



2026 Conference Schedule & Preliminary Program

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

5:00–7:00 pm

Opening Reception & Welcome (James River Salon CD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

8:30–10:00 am

Session 1 | Roundtable: Civil War Memories in a Polarized America: A Conversation (James River Salon A)

- Moderator: Jennifer Murray, Shepard University
- Discussants:
 - John Kinder, Oklahoma State University
 - Nicole Maurantonio, University of Richmond
 - Scott Hancock, Gettysburg College
 - Sarah Handley-Cousins, University at Buffalo

Session 2 | Freedpeople's Experiences and the Powers and Limits of the Freedmen's Bureau (York River Room)

- Chair and Comment: Amy Murrell Taylor, University of Kentucky
- Panelists:
 - James Illingworth, University of Maryland, College Park, Contested Custody: The Freedmen's Bureau, the Legacy of Slavery, and Black Parental Rights in the Reconstruction South
 - Ashley Towle, University of Southern Maine, Freedom's Gatekeepers: Local Freedmen's Bureau Agents and Freedwomen's Claims for Child Support
 - Corey M. Brooks, York College of Pennsylvania, "A worse disaster than has ever yet befallen the freedmen": Debating and Legislating the Freedmen's Bureau's Discontinuance

Session 3 | Exploring Childhood in the Civil War Era (Canal Room)

- Chair and Comment: Sarah Chinn, Hunter College
- Panelists:
 - Kathryn Angelica, Purdue University Fort Wayne, With Strict Regard to the Right of Freedom: Power Struggles, Labor, and Disability within Philadelphia's Shelter for Colored Orphans
 - Youngin Jang, Binghamton University, Free Black Children and Apprenticeships in 19th-Century Baltimore
 - Sophia Nimlo, Georgetown University, Freed-Children in the Nation's Capital, 1862-1870
 - Cameron Sauers, Pennsylvania State University, "It Serves in Lieu of Parental Lock and Key": Houses of Refuge and the Origins of Juvenile Incarceration in Civil War-Era America

Session 4 | At the Watery Margins: Naval Warfare and Maritime Violence in the 19th Century (Shenandoah H)

- Chair: Adam Dombay, Auburn University
- Panelists:
 - Charles J. Wexler, Motlow State Community College, Bulls Bay Bark: The Restless and the Federal Blockade off Charleston Harbor, 1862
 - David Kay, UNC Greensboro, Cape Fear and Loathing: The Union Navy and the Wilmington Campaigns, 1864-1865
 - Beau Cleland, University of Calgary, "Since we cannot hang him, it is to be hoped he will die": Maritime Violence and Imperial Control in the Reconstruction-Era Pacific World
 - Anna Gibson Holloway, Maritime Administration Office of Strategic Sealift, "T'was Off the Rappahannock's Mouth": Oysters, Pirates, and a "Little Travesty"
- Comment: Laura June Davis, Columbus State University

10:15–11:45 am

Session 5 | Reframing Civil War Memory: Material Culture and Regional Boosterism in the Twentieth Century (James River Salon B)

- Chair: Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Panelists:
 - Andrew W. Hoffman, Mississippi State University, Lifting the South out of the Purgatory of Illiteracy: Robert Selph Henry, the Lost Cause, and New South Boosterism during the Great Depression

- Shae Smith Cox, Texas A&M University, “The Nurses, Consolers, and Saviors of Men”: The Creation, Memory, and Dissolution of the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War
- Lindsey R. Peterson, University of South Dakota, Transcontinental Travel in Western Boosterism & Union Memory
- Comment: Jennifer L. Gross, Jacksonville State University

Session 6 | The (Civil) War on Drugs: Policing Substances in the 1860s

(Rappahannock Room)

- Chair: Joseph Beilein, Jr., Penn State Behrend
- Panelists:
 - Daniel Farrell, University of Cincinnati, “The Elixir of Disloyalty: Drinking, Treason, and Political Culture During the Civil War Era
 - Megan L. Bever, Missouri Southern State University, Drugs, Patent Medicines, Liquors, and Salts: Regulating the Flow of Substances in St. Louis and Southeastern Missouri during the Civil War
 - Jonathan S. Jones, James Madison University, Courts Martials and Opioids: Civil War Military Justice and American Drug Policy
- Comment: Joseph Beilein, Jr., Penn State Behrend and April Holm, University of Mississippi

Session 7 | Moral Debts: Exploring Justice in the Civil War Era (Roanoke Room)

- Chair: Caroline Wood Newhall, Oberlin College and Conservatory
- Panelists:
 - Noah F. Crawford, Texas A&M University, “The Persecuted Do Not Sleep”: Texas Unionist Refugees and the Long Civil War on the Mexico Border
 - Jack S. Walmsley, University of Alabama, Profiles of Morality: Sheridan and Mosby’s Retaliatory Killings in the Shenandoah
 - Wyatt G. Erchak, Carnegie Mellon University, “Private wrongs to avenge”: Considering Justice in a Formerly Enslaved Black Regiment’s Civil War
 - Stephen D. Engle, Florida Atlantic University, Hanging for Freedom: Reckoning with John Brown’s Execution for Racial Justice
- Comment: Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Louisiana State University

Session 8 | Roundtable: Citizenship, Sovereignty, and the Civil War in Indian Country (Shenandoah J)

- Moderator: Alexandra Stern, City College of New York
- Discussants:
 - Stuart Marshall, Virginia Tech
 - Michelle Cassidy, Central Michigan University

- Jimmy Sweet, Rutgers University

12:00–1:15 pm

Session 9 | Lunch Break / Professional Development Luncheon: Publishing Your First Article (James River Salon CD)

- Discussants:
 - Robert D. Bland, Associate Editor, *Journal of the Civil War Era* and Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Graham T. Dozier, Managing Editor of Publications and Virginius Dabney Editor of the *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*
 - Matthew Stanley, Associate Professor of History, University of Arkansas

1:30–3:00 pm

Session 10 | Amusing the Violent Million: Recreation, Space, and Violence in Reconstruction Politics (James River Salon A)

- Chair and Comment: Michael T. Bernath, University of Miami
- Panelists:
 - Courtney Slavin, Clark University, Crack Shots and Red Shirts: The Origins of America's Gun Debate
 - Bill Smith, University of Oxford, From Battlegrounds to Fairgrounds: Animals, Recreation, and the Work of Reconciliation
 - Lucius Segar, Texas Christian University, Texas, Mob Violence and Politics: 1870-1879
 - Derek Rahn Williams, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Decentralization to Centralization and Back: South Carolina's Turbulent Carceral History

Session 11 | The Lowry Index: Recovering the Civil War via Union Army Disciplinary Records (York River Room)

- Chair and Comment: Susannah J. Ural, Mississippi State University
- Panelists:
 - Judith Giesberg, Villanova University, The Lowry Index: Provenance and Place in the Field
 - Kevin Adams, Kent State University, U.S. Army Courts Martial during the Civil War Era: Context, Procedures, and Opportunities

- Scott Nesbit, University of Georgia, Thinking Spatially with the Lowry Index
- J. David Hacker, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and Bradford C. Cook, Independent Scholar, A Demographic Profile of Individuals Appearing in Union Army Court-Martials

Session 12 | Civil War Memory in Popular Culture: New Directions and Perspectives (Shenandoah H)

- Chair and Comment: Jack Carey, University of Alabama
- Panelists:
 - James Hill “Trae” Welborn III, Georgia College & State University, Gridiron Re-enactments: Civil War Memory and Intersectional College Football Games, 1890s-1990s
 - Chloe H. Smith, Yale University, Confederate Song and the “War of Northern Aggression” on the Social Internet

Session 13 | Conflicting Loyalties and the Sectional Crisis (Canal Room)

- Chair: Madeleine Forrest, Virginia Military Institute
- Panelists:
 - Roger A. Bailey, The Citadel, Loyalty, Treason, and the Naval Officer Corps in the Secession Crisis
 - Whitney Snow, Midwestern State University, A Tinker’s Damn: Williamson Robert Winfield Cobb’s Duplicity as Confederate Congressman and Union Spy
 - Edward J. Hagerty, Air University, Air Force Global College, Lt. Gen. R. H. Anderson and the Uses of Confederate Biography in the 21st Century
- Comment: Gregory J. W. Urwin, Temple University

Session 14 | New Approaches to Gender and Unionism in the Civil War Era (Shenandoah J)

- Chair and Comment: Brian C. Neumann, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia
- Panelists:
 - Thalia Chrysanthis, William & Mary, “Wearing Soldiers’ Clothes”: Union Provost Marshals, Fears of Disloyalty, and the Discoveries of Female Soldiers
 - Madelaine Setiawan, Texas A&M University, Southern Unionist Women as Remembered by Fleeing Fugitives
 - Cooper Wingert, Fordham University, Enslaved Women, Military Intelligence, and the Union Army’s Provost Marshal System

3:15–4:45 pm

Session 15 | Working the System: Hospital Politics and Medical Power in the Civil War (James River Salon B)

- Chair and Comment: Jane E. Schultz, Indiana University, Indianapolis
- Panelists:
 - Brian Martin, University of Alabama, “The actual degree of suffering”: Racial Theory, Pain Tolerance, and the Medical Care of Black Civil War Soldiers
 - Lindsay Rae Smith Privette, Anderson University, The Battle Over Bodies: Negotiating Authority over Soldiers’ Medical Care During the Vicksburg Campaign
 - Megan VanGorder, Illinois State University, “She Ranks Me”: Gender, Power, and the Politics of Care in Civil War Hospitals

Session 16 | In the Aftermath: Reconstructing Legacy and Memory after the Civil War (Rappahannock Room)

- Chair and Comment: Timothy J. Williams, University of Oregon
- Panelists:
 - Elizabeth M. Reese, Independent Scholar, Gettysburg College, Collateral Consequences: The Booth Family in the Wake of the Lincoln Assassination
 - Aaron D. Lewis, Independent Scholar, University of South Florida, The Fall and Rise of Jefferson Davis: The Rehabilitation of His Image in the South, 1865-1881
 - Jeffrey Thomas Perry, Tusculum University, “So Imperfectly Understood”: Debating Andrew Johnson’s Legacy, 1869-1909

Session 17 | The Civil War Experience through Military Rituals and Reporting (Shenandoah J)

- Chair: Lesley J. Gordon, University of Alabama
- Panelists:
 - Thomas J. Brown, University of South Carolina, Regimental Departure Ceremonies”
 - Sarah E. Gardner, Mercer University, “War Reporters”
 - Yael Sternhell, Tel Aviv University, First Draft(s) of History: Battle Reports, the Wartime Press, and the Reading Public
- Comment: Sarah Weicksel, American Historical Association

Session 18 | Oceanic Human Trafficking of the Civil War Era (Roanoke Room)

- Chair and Comment: Joseph Reidy, Howard University
- Panelists:
 - Jennie K. Williams, Kinfolkology, The Coastwise Slave Trade and Family Ruptures
 - John Harris, Erskine College, Spying on the Slave Trade: Emilio Sanchez and the Illegal Voyages of the *Orion*
 - Robert Bonner, Dartmouth College, The Global Menace of Confederate Maritime Slaving

3:30–5:00 pm

Off-Site at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Session 19 | Meeting People Where They Are: Engaging History and the Public
(Hosted by the ECC)

- Chair: Shae Smith Cox, Texas A&M University
- Moderator: Chuck Welsko, Kentucky Historical Society
- Discussants:
 - Joseph S. H. Rogers, Pamela K. Royall Director of Community Partnerships
 - Emmanuel Dabney, Petersburg National Battlefield
 - Alison Herring, Independent Researcher
 - Joseph Rizzo, Loudoun Museum
 - James J. Broomall, University of Richmond

5:30–6:30 pm

Presidential Panel: The Next Forty Years (James River Salon CD)

- Discussants:
 - Robert D. Bland, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 - Rachael Nicholas, National Park Service
 - Sarah Weicksel, American Historical Association
 - Anne Marshall, Mississippi State University

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026

8:30–10:00 am

Session 20 | When the Myth Becomes the Story: Dislodging Treasured Civil War “Truths” from Public Memory (James River Salon A)

- Chair: Jason Phillips, West Virginia University
- Panelists:
 - Sarah A. Leavitt, Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, “Of the impression that he was a Jew”: Jewish Mythmaking and the Doctor at Lincoln’s Bedside
 - Sarah J. Purcell, Grinnell College, “He Would Not Put On His Hat”: Gen. Joseph Johnston’s Death as a Myth of Reconciliation
 - Kate Clifford Larson, Public Historian and Consultant, Challenging the Dismissive and Disrespectful Character of Myths and Fakelore That Still Shape the Retelling of the Life of Harriet Tubman and the Work of the Underground Railroad
 - Amy Fluker, Youngstown State University, The Haunting of Eastport: Ghostlore, Fakelore, and Civil War Memory
- Comment: Susannah J. Ural, Mississippi State University

Session 21 | Race and Policing in the Civil War Era South (York River Room)

- Chair: Jonathan Daniel Wells, University of Michigan
- Panelists:
 - A. J. Blaylock, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, City Guards to Native Guards: The Militia and Policing in Civil War Era New Orleans
 - Amanda White Gibson, University of Virginia, The 1852 Subscription Ball: Black Celebration, Freedom-Seeking, and the Mayor’s Court in Richmond, Virginia
 - Tracy L. Barnett, Old Dominion University, A Red Shirt with a Winchester Rifle: Arming the South’s Extra-legal Paramilitary Force
- Comment: Antwain K. Hunter, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Session 22 | When They Met: Civil War Encounters and Conversations (Shenandoah H)

- Chair and Moderator: Barton A. Myers, Washington and Lee University
- Panelists:
 - Matthew Pinsker, Dickinson College, Lincoln and Winfield Scott: West Point, June 1862

- Ethan S. Rafuse, US Army Command and General Staff College, Old Brains and Little Mac at Harrison's Landing
- Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Sherman, Stanton, and African-American Ministers in Savannah, January, 1865
- Brooks D. Simpson, Arizona State University, Summer Heat: Lincoln and Grant, July 31, 1864
- Comment: Audience

Session 23 | Religious Fractures and Bonds in American Abolitionism (Canal Room)

- Chair: Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut
- Panelists:
 - Luke Harlow, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, The Problem of Religious Cooperation in Fractured Abolitionism: Lydia Maria Child and the National Anti-Slavery Standard
 - James Howard, Baylor University, Popish Power, Slave Power: Garrisonian Abolitionists and the Problem of Catholic Hierarchy
 - Amy M. Cools, Northumbria University, "The Variety in Man's Mode of Worship" and "Anti-Slavery": James McCune Smith on Religion and Abolitionism in the Antebellum United States
- Comment: Angela Murphy, Texas State University

10:15–11:45 am

Session 24 | Virginia's Contested Terrain during the Civil War Era (James River Salon A)

- Chair and Comment: Erin Mauldin, University of South Florida
- Panelists:
 - Jeremy Nelson, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia, The Flat Rock Crow Club: Toward an Environmental History of Reconstruction
 - Sanjay K. Paul, Harvard University, The Inequalities of Industrial Slavery: Class and Conflict in Richmond's Defense Industry, 1861-1865
 - Nicholas Sifford, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Mapping the Colored Past: Free People of Color Families in Antebellum Virginia
 - Audrey Sisel, University of Edinburgh, "A Loyal City": White Soldiers' Perspectives on Alexandria, Virginia as the South

Session 25 | Roundtable: Still Searching for the Common Soldier: New Directions for Coming Decades (James River Salon B)

- Moderator: Gerald J. Prokopowicz, East Carolina University
- Discussants:
 - Andrew Turner, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia
 - Kathryn “KT” Shively, Virginia Commonwealth University
 - James J. Broomall, University of Richmond
 - Fay Yarbrough, Rice University
 - Jonathan Lande, Purdue University

Session 26 | Prisoners of War: The Treatment of Prisoners and Its Impact on Memory and Communities (Rappahannock Room)

- Chair and Comment: Evan Kutzler, Western Michigan University
- Panelists:
 - Evan Bell, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, The Head Devil and Those Who Died for Us: How Williamsburg Remembered a Civil War Hospital
 - Madeline Feierstein, Independent Researcher, Investigating Alexandria's Civil War Prisons: Confinement & Justice During Union Occupation
 - Evan C. Jones: Georgetown University, Andersonville Prison Reconsidered: Slavery's “High-Water Mark” & the Carceral Landscape of the Cotton Kingdom

Session 27 | Roundtable: Lines of Authority: Occupation, Obedience, and Opposition in Confederate Florida (Shenandoah J)

- Moderator: Tracy J. Revels, Wofford College
- Discussants:
 - Angela Elder, Converse University
 - Eric Totten, University of Arkansas
 - Angie Zombek, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Session 28 | Figures of Disunion: Biographical and Microhistorical Perspectives on the Secession Crisis (Roanoke Room)

- Chair: Elizabeth R. Varon, University of Virginia
- Panelists:
 - Melissa DeVelvis, Augusta University, “We Are to Have a War”: Secession and the Allston Women of South Carolina

- Claire Roth, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, “To Rend the Union into Fragments”: The 1860 Association, Propaganda, and the Secession Crisis
- Michael E. Woods, University of Tennessee, John Van Evrie’s Secession Crises: How a Manhattan Proslavery Propagandist Confronted Personal, Professional, and Political Ruin
- Comment: Anne Marshall, Mississippi State University

12:00–1:15 pm

Session 29 | Lunch Break / Graduate Student/Early Career Luncheon: "SCWH: The Next Generation" (Hosted by the Grad. Council & ECC) (James River Salon CD)

1:30–3:00 pm

Session 30 | Unionists and Confederates in the Civil War’s International Diasporas (James River Salon B)

- Chair: Alex Barbolish, Richard Bland College
- Panelists:
 - Louise L. Stevenson, Franklin & Marshall College, Making Coolie Ships Places of Freedom, The Federal Anti-Coolie Trade Law of 1862
 - Tom Brinton, Northwest Florida State College, Rebel Tears: Confederate Women in Taiping-Era China
 - Scott A. MacKenzie, Independent Scholar, A Welcome Presence: The Grand Army of the Republic in Canada
 - Chase McCarter, Kentucky Historical Society, First to Flee the Confederacy: John Taylor Wood’s and John C. Breckinridge’s Escape to Cuba
- Comment: Duncan Campbell, National University

Session 31 | Sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction in Indian Territory (Rappahannock Room)

- Chair: Fay Yarbrough, Rice University
- Panelists:
 - Kristen T. Oertel, University of Tulsa, “A Great Run-Away Harbor”: Indian Territory and the March toward Secession
 - Midge Dellinger, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, The Civil War in Indian Territory: A Muscogee Perspective

- Alexandra Stern, City College of New York, Indian Territory: Vanguard of Reconstruction Policy
- Comment: Paul Barba, Bucknell University

Session 32 | Roundtable (Hosted by the ECC): Teaching the Civil War: Pedagogy, Practice, and Possibilities (Canal Room)

- Chair: Amanda Kleintop, Elon University
- Moderator: Megan VanGorder, Illinois State University
- Discussants:
 - Antwain K. Hunter, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 - Sarah Handley-Cousins, University at Buffalo
 - Matthew Pinsker, Dickinson College
 - Lindsey R. Peterson, University of South Dakota

Session 33 | Betwixt and Between: African Americans in the Civil War's Liminal Spaces (Roanoke Room)

- Chair and Comment: Judith Giesberg, Villanova University
- Panelists:
 - Rebecca Zietlow, University of Toledo, Fugitives From Slavery, Free Black Activists, and the Origins of Birthright Citizenship
 - Dwain Coleman, University of Utah, Black Civil War Veterans and the Fight for Suffrage
 - Mark Markov, University of Southern Denmark, Caught in Limbo: Black Bahamian Seamen from a Blockade-runner in the Confederate South

Session 34 | Student Lightning Round (Shenandoah J)

- *To be announced...*

3:15–4:45 pm

Session 35 | Containing, Trying, and Pardoning the Klan (James River Salon A)

- Chair: Sarah E. Gardner, Mercer University
- Panelists:
 - Jerry Chen, Harvard University, Redeeming the Fourteenth Amendment: The North Carolina Ku Klux Klan Trials, 1870-71
 - Steven E. Nash, East Tennessee State University, "A Farce in a Comedy of Justice": Virgil Lusk and the Suppression of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina
 - Brook Thomas, University of California, Irvine, A Case Study in Pardons for the Klan: Randolph Abbott Shotwell

- Comment: Bruce Stewart, Appalachian State University

Session 36 | Excavating Black Civil War Memory (York River Room)

- Chair and Comment: Hilary N. Green, Davidson College
- Panelists:
 - Jeremy Neely, Missouri State University, “Anarchy and Confusion Was Inaugurated”: Power, Freedom, and Missouri’s Disputed Election of 1866
 - Scott Spillman, History Colorado, “Nothing but Even Handed Justice”: The Fight for Black Rights in Reconstruction-era Colorado
 - Jordan Virtue, Stanford University, “The Lyre of War”: Black Civil War Memory in Paul Laurence Dunbar

Session 37 | Roundtable: New Directions in Legal History of the Civil War Era (Canal Room)

- Moderator: Cynthia Nicoletti, University of Virginia
- Discussants:
 - Giuliana Perrone, University of California, Santa Barbara
 - Warren Milteer, Jr., George Washington University
 - Amanda Laury Kleintop, Elon University

Session 38 | Fraudsters, Citizen-Soldiers, and Opportunists: Complicating the Story of Citizenship and Loyalty during the Civil War (Shenandoah H)

- Chair and Comment: Joseph Beilein, Jr., Penn State Behrend
- Panelists:
 - Madeleine McGrady, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Naturalized Northerners in Confederate Mobile: Citizenship and Property Ownership in the C.S.A.
 - Nathan Marzoli, U.S. Space Force Combat Forces Command, The “Fraud File”: What Allegations of Corruption and Fraud Tell Us About Civil-Military Relations and the Administration of the Enrollment Act
 - Thomas Grace, SUNY Erie, Citizens and Soldiers of the Upper River Valley: The 98th Ohio’s Civil War

Student Lightning Round, Continued.... (Shenandoah J)

5:00–7:00 pm

Closing Reception (James River Salon CD)