

# Where history happened



The most authentic tours in the history of America

January 2009



April 14-21, 2009

Historian Guide: Craig Symonds

## America's Naval Heritage: Anchors Aweigh!

From its very founding, the United States has been a maritime nation, and from April 14-21, 2009, that truth will become clearer than ever before. HistoryAmerica TOURS and Craig Symonds are thrilled to offer this extraordinary tour of America's naval heritage—a story long in the telling.

Separated and protected from the wars of Europe by the vast Atlantic, the U.S. has relied on its navy for protection and influence overseas. But if the navy has been a constant in American history, the technology that characterized its warships has been constantly changing. From 1794 when President Washington signed "an act to provide a naval armament" to today, the United States has constantly improved and increased its naval defenses.

At first, during the American Revo-

lution, the new force struggled against the mighty Royal Navy. By WWII the United States had the most powerful navy in the world, a fact that some Japanese were aware of before they awakened the "sleeping giant" on December 7, 1941.

Come and experience this unique tour led by noted naval historian Craig Symonds. One of the highlights will be a boat tour of Hampton Roads, where you will hear on-the-spot details of the famous Civil War naval battle between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*. You will also visit fine maritime museums and a variety of warships from the Age of Sail through WWII, as you learn about the U. S. Navy and its impressive global influence.

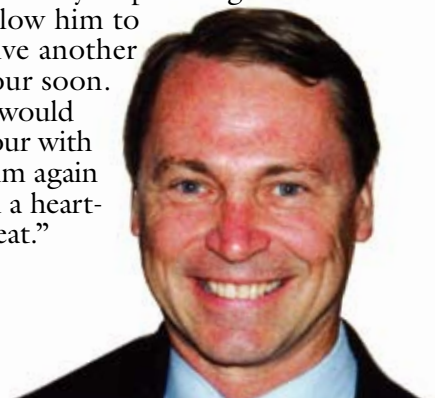
Call 1-800-628-8542 now for more information or to make your reservations.

## Historian Guide Craig Symonds

Traveling with Craig Symonds is a rare opportunity, but one that History America is offering this year with *America's Naval Heritage*. This renowned historian seldom does tours because of his busy research and writing schedule. He is the author of 11 books, including biographies of Joseph E. Johnston (finalist, Lincoln Prize), Patrick Cleburne (winner, S.A. Cunningham Award for Literary Achievement), and Frank Buchanan (winner, John Lyman Book Award). Recently Craig was given the prestigious Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Award for his book, *Decision at Sea*. His latest book *Lincoln and his Admirals*, is receiving rave reviews

Craig, a professor emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy, won both the coveted Excellence in Teaching and the Excellence in Research awards. These honors are obvious when you travel with him, as his knowledge and presentation are the very best.

The Oxford University Press says that "Symonds tells spellbinding narratives." HAT travelers concur. "Incredibly knowledgeable, brilliant lecturer, and funny. What a guy!" says Tom Lavin. Wendy Swanson adds, "I certainly hope Craig's schedule will allow him to give another tour soon. I would tour with him again in a heartbeat."



# ★ HISTORYAMERICA TOURS

For reservations & information contact:  
**HISTORYAMERICA TOURS.**  
(800) 628-8542  
[www.historyamerica.com](http://www.historyamerica.com)



May 3-10, 2009

## Antietam and Gettysburg: Killing Fields that Changed America

Travel with Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Civil War historian James McPherson on HistoryAmerica's *Antietam and Gettysburg: Killing Fields that Changed America*, May 3-10, 2009. You will follow Robert E. Lee on his two invasions of the North as these two pivotal campaigns come alive for you under McPherson's expert guidance. Jim's interpretations of the events of 1862 and 1863, coupled with his in-depth answers to your questions, will make this premier tour both enjoyable and memorable. For those of you who may be relatively new to Civil War travel and for those of you who are long-time aficionados, this tour is an experience that should not be missed.

Your tour starts at South Mountain where the Union Army attempted to save Harpers Ferry from capture by General "Stonewall" Jackson. You will then travel to the Antietam and Gettysburg battlefields where you will

walk the ground made famous with such names as Bloody Lane, Burnside Bridge, the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, Little Round Top, and Pickett's Charge. You may have walked these historic hallowed grounds before, but the same experience with James McPherson gives new depth and understanding to the events and to the sacrifices made by the soldiers who fought and died for their beliefs.

One of many highlights of this tour is a visit to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland. The museum effectively weaves the narrative of suffering soldiers, caregivers, their families, and the dramatic and innovative developments in medical treatment that occurred during the Civil War.

This tour is filling up rapidly, so call us soon for this last run of one of HistoryAmerica's great tours.

## NOVEMBER 2009 HAT'S LAST TOUR

The troubled economy has taken its toll on HistoryAmerica TOURS, and the company will close at the end of 2009. However, in the meantime, the tours that fill will proceed with the same emphasis on careful planning, detailed scouting, authentic history, good food and accommodations, and the best historian guides in the United States. The standards of quality and excellence that have been the hallmark of HistoryAmerica will not be compromised in the 2009 touring season.

Sharon McDermott and Michael and Georgia O'Connor wish to thank all of you who have traveled with us in the last two years, our fabulous historians who have made this possible, and our great tour directors who "make a plan come together." Special thanks to Pete and Julia Brown for their guidance and willingness to share all that they learned in 15 years of making HAT the business that it is today. HistoryAmerica TOURS is a spectacular organization and it has been a thrill for us to be a part of it.

Sharon,  
Mike,  
& Georgia



**The Confederacy's  
Greatest Cavalryman**  
By Brian Steel Wills  
University of Kansas Press  
ISBN 978-0-7006-0885-0

HistoryAmerica recommends this fine book by one of our historian guides, leader of the 2009 tour *Riding with Forrest: "The Wizard in the Saddle."* A fascinating read, Brian's book has been lauded by publishers, authors, historians, and enthusiastic readers of history.

*Publishers Weekly* says, "This is the best biography of one of the most exciting, colorful, and controversial figures of the Civil War."

*The Journal of American History* says, "Surprisingly, given Forrest's well-deserved fame as a first-

rate combat general, Wills is the first scholar to present a truly balanced, objective portrait of the most persistently controversial figure the Civil War produced."

Emory M. Thomas, author of *Robert E. Lee: A Biography* says, "Wills knows more about Forrest than any previous biographer. . . . He recites, indeed invigorates, the incidents of Forrest's life and military career, [retelling] the old stories with a fresh voice."

This book is available online and at some major bookstores.

April 18-25, 2009

# Bearss leads Civil War on the Gulf Coast



In April, Historian Guide Edwin C. Bearss will lead you on the tour *Civil War on the Gulf Coast: Time of Trial on Land and Sea*. Bearss, the “Pied Piper of History” and Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, needs no introduction with History America travelers. Here is some of the history that Ed will bring to life before your eyes.

Early in the Civil War the Union devised the “Anaconda Plan.” Designed to strangle the Confederacy and split it in two to prevent supplies from moving east and west, the plan called for the blockade of the Gulf Coast as well as the capture of the Mississippi River. The first step was to seize New Orleans, the Confederacy’s largest city and busiest port and its center of ship building.

In 1862, a New Orleans journalist wrote in a boastful manner, “Our only fear is that the Northern invaders might not appear. We have made such extensive preparations to receive them, that it were vexatious if their invincible armada escapes the fate we have in store for it.” Responding to the challenge, Flag Officer David Farragut took the first step with the continuous bombardment of forts Jackson and St. Philip, 75 miles to the south. Unable to destroy the guns of the forts, Farragut ordered his ships to run the gauntlet. They annihilated the

small Confederate fleet and captured New Orleans on April 25, 1862—a terrible blow to the Confederacy. Unopposed, the defenseless city was spared the destruction suffered by many other southern cities.

Two years later, on August 5, 1864, commanding the Union fleet again, Admiral Farragut took his flagship into Mobile Bay, defended by two forts and a torpedo (mine) field. Under fire from Fort Morgan and the Confederate fleet, Farragut had to choose between retreating or risking the minefield. Issuing his famous order, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed!” his vessel and 17 others made it through safely, shutting down the last blockade-running port on the Gulf Coast east of the Mississippi.

Experience the southern charm and ambience that is uniquely New Orleans. See the cannons of the forts and walk along the riverbanks where troops gathered and camped on their journey north. Relive all the dramatic moments on sea and also on land when you travel to Montgomery, Alabama, birthplace of the Confederacy and where its president, Jefferson Davis, was inaugurated. Relive too, the capture of Selma at war’s end, and wrap up this fascinating learning vacation with a visit to Andersonville, the notorious Confederate prison.

## FEATURED TRAVELERS



Jack and Laura Richmond  
San Antonio, Texas

Laura and I really enjoy History America TOURS and the reasons are many. The historians are outstanding—they have great knowledge and great passion for their subjects. The time involved for the tours is perfect for us—one week. We love to go and after seven days we love returning home. If I don’t get everything resolved before I leave, there is no pressure; I just tell myself, “I’ll be back in a week and it can wait until then.” The destinations aren’t so distant that the plane ride seems like a jail sentence. The group dynamics and the accommodations are the best possible.

The HistoryAmerica team has really maximized our comfort and interest. They make available sites and experiences we could never do on our own. The people we meet impress me—they are so open, gracious, and informed. Their contributions are welcomed by the historians, and correctly so, because often they enhance the subject.

For me, it’s “a gift that keeps on giving.” Our first trip was to *Bad Hand Mackenzie*. I’ve been interested in Texas history for decades. I’d never heard of “Bad Hand,” and as I checked with my fellow Texans, they hadn’t either. After I returned from the tour I gave a program to my Kiwanis group, which spurred me on to read more about the subject. Like our historian guide, Neil Mangum, I have a passion for the topic, which I strongly desire to share with others.

You see, I’ve been changed by these trips and, like I said, Laura and I really enjoy HistoryAmerica TOURS.