

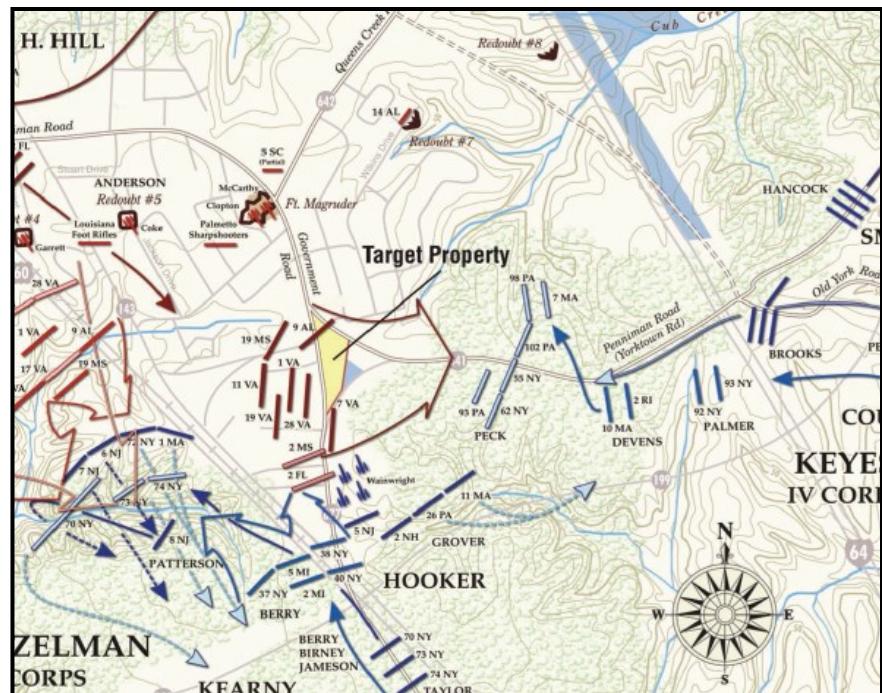


# The Williamsburg Line

## **Smith Lot : 1861-1865**

The Smith lot is located where present-day Oak Drive (Government Road on the map) and Penniman Road intersect. In 1861 these were the Hampton and Yorktown Roads, and all west-bound traffic on the Peninsula converged here before heading into Williamsburg and towards Richmond, the Confederate Capitol. This intersection is the major reason the Battle of Williamsburg occurred on May 5, 1862. Confederates used impressed slaves to build Ft. Magruder (shown on map) to command this intersection. Early on May 5, Union troops slogged up muddy Hampton Road in the rain and were stopped at the SW corner of the Smith lot by the fort's artillery. They deployed their own cannons (shown on map), but infantry were forced to file off the road towards the west. A Confederate attack pushed the Union soldiers back across the road and the Smith lot, resulting in the capture of the Union cannons. Fresh Union brigades soon arrived at the intersection. Pressed on two sides, the Confederates withdrew and relinquished the prized Union cannons. After Union forces occupied Williamsburg on May 6, Ft. Magruder and the Smith lot became a large camp for soldiers and runaway slaves. By March 1864, the 6th USCT infantry and perhaps a company of USCT cavalry occupied the area. Newly freed slaves settled around the Smith lot and fort after the war.

## **Smith Lot Saved !!!**



(Battle of Williamsburg Map courtesy of the Civil War Trust. View full map at Civilwar.org)

Sound the bugle! Roll the drum! The WBA proudly announces the preservation of another undeveloped plot of core Williamsburg Battlefield land! At the end of September, the Civil War Trust (CWT) closed on the purchase of the 3.5-acre Smith lot highlighted in yellow on the map and labeled "Target Property". The WBA contributed to the purchase by applying the land acquisition grant funds it received last fall through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (reported to you in the April 2016

newsletter). The Smith lot is adjacent to two small parcels already owned by the CWT and shown in blue on the map. If you participated in Park Day the past two years, you helped cleanup these two small parcels. The CWT plans to combine all three contiguous lots into one protected parcel that it will transfer to the WBA. The new, 4-acre parcel will provide the first major opportunity for trails and interpretive signage within the core battlefield boundaries. More work to come!

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

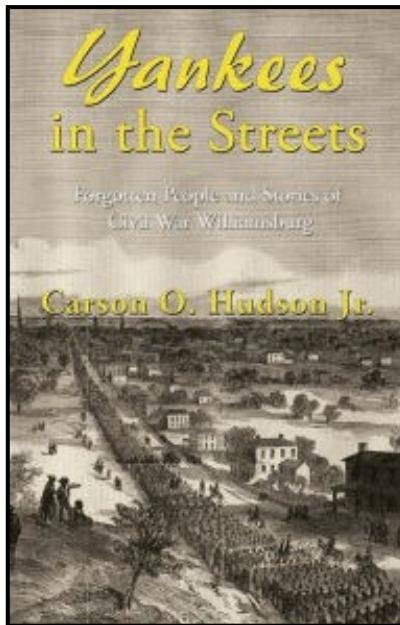
***Edwin Brown- 1st Mass Vol Infantry***

# Education & Preservation

## **NEW Book on Civil War Williamsburg!**

Want to learn more about Williamsburg during the Civil War? Local author and historian, Carson O. Hudson, Jr. has published his second book on Williamsburg during the Civil War. ***Yankees in the Streets: Forgotten People and Stories of Civil War Williamsburg*** is a collection of stories, anecdotes, and trivia. It is available in hardcover and paperback and for Kindle and Nook at Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. It is also available in select gift and book shops in Colonial Williamsburg.

Mr. Hudson's first book on Williamsburg during the Civil War, aptly titled ***Civil War Williamsburg***, was published in 1997 and is also still available. As WBA supporters, you know that there is more than just Colonial history in Williamsburg. Get the word out! **Both books make great Christmas gifts!**



### **Upcoming Events:**

- March 3-5, 2017—*Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend* at the Mariners' Museum
- April 1, 2017—*Civil War Trust Park Day (no fooling!)*
- May 9, 2017—*Give Local 757*

If you participated in Park Day the past 2 years, plan to come in 2017 ... and to bring a friend. More hands will be needed. Why? Find out inside!

**WILLIAMSBURG**  
BATTLEFIELD  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1825  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Williamsburgbattlefield@gmail.com

Williamsburgbattlefieldassociation.org

WilliamsburgBattlefieldAssociation

@BattleofWmsbrg

Williamsburg Battlefield Association

P. O. Box 1825

Williamsburg, VA 23187

Address