



Patriot Record

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

PATRIOT RECORD

■ SPRING 2018

Museum / Visitor Center Construction



Who knew that a revolutionary landmark in the small Village of Great Bridge, would become the site of a beautiful Museum / Visitor Center thanks to the dedicated individuals who never gave up. On September 22, 2017, we celebrated our historic groundbreaking with over 200 guests. P.G. Harris was awarded the construction contract, and his staff along with the City of Chesapeake, Hanbury, VDOT, MBP, Horton and Dodd, GET Solutions, McPherson Design Group, Cherwa-Ewing Engineering, the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation along with many others have

gone above and beyond to make this a reality for all to enjoy for generations to come. Board of Trustees member Lee Baynor chairs the building construction committee. All are working together to bring the project in on time and on budget.



Board Members Garnett Lane and Donna Brown have agreed to co-chair the "Grand Opening" Committee for the Foundation. As the building progresses, we will have several events onsite and around the city to celebrate the accomplishments of the last 19 years. The Grand Opening is tentatively planned for the Spring of 2019. Please contact the Foundation office if you would like to be a part of this grand event.



Upcoming Events

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
April - September
Food Trucks
On The Square
Courtyard Square Park

TBA 2018
Soft Opening of
Building

TBA Spring 2019
Grand Opening of
Museum

December 1, 2018
DAR Wreath Laying &
SAR Commemoration of
the Battle of Great Bridge
Historic Battlefield Park

December 1 & 2, 2018
24th Annual Battle of
Great Bridge Reenactment
Battlefield Park South

Food Trucks “On The Square”

Chesapeake Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation, and the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission invite you to Food Trucks “On the Square.” Due to construction at Historic Battlefield Park (previous site of Food Truck Hump Days on the Great Bridge Waterways), Food Trucks “On the Square” will be held at Chesapeake’s newly designated park, Courtyard Square Park (behind City Hall), 306 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322. This event will be held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from April through September (except July 4th) from 4 pm to sunset, the event will offer a variety of food trucks and FREE children's activities, lawn games and live entertainment



🌀 Celebrating the Foundation’s Docents 🌀

The Foundation’s Docents are local, volunteer subject experts that are passionate about our area’s history and vital role in our nation’s independence. They are committed to planting the seed for historical interest while focusing on SOL requirements. This exceptional group should be commended for their unwavering support and dedication in representing the Foundation in the best possible way. We would like to take a moment to recognize the Foundation’s wonderful docents and show our appreciation!

In my 27 years of working in museums, I have seen many dedicated volunteers who deeply believed in the mission of the organizations they assisted, but none quite like the docent group at the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation. Many volunteers settle in to a routine of certain days, hours and tasks for which they are available. However, the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation docents are ready to answer the call when any event comes up where they can impart their knowledge and enthusiasm for our mission, sometimes on very short notice. They have conducted tours at the battlefield site, school programs, educator open houses, special events, community events, television spots, history talks and vignettes, just to name a few. Not to mention the personal research and the first-person characters some have developed as a way to engage the public in the human aspect of this historical era. This type of tireless commitment is reminiscent of another invaluable group, The Culpeper Minutemen.

The minutemen, who were organized to respond to emergencies at a moment’s notice, played a vital role in the Battle of Great Bridge on December 9, 1775. Hailing from Culpeper, Fauquier and Orange, the men met in Major Clayton’s old field to drill. They dressed in strong brown linen hunting shirts, dyed with leaves and the words “Liberty or Death” worked in large white letters on the breast. They marched to Great Bridge to support the II Virginia Regiment and were stationed at a breastwork flanking the causeway on the day of the battle. As riflemen, they made a much more accurate shot than a musket would afford and in collaboration with the strategy and bravery of others, the results were overwhelming. The Patriots maintained the vital passage at Great Bridge and secured a supply line to Washington’s army in the north.

The Battle at Great Bridge might not have been won without the resolute individuals in the Culpeper Minutemen. Likewise, carrying out the mission of the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation would not be possible without the unwavering support and steadfast loyalty of our “minutemen” and women! I am honored to work with such a faithful, devoted group of docents. Please plan to visit the museum when we open and see for yourself this dynamic troop in action.

Written by: Elizabeth Goodwin, Director of Museum Operations, Education and Collections

Museum Exhibits and Operations

In November, the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors approved contracting with Riggs Ward to develop and design the museum exhibits. Riggs Ward is a multi-disciplinary firm located in the capital city of Richmond, Virginia. Having worked with clients such as the Library of Congress, National Park Service, Smithsonian, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia State Capitol, and Virginia State Parks, they are known to inspire visitor engagement in museums and cultural centers through experiential exhibit design, interactive media, innovative graphic design, and strategic master plans.

In January, the Foundation hired Elizabeth Goodwin as Director of Museum Operations, Education & Collections. With more than 25 years of non-profit museum experience, Elizabeth brings a wealth of knowledge to the Foundation including management of all aspects of museum operations from visitor services, facility rentals, admissions and gift shop to education, marketing, administration and curatorial. She has been a member of Museum Stores of Hampton Roads for 11 years and currently serves as the group's president. She also represents the Foundation on the South Hampton Roads Museums Forum. Additionally, Elizabeth is a 2013 graduate of the Vann H. Lefcoe Leadership Development Course and received a certificate in non-profit management in 2017. Since joining the Foundation staff, Elizabeth has been working closely with the Policies & Procedures Committee as well as Riggs Ward and the Planning and Research Committee, chaired by charter member Preston Grissom, to help ensure the museum becomes a well-run educational showcase. We are lucky to have her, and her experience has and will continue to help guide us as we prepare to open and operate the museum.

Additional Fund Raising Efforts

It is because of our donors, who understand the importance of preserving our valuable heritage, that we celebrate the long awaited Phase I construction of our Museum / Visitor Center. However, our work does not end here. To complete this tribute and ensure that our museum exhibits tell the compelling story of our nation's fight for independence, we now must focus on raising the necessary funds to complete the museum and begin Phase II to include an Auditorium and a Classroom / Meeting Room. To assist in additional fundraising efforts, the Foundation recently signed with Wolfe Consulting as an independent contractor to focus on 2018 fund raising as needed. Please consider a tax deductible donation to help ensure the success of this important project. We encourage you to be a part of this exciting journey by leaving a legacy, becoming a lifetime member of the Foundation, or giving a capital or endowment donation.

Become a Lifetime Member

With a one-time contribution of \$1,000, you will receive:

- ❖ Free Museum / Visitor Center admission
- ❖ 10% Discount to all Foundation Events
- ❖ Discount in Museum / Visitor Center gift shop
- ❖ Invitation to exhibit previews
- ❖ Discount for lectures and select ticketed events
- ❖ Email updates with special news and events

*Lifetime membership benefits are available to all family members living under the same household.

The Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the historical significance of the Battle of Great Bridge, the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal, and the Dismal Swamp Canal.



Great Bridge Battlefield &
Waterways History Foundation
P.O. Box 15425
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Patriot Record

Lin J. Olsen,
Executive Director
linolsen@gbbattlefield.org

Contact the Office
Email: info@gbbattlefield.org
Phone: 757-482-4480

On the Web
www.gbbattlefield.org
[Find us on Facebook](#)



Make a Difference Today

Time is running short! With construction underway on Phase I of the GBB&WHF Museum / Visitor Center, your support is crucial at this time.

■ Capital Campaign Donation ■ Memberships ■ Endowment ■ Volunteer

Leave a Legacy



To make your contribution online, please visit www.gbbattlefield.org and click on 'Giving'. If you would like to offer in-kind support as numerous donors have already graciously done, please call our office at 757-482-4480.

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation

Board of Trustees

Rebecca Adams
Lee Baynor
Valerie Brown
Jean Carideo
Lee Curling
Lillie Gilbert
Preston Grissom
Charlie Hackworth
Spencer Hull
Elaine Hutto
Philip Johnson
Timothy Kerr
Scott Matheson
John Maxwell
Brent Nielson
Debbie Ritter
David Ropp
James A. Roy
Olivia Trombino
William E. Ward
Steven Wright

Board of Advisors

Michael Barber
Steve Best
Donna Brown
James Canterbury
Bobby Clifton
John Cosgrove
Robert Creekmore, Jr.
John deTriquet
Louise Franklin
Robert Hitchings
Raymond Jones
Molly Kerr
Garnett Lane
Sam Leary
Peggy Haile McPhillips
Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.
Lil Oman
Michael Perez
Teresa Peters
Ron Phelps
Lori Pickett
Carl Pope, Jr.
Patricia L. Powers
Lisa Rhine
Michael J. Sarros
Thomas Sledge
Tom Whetstone