

The Real Housewives of Old Newport News



As the largest, wealthiest and most populous state in the Confederacy, Virginia was key to fueling the South's efforts. And, it was the efforts of the real housewives of old Newport News that made the difference.

Early Morning Arrival

This morning, cross a bridge into history and explore the **Battle of Dam No. 1 in Newport News Park**. Walk along the Warwick River where Confederate earthworks still remain. Learn how Brig. General John Bankhead Magruder fooled Union Major General George B. McClellan, which extended the Civil War for over two years.

Then, tour **Lee Hall Mansion**. Imagine yourself married to one of the wealthiest men in Warwick County, just finished building your new home, pregnant and now the Confederate Army has commandeered your home. As you leave your home, you wonder if you will ever return. This is the true story of Martha Lee. When you tour her home, Lee Hall Mansion, you'll see how Brig. Gen. Magruder used this beautiful property as headquarters during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

Down the street, explore **Endview Plantation**. In the 1850s, Endview was purchased by Dr. Humphrey Harwood Curtis. The home was used briefly as a Confederate hospital in the spring of 1862 and was then occupied by Union forces until 1864. When you visit this home, hear how Maria Curtis, Dr. Curtis' wife, was presented a silver cup in gratitude of her kind treatment as she nursed the wounded and sick.

Depart for lunch at the **Mariners' Café** located within **The Mariners' Museum and Park**. Then tour America's National Maritime Museum which offers a captivating look at centuries of seafaring adventures. Explore over 60,000 square feet of gallery space with rare figureheads, handcrafted ship models, paintings, small craft from around the world, and much more. Experience the dramatic USS Monitor Center that brings to life the historic battle between the Civil War ironclads, the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia. This center features notable artifacts from the Monitor including the iconic rotating gun turret, which is on view as it is conserved in the state-of-the-art Batten Conservation Complex, the largest of its kind on the East Coast.

Stay overnight and in the morning, visit the Virginia War Museum and other related Newport News sites:

The Virginia War Museum

The personal side of American history is told through the more than 60,000 artifacts at the Virginia War Museum, where a wooden fork carved by a Union prisoner of war shares space with a blockage-runner's uniform and a rare Cofer revolver. One of the nation's most comprehensive military history museums, the Virginia War Museum has an extensive collection which includes uniforms, insignia, personal papers, weapons, period newspapers, drawings and photographs.

Other Related Civil War Sites

Go to the **Newport News Visitor Center** and pick up a copy of the **Civil War Historical Reflections** brochure that outlines other historical sites, fortifications, monuments and more