



Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger
Courtesy of the National Historical Society

The American Civil War

...brought conflict to those living along the James River's south shore in Isle of Wight County. The James River was considered a concern for Confederate leaders as the river, confronted with aggressive Union naval action, could lead warships directly to Richmond, the Confederate capital.

In 1861, state engineer and architect Andrew Talcott was assigned the task of building defenses along the James River to protect against Union assault. He traveled up the James River and chose the most suitable sites for gun batteries. In addition to batteries at Fort Boykin, Mulberry Island, Jamestown Island and Drewry's Bluff, he also chose Hardy's Bluff for the construction of Fort Huger.

Named for Commander of the Department of Norfolk Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger, the fort was a strategic military position due to a deep navigable channel just offshore.



Typical Civil War encampment
Courtesy of the Library of Congress
Aerial photograph of Fort Huger by David Sawyer

Spent Jan 21

16 James Huger 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

16 James Huger 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

16 James Huger 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

In constructing the fort, the Confederacy hired free black citizens from Isle of Wight County to supplement their limited workforce. This roll shows the workers' names, their jobs and their pay. Most were paid fifty cents a day.



Fort Huger is located in the northern section of Isle of Wight County. From Route 10, follow the trailblazing signs. The fort's entrance is located at the corner of Lawnes Neck Drive and Talcott Terrace.

Open daily from 8 a.m. until dusk.

HISTORIC

Fort Huger

15080 Talcott Terrace, Smithfield, Virginia 23430, (757) 357-0115
Fort Huger is operated by
Isle of Wight County Historic Resource Division, Department of Tourism
Smithfield & Isle of Wight Convention & Visitors Bureau
(757) 357-5182 or 1-800-365-9339 VisitsSmithfieldIsleOfWight.com.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places,
Virginia Civil War Trails, Captain John Smith's Trail
& Cornell eBird System

Color photographs of Fort Huger by Brett England
Map on cover from the Confederate Engineer Bureau, Richmond, Va.
Courtesy of the Isle of Wight County Museum

