

The background of the slide is a dark blue-grey color. It features a faint, light-colored map of the state of Virginia. In the lower-left corner, there is a compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left. The text is centered on the slide.

Virginia Centennial Commission: Accomplishments and Lessons Learned

Cheryl Jackson

Division of Legislative Services

November 9, 2006

Pamplin Historical Park

Centennial Civil War Commission

- ▶ Created in 1958
- ▶ Executive and legislative appointments
- ▶ Mission: Inspiration
- ▶ Chief purpose - to strengthen the unity of the country through mutual understanding that there was dedication and devotion on both sides. Both North and South gave all they had in support of what they believed was right.

Centennial Civil War Commission

Vision statement adopted by Commission:

1. To Honor Our Heroes
2. To Promote Virginia as the place to come during the Centennial
3. To Tell the true story of Virginia's people – peacemakers, warriors, restorers and rebuilders
4. To Dramatize the great ideas that are the basis of our freedom and tradition: individual responsibility, faith in God and service to country

Centennial Civil War Commission

- ▶ Local coordination
- ▶ 116 local centennial committees
- ▶ Commission task: Inspiring, Guiding and Coordinating
- ▶ Technical assistance

Technical Assistance to Localities

1. Publish a proclamation
2. Get clubs and organizations involved
3. Hold a public forum
4. Subcommittee on public relations
5. Establish a local headquarters
6. Special stationery
7. Recognize and reward participants

Technical Assistance to Localities

8. Develop full program quickly
9. Start discussion groups / Roundtables
10. Involve choral groups and bands
11. Establish a speaker's bureau
12. Keep State Commission informed
13. Report to the governing body
14. Keep a scrapbook

Centennial Programs

- ▶ Central program: Activities of statewide significance sponsored by the Commission

Centennial Center

Reenactments

Directional markers

Commemorations

Scholarships

Publications

- ▶ Grass-roots program: Activities on the local level sponsored by local committees

Centennial Events: Central Program

- ▶ Sunday, January 8, 1961: Official Day of Prayer
- ▶ February 4, 1961: Peace Convention commemoration
- ▶ April 21, 1961: Miss Civil War Centennial crowned

Centennial Events: Central Program

- ▶ April 23, 1961: Official Opening Date of the Centennial in Virginia:
 - Dress parade
 - Reenactment in Old House Chamber of Lee accepting command of Confederate forces
 - Official ceremonies at State Capitol
 - Centennial Honor Banquet

Centennial Events: Central Program 1961

- ▶ July 22 – 23: Reenactment of Battle of First Manassas
- ▶ August 7: Commemoration of the burning of Hampton
- ▶ Special exhibits: Mariners Museum and Academy of Medicine
- ▶ October: Centennial Center opens

Civil War Centennial Center

Civil War Centennial Commission, Sept 1961 edition, Wash, D.C.



VIRGINIA
CENTENNIAL
CENTER

This splendid example of modern architecture on the right will be opened to the public by the Virginia Civil War Commission with appropriate ceremonies October 3.

Designed for practical service to visitors, the center will be operated seven days a week to give them an overall conception of the campaigns that took place in Virginia and to orient them with the battlefields, museums and other Civil War sites to be seen throughout the state. This will be done by three-dimensional exhibits, some of them animated and including sound effects, and a 15-minute color motion picture narrated by Boris Aron, Joseph Carter, a native of Pennsylvania, Pa.

In the lower looking over architectural plans are Arthur C. Wooley, general contractor, 1621 and James J. Henry, executive director of the Commission. Wooley will be portrayed from the rear at the top.



Civil War Centennial Center

October 1961 – November 1965: 630,000+ visitors



Centennial Events: Central Program 1962 - 1964

- ▶ February 22, 1962: Reenactment of swearing in of Jefferson Davis
- ▶ May 1963: Dinner honoring Stonewall Jackson on the centennial of the Battle of Chancellorsville; 100th anniversary of Jackson's death
- ▶ 1964: Commemoration of Battle of Cold Harbor and Battle of the Crater

Centennial Events: Central Program 1965

- ▶ April: Reenactment of Lee's retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox
- ▶ April 9: Program commemorating the surrender at Appomattox Court House National Park

What Did the Centennial Cost?

Income

Appropriations:
\$2,315,000

Revenue from operations
\$161,600

Expenses

Centennial Center:
\$675,000

Exhibits: \$60,000

Motion pictures:
\$100,000

Observances and
publications:
\$1,400,000

What Did the Centennial Cost?

Total amount spent by the
Commission:

\$2,100,000

(Adjusted for Inflation: \$13,526,666)

Lessons Learned

- ▶ Goals: Commemoration, Education and Travel
- ▶ One story vs. Many stories
- ▶ Designated Destinations

Sesquicentennial Program: Ideas to Carry Forward from Centennial

- ▶ Local sesquicentennial committees
- ▶ State Commission serving as coordinator
- ▶ Technical assistance to localities
- ▶ Speaker's Bureau
- ▶ Signature events

Sesquicentennial Program: New Directions

► Logo



Sesquicentennial Program: New Directions

- ▶ Advisory Council
- ▶ Legacy
- ▶ Website
 - www.virginiacivilwar.org
 - www.vacivilwar.org

Website: www.virginiacivilwar.org

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VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR 150

UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST
150
REMEMORATING
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

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Welcome to the home of the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the American Civil War

The years 2011 - 2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the battles of which were fought from 1861 - 1865. Yet the issues leading up to the war developed over centuries, and legacies of the war's aftermath continue today. The goal of the Virginia sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War is to understand this past by examining the many facets of the war, as we come together to embrace our future.

It is important to know that this is not a celebration. There is no joy to be found in a war that caused the deaths of over 620,000 Americans, divided families, tore apart a nation, and left cities in ruin. Rather, it is a commemoration. It is a solemn remembrance of the Americans - - men, women and children, black and white, from the north and the south - - who lived, fought and died for that which they believed. There is much we can learn from them, for history that is not understood is doomed to be repeated.

Virginia is central to the commemoration of the Civil War.

- Virginia lead the call for the Peace Convention of 1861, bringing together both free states and slave states in an attempt to reach an agreement that would avoid the war and preserve the Union.
- The bookends of the war were in Virginia: the site of the first major battle of the war (Manassas), and the end of the war (Appomattox).
- Sixty percent of the Civil War's battles - - three out of every five - - were fought in Virginia. No other area in the Western Hemisphere has ever been as devastated by war as Virginia was during the Civil War.

It is our sincere desire that the sesquicentennial period will be one that will leave all Virginians, as well as citizens throughout the United States and beyond, with a better understanding of the past - - not just the war's military history, but also the social, economic, political and psychological legacies of the Civil War. It will be an opportunity to look back, and also a chance to look forward together - - a chance to truly understand, learn and grow. We welcome your comments, invite your participation, and look forward to commemorating this important chapter of our shared history together.

William J. Howell, Chairman
Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission

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Local intranet 9:17 AM

Website: www.virginiacivilwar.org

Address <http://sus/civilwarsite1/about/about.htm> Go Links >>

**UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST
150
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE**

VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR 150

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About The Commission

The General Assembly of Virginia created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in 2006 ([HE 1440](#)) to prepare for and commemorate the sesquicentennial of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War.

The Commission has the following powers and duties:

1. Plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.
2. Encourage interdisciplinary examination of the American Civil War.
3. Facilitate balanced activities related to the American Civil War throughout Virginia.
4. Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War.
5. Provide technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.
6. Develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit.
7. Encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the American Civil War.
8. Report annually to the General Assembly and the Governor on the interim activity and work of the Commission.

Members of the Commission:

Speaker of the House William J. Howell, *Chairman*
Senator John H. Chichester, *Vice-Chairman*

Delegate Albert C. Eisenberg	Senator R. Creigh Deeds
Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr.	Senator Janet D. Howell
Delegate Johnny S. Joannou	Senator Manie E. Locke
Delegate R. Steven Landes	Senator Stephen H. Martin
Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter	Mr. John P. Ackerly, III
Delegate Thomas C. Wright	Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.
	Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

Commission Staff:
Division of Legislative Services:

Local intranet 9:18 AM

Website: www.virginiacivilwar.org

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays <http://sus/civilwarsite1/resources/resources.htm>. The website content includes a header with the text "VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR 150" and a navigation menu with links: Home, The Commission, News, Links, Calendar, Educational Resources, and Contact. Below the menu is the section "Civil War Time Line", which contains a large graphic with the text "Welcome to Virginia In The Civil War TimeLine" and a calendar interface for the year 1865. The bottom section is titled "Virginia Battles in the Civil War" and features a map of Virginia with various battle locations marked by symbols. A legend indicates the following categories:

- ★ Class A Decisive
- ▲ Class B Major
- Class C/D Other Principal

The map labels include: Rappahannock Sta., Cedar Mountain, Port Republic, Cross Keys, McDowell, Garnetts and Goldings Farms, Front Royal, Winchester, Kernstown, Thoroughfare Gap, Manassas, Manassas Station, Chantilly, and Fredericksburg. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications, and the system clock displaying 9:19 AM.

Website: www.virginiacivilwar.org

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UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST
150
SESQUICENTENNIAL
EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR 150

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Contact Us

Mailing Address

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

Attention: Cheryl Jackson

Phone: (804) 786-3591
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Email: cjackson@leg.state.va.us

To be placed on the Commission's mailing list, please contact:

B. Scott Maddrea
Deputy Clerk - Committee Operations
Virginia House of Delegates
SMaddrea@house.state.va.us
(804) 698-1545

[For information on the Commission's meetings, please click here](#)

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2007 Work Plan

- ▶ Executive Committee
- ▶ Launch website
- ▶ Continue tour of the state
- ▶ Designated Destinations
- ▶ Local centennial committees
- ▶ Work Groups
- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Advisory Council

