

# 2011 Events at Petersburg National Battlefield

rev. 3/30/11

## General Grant Meets President Lincoln at City Point

**Date:** Saturday, April 2, 2011  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point, 1001 Pecan Ave., Hopewell  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

President Lincoln visited City Point in late March of 1865. He would spend two of the last three weeks of his life meeting with Lt. General Ulysses Grant and many others including people in Richmond and Petersburg. This event allows visitors a chance to meet with Pres. Lincoln, General Grant, and Mrs. Julia Grant. Programs held throughout the day will focus on the President's experience at City Point, the lessons he learned in his life, as well as the personal and military life of General Grant and Mrs. Grant. Free.

## 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Gregg

**Date:** Saturday, April 2, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Near the intersection of Simpson and Weakley Roads, Dinwiddie, VA  
**Contact:** Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

Artillery demonstrations will highlight the commemoration of the “Alamo of the Confederacy” which occurred on April 2, 1865.

## President Lincoln Visits Petersburg

**Date:** Sunday, April 3, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Thomas Wallace House, SW Corner of Brown and S. Market Streets  
**Contact:** Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 ext. 223

In early April, 1865, after Petersburg fell to Union forces, President Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to the damaged city. He met with General Grant at the home of Thomas Wallace. Join us for this living history event which examines, with the use of historic records, how that meeting transpired. The Thomas Wallace House in Petersburg was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

## Zouaves at Five Forks

**Date:** Sunday, April 3, 2011  
**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Five Forks Visitor Contact Station, 9840 Courthouse Road, Dinwiddie, VA

**Contact:** Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

Historian Pat Schroeder will speak about the role of Zouave soldiers in the Union army during the Battle of Five Forks.

### **Hard Liquor and Women**

**Date:** Saturday, April 16, 2011

**Time:** Multiple programs: 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Old Towne Petersburg (Commences at Farmer's Market Parking Lot)

**Contact:** Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

This program explores the ways off-duty soldiers spent their time in the city of Petersburg after many trying days in the trenches. Multiple scenes are staged about Old Town Petersburg. Each depicts an activity that allowed soldiers to escape army life. Some were legal, some illegal, some moral and other less so. One scene depicts a local tavern complete with bartender. Another scene may involve a minister preaching to the soldiers, gamblers in alleyways, prostitutes plying their trade, or soldiers on a picnic with a local family. Participants follow a newspaper reporter researching the way off-duty soldiers impact the daily life of Petersburg citizens as he encounters people from all walks of life. Free.

### **How to Act: Virginia and Appomattox Plantation Goes to War**

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2011

**Time:** 9:00-5:00 Saturday and 9:00-3:00 on Sunday

**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point

**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Visitors to the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield will be able to talk to living historians portraying Richard and Elizabeth Eppes and members of the enslaved community. They can expect to hear about how the Eppes family's plantation community reacted to the secession of Virginia from the United States in the spring of 1861.

### **With More Determination and Enthusiasm: United States Colored Troops in the Opening Attacks on Petersburg**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point

**Contact:** Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 x223

Caravan tour departs from the General Grant's Headquarters Unit making stops Baylor's Farm, and tour stops 1, 3, & 8 of the Eastern Front Unit. The focus of the tour will be the accomplishments of the United States Colored Troops from May, 1864, when they helped secure the site of a future supply base

at City Point, into June of 1864 where they were heavily involved in the first major attacks on Petersburg.

### **Women in the Civil War**

**Date:** Saturday, May 28, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Women served a variety of roles during the Civil War. Living historians will portray some of the most interesting women who spent time at City Point including Confederate spy Rose Greenhow, Julia Grant, Elizabeth Keckley, and Mary Todd Lincoln.

### **General P.G.T. Beauregard**

**Date:** May 29, 2011  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium  
**Contact:** Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

This ranger talk will focus on the officer in charge of Petersburg's defense in the spring of 1864.

### **They Also Served: Animals in War**

**Date:** May 29, 2011  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium  
**Contact:** Betsy Dinger, (804)732-3531 x208

Throughout military history, animals have gone to war alongside humans. And there was great love and loyalty between the men and the animals who "served" from here at Petersburg to those serving on the front lines today. Join us as we look at the forgotten "heroes" of our military.

### **Sailors and Marines at City Point**

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, June 4 & 5, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday  
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sunday.  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point  
**Reservations:** Required  
**Contact:** Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

City Point wasn't simply a United States Army operation. The United States Navy played a roll protecting Grant's headquarters and supply depot and the U. S. Marines supported the navy. Living historians representing the navy and marine corps will conduct demonstrations of their daily life ashore at City Point with a camp and naval and marine demonstrations. Living historians will be teaching about celestial navigation, marlinspike seamanship and other naval skills. Naval and marine drill will be demonstrated in addition to musket firing and artillery demonstrations. Free.

### **City Point and the Civil War**

**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 2011  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point  
**Reservations:** Required.  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804) 732-3531 x222

Evening walking tour of the City Point neighborhood in Hopewell which will highlight the impact the Civil War had on those who lived in the town before the war and how the town was transformed during the Union occupation in 1864 and 1865. The hour-long tour will begin in the parking lot at the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit located at 1001 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell, Virginia. The tour will last approximately an hour and visitors should wear comfortable walking shoes.

### **Movie Night: Lincoln**

**Date:** Saturday, June 11, 2011  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium  
**Contact:** Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 x223

The Eastern Front Visitor Center will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Park Ranger Robert Webster will introduce the movie "Lincoln" and act as historian to separate fiction from non-fiction. The audience is invited to participate in an open discussion of the film at its conclusion.

### **The Flags of Five Forks**

**Date:** Sunday, June 12, 2011  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Five Forks Visitor Contact Station, 9840 Courthouse Rd., Dinwiddie, VA  
**Contact:** Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

In honor of Flag Day, this program will focus on Civil War flags.

## **Juneteenth National Freedom Day Celebration**

**Date:** Saturday, June 18, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

The Washington Cultural Foundation and Petersburg National Battlefield invites the public to come together for a libation ceremony opens at the Boardwalk at the bottom of Pecan Street. A short ceremonial walk up Pecan Street to Appomattox Manor grounds with a program that opens to festivities with food, exhibits, and community for adults and children. National Park Service provides tours and interpretive activities. Join Tri-Cities community, organizations, families, municipal and business leaders as we honor this historic legacy of General Order #3, (linked with the Emancipation Proclamation) that triggered the evolution for the peace, justice and freedom of all people in America. Share the Enduring Legacy of Juneteenth National Freedom Celebration.

Media Contacts: Ms Rebecca-Rose, 804-541-2695 or Ranger Emmanuel Dabney, National Park Service 804-732-3531 ext.222

## **Corling's Corner**

**Date:** Saturday, June 18, 2011  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Corner of Bank and Sycamore Street in Petersburg  
**Contact:** Robert Webster, (804)732-3531 x223

Corling's Corner was the site where black people were bought, sold and held in slave pens. During the antebellum period they were also rented as domestics and laborers at the end of each year. Come join us for a wreath laying ceremony to honor those who suffered from the inhumane treatment.

## **Battle of the Crater**

**Date:** Saturday-Sunday, July 30-31, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00am - 5:00pm, Saturday  
10:00am - 2:00pm, Sunday  
**Location:** Tour Stop #8 on Eastern Front driving tour  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

This event commemorates one of the most famous events of the Siege. Join park rangers and living historians in exploring the battle and learning about those who fought one of the most desperate actions of the Civil War.

### **Remember the Glorious Dead: Anniversary of the Battle of the Crater**

**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2011  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Blandford Church and Cemetery, Petersburg, Virginia  
**Contact:** Martha Atkinson, (804) 733-2396  
Betsy Dinger, (804) 732-3531 x 208

This church tour and cemetery walk will honor the Confederate soldiers who were killed at the Battle of the Crater and who were later laid to rest on Memorial Hill in Blandford Cemetery.

### **Zouaves in the Battle of Weldon Railroad**

**Date:** Sunday, August 21, 2011  
**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Poplar Grove National Cemetery, 8005 Vaughan Rd., Petersburg, VA  
**Contact:** Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

This free program features historian Pat Schroeder speaking on the role of Zouave soldiers in the Battle of Weldon Railroad.

### **Architecture, Communities, Civil War, and Emancipation: Poplar Lawn Historic District**

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2011  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** First Baptist Church, 236 Harrison Street, Petersburg  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804) 732-3531 x222

Join Ranger Emmanuel Dabney on an hour-long guided tour of the historic Poplar Lawn neighborhood in Petersburg, Virginia. Visitors on the tour will have the opportunity to see sites associated with Petersburg's pre-Civil War and wartime African-American religious community. See where prominent Petersburg residents, George W. Bolling, Reuben and John D. Ragland lived and learn about their lives before, during, and after the Civil War. The tour also includes a stop in Poplar Lawn Park, the site of a Civil War hospital for captured Union soldiers and a community gathering space. **Due to safety concerns in crossing streets, this tour is limited to 20 participants. This tour requires reservations which can be made with Ranger Emmanuel Dabney at 804-732-3531 ext. 222. Once the reservations fill up, your name will be added to a waiting list and if any openings become available, you will be called to see if you can attend.** Free.

### **Battle of New Market Heights: The Forgotten Fourteen**

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center

**Contact:** Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 x223

The Battle of New Market Heights on September 29, 1864, was a fierce battle which resulted in Medals of Honor for fourteen members of the United States Colored Troops. Learn more about these individuals, who fought so bravely, by attending this lecture which will be held in the Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium.

### **Mortuary Affairs Throughout the Ages**

**Date:** Saturday, October 15, 2011

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium

**Contact:** Betsy Dinger, (804)732-3531 x208

“Show me the manner in which a Nation... cares for its dead and I will measure... the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.” These were the words British Prime Minister William Gladstone which are fitting when describing the important job performed by those who serve and have served the fallen. Learn more about these military men and women who care for our service members and help their families when the ultimate sacrifice is made.

### **Poplar Grove National Cemetery Luminary Event**

**Date:** Saturday, November 12, 2011

**Time:** 5:00-8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Poplar Grove National Cemetery

**Contact:** Elizabeth Dinger, (804) 732-3531 x208

This event honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country. Over 6,000 candles will be lit over the graves of Union soldiers while bagpipe music plays to help visitors remember all soldiers who gave and continue to give their lives to defend this nation.

### **They Also Served: Animals in War**

**Date:** November 13, 2011

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium

**Contact:** Betsy Dinger, (804) 732-3531 x208

Throughout military history, animals have gone to war alongside humans. And there was great love and loyalty between the men and the animals who “served” from here at Petersburg to those serving on the front lines today. Join us as we look at the forgotten “heroes” of our military.

### **Thanksgiving in the Trenches**

**Date:** Saturday, November 19, 2011  
**Time:** Multiple programs: 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Eastern Front, Stop 3  
**Contact:** Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

A night-time walking tour, participants follows a Ranger along a path lighted by oil lanterns. Five scenes depict scenes demonstrating how the soldiers, both Union and Confederate, and their families back home observed the Thanksgiving season. Scenes range from the peaceful and hopeful to the frivolous and violent. One involves the night firing of a 12 pound Napoleon cannon.

Participation is by reservation only. Reservations will be accepted beginning November 1, 2011. Call 804-732-3531, ext. 205 at any time day or night. Leave name, best contact telephone number (repeat twice and slowly), e-mail address if used, and number of people in party. Confirmation will be made via return telephone call or e-mail. Visitors are cautioned to dress for the weather.

### **Christmas 1861 on the Plantation**

**Date:** Saturday, December 3, 2011  
**Location:** Grant's Headquarters at City Point  
**Contact:** Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Visitors to the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield can expect to hear about how the Eppes family's plantation community plans to deal with Christmas in light of the Civil War.

### **Recurring Programs**

#### **Artillery Demonstrations**

**Date:** To Be Determined (at meeting on 16 January 1011)  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Sundays unless otherwise noted)  
**Location:** Eastern Front Visitor Center (Unless otherwise noted)  
**Fee:** Admission to battlefield or valid NPS pass  
**Type:** Artillery Demonstrations  
**Contact:** Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

The crash of artillery will again echo across Petersburg National Battlefield. Volunteer living historians under the supervision of a certified NPS Historic Weapons Supervisor will fire a minimum of twelve blank artillery rounds from a faithfully reproduced 12 pound Napoleon cannon. Starting with a minimum of ten rounds, the gun detachment will conduct firing demonstrations not less than ten minutes apart as audiences collect until the ammunition is exhausted. Between shots cannoneers demonstrate

their drills. As time permit the audience will be invited to take part in non-firing drills and learn the skills of the artilleryman. Visitors are encouraged to come early to be sure to experience the cannon firing. Once ammunition is expended, the gun detachment will continue to drill until 4:00.

### **Summer Daily Tour Schedule for Petersburg National Battlefield**

#### **Eastern Front Unit: June 6 – August 12**

Caravan Tours Depart from Visitor Center twice daily

10:00-11:15 & 2:00-3:15

Battle of the Crater Walking Tour

11:30-12:15, 3:30-4:15

Walking Tour Begins at Stop #8 Parking Lot

### **Evenings on the Battlefield**

**June 5 – August 2**

**Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.**

**Contact:** Grant Gates 732-3531 x202

From the opening assaults on Petersburg to the Battle of Five Forks, these hour-long ranger-led tours will take a closer look at the fighting on the battlefields surrounding Petersburg.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Twilight Concert Series at City Point**

Free concerts featuring Civil War era, Americana, and African American spiritual music will occur at the General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. All concerts begin and 7:00 p.m. and are expected to last approximately one hour.

May 20:	The Ralph Jones Group (Americana Music)
June 17:	The Christiannaires (African-American spirituals, R&B)
July 15:	TBA
August 19:	The Fort Lee Concert Band

Contact: Ann Blumenschine, (804)732-3531 x203

### **Mounted Trail Rides**

If you own a horse and would like to see areas of Petersburg National Battlefield away from the pavement of the tour road, here is your chance. These ranger led tours will take you to areas where soldiers camped, fought, and died. Tours take place at both the Eastern Front Unit and the Five Forks Battlefield.

February 12: Mounted ride of the Five Forks Battlefield  
March 12: Mounted ride of the Eastern Front Unit  
October 15: Mounted ride of the Five Forks Battlefield  
December 17: Moonlight Ride of the Eastern Front Unit

### **By Appointment Only - Special Tours of Petersburg National Battlefield and historic Petersburg**

Tour the Petersburg area in period dress with ranger Robert Webster. If you own a 19<sup>th</sup> century period costume and would like to tour Petersburg to learn more about the soldiers and civilians who endured the siege of Petersburg, call Robert Webster at (804)732-3531 x223 to schedule a 1:00 p.m. tour. If you do not own period clothing, you may contact ranger Webster to make arrangements to borrow an outfit.

## **Education Programs**

### **SKYWATCH**

What is a Skywatch? A Skywatch is a public viewing of celestial objects through telescopes that have been brought in for the event. The Richmond Astronomical Society and Petersburg National Battlefield will hold several Skywatches in 2011. Members of the Society set up their telescopes for anyone who wants to look at what is visible that night. Some of the telescopes will be commercially made and some will have been hand made by the person who brought it.

Discover the wonders of Virginia's night sky and hear stories associated with the stars. To enjoy this ranger led program, bring a jacket, a flashlight, a telescope if you have one and an optional blanket to lay back and enjoy the sights and sounds of Petersburg at night. **The program begins at sunset.**

March 19 at City Point (full moon)  
April 23, 2011 at City Point  
May 21, 2011 at City Point  
June 11, 2011 at City Point  
July 9, 2011 at City Point  
August 6 at City Point  
September 24, 2011 **at Five Forks**  
October 8, 2011 at City Point  
November 5, 2011 at City Point  
November 19, 2011 **at Five Forks**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPS**

Campers will explore the creeks, trees, birds, and bugs that live on Petersburg National Battlefield and will begin to understand the concept of an ecosystem and the dependence on one another. They will

learn why the water cycle and water quality is important and what influences there are on them. They will learn that trees help hold soil in place and filter out unwanted sediment to keep water clean. They shade creeks and regulate water temperature for the many aquatic species that need clean, cool water. Many different animals live in the forest near the creeks and ponds of Petersburg National Battlefield. Otters, beavers, deer, herons, salamanders, snakes, frogs, turtles and many others depend on healthy forest creeks and ponds for food, water, homes and protection. For this reason, foresters, hydrologists, geologists, aquatic biologists and many others here at Petersburg National Battlefield work together to manage our creeks and ponds.

To achieve this, campers will don a pair of rubber boots and spend some time in the creek observing, collecting and studying the many living creatures in the creek. They will test water quality and discuss ways to preserve this habitat. They will explore the forest and seek out the bugs and other living creatures here on Petersburg National Battlefield.

**Ages for the camp are 8-12 yr olds.**

**Dates for the Environmental Camps are:**

July 5-7 2011 and

July 20-22 2011

Camps are limited to the first **15** campers .The cost for this one day camp will be \$15.00 per camper.

The camp runs from 9 am to 1 pm each day. . For reservations and further information about the “Environmental Camp” schedule, please contact Petersburg National Battlefield at (804) 732-3531 ext 204.

## **ARROWHEAD DAY CAMP**

Arrowhead Day Camp offers a hands-on approach to science and history as participants sign enlistment papers and prepare themselves for an outdoor adventure. As soldiers, campers will dress in uniform, perform marching drills, build shelters, towers and create flags. As scientists, they will pull on their rubber boots to perform biological water tests in the stream and learn about archeology in the trenches. There will also be plenty of hand-on crafts and project.

**Dates for the 2011 camps are:**

June 29-July 1, 2011

July 12-15, 2011 (**Special 4 day camp for 9-12 yr olds only and will have a fee of \$20.00 and is limited to 15 participants**)

July 27-29, 2011

August 10-12, 2011

August 17-19, 2011

The fee for “Arrowhead Day Camp” is only \$15 per child and each session will consist of a maximum of twenty participants. For reservations and further information about the “Arrowhead Day Camp” schedule, please contact Petersburg National Battlefield at (804) 732-3531 ext 204.