



# The Quarterly

## Deputy Secretary Visits Maggie L. Walker NHS



Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod takes Deputy Secretary J. Steven Griles on a Maggie L. Walker NHS tour.

Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior, J. Steven Griles, inspected the construction work at the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site on April 16, 2004. His

visit in Richmond was his first stop in a series of trips to National Park System sites to promote the progress of the Bush Administration in reducing the backlog of maintenance projects in the NPS. He expressed satisfaction in the quality of the work and praised the transformation of the site and improvements in the neighborhood.

Mr. Griles lived in Richmond during his college days and noted that Jackson Ward's reputation was less savory than today. Many staff members were able to meet Mr. Griles, the highest ranking member of any political administration to visit the site in years. The tour included the back rooms of the curatorial storage area, offices, and Mrs. Walker's house.

## Park Commemorates 140th Anniversary

On March 18, 2004, the park coordinated a press conference that announced 37 special interpretive programs commemorating the 1864 Overland Campaign. In attendance were NPS Director Fran Mainella, Alisa Bailey, CEO Virginia Tourism Corporation, Mitch Bowman, Executive Director of Virginia's Civil War Trails, and park superintendents from Richmond NBP, Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP and Petersburg NB. The events will take place in the central Virginia region.

The Richmond NBP staff will present more than a dozen of the programs beginning with a special tour of the North Anna Battlefield on May 23, and ending on September 26, with the first ever guided tour of the New Market Heights Battlefield, where African American troops were awarded 14 Medals of Honor. Other programs include the premier of a walking tour at Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield on May 30, a hike to the most famous spot on the

Cold Harbor Battlefield where Union troops broke through on June 3, and an interpretive bike tour of the Fort Harrison unit on August 7.

All programs associated with this observance are included in a website, [leevsgrants1864.com](http://leevsgrants1864.com), that is hosted by a park partner, Page One, Inc. Please check the website for a full listing of programs and details of locations, times and fees. All events sponsored by Richmond NBP are free.



NPS Director Fran Mainella and Mitch Bowman at the press conference for the 140th anniversary of the 1864 Overland Campaign.

## Letter from the Superintendent

What is history to you? As we commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of important Civil War battles in the Richmond area, we are asking ourselves, how can we best convey the significance of the battles, the context of the war, the meaning to the participants, and how can we engage you. What is civic engagement to you? What role can the National Park Service play in your community to dispel destructive myths, stereotypical characters, and reflexive fears that linger from the legacy of the Civil War? Have you been able to listen to experiences of others' ancestors during the American Civil War and found that they were totally different from your own? Maybe they were just a little different or not at all different from your own? Maybe you have no personal connection with the Civil War. Have you heard stories new to you? Can those stories break down previously perceived barriers or misunderstandings? Do new stories help people envision how they could empathize with and share a heritage that was previously unshared? How can we use the past to forge a future? How can history teach tolerance and help our nation ensure liberty and justice for all?

The physical resources of the National Park Service have authenticity and their stories have national significance. The stories are those of individuals, some nameless, some famous, etched in stone and print. Unique human dramas played out against the backdrop of large political decisions and subsequent courses of events. How do we make the intellectual and emotional connections between those dramas and our

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## Superintendent's Letter Continued from page 1

understanding of ourselves? How do we find the untold stories? How do we understand the historical personal narratives that illustrate individual principles that were counter to the historical political landscape? E.g. the Confederate soldier who owned no slaves, the northern businessman who made his living off southern cotton, the southern farmer who refused to accept Confederate currency for their goods, the African-American who owned slaves?

Bring us your stories; come hear the ones we know of connected to the Battles of North Anna, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and New Market Heights. These are your national parks and battlefields and your stories.

*Cynthia MacLeod*

# Non-historic Trees Removed from Gaines' Mill Battlefield

One of the Richmond National Battlefield Park's Management objectives is to return the battlefield landscapes back to their historic appearance to help visitors better understand the events that occurred there. This process is underway at the Gaines' Mill Battlefield.

The park is presently removing over seven acres of forest that have grown up since the Civil War. This project has been in the planning stages for several years, beginning with a Cultural Landscape Report. The drafting of this document included extensive research of historic accounts, maps, photos and archeological resources. Based on this research, the park was able to piece together exactly what the site looked like during the battle.

With this information, the park could then consult with state agencies and biological experts to determine the most environmentally sound way to restore the site. The park plans



The Gaines' Mill treeline was pushed back to lend a historic appearance to the battlefield and to help protect native plants and animals that live there today.

to replace the forest with tall meadow grasses native to Virginia. This way it can closely replicate the hay fields that covered the ground at the site during the battle of Gaines' Mill, while creating valuable habitat for ground nesting birds and mammals. Once completed the project will protect valuable natural resources and expose the historic setting of road traces and farm fields of Springfield Plantation that were the killing grounds of the battle of Gaines' Mill.

## Summer Schedule Announced for June 7 - August 22, 2004

### Maggie L. Walker NHS Visitor Center Hours

Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ranger-guided tours throughout the day. Exhibits, film.

### Special Events

The National Park Service, Maggie L. Walker Historical Foundation and City Celebrations will be celebrating Maggie L. Walker's 137th Birthday Anniversary July 10-15, 2004. Events planned are:

**July 10--** Annual Luncheon sponsored by the Maggie L. Walker Historical Foundation-noon.

**July 11--** Maggie L. Walker's 137th Birthday Concert-2:00pm-6:00 pm at the corner of Second and Leigh Streets.

**July 12-15--** Children's activities and Junior Ranger programs-2:00pm

### Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center/Program Hours

#### Tredegar Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Ranger programs at 11:00, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 daily. Exhibits, 22-minute film.

#### Chimborazo Medical Museum:

Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Surgical and medical displays, 17-minute film.

#### Cold Harbor Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Ranger-guided walking tours daily at 1:00 and 4:00. Walking trails, tour road, map program.

#### Gaines' Mill Battlefield:

Ranger-guided walking tours daily at 10:30 and 2:30. Walking trail.

#### Glendale/Malvern Hill Visitor Center and Battlefields:

Park staff on duty daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Map program, walking trails, exhibits.

#### Fort Harrison Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Exhibits, walking trail, tour road.

### Special Events

**June 3--** Walking Tour of Union Breakthrough at Cold Harbor-7:00 pm

**June 5-6--** Cold Harbor Anniversary Program. Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 10-4.

**June 5--** Cold Harbor Concert and Candlelight Tours-8pm.

**June 6--** Commemorative Art Unveiling. Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works-2pm.

**June 12-13--** Life in the Trenches. Cold Harbor Battlefield-Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 10-4.

**June 26-27--** Gaines' Mill Anniversary Program-Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 10-4.

**July 10-11--** Malvern Hill Anniversary Program-Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 10-4.

**July 17--** Richmond City Walking Tour-2pm.

**August 7--** Fort Harrison Interpretive Bike Tour-9am.

**August 20--** Photographic Tour of Fort Harrison-8pm

Call 226-1981 for Richmond NBP events; call 771-2017 for Maggie L. Walker NHS events.

# Park Premier's New Fiber Optic Map Program at Cold Harbor

The fiber optic electric map program at the Cold Harbor Visitor Center has been the most popular exhibit in any of the park's visitor centers for nearly a quarter of a century.

Mounted in the wall, it uses flashing lights and a fast paced narrative to explain the complex battle of Cold Harbor to visitors in just five minutes. The program has been incredibly durable over the years, occasionally being run as often as 50 times on a busy summer day.

The park recently retired this aging veteran, and before visitation increased this spring a new program was installed. Admirers of the old map show will be glad to know that the replacement is very similar. There are two key differences. The new display has a second button that allows visitors to view a seven minute program on the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Long overlooked and confused with its more



**Ms. Nancy Blalock and her son, Chuck, both of Lebanon, Ohio, watch the Gaines' Mill portion of the new fiber optic map at the Cold Harbor visitor center which uses blue and red lights to illustrate troop movements.**

famous neighbor Cold Harbor, the fight at Gaines' Mill merits the individual attention that this new program provides.

The Cold Harbor portion of the map program has been expanded to six minutes, and

incorporates most of the original script from the previous show. Viewed consecutively, these two programs contain 13 minutes of history on the two battles, with a constant visual component that should go far toward capturing the interest of visitors.

The second improvement is in the map itself, which is significantly larger (nearly five feet on each side) than its predecessor. This expansion makes it possible to show both Stonewall Jackson's Confederate soldiers approaching the Seven Days battlefields from the north in 1862, and Ulysses Grant's Union army crossing the Pamunkey River in 1864. Additionally, the map now depicts the fights at Haw's Shop and Totopotomoy Creek in May 1864. A cartographer in California prepared the map, which is notable for its vibrant colors and its accurate depiction of the 1864 landscape in eastern Hanover County.

## Employee Profile: Pete Casinias

Agapito S. Casinias, Jr., better known as Pete, is the Information Technology Specialist for Richmond National Battlefield Park, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and Petersburg National Battlefield. He is responsible for installation, maintenance, troubleshooting and repair of our computer systems, networks and data circuits, which makes him a very busy man, indeed. Pete started working at Petersburg through the Intake Trainee program on July 4, 1999, and officially added Richmond and Maggie Walker to his responsibilities in 2003.

Pete was born in Vallejo, California in 1959. He is no stranger to working in the U.S. government; much of his career has been with the US Air Force, as a Communications-Computer Programs Specialist and as a Sensor-Photo Specialist, which involved airborne recording and targeting systems. When asked why he joined the National Park Service, Pete had this to say: "I very much wanted to continue my Federal service career and the Intake program was the best of both worlds. In it, I



**Pete Casinias, IT specialist for Richmond NBP, Maggie L. Walker NHS and Petersburg NB**

was able to continue traveling quite a bit." (He has now been to all of the 50 states along with 25+ countries). "I really enjoy working with all of the park personnel and everyone has been really helpful whenever there's been an issue on which I've needed assistance."

Pete has two brothers and a sister. He enjoys playing and watching sports. As for future plans, he hopes one day to be "higher up the food chain in regional support where I can influence IT infrastructure much more."



**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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## Minds in Motion: Richmond Ballet Focuses on Maggie L. Walker

Last fall the Maggie L. Walker NHS, the Science Museum of Virginia and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond partnered with the Richmond Ballet's *Minds In Motion* to teach 1400 4<sup>th</sup> grade students about the life of Maggie L. Walker. *Minds In Motion* is a 9-year old program that strives to transform the Richmond community by combining academics and dance to teach students important positive life lessons. Each student toured the Maggie L. Walker Site and worked with Richmond Ballet's Brett Bonda, Cats Studdard, Katherine Smothers and Laurie Basloe to learn dances that became part of an interpretive performance about Maggie Walker's life.

The culmination of the program came on May 15 and 16 when the 4<sup>th</sup> graders presented "Banking On A Dream: The Maggie L Walker Story" at the Arthur Ashe Center. More than 10,000 parents, friends and community

members attended the performances that filled the auditorium. The program was conceived and written by Katherine Smothers and Cats Studdard. Johnny Michens III, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and the great, great grandson of Maggie Walker, narrated the performance.

The Park is greatly indebted to all those who contributed their time and talents to this uplifting and educational event.



This year's performance of "Minds in Motion", now in its ninth year, focused on Maggie L. Walker's life.

### Editors

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Cynthia MacLeod

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