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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Monuments to the Civil War

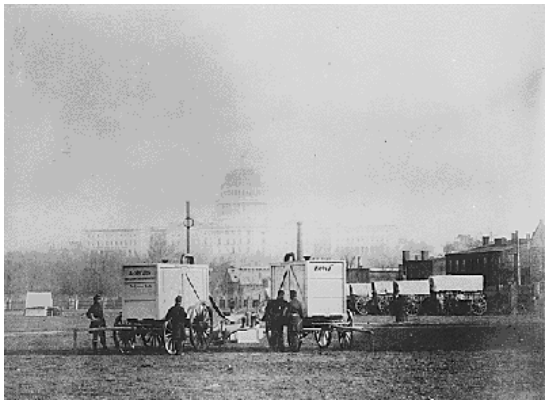
By: Christopher Gwinn, NPS

Visitors exploring the Civil War Defenses of Washington should not neglect the Civil War history that can be found in the heart of the nation's capital. Standing within the ring of forts that surround the city, the National Mall and Memorial Parks is home to some of the country's most iconic and beautiful monuments and memorials. From presidents and generals, to soldiers and statesmen, many of these monuments pay tribute to the service, sacrifice, and meaning of our nation's most pivotal conflict.

The Washington Monument, standing in the center of the two-mile-long National Mall, is as much a landmark today as it was in the 1860's. During the war, the imposing marble obelisk stood unfinished, rising less than half of its current height. Around the incomplete shaft cattle grazed in their pens as soldiers drilled and marched around them. Today the finished spire stands within view of the Lincoln Memorial. Millions of visitors have made the pilgrimage to the Lincoln Memorial since its completion in 1922, honoring the man who preserved the country and helped to bring about a "new birth of freedom" for four million enslaved people.

Standing guard in front of the Capitol building, the impressive equestrian statue of General Ulysses S. Grant gazes southward toward the unseen enemy. Many of Grant's lieutenants stand sentinel along Pennsylvania Avenue. There the

(Continued as **Monuments** on page 4)



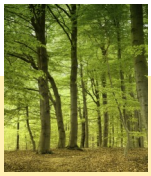
On June 11th the National Park Service along with Smithsonian Air and Space commemorated the 150th anniversary of Thaddeus Lowe's military balloon flight which took place in downtown DC.

Aunt Betty's House

By: Mary Brazell, NPS

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Washington, D.C., hastily created over 150 earthwork fortifications and batteries to defend the city. Both free blacks and slaves were used in the forts constructions to make the federal city impregnable from attack. Ideal private land was confiscated to build the forts and batteries. Elizabeth Thomas, a free black woman who owned about 11 acres of the land where Fort Stevens was built. Thomas later told a reporter about the destruction of her home and the loose of her property, one day soldiers "began taking out my furniture and tearing down our house" to build Fort Stevens. Then a surprising visitor arrived. "I was sitting under that sycamore tree . . . with what furniture I had left around me. I was crying, as was my six months-old child,... when a tall, slender man dressed in black came up and said to me, 'It is hard, but you shall reap a great reward.' It was President Lincoln."

She was promised to have her land returned to her and would be financially compensated for her loss at the end of the war. Sadly, Ms. Thomas' land was never returned to her. Respectfully known in her old age as "Aunt Betty," to the Brightwood community, she stayed in the community, established a new home and was a community advocate. After many decades, her family was financially compensated for the use of her land.



Featured Fort:
Fort Carroll

Fort Carroll was built along the Piscataway road, in the southeast corner of the District of Columbia. Its guns could cover many of the roads in the area and reach to the Potomac River. The fort was named for Major General Samuel Sprigg Carroll, a native Washingtonian and West Point graduate. The fort was heavily armed with 12 32pdr. seacoast guns. The fort was in the vicinity of many hospitals and calvary posts leading one soldier to complain about how they obstructed the parade grounds near the fort. Fort Carroll hosted troops from across the North including Maine, Massachusetts, New York. Today Fort Carroll is part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington park and some of the earthwork still remain.

Directions: Fort Carroll is located at the intersection of South Capitol Street SE and Martin Luther King

Summer 2011

CWDW Newsletter

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Contributors: Mary Brazell, Christopher Gwinn, Mark Maloy

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER

All NPS events are **FREE.**
For more info call 202-426-7723

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Manassas 150th	25	26	27 11AM Arlington House	28	29	30 10AM Fort Dupont
31 1PM Ft. Dupont						

August

Volunteer Opportunity | Ranger Talk 1 hour | Ranger led Hike 1 hour | Bike Ride 2 hours (bring your own bike) | Community event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10AM Ft. DeRussy 2PM Ft. Stevens
7 1PM Ft. Marcy	8	9	10 11AM Arlington House	11	12	13
14 1PM Ft. Foote	15	16	17	18	19	20 10 AM Fort Mahan
21 1PM Ft. Greble	22	23	24 11AM Arlington House	25	26	27 10 AM Fort Dupont
28 1PM Bunker Hill	29	30	31			

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER

September

All NPS events are **FREE.**
For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10AM Ft. DeRussy 2PM Ft. Stevens
4 1PM Fort Marcy	5	6	7 11AM Arlington House	8	9	10
11 1PM Fort Totten	12	13	14	15	16	17 Fort Stevens
18 1PM Fort Reno	19	20	21 11AM Arlington House	22	23	24 10 AM Fort Dupont
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Civil War Defenses of Washington

Summer Calendar

All events are free and open to the public

July 27 11AM-2PM Arlington House: Learn about the importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. Parking available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center (Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA).

Saturday July 30 Fort Dupont 10 AM Bike Tour. Bring your bike and join a ranger for a 5 mile mountain bike ride while visiting a number of forts. Take in the history and views. Parking at the Activity Center (Fort Dupont Drive SE, Washington, DC)

Sunday July 31 Fort Dupont 1 PM "Drive Them to Washington!" In the bloody aftermath of the First Battle of Manassas, the need for the construction of a network of forts became clear and was put into motion. Join a Park Ranger at Fort Dupont Park to learn about this pivotal point in history. Parking is available on site (4000 block Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC).

August 6 10AM Rock Creek Nature Center: "Fort DeRussy Hike" Discover what life was like for Union soldiers encamped at Fort DeRussy on this one-mile hike. Learn how the fort helped defend Washington. Parking available at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

August 6 2PM Fort Stevens: "The Summer of 1864" Discover the actions that led to Jubal Early's raid on Washington and the two battles that stopped Confederate troops. Parking is available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).

Sunday August 7 1 PM Fort Marcy: "Washingtonians in the Civil War" Explore the lives of the civilians around Washington who were directly affected by the Civil War and the constructions of forts on their property. Parking is available on-site (Northbound on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, Virginia).

August 10 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See July 27 information.

Sunday August 14 Fort Foote 1 PM "Ironclads and Aircraft Carriers" The Civil War was a time of leaps forward in the technology of war. Take this chance to meet with a ranger and see the massive guns at Fort

(Continued as **Events** on page 4)

The Civil War Online

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(Continued from **Events** on page 3)

Foote and learn about the ships of Civil War navies. Parking is available on site (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, Maryland).

Sunday August 21 Fort Greble 1 PM "Life of a Civil War Soldier" Learn about the daily life of the men who manned the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Parking is available on site (200 Elmira St SE, Washington, DC).

August 24 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See July 27 information.

Saturday August 27 Fort Dupont 10 AM "Bike Tour": See July 30 information.

Sunday August 28 Fort Bunker Hill 1 PM "The Enemy Within: Maryland Confederates" Visit a fort that protected Washington from the Old Line State. Learn about Marylanders with divided loyalties, and the events that tested the strength of the Union. Also hear about the only successful invasion of the Capital that occurred 197 years ago, during the War of 1812. Parking is available on the street (1300 block Otis St NE, Washington, DC).

Saturday September 3 10AM Rock Creek Nature Center "Fort DeRussy Hike" Discover what life was like for Union soldiers encamped at Fort DeRussy on this one-mile hike. Learn how the fort helped defend Washington. Parking available at Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW, Washington, DC).

Saturday September 3 2PM Fort Stevens "The Summer of 1864" Discover the actions that led to Jubal Early's raid on Washington and the two battles that stopped Confederate troops. Parking is available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).

Sunday September 4 Fort Marcy 1 PM: "Construction of the Civil War Forts" On the 150th anniversary of the construction of Fort Marcy, learn about how and why Union soldiers constructed the forts around Washington. Parking is available on-site (Northbound on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, Virginia).

September 7 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See July 27 information.

Saturday, September 17 Fort Stevens 12PM-4PM "Lincoln-Thomas Day" A historic day designated by *The National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs of America*. Honoring President Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, known as "the owner of Fort Stevens." Programs include Junior Ranger activities, living history presentations, ranger led programs and lectures. Parking is available on the street (1000 Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC).

Sunday September 11 Fort Totten 1 PM "A Tactical Civil War" With advancement in weaponry the tactics of war changed. Learn how the generals of the Civil War adapted to the changing battlefield. Parking on street (4000 block of Fort Totten Dr NE, Washington, DC).

Sunday September 18 Battery Kemble 1 PM "The Maryland Campaign of 1862" Learn about the Confederate campaign into Maryland and how the Civil War forts around Washington impacted General Lee's strategy. Parking on site (2900 block of Chain Bridge Rd NW, Washington, DC)

September 21 11AM-2PM Arlington House: See July 27 information.

September 24 Fort Dupont 10 AM "Bike Ride" See July 30 information.

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

statues of Gen. George Meade, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, and Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock may be found. North of the mall, the African-American Civil War Memorial lists by name those former slaves and free men who struggled and died in the cause of freedom during the war. Countless other Civil War statues and monuments fill nearly every square and circle in the District of Columbia.

The National Mall has changed dramatically since the days when armies and earthworks encircled Washington. Yet, today it remains a place where the memory of that conflict and its meaning lives on. Like the earthen forts and silent cannon that still guard the capital, the stone and bronze monuments on the Mall remind us of that tragic and transformative event in our nation's history.

Have Ideas? Contact Us!

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