

THE RICHMOND NATIONAL PARKS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
MAGGIE L. WALKER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

BY CYNTHIA MACLEOD

The flag is back at full staff, and we are pursuing our strategies and tasks to ensure that the resources under our care are preserved for your enjoyment forever. We are laying the groundwork for another special summer season, putting the finishing touches on a new museum exhibit and film on Confederate medicine at Chimborazo, preparing for a major restoration project at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, making progress on the restoration of historic battlefield landscapes, and working with partners to preserve battlefield land.

There is always more to be done than there is time or money to do it, but I am grateful for the freedom to make choices, the spirit of my colleagues and the American people and the relative abundance that our country sustains.



The flag still waves over the Richmond Parks' Headquarters.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Superintendent's Message	1
Interpretation Update	2
Employee Profile: Larry Smith	3
Earthwork Preservation Techniques	3
Civil War Crossword	4
Exploring the Real Thing	5
Honoring America's Veterans	6

Mark your Calendars:

On December 15, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site will provide a candlelight tour of 110 1/2 East Leigh Street, Mrs. Walker's home, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The house will be decorated for Christmas beginning December 5th. Come celebrate the holiday season in 1920's style!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

INTERPRETATION UPDATE: NEW LANDS TO BE ADDED TO RICHMOND BATTLEFIELD

By DAVID RUTH, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AND CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION

In the very near future, Richmond National Battlefield Park will expand its boundary to include nearly 100 acres of land associated with the battles of Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill. Although Congress recently established a new boundary for the park, and authorized the use of federal funds for purchase of land within the new boundaries, no funds have yet been authorized. Of necessity, the park has been employing a variety of alternate strategies to protect historically significant lands. Constant communication with county planning staffs to monitor land use proposals for properties within the park boundary is one of those strategies.

During the summer of 2001, through the Hanover County Historic Commission, the park was notified that a corporation was planning to file a development plan with Hanover County that included the rezoning of 210 acres, of which approximately 110 are included within the park's legislative boundary. The park immediately met with the developers,

Wilton Real Estate and Development Corporation, and Hanover County planners to examine alternatives that would address the park boundary issue, and also ensure that other historic resources within the proposed development would be saved.

The property was extremely important to the park as it contained significant resources related to two major battles of the war, Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill. During the 1864 battle of Cold Harbor, Confederate Infantry from General Cadmus Wilcox's Division entrenched across the parcel. Between June 2 and June 12, steady skirmishing between the armies occurred there. A portion of Wilcox's line of earthworks remains standing. Two years earlier, during the battle of Gaines' Mill on June 27, 1862, Union reinforcements crossed the Chickahominy River at Alexander's Bridge and rushed across the area under artillery fire, as Lee's Confederates were assaulting the Federal position around the

Watt House. Alexander's Bridge had its north-side approach on the parcel, and this resource is an invaluable interpretive tool. For now, visitors to the park cannot get close to the Chickahominy River or see any of the famous and extremely important river crossing sites that are essential in understanding the Peninsula Campaign.

The developer requested a rezoning of the 210 acres using a relatively new and forward-thinking ordinance known as Rural Conservation or RC. The RC ordinance has numerous requirements that include the preservation of at least 70% of the useable portion of the property (not including wetlands and steep slopes) by having it remain in open space. The purpose of the ordinance is to cluster the development within 30% of the land area, thereby helping to retain the rural nature of an urbanizing county.

Fortunately the RC zoning provided opportunities to meet the requirements of the developer, the county and the park. The development is planned creatively to be located outside both the park boundary and the viewshed of visitors as they travel along the park's driving tour route. A series of Confederate rifle pits were preserved by the developer who also proffered sufficient funding to install



Map showing pending donation in relation to Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill battlefields.

waysides to interpret these earthworks. And most importantly, ownership of almost 100 acres that fall within the park's boundary will be transferred in fee simple to the National Park Service as a donation by the developer. The requirements of the RC zoning were met. The developer received tax benefits, and the taxpayers of Hanover County and Civil War preservationists will receive a wonderful gift of this historically significant property.

According to the zoning proffers, the land must be transferred to the National Park Service within 24 months. When the land is acquired by the National Park Service it will be protected and interpreted, providing visitors access to a most important segment of two nationally significant battlefields. We are most grateful to Hanover County officials and the Wilton Corporation.



(Left to Right) Cold Harbor district supervisor Elton J. Wade, Wilton Development Corporation President Henry L. Wilton and Assistant Superintendent David Ruth examine plat of land to be donated to Richmond National Battlefield Park.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: LAWRENCE SMITH

Larry Smith began his career with the National Park Service in 1985, at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and later at Independence National Historical Park. For eleven-and-a-half years he worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada and Oregon.

Larry has been working in the Protection Division of Richmond National Battlefield Park/Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site since July 2001, so he is yet another newcomer to Richmond. When asked what drew him to Richmond's National Parks he said he wanted "to return to the same

time zone as my parents."

Larry was also asked where he sees himself in ten years. His reply: "Retired!"

Larry isn't the only one in his family to spend time working for the National Park Service. His wife, Gina, is a former NPS Protection Ranger and is currently a United States Forest Service Air Tanker Base Manager.

Welcome to Richmond, Larry!



Lawrence Smith, Visitor Protection Ranger

NEW PRESERVATION TREATMENT FOR RICHMOND BATTLEFIELD'S EARTHWORKS

Richmond National Battlefield Park has been struggling to find an appropriate compromise between two main goals regarding one of its most valuable resources: its earthworks. In maintaining its earthworks, the park must protect them from the natural force of soil erosion while still allowing its visitors to view them. Because full vegetative

cover can hide the contours of these structures, the park has been diligently attempting to remove vegetation from the earthworks. However, a recent erosion study has shown that this practice may result in increased soil erosion.

For this reason, the park has begun to test a new management technique at Fort



Fort Gilmer after treatment .



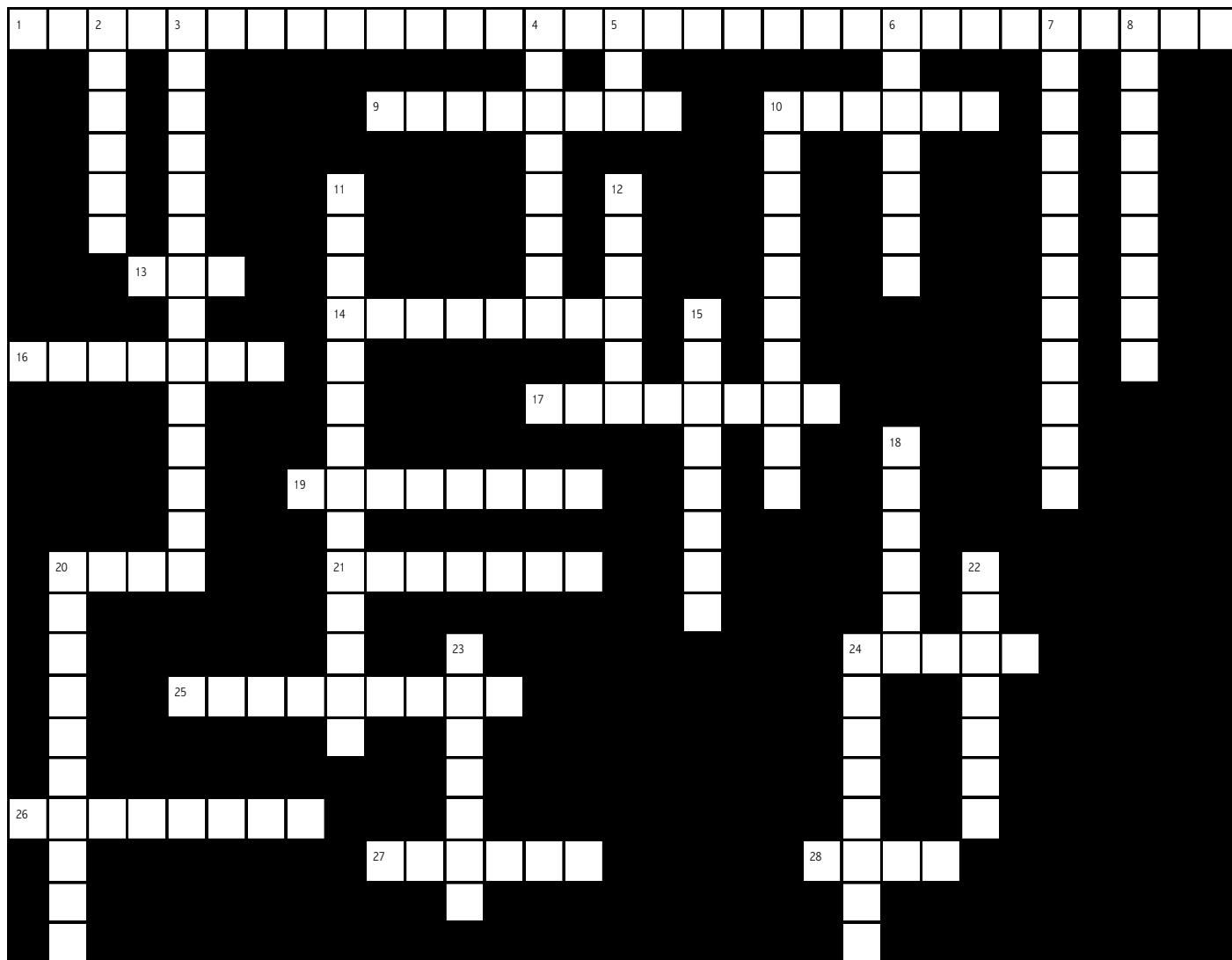
Spraying wood mulch on the walls of Fort Gilmer.

Gilmer, one of several forts in the Fort Harrison unit of the park. In September, the majority of the Fort was covered with double shredded whole wood mulch, three to six

inches thick. It was hoped that this would provide a protective cover for the soil while better defining the fort in the visual landscape. In addition, the park will discontinue regular vegetation clearing, and begin selectively clearing only the vegetation that may become a visual intrusion in the landscape, such as large shrubs and invasive vines.

These practices will be closely monitored over the next two years to determine their cost effectiveness, and how well they protect the earthworks and visual landscape. If these management practices are determined to be effective, it is hoped that the park will be able to expand them to more of the park's earthworks.

CIVIL WAR CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. _____ was established in 1936 to protect the battlefields surrounded the Capital of the Confederacy.
- 9. Case shot could explode into large pieces of _____.
- 10. USS _____: "Her sides looked as though she had an attack of smallpox."
- 13. Tredegar's bronze cannon tubes were made of 9 parts copper and 1 part _____.
- 14. Fought the *Monitor* to a draw at Hampton Roads.
- 16. Physics instructor turned artillery commander.
- 17. One of Thaddeus Lowe's balloons.
- 19. A connected series of

military operations.

- 20. Provided Union help from above during the summer of 1862.
- 21. The only black correspondent to cover the Civil War for a major newspaper.
- 24. Successes in the Western theater led him to command in Virginia (Union).
- 25. Head of the Union army in 1862.
- 26. Produced 50% of the cannons in the Confederacy.
- 27. Fifth Corps commander during the Seven Days' battles.
- 28. Her home became Union headquarters during the battle of Gaines' Mill.

Down

- 2. An artillery piece
- 3. Alternate name for Battle of Beaver Dam Creek.
- 4. "Workhorse of the Artillery"
- 5. Commanded the Army of Northern Virginia.
- 6. Lee biographer
- 7. The only Union naval attack on Richmond was turned away at _____.
- 8. Wrote one of the richest personal accounts of the war.
- 10. Lee's first victory.
- 11. Second of the Seven Days' Battles
- 12. Mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern.

- 15. Grant's campaign to destroy Lee's army.
- 18. Wrote a moving account of her experiences at Chimborazo Hospital.
- 20. Lee's "Old War Horse".
- 22. Part of the attack on Drewry's Bluff on May 15.
- 23. The last of the Seven Days' Battles: _____ Hill.
- 24. The cemetery lodge at _____ is now a visitor center.

EXPLORING THE REAL THING IN RICHMOND'S NATIONAL PARKS

BY PATRICE FERRELL, EDUCATION COORDINATOR



The cover of the new Virginia Teacher's Guide, *Exploring the Real Thing*.

We started the school year off with a bang at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Teacher workshops, an "i-movie" of Tredegar Iron Works, education conferences and an educational assessment from the Northeast Region education staff, not to mention school groups participating in "Parks as Classrooms®" curriculum-based programs have kept the park in step with today's education trends.

Carol Simopoulos, Education Specialist for Henrico County—Social Studies K-5, and Rebecca Shieber, a 5th grade teacher at Nuckols Farm Elementary

School made a special trip to the Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works before the school year started to develop an "i-movie" and plan for the 5th grade teacher workshop. Rebecca took photos of the exhibits, maps, Tredegar grounds and "Ranger Pat." Then she edited the clips, put them in the proper order, added music and text and her "i-movie" was ready. Almost 150 5th grade teachers from Henrico County viewed the "i-movie" and learned how to use this technology in the classroom. The teachers then took a field trip to Tredegar Iron Works to learn more about this famous industrial site and Richmond's pivotal role in the Civil War. Connections were made to Virginia's Standards of Learning and Virginia Studies as teachers explored the site and participated in a few of the Ranger-led hands-on activities that are available during the school year.

On October 26-27, 2001 I attended the 37th Annual Conference of Virginia Social Studies Educators, held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. Educators throughout the state shared their expertise with colleagues and

38 conference exhibitors offered a wide variety of materials and resources for review. I attended many interesting sessions and presented a program "Exploring the Real Thing: A Guide to Educational Program at National Park Sites in Virginia." The goal of the guidebook is to create teacher awareness of curriculum-based programming, materials and services available at National Parks in Virginia. The teachers were very excited to hear the guidebook will be distributed to Virginia Schools this month.

October also brought us a visit from the Northeast Region's Educational Assessment team,

which included Peter S. O'Connell, Director of Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell, Massachusetts and Kathy Tevyaw, Education Specialist for the Boston Support Office. The team observed programs at both Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. They will be developing a final report to help the parks chart a course for the future education programs and opportunities.

As you can see it has been a busy and productive year so far. I can hardly wait to see what the rest of the school year brings!



Henrico County 5th grade teachers participate in teachers workshop at Civil War Visitor Center.

PARKS' WEB SITES SEE RECORD VISITS

The web sites for Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site have seen a record number of "hits" in the past two months. Richmond National Battlefield Park's web site visitation is at its highest in over three years, while the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site web site

saw its highest visitation ever for October!

Interestingly, there is a direct correlation between the record use of our web sites and the beginning of the school year. We are certain that most of these "users" are teachers preparing lesson plans.

In the very near future, education coordinator Pat

Ferrell and Susie Sernaker, the web coordinator will create an educator's page. Look for it in the months to come!

For those of you who have never visited our web sites, the addresses are as follows:

Richmond National Battlefield Park:

<http://www.nps.gov/rich>

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/malw>

If you are an educator and have some ideas on what you would like to see on the future Education Pages please email the web coordinator at susie_sernaker@nps.gov. Comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.NPS.GOV/RICHOR
WWW.NPS.GOV/MALW

*The National Park Service cares for
special places saved by the American people
so that all may experience our heritage.
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HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

On November 11, in the middle of one of our brilliant Virginia autumn afternoons, Park Ranger Judy Anthis presented Richmond National Battlefield Park's first Veteran's Day Commemorative Program at Cold Harbor National Cemetery. Roughly 40 visitors participated in the event as the National Park Service remembered our veterans past and present and honored their legacy of service and sacrifice. Planned earlier this year, the program took on added significance in light of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Ranger Anthis spoke briefly on the origins of our National

Cemeteries in the years after the Civil War and the role veterans' groups have played in honoring the memory of their comrades from the Civil War through our most recent conflicts. Anthis read passages from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and also shared the stories of four Union soldiers buried within the cemetery walls.

The Veteran's Day program concluded with two powerful observations and one final comment. Ranger Anthis noted that "Peace comes at a price" and "Freedom isn't free" and ended with, "Thank you, Veterans."



Ranger Judy Anthis leads a Veteran's Day program at Cold Harbor National Cemetery.

Cold Harbor National Cemetery was established in 1866 as the final resting

ground for over 2,000 Union veterans gathered from the surrounding battlefields and