



# The Quarterly

## Letter from the Superintendent: Renewing Historic Buildings



Richmond National Battlefield Park log cabin, before and after. The log cabin served as the park's original headquarters building and will soon house the Fort Harrison Visitor Center.

The log cabin structure at the Fort Harrison unit of Richmond National Battlefield Park was built in 1930 by the Richmond Battlefield Parks Corporation, the private group that first started buying battlefield land around Richmond, for its headquarters. The structure became the first headquarters and visitor center for the park when Congress authorized its establishment in 1936 and remained as such until 1959 when the functions were moved to Chimborazo.

In pursuit of fulfilling our mission to preserve resources and provide for visitor enjoyment, we have invested in renewing the historic log building. Hurricane Isabel had damaged the

porch roof, and squirrels and other wildlife had found their way into the interior. You will find improved restrooms in a handsome detached addition and a gem of an historic building in good condition now. Staff will occupy the building on a regular basis in the summer season, and we hope to make the structure available for special occasions.

Soon we will be removing the 1960s visitor center located in front of the Civil War fort. That building had become expensive to heat and cool, the roof was failing, and it blocked the view of the fort. Plus, there was no need to maintain two buildings for the same purpose at Fort Harrison. The decision

to invest in the historic building made economic and philosophical sense.

My thanks to park and other NPS staff, the contractors, and architects who made the planned project come to reality. My special thanks to those in the 1920s who first put money and effort behind their vision to preserve Richmond's Civil War battlefields. You will find the name of J. Ambler Johnston on a historic plaque on the fireplace of the log cabin in memory of him and his colleagues. I hope you will visit.

*Cynthia MacLeod*

# People on the Move

Mary Bomar's move to be the Director of the National Park Service leaves a vacancy in the Northeast Region's Director's slot. A series of acting assignments has a domino effect on Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. David Ruth, our Assistant Superintendent and Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management since 1991, is moving on temporarily to manage Petersburg National Battlefield as its Acting Superintendent. Petersburg National Battlefield Superintendent Bob Kirby is acting Associate Regional Director for Park Operations for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. "I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to serve as acting superintendent of Petersburg National

Battlefield," says Dave. "Supporting the preservation and interpretation initiatives undertaken by Superintendent Kirby and his talented staff will be my first priority." Dave's appointment is expected to last four to six months. Park staff and neighbors are anxious to welcome him back!

We also say a sad farewell to Monamma AL-Ghuiyy, Interpretive Ranger at Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Monamma will be heading to New York for an appointment as a GS-11 at the African Burial Ground National Monument—a new unit of the National Park System, located in New York City. Stacy Scully, Visitor Protection ranger will go to Shenandoah National Park as a law enforcement ranger and park medic. This will be a lateral reassignment for her.



**Monamma AL-Ghuiyy, Interpretive Park Ranger, is moving on to African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City.**

On the plus side of changes, Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site warmly welcomes our new park curator, Klydie Thomas. Klydie comes to us from Colonial National Historic Site. Readers can learn more about her in an upcoming issue of *The Quarterly*.

## Employee Profile: Peggy Loos



**Peggy Loos, Budget Technician, Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L Walker National Historic Site**

Peggy Loos became Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site's new Budget Technician, as of September 5, 2006. Her duties include tracking and

monitoring expenditures and availability of funds. Peggy is also the parks' credit card coordinator, setting up accounts and performing audits. She also tracks expenditures for park projects.

This is Peggy's first appointment with the National Park Service. Her career has been varied, from doing radiation surveys as a contractor with Westinghouse for the Nuclear Navy, to 20 years with AT&T doing product management, analysis and marketing, training, technology planning and resource management. Asked where she sees herself in ten years, Peggy replied "I might end up doing almost anything given enough time. As long as it's interesting and fun, I'll be happy."

When asked what drew her to the National Park Service, Peggy had this to say: "How different from profit and the bottom line can a mission statement of 'preserve and protect for future generations' be? Great people, good environment, and doing something I can believe in!"

Peggy has an active lifestyle. She has two dogs (labs), Jake and Dillon, who like to go hiking with her. She also skis, fishes, and plays golf and tennis. In quieter moments she likes to cook and read and now that she is here she has been focused on learning more about the American Civil War.

Please help us welcome Peggy into our NPS family!

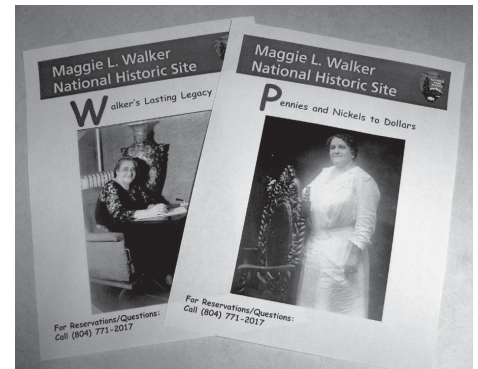
# Spotlight on Education: Two New Education Programs for Maggie L. Walker NHS

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site commemorates the life of a progressive and talented African-American woman. Armed with courage, perseverance, extraordinary intellect and charisma, Maggie L. Walker overcame the obstacles of poverty, race, gender, and physical handicap to fulfill her dream of achievement.

To introduce and stimulate learning of the stories associated with this remarkable woman, park staff developed two new curriculum-based education programs. They will meet the Standards of Learning in history and social studies that identify the social and economic contributions made by Mrs. Walker.

The learning will not stop there. Using Maggie L. Walker NHS as a classroom, other Virginia SOL's will be addressed including activities on leadership, communication, mathematics and writing. Funding for the development and production of these education programs was provided by the African American Experience Fund. Below are brief descriptions of the new programs:

*Pennies and Nickels to Dollars* – (target audience 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.) Students become detectives, listen to ranger stories, look for clues and use a map to help them discover the Maggie Walker Story. Activity sheets and hands-on participation turn students into detectives working on the case of turning “pennies and nickels to dollars.”



**Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site's two new curriculum-based education programs.**

*Walker's Lasting Legacy* – (target audience 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.) Working in small groups, students become investigators using museum exhibits, photos, artifacts and Maggie Walker's house to draw conclusions about her life. Group discussions, activity sheets and hands-on learning add to the excitement.

## National Park Service Unveils New Web Presence

On August 25, 2006, the National Park Service's home on the Internet, nps.gov, launched its new, redesigned site. As a result, Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site both have a new and more user-friendly presence on the web. August 25 was chosen as the unveiling date because on that date in 1916, Congress created the National Park Service. Richmond NBP and Maggie L. Walker NHS web coordinator Susie Sernaker spent approximately 120 hours bringing the new websites online.

Keeping the information found on the two websites fresh and up-to-date will be an ongoing project. New features on

Richmond NBP's web site, [www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich), include a multimedia page that will take visitors to the park's podcast tours of Malvern Hill and Gaines' Mill, as well as a new teacher's section. Plans for Maggie L. Walker NHS's site, [www.nps.gov/mawa](http://www.nps.gov/mawa), include a teacher's page and an on-line photography exhibit highlighting many of the photos in the park's collection.

You can provide us with comments and suggestions by going to Richmond NBP or Maggie L. Walker NHS's new web sites and clicking on the Contact Us link in the left-hand navigation bar. We look forward to hearing from you.



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](mailto: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.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



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



Printed with funds donated by Eastern National, a not-for-profit partner of the National Park Service and other public trusts.

# The Quarterly

## Editor

Susie Sernaker

## Superintendent

Cynthia MacLeod

## Contributors

Mike Andrus  
Patrice Ferrell  
Robert E. L. Krick  
Peggy Loos  
Susie Sernaker

## NPS Photographers

Daniel Hodgson  
Susie Sernaker  
Klydie Thomas

## Comments? Write to:

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

This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.

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.

## Preservation Success at Frayser's Farm

There is good news on the local battlefield preservation front concerning land at the Glendale/Frayser's Farm battlefield. The park already owns approximately 100 acres there, and in December 2005 the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Richmond Battlefields Association collaborated on the purchase of 40 more acres on the north side of the Long Bridge Road. The land was purchased from the Donley family, longtime stewards of the battlefield.

The property saw extremely heavy fighting, including some hand-to-hand action, on June 30, 1862. The retreating Union army was widely scattered in lower Henrico County that day, and pursuing Confederates hoped to slice across the Willis Church road

and isolate nearly half of the Union army. The resulting fighting is notable today for its intensity. Even in a war known for ferocious encounters, Glendale stands out for its concentrated mayhem on both sides of the Long Bridge Road. Total casualties that day reached 7000. The Confederates failed to achieve the decisive victory they had hoped for and the Union army moved safely to the security of the James River, where they repelled a further Confederate attack at Malvern Hill the next day.

Although there are no immediate plans for the national park to acquire this 40 acres from the preservation groups, it is highly satisfying to know that this historic ground is permanently protected.