



The Quarterly

The Superintendent's Letter

It is a rare pleasure to watch a historic architectural gem regain its luster and dignity. Structures that are part of the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site at 112-118 East Leigh Street in Richmond have undergone just such a transformation.

This summer the National Park Service is proud to reveal the restored facades of the four previously dilapidated buildings. When the buildings were designated part of the federal site in 1978, they had been neglected and altered from their original late nineteenth century appearances. Their utility systems did not meet building codes and few modern conveniences existed. Funds from the demonstration recreation fee program of the Department of the Interior and from the Line-Item-Construction program of the National



An exhibit in the newly refurbished buildings on Leigh Street will show the history of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank/ Consolidated Bank and Trust Co., which celebrates 100 years of operation this year.

Park Service totaling over two million dollars enabled the project to succeed. The buildings will utilize a cleverly designed new courtyard entrance that provides easy access for persons of any type of mobility. A special elevator that

stops at multiple intervals accesses three of the buildings from the interior courtyard located off 600 North Second Street. Much of the interior woodwork has been preserved or replaced to match the historic woodwork, and much of the interior plan has been preserved, resulting in an elegant, functional facility.

The completion of the project in 2003 is fitting, considering that 2004 is the centennial anniversary of when Mrs. Walker first moved to this block of East Leigh Street.

The historic buildings will be used for expanded exhibit space, office space, curatorial space, and eventually a classroom. The Maggie L. Walker Historical Foundation also plans to use a portion of one of the buildings.

Tredegar Site Receives Award from Unilever

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Richmond Riverfront Corporation recently received a grant from Unilever and the National Park Foundation to purchase picnic tables made of recycled materials. The tables will be used at the Tredegar Iron Works site. On April 2, 2003, Education Specialist Pat Ferrell represented Richmond National Battlefield Park in receiving the \$15,000 grant. The picnic tables will be assembled by Boy Scout Troop 417 this summer and will be used by park visitors and school children.

According to Unilever's web site, "for more than seven years Unilever, in partnership with the National Park Foundation, has sponsored the *Recycling At Work* program, a commitment of more than \$12 million in donations and in-kind support. To date, Unilever has supported 70 National Parks with the donation of sustainable 100% recycled plastic lumber

representing 13 million plastic detergent containers recycled, rather than landfilled."

Unilever will also sponsor a fix up and clean-up day at Richmond National Battlefield Park on September 13, 2003, as part of their National Parks America Tour. The tour, a partnership between Unilever, the National Park Foundation and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., is a volunteer driven initiative designed to provide National Parks with manpower resources to complete important projects and engage communities in the National Park experience. Richmond's project will include building a boardwalk at the



Richmond National Battlefield Park was awarded a grant from Unilever for \$15,000 in April 2003. Front l-r: NPS Director Fran Mainella; Richmond National Battlefield Park Education Specialist Pat Ferrell; Melinda Sweet, Deputy General Counsel, Unilever United States. Back l-r: Gene Washington, National Park Foundation Board of Directors, Director of Operations, National Football League; Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior; John Rice, President & CEO, Unilever Bestfoods, NA .

Gaines' Mill battlefield. Visit Unilever's web site at www.unilevernationalparks.com to learn more about this program and to volunteer.

Summer Programs

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are offering several special events this summer for your enjoyment. The following is a short list of those events:

July 12 and 13-- Living History at Malvern Hill. Volunteers representing Union and Confederate soldiers. Artillery and rifle-firing demonstrations. Tours of the battlefield throughout the weekend.

July 13-- Maggie L. Walker Birthday Celebration. Live entertainment, children's activities and tours of Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Grand opening of a special exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank/Consolidated Bank and Trust Co. 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

July 15-- Wreath Laying at Maggie L. Walker's Gravesite, Evergreen Cemetery. Group will depart from the Visitor Center, 600 North Second Street. 9:00 am.

July 18--History at Sunset: Gaines' Mill. Begins at 7:00 pm.

July 25--History at Sunset: Fort Harrison. Begins at 7:00 pm.

July 28-- Walking Tour of Jackson Ward: Black banks from 1888-1934. 10:00 am.

August 1--History at Sunset: Malvern Hill. Begins at 7:00 pm.

August 16 and 17--Living History at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor. Volunteer reenactors will illustrate the changes in battlefield tactics from 1862 to 1864.

August 15--History at Sunset: Cold Harbor. Begins at 7:00 pm.

September 27 and 28--Fort Harrison Anniversary Weekend. Volunteer reenactors portraying Union and Confederate soldiers. Candlelight tour Saturday night at 8:00 pm.

Call 226-1981 for more information on Richmond National Battlefield Park events; call 771-2017 for more information on Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site events.

New Trail Opens at Cold Harbor

Recently, local Boy Scout troop 533 supported by park volunteers significantly improved access to the Cold Harbor unit of the park. Visitors to the park are invited to walk an official one-mile loop trail that is sprinkled with historic signs. But for many years park neighbors have known about a different, unofficial walking trail through the battlefield. That path meanders behind the Union lines, up to the northern boundary of the park property, and then behind the Confederate lines.

Eagle Scout candidate Sean O'Connor and NPS volunteer Scott Frantel arranged for the Scouts to improve this unofficial trail and convert it into a notable feature of the park. The Scouts widened the trail by trimming away branches and weeds and marked the route with a white blaze on prominent trees. The park staff has completed a map of the newly expanded trail system at Cold Harbor. Copies of the map will be made available to visitors at the Cold Harbor Visitor Center.



Special thanks go to Scott Frantel, NPS Scout project coordinator and to Sean O'Connor and Troop 533 of Mechanicsville, VA for their hard work in clearing the Cold Harbor loop trail.

The new trail provides access to enormous original entrenchments just behind the primary Union lines of battle. Hikers also will be able to walk along the park's northern boundary, where Federal infantry suffered devastating losses in their June 3, 1864, attacks.

The park is grateful to this volunteer force for opening up more of the Cold Harbor battlefield. Visitors will benefit from their efforts for many years to come.

Beavers Dam the Park

Water loving guests require creative solution



Left: Resource protection rangers Tim Mauch and Larry Smith place the "beaver baffle" on the dam at Boatswain Creek. Right: The baffle is successfully in place and draining the pond.

Early this spring, the park found itself faced with a predicament: a family of beavers built a dam in the historically significant Boatswain Creek at Gaines' Mill. This feat of engineering, with the help of record precipitation levels, replaced the small, meandering creek with a pond that was flooding the park trail. Because beavers provide many important ecosystem benefits, and because the National Park Service strives to protect native plants and animals that reside within its boundaries, the park set out to achieve a creative solution that allowed

the beavers to remain peacefully and also permitted visitors to safely traverse the trail. The solution consisted of installing a large perforated pipe, sometimes referred to as a "beaver baffle." Rangers from the Visitor Protection and Resource Management division placed the pipe through the dam allowing water to escape through the dam without the beavers noticing. The park has installed one pipe and plans to install a second to accommodate these denizens of the park, allowing the park's wildlife and its visitors to safely coexist.

Spotlight on Education: The Year in Review

What a busy and exciting year this has been for Richmond National Battlefield Park's education initiative. More than 20,000 children have discovered the battlefields, explored the famous Tredegar Iron Works, walked the historic trails and participated in a wide variety of hands-on curriculum-based activities. The following are highlights of the program's accomplishments this year.

Four workshops contacted teachers from Richmond City and across the state of Virginia and provided opportunities to connect Virginia's Standards of Learning and Virginia Studies to the park. As a direct result approximately 20 schools visited the park for the first time.

The park staff conducted over 400 programs, providing students with exciting learning adventures that use the "parks as classrooms." Richmond National Battlefield Park's *Exploring Richmond's Battlefields* education program involved the development of six programs for teachers to use as pre-visit, on-site and post-visit activities. Titles are *Treasures at Tredegar*;

The Cannons Roar; For Freedom and Honor; Mills, Waterwheels, and Raceways; History Hunt at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor; Hospital on the Hill.

The park also participated in National Geographic's *America's Backyard: Exploring Our Public Lands* project. Four evening programs presented at different park units for John Rolfe Middle School students, teachers and parents provided a better understanding and appreciation of the significance of Richmond National Battlefield Park and its role in preserving and protecting American Civil War sites.

Last but not least, in *Making Tracks to Dinosaur National Monument* the students and teachers of Seven Pines Elementary School took up Richmond National Battlefield Park's challenge to read (1 book = 1 mile) and run (on the school track) to the equivalent of 4,200 miles, the round-trip distance between Richmond, Virginia and Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah. For two months students read, ran, and tracked their miles. By using computers in the classrooms students learned about National Parks, Dinosaur National Monument (dinosaurs, history, geology, and



America's Backyard: Exploring Our Public Lands was just one of many programs that contacted a record 20,000 school children this year.

ecology) and became WebRangers by participating in a service-wide on-line education program. The park rangers from Dinosaur National Monument sent postcards, and digital photos of the park tracked the progress of the students and celebrated the school's successful journey.

Thanks to the educational partnerships between the National Parks and schools, we have had an exhilarating and successful year that has supported today's curriculum and inspired our children to learn more about our country.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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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Employee Profile: Stella Council

Stella L. Council arrived at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in March of this year to fill the position of Administrative Officer. She brings with her over 30 years of experience with the Federal government. For 22 years Stella worked for the Department of Defense at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. In 1991, she transferred to the NPS Regional Office, National Register Division and in 1999 she found herself at Natchez National Historical Park in Mississippi. Now she is back in Virginia, with an eye toward retiring sometime in the next few years. Stella says "I have enjoyed my career thus far with the National Park Service and look forward to working with everyone in the Northeast Region."



Stella Council, Administrative Officer, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

Born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Stella has two children, Venetta and Denene and one grandchild. Her favorite pastime is singing.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
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New Monument at Cold Harbor



A silent sentinel, this monument is a testimonial to the men of the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery .

On June 1 approximately 150 guests and visitors gathered on the Cold Harbor Battlefield at Richmond National Battlefield Park to dedicate a commemorative monument honoring the 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery.

The dedication ceremony took place on the 139th anniversary of the regiment's attack and culminated a five-year effort to mark a key

battlefield event. Guest speakers included historian Gordon Rhea and Matthew Minor, a descendant of Frederick Minor of the regiment. Bill Asevica, representing the 2nd Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery re-enactors and principal fundraisers, presented the monument to the National Park Service.

The monument's location is in an area occupied by the 2nd Connecticut at the climax of its advance on June 1, 1864. That afternoon the regiment, numbering more than 1500 soldiers, charged the main Confederate line and suffered more than 330 casualties, the second largest regimental loss at Cold Harbor.

A Union officer witnessed the attack by the 2nd Connecticut and noted the terrible carnage. He later wrote, "Its uniform was bright and fresh; therefore its dead were easily distinguished where they lay." The park sees the Connecticut monument forever serving two purposes: to commemorate past sacrifice and inspire future generations.