



The Quarterly

Important Acreage Added to Richmond National Battlefield Park



Dr. Robert Bluford Director, Freeman Branch, APVA, park superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and Elizabeth Kostelny, APVA Executive Director, on the Beaver Dam Creek battlefield. The camera shares the perspective of the Confederate attackers, and the wooded hill across the creek is the ground recently acquired by the National Park Service.

Within the past few months the park has purchased two properties within the legislative boundary, adding approximately 46 acres of battlefield land at two separate locations: Beaver Dam Creek and Cold Harbor.

The acquisition of 14 acres at the Beaver Dam Creek/Mechanicsville battlefield means that the park now owns 27 very historic acres there. The purchase completes an arduous preservation process that began nearly 15 years ago when developers proposed to build apartments on the hillside. The Douglas S. Freeman Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities stepped in to save the 14 acres. The land includes the wooded ridge defended by both infantry and

artillery of General George McCall's division of Pennsylvanians on June 26, 1862. On that day, Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee launched what became known as the Seven Days battles. Attacking Southerners faced not only the marshy terrain of Beaver Dam Creek, but also felled trees and tremendous Union firepower. Some Confederates crossed the creek farther north, but on the ground protected by the park the contest was lopsided. Pennsylvania riflemen and cannons broke up every attack.

Not only does this acquisition permanently protect historic ground, it also will improve the battlefield experience of anyone visiting that unit of the park.

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Letter from the Superintendent

An increase of nearly \$22 million over the FY 2005 enacted level is requested by the President for park base operations nationwide in the FY2006 budget proposal to Congress. These funds should be enough to provide for the expansions that Congress has authorized and keep up with most of the pay raises and benefits that Congress also authorizes. Project funds are also requested to be increased over last year's appropriations. Especially in these fiscally constrained times for domestic programs, this is good news for parks.

We are keenly aware that we are stewards of these nationally significant resources for the people of the United States, and that we must use these funds as effectively as possible. Even with the good news of the proposed budget, we are looking for ways to work smarter, enlist volunteer help, and train interns in the protection and interpretation of the park's resources, which are growing through donation and purchase.

We are thrilled that the battlefield park has grown by 32 acres at the Cold Harbor battlefield and by 14 acres at the Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield through purchase from willing sellers.

We are equally thrilled that the visitor experience at the Maggie Walker

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The Superintendent's Letter

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National Historic Site will be augmented by new exhibits located in n16 and n18 East Leigh Street, accessed as part of a formal tour that starts in the visitor center at 600 N. Second Street. Visitors will be able to learn more about Mrs. Walker and appreciate the context of her great achievements.

Cynthia MacLeod

The park will conduct two prescribed burns during the month of March: one on 25 acres of Cold Harbor forest, and one on an acre of earthworks at Fort Harrison. Throughout both burns, conditions will be monitored frequently to ensure that conditions continue to be safe for burning.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site Acquires Bank

Maggie L. Walker urged children of the Jackson Ward community to open accounts in her St. Luke Penny Savings Bank. To help accomplish this goal she distributed small banks where they could save their change and then deposit it. One of those rare banks has been loaned to the site and will be included in the new interpretive exhibits slated to open on April 23, 2005.

The bank is small enough to fit inside the palm of a hand and is inscribed with a picture of Mrs. Walker. It was loaned to the park by Lawrence Branch who inherited it from his mother.

The new exhibits will provide visitors an opportunity to explore Mrs. Walker's era and the meaning of her



Front and back of the bank given to children in the 1930's by the RWG Council of St. Lukes.

success in the face of many formidable legal, social, and physical obstacles. It will feature museum objects, photographs, an interactive audio program of Mrs. Walker's inspiring speeches and even a reproduction St. Luke Penny Savings Bank teller window. Check the park's web site for details of the April 23 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Employee Profile: Mike Gorman

Michael Davis Gorman was born on August 5, 1976. As a park guide-interpreter, his job is to staff the park's five visitor centers, provide interpretive talks and walks and more recently to create illustrated talks in the form of Power Point presentations for special events. "I enjoy the special events, where I have to create a program from scratch – those are the most fun."

Mike began volunteering for Richmond National Battlefield Park in January, 1998, under the guidance of Ed Sanders, and a few years later began working here as a seasonal park ranger, from 2000-2003. After a brief tour of duty at Independence National Historical Park, he returned to Richmond as a permanent park guide in November 2003. Mike also worked for a summer as a seasonal at Petersburg National Battlefield and at Fredricksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park.

When asked what drew him to join the

National Park Service, Mike had this to say: "When I was a kid, I would come to the park or walk around the city and wonder, 'what happened here?' I felt like the history I was getting from school was too general, so I spent a lot of time and money studying the Civil War. I am particularly interested in what happened HERE, where I grew up, and I saw Richmond National Battlefield Park as a great place to not only indulge that curiosity, but to help others understand the area as well."

Mike was born in Richmond and has lived here all of his life except for his very early years, when he lived in West Point, Virginia. He and his wife Tina have been married for almost five years and have two cats, Helga and Gerty. In his spare time Mike works on his website, finding Civil War era photos



Mike Gorman, park guide, Richmond National Battlefield Park, stands in front of the modern skyline of Richmond on the roof of Chimborazo Medical Museum.

of Richmond and the surrounding areas and making typescripts of period newspapers. He also watches a lot of sports. He also confesses to being a "film snob," preferring 4-star movies to "romantic comedies" any day of the week.

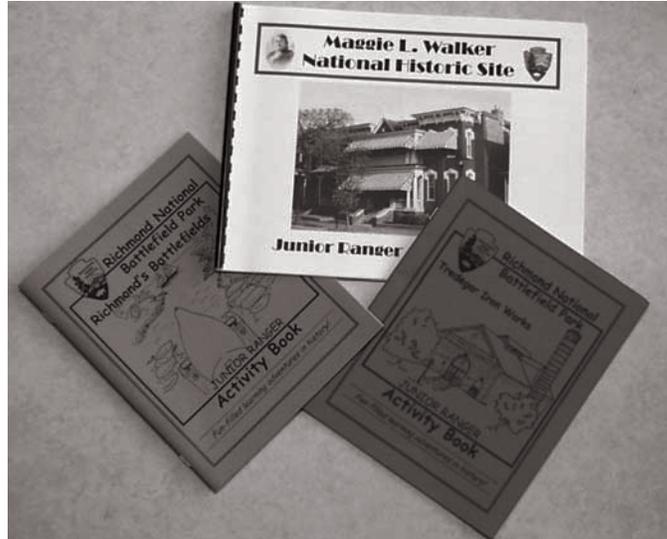
Finally, Mike says he is "extremely glad to have found myself where I would most want to be so early in my career."

Spotlight on Education: Junior Ranger Programs

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site have three new Junior Ranger activity books filled with learning adventures just for kids. The books were produced with funds provided by Parks as Classrooms, Eastern National and the Fee Demonstration program.

The activities in these books are age specific and offer families and groups the opportunity to explore the park stories and resources in a unique and fun way. Each child who completes the program will earn a Junior Ranger patch and certificate.

The following list shows where your child can participate in these free programs:



Three Junior Ranger programs are now available for kids to learn about Richmond's national parks.

fields and can be picked up at the Chimborazo Medical Museum and at the Cold Harbor Visitor Center
Ages 4 through 13

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
Ages: 8 through 12

Here's what one family from Lynchburg, VA had to say about the program:

"We were only going to stay a short time because the boys were so restless, but after receiving the Junior Ranger booklet we had a great time exploring this historic site and actually stayed for 2 hours."

Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works
Ages: 4 through 15

The Richmond Battlefields Junior Ranger program includes all the battle-

Special Events Schedule

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site special programs for spring:

Saturday, March 26--Women's History Month Program and Reception
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Building 112

ation and occupation of Richmond. Living History encampments, music, exhibits, historical talks and tours. History, Healing and Hope program begins at 4:00 pm

Friday, April 1--The 140th Anniversary of the Fall of Richmond
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm
Location: Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works
Lecture and PowerPoint presentation on the evacuation and occupation of Richmond, April 1865.

Sunday April 3--140th Anniversary Tour commemorating President Lincoln's 1865 visit to Richmond
Time: 2 pm
Location: Meet at the fountain at Cary Street and 13th Street in Shockoe Slip. This 2 hour walking tour led by Mike Gorman will cover portions of downtown Richmond viewed by President Lincoln on April 4, 1865.

Saturday, April 2--Annual Civil War Day
Time: 10 am to 5:30 pm
Location: Tredegar Iron Works
A day of special events commemorating the 140th Anniversary of the evacu-

Saturday, April 23--Dedication and Ribbon Cutting of New Exhibits, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site



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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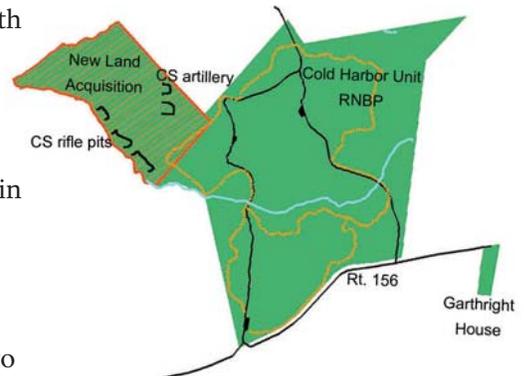
Important Acreage added to Park, continued

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The park hopes to construct a trail with waysides on this parcel allowing visitors for the first time to be able to view the battlefield from the perspective of the defenders, and understand how terrain and position helped to win the battle for the Union army.

A few miles to the east, the park purchased 32 acres of the Cold Harbor battlefield, bringing the total acreage to 181. The property is located a few feet behind the main Confederate line of earthworks and contains well preserved fortifications, including artillery emplacements and rifle pits built by the army in June 1864.

The lack of surviving records make it difficult to know precisely which Confederate artillery unit occupied the works, but evidence points to the long range guns of Major John P.W. Read's



Map showing new land acquired at Cold Harbor in relation to existing unit.

battalion. The earthworks probably date from June 2, and the Southern gunners undoubtedly engaged in duels with Union cannon to the east and were instrumental in breaking up the Federal infantry assaults on June 3. The park plans to expand the current interpretive trail in the near future to include these features.

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