



The Quarterly

Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield Becomes 13th Park Unit



Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod stands with Andy Shield, Trustee of the Totopotomoy Battlefield at Rural Plains Foundation, on the porch of the Shelton House. The house and battlefield it stands on recently became Richmond National Battlefield Park's 13th unit.

On June 1, a ceremony was held on the May 1864 Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield to celebrate the deed transfer to the National Park Service of 124 acres and the battle-damaged Shelton House known as Rural Plains, an 18th century landmark.

This effort involved a number of private individuals, corporations, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and the Hanover County Board of Supervisors who were brought together by local

developer Andy Shield to make this dream a reality.

Mr. Shield was working on a development project adjacent to the battlefield and was so taken by the centuries of history at Rural Plains and the battlefield story that he decided to lead the preservation effort. The effort required achieving special zoning, creating a successful foundation, and fostering a special relationship with the

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Letter from the Superintendent:

On behalf of the American people, for whom the National Park Service is the steward of national treasures, I thank those who help us meet our mission everyday. I thank visitors who ask good questions and obey the laws; I thank our staff who go the extra mile to preserve the resources and make the visit enjoyable; I thank our partners in local government and in the private sector who cooperate in preservation and education matters.

I want to highlight my appreciation for the outstanding recent donation (see front page story) to the National Park Service. The land, house, and contents provide new dimensions to the story of the Civil War around Richmond and the effects on the civilian population; the pursuit of the history of the property, the house and its inhabitants has intrigued me personally. Thank you to Andy Shield, Hanover County, and the Civil War Preservation Trust for the donation.

Cynthia MacLeod

June 5 to August 19 - Daily Schedule

Tredegar Visitor Center:

Open 9:00 – 5:00,
Ranger Programs offered daily

Maggie L. Walker Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 - 5:00
Ranger Programs offered daily

Cold Harbor Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 – 5:00
Ranger programs offered weekends

Chimborazo Medical Museum:

Open daily 9:00 – 5:00

Glendale/Malvern Hill

Visitor Center & battlefields:

Park Staff on duty daily 9:00 – 5:00

Fort Harrison Visitor Center:

Open daily 9:00 – 5:00

Eagle Scout Projects Benefit Visitor Services

Richmond National Battlefield Park has recently benefitted from two separate Eagle Scout projects, one that will enhance the school programs at Tredegar and one that will improve visitor enjoyment of the Gaines' Mill battlefield.

Richard M. Dunn from Boy Scout Troop 822 in Chesterfield found funding to pay for materials to build benches. He built 20 benches each eight feet long, painted them gray, and delivered them to the Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works where they will be used in the Education Center.

Matthew Kincaid, a member of Boy Scout Troop 531 from the Old Church area of Hanover County, completed a trail improvement project at Gaines' Mill battlefield. As part of the service project requirement for Eagle Scout,



Richard Dunn stands with one of 20 benches he built for Richmond National Battlefield Park's Education Center.

Matthew chose to rehabilitate sections of the battlefield walking trail, meeting on site with park staff to review project goals, then successfully gathering together the necessary supplies and manpower to complete the job. As a result the 1-mile Gaines' Mill walking trail is now cleared, signed and opened to visitors in time for the summer season.

Employee Profile: Mike Andrus



Mike Andrus, Supervisory Park Ranger, Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L Walker National Historic Site

As Supervisory Park Ranger for Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site Mike Andrus is respon -

sible for the daily interpretive operations, including program management and the hiring and training of personnel. He is also the coordinator for the parks' cooperating association, Eastern National. But Mike's true genius is in presenting battlefield talks and tours, and in successfully training others in the business of interpretation, in which he has almost 30 years of experience. He honed his skills at Manassas National Battlefield Park and Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park before coming to Richmond in 1986.

Mike's interest in the National Park Service grew out of an early fascination

with the American Civil War. "While in high school I made it a goal to visit the war's great battlefields. It was during those first visits that I decided to pursue a career as one of those rangers who talk to people about history," he says.

Mike has another interest: baseball. A long-suffering Boston Red Sox fan, Mike has made it a goal upon retiring to visit every major and minor league baseball park in the country. Mike lives in Richmond with his wife of 14 years, Ann and one occasionally friendly cat.

Maggie L. Walker NHS Seeks New Volunteers

Do you enjoy history and visiting historic sites? Does meeting and greeting the public sound appealing? If so, the Maggie L Walker National Historic Site located at 110 1/2 East Leigh Street, has a wonderful opportunity for you.

The park is seeking interested volunteers to help provide visitor services. This important work includes staffing the information desk in the park's visitor center, welcoming visitors to the site, answering questions, and assisting the staff in presenting tours, educational programs and children's activities. For those interested in historical research, there are opportunities to assist with the park library and

archival resources.

All volunteers will receive extensive training, and a uniform will be provided. Prospective volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.

This is a great opportunity to help share the legacy of Maggie L. Walker with the public, and support the work of the National Park Service.

Interested persons can call Park Ranger Celia Suggs at 804-771-2017 extension 24, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am through 5:00 pm. For further information visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/mawa.



Volunteers from Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site help out at a booth during one of many special events the park participates in.

Podcast Tour Developed for Malvern Hill Battlefield



Jack Berry, president and CEO of the Richmond Metro Convention and Visitor Bureau listens to the podcast tour of Malvern Hill battlefield.

In March 2006, the Richmond National Battlefield Park along with partners at CivilWarTraveler.com offered the first of a series of customized podcast battlefield tours. The staff chose Malvern Hill for the first tour of its kind at the park. Malvern Hill, the last engagement of the 1862 Seven Days

Campaign, is the largest and best preserved site within the Richmond battlefield collection.

The podcast tour is available through the park's website at www.nps.gov/rich, or at www.civilwartraveler.com. Visitors are urged to download the podcast tour from the web to their computer, then onto an iPod or other mp3 player. A high resolution battlefield map that identifies the 10 stops along a 1.5 mile loop trail is also available on the website.

"The difficulty of staffing each of our battlefields throughout the year challenged us to explore alternatives to making guided tours available to anyone at any time," noted Assistant Superintendent David Ruth. "What makes this tour special is that it was unscripted and recorded in real time on the battlefield trail, and the narrative

is presented as if the listener were taking a guided tour with an NPS ranger," adds Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, who successfully nominated the project for an NPS innovation award.

The guide for the Malvern Hill tour is Mike Andrus. Mike has long been a student of the battle and is familiar with the military story as well recent landscape rehabilitation work that underscores the importance of understanding terrain in the outcome of the battle. Most of the trail follows gently sloping open fields and takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Public response has been wonderful. Since going live, the podcast has had nearly 1800 visitors. This summer the park will expand the podcast tour program with a tour of Gaines' Mill and one of Abraham Lincoln's 1865 Richmond visit. Stay tuned.

2006 Schedule of Special Events

Please join Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site for the special events occurring this summer. Call 804-226-1981 x30 for details. All programs are free.:

June 24 & 25 - Gaines' Mill Anniversary Program

Living history encampment, rifle firing demonstrations and walking tours throughout the weekend. Steve Courtney, co-editor of *The Civil War Letters of Joseph Hopkins Twitchell: A Chaplain's Story* on hand Saturday at noon to discuss and autograph his recent publication.

Sat. 10:00 - 5:00, Sun. 10:00 - 4:00.

July 8 & 9 - Malvern Hill Anniversary Program

Union artillery and Confederate infantry demonstrations and park ranger guided walking tours offered throughout the weekend.

Sat. 10:00 - 5:00, Sun. 10:00 - 4:00.

July 15 - Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site Annual Birthday Celebration.

Tours, music and cake to honor Maggie Walker's birthday.

Sat. 9:00 - 5:00.

September 30 & October 1- Breaking the Siege: The Battles for Richmond and Petersburg.

A joint program sponsored by Richmond NBP and Petersburg NB.

Weekend series of talks, tours and living history demonstrations.

Sat. 10:00 - 5:00, Sun. 10:00 - 4:00.

September 30 and October 1 - 2nd Street Festival in Jackson Ward.

Special hands-on children's activities

and guided house tours.

Sat. 9:00 - 6:00, Sun. 1:00 - 6:00.

October 7 & 8 - Encampment at Drewry's Bluff

Park rangers and living history volunteers representing Confederate sailors will present a series of talks, tours and demonstrations depicting garrison life inside the Drewry's Bluff fortifications.

Sat. 10:00 - 5:00, Sun. 10:00 - 4:00.

October 14 & 15 - National Folk Festival at Tredegar Iron Works

Artists from across the country gather for a weekend of special activities celebrating a wide mix of cultural music, dance and crafts.

Kristen Allen Earns NRM Award

Richmond National Battlefield Park received some good news recently. Its Natural Resource Management Specialist, Kristen Allen, earned recognition by the Northeast Regional Director of the NPS as the outstanding Natural Resource Management Specialist in a small/medium sized park in the Region.

Kristen has responsibility for close to 2,000 acres and many historic structures, as well as for the Integrated Pest Management aspects of the Maggie Walker National Historic Site with its 8 urban historic structures. She has been the primary park player for several major natural resource projects, including Hurricane Isabel and Gaston

storm damage clean-up, and the restoration of the historic landscapes at multiple Civil War battlefields which is a primary goal of the park.

Kristen is the point of contact for farmers who use National Park Service property for agricultural purposes. She also manages the exotic invasive plant eradication program and supervises a rotating pair of interns throughout the year.

Kristen had this to say about receiving this award: "I was surprised and honored. As a biologist in a battlefield park, I don't expect much recognition, but it always feels good to receive a pat on the back for the job you do. Most

things I am able to accomplish in the park, I do with a lot of help and openness from other park managers and staff."

The complexity of Kristen's program and interaction with all other aspects of the park's operation, regional office staff, other parks' staff, national staff, county and state officials, and neighbors are immense. We are proud to call Kristen a colleague and friend and the park congratulates her on her award.

Spotlight on Education: National Park Week

National Park Week was celebrated at the Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works during April 22-30. This year's theme was "Connecting Our Children to America's National Parks." A special display highlighted pictures of children in national parks as well as Junior Ranger badges and patches from numerous parks across the country. Children visiting the visitor center and school groups that had field trips scheduled during that week were invited to participate in a special activity to learn about national parks. The children were given a brightly colored pencil and an activity sheet. Each pencil had the name of a state attached to it. The child used a National Park Service map or the website www.nps.gov/parks.html

to answer questions on the activity sheet about national parks in that state. During National Park Week 978 students participated in this curriculum-based learning adventure.

Here are some of the responses to one of the questions:

Why do you think national parks are special places in our country?

".....they preserve history and wildlife."

".....they give you places to visit when you go on vacation that you can learn about."

".....they keep people from destroying the beauty of our land".

".....they help us learn about our history and our nature."



The Scurlock family from Raleigh, North Carolina explores their America at the Civil War Visitor Center during National Park Week.



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.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Author Jeff Shaara Donates Funds to Preserve Richmond's Battlefields.

Jeff Shaara, author of six best selling novels on the Civil War, including *Gods and Generals*, recently donated \$3,000.00 to go toward the preservation of Richmond's battlefield lands. Mr. Shaara's donation comes from the publication advance of his recently published non-fiction book *Jeff Shaara's Civil War Battlefields: Discovering America's Hallowed Ground*. Mr. Shaara's book details the park's Cold Harbor battlefield, one of 10 Civil War sites chosen for its significance and need for additional preservation. Copies of the book will be available at the park's bookstores.

Last spring Mr. Shaara met with interpretive supervisor Mike Andrus and toured portions of the Cold Harbor battlefield. He spent time walking the trails that weave through the remains of earthworks built by both Union and Confederate soldiers. He then combined that experience with his personal perspective and engaging prose to create the Cold Harbor chapter. His narrative includes information not only on what happened, but what to see and why the battle stands out as one of the more important engagements of the war.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Richmond National Battlefield Park/
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Printed with funds donated by Eastern National, a not-for-profit partner of the National Park Service and other public trusts.

The Quarterly

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property's owner, Mr. Bill Shelton, Jr., to work out the acquisition details. Mr. Shelton's family owned the property for many generations. The Sheltons were proud stewards of the property and extremely pleased that the historic house and battlefield acreage would become available to all Americans.

Unfortunately Mr. Shelton passed away on May 5, 2006, just shy of the date of the ceremony. Prior to his death he provided a lengthy oral history and pointed out many of the furnishings that were in the house prior to 1865. Fortunately, the Park Service was able to purchase a number of these items before his death, and they will be part of the

furnishings when the house can eventually be open to the public.

For now, immediate safety measures are being taken to ensure the preservation of the historic structure, and research is underway to better understand the construction and social history of the house. In addition to being used as Union headquarters in 1864, tradition also records that Patrick Henry, the famous Virginia orator, was married in the parlor of Rural Plains in 1754. Plans are to open the site and house to the public incrementally, as funds become available. This addition brings the total acreage managed by the park to approximately 1,938 acres.

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.