

THE RICHMOND NATIONAL PARKS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
MAGGIE L. WALKER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The Superintendent's Letter: Weaving History's Tapestry

By Cynthia MacLeod

Our Civil War Visitor Center at the Tredegar Iron Works is scheduled to open in April, 2000. The site is spectacular, historic and accessible. As it was at Chimborazo, the Tredegar visitor center's focus is on Richmond's battlefields, the participants, and the context of the action. Unlike at Chimborazo, the coverage of the topics is afforded 12,000 square feet of space and thought-provoking presentation. Chimborazo itself is being redesigned to interpret the medical story connected with that site, which should offer another great opportunity to understand a key facet of the Civil War. Through the design process of these projects, I know that I have gained new appreciation for America's history and the pivotal events of the Civil War. I am in awe of the amount of work that the park staff, led by David Ruth, has invested in the projects.

I hope that you visit the new Tredegar and the new Chimborazo, which are designed as introductions to Richmond's Civil War resources. History is a continuum and its threads are not easily confined to separate spools. Military strategy, political leadership, industrial strength, economic traditions, scientific innovations, homefront conditions, and individual motivations and personalities have woven the patterns of our history's tapestry. The unprecedented loss of American lives during the Civil War highlights the watershed nature of the political changes determined by that military conflict. No place in the United States was more affected by the Civil War than Richmond, Virginia. The visitor center at Tredegar invites you to explore where military events changed our lives.

The visitor center project is a partnership with the Richmond Historic Riverfront Foundation and would not be possible without the generous contributions

of many individuals and corporations and special appropriation from the United States Congress. Come experience your America.

Ironmaker to the Confederacy back in Print

Just over a year ago the Library of Virginia approached Richmond National Battlefield Park about reprinting Charles Dew's classic history on Tredegar Iron Works, *Ironmaker to the Confederacy*. Supported by Richmond National Battlefield Park's cooperating association, Eastern National, the request became a reality and the book is now available in the park's bookstore for \$25.00.

No Southern manufacturer played a more important role supporting the Confederate war effort than Tredegar and its proprietor Joseph R. Anderson. The foundry produced railroad rails, over a thousand cannon, and iron plating used on the ironclad CSS Virginia. All of this occurred despite constant struggles to obtain labor, both free and slave, and limited raw materials. Anderson's effectiveness kept Tredegar in business until the last days of the Confederacy.

The revised edition includes a new introduction, preface and redesigned site maps. These items, combined with photos and a comprehensive index make *Ironmaker to the Confederacy* a welcome addition to any library.

Interpretation Update: The Fee Demonstration Program

By David Ruth, Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources

Managing and interpreting our park resources is much like trying to pay for a son's or daughter's college education. While there is a certain level of funding in a savings account, often families must look to other revenue sources to be able to afford the full price tag. Likewise, each National Park receives an annual appropriation from Congress, but due to operating costs that are rising more quickly than our budgets, managers must look to other sources of revenue to fund the backlog of maintenance, preservation and interpretation projects. The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, authorized by Congress in 1996, is a great example.

To understand this program one needs to know that there are two types of parks; parks that collect entrance fees, and those that do not. The Fee Demonstration Program allows those parks that collect entrance fees, such as Petersburg National Battlefield and Colonial National Historical Park, to retain 80% of those funds to accomplish projects that are approved by the National Park Service. Those who do not collect fees are able to compete for the other 20%. Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site do not collect fees. In 1998, our staff put great effort into preparing Fee Demonstration project requests that competed with requests from other parks. We were fortunate to receive funds that have enabled us to do

the following work:

- Rehabilitate numerous wayside exhibits
- Upgrade our audio waysides (the ones that you push the button and they talk) from cassette tapes to micro-chips
- Purchase new artillery for display at Malvern Hill
- Purchase original and reproduction furniture (that is identified in a furnishing plan) for the home of Maggie L. Walker
- Replace the Chimborazo exhibits when the park moves its main visitor center to the Tredegar Iron Works in 2000

Some of these projects have already been completed, while others are in the process of being contracted to outside sources. A second round of requests for Fee Demonstration funding occurred in 1999, and the park had the following projects approved:

- Complete repairs to the Historic Garthright and Watt houses
- Restore the Gaines' Mill cultural landscape by conducting archeology and removing non-historic trees
- Conduct a water resources management study
- Improve the wetland ecosystem management
- Construct a parking lot at the Malvern Hill battlefield adjacent to the remains of the Willis Methodist Church parsonage that served as Confederate headquarters and is also the first stop on the battlefield walking trail.

As you can see the Fee Demonstration Program has been a huge windfall for our parks and our visitors. The projects listed above totaled over \$507,000. So, to all of you who have paid entrance fees to National Parks in recent years, we extend our sincere thanks. You are helping us to achieve our mission of providing the best possible visitor experience.

Employee Profile: Tim Mauch

Tim Mauch is the supervisory Visitor Protection ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, and has been here since June 29, 1998. Tim has worked at many National Park Service sites, including Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia, Fort Pulaski National Monument and Chattahoochee National Recreation Area in Georgia, Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida, and Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi. When asked what drew him to the National Park Service and to us in particular, Tim had this to say: "I joined the National Park Service for I believed in (and still do) the mission of preserving and protecting our cultural and natural resources for future generations. I applied to Richmond National Battlefield Park due to a desire to work at a Civil War site in Virginia and at the same time, move closer to family members. Having worked a number of years on the Blue Ridge Parkway, as well as marrying a native of the Lynchburg area, I have a strong sense of belonging here in the great state of Virginia."

Tim was born in Dayton, Ohio on February 23, 1962. He is married to Kitty, a registered nurse and they have three beautiful children, Benjamin, Virginia and Meredith. The family has two pet hermit crabs, a cat named Tiger, and a shih-tzu named Muffin. Tim's hobbies are cycling, hiking and traveling. Tim and his family are members of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Mechanicsville. All in all, Tim is pleased to be here at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site.

FY 2000 Budget and Activities Summary

After an excellent year in 1999, we are pleased to be able to continue our resource protection and, with the opening of the Tredegar Visitor Center on the riverfront, increase our educational efforts in fiscal year (FY) 2000. We will continue to integrate donated lands into park operations; we will continue to upgrade the maintenance of public areas and cope with the effects of natural disasters; and we will continue to offer more and varied programs to the public to increase understanding of our history. We want you to be excited about experiencing your America here and throughout the National Park System.

Highlights of the battlefield park's \$2.194 million operating budget, which funds specific goals in the annual performance plan, include:

\$722,000 for preservation and protection of the park's ten battlefields, historic sites, and museum objects. The acreage is increased this year to 1460 acres through the donation of approximately 700 acres at Malvern Hill and Glendale battlefields through the generosity of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

\$1,472,000 to address visitor services, safety, education and interpretive media. The park presently has two staffed visitor centers, at Chimborazo and Cold Harbor, that are open 363 days this year. Two facilities, at Glendale Cemetery and at Fort Harrison, will continue to be staffed every day during the summer months. The Tredegar Visitor Center, on the James River waterfront, will be inaugurated in April to start full time, year round service. The Tredegar facility is made possible by the generous donation of 2.8 million dollars from the Richmond corporate community, nearly \$900,000 of Transportation Enhancement Act money, and the cooperation of the Ethyl Corporation that owns the building. The park has regularly experienced visitation of a quarter million visitors and expects a significant increase this year. In FY 2000 the park will completely replace exhibits at Chimborazo to tell the medical story there and finish the construction project there to make the facility physically accessible to all.

Highlights of the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site budget of \$545,000 include:

- \$238,000 for preservation and protection of the park's historic buildings and museum objects
- \$307,000 to address visitor services, safety, education and interpretive media.

The park is preparing for a major construction project that will completely rehabilitate the remaining for structures of the site for use as exhibit/educational space and office space.

The Protection Ranger

by Tim Mauch, Supervisory Park Ranger

To me, no picture of the National Parks is complete unless it includes the Ranger, the Dudes, the Sagebrushers, and the savages.--Stephen Mather, Director of NPS, 1917-1929

Since the early days of 1880 when Harry Yount served as the first national park ranger in Yellowstone protecting game, rangers have always had a multitude of tasks and responsibilities which ensure that park resources and the public are safe and protected. These duties range from protecting the buffalo in Yellowstone, to preserving the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, to protecting Civil War battlefields.

Here at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, various duties are performed by protection rangers. Vehicle and foot patrols are conducted daily at the many park units to ensure both the protection of the resource and the public. A protection ranger who checks a park unit for possible illegal artifact digging may later in the day be involved in the testing of both intrusion and fire alarm systems at their assigned park buildings. Rangers operate radar on park owned and maintained roads to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and adjacent landowners. Traffic accidents on these roads are investigated by rangers. Stranded motorists are often assisted by rangers on park and surrounding roads. All park resources, including structures, monuments and plaques, are constantly checked for any signs of theft or vandalism. Detection, investigation, and prosecution of refuse dumping, off-road use by ATV's or dirt bikes, wildlife poaching and pollution by air and water are also some of the responsibilities of the rangers. Rangers prepare and present any resulting cases in federal, state and city court systems. Rangers are actively involved in investigating encroachments to park property and in performing access studies to determine what accessibility park neighbors have to park property. Deed research is completed on the land unit, then the information is issued to the U.S. Solicitor in Philadelphia for a ruling.

Protection rangers assist other park divisions in the planning and implementation of various land management strategies. These range from vegetative screening at the Cold Harbor unit, to the clearing of a wooded area at Gaines' Mill for historic scene restoration. Natural resource inventories are often conducted and sometimes prescribed burns occur in various park units as a cost-effective, environmental alternative for clearing brush in order to keep to the park's enabling legislation of restoring the area to its historical scene. Wildfires are also fought and investigated by rangers.

Protection rangers receive training to assist them in all their duties. Rangers must satisfactorily complete a basic law enforcement class conducted at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. This is the same facility that trains other federal law enforcement agents such as those with the DEA, ATF, U.S. Customs and U.S. Marshals. Each year thereafter, rangers are required to pass a 40-hour law enforcement training "refresher" class. Protection rangers also participate in safety management courses conducted both in and outside the park. Rangers are trained in wildland fire fighting and participate in yearly arduous "pack tests", carrying a 45-pound pack for three miles in 45 minutes or less, to qualify for their certification. Rangers also

participate in a variety of other training courses that relate to their field, such as first aid and CPR. Rangers have college backgrounds ranging from criminal justice, to natural resources management, to business management.

Unfortunately, protection ranger positions are few and far between. The competition is normally stiff for any vacancies that do arise and only the best qualified are hired. Most protection rangers begin their careers working seasonally and then obtain career or career-conditional status with the federal government, sometimes after many years.

Rapidly changing external influences including population growth, urban sprawl, encroachment, and technology advancements, require long-term strategic planning and organization by parks in order to manage and carry out the NPS mission. Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are no exceptions. The vital link that the protection ranger fills at the park helps accomplish the park mission today and in the future.

Monument Erected on Battlefield

On October 31, 1999, park officials, Civil War enthusiasts, and local reenactors gathered to dedicate and unveil a new monument marking a key location of the Gaines' Mill battlefield. A collaboration among groups in three different states made the event possible. The monument commemorates the service of a brigade of Alabamians commanded by General Cadmus M. Wilcox during the 1862 battles around Richmond. Comprised of four regiments of men from around the state of Alabama, the brigade was an element of General James Longstreet's Confederate division. On June 27, 1862, Wilcox's men charged across Boatswain's Creek and into the Union lines. Their successful advance helped create a breach in the Northerners' lines that proved irreparable, and led to the Confederate victory that day.

The marker is located on the crest of the hill above the creek, close to where Wilcox's men broke the Federal lines. It stands about five feet high, is made of granite, and contains an inscription that explains the brigade's role in the battle and lists its casualties. The four regiments lost 600 men killed and wounded of the 1800 men taken into battle. Combined with casualties three days later at the Battle of Frayser's Farm, Wilcox's Brigade lost more than 1000 men during the Seven Days battles, more than any other brigade in the Confederate army.

The town of Covington, Tennessee, and its mayor Hon. Russell Bailey, led the efforts to raise money and secure permission to erect the marker on the battlefield park. General Wilcox lived in Covington as a youth. The Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans also provided funding, as did the Virginia-based Camp Foundations.

Excellent weather favored the crowd on the day of the unveiling. Mr. William J. Miller, of Churchville, Virginia, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Miller is the author of a well received biography of Confederate cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss, and is a highly respected authority on the Seven Days battles around

Richmond. in his remarks, Mr. Miller reminded the audience that marking the battlefields and honoring the men who fought upon them is both a privilege and a responsibility. This monument, he said, will be a part of the Gaines' Mill battlefield for untold decades and centuries. Its erection is another ingredient in the preservation and interpretation of our sacred places.

Richmond National Battlefield Park took advantage of this opportunity to display a new walking trail at Gaines' Mill. The extended path more than doubles the size of the old trail, which remains open. Visitors to the battlefield now have the option of walking this new spur, which will take them to the Wilcox's Brigade monument, to Union rifle pits, and to an overlook on the edge of the park's property that provides a panoramic view across the southern end of the battlefield looking toward the Chickahominy River. Eight new signs along the path use remarks from soldiers who fought at Gaines' Mill to describe the fighting there. Two others provide maps, illustrations and context.

Ride the Wind at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

Last spring the first ever curriculum-based education program was presented at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Education coordinator Patrice Ferrell worked with Ranger (ret.) Jim Bell and Jewel Turpin, History Education Coordinator for Richmond City Schools, to create two programs, one for grades one through three and another for fourth and fifth graders. The first one teaches children about Mrs. Walker's Neighborhood. As Patrice explained, "the curriculum for those grades includes the importance of neighborhoods and communities and Mrs. Walker was a leader in the Jackson Ward community." The program for the older grades, called Ride the Wind, focuses on African American history and includes Mrs. Walker's role in the early 20th century Civil Rights Movement.

When the program began last spring, its availability was limited to Tuesdays, so it would not interfere with the regular interpretive programs that at the time were offered Wednesday through Sunday. With increased interest in the programs, additional interpretive staff, and a new schedule (Monday through Saturday., 9:00 to 5:00), we hope to be able to make them available on any week day.

If you are a teacher and have an interest in bringing your class to attend either of the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site children's programs, please call (804) 771-2017. Reservations are required for these program

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