



The Quarterly

Education Classroom Opens at Tredegar



Education Specialist Pat Ferrell shares stories about the common soldier with students from Ratcliffe Elementary in the park's new classroom.

Richmond National Battlefield Park recently opened a classroom in a renovated building adjacent to the Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. Over a year's worth of labor went into converting a formerly unusable space into a spacious learning environment. Education specialist Pat Ferrell described the old building: "The room had been flooded several times, so all of the carpet had to come out and the walls had to be bleached to remove the mold." After a thorough cleaning a new floor was laid down and an interior wall was built to separate a storage space from the main room. The dedicated staff and volunteers of the Education Team built

bookcases and desks, and benches were painted to match the brightly colored walls. Today, the classroom is equipped with laptop computers and other learning tools that help students experience history in exciting and interactive ways.

Since February 2008 more than 2000 children have been through the new facility. Three new programs, developed by the NPS staff in collaboration with local area teachers, have been created specifically for the classroom. They emphasize active participation, and are tailored to meet the Virginia Standards of Learning.

continued on page 4

From the New Superintendent

Back in January, Cindy MacLeod accepted a new position as superintendent of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. She prepared the following message that she asked me to share with our readers:

For almost 18 years, I came to work everyday at Richmond National Battlefield Park and the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site looking forward to, and anticipating, the plans for its future. As I look back over my years as superintendent, I will savor many memories. I will miss the National Park Service staff in Richmond, our wonderful partners, and the vibrant programs and facilities that we have built over the years. Richmond has been a wonderful home for my family and I will always treasure the friendships and memories we have made here. It is a jewel of a region. We have grown together, polishing our gems to a new luster, by expanding and deepening the understanding of our history.

I will be watching from Philadelphia to see the next chapters in the growth of Richmond NBP and Maggie L. Walker NHS. Richmond will always have a huge part of my heart.

continued on page 2

The Superintendent's Letter, continued

My e-mail stays the same, Cynthia_MacLeod @nps.gov. Feel free to contact me if you come to Philadelphia. I would enjoy hearing from you.

After a lengthy competitive process, Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach offered me the job of superintendent. Needless to say I accepted immediately. My park service experience began in 1973 as a seasonal summer interpreter at the Chancellorsville Battlefield, and over the years my goal was to become a park superintendent.

There is plenty of hard work ahead. These parks are staffed with incredibly talented folks who are dedicated to the mission of the National Park Service. My career has been dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the amazing resources of the National Park Service, and I will continue that tradition here at Richmond.

In this edition of the *Quarterly*, you can read about a few of the projects that are underway in the park. You'll also see a listing of some of our most aggressive interpretive programming in years, made possible by additional staff funded through the NPS Centennial Initiative, a program established to help the parks prepare for our 100th anniversary in 2016.

Have a wonderful summer, come see us, and please get in touch with me if I can be of assistance.

Dave Ruth

Historic Masonry Preservation at Rural Plains

Rural Plains, acquired by the NPS in 2006, is one of the most historically distinguished homes in Hanover County. With construction dating to 1725-26, and its continuous occupation by the Shelton family, Rural Plains has witnessed many historic events including the 1754 wedding of Patrick Henry and Sarah Shelton, and the May 1864 battle of Totopotomoy Creek, during which the house served as headquarters for General Winfield S. Hancock. It remains a significant example of early Virginia domestic architecture, and retains most of its original form and building material, an unusual occurrence attributed to the uninterrupted tenure of the Shelton family.

Richmond National Battlefield Park recently worked in conjunction with the expert masons of the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) to stabilize the interior brick masonry foundation walls in the basement. Due to age and exposure to moisture over time, the brickwork in certain areas had deteriorated and needed to be reconstructed. The HPTC historic masons painstakingly removed the older brick



Lauren Noe, seasonal architectural technician, measures the stabilized basement fireplace at Rural Plains.

and mortar, and replaced it with new brick. In the process, the project revealed some interesting architectural details, such as the existence of an older firebox behind the one now visible. Using detective work and technical skills, the architectural history of Rural Plains will continue to be revealed as the park plans for future preservation projects.

Park staff are also focusing on the historic landscape as we uncover the many layers of history at this important site. A major archeological investigation of this site is planned for this summer, in the hope of identifying the locations of the slave cabins, fence lines, and Civil War fortifications that were plowed under over the years.

May 26 to August 16, 2008-Daily Schedule

Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works:

Open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Ranger programs offered daily.

Cold Harbor Visitor Center:

Open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Ranger programs offered daily.

Chimborazo Medical Museum:

Open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Glendale/Malvern Hill Visitor Center and battlefields:

Park staff on duty daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fort Harrison Visitor Center:

Open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site:

Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ranger programs offered daily.

New Podcast Tour Focuses on Lincoln

The park is proud to announce the latest in its collection of podcast tours — “Walking in the footsteps of President Abraham Lincoln.” In this podcast, Park Ranger Mike Gorman guides visitors along the route walked by Lincoln during his 1865 visit to the evacuated capital of the Confederacy. The tour takes visitors on a 1.5-mile walk that begins at 17th and Dock streets and continues through the city connecting the Confederate White House, State Capitol, Libby Prison, and other notable Richmond landmarks seen by Lincoln.

The Lincoln podcast corrects several misconceptions about Lincoln’s visit. Accounts of the visit are so plentiful, and conflicting, that historians wrote: “there remains no trustworthy account of this strange presidential entry; the printed narratives of it written from memory, after the lapse of years, are so

evidently colored by fancy that they do not invite credence.”

On April 4, a day after Richmond was occupied by Union forces, Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad visited the former Confederate capital. He arrived in Richmond on a rowboat escorted only by a small contingent of sailors. Admiral David D. Porter was with President Lincoln on this trip and wrote: “I should have preferred to see the President of the United States entering the subjugated stronghold of the rebels with an escort more befitting his high station, yet that would have looked as if he came as a conqueror to exult over a brave but fallen enemy. He came instead as a peacemaker, his hand extended to all who desired to take it.”



Podcast listeners can now follow in the path of Lincoln’s April 4, 1865, visit to Richmond.

The podcast tour is available through the park’s web site at www.nps.gov/rich, or at CivilWarTraveler.com, which partnered with Richmond National Battlefield Park in 2006 to produce a series of customized podcast battlefield tours. With the completion of the Lincoln’s visit podcast, the park now offers four tours that focus on its most popular topics.

Employee Profile: Dave Ammen

This issue of the *Quarterly* welcomes Dave Ammen to Richmond. As maintenance worker supervisor, Dave oversees the maintenance of all grounds, roads and trails throughout the park. The work requires close coordination with the resource management and interpretation staff before projects are begun to ensure that they are in compliance with all management plans. He also assists with prescribed burns in Richmond, as well as at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park and Shenandoah National Park.

When asked what drew him to the National Park Service, Dave said he was ready for a career change from

construction work in the private sector. Since making that change five years ago, Dave has worked at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, and has had several work details across the country. These included trips to Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, Castillo de San Marcos in Florida and the Historic Preservation Training Center in Maryland, where he helped to make new cannon carriages for the Union gunboat *USS Cairo*, displayed at Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi.

Dave looks forward to continuing to work for the National Park Service, although in ten years he hopes to



Dave Ammen, Maintenance Worker Supervisor, Richmond NBP/Maggie L. Walker NHS

have a shorter commute than his current 180-mile roundtrip to and from Orange County. His wife Dawn and two children, Cory and Dalton, probably feel the same way.

2008 Summer Events Calendar

Call 804-226-1981 x. 30 for details. All programs are free except as noted.

A Call to Arms – Commemorating the Seven Days Battles

June 26 – The Coming of the Seven Days Battles. Discover the leaders of and events leading up to the 1862 battles for Richmond. Tredegar Civil War Visitor Center, 7 p.m.

June 27 – Battle of Gaines’ Mill Anniversary Walking Tour. Tour the battlefield that changed the course of the Seven Days. Gaines’ Mill Battlefield, 7 p.m.

June 28 & 29 - Gaines’ Mill Living History Weekend with encampment, rifle firing demonstrations and walking tours throughout the weekend. Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 30 – Battle of Glendale /Frayser’s Farm Anniversary Walking Tour. Visit battlefield lands recently protected by the Civil War Preservation Trust. Glendale National Cemetery, 7 p.m.

July 1 – Malvern Hill Anniversary Walking Tour - Tour the last battle of the Seven Days. Malvern Hill Battlefield, 7 p.m.

July 12 – Maggie L. Walker’s Birthday Celebration. Special exhibits, talks and tours will connect Walker’s legacy to the St. Luke Bank. Punch and cake will be served. Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, 1:30 p.m.

July and August – Capital History **Join us for a series of downtown Richmond talks, tours and tales.**

July 20: David Lowe, National Park Service historian, speaks about the life and correspondence of Theodore Lyman, aide to General George G. Meade (Meet at 2 p.m. at the NPS theater, Tredegar.)

July 27: Men of Iron Walking Tour- Tredegar’s labor force under the direction of Joseph Anderson. (Meet at 1 p.m. at the American Civil War Center Museum. Fee)

July 27: Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, speaks about the rebirth of Tredegar Gun Foundry. (Meet at 2 p.m. at the NPS theater, Tredegar.)

August 3: Mark Greenough, historian at the State Capitol, & Park Ranger Mike Gorman guide tours of the Confederate capitol and grounds. (Meet at 2 p.m. at the Washington Statue on the Capitol grounds.)

August 9: Women’s Roles in the Civil War — Eight women who impacted history. (Meet at 1 p.m. at the American Civil War Center Museum. Fee.)

August 9: Laboring on the Home Front — The contributions of women, free blacks and slaves in the Richmond workforce. (Meet at 2 p.m. at the NPS Visitor Center at Tredegar.)

August 16: Richmond’s Civil War Prisons — The stories of Union soldiers held captive in Richmond. (Meet at 1 p.m. at the American Civil War Center Museum. Fee.)

August 16: Prisoners of War — A soldier’s fate at Belle Isle Prison. (Meet at 2 p.m. at the NPS Visitor Center at Tredegar.)

August 23: Tredegar Iron Works — The men and machines that armed the Confederacy. (Meet at 2 p.m. at the NPS Visitor Center at Tredegar.)

“Classroom,” continued from page 1

The new programs include:

Civil War Photography – Students examine images made by Civil War photographers, then use digital cameras to compare and contrast modern images with Civil War photography.

The Common Soldier – Hands-on activities help students uncover the daily life of a common soldier during the Civil War.

Tredegar Iron Works – Students investigate the history of Tredegar Iron

Works and why it was important to the economy of the pre- and post-Civil War South and the United States.

For more information on the classroom and its programs call Pat Ferrell at 804 771-2018.

Park Archeology Targets Important Sites

Over the winter professional archeologists, working under contract, conducted investigations at Drewry's Bluff and at the Malvern Hill battlefield. These types of projects typically are not created to look for artifacts as much as they are designed to find the exact locations of Civil War era features.

At Malvern Hill, park staff hoped to locate the subsurface remains of the Binford House. That structure, probably built early in the 1800's, stood on the eastern shoulder of the battlefield. Artillery and infantry of the Union Third Corps occupied the site under fire during the battle. It is believed, but not yet proved, that the house survived the battle, only to be burned by Union soldiers in August,

1862 during a return visit to Malvern Hill. The archeologists found what they believe to be the brick floor of the house's basement. Further work is planned there.

At Drewry's Bluff, the goal was to investigate the supposed location of the barracks, occupied during the war by the Confederate garrison of sailors and soldiers. The archeologists also sought some trace of the chapel, which the soldiers built in 1863 near the entrance to Fort Drewry. Despite the use of sophisticated technology, the chapel eluded discovery, but considerable evidence emerged about the barracks.



Archeologists search for remains of the Binford house on the Malvern Hill battlefield.

Although the work did not reveal the precise perimeter of the barracks, the park staff now has a better idea of the barracks' location, and can take steps to protect that ground and interpret it for the public.



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™

Park Waysides Get a Facelift

Park staff are busily undertaking the first major upgrade to the battlefield's wayside exhibits since the mid- 1980's.

Maps, sketches, artwork, contemporary and modern photographs — including images rarely seen— along with supporting text developed by the park's interpreters and historians will tell the stories of people and places impacted by the battles fought between 1862 and 1865. Once completed, Richmond's battlefields will have 102 new exhibits.



This sketch of a powerful Confederate position by local artist John Exley will help illustrate the Cold Harbor battlefield.

An exciting element of the project is the creation of nine pieces of original artwork. Several well known historical artists have produced illustrations that will be placed at key locations to help show the immense scale of the battlefields. At Malvern Hill, Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill, paintings by

continued on page 6



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Quarterly

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“Park Waysides,” continued from page 5

Richard Schlecht will depict climactic moments of each battle. Keith Rocco was selected to produce vivid portrayals of General D. H. Hill’s advance across the open slopes of Malvern Hill and General John B. Hood’s breakthrough at Gaines’ Mill. Steven Patricia used his skills to depict the final moments of the attack of the 7th United States Colored Troops on Fort Gilmer, as well as Fort Brady under fire in the battle of Trent’s Reach. Local artist John Exley sketched two views at Cold Harbor—one illustrating the powerful Confederate position behind fortifications made of earth and logs, and another illustrating the hurried

building of trenches prior to the Union attacks on June 1.

Current plans call for installation to begin in 2008, concentrating on completing one battlefield at a time. Check the park’s web site at www.nps.gov/rich periodically for progress updates.

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.