



The Battlefield Dispatch

Rehabilitating the Past at Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP

by Preservationist Kiel Rommel

One of the latest trends in television is the rehabilitation of homes, diners, vehicles, and all around “stuff.” From the Discovery Channel to the Food Network, the entertainment providers have found an audience and have put a spin on how we educate ourselves while also being entertained. While these programs fulfill their 30-60 minute obligation, they do blur the definitions of the work they are accomplishing.

There are four National Park Service (NPS) approaches of historical maintenance and construction categories associated with any item placed in a historic state (50 years or older). These categories include: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction.

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.

Example: Retain as much of the Historical fabric as possible as to maintain the longevity of the item. Item does not necessarily have the “showroom ready” appearance as, certain aspects of maintenance could degrade the item even further.

Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to

alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

Example: Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center has been altered to fit the daily operations of the staff by including conference areas, offices, and expansion of 21st century technology while maintaining the time period integrity of the building.

Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.

Example: Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center would be rehabilitated to look and function as it did after completed construction.

Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

Example: Construction of Craven's House as it would have existed in 1863. Soldiers from the battle of Lookout Mountain tore down the house to make makeshift shelters.

Which maintenance approach would you use to retain or advance a monument, a building, or the landscape?



The 4th US Cavalry Monument, located at Jay's Mill, before preservation (above) and after preservation (below). NPS Photos



Superintendent's Sidebar

by Superintendent Brad Bennett

Welcome to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The purpose of this national park unit is to preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant resources associated with the Civil War Campaign for Chattanooga (including the Battle of Chickamauga) in the autumn of 1863 as well as the 12,000 years of American Indian presence on the Moccasin Bend peninsula in the Tennessee River Valley.

National Park Service staff and volunteers are supported in fulfilling this purpose by philanthropic partners. Our Friends organizations enhance the park's ability to complete projects and conduct programs by supplementing our annual operating budget from the federal government with private donations. Those of you visiting Point Park on Lookout Mountain also help – your entrance fees are put to use improving your experience and addressing our deferred maintenance backlog.

In addition, more than a million visitors to this national park last year spent over \$66 million in surrounding communities, supporting more than 1,000 private sector jobs and contributing to a cumulative benefit of \$81.5 million to the local economy.

The future of this national park depends on your continued support, and that of your children and grandchildren. As such, thank you again for choosing to spend your time here. I sincerely hope your experience is both meaningful and memorable.



A "Pathway" to Employment with the NPS

by Park Guide Bridget Roeder

As the summer comes into full swing, many college students all across the country are looking for something to do with their time off.

Some are looking for a new experience or adventure, some may be interested in finding work in a field they could potentially find themselves in, and some are just looking for a steady paycheck over the summer. Despite their reason, students have the opportunity to find what they are searching for in the Pathways Internship Program. This is a federally run program found in most federal agencies that allows current college students to work for their agency, usually seasonally when they are on academic breaks.

Built out of similar past programs, the Pathways Internship Program was established in 2010 by an executive order. This new program allows for the hiring of current college students and recent graduates for a set amount of time with the opportunity of the job being converted into a permanent federal position. While a permanent position is not guaranteed, this program allows students to gain real job experience within their agency, and make the connections needed to move forward if they so wish. If the student employee decides that a career in what they interned isn't for them, they still walk away with usable experience as well as a fairly nice paycheck for a cash-strapped college student.

Within the National Park Service, there are several different divisions that students can intern in: Interpretation, Maintenance, Resource Management, and Law Enforcement. Within these positions there are varied duties depending on the needs of a specific park, such as giving tours, trail crew and cleanup, working heavy machinery, protection, dispatch, as well as many others. Essentially, the National Park Service has a little bit of everything for everyone if you are willing to be flexible and give something new a try.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting a foot in the door with the National Park Service or, really, any federal agency, you can look for open positions by going to www.usajobs.gov and searching for terms such as "Pathways," "student," and "recent graduate." Opportunities, new experiences and adventures await!



Civil War Trust Park Day

by Volunteer Coordinator Will Wilson

On Saturday, April 1, 30 volunteers answered their nation's call to service at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park for the 21st annual Civil War Trust Park Day. Since its inception in 1996, Park Day has attracted volunteers of all ages and abilities bound by their dedication to serving their communities. In 2016, nearly 6,000 volunteers at 130 historic sites across the country donated more than 36,000 service hours.

This year the park conducted two projects. The first was to clean the monuments and tablets along Battleline Road. The second was an effort to build an historical split rail fence around a section of one of the McDonald's farm fields, while also rebuilding a section of fence that was damaged during severe thunderstorms. The McDonald fence project saw the most



Volunteers assist Jim Szykowski, the park's chief of resource management, as they lay new fence rails on the historic McDonald Farm. NPS Photo

participation among our volunteers and it was a complete success. The field, located across the street from the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center, had a split rail fence at the time of the battle. Park Historian Jim Ogden will be writing about the reason for constructing the fence and its role during the battle later in the newsletter.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States, dedicated to preserving our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promoting appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, the Trust has preserved close to 45,000 acres of battlefield land in 23 states. This year saw a record 138 sites participate throughout the country for Park Day. It is with our great partners like The Civil War Trust that many of these types of projects are able to be completed.



Volunteers washed monuments along Battleline Road. NPS Photo

National Park Night at AT&T Field



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Please join us, the Friends of the Park and the Chattanooga Lookouts for National Park Night at AT&T Field!

Monday, June 5 (Kids Eat Free Night)
Gates Open at 6:30 pm
First Pitch at 7:15 pm

Tickets are available for \$5.00 at:

www.friendsofchch.org

For additional information, contact the Friends of the Park at:

423-648-5623



John McDonald's Farm

by Park Historian Jim Ogden

As you see in Ranger Will Wilson's column on page 3, volunteers on Civil War Trust Park Day helped the National Military Park erect some additional historic fencing on the Chickamauga Battlefield on April 1. That new fencing is another part of that which stood on the farm of John McDonald in 1863. A native of Tennessee, McDonald and his wife, Priscilla, and two children had moved to Georgia by the mid-1840s and in 1854 purchased land that he would shape into part of the battlefield landscape of 1863.

McDonald's farm was all or nearly so of the 160 acres of Land Lot 120 in the 4th Section of the 9th District of Cherokee, Georgia, and was along the western border of the recently created Catoosa County. The agricultural schedule of the 1860 census classified 85 of McDonald's acres as "improved," meaning that they were or had been recently under cultivation. While corn was the common grain crop in the region, McDonald in 1859 had



William C. McDonald, John McDonald's son, stands at the site of his wartime home in 1923.

produced 700 bushels of wheat, 115 bushels of rye, and 400 bushels of oats.

McDonald's concentration on wheat, rye, and oats may be an effect of his near neighbor Colonel Carrol A. Cloud owning a mowing machine, particularly since male labor on McDonald's farm was limited to himself (age 43 according to the 1860 census) and his son William C. (age 19).

The detailed battle landscape map created by the Park Commission when the National Military Park was established indicates that in 1863 McDonald had cultivated about 33 acres of his land, a lesser amount, almost certainly, than in 1859 probably because son William was then in Confederate service. More than 10,000 linear feet of fencing delineated at least four distinct fields. The family's two room log home stood along the LaFayette Road in the grass between the road and the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center complex. Thanks to the help of the volunteers on April 1, McDonald's farm looks a little more like the farm it was when Confederate and Union troops marched into the valley of the "River of Death" in September 1863.

Heat Stress

by Safety Officer Donny Campbell

Every year, thousands of people become sick or even die due to heat stress. When our bodies are exposed to high temperatures, our internal temperature rises. If steps are not taken, our internal temperature continues to rise, which can lead to heat rash, heat cramps, heat exhaustion or a more serious medical emergency known as heat stroke. People with medical conditions (ie: asthma, diabetes, heart conditions), prior heat stress injuries or who are 40 years of age or older are more susceptible to heat stress. When you combine high temperatures or high humidity with strenuous physical activity, you are upping the risk for a heat-related illness to occur.

If heat stress symptoms occur, take the following steps:

- Stop physical activity and relax in a cool place.
- Drink plenty of fluids rich in salts and electrolytes to replace moisture lost through sweating.
- Use cool compresses to decrease temperature.
- In the event of suspected heat stroke, call 911.
- Acclimate to the heat slowly, over 5 to 7 days of exposure. Institute a 20 percent increase of time in the heat for each day. If you are already used to these conditions you can increase exposure slightly faster, but four days out of the heat means re-acclimation will be needed.
- Don't wear a hat. It restricts heat loss through the head. If you are in direct sunlight you should wear a visor. Wear loose, thin synthetic fabrics. They help the skin stay cool through evaporation. Avoid cotton as it soaks up sweat, forestalling evaporation.

Preventative measures:

- Pre-hydrate. Before activity starts, drink up to 16 ounces of fluid. Then drink 8 ounces every 20 minutes during the activity.
- Eat regularly if you are hungry or not.
- Get plenty of sleep the night before.
- Drink flavored water. Plain water quenches thirst too quickly, so we tend to not drink enough of it.

