



The Quarterly

A Yellow Flag Waves at Chimborazo



Dr. Alfred J. Bollet, author of *Civil War Medicine*, delivered the keynote address during the grand opening of the Chimborazo Medical Museum on June 15, 2002. The new exhibits include uniforms, field hospital equipment and artifacts from the hospitals in Richmond during the Civil War.

On June 15 the park dedicated the new Chimborazo Medical Museum exhibits. The effort was the culmination of nearly 2 years of work that began the day that the park's Tredegar Visitor Center was opened. Chimborazo had previously served as the park's main visitor center since 1959.

The park worked closely with a local firm, Exhibit Ensemble, to design and fabricate the small museum display that tells the story of the Confederate Medical Service and Chimborazo, the South's largest hospital during the Civil War. With the help of other institutions and private collectors more than 200 medical arti-

facts illustrate the story.

Along with the museum exhibits the new Chimborazo experience includes a 17-minute film entitled, *Under the Yellow Flag*, produced by Jackson Associates of Mechanicsville, Virginia. The major goal of the exhibit and film was to provide a comprehensive story of the role of medicine in mid 19th century America and an evaluation of the medical care that was provided to Confederate soldiers at the front and in the large general hospitals behind the lines. The park also hopes that the exhibits will help to dispel the myths about Civil War surgery, and provide visitors an opportunity to

learn about the accomplishments of the doctors who often have been characterized as uncaring and incompetent butchers. The exhibit is open daily from 9:00 to 5:00.

The opening of Chimborazo museum completes the first phase of interpretive development for this facility. The second phase will interpret the hospital landscape and will include a structural steel "shadow" reconstruction of a hospital ward building and a self-guided walking tour. We hope to complete the second phase as soon as funding comes available.

From the Superintendent

Long before the school bells ring at the end of the spring session, we are at work preparing a blockbuster schedule of summer events. You can see this year's plan outlined on page 4 and on our website. The Cold Harbor anniversary event on June 1 and 2 has already tallied record numbers in attendance. It is our pleasure to sponsor these occasions in order for you to connect with our country's history. Since 9/11, many of us are reconnecting with the history of our great country, appreciating what our freedoms mean and at what price they are preserved. Events today help us understand with new perspective the battles of Gaines' Mill and New Market Heights, for instance, empathize more with the anguish of the soldiers' mothers, appreciate the relative quality of medical care in the Civil War and today, and examine the reasons for conflict. Events of this year help us understand how it is to live in a time of unease.

Summer also brings fire season to many parts of the United States, and we will continue to send members of our staff who are certified fire-fighters to assist all parts of the country. Our staff has been traveling as well on emergency details to help protect visitors and resources of key icon parks, which provides training for them to protect our resources and visitors. We have also participated with the region's mock-disaster drills. We take the need for your safety seriously and do what we can to meet the challenge of today's situations. We appreciate your positive contribution, whether it is as a vigorous volunteer, courteous park neighbor, law-abiding visitor, or web-browser. Yes, we at the park staff arrange for living history events, and we realize today that we are living history. Have a safe and happy summer.

Cynthia MacLeod

Battlefield Donation Doubles Park Size

On May 1, 2002, Richmond National Battlefield Park grew in size with the acquisition of a 640-acre tract located at the Malvern Hill and Glendale units of the park in Henrico County. The park's acreage now encompasses approximately 1404 acres in the counties of Henrico, Hanover and Chesterfield, and within the City of Richmond.

The new acquisition is a result of a capital campaign started in 1993 by the then Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) in an effort to preserve the Malvern Hill and Glendale battlefields. At the time, the grass roots campaign to save the Malvern Hill and Glendale battlefields was the largest fund raising project in Civil War battlefield preservation history. In 1999 APCWS became the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). The campaign to preserve the battlefield was completed by the excellent work of CWPT. Thank you!



Visitor Protection Ranger Tim Mauch places new boundary signs at Malvern Hill.

Park Rangers have begun placing National Park Service boundary signs and posts along the boundary. This will be an ongoing project throughout the summer. If you have any questions about the new property, please call (804) 795-5018.

Employee Profile: Beverly Bruce

In this issue we would like to introduce Beverly Bruce. Bev, who has worked here since 1990, is the new Tractor Operator Leader at Richmond National Battlefield Park, which means she will be leading the summer Maintenance seasonals in the field.

Bev was born and raised here in Richmond, Virginia. When asked what drew her to the National Park Service, she had this to say: "I have wanted to work for the National Park Service since I was a child. Our parents liked to combine fun with learning so every summer was spent visiting NPS sites. I always had really great experiences at these parks and I just knew that I wanted to be a part of it one day."

Bev's family includes her husband, Chip, two dogs, Sadie, a husky, and Blackie, a lab found abandoned at one of the battlefield sites, and one cat, Lee, who was also found abandoned within the park. She will soon graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Science.



Beverly Bruce, Tractor Operator Leader, Maintenance Division

Bev also had this to say: "I have had a couple of bumps in the road within the last four years. I had open-heart surgery in 1998 and went through an extended illness with my mother in 2000. Everyone was incredibly supportive from management down during both experiences. My co-workers are like my family and I just wanted to say 'thank you!'"

The Gaines' Mill Battlefield Landscape Undergoes Restoration

If you've visited the Gaines' Mill unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park lately you might have seen some noticeable changes in the landscape. About an acre of land near the Watt House has been cleared, and there is a new fence following an historic road trace that once wound its way past the Watt family home. These changes are an effort to restore the battlefield to its 1862 appearance. The work is based on the Gaines' Mill Cultural Landscape Report and Archeological Survey completed in 2000. The cultural landscape report used historic records, documents and maps to determine the appearance of the battlefield in 1862. With that information in hand the park has begun implementing changes to restore the landscape so that it reflects as closely as possible what the soldiers on the battlefield saw in 1862.

One major difference between 1862 and today is the presence of much more vegetation. Historic records show that the ground around

the Watt House was more open in 1862. According to Kristen Gounaris Allen, the park's Resource Management Specialist, clearing the acre of land presented a special challenge because the plants were dense—Tree of Heaven, Asiatic Bittersweet and Japanese Honey-suckle. These plants were not only historically incorrect but also a large seed source for exotic plants; removing them is a win/win situation for both cultural and natural resources.

Clearing the ground involved a three-part process of applying herbicide, conducting a controlled burn and then another herbicide treatment. Once the bulk of the vegetation was removed contractors cut down the trees and vines and burned the leftover brush. All of these activities followed National Park Service guidelines and Federal regulations, most importantly the National Environmental Policy Act. This law requires any Federal Agency to go through a planning process when their actions have the potential to impact the environment. The main purpose is to ensure that whatever actions are taken do not significantly impact air quality, water quality, plant and animal communities and soils. In this case, there was no significant impact on any of these factors, so the park was able to proceed with

the project.

Building the fence also presented a challenge to the park's maintenance staff. The entire project took about two weeks. The materials and design were specified by Steve Lowe, a landscape architect at the National Park Service's Historic Design Center in Harper's Ferry, WV. The typical materials for a fence of that time period were quartered oak with black locust spikes. There were several factors to be considered as the fence went up—ensuring it was sturdy, keeping it aligned with the historic road trace and making sure it was straight. The work has added immeasurably to the ability of park historians to interpret the historic scene.

Making these changes has been a long process. It required a lot of work but it's all part of our mandate to document and manage the historic landscapes of Richmond's battlefields for your enjoyment.



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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Beverly Bruce and Alisa Clark build worm fencing to mark the Watt House farm holdings on the Gaines' Mill battlefield unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park.



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Summer Schedule of Events at Richmond National Battlefield Park

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Richmond National Battlefield Park is sponsoring a series of evening programs for the summer. All will begin at 7:00 pm with the exception of the program on June 27 which will begin at 6:30 pm:

June 27—140th Anniversary tour at Gaines' Mill battlefield

July 1—140 Anniversary tour at Malvern Hill battlefield

July 5—“Attack on the Union Right” at Gaines' Mill battlefield

July 12—“Hurrah for Joe Hooker” at Glendale Visitor Center

July 19—“Confederate Fortress” at Drewry's Bluff

July 26—“Advance and Retreat” at Cold Harbor Visitor Center

August 2—“Music in Camp and the Trenches” at Fort Harrison Visitor Center

In addition to the summer evening programs, on the weekend of July 13 and 14 there will be a special living history program at Malvern Hill. Over 100 volunteer reenactors, representing different Union and Confederate divisions are expected to participate in infantry and artillery demonstrations.

For further information about park hours and special summer events, visit the National Park Service headquarters at Chimborazo Park or call 226-1981 or check the park's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/rich>.