



# Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

**Media Release**

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**Author of “Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War”  
Presents Talk at the Hampton History Museum on October 7**

Hampton, VA—Historian and award-winning author Dr. Eizabeth R. Varon presents "Armies of Deliverance: Union War Aims and Motivation" at the Hampton History Museum as part of its Port Hampton Lecture Series on Monday, October 7, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The talk is based on her recently released book “Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War.”

In her comprehensive history of the American Civil War, Varon, University of Virginia professor of American history, argues that the Union was motivated to fight not only to free the slaves, but also to redeem white Southerners from the tyranny of the planter class and the slaveholding economy. This politics of deliverance helped unify the North and contributed to the Union victory, but it failed to grapple with resistance from white Southerners who rejected the North’s terms and undermined Reconstruction. Interweaving military and social history, Varon offers new perspectives on the attitudes, goals and frustrations of both sides.

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**Author of “Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War” Presents Talk at the Hampton History Museum on October 7 – page 2**

**About the Author**

Elizabeth R. Varon is Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia and serves on the Executive Council of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History. Varon grew up in northern Virginia. She received her PhD from Yale, and has held teaching positions at Wellesley College and Temple University. A specialist in the Civil War era and 19th-century South, Varon is the author of “We Mean to be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia” (1998); “Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy” (2003); “Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859” (2008); and “Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War (2013)”. “Southern Lady, Yankee Spy” won three book awards and was named one of the “Five Best” books on the “Civil War away from the battlefield” in the Wall Street Journal. “Appomattox” won the 2014 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction, the 2014 Dan and Marilyn Laney Prize for Civil War History (Austin Civil War Roundtable), and the 2014 Eugene Feit Award in Civil War Studies of the New York Military Affairs Symposium, and was named one of Civil War Monitor’s “Best Books of 2014” and one of National Public Radio’s “Six Civil War Books to Read Now.” Varon’s public presentations include book talks at the Lincoln Bicentennial in Springfield; and at Gettysburg’s Civil War Institute; and on C-Span’s Book TV. Her new book, *Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War*, appeared with Oxford University Press in March 2019.

After her talk, Dr. Varon will sign copies of her book, “*Armies of Deliverance*,” available in the museum gift shop for \$20. Museum members receive a 10% discount.

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**Author of “Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War” Presents Talk at the Hampton History Museum on October 7 – page 3**

Admission is free for museum members, \$5 for non-members.

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757/727-1102, or visit [www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org](http://www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org).

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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**Images attached:**

Varon portrait and book cover courtesy of the author

Image from the book cover: "Marching on!"--The Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Colored Regiment singing John Brown's March in the streets of Charleston, February 21, 1865, Illus. in: Harper's weekly, v. 9, 1865 March 18, p. 165. Library of Congress