



The Quarterly

The Superintendent's Letter

The proposed statue of President Lincoln and his son at our main visitor center at the Tredegar Iron Works has generated considerable controversy. Detractors attack the motives and our presentation of history. They have characterized the donor of the statue, the U.S. Historical Society, as a for-profit and unethical organization running a scam. We have met with the U.S. Historical Society and have verified their statements to the contrary, their tax records, their accounting records, and their status as a non-profit organization. I am convinced that there is no private inurement going on as alleged. There are no federal tax dollars involved except to answer the allegations. The statue will be placed on non-federal, and non-battlefield property, on a historic site that served both Confederate and Union causes in its time. I feel comfortable in planning to graciously accept the donation of the statue. I also feel comfortable each year in attending the Robert E. Lee birthday com-

memoration at the state capitol.

May I review a bit of the importance of our 16th president and his relevance to the city of Richmond, Virginia? The Civil War was of pivotal importance for Richmond. The Civil War framed the presidential career of Abraham Lincoln. Within weeks of his election in 1860 as president of the United States, South Carolina seceded from those United States. Only days before Lincoln's assassination, the primary Confederate army surrendered on April 9, 1865. Throughout the war, both governments' political turns and events had direct correlations with the military failures and



A statue of Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad will soon grace the facility at Tredegar Iron Works.

successes of the Union and Confederate armed forces.

Lincoln lived long enough to articulate his

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Richmond National Battlefield Park Receives Award of Merit from Henrico County



Mike Andrus accepted Richmond National Battlefield Park's Award of Merit from Henrico County on behalf of the park staff.

Recently the park was privileged to receive an Award of Merit from the County of Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. The award recognized Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and the staff of the Richmond National Battlefield Park for their stewardship of Civil War sites in Henrico County.

The justification for the award reads as follows: "Ms. MacLeod and her staff have helped the County in its efforts to preserve battlefields in Henrico County. The battlefield staff were instrumental in researching and scripting 16 state marker texts funded by the Henrico

County Board of Supervisors. Staff also provided the research and recommendations for sites selected for the Civil War Trails in Henrico, a statewide interpretive signage program throughout Virginia. More recently, Ms. MacLeod and staff have been developing the interpretation and preservation of a generous addition to the Malvern Hill battlefield."

Richmond National Battlefield Park looks forward to continuing its partnership with Henrico County, with site development at the New Market Heights battlefield.

Superintendent's Letter,

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vision for a postwar United States. In his concise and powerful second inaugural address on March 4, 1865, the president delivered this now-famous passage: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right...let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Precisely one month later, Lincoln visited Richmond on April 4, 1865, with his son Thomas (known as "Tad"). Richmond had just been evacuated by the Confederate government and the fires they had set to their own warehouses were still smoldering. At Rockett's Landing the president stepped ashore without fanfare and then walked to the center of town. The president visited the White House of the Confederacy and Capitol Square and toured the partially burned-out city. Little of his visit was recorded.

Although greeted with stony silence from most of the white residents of the capital city, Lincoln received a boisterous and prolonged welcome from the large population of African-Americans. Lincoln's visit produced, in the words of a prominent modern historian, "the most unforgettable scenes of this unforgettable war."

Lincoln's visit was remarkable for its timing and low-key circumstances. Weary of war and worried about the country's future, he came to the capital of the Confederacy after counseling his generals to be generous with the Confederates should they surrender. Lincoln's goal was a peaceably reunited and prosperous country. Had he lived to shape Reconstruction, his words would lead us to believe that he would not have allowed the post war years to play out with the bitter harshness that characterized them for southerners. His actions would also lead us to believe that he would not have countenanced the evils and brutality of the Jim Crow era.

Stuart's Ride State Markers Unveiled

An important park goal is to work with citizens and groups to identify the location of Civil War events that occurred in and around Richmond. Recently the park had an opportunity to partner with Hanover County, the state of Virginia, and several private individuals on a project to install a series of highway markers that document early portions of Confederate general J.E.B. Stuart's famous June 1862 ride around the Union army. Mr. Wayne Schwartz, a native of the Elmont area, sponsored the five new Virginia highway markers.

Four of the markers designate key spots on the ride. One is placed at Elmont, where the majority of Stuart's force assembled. Others mark spots where the column turned at key road intersections. The fifth marker addresses the skirmish at Linney's Corner, near Old Church, where Confederate Captain William Latane was killed.

Richmond National Battlefield Park historians helped to research and write these five signs, each of which was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. It is hoped that the new markers will draw renewed



Mr. Wayne Schwartz (center) and his brothers proudly stand before the new Virginia marker in Elmont highlighting J.E.B. Stuart's 1862 ride around the Union army.

attention to the early portions of the well-known ride while increasing the public's awareness of the historic landscape at those spots.

The markers were unveiled on November 22, 2002. The Honorable Frank Hargrove of the state House of Delegates spoke at the ceremony, as did J. E. B. Stuart, IV, the most prominent direct descendant of the famous Virginia cavalier.

Update on Resource Management Issues

Richmond National Battlefield Park is charged with two primary goals: to provide an experience for park visitors communicating the story of Richmond during the Civil War, and to protect the park's natural and cultural resources. The park has recently taken steps to live up to these goals at its Fort Harrison unit. An inventory of park land-use patterns was completed from the unit's tour roads (Battlefield Park Drive and Hoke-Brady Road). A plan was then drafted describing the results of this inventory and making initial recommendations. The plan was sent to all Fort Harrison neighbors and a neighborhood meeting was held in December so that comments and concerns could be expressed. The park is presently attempting to put together a second draft addressing these concerns and plans to work with a neighborhood committee to make the

necessary revisions resulting in a final plan.

Visitors and neighbors passing through the park this summer may have noticed pink and green flagging on trees. The park has been granted National Park Service funding for 2002 and 2003 to prune or remove trees that are hazardous to park staff, neighbors or visitors. A certified arborist was hired during the spring, 2002 to mark such trees along park roads and trails, and Medek Tree Service was contracted during the summer and fall to perform the tree work. This process will be repeated during the coming year to remove tree hazards that may have developed in the past year.

Spotlight on Education: “America’s Backyard”

Pat Ferrell, Education Specialist at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Annie Evans, Social Studies Chair at John Rolfe Middle School have added a spark to a National Geographic program called “America’s Backyard: Exploring Our Public Lands,” which gives 6th, 7th and 8th grade Social Studies students at Rolfe the opportunity to explore new lessons and activities related to conservation of our public lands. They have developed four evening programs at Richmond National Battlefield Park to acquaint students to the public lands in their backyard.

In October students, teachers and parents were invited to participate in a ranger guided walk of the Fort Harrison battlefield, located just four miles from the middle school. The group learned about the battles, leaders, U.S. Colored Troops, Medal of Honor recipients and the numerous fortifications located in Varina. In November the group arrived for an evening at the Civil War Visitor Center at the

Tredegar Iron Works to learn about Richmond during the Civil War and the battlefields that surround the city. Students discovered timelines, Civil War artifacts and photographs, an interactive map table, models of Tredegar and even heard voices from the past. It should be noted that this is an entirely voluntary project for teachers and students, with no grade assigned. Despite this, so far 150 people have participated in these events.

The evening programs at Richmond National Battlefield Park will continue this spring with a ranger guided walking tour of the Gaines’ Mill battlefield, on which occurred the heaviest day of fighting during the Seven Days’ battles of 1862. The last program will take place on the Cold Harbor battlefield where students will walk the battlefield to learn how the actions of Cold Harbor



Pat Ferrell led a guided tour of students, parents and teachers at the Fort Harrison unit on October 1, 2002. More programs are planned for the spring of 2003.

changed the course of the war in the East. These programs offer numerous opportunities to provide a better understanding and appreciation of the significance of our public lands – our National Parks.



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.

Richmond National Battlefield Park
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
3215 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Phone
804 226-1981

E-mail
susie_sernaker@nps.gov

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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Employee Profile: Janet Blanchard

Janet Gail Blanchard was born in Greenville, NC and is our newest employee with Richmond’s national park sites. She is a park guide stationed primarily at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Janet has worked in numerous professions, including teaching and mental health care. She previously worked as an NPS employee at Cane River Creole National Historical Park in Louisiana and Arlington House in Virginia. Janet has a black and white cat named “Lagniappe,” which is French cajun for “a little something extra,” an appropriate name for the long-haired stray. “Produce sellers by the side of the road [in Louisiana] always include “Lagniappe” when you buy something--like a baker’s dozen!”

Janet’s favorite hobbies include reading about history, art and architecture, and biographies; writing, drawing and needlepoint; wine tastings and travelling, both abroad and in the



Janet Blanchard, park guide at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and Richmond National Battlefield Park.

United States. The park is delighted to have Janet on board. Her ability to conduct education programs and skills as a writer will greatly enhance our interpretive efforts.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Richmond National Battlefield Park/
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
3215 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23223



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Editors

Susie Sernaker
David Ruth

Superintendent

Cynthia MacLeod

Contributors

Bob Krick
Patrice Ferrell
Kristen G. Allen

NPS Photographers

Susie Sernaker
Mike Andrus
Hyman Schwartzberg

Comments? Write to:

Superintendent
Richmond National Battlefield Park
3215 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23223

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Upcoming Special Events

March 29--Talk and book signing at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. At 3:30 pm, Rosetta Ross will discuss her book, *Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion and the Civil Rights Movement*.

April 5--Lincoln Statue unveiling. This event will be held at the Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. Dedication ceremony scheduled to begin at 2 pm.

April 5--Richmond Civil War Fortifications Tour. NPS historian David Lowe and the Richmond National Battlefield Park staff will include walking tours of Cold Harbor and Fort Harrison. Reservations and fee are required.

April 25--*Silent Portraits*: An evening of silent films about the Civil War. This event includes dinner followed by the showing of two films from the silent movie era of the early 1900's. The program will begin at 6:30 pm at

the Tredegar Iron Works. Reservations and a fee are required for dinner. The films are free.

April 26--Richmond Civil War Day at Tredegar Iron Works. Union, Confederate and home front re-enactors. Musical performances by Southern Horizon and First African Baptist Church Choir. Balloon ascensions.

May 17/18--Anniversary program at Drewry's Bluff. Living History with Confederate sailors. Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Sunday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

May 26--Memorial Day program at Fort Harrison National Cemetery. In cooperation with the Veterans Administration. The guest speaker will be John W. Mountcastle, Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.). Noon.

All events, unless otherwise stated, are free and open to the public.