

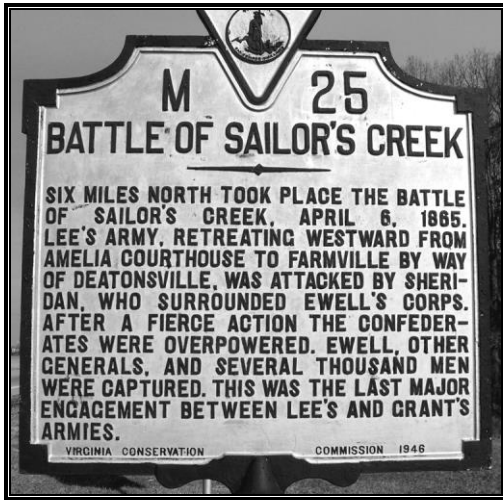


# Farmville - Prince Edward Historical Society

P.O. Box 546

Farmville, Virginia 23901

January, 2011



## The Battles of Sailor's Creek: Then and Now

Presented by  
**Chris Calkins**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2011**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Farmville Train Station**

**Board meets at 6:00 p.m.**



### Events of April 6 & 7, 1865 around Sailor's Creek

April 6, 1865, 12 p.m. - Union cavalry under Charles Smith attack Confederate general Richard H. Anderson's Fourth Corps at Holt's Cross Roads east of Sailor's Creek as it retreats west from Petersburg. Anderson is forced to stop and fight, dangerously separating his men from Longstreet's column.

April 6, 1865, 2 p.m. - George A. Custer's Union cavalrymen exploit a gap in the lines of retreating Confederate forces, attacking near Marshall's Crossroads west of Sailor's Creek. Custer captures some artillery and pins Richard Anderson's Fourth Corps in place. Two Confederate corps under James Longstreet march on to the west, unaware of Anderson's predicament.

April 6, 1865, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - The slow-moving supply wagons following General Richard S. Ewell that detoured north and were protected by John B. Gordon's corps, are attacked by the Union Second Corps near the Lockett Farm. The wagons have difficulty crossing Sailor's Creek, resulting in the capture of more than 1,700 of Gordon's men, in addition to 300 wagons and 70 ambulances.

April 6, 1865, 5:00-6:30 p.m. - Union general Wesley Merritt's cavalry attacks and routs Confederate general Richard H. Anderson's corps at Marshall's Crossroads west of Sailor's Creek. The pell-mell retreat results in 2,600 of Anderson's men being captured, including four generals: Richard S. Ewell, Theodore Brevard, Montgomery D. Corse, and Eppa Hunton II.

April 6, 1865, 5:15-6:30 p.m. - Union general Horatio G. Wright's Sixth Corps attacks Richard S. Ewell's reserve corps across the rain-swollen Sailor's

Creek. Hand-to-hand fighting ensues before the Confederate line breaks and nearly 3,400 men surrender, including five generals, one of whom is Robert E. Lee's eldest son: George Washington Custis Lee.

April 6, 1865, 6:15 p.m. - Confederate general Robert E. Lee, who has been traveling with James Longstreet's corps, views the disaster at Sailor's Creek from a distant ridge. Nearly 20 percent of the Army of Northern Virginia is killed, wounded, or captured, with nine generals taken prisoner. "My God!" he exclaims. "Has the army been dissolved?"

April 7, 1865 - After a disastrous series of battles near Sailor's Creek in which 7,700 Confederates are captured, including nine generals, Robert E. Lee relieves Confederate generals Richard H. Anderson, Bushrod R. Johnson, and George E. Pickett of duty, although Pickett continues with the army to Appomattox Court House.

[www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Sailor\\_s\\_Creek\\_Battles\\_of](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Sailor_s_Creek_Battles_of)  
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### Calkins, Sailor's Creek Battlefield Park Manager

Chris Calkins has been with the National Park Service for 34 years, having served at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and ended his career as historian and chief of interpretation at Petersburg National Battlefield. In 2008 he accepted the position of first full-time park manager of Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park. He retired from Petersburg National Battlefield in July, 2009, and began his work permanently with the state.

Calkins has authored twelve publications, numerous articles, and spoken nationally to many Civil War and preservation groups. He is the author of the highly

acclaimed "Lee's Retreat" driving tour (featured in *Life* and *Southern Living* magazines) which is now being used as a successful example of heritage tourism in the Commonwealth and nationwide and is the "grandfather" of Virginia Civil War Trails.

Active in battlefield preservation efforts, Calkins served on the board of directors for eight years with the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc. (now merged with the Civil War Preservation Trust) and helped broker the preservation of seven sites around Petersburg and Appomattox. These include Five Forks,

White Oak Road, Hatchers Run, Reams Station, The Sixth Corps Breakthrough (now Pamplin Park), Sailor's Creek, Lee's rearguard at Appomattox and Appomattox Station.

Calkins has been interviewed on the History Channel, A & E, Discovery Channel, HGTV and ITV in the UK. Calkins is a native of Detroit, Michigan, graduated from Longwood College and is married to the former Miss Sarah Brown of Appomattox. They live in a restored National Register listed 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian mansion in Petersburg's Old Town Historic District.

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**This Day in January in Prince Edward County History**

- 1-1-1754 Colonial act establishing Prince Edward County takes effect
- 1-1-1824 Union Theological Seminary formally opens at Hampden-Sydney
- 1-2-1898 Fire in Farmville destroys over thirty buildings originating at the corner of Third and North in the Lumpkin factory. Powder kegs exploded raining fire on the town.
- 1-2-1894 Farmville Guard escort former Gov. McKinney back to Farmville.
- 1-4-2007 Robert Edward Taylor (age 87), prominent Prince Edward County businessman died
- 1-3-1933 Farmville Mills burned.
- 1-4-1898 Death of R. L. Dabney, famous Presbyterian theologian, architect, and former county luminary, in Texas
- 1-5-1942 Tire rationing began in WW II
- 1-8-1754 First convening of Prince Edward County court
- 1-8-2004 Commemorative postmark, first day issue, 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Prince Edward County
- 1-14-1813 Virginia General Assembly declares the Buffalo River a "public highway" from its mouth at Farmville to Carter's Mill
- 1-14-1904 Farmville Dispensary opened.
- 1-15-1798 Farmville's birthday. Established by act of the Virginia General Assembly.
- 1-17-1898 B.S. Hooper, Republican congressman (1883-1885) from Farmville, died.
- 1-18-1952 Pedestrian lights installed at Third & Main
- 1-18-1980 Death of county's noted civil rights leader, Rev. L. Francis Griffin
- 1-20-1977 The Red Lyon was destroyed by fire.
- 1-21-1880 P.H. Jackson, tobacconist and host to Robert E. Lee, died.
- 1-22-1821 Dr. James T. Spencer born
- 1-22-1869 U.S. military replaces 52-year Clerk of Court Branch Worsham with carpetbagger appointee Joseph Jorgenson
- 1-22-1901 The First National Bank opened its doors for business
- 1-22-1905 T. J. Davis, Farmville grocer, died aged 80 years
- 1-23-1940 24 inches of snow blankets area
- 1-27-1857 Hampden-Sydney student Ned Longhorne kills schoolmate Charles Edie in Cushing Hall in an "affair of honor"
- 1-27-1870 Virginia Senators and Representatives sit in Congress for the first time since 1861
- 1-28-1858 Large fire damages much of downtown Farmville
- 1-28-1891 Dr. Horace Grymes Taliaferro, chief of Confederate General Hospital, died
- 1-29-1922 24 inches of snow fell
- 1-30-1920 Dr. Peter Winston, physician, druggist, and mayor died at age 84
- 1-31-1977 Gov. Godwin orders strict energy conservation measure

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**Winter and spring programs planned**

Mark your calendar for February 15 to bring an interesting conversation piece to our Show and Tell program.

Plans are open for March 15. If you have an idea for a good speaker or program, please contact Kay Whitfield or Billy Poulston.

The Rev. Dr. William Thompson will speak on April 19 on a Civil War related topic.

Ruth Doumlele, author of *The Randolph Women and Their Men*, will be here on May 17 for a discussion of her work and a book signing.