

PRESS RELEASE

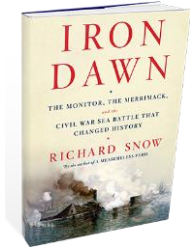
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THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



The Civil War Sea Battle that Changed History

(Harrisburg, PA) – [The National Civil War Museum](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) will offer the 2017 Lessons in History program free to the public Saturday, June 24, 2017 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Richard Snow, Historian and writer, presents "Iron Dawn: The Monitor, the Merrimack, and the Civil War Sea Battle that changed History." No single sea battle has had more far-reaching consequences than the one fought in the harbor at Hampton Roads, Virginia, in March 1862. Abraham Lincoln himself was closely involved with the ship's design. Rushed through to completion in just 100 days, it mounted only two guns, but they were housed in a shot-proof revolving turret. The ship hurried south from Brooklyn (and nearly sank twice on the voyage), only to arrive to find the Merrimack had arrived blazing that morning, destroyed half the Union fleet, and would be back to finish the job the next day. When she returned, the Monitor was there. She fought the Merrimack to a standstill, and saved the Union cause. As soon as word of the battle spread, Great Britain—the foremost sea power of the day—ceased work on all wooden ships. A thousand-year-old tradition ended, and the path to the naval future opened.

Regular museum admission applies for entrance to the museum galleries.

About the Presenter: Richard Snow was born in New York City and he graduated with a B.A. from Columbia College. He worked at American Heritage magazine for nearly four decades and was its editor-in-chief for seventeen years. He is the author of several books, including two novels and a volume of poetry. Snow has served as a consultant for historical motion pictures—among them Glory—and has written for documentaries, including the Burns brothers' Civil War, and Ric Burns's PBS film Coney Island. Most recently, he served as a consultant on Ken Burns's World War II series, The War.

About The National Civil War Museum

Opened in February 2001, The National Civil War Museum, a member of the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program, is a non-profit private educational institution dedicated solely to the American Civil War. It is one of the largest museums in the world which interprets the entire American Civil War from a military and civilian perspective. The Museum preserves and exhibits some of the nation's treasures, including General Robert E. Lee's personal Bible, and more than 24,000 artifacts, documents and photos. Admission to the Museum is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors, and \$10.00 for students with reduced rates for children and families. The Museum offers complimentary ample parking. For more information, please call 717.260.1861, or visit the Museum's website at www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org. **Connect with us!** [Facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum); [Twitter.com/NCWM](https://twitter.com/NCWM); and [FourSquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.foursquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum)

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