

News Release
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**Hampton History Museum Presents Contraband Decision Talk by Eric Claville,
Ramblin' Jake & Thru w/Therapy Concert in May**

Hampton, VA – The Hampton History Museum hosts professor, law expert and media commentator Eric W. Claville presenting The Contraband Decision Legacy, exploring the impact of freedom-seekers who self-emancipated themselves to Fort Monroe during the Civil War, for its Port Hampton Lecture Series on Monday, May 2, 7-8 pm. The country and rock-influenced band Ramblin' Jake & Thru w/ Therapy bring their original Americana music to the museum's Front Porch Music Series on Wednesday, May 18, 6-8 pm. The lecture and concert will be recorded for later upload to the museum's Facebook page and website www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org.

Port Hampton Lecturer
The Contraband Decision Legacy
Monday, May 2, 7 pm**Museum members free, non-members \$5**

Eric W. Claville discusses the legacy of the Contraband Decision as he analyzes the struggle for freedom, citizenship, and equal protection under the law from 1861 to 2022 in his illustrated lecture.

On May 23, 1861, three enslaved men, Shepard Mallory, Frank Baker, and James Townsend, escaped to Fort Monroe, setting in motion a mass wave of self-emancipation that eventually would help lead to the abolition of slavery in the United States. Knowing that the secession vote earlier that day changed Virginia's legal and political landscape, they gambled that they would be allowed to stay at Fort Monroe rather than be returned to slavery. They were allowed to remain as "contraband of war," and by mid-summer, around 1,000 other freedom seekers were gathered near Fort Monroe, known as "Freedom's Fortress."

Claville has worked for two and half decades in politics, public policy, education and law. As a political and legal analyst, he has appeared on various news outlets to provide insight on current issues. As a professor, he has taught Constitutional Law and Civil Rights, and courses in politics and

public policy. His areas of interest are law and public policy during the time period of slavery, reconstruction, segregation, and Jim Crow and increasing the numbers of underrepresented groups in the fields of law and public policy.

He is also the creator and co-host of the award-winning radio commentary, The Claville Report on WHRO/WHRV 89.5 FM Another View with Barbara Hamm Lee and the creator and host of State of the Water on Norfolk State University's own, WNSB 91.1FM.

Front Porch Music Series

Ramblin' Jake & Thru w/ Therapy

Wednesday, May 18, 6-8 pm

Museum members free, non-members \$5

Enjoy an evening of original music influenced by bluegrass/country and rock traditions deftly crafted and performed by award-winning artists whose roots run deep in the local and regional music scene.

2022 VEER Magazine "Best Americana, Bluegrass/Old Time music award-winner, Ramblin' Jake (Chris Jacobson) and Ray Bruce met in 2011 with live music at Ramblin' Jake's venue Victorian Station, 'The Big Pink' in Phoebus. Ray, former lead guitarist for the legendary Suzy Ray Vaughn band; and Ramblin' Jake, fiddle player for Mason Brown and The Shiners; brought their unique styles and songwriting together to form Thru w/ Therapy. Their new release 'Crooked River' is an amazing mashup of Ray Bruce's classic rock progression with Ramblin' Jake's old-time fiddle playing along with bassman Ian Lyons sweet high harmonies and beautiful harmonies by drummer Kurt Patterson! Piano player Danny McFarland recently joined up as a member of Thru w/ Therapy to complete the sound!

Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Hampton History Museum. The concert will be held in the museum's Great Hall. Seating is first-come, first-serve. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Admission is at the door.

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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 Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.