Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter

Fort Marcy | Fort Reno | Battleground | Fort Slocum | Fort Mahan | Fort Davis | Battery Carroll
Battery Kemble | Fort DeRussy | National | Fort Totten | Fort Chaplin | Fort Stanton | Fort Greble
Fort Bayard | Fort Stevens | Cemetery | Fort Bunker Hill | Fort Dupont | Fort Ricketts | Fort Foote

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Remembering the Fallen
By: Wesley Gant, NPS

The orange rays of the October sun angled through the pines and onto a black felt bag draped over a granite tombstone. Flanking the stone on the right flew a regimental banner for the 21st NC infantry, and to the left a Civil War era North Carolina flag. Gathered around the stone in a small church cemetery just outside of Stokesdale, North Carolina are the descendants of James Walter Beasley, a Private in the 21st NC Infantry, Company I. They have come together to dedicate his tombstone in memory of his service to the Confederacy during the Civil War.

James Beasley's new headstone at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Stokesdale, NC. NPS photo.

With a death toll of over 600,000 soldiers, the Civil War changed the way the country viewed death, and how the two armies treated their fallen soldiers. During the Civil War, the Union would lose 1 in 15 men of fighting age; the Confederacy would lose 1 of every 5, staggering statistics for the two sides to address in caring for the dead. Just two months after the Battle of First Manassas the US Army issued Order #75 charging their officers with the responsibility of marking all graves with a wooden headboard and recording burials in a register book. It was the first time a government of any nation had actively set forth a system to identify and bury their dead soldiers. Despite Order #75, many graves would continue to go unmarked throughout the war, but for the Confederate fallen, no such coordinated effort was ever put into place. The system of marking Confederate soldier graves often came down to their individual units. In the chaos of the armies moving and fighting, the task of marking graves was a low priority for Confederate officers.

At the close of the war, the United States government made an effort to return to the

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Earthworks in "Real Time"
By: Tonia Horton, NPS

Beginning in January 2012, the National Park Service's Cultural Resources GIS team of David Lowe and James Stein will begin the first "real time" mapping of the earthen fortifications—the remaining above ground features--that comprise the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Geographic Information System, or GIS, is a powerful mapping database technology with enormous importance for documenting, evaluating, and monitoring of resources such as the earthworks.

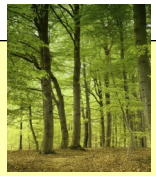
Lowe and Stein are no strangers to the challenges of mapping Civil War battlefields and fortifications. Both NPS veterans, their work at the CR-GIS division over the years has created a proven methodology for using GIS mapping as an analytic tool for threatened resources. As an example, their work at the Federal "Fish Hook" Line of fortifications at Petersburg focused not only on the documentation of surviving features, but on the level of damage to both the features

Barnard map, 1865-67 with GIS overlay. NPS CR-GIS team.

and their setting over the years. This information was critical to the park's approach toward preserving the surviving remnants of this unique set of siegeworks built late in the Civil War.

For the Civil War Defenses of Washington project, the GIS team will begin by building layers of visual information spanning the last 150 years, focusing on fortification drawings, historic maps and aerial photographs. These overlays – such as the one pictured here using the Barnard map of 1865-67 and fortification drawings—will be used

(Continued as **GIS** on page 3)



Featured Fort:
Fort Marcy

Fort Marcy was named for General Randolph Barnes Marcy, Father-in-law and Chief of Staff for General George McClellan. Construction began in September of 1861 and lasted until Fall of 1862.The fort served as the gate keeper of Chain Bridge and Georgetown.

Fort Marcy was an earthwork with a 338 foot perimeter and emplacements for 18 guns. Due to Fort Marcy's location on a major roadway soldiers here saw rebel spies first hand and spent much of the war on high alert.

Today Fort Marcy is a part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Visitors are welcome to come explore the earthwork and hiking trials such as the Potomac Heritage Trail or investigate the fortification line trail that connects Marcy to Fort Ethan Allen.

Directions: Fort Marcy is located on the GWMP The park is ONLY accessible from the northbound lanes.

Winter 2011 CWDW Newsletter
Editor: Wesley Gant
Contributors: Tonia Horton, Mark Maloy, Mary Brazell, Victoria Stauffenburg

Civil War Defenses of Washington Newsletter

All NPS events are **FREE**	Volunteer Opportunity	Ranger Talk 1 hour	Ranger led Hike 1 hour	Bike Ride 2 hours (bring your own bike)	Community event

Civil War Defenses of Washington

Winter Calendar

Non-NPS events highlighted in red

(Water and comfortable shoes are recommended for all hikes)

January

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 7 9AM Nature Center: ***Rock Creek Civil War Round Table*** Join the Fort Stevens Working Group for an hour long discussion about ongoing research and findings about Civil War Washington. Parking at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

January 7 11AM Nature Center: ***Fort DeRussy Hike*** Discover what life was like for Union soldiers encamped at Fort DeRussy on this one mile hike and how the fort helped defend Washington, DC. Parking at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

January 7 2PM Nature Center: ***The Union's Field Hospital*** The years of the Civil War transformed the buildings and the farmland of Washington into field hospitals. Discover the stories of wounded and sick soldiers and the men and women that cared for them. Parking at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

January 8 1PM Fort Marcy: ***Washingtonians in the Civil War*** Learn about the daily life of the men who manned the Civil War Defenses of Washington. See replica Civil War uniforms, accoutrements, and cannonballs. Parking is available on-site (Northbound on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, VA).

January 19 6PM Lincoln's Cottage: 1861: ***The Civil War Awakening*** Join Adam Goodheart for a discussion of his book about the sweeping changes that occurred in 1861. $10 Reception/$10 Lecture, www.lincolncottage.org (140 N. Rock Creek Church Rd NW, Washington DC).

January 22 1PM Fort Dupont Activity Center: ***The Civil War in Film*** Come to the Fort Dupont Activity Center and watch clips from several Hollywood films about the Civil War, and learn about how Hollywood has portrayed the Civil War. Parking is available at Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).

January 25 7:30PM The Lyceum Museum: ***A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria*** Join Wally Owen for a lecture featuring 3-D images of Civil War Alexandria. $10 tickets RSVP 703-746-4994 (201 S. Washington St. Alexandria, VA)

January 28 10AM Fort Dupont: ***Civil War Defenses of Washington Bike Tour*** This mountain bike tour will journey along the Civil War Defenses of Washington Hiker-Biker trail. The off-road trail takes riders through many parks exploring the Civil War earthworks and urban forest. Minimal experience riders and kids are welcome. Please bring bike, helmet, and water. Parking is available at Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).

January 28 1PM Fort Foote: ***The Big Guns*** Come to Fort Foote Park and learn how the soldiers at Fort Foote operated the 15 inch Rodman Guns. Parking on site (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD).

February

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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February 4 2PM Nature Center: ***The Civilian Story*** Explore the civilian struggles of Washingtonian women, children, slaves, and freedmen during the American Civil War. Parking at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

February 5 1PM Fort Bunker Hill: ***Grisly Tales from Civil War Washington*** come and learn about the hospitals and medicine used around Washington and learn about the city's numerous hospitals. Parking available on site (1300 block of Otis Street NE, Washington DC).

February 12 11AM Fort Stevens: ***Lincoln in Action*** Delve into how President Abraham Lincoln used executive power in a time of crisis to influence the direction of the Civil War. Parking on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).

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February 26 1PM Fort Stanton: ***Escape of an Assassin*** Join a Ranger at Fort Stanton to learn how John Wilkes Booth fled the capital after assassinating President Lincoln. Parking at Anacostia Museum (1901 Fort Place, SE Washington, DC).

March

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
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March 4 1PM Fort Dupont: ***Jackson's Valley Campaign*** On the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign, join a ranger at the Fort Dupont earthworks to learn about the campaign and its impact on the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Parking on site (4000 block Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).

March 15 6PM/6:30PM Lincoln Cottage: ***Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*** Join Dr. Stephanie McCurry for a discussion focused on the American South in the Civil War era and the history of women and gender.$10 Reception/$10 Lecture, www.lincolncottage.org (140 North Rock Creek Church Rd NW, Washington D.C.).

March 18 1 PM Battleground Cemetery: ***DC's battlefield Hike*** Join a Ranger on a 1 mile roundtrip hike; Battleground National Cemetery to Fort Stevens. Learn about the battle for Washington and visit the reconstructed earthworks of Fort Stevens. Begins and ends at Battleground Cemetery. Parking available on street (6600 block of Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC).

March 31 10 AM Fort Dupont: ***Civil War Defenses of Washington Bike Tour*** This mountain bike tour will journey along the CWDW Hiker-Biker trail. The off-road trail takes riders through many parks exploring the Civil War earthworks and urban forest. Minimal experience riders and kids are welcome. Please bring bike, helmet, and water. Parking at Fort Dupont Park Activity Center (Fort Dupont Dr SE, DC).

The National Park Service would like to thank The Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia for kindly underwriting the decorations at of the Regimental Monuments at Battleground National Cemetery .*NPS photo.*

(Continued from **GIS** on page 1)

in the field to locate the surviving features, including some that may not be readily identified with the naked eye. Using sophisticated mobile GPS devices, the team will collect "points" of exact locations to create a mapping layer accurate to within less than one meter. The contemporary locations will then be matched up with historic data in a process called "georeferencing." Moving between the "real time" data and the historic overlays, the team will be able to document and analyze the evolution of changes (in some cases, the complete loss) of the original line of fortifications built by the Federal Army under Gen. Barnard's direction. The mapping efforts will be complemented by large-format photographs linked to the GIS database. Additionally, the CR-GIS team hopes to use high resolution laser scanning to create 3D imagery of the surviving earthworks. The project is anticipated to last through the spring, and will provide the CWDW with powerful baseline information to guide future management and interpretation of these significant historical resources.

For information on the Cultural Resources-GIS division, particularly the Federal "Fish Hook" Line project, go to: http://www.cr.nps.gov/hdp/standards/CRGIS/earthworks1.htm.

(Continued from **Dedication** on page 1)

battlefields of the past four years and locate Union graves for reburial. From 1866 to 1870 the United States Army identified and buried 300,000 Union soldiers in 73 national cemeteries, such as Battleground Cemetery in Washington, DC and, of course, Arlington Cemetery. This effort did not extend to the graves of Confederate soldiers until 1906, when Congress authorized the US Army to mark Confederate soldier graves inside national cemeteries. Twenty one years would pass until Congress authorized the United States Army in 1927 to "erect headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Confederate Army and who have been buried in national, city, town, or village cemeteries or in any other places." Prior to 1927, any ceremony or marker for a Confederate soldier would have been the responsibility of the individual state served by that soldier or his remaining family.

The gathering at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church is the result of years of genealogical research by Herbert and Judy Hudson. With the help of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Hudsons were able to obtain a tombstone for James Walter Beasley, their great grandfather. Beasley was one of the first men from Rockingham County, North Carolina to join the Confederate Army. He travelled to Danville, Virginia to enlist in June, 1861 in the 11th Virginia Infantry and later the 21st North Carolina. Like many men in the Confederate Army, he was a farmer from a rural area.

The tombstone dedication ceremony included a cannon salute. NPS photo.

Beasley became a teamster in charge of feeding and caring for animals and wagons that hauled supplies for the unit. The 21st NC infantry saw action at almost every major battle in the Eastern Theatre of the war. Engaged in battles such as Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, in July, 1864 the 21st found itself attached to the Army under General Jubal Early as part of the Division under General Stephen Ramseur. On the the 11th that placed them at Silver Springs, Maryland and on the morning of July 12th, the 21st engaged the enemy in an intense skirmish in front of Fort Stevens, and retreated the same night. The 21st would eventually work its way back to Petersburg, Virginia and then Appomattox where they were surrendered as part of Lee's Army. At the end of the war the 21st NC Infantry had a 75% casualty rate (wounded or killed), an astounding number. The men that survived the war went back to North Carolina and Virginia, such as James Beasley, who returned to his farm in Rockingham County. He attended church at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Stokesdale, and was buried there 1905 in a family plot that included his wife and children.

In the fall 2011 dedication ceremony, his descendants were joined by a number of Civil War organizations, including members of many reenacting groups, among them the 11th Virginia (Lynchburg Home Guard), 21st North Carolina, the Rockingham Rangers, the Stuart – Hairston Sons of the Confederacy, and the 14th North Carolina. The service included a salute by rifle and cannon, a reading of scripture from the Confederate Prayer Book, and the singing of hymns. Nearly a century and a half after his military service, and over a century after his death, the grave of a foot soldier, James Walter Beasley, was finally remembered in the context of the Civil War in which he, as a participant, saw such devastation and loss.

Have Ideas? Contact Us!

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George Washington Memorial Parkway offering group tours!

The George Washington Memorial Parkway offers Civil War Defenses of Washington tours at several locations along the Parkway at a group's request. Group size is flexible, except with Bike or Paddle tours.
Please call 703-289-2553 to request a tour or more information.

Civil War History of Fort Marcy - Explore the remnants of one of the best preserved forts that protected D.C. during the Civil War and learn the stories of the soldiers and civilians that shaped it. Tour length is flexible.

Fort Marcy & Fort Ethan Allen Hike - Walk from Fort Marcy to Fort Ethan Allen with a ranger to learn their important role during the Civil War of protecting access into D.C. via the Chain Bridge. Round trip tour takes about 2 - 2 1/2 hours.

Civil War History of Theodore Roosevelt Island - Discover the unique Civil War history of the island when it was transformed into a military station, which included a training camp for the 1st United States Colored Troops Regiment and Contraband Camp. Tour lengths are flexible.

Capital Defenses Bike Tour - Grab your bike and visit several sites along the Mount Vernon Trail that tell the stories of protecting the nation's capital. Participants are required to bring their own bike and helmet. Tours leave from Theodore Roosevelt Island or Gravelly Point and are 2 hours long. Limited to 20 people.

Capital Defenses Paddle Tour - View the history of protecting the nation's capital from the Potomac River. This 2-3 hour tour leaves from Columbia Island Marina or Theodore Roosevelt Island. Participants must bring their own kayak/canoe, paddle, life jacket, and noise-making device. Limited to 15 people.