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CAPITAL NAVY

*The Men, Ships, and Operations of the
James River Squadron*

by John M. Coski

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Capital Navy is the first book to examine the importance of Confederate naval operations on the James River, and their significant (and yet largely ignored) impact on the war in Virginia. Dr. Coski's study explores virtually every aspect of the Confederate naval presence, from the early war construction of the ironclad behemoths to the underappreciated wooden ships that fought alongside their more famous iron-plated sister ships--and every engagement and action in between.

Coski's research is grounded in primary sources, including diaries, letters, journals, and official records, published and unpublished, of the Confederate Navy Department. These documents helped him to paint a lively portrait of the men and ships that plied the twisting, muddy coils of the James River. His descriptions of the many fascinating personalities involved in this drama are richly drawn and deeply crafted, as are his renditions of the naval engagements (including Drewry's Bluff and Trent's Reach). It is impossible to fully understand how and why the war unfolded as it did in Virginia (and indeed, the Eastern Theater) without reading this book.

This exciting and groundbreaking study includes dozens of photos, illustrations, and thirteen original detailed drawings of all four James River ironclads. *Capital Navy* is a must for every Civil War and naval enthusiast.

About the Author: John M. Coski received his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is the Historian and Director of Library & Research at The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. He is the author of numerous articles and books. John is married to Ruth Ann Spivey Coski, the Library Manager of the White House of the Confederacy.

"The research and writing is balanced, exciting, and timely . . . a concise, well written and enlightening history. . . . Savas Beatie has scored another major coup with Capital Navy."

-- Edwin C. Bearss, author of *The Vicksburg Campaign*

"The research and writing contains much new material and is a study certainly long overdue."

-- Robert Holcombe, Senior Naval Historian and Curator at the Port
Columbus Civil War Naval Center, Columbus, Georgia

"I am extremely impressed with John Coski's research. He found things that I did not know even existed. *Capital Navy* is a model for similar works on the Confederate navy in Savannah, Charleston, Mobile, etc. It should make a very popular book."

-- William N. Still, Jr., author of *Iron Afloat* and *Confederate Shipbuilding*