange in late July and, as Mary wrote years later, returned again in August to "put [Payne] behind him on his horse, and although his wound was still bandaged (still wearing the mask) and not healed, and he was still unable to eat solid food, carried him away from his anxious wife and back onto the front."

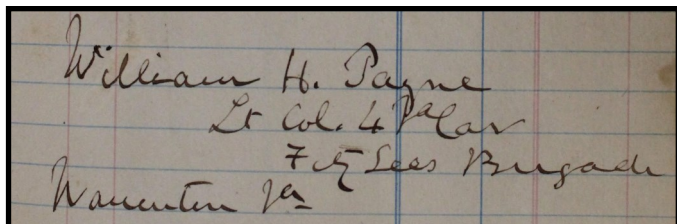
Mary Payne's Heroism

(Following is a very brief summary of "Search for My Missing Husband", an account written by Mary Payne for her young grandson in 1910 when she was 80 years of age.)

Mary Payne was pregnant with her 7th child and a refugee in Danville, VA when she received word of her husband's wounding. She set out immediately for Richmond and Confederate Gen. Johnston's camp on the Chickahominy River. The general tried to get her through the lines at Williamsburg but was unsuccessful. Returning to Richmond, she then traveled with a friend via wagon through Warrenton, Fairfax, and Alexandria until finally reaching the home of a sympathetic friend in Washington, DC. Through the efforts of Mrs. Taylor, the Provost Marshall in Washington wired Williamsburg's Provost Marshall. When it was learned that the major was in the Peachy House, Mary was issued a pass to travel by rail to Baltimore and then by boat to Fortress Monroe. The journey was unpleasant and the wharf at the fort so jammed with boats carrying the dead and wounded from the fighting around Richmond that she had to step over bodies from boat to boat in order to reach the dock. In command of the fort was Capt. John Taylor, the son of Mary's friend in Washington. He issued her a pass to the surgeon in Yorktown, who arranged for her travel to Williamsburg in a two-wheeled ambulance. Mary endured the corduroy roads that nearly shook out "the little life" inside her and arrived in Williamsburg on June 1. She inquired her way along the street until finding Mr. Peachy's house. It had taken almost a full month, but Mary was finally reunited with her wounded husband. She described the dramatic moment in her written account. "My husband, who had been moved to the porch for the first time, heard my voice and burst into tears. He was utterly changed ...A rubber support gave him the queer appearance he presented to me."

William H. F. Payne (cont.'d)

For Lt. Colonel Payne the rest of the war was no less challenging. On June 30, 1863 during the Gettysburg Campaign, Payne was involved in a brief cavalry engagement near the town square in Hanover, PA. He suffered a saber wound and had his horse shot out from under him. Tumbling into a tanning vat, he was captured for the 2nd time. He spent the next nine months imprisoned at Johnson's Island, OH in Lake Erie before being exchanged in April 1864. He described his imprisonment in his VMI letter as a "long and severe experience."

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a piece of lined paper. The signature reads "William H. Payne" on the first line, "Lt Col. 4th Regt" on the second line, "7th U.S. Cavalry" on the third line, and "Washington Pa" on the fourth line.

Payne's signature in a prisoner's autograph book (courtesy Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison)

Afterwards, Payne participated in Gen. Jubal Early's Valley Campaign, during which time he was promoted to brigadier general. Payne last saw action on April 1, 1865 at the Battle of Five Forks southwest of Petersburg, VA. He suffered a bullet wound during the fighting and was taken to Richmond. When the Union Army broke through at Petersburg the next day, Payne fled to his home in Warrenton where he received news of the Confederate army's surrender just days later.

*Brigadier General Payne, ca. 1865
(courtesy VMI Archives Digital Collections)*



Brigadier General Payne's frock coat (courtesy Fauquier Historical Society)

Payne and his family had little time to contemplate the future, though. "On the night of the 14th of April, the house in which I was, was surrounded by troops; I was taken out and carried to Washington." President Lincoln had been assassinated, and Federal troops were searching for a suspect with the last name Payne (Paine) who reportedly resided in Fauquier County. Former Brigadier General Payne and four others were arrested as suspects and taken to the Old Capital Prison. Payne described the city as "absolutely frantic with excitement." Guards prevented several attempts by a mob to rush the suspects and hang them. "It was one of the most trying scenes I ever passed through," wrote Payne. For the 3rd time, Payne was a prisoner of the North and again was sent to Johnson's Island. He was paroled May 29, 1865.

The war was finally over for William H.F. Payne. He returned home and once again established a very successful law practice. In 1873 in recognition of his military service, VMI declared him an honorary graduate of the class of 1849. He maintained correspondence with many former comrades and even defended several. He was general counsel for J. P Morgan's Southern Railway Company and served one term in the Virginia State Legislature (1879-1880). He served as president of the Black Horse Troops survivor's organization, which held reunions at his home, and as a vice-president with the Veteran's Cavalry Organization of the Army of Northern Virginia. In January 1903, he was awarded the Confederate Cross of Honor by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Former Brigadier General William H. F. Payne died March 29, 1904 and was buried in his hometown. In his will, he requested that only the Virginia state flag and the Confederate battle flag be carried at his funeral. His wishes were carried out by the survivors of his Black Horse Troop.



Attorney William H. F. Payne, ca. 1886 (image from findagrave.com)

"There was no Virginian of his day and generation who surpassed him in any of the qualities that combine to make up an all-around soldier and citizen."

~ former commander and close post-war friend,

Fitzhugh Lee