



The Battlefield Dispatch

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

*By Chief of Resource Management
Jim Szyjkowski*

In preparation for its 125th Anniversary, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is busy preserving and restoring some of its 1,500 commemorative features.

The biggest project accomplished this year was preservation work completed on the New York Peace Monument located within Point Park on the Lookout Mountain Battlefield. Ponsford, Ltd. was awarded the contract to give this monument a complete preservation makeover. All stone surfaces were washed and all open joints were re-pointed. Using a laser, all bronze features were cleaned, and patina and several coats of wax were applied. The park used entrance fees to cover the \$150,000 cost of this huge project.

Several smaller, but important, projects were also completed:

- The park returned the Second Ohio Infantry Tablet to its commemorative location in Lookout Mountain Battlefield near Cravens House.
- Missing granite cannonballs were refabricated and installed on the corners of the Illinois Monument in Orchard Knob Reservation.
- A broken off acorn was re-attached to the 37th Indiana Infantry Monument located in Chickamauga Battlefield.
- Seven damaged cast iron tablets

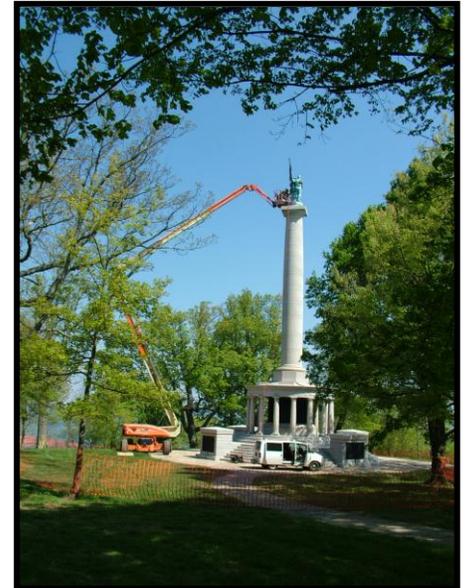
where repaired and repainted.

- Ponsford cleaned and waxed the bronze eagle located over the Point Park entrance gate and donated the cost of these services to the Friends of the Park, who helped facilitate this project.

The park is currently working to restore fifteen Ohio tablets that were missing from the Missionary Ridge Battlefield including:

- The 13th Ohio Infantry Tablet in the Turchin Reservation
- The 30th and 37th Ohio Infantry Tables within the Sherman Reservation
- The 11th, 31th, and 36th Ohio Infantry Tablets in Delong Reservation
- The 19th, 35th, 38th, and 105th Ohio Tablets along North Crest Road
- The 2nd, 33rd, 51st, 69th, and 93rd Ohio Tablets located along South Crest Road

On August 19, 1890, Congress passed a bill establishing Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in order to “preserve for historical and professional military study, the sites of some of the most brilliant fighting” of the Civil War. Veterans from both armies initiated the placement of monuments, markers, tablets and artillery pieces to commemorate the historic battles that occurred in 1863. Today, the mission of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect these cultural resources for future generations.



**Top: Preservation work begins on the New York Peace Monument
Bottom: The newly preserved Union and Confederate Soldiers atop the peace monument**

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

As the sun begins to set on a violent summer in America, it can be tempting to fall into an endless night of despair. A series of horrific and hateful mass shootings – in Charleston, Chattanooga, and Louisiana – have generated shock, grief, and anger. We ask what could have been done to prevent these tragedies. We struggle to make sense of the senseless, to find reasons for what is ultimately irrational. In the heated aftermath of such terror, heightened emotions can sometimes divide us, causing us to entrench in defensive positions, yelling accusations.

While we continue to mourn the loss of life and potential of innocent Americans and show compassion for the families of the victims, what else can we do as communities and as a country to begin to heal? What role can our national parks play in this important and necessary process? As you will read on the pages of this newsletter, Chickamauga Battlefield served as a sanctuary for the survivors of the July 16 attack in Chattanooga – a safe place to retreat, reflect, and refresh faith and common purpose, together in the rising sun.

In the now peaceful and beautiful landscape that once witnessed the bloodshed of thousands of Americans, we can gather freely as citizens to ask the difficult questions, listen to one another with open minds and open hearts, and renew our hope for our United States. After all, as the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated so eloquently, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Healing Begins For Marines Following Chattanooga Shootings

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

This summer, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park celebrates its 125th anniversary. The park was originally established by veterans from both Union and Confederate armies as a place of reconciliation and healing. These men came together on the battlefields here to remember their lost comrades and friends, and to contemplate their future as Americans under one flag.

On July 16, a gunman attacked two military installations here in Chattanooga, taking the lives of four Marines and one sailor. On Monday, July 20, the members of Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment met at Chickamauga Battlefield. It was the first time many of them had seen each other since the shooting, and in the early morning sunlight they assembled their battery guidon, reuniting the unit under their flag. The Marines toured the battlefield with Park Historian Jim Ogden, and their hike culminated at the monument to

Shultz's Battery M, located along Horseshoe Ridge in the battlefield. It was a moment where past met present – the members of one Battery M gathered at the century old memorial erected by the survivors of another Battery M, one that had also lost four men in the fight here.

Parks are often places where we can go on hikes, enjoy the outdoors, or learn about the past. But for the Marines of Battery M, like the veterans who established this park 125 years ago, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is a place where Americans can begin to heal. Unit commander Colonel Joe Russo said of the Marines' visit to Chickamauga, “It was day one on the calendar of this unit's movement forward. You could see it in the Marines' faces; you could sense it as they put their arms around each other.”



The Marines of Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment at the monument to Shultz's Battery M, 1st Ohio Light Artillery on Chickamauga Battlefield: United States Marine Corps Photo by Cpl. Sara Graham

Local Youth Work to Improve Access to Moccasin Bend and Sherman Reservation

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

This summer, seven local students worked with the Southeast Conservation Corps through the National Park Service's Urban Archeology Corps to improve the Blue Blazes Trail at Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. Over the years, the trail became weathered and overgrown to the point where it was difficult to hike. Because the trail is located in an archeologically sensitive area, improving the route required extra care and work. The Urban Archeology Corps (UAC) was up to the challenge. The UAC is a nationwide program that provides employment to students to conduct archeological work in parks, and to expose them to career opportunities with the National Park Service (NPS). Each week, the crew not only worked on the trail at Moccasin

Bend and at Sherman Reservation, but participated in education days where students learned about conservation, climate change, first aid, and even Civil War artillery. Throughout the summer, park staff worked alongside the UAC and talked to students about the NPS's work around the country. Dr. Nick Honerkamp of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, who led some of the early archeological excavations on Moccasin Bend, met with the crew to discuss his findings. The NPS Southeast Archeological Center also worked with the crew to develop site surveys of the Civil War earthworks on Moccasin Bend.

Angie Langevin, who along with Michael Meredith led the crew, remarked, "The crew quickly became a well-oiled machine, overhauling the entrance trail at

Sherman Reservation, and clearing more than a mile of heavy thicket-like vegetation that had grown over the Blue Blazes loop at Moccasin Bend. During the muggy heat of the summer, the teens also built two new bridges at the Moccasin Bend site. Overall, the crew is very proud of their work to make these NPS trails more enjoyable for all Chattanooga area residents."



Corps crew members work to repair one of the foot bridges in the park

Centennial Volunteer Ambassador

By Volunteer Coordinator Will Sunderland & Centennial Volunteer Ambassador Kendall Gilbert

We are pleased to welcome Kendall Gilbert to the staff of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park for a yearlong position as a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador.

Kendall arrived in June and is one of seventy young adults serving in national parks across the country over the next year in an effort to increase volunteerism, engagement, and outreach at national park sites. She grew up in the small town of Westland, Michigan and most recently lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2012 with B.S. and B.A. degrees in anthropology and geography. Before accepting this position, she worked as a community planning assistant focusing on parks and recreation development in urban and rural communities.

Kendall will develop and encourage

connections with the communities we serve at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Working with the Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) program, she will assist in coordinating and hosting hands-on service projects associated with national stewardship events such as National Trails Day, Civil War Trust Park Day, National Public Lands Day, and more.

As the National Park Service prepares to celebrate a centennial anniversary in 2016, the hope is to invite over 10 million new and returning visitors by reaching out to populations who have traditionally had limited access to national parks. By serving in a relatively metropolitan area, Kendall will be able to foster connections with community organizations, schools, neighborhoods, and youth services in an effort to strengthen local and regional relationships and encourage people to take an active role in volunteering and caring for our national treasures.

Please welcome Kendall to the park. If you would like to know more about the Centennial initiative and Kendall's work, please contact the park at 706-866-9241.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

P.O. Box 2128 (Mailing)
3370 LaFayette Road (Shipping)
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

Phone
706-866-9241

Website
www.nps.gov/chch

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

An Engineer of Victory

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

Grant... Thomas... Hooker... maybe "Baldy" Smith... these are the usually recognized "big" names of the Union success at Chattanooga in the fall of 1863. However, dozens of others, most now seemingly forgotten, played vital roles that contributed significantly to that victory as well. One such soldier was Perrin V. Fox. A New York native but Michigan surveyor and builder at the outbreak of the war, Fox was an organizer of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, one of the most unique units in Army of the Cumberland. He initially commanded a company in the regiment that was recruited from amongst mechanics and tradesmen specifically for engineering duty. Fox, his company, and one other (joined by a third in early October and a fourth in November) arrived in

Chattanooga just three days after Union forces occupied the town. Bridging the Tennessee River would be Fox's most important mission. The river, shallower than usual as a result of a drought, allowed him to first quickly construct a bridge supported by sawhorse-like trestles while work began on pontoons (boats) for more traditional and flexible floating military bridges. Short on tools, materials, and time, and having to work with freshly cut green lumber, Fox came up with a simplified, yet still functional design that allowed him to eventually build more than two hundred pontoons, enough for five full bridges. The one constructed at Brown's Ferry on October 27, 1863, where the Civil War Trust is undertaking preservation now (<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chickamauga/chickamauga-chattanooga-2015/>), was arguably the most important

as it was a key part in the opening of the "Cracker Line." The important contribution of Fox and his men is commemorated by the monument to the 1st Michigan Engineer and Mechanics, dedicated 120 years ago this year, at the Orchard Knob Reservation, on the corner of Hawthorne and Ivy streets.



Perrin V. Fox

Friends of Moccasin Bend's 10th Annual Fall Lecture Series

By Friends of Moccasin Bend Director
Michael Wurzel

The Friends of Moccasin Bend present their 10th Annual Fall Lecture Series in partnership with the National Park Service and co-sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's (UTC) Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography. The lectures are free and the public is invited to join us on Mondays at 7 pm on September 14, October 5, and November 2 at the University Center Auditorium on the UTC Campus. The University Center Auditorium is located at the corner of East 5th Street and Lancing Court and parking is free in all UTC lots after 5:30 pm. The lecture series is generously underwritten by Friend's board member and national parks advocate Greg A. Vital.

cultures of the Tennessee Valley and greater southeast presented by anthropologists, authors, and historians. Following each lecture, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and engage these experts in their respective fields.

- September 14: Dr. Adam Bowne
Deerskins, Furs, and Slaves: Henry Woodward and the Westo Indians
- October 5: Dr. Adam King
How technology and traditional archeology intersect to understand Mississippian era Native American communities.
- November 2: Dr. Rose Stremmlau
Cherokee History is Family History

Visit www.moccasinbendpark.org for more information.

This year's series features lectures on a range of American Indian histories and

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Editor

Christopher Young

Chief of Interpretation and Education

Kim Coons

Photographers

Jim Szykowski

Jim Ogden

USMC Cpl. Sara Graham

Southeast Conservation Corps

Comments? Write to:

Kim Coons

Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP

P.O. Box 2128

Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742