



Volunteer Newsletter

Fall 2021

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As we move into winter here in Richmond, we're grateful for the cool fall temperatures which have allowed us to host a variety of outdoor events and activities. From educational programs to document transcription to tree planting, volunteers have continued their hard work supporting and enriching the parks. As we wrap up our year-end planning, we're hopeful about re-opening Tredegar and Chimborazo next year and bringing back our Visitor Center volunteers in the spring! As the end of the year approaches, we want to emphasize how grateful we are to have such a dedicated group of volunteers by our sides. You ensure that the parks remain at their very best – thank you!



Above: Mike Andrus of the Richmond Battlefields Association cleans the Texas monument. NPS photo.

Below: participants in the Armstrong-Walker Classic Football Parade wave from a bus as it passes by the Walker House. NPS photo.



Above: VIPs Carey Burch, Mark Janowski, Jim Cooper, and Jan Nere-Minter (left to right) stand in front of privet bushes cleared at an outdoor workday. NPS photo.



In Case You Missed It...

Fall Recap



Above: VIPs Alison Sinclair and Steve Sabin work alongside Natural Resources chief Kristen Allen (left to right) to plant native grasses during NPLD. NPS photo.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

This fall, our Rangers were thrilled to be able to visit Henrico County Schools to hand out 1000 Every Kid Outdoors 4th Grade passes! These passes allow 4th grade students and their families to enter National Parks for free. Back in the parks, we hosted battlefield tours for youth groups including Scout packs and middle-school classes. We were also honored to have Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Governor Ralph Northam, Senator Tim Kaine, U.S. Representatives Donald McEachin and Abigail Spanberger, and Mayor Levar Stoney visit the Maggie Walker site during their tour of Jackson Ward in early December.



Left: participants in the Football Parade hold balloons and wave from a Richmond Trolley as it passes by the Walker House. NPS photo.

NPLD 2021

National Public Lands Day was a big success! Volunteers planted 500 grass plugs on the earthworks at Totopotomoy Creek, which will reduce erosion and keep the area looking nice. These native grasses, including Purple Top and Little Bluestem, will also help prevent the spread of invasive Japanese Stiltgrass. Nationwide, more than 46,000 volunteers participated in 537 NPLD events.



Above: Ranger Mark leads members of Scout Pack 1785 as they earn their Junior Ranger badges. NPS photo.

ARMSTRONG-WALKER CLASSIC FOOTBALL PARADE

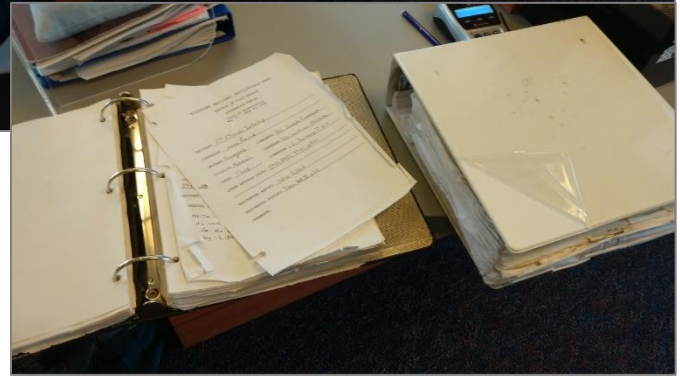
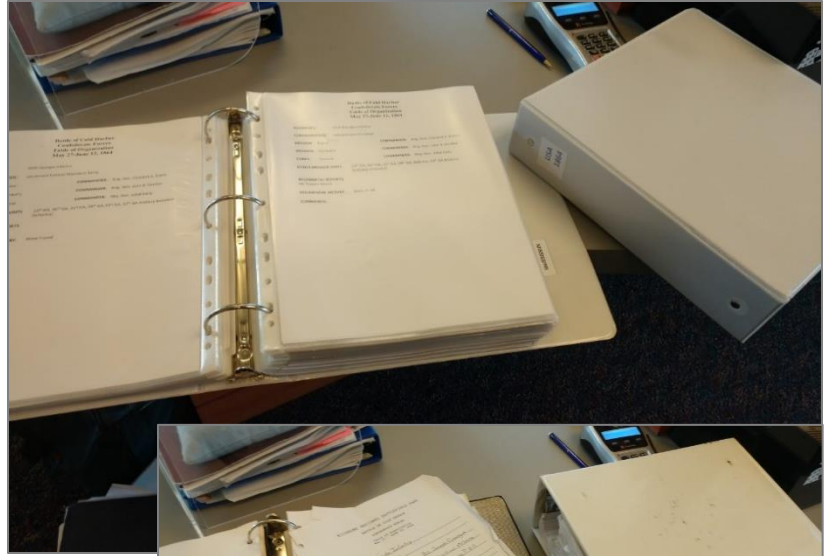
We were excited to see the first-ever parade commemorating this historic football rivalry as it passed by the Walker House in late November! We look forward to celebrating this important aspect of Richmond history long into the future.

In Case You Missed It...

Fall Recap

UNIT REFERENCE BINDER PROJECT

Volunteers recently helped with an important project tied to visitor services. The battlefield visitor centers have Unit Reference Files, which list each unit from both armies and provide information on that unit's history, organization, and details of its participation in the battles. These aid visitors who are searching for ancestors or researching a certain unit or part of a battle. Over the years, wear and tear have taken their toll, as the first photo shows! Ranger Mark Wilcox retyped all the data, and Ranger Bert Dunkerly reached out to volunteers to help organize and put together the new data sheets. An enthusiastic group stepped forward to assist and spent several hours over two days reorganizing the new materials. This project replaces a frequently used reference item and ensures that visitors many years into the future will be able to get the research assistance they need. Thanks to our great team for your help!



Above: The reprinted pages are now in plastic sheets and in new binders, and should last much longer. NPS photo.

Above, inset: The old binders and sheets were getting torn and damaged. NPS photo.

Below: This dedicated team spent two Saturdays organizing and re filing the new sheets. L-R: Bob Talbot, Harold Colwell, Linda Colwell (holding a new binder), Art Wingo. NPS photo.



Above: The magnitude of the work is seen here: organizing the sheets by campaign (1862 or 1864), then by state, then by branch (infantry, cavalry, artillery), and finally placing them into the binders. NPS photo.



Upcoming Events

Winter 2022 and Beyond

JANUARY 8: ARNOLD'S RAID EVENT

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Join us at historic St. John's Church as we commemorate the 1781 British raid on Richmond. Speakers will discuss Richmond in the Revolution, Arnold's Raid, Virginia's African Americans in the Revolution, and more. Outside, re-enactors will portray soldiers and civilians. Don't miss the 1.5-mile walking tour of the battle at 2:30 PM, which requires [online preregistration](#).



Left: a British reenactor at St. John's Church. Photo courtesy of Historic St. John's Church.

JANUARY 17: MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

We're partnering with the Enrichmond Foundation to complete preservation and restoration work at historic Evergreen and East End cemeteries. This event is organized by Enrichmond, so please sign up through [their HandsOn RVA page](#). Contact Marie Pinto with any questions.

JANUARY 27: ALL-VOLUNTEER TRAINING

7:00 PM

We hope to welcome back both Richmond and Maggie Walker volunteers with this virtual (Zoom) re-training session, followed by an in-person session in February or March. Keep an eye on your email inbox for updates from Rangers Ajena and Bert! Also, be sure to carefully read our recently released memo regarding Vaccine Guidance for Volunteers, attached here after the last page.

FEBRUARY 12: THE BAHAMAS TO CAMP NELSON

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University are once again hosting their free Civil War seminar – this year, in-person at the Jarman Auditorium at Longwood University in Farmville. Speakers will include Chuck Ross, Ron Coddington, Ernie Price, Michael Hardy, and Steve Phan. No registration is required. For more information, contact Jim Kisicki.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 ANNIVERSARIES

May 14 – Drewry's Bluff

June 4 – Cold Harbor

June 25 – Gaines' Mill

July 2 – Malvern Hill

September 24 – Fort Harrison

Mark your calendars for these upcoming in-person events commemorating the anniversaries of battles around Richmond, featuring walking tours of the battlefields. Check out our [events calendar](#) and social media pages for updates in the coming months!

Volunteer Contributions

Celebrating Your Work

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Bill Linka, Jeanette Linka, and Bill Koetter have continued monitoring trails across Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, and Gaines' Mill. We could not run our trail maintenance programs without their hard work and consistent input. Thank you!

CHIMBORAZO PATIENT PROJECT

Under the direction of Ranger Mike Gorman, researchers continue to work on the Chimborazo Patient Project from home. Volunteers work with either microfilm or use online sites like Fold3 to enter data from the original records and fill in gaps about patients, their illness, treatment, and service records. This will be an invaluable resource for genealogists and those studying Chimborazo Hospital. Thanks to the hard work of Jean Hemphill, Roger and Linda Hultgren, and Lorianne Stogsdill, we have fully processed over 20,000 patients! Recently the fourth reel of microfilm was transcribed (one more to go). About 70,000 soldiers passed through Chimborazo Hospital and we expect the project to continue for several more years, but we're making great progress.

Right: VIPs Bill Koetter (left) and Tim Henly (right) plant young pine trees along the park boundary at Totopotomoy Creek. NPS photo.



OUTDOOR WORKDAYS

We resumed our regular Natural Resources workdays in September! Natural Resources volunteers have contributed more than 100 hours this fall on projects including earthworks maintenance, invasive plant control, trail improvement, trash cleanup, and tree planting. We'll continue hosting these workdays every Thursday morning in January after the holidays. If you'd like to join us, contact Marie Pinto.



Above: SCA interns Austin Unger and Jeremiah Kaplan pose with VIPs Hailey Beu and Nydia Pulley (left to right) near bags of trash they collected from the stream at Chickahominy Bluff. NPS photo.

SITE STEWARDS

A program that began in the spring has continued into the winter. This group of volunteers walks the trails, checks on park conditions, restocks brochures, and reports on any issues or safety concerns. Although visitation slows down in the colder months, the trails still need to be checked and we appreciate the effort of our Site Stewards! Thanks to Art and Diane Wingo, Adam Zimmerli, Pat Ferrell, John Held, Bill Handley, Bob Talbot, Jim and Ellen Kisicki, and Richard Lewis (and his canine companions, Ginger and Cooper) for keeping the trails looking good and alerting staff to any safety issues!

Volunteer Contributions

Celebrating Your Work

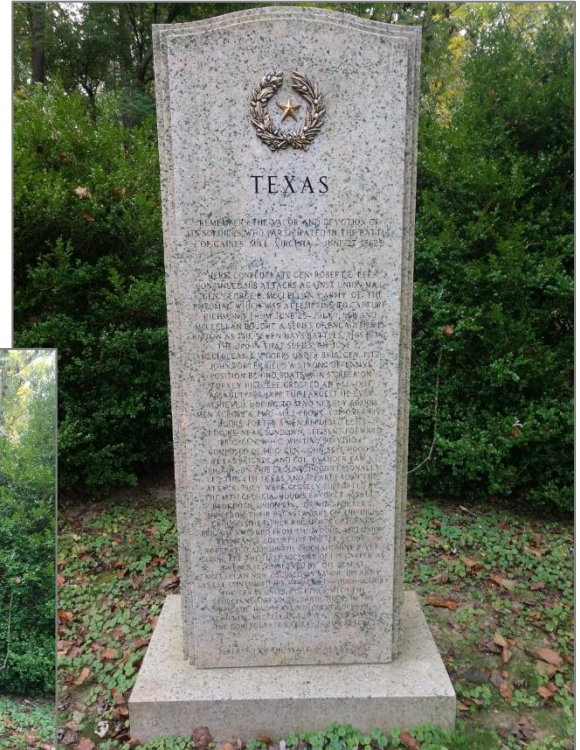
ADOPT A MONUMENT

The battlefield park has four monuments, all of them adopted by various groups. They include:

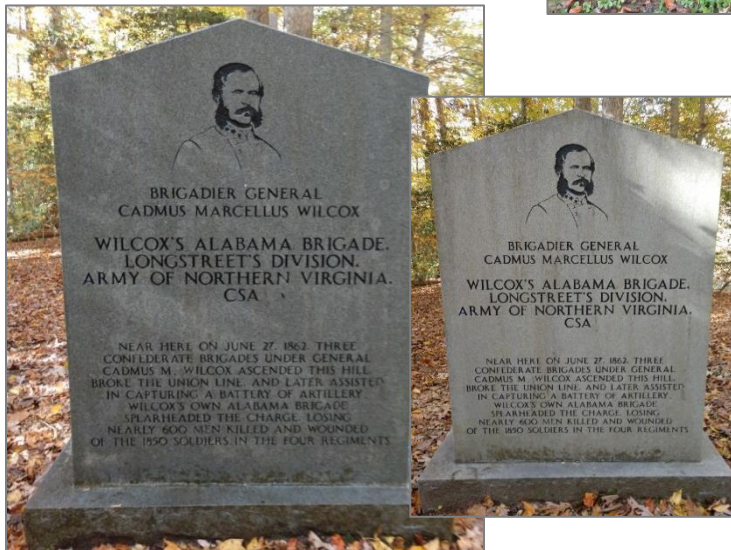
- 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument at Cold Harbor, adopted by the Richmond Civil War Round Table
- Wilcox Monument at Gaines' Mill, adopted by the 12th Virginia Reenactment group
- Texas Monument at Gaines' Mill, adopted by the Richmond Battlefields Association
- Parker's Battery Monument, adopted by the Civil War Buffs of Chesterfield County

These groups check on the monuments, clean up litter, wipe off dirt, and report on any issues to the park. This fall, three of the monuments were cleaned by volunteers and park staff. The Connecticut, Wilcox, and Texas monuments were all cleaned using water and a special gentle soap. The goal was to remove dirt, mildew, and moss. Using water, soap, and brushes, the groups gently cleaned the

monuments, applying only enough pressure to remove the dirt and aiming not to harm the stone, brass, or inscriptions. The Before and After photos speak for themselves! Thank you to all involved!



Left, before: The Texas Monument had a great deal of dirt, moss, and mildew. Above, after: A bit of scrubbing cleaned the beautiful rose-colored stone. NPS



Above left: Wilcox Monument after cleaning. Above right: Wilcox Monument before cleaning. NPS

250 HOURS!

Congratulations are in order for Bill Koetter, who has contributed an outstanding 250 hours of volunteer service to the park. He often volunteers at our Natural Resources workdays and conducts regular trail monitoring at Cold Harbor and Malvern Hill. We are so grateful for his hard work and know the park would be a very different place without him. Thank you, Bill!

Comings and Goings

New and Retiring VIPs and Staff

WELCOME: TARA BABB, PARK GUIDE

We were lucky to hire Tara to be one of our frontline interpreters at the Walker House for the next several months. Here's a little more about Tara in her own words:

"Hi, there! I am a Richmond native who grew up and spent most of my life near Columbus, Ohio. In my thirties I left a stable yet unfulfilling job as an accounting clerk to pursue adventure and a degree in history. I got both! I earned my BA in history from William and Mary and my MA in public history from South Carolina. Working as an interpretive park ranger is a good fit for me because I love learning new things and getting to share that with visitors. Plus, I get inspiration and knowledge from what visitors share with me. I embrace the challenging questions of our nation's past and how they relate to our present. My hobbies include reading, baking, and collecting junior ranger badges. Someday I hope to grow up, get married to my boyfriend Michael, and live in a skoolie so we can explore the US and have adventures together."

FAREWELL: JEREMIAH KAPLAN, STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INTERN

Jeremiah has been working alongside our Natural Resources staff since September on a range of projects including invasive plant management, wildlife surveys, and trail maintenance activities. He has also been a big help at our weekly volunteer days! We will miss him and are grateful for the 14 weeks he's spent here.

Right: SCA intern Jeremiah Kaplan works to loosen dirt from a fallen tree's roots on an earthwork at Cold Harbor. NPS photo.

SEE YOU SOON: KRISTEN ALLEN, CHIEF OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

This fall, Kristen began a detail at Colonial National Historic Park, where she is working as their Acting Integrated Resources Program Manager. She's left our Resource Management division in the capable hands of Vance Noles, Chief Ranger, and Andie DeKoter, Chief of Interpretation. We're looking forward to her return in early March!

FAREWELL: MARIE PINTO, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR

"I can't believe it's been nearly 11 months since I started as a CVA! I've really enjoyed getting to work alongside our dedicated Natural Resources volunteers each week. It's been a lovely experience to help coordinate and build our volunteer programs, and I hope my impact on the park continues to last after my term ends in late January. I'm sad to be leaving Richmond behind, but excited for my next chapter – a move to Gainesville, VA for a communications and outreach position with a nonprofit environmental foundation!"



Final Wrap-Up

Closing Thoughts

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media sites are a great way to keep up with park news, including upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and re-openings. By interacting with our posts, you can spread awareness of the park to a wider audience while we maintain reduced in-person capacity. Thanks for your help as we continue navigating the world of virtual visitor engagement!



[Facebook.com/RichmondNPS](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondNPS)
[Facebook.com/MaggieL.WalkerNHS](https://www.facebook.com/MaggieL.WalkerNHS)



Instagram: [@richmond.nps](https://www.instagram.com/@richmond.nps)
Instagram: [@maggiewalkernps](https://www.instagram.com/@maggiewalkernps)



YouTube: [Richmond NBP](https://www.youtube.com/RichmondNBP)
YouTube: [MaggieWalkerNPS](https://www.youtube.com/MaggieWalkerNPS)



Twitter: [@RichmondNPS](https://twitter.com/@RichmondNPS)

Marie Pinto: Community Volunteer Ambassador

Contact RE: General Information, Outdoor Workdays, MLK Day of Service
marie_pinto@partner.nps.gov

Bert Dunkerly: Park Ranger

Contact RE: Site Stewards, Document Transcription, Adopt a Monument
bert_dunkerly@nps.gov

Kristen Allen: Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources

Contact RE: Adopt-A-Trail, Outdoor Workdays, biological surveys
kristen_allen@nps.gov

Ajena Rogers: Supervisory Park Ranger

Contact RE: Volunteer Opportunities at Maggie L. Walker NHS
ajena_rogers@nps.gov

Jim Kisicki: Interpretation Volunteer

Contact RE: Interpretation volunteer opportunities and email list
jandek1@verizon.net

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If any of the projects or upcoming opportunities mentioned in this newsletter have piqued your interest, please reach out! We could always use more help from volunteers, and we have a variety of projects to fit your unique interests and schedule. Contact Marie Pinto for more information about volunteering in the parks, or you can reach out to a specific staff member if you're interested in a particular project. Looking forward to hearing from you!

VISIT US: CURRENT OPERATING HOURS

All Outdoor Battlefield Spaces and Trails:

Daily, Sunrise - Sunset

Cold Harbor Visitor Center:

Wednesday - Sunday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Walker House Courtyard and Visitor Center:

Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Walker House Tours: Daily, [by Reservation Only](#)



Left: a Turkey Vulture perches on a fence at Gaines' Mill. Photo courtesy of VIP Steve Sabin.

From the front page: a close-up view of fallen leaves in the park. NPS photo.



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**RICHMOND NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
MAGGIE L. WALKER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
3215 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-7517**

In Reply Refer to:

9.A.2
December 23, 2021

Dear RICH and MAWA volunteers,

The Department of the Interior's (DOI) COVID-19 mitigation [policy bulletin](#) regarding access to federally controlled buildings for business visitors has been determined by DOI to apply to volunteers. This guidance aims to help all business visitors, including volunteers, stay safe in our national parks. Please read the below FAQs to familiarize yourself with this change.

Volunteers are an important part of the National Park Service and we are grateful for your continued service.

1. What must NPS volunteers do?

All volunteers accessing NPS buildings must:

- Complete a [Certification of Vaccination form](#) (OMB Control No. 3206-0277) by January 10, 2022. If they have NOT attested to being fully vaccinated, they must also possess and present a negative COVID-19 test result from within the 3 days immediately prior to the date of entry; and
- Maintain completed form (and test result, if necessary) on their person for the duration of their visit and present it to the volunteer manager or supervisor, as needed; and
- Comply with all public health protocols in place at the park or office.

Volunteers who do not access NPS buildings, such as volunteers working outside, are only required to comply with other public health protocols in place, such as masking, social distancing, and hand washing.

2. What requirements must be met for COVID-19 vaccinations?

A person is fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a vaccine that uses a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

3. Where can I find out more about COVID-19 vaccinations?

You can find a vaccination location near you on [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), or by texting your ZIP code to 438829 to get a text with the closest COVID-19 vaccination location. If you have concerns about the vaccine, learn how you can find [credible vaccine information](#), identify [myths and facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#), and get answers to [commonly asked questions about vaccinations](#).

4: Will the park or program where I volunteer collect, copy, or record information from my completed [Certification of Vaccination form](#)?

No. Volunteer managers and volunteer supervisors should read the responses on the form, but they should not take possession of the form or make any record of the information reported on the form.

5: What type of test is acceptable for entry to facilities in situations where evidence of a negative test is required?

Any viral test that detects infection that is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and produces a dated result is acceptable. An antibody test result is not acceptable. Test results from a pharmacy or a lab should be from FDA-authorized tests. If you have any doubts, please consult the FDA website to see lists of authorized [molecular tests](#) and [antigen tests](#).

6: Are there exemptions for the requirements for volunteers to attest to their vaccination status and/or provide documentation of a negative test result?

Medical and religious exemptions are not accepted in place of the requirements for volunteers to attest to their vaccination status and/or provide documentation of a negative test result.

7. Are volunteers under the age of 18 impacted by this policy?

Volunteers below the age of 18 should have a parent / guardian sign the Certification of Vaccination on their behalf, noting this on the "Your printed name here" line. Example: [Printed Name of Parent] signing on behalf of [Printed Name of Minor]. Everyone age 5 years and older is currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

Volunteers consistently embody the spirit of service, engagement, and stewardship present throughout Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site. Thank you for your service and for your help ensuring the safety of park visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners.

If you have questions, please reach Ajena Rogers ajena_rogers@nps.gov or Bert Dunkerly bert_dunkerly@nps.gov .

Signed,

Shelly Stubblefield
Acting Superintendent
Administrative Officer
RICH-MAWA
804-239-7229