



UNION PICKETS - 1865

After three years of war, with manpower and supplies running low, General Robert E. Lee, CSA, was making his last stand to hold Richmond, by keeping the Union Army, under Gen. U. S. Grant, on the East, South and West of Petersburg.

These operations, known as "The Siege of Petersburg," lasted for ten months. From here General Lee moved his army West and surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia.

Fort Sedgwick, on the Union line, was named in honor of Gen. John Sedgwick, USA, but was called "Fort Hell" by the Confederate soldiers because of the constant artillery fire from the cannon located in the fort.

Some of the powder magazines and bombproofs have been reopened (not restored) and one can walk over the ground hallowed by the blood of Americans who fought to preserve the Union.

The fortifications constructed by the men still stand—in mute testimony of the tremendous work that was done by them during the Winter of 1864-65. Today, with stately pines and towering oaks spreading their branches in all directions, there is a peaceful serenity that was not enjoyed by the men in Blue.

No visit to Virginia or its battlefields is complete unless you have seen—

"FORT HELL"

# Fort Hell

FORT

SEDGWICK



A FAMOUS CIVIL WAR SHRINE  
CONSTRUCTED BY GRANT'S ARMY

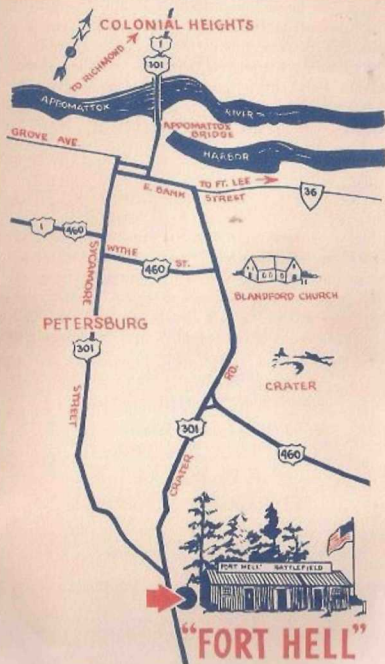
# Fort Hell

FORT

SEDGWICK



A FAMOUS CIVIL WAR SHRINE  
CONSTRUCTED BY GRANT'S ARMY



## PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

22 MILES SOUTH OF RICHMOND ON  
U. S. RT. 301 (SYCAMORE STREET)



### ENTRANCE BUILDING

## BATTLE OF THE NINTH OF JUNE

Near this point on the Jerusalem Plank Road, June 9th, 1864, later to be Fort Sedgwick, was the scene of this battle which was virtually the beginning of the long ten months siege of Petersburg.

NO VISIT TO VIRGINIA IS COMPLETE  
UNLESS YOU HAVE SEEN

## FORT SEDGWICK

WHERE THE CANNON FIRE WAS SO INTENSE  
DURING THE SIEGE OF PETERSBURG  
TO EARN THE NAME OF

"FORT HELL"



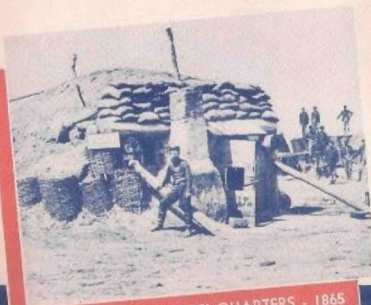
**MAGAZINE & OFFICERS' QUARTERS - TODAY**

**"FORT HELL" or FORT SEDGWICK**

... was one of the large forts around Petersburg constructed in 1864-65 by the Union Army. Some of the points which may be seen by the visitors are as follows:

- THE MAGAZINES
- THE OFFICERS' QUARTERS
- THE "BLESSED WELL"
- DUGOUTS, SPLINTER PROOFS, AND BOMBPROOFS
- CANNON EMBRASURES
- CANNON EMPLACEMENTS
- TRAVERSES

Space does not permit enumeration of all the points in this fort. Such minor ones as the covered way, lunettes, banquet positions, locations of abattis and caponniere, etc., are easily seen by the visitor.



**MAGAZINE & OFFICERS' QUARTERS - 1865**

## MUSEUM . . .

Majority of the relics in the museum were found during the excavations in "Fort Hell". Such pieces as guns, shovels, picks, wheelbarrow wheels, remains of shoes, shrapnel, shells and other articles too numerous to mention are to be found in this collection.

## LIBRARY . . .

A complete set of "The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" as well as quite a few other volumes pertaining to the War Between the States are available to the visitor for reading or reference. Copies of the original plats, and pictures taken during the Siege of Petersburg by Colonel Brady and others are also on display.

## GIFT SHOP . . .

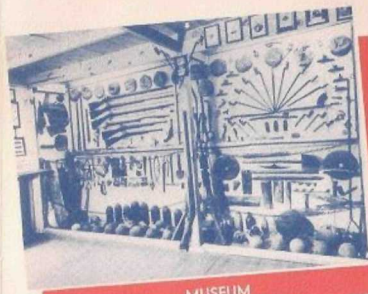
We have a stock of carefully selected gifts, souvenirs, specialties, novelties, knick-knacks, or collector's items, all of which are useful, novel, ornamental, unique, artistic, practical and distinctive in design. Ample parking space adjoins the Old Log Building. Picnic tables are available. Light refreshments may be obtained at the "Snack Bar".

Special prices to educational groups.

For Further Information Write:  
**FORT HELL BATTLEFIELD**  
**P. O. BOX 43**  
**PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA**

**OPEN THE YEAR AROUND**

**"FORT HELL"**  
**PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA**



**MUSEUM**

QUOTED FROM THE "STORY OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH" BY JOSEPH GOULD

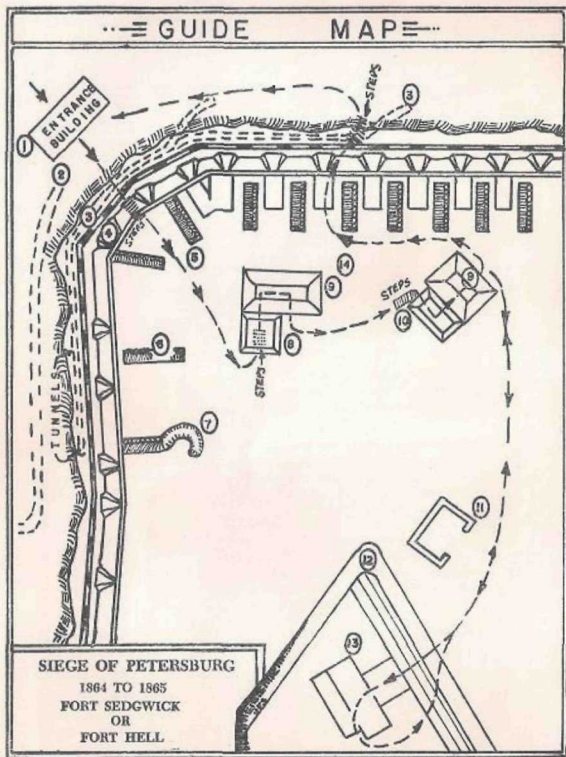
... It was called "Fort Hell" more frequently, having been so christened by the rebels, owing to its very warm climate.

The rebels had two forts opposite to the one we occupied named Mahone and "Damnation" . . .

To complete the simile, another smaller fort than "Damnation," on the rebel's side was called Mahone or "Heaven," on account of the little injury it did us. These forts ("Hell," "Damnation" and "Heaven") lay across the Jerusalem Plank Road, while the picket lines of both armies—"Purgatory"—lay between them.



**THE "BLESSED WELL" - 1865**



Space does not permit enumeration of all the points of interest in the fort. However, a few of the most interesting have been marked by a number which corresponds with a number and brief description on this folder.

In addition to these points of interest there are a number of shrines located at various places in and around the fort. In each is a copy of a report from some Union officer or a quotation from a history of some regiment stationed in this fort during the Siege of Petersburg.

By following the paths shown on the guide map all the numbers and shrines may be seen.

*The tour begins in the*

1. **ENTRANCE BUILDING**, which contains relics of the War Between the states found in and around this fort. On the walls and shelves are interesting pictures, as well as maps and documents of that period.

2. **CHEVAUX-DE-FRISE**. In front of the moat (see map) was the location of a chevaux-de-frise, which were obstructions placed in front of the fort as a protection in the event of a charge by the enemy.

*See shrine alongside number*

*Directly in front is the parapet or front line of the fort.*

3. **TUNNELS**. On a map of this fort made by Col. N. Michler, U.S.A., in 1864 is shown five shafts to this countermine, but only two galleries lead toward the enemy. The tunnels were four and one-half feet high, four feet wide, three hundred and fifty-seven feet long and fifteen feet below the level of the ground.

*A better view of this tunnel may be seen near the end of the tour.*

*Walk down the steps from the parapet into the fort.*

4. **CANNON EMBRASURES**. Notice the unevenness of the top or parapet of the fort. Here were places for seventeen cannons and each had its opening, with sides flaring outward. Opposite each low point in the top of the fort, on the inside, was located a cannon.

5. **CANNON EMBRASURES**. In here were located the platforms on which the cannon was placed and other accessories; within easy reach was the ammunition.

6. **TRAVERSES**. These mounds constructed between cannon emplacements were used to protect the artillerymen from shrapnel, and could be used to fight behind in the event of a surprise attack.

7. **TRAVERSE BOMBPROOF** was a shelter constructed on the end of a traverse and used as a protection by the men on the Western side of the fort.

*The garrison of this fort was composed of elements from the II, V and IX Army Corps. Soldiers from Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont formed the garrisons at various times. The number occupying the fort constituted approximately 800 men.*

8. **ARTILLERY OFFICERS HEADQUARTERS** were in this shelter and directed their operations from this point, which adjoined one of the magazines of the fort.

9. **MAGAZINE.** Here was stored ammunition for the cannon. There were two large magazines in the fort and several smaller ones. The top of the magazine was protected by logs covered with dirt. The original logs have rotted.

10. **BOMBPROOF.** During periods of enemy cannon fire, men stationed in the fort used these places for shelter. A log roof covered with ample dirt was placed over the excavation and was strong enough to withstand any shells thrown by the enemy.

*Walk up the steps to the highest elevation in the fort. Observe the terrain from the observation point.  
Descend and turn right to continue tour.*

11. **SPLINTERPROOF.** Shelters of this type were also used during enemy shell fire. However, it did not provide as much protection as a bomb-proof.

12. **COVERED WAY** was a road in the rear of the fort leading to the adjacent forts and batteries and over which supplies and ammunition were brought. It is easy to see how it was possible to transfer troops and supplies along this route without being seen by the enemy.

13. **LIVING QUARTERS.** The men constructed shelters of this kind for living quarters. Some were built to accommodate many men and others were much smaller. Cooking was done with brick fireplaces, which also served for heating.

*Retrace your steps on past a magazine where will be seen No. 14.*

14. **WELL.** Matthew Brady made a picture of a well in this area. Note shrine. The same type of well sweep used then has been placed over the well.

*Walk up the steps and over parapet of the fort to the moat. The tunnels mentioned in No. 3 may be seen at this point. The gallery in front parallels the fort; the gallery to the left extends a short distance towards enemy lines. Read shrine.*

Please note that this fort has not been restored, but is being preserved after many years since the War Between the States. Other points of interest will be opened as fast as research furnishes exact location, dimensions, etc.

The management wishes you a pleasant and enjoyable visit to this historic spot, hallowed by the blood of those who fought to preserve the union.

You are invited to browse around in the gift shop, located in the entrance building. Light refreshments may be had at the snack bar. Ample parking and picnic tables are available for guests.

❦ ❦ ❦ ❦

## FORT HELL

U. S. ROUTE 301

PETERSBURG, VA.

YOUR GUIDE TO TOUR

# FORT HELL

(FORT SEDGWICK)

A FAMOUS CIVIL WAR SHRINE  
CONSTRUCTED BY GRANT'S ARMY

**Petersburg, Virginia**

ON U. S. ROUTE 301

This battlefield was part of the Siege of Petersburg, which began in June, 1864, and ended in April, 1865. One week after General Lee evacuated Petersburg he surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia.

Fort Sedgwick, on the Union line, was named in honor of General John Sedgwick, who was killed near Spotsylvania. It was nicknamed "Fort Hell" by the Confederate soldiers because of the constant artillery fire.

The fortifications have not been restored, and stand in mute testimony of the tremendous work done by the soldiers during the Winter of 1864-65. Today with stately pines and towering oaks spreading their branches in all directions, there is a peaceful serenity that was not enjoyed by the men in blue.

*If this folder is read carefully, it will convey a better understanding of the military operations at Fort Hell. Some of the magazines, officers quarters and the like have been excavated and tops placed on them in order that the visitor may have an idea of how these places looked when the fort was in use.*

*If more information is desired pertaining to the fort or the War Between the States, a set of "The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion," along with other volumes of history may be seen in the museum. Plats and pictures taken by Matthew Brady and others during the Siege of Petersburg are on display.*