



# The Quarterly

## Tredegar Visitor Center Receives Donation of Civil War Items

The park recently received a generous gift that will prove beneficial in a variety of ways. Descendants of the Kieffer family have donated some of the personal effects of their ancestor, Captain Luther Kieffer, who was killed at the Battle of Cold Harbor. These include epaulets and a blood-stained sash from his uniform, a photograph of Kieffer in uniform, and his wartime diary.

When the Civil War began, Kieffer was a 41-year old farmer in up-state New York. His rural occupation belied a cosmopolitan background. Born in France, Kieffer had emigrated to Quebec in 1828. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and a successful '49er in California's early days before settling down to agricultural pursuits near Watertown, New York.

Kieffer's wartime experiences proved to be as varied as his antebellum career. He helped to raise a company in the 1st New York Light Artillery in 1861, and later (as a major) served as a sort of chief of artillery to one of the divisions



Hyman Schwartzberg, park curator, prepares the Kieffer collection for a future exhibit at the Civil War Visitor Center.

in the Twelfth Corps in the Army of the Potomac. He left the army in 1863, but rejoined in time for the spring campaign of 1864. No

longer a major, Kieffer instead was the captain of Company M, 14th New York Heavy Artillery. That unit was among the very first heavy

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## A Message from the Director

For this edition of the parks' newsletter, we think it is appropriate to forward excerpts from a recent poignant message to the park staff from the Director of the National Park Service, Fran Mainella:

"Driving into Washington, D.C. this first week of September has brought back a flood of frightening memories from September 11<sup>th</sup>, and a sense of relief that the Nation's capital bears no visible scars, save for the inspiring restoration of the Pentagon, from that tragic day nearly a year ago. New York does bear visible

scars, however, with the loss of the World Trade Center, and we will all share the pain of emotional scars for years to come.

The employees of the National Park Service are blessed with being in a position to help heal these emotional wounds and inspire the kind of exhilarating patriotism we've experienced this past year.... Our Northeast Region professional staff, and others who have contributed so much to helping the families, the public and the local community develop a vision for national recognition of the crash site of Flight 93,

deserve special mention. The Flight 93 site is being considered for status as a national memorial commemorating the passengers and crew of that flight, who, on September 11<sup>th</sup>, courageously gave their lives to thwart a planned attack on the Nation's capital....

One of our national icons, Federal Hall National Memorial, the place where Congress met for its first session and George Washington took the first presidential oath of office, was just three blocks from the World Trade Center. Federal Hall became a refuge to many fleeing

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## From the Director, Continued

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the destruction of buildings all around it, and our employees comforted and tended to the needs of those frightened and injured people....

I could go on and on relating many other stories of your contributions and courage.... This truly is an extraordinary agency, and you have much for which to be proud. Sadly, commitment to public service often comes with a price. In the past couple of weeks, we have joined together with the families and friends of Park Ranger Kris Eggle and U.S. Park Police Officer Hakim Farthing to share grief and outrage at the senseless deaths of these two fine men.

We also mourned for the late former NPS Chief Ranger Chris Andress and Superintendent of Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri, as his ashes were interred in the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium with full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, Tuesday, September 3.

I know you will join me in sending prayers and good wishes for a quick, full recovery to Carly Pearson, a park firefighter from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who suffered a serious back injury from a fall on August 17<sup>th</sup> while dispatched on a fire assignment to the Umpqua Fire Complex in Oregon....

We've come a long way since September 11. Though the terrible events of that day will be remembered forever by all Americans, take heart in knowing that what you do and accomplish on a daily basis in your National Park Service job, helps American citizens find solace in our natural places and meaning in our historic and cultural sites. To fully appreciate what this means, you should take the time to visit our new September 11<sup>th</sup> website, now accessible on [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). This inspiring site features an "on-line" exhibit titled *9/11/or: The Meaning of National Parks in Times of Crisis*, which provides personal accounts of park employees and visitors on and following September 11<sup>th</sup>.

# Maggie L. Walker NHS to Sponsor Panel Discussion on the Black Press

On Saturday November 9, 2002, there will be a panel discussion on African Americans in the news media in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the *St. Luke Herald* newspaper, which Maggie L. Walker began in 1902. The event will take place at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, Virginia, beginning at 1:30pm with a viewing of the film *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*, by Stanely Nelson. At 2:00 pm the panel discussion will begin. This panel will include local and national black journalists who will focus on the history of black journalism, the process of journalistic decision-making and why there is a need for black newspapers. The program is sponsored by the National Park Service, Maggie L. Walker Historical Founda-



Reproduction printing press in use at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site.

tion, United Brothers and Sisters (a student organization at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School), and the Maggie L. Walker High School Renovation Foundation. For more information about this program please call (804) 771-2017.



A banner at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site commemorates the 100th anniversary of the *St. Luke Herald* newspaper.

## Landscape Management Plan in Review

Richmond National Battlefield Park is charged with two primary goals: to provide an experience for park visitors communicating the story of Richmond during the Civil War, and to protect the park's natural and cultural resources. The park has recently taken steps to live up to these goals at its Fort Harrison unit. An inventory of park land-use patterns was completed for the unit's tour roads (Battlefield Park Drive and Hoke-Brady Road). A plan was then drafted describing the results of this inventory and making initial recommendations. Once reviewed by park officials, the plan will be sent for review to all park neighbors adjacent to the Fort Harrison unit. A public meeting is planned for November 2002, concerning this issue (date and location will be announced).

## Upcoming Special Events

Fort Harrison Living History	September 28/ 29
Jackson Ward Second Street Festival	October 5/6
Drewry's Bluff Encampment	October 12/13
<i>The Black Press</i> Panel Discussion	November 9
Veterans' Day Program	November 11
Fort Harrison Winter Camp	December 7/8

Call 226-1981 for more information on special events.

# Spotlight on Education: “Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields”

First came “Exploring the Real Thing” a teachers’ guide to all of Virginia’s National Parks. Now Richmond National Battlefield Park has developed “Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields,” six program packets for teachers to use as pre-visit, on-site and post-visit activities. They include “Treasures at Tredegar,” “The Cannon’s Roar,” “For Freedom and Honor,” “Mills, Waterwheels, and Raceways,” “Hospital on the Hill,” and “History Hunt at Gaines’ Mill and Cold Harbor.” These educational packets are designed to stimulate learning in various subjects including History, English, Science, Technology and Math.

Each site has its own curriculum-based program and packet, which contain learning adventures for teachers and students that meet the Standards of Learning. For example, primary sources are included in each packet as part of reading comprehension activities. Richmond National Battlefield Park has worked to create a program that utilizes every

style of learning. The “Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields” Teacher Program Packet is free. Contact Patrice Ferrell, Education Specialist, for more information at (804) 771-2018.

“Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields” was developed and printed for distribution using part of a \$20,000 education grant from The National Park Foundation’s “Parks as Classrooms®” program. The funding from

this grant helped the park develop a medical program for the new Chimborazo Medical Museum, an online teacher/student web site, and purchase items for the “Common Soldier” program. The Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works will also have a fully equipped limber chest for the “Cannon’s Roar”



“Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields” teacher packets will be available this fall.

program. Special thanks go out to Patti Jones, of the Hanover County Schools, for her efforts and input in helping to create “Exploring Richmond’s Battlefields.”



National Park Service  
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Richmond National Battlefield Park was established in 1936 to commemorate the battlefields around Richmond, Virginia, Capital of the Confederacy, 1861-1865.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site was established in 1978 to preserve and protect the home of the first woman to found and be president of a bank.

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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.

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## Volunteer Profile: Scott Frantel

Scott Frantel volunteers for us at the Civil War Visitor Center at the Tredegar Iron Works. He has been with us since the Fall of 2000. Scott was born in Wisconsin and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He is married to wife Nancy, has four sons and two grandchildren. A true Civil War buff, Scott is a member of the Richmond Battlefields Association and the Richmond Civil War Round Table.

In his former life, Scott worked in Marketing for the Marriott Corporation and Walt Disney World. Now that he lives in Richmond, he volunteers for the Red Cross Greater Richmond Chapter and teaches history classes at local schools as well as volunteering for Richmond National Battlefield Park once a week.

Scott had this to say about his experience at Richmond National Battlefield Park: “Working for the National Park Service allows me to share my knowledge and love of history with



Scott Frantel with Michael Cincotta at the Civil War Visitor Center.

others...especially children. The wealth of information on the Civil War that I have learned from park rangers is astonishing. They are truly dedicated people.”

Thanks for joining us, Scott. We hope you’re with us for many years to come.



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## Donation, Continued

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artillery regiments to join the Union army in Virginia for service as foot soldiers. It fought through the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania and on south to Cold Harbor.

On June 2, 1864, the 14th found itself, with the rest of Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps, in a heavy fight with attacking Confederates north of Cold Harbor along the Shady Grove Church Road (now called Pole Green Road—modern Route 627). Captain Kieffer fell mortally wounded in the action. His remains were not recovered by his comrades, and he now occupies an unknown grave.

This story extends beyond the death of Captain Kieffer at Cold Harbor. Like many families, the Kieffers sent several able-bodied men into the service during the Civil War. Two of Luther's sons, his brother, and a few in-laws served in the Army of the Potomac. Captain Kieffer's son William belonged to his father's

company, and he, too, was killed at Cold Harbor on June 2, perhaps by his father's side.

Their relative Abner Rouse, a corporal in the same company, was captured in the fighting that day and subsequently died in a Southern prison.

Thanks to the generosity of Luther Kieffer's descendants, the Tredegar Visitor Center soon will display those personal items relating to the captain. In the process, visitors will learn about a long-neglected piece of the Battle of Cold Harbor, and will encounter the tale of one family that suffered an uncommonly terrible blow in the space of a few minutes on June 2, 1864.

In the spring of 2003, the Kieffer family will donate a sculpture to the Tredegar visitor center, crafted by a family member, to illustrate the fratricide of the Civil War.