

THE 1860S CIVILIAN CELEBRATION– MAY 5, 6, AND 7, 2023
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS AND SCHEDULE*

THURSDAY, MAY 4

For those arriving today, check in, relax, and enjoy the resort.

6:00-7:00pm, Dinner served in Sunset Lodge

EVENING ACTIVITY, 8:00-9:30pm

- **Meet and Greet, hosted by Penny and Matt DiPalma.**

A relaxed and easy way to greet old friends and make new acquaintances. Please join us! Period dress such as wrappers are encouraged, but not required. Wear whatever you prefer but do come and enjoy the company and camaraderie.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

8:00-9:00am, Breakfast served in Main Building Dining Room

MORNING ACTIVITIES, 9:30am-Noon

- **Constructing a Period Carry Strap, with Jackie Jacobs.**

This workshop will consist of making a pair of fabric straps to use to secure a blanket and other personal items when traveling. Soldiers and civilians alike could use these handy articles of what I like to call Petit Luggage, when traveling about in coaches, on trains, and while on a march from town to town or battle to battle. Materials needed to make a pair of Carry-Straps will be provided by the instructor. The student will need to bring a sewing kit which consists of construction thread, needles, pins, scissors, ruler, or tape measure. As long as you can sew a button, you have enough sewing experience for this class. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$30.00

- **Creating a Period Floor Cloth, with Genie Stracuzzi.**

Have you ever admired the painted floor cloths that other reenactors and living historians rest their feet on? Did you know that simple painted floor cloths can cost several hundred dollars to buy? Take this workshop to learn how to make one and take home a painted floor cloth you've made yourself. Each participant will receive instruction on both period & modern techniques of making a 3'x5' Painted Floor Cloth. All supplies, including paints, tapes, rulers, and printed handouts are included. Please bring a simple idea, and/or any specific stencils you want to use (not required). Remember, there are paints involved, so attend 'at your own risk' regarding spillage, etc. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$50.00

12:30–1:30pm, Lunch served in Main Building Dining Room

LUNCH ACTIVITY, 12:45 to 1:15pm

- **An Introduction to Traveling in the Mid-19th Century, with Julie Wilson**

Before the automobile and the plane, how did folks move from here to there? In the mid-19th century, they travelled by rail or water, or they hoofed it—either on two feet or four feet. This presentation will discuss the various types of travel, and the various types of people that took such travel.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES, 2:30–5:00pm

- **Promenade in the Birdsong Pleasure Garden, with Rodney Crawford.**

While promenading in period day dress along sunny and shaded strolling paths, knowledgeable tour guides lead visitors amongst a variety of picturesque native gardens, broad mountain vistas, and unique

water features. Created by Tom and Lesley Mack, it is truly a Garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home and try. Entrance Fee: \$15.00

- **From Point A to Point B: A Travelogue of Costume, with Kay Gnagey of Originals by Kay.**

Day or night, cold or hot, what was worn when going from place to place? This class is an overview of how mid-19th century civilians clothed themselves while traveling. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$5.00

- **Constructing a Period Shoe Bag, with Darline DeMott.**

Construct a period shoe bag following period instructions adapted to modern crafters. In keeping with our travel theme, we will make a sweet and very useful item from the March 1864 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, a shoe bag. And in keeping with those clever Victorian ladies, this is more than just a drawstring bag! There's pleated (plaited) braid around the edge and decorative embroidery. To quote Godey's, "Besides being useful for travelling purposes, these little bags form very neat appendages to a lady's wardrobe and may either be kept in the shoe drawer or hung on pegs." I may need a few of these! Sewing machine provided to share, or you can bring your own (with extension cord, please). For those with intermediate to expert sewing skills. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$30.00

6:00–7:00pm, Dinner served in Main Building Dining Room

FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITY, 8:00–10:30pm

- **Traveling 19th Century Style: The Antiques Exhibition 2023**

The theme this year is clothing and accoutrements related to Traveling 19th Century Style, featuring items from the private collections of Heather Hook and Dr. Holly Ray, our premier exhibitors this year. Heather will showcase a variety of travel-related offerings from the late 1700s to the late 1800s. Her extensive collections of original garments, accessories, and other material culture is always an honor to view and enjoy. Holly will display her large collection of antique saddles and equestrian accessories, and you'll have the opportunity to try sitting on one of the saddles. We are sure the collections will once again awe you, and leave you with added appreciation of the period, and perhaps inspiration for a new project or activity.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

8:00–9:00am, Breakfast served in Main Building Dining Room

SATURDAY MORNING ACTIVITY, 9:30–11:30am,

- **Featured Presentation: Travelling through Time as Living Historians, with Amie Rhoden Clark**

This presentation addresses the importance of the "time travel" that we, as living historians, engage in. We will look at the various ways in which living historians choose to interpret the era we portray. The events we attend aren't just battlefield reenactments anymore. We participate in countless other presentations that bring to light the various social classes, vocations, and talents of the people we represent. We will look at the importance of primary research in developing those roles and how we keep these ancestors relevant to the visitors we engage. We'll delve into the value placed on the things involved and destinations that we, as living historians, are willing to travel for. We, as living historians, are educational ambassadors for history, folk arts, and the forgotten arts of long ago. It is incumbent on us to inspire the next generation, so knowledge and abilities are not lost.

12:30–1:30pm, Lunch served in Main Building Dining Room

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY, 12:30–2:00pm

- **The Civilian Civil War Closet Comes Alive, presented by Kay Gnagey**

Our annual fun and educational presentation where we will learn what people looked like as they stepped out – traveling, visiting, or just out to enjoy the day. Mid-19th century folks had a wide variety of outerwear, both fun and functional!

Group Photograph following the fashion show.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES, 2:30—4:30pm

- **Destination Go! Packing It Up, with Stephanie Brennan.**

Join us as we explore the world of mid-19th century luggage. The class will provide instruction on packing trunks, bags, valises, and boxes for traveling. Referring to advice books and using real-life examples, we will learn what to pack and how to pack to our best advantage. On hand, will be an array of reproduction and original trunks. Each student will then assist in packing a trunk or bag with an assortment of clothing and belongings. Class will end by making labels to be used for your personal luggage to assure it arrives at the proper destination. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$5.00

- **Cameos: What They Are and What to Look For, with Melissa Strobel.**

Cameos have been popular over the centuries, but never more so than in the mid-19th century. Carved by apprentices, journeymen, and masters, cameos each tell a story in shell, lava, glass ceramic, and so many other materials. We will explore the history, materials, manufacture, styles, what to look for when shopping, and the types of cameos most desired by mid-19th century women. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$15.00

Tie One On: Ladies Silk Neck-Tie Workshop, with Penny DiPalma.

In this class you will make a fancy silk neck-tie from the 23 July 1860 issue of Der Bazar, and the September 1861 issue of Godey's Lady's Book. The materials cost includes a copy of the original pattern to make the neck-tie in class. You'll also receive the original patterns for the matching belt and cuffs, to complete on your own. Fabrics for your necktie are not included in the cost of materials. You'll be contacted before the event regarding purchase of materials for the necktie. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$10.00

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SATURDAY LATE AFTERNOON ACTIVITY, 4:30-7:30pm

- **For the Ladies Only: Hairdressing for the Ball, with Kay Gnagey and Friends.**

Get help and advice with dressing for the ball, including hair arrangements, placing your accessories, and other necessities.

6:00-7:00pm, Dinner served in Main Building Dining Room

SATURDAY EVENING ACTIVITY, 8:00—10:30pm

- **Capon Springs Victorian Ball, with dance callers Tom & Lesley Mack and featuring the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Era Dancers**

The ball is a wonderful interlude of period dance and music. Wear ball dress or your best attire, including military uniforms. Come to enjoy yourself and learn Victorian era ballroom dancing.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

SUNDAY EARLY MORNING ACTIVITIES, 7:45-8:30am

- **Period Christian Religious Service, with Chaplain Andy Gelfert**

On Sunday morning before breakfast, Chaplain Andy Gelfert will hold a non-denominational Christian service, appropriate to the Mid-19th century. A quiet interlude of music, message, and prayer in an otherwise exciting and busy weekend. All are welcome.

8:30-9:30am, Breakfast served in Main Building Dining Room

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES, 9:30 – 11:30am

- **The Civilian Celebration Book Club: The Cotton Kingdom: A Traveller's Observation on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States, 1853-1861, with Yulanda Burgess.**

Frederick Law Olmsted departed New York 170 years ago on an extensive research exploration to the American South. From 1853 to 1861, his observations were published in the New York Daily News. In 1861, his articles and dispatches were published as *The Cotton Kingdom: A Traveller's Observation on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States, 1853-1861*. Olmsted's observations on the people, economy, education, agriculture, politics, culture, customs, and modes of transportation are a wealth of information for those interested in mid-nineteenth century history and material culture. Please read the book; with everyone familiar with the writings, we can insightfully discuss Olmsted's observations, and add our own thoughts. Those who collect material culture, artifacts, photographs, maps, and other ephemera are encouraged to bring items Olmsted mentions in *The Cotton Kingdom*. If you would like, a copy of the *Cotton Kingdom*, can be mailed to your home so you can read it before meeting up. Or, you can order a copy for your e-reader. We've included the Kindle link. A URL to download a free version is also provided. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: Varies depending on type of publication chosen.

- **Horse Power: Making History One Hoofbeat at a Time, with Joy Fowler.**

Originating before recorded history, the animal that evolved into today's modern horse has existed, adapted, excelled, and thrived, accompanying humankind on their journeys, and together creating futures that defied imagination! Explore the interdependent relationships that developed and see how those played out in mid-1800s America. Discover how horses fit into your living history impression by experiencing the ubiquitous phenomena of the horse in Victorian life. Instructor Fee: \$20.00; Materials Cost: \$5.00

12:30-1:30pm, Lunch served in Main Building Dining Room

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Make your final visit to the Market Fair and enjoy the resort! Market fair closes at 2:30pm!

**This is a draft description and schedule. It is subject to revision for circumstances outside the control of the event coordinators.*