



The Quarterly

Park Lends a Hand in Katrina Recovery Effort

The devastating tragedy of hurricane Katrina played out across the Gulf Coast and was broadcast nationally and around the globe. We saw shocking images and appalling stories of unimaginable conditions. In the face of this undeniable tragedy, Richmond National Battlefield Park has been given the opportunity to provide aid and represent kindness and compassion for thousands of Katrina's victims.



Park Ranger Barry Krieg patrols the area around Fort Massachusetts at Gulf Islands National Seashore as part of recovery efforts post-Katrina.

Strike teams, set up to distribute supplies to those in need, were the first tangible product of the support and relief efforts. The park's Natural Resource Technician Andrew Trivizas was dispatched in late August to serve on such a team just north of New Orleans. Although the food, water, and ice distributed was critical to the five thousand families they helped to serve each day, the team also shared a sense of hope along with kind words and the occasional joke. Andrew describes his experience this way: "This was a very powerful experience for me and one

that I will never forget. The citizens, after enduring the storm, food, water, and gas shortages, along with day after day of triple digit heat indexes, were patient, courteous, and appreciative even after waiting in distribution lines that were often miles long. After nearly two weeks of up to sixteen hour days the team came to rely on the Louisianians for moral and emotional support as well. The people at a nearby department store, even as they struggled with the destruction in their own lives, made us feel as if we were family, providing much welcomed comforts such as home cooked meals and even a mini Mardi Gras parade."

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Letter from the Superintendent: Tredegar Welcomes National Folk Festival

Remember the drought of the summer and fall? Imagine then, the frustration when buckets of rain fell as the National Folk Festival commenced at Tredegar. Even so, rain torrents and overcast skies couldn't keep the crowds away. Fiddlers, cowboys, gospel singers, and zydeco musicians enlivened the grounds of the main visitor center for Richmond National Battlefield Park on October 7, 8, and 9, as part of the 67th National Folk Festival. Over 30 performance groups delighted tens of thousands at Tredegar and on neighboring properties. While the visitor center remained open to provide normal visitor services for the battlefield park, park rangers offered special programs as well. Attendance figures for the NPS facility soared beyond usual numbers (from 573 to 3166) for the three day period.

The free event featured seven stages of continuous music and dance, craft exhibitions and demonstrations, a folk arts marketplace, children's educational and fun activities,

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parades, and delicious foods. The idea of the Festival is to celebrate the roots, richness, and variety of American culture.

The National Folk Festival was produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts in partnership with CITYCELEBRATIONS, the City of Richmond, Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Richmond Renaissance, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation in cooperation with NewMarket Corporation, the National Park Service, the American Civil War Center at Tredegar, and the Children's Museum.

The Festival will again make its home on the banks of the beautiful James River in 2006 and 2007. Plan to be part of the fun.

Cynthia MacLeod

Maggie L. Walker's Home Receives a Facelift

Park preservation specialist Bill Reese and his assistant Joe Temple have nearly completed the year-long process of restoring the porches of Maggie Walker's home. The exterior siding that rotted was carefully removed and replaced by matching tongue and groove boards. Enough fabric of the original windows survived for Bill and Joe to restore the frames and sashes by using special epoxy-based compounds to replace the rotted wood. Visitors arriving at the site will no longer be welcomed by the dilapidated condition of the porches.

This work coincides with the repainting of virtually the entire interior of the Walker home. Paint colors were chosen to match the results obtained in a paint analysis study and outlined in the 2004 Historic Furnishings Report. The changes are quite dramatic.

By fall of 2006, the final stage of the interior rehabilitation is scheduled for completion. This work includes the installation of window treatments and

wallpaper reproduced from original specimens in the park collection that are known to have been used during Maggie Walker's lifetime.

The goal for the work is to transport visitors into the world of Maggie Walker. The restored home, wallpaper, paint colors and historic furnishings reflect her tastes and connect us to her in subtle but meaningful ways.



Preservation Specialist Bill Reese fixes the upstairs porch at Maggie L. Walker's home.

Employee Profile: Tom Casey

Tom Casey, a volunteer at the Tredegar Civil War Visitor Center since August 2005, has pretty much followed the beat of a different drummer throughout his life. A self-proclaimed "jack of all trades and master of some," his interests are widely diverse including, among other things, cooking, reading, tennis, hiking, biking, surfing, nature, history, photography, and music.

Tom's formal schooling includes degrees in chemistry, business administration, and education. Before retiring as an associate professor from the Medical College of Virginia, his career path was equally diversified,

ranging from forensic drug chemist to State program director to health care administrator.

But the one constant theme running throughout all these interests and careers is his love of learning and teaching. He says, "Learning is one of life's major forces. Opportunities for discovery are endless. To me, it is extremely rewarding to share something you've learned with others."



Tom Casey, volunteer at the Civil War Visitor Center, Richmond National Battlefield Park.

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Barn Fire Results in Landscape Rehabilitation

On September 19, a neighbor living adjacent to the Malvern Hill battlefield called to notify park officials that she could see thick, billowing smoke. It appeared to be coming from a modern pole barn located on lands just acquired by the NPS.

Park staff trained in firefighting responded first and discovered a grass fire that was burning towards a post-war landmark of the battlefield, the West house. Their efforts were initially focused on saving the house, which they succeeded in doing.

After a few minutes the park firefighters were joined by Captain John Page of the Henrico Fire Department and several county firefighters with a brush truck and tanker. The fire had begun to spread inside the barn where stacks of hay and wood ignited and quickly turned into an inferno. Within minutes the entire barn was engulfed in flame and heavy smoke.

More Henrico firefighters arrived from stations 2, 4, 14 and 18 along with Battalion Chief Lloyd Runnett. With the arrival of these additional resources

the fire was prevented from spreading into the crop fields.

An investigation revealed that the fire most likely started from the mechanical failure of park equipment that had been parked adjacent to the barn. Conditions were extremely dry and the fire spread quickly. Without the help of the Henrico firefighters the results could have been far worse and we are extremely grateful for their contributions. The loss of the modern barn merely hastened the park's battlefield landscape rehabilitation program.



Little remained after fire claimed the modern pole barn at Malvern Hill, shown during (left) and after (right).

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It is exactly that love of learning and teaching that drew him to the National Park Service. In Tom's words, "Ever since I was a kid visiting national parks with my family, I've always had the greatest admiration for the Park Service, its employees, and its missions. Now I have a chance to join the NPS team of dedicated professionals and be part of this valuable, respected organization."

Part of Tom's duties at Tredegar is to assist Pat Ferrell, our education specialist, with programs for school children. He also conducts interpretive talks, helps visitors with their needs,

and is responsible for maintaining the large inventory of brochures available to the public at Tredegar.

Tom and his wife, Fran, are native Richmonders. They live near Cold Harbor with their funky cat Domino, and just last year became proud grandparents of a beautiful, bright little girl, Jaiden. "She's so enthusiastic and inquisitive about everything," says Tom. "Her insatiable curiosity is inspiring." Jaiden is the daughter of older son Scott and his wife Tami, who also live in Richmond.

Last year proved to be quite eventful for the Caseys. Younger son Greg and his fiancée, Lee, were married in the spring and settled in Annapolis, Maryland. Responding to these happy family events, Tom exclaims with a huge grin, "Wow, this is way too much fun!"

Welcome Letters About Cold Harbor Arrive from An Unexpected Source

Visitors to the battlefield park have a wide variety of motivations. Many of them are following in the footsteps of soldier-relatives who participated in the great battles here 140 years ago. Those visitors often bring a special enthusiasm to their trip. Occasionally they also carry along family treasures such as artifacts, photographs, and written accounts.

A particularly memorable example of that occurred at Cold Harbor over the Thanksgiving weekend. A family had just discovered, unexpectedly, a cache of letters written during the Civil War by a 24-year-old Massachusetts schoolteacher named William Waterman. Two letters penned by Waterman during the Battle of Cold Harbor stood out as especially interesting. By June 1864 his unit, the Thirty-Seventh Massachusetts Infantry, had a long record as a notable combat regiment. Waterman (then a lieutenant) had seen and survived a great deal, including the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania just three weeks before Cold Harbor.

One of Lieutenant Waterman's two Cold Harbor letters is reproduced here. His description of sharpshooting is especially valuable because such detailed accounts rarely are seen. Best of all, the Thirty-Seventh Massachusetts fought on land preserved as part of Richmond National Battlefield Park. The drama experienced by Waterman occurred among the trenches in the back corner of the national park. At present the park only protects about 280 acres of the seven-mile long battlefield, making these letters an especially fortunate find.



William Waterman's regiment entrenched in the northeastern portion of the park--possibly even in the earthworks shown here.

*Cold Harbor Va
only 8 miles from Richmond*

June 6 1864

The 37th is as usual in the front line of Battle about 500 yds from the enemy's fortifications. Shell shot occasionally & bullets continually pass over us, some dropping in our midst & taking from us a comrade or an officer. Our lines are nearly of the shape of a horse shoe & with in, from 50 to 500 yards from the Rebel works we are on the inside & the 4th Brigade holds the point...being in a position to suffer from 2 flank fires besides the front. Our co. was out on skirmish yesterday & so near that I could see them shoveling & rise up & fire from their pits. I saw 3 flags floating from there works & shot at them but could not cut them down. I was amused to shoot at them. Lt Bardwald & I made a secure

position near 300 yards from them & placed trees set on end in a circular form, so as to protect us from flank fire & then the boys would load for us & we continually firing at them as they would show their heads, this keeping down a line of them & they could fire at us only by pulling their guns over the work & not show their heads. Their sharpshooters worked nearly all day to silence us but could not, & at 3pm they opened artillery on our post. Some solid shot went through our R[ifle] pits & buried the men in dirt who were lying behind the pitt. We stopped for a time to please them & then we thought there was little use in fighting artillery - but then we had satisfaction. We would shoot once per minute or so. I was not hit. The lt. had a ball through his hat. Capt Donnely was slightly wounded this morning here by a random ball. Our Regt has suffered greatly you probably know of the service

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Spotlight on Education: Year-End Review

Richmond National Battlefield Park has a very successful curriculum-based education program that was developed and implemented to meet the Standards of Learning for Virginia. Working with educators, these programs were created to provide a stair-stepped approach to stimulate learning of the stories that are associated with the important resources of Richmond National Battlefield Park.

This has been an exhilarating year at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Thousands of 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 park provided four different one-day teacher institutes to share interactive learning activities that engage the teachers by infusing the history SOLs.

We have added new items to our Civil War Trunks and have created two new programs that will be introduced this year: “Meet Mr. Lincoln,” a program for third graders, and “Tredegar’s Industry,” for high school students. Both are presented at the historic Tredegar Iron Works.

We look forward to an exciting school year that will create new educational adventures at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Check our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/rich> and click on the link to Education Programs for a list of available programs, then call Pat Ferrell, education coordinator at (804) 771-2018 to schedule a program for your school.



Pat Ferrell leads a group of third graders from South Anna Elementary School on a tour of historic Tredegar Iron Works.



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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“Civil War Letters,” continued from page 4

we have rendered there is no truer Rgt in this army....Our number is small though now, scarcely commissioned officers enough to command the companies – tis wonderful though that we are spared. The sieging process has now commenced & sooner or later Richmond must fall. God only knows whether I shall live to see that day but one thing is certain I have labored & fought many long nights & days & God has taken care of me. So far there has not been a day or night since May 4th when the sound of cannon musketry could not be heard nor one night of undisturbed rest & many many nights after fighting [all] day have we stood guns in hand & all traps watching or we have lain them down to dry & thrown up miles of works in a single night. Thus far this is the hardest campaign of the war....None but the soldiers who survive can ever know the cost of this struggle. O how many brave

men have fallen!....Remember me to all who may inquire & pardon me for sending such a poor letter, but time is uncertain, paper gone & almost everything else. I have not had an opportunity to wash my clothes since the commencement of the campaign. You would hardly own me could you see me now. Hoping that God will sustain us & grant complete victory.

*I remain your humble servant,
W A Waterman*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Quarterly

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Katrina Recovery Assistance, continued

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Law enforcement Ranger Barry Krieg worked long hours aiding in the recovery efforts at Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi. He escorted displaced employees to their homes and recovery workers to devastated areas of the park by boat. Maintenance Worker Joe Temple served as a recovery worker in Mississippi, building and repairing houses and other structures. The park is proud of these employees. As part of a long term recovery effort, the park stands ready to send additional employees to serve in the variety of roles that are needed.

Here in Richmond we are not strangers to the destruction hurricanes can bring. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have given Richmond National Battlefield Park the opportunity to be a part of the same community that was so quick to respond in our time of need.

Locations of front page images (left to right):

Chimborazo Medical Museum; Cold Harbor battlefield; Drewry's Bluff battlefield; Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site; The Parsonage at Malvern Hill battlefield; Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works.