



The Quarterly

Huge Crowds Attend Cold Harbor Anniversary Weekend



Confederate and Union reenactors presented multiple programs at this year's Cold Harbor living history programs.

The Cold Harbor 145th Anniversary Program was the most widely attended interpretive event in two decades at Richmond National Battlefield Park. The family-oriented program drew nearly 2,000 visitors, including 95 newly enrolled "Junior Rangers."

More than 150 living history volunteers traveled from as far away as Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina to help the park commemorate the anniversary of the battle. Throughout the weekend they presented programs that focused on Civil War artillery, infantry, music and medicine. Volunteers portraying Generals Grant and Han-

cock conducted programs on the Federal command decisions made during the battle. These "first-person" programs generated considerable interest with the public and provoked lively dialogue.

The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening candlelight program. It started with a concert of Civil War period music, including fifes and drums and music from the home front, performed by "Southern Horizon." This set the mood for the candlelight walking tours. After dark, National Park Service rangers guided the groups through the battlefield where volunteers presented first-person scenarios.

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The Superintendent's Letter

Frequently I am asked how the slumping economy might affect our park's visitation. Earlier in the year, my response was "Let's wait and see." I am pleased to report that spring visitation was booming, and we have every reason to believe that this trend will continue. Our Cold Harbor anniversary program in June was one of the best attended events in years, with nearly 2,000 attending the weekend programs.

In anticipation of greater visitation, our staff increased the summer programming by offering more guided tours, and reviving the successful evening series, "History at Sunset."

For these, and other interpretive opportunities, I encourage you to visit our Web site at nps.gov/rich and check out the program schedule.

There's plenty of other good news to report. Both Richmond Battlefield and the Maggie L. Walker NHS received nearly \$700,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These funds will enable us to make many significant

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Discoveries Mark First Annual Maggie L. Walker Heritage Day

In April, the National Park Service, eighteen SHARPE students from the College of William and Mary, and Ms. Valena Dixon of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority partnered with the park for the first annual Maggie L. Walker Heritage Day. Richmond City Councilman Marty Jewell, and Consolidated Bank and Trust Company President Mr. Joseph Williams, addressed the crowd.

The SHARPE Scholars presented copies of the site bulletin they had published on the St. Luke Hall and Maggie Walker NHS website additions, both of which were completed under a cooperative agreement with the park. Afterward, the students presented pro-

grams and gathered names for future oral histories.

The event also featured the unveiling of an incredible archives of Walker-related documents that were found by the SHARPE students in the attic of the Independent Order of St. Luke Building in February. The building served as Mrs. Walker's office, and is privately owned by the Stallings family.

The Stallings family gave the SHARPE students access to the St. Luke building to help their work in documenting the history



The Honorable Marty E. Jewell, Councilman, City of Richmond 5th District, speaks at Maggie L. Walker Heritage Day, while Mr. Joseph Williams, President, Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, looks on. Rev. Tyrone Nelson, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, delivered the invocation.

of the building. In the process, the students found 31 boxes of records

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Richmond National Battlefield Park was established in 1936 to commemorate the battlefields around Richmond, Virginia, Capital of the Confederacy, 1861-1865.

Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site was established in 1978 to preserve and protect the home of the first woman to found and be president of a bank.

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

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Employee Profile: Mike Prowatzke

Mike Prowatzke is Richmond National Battlefield Park's new Biological Science Technician. His duties include water quality monitoring, exotic plant control, prescribed fire activities, earthwork vegetation monitoring and leading Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns. While Mike has been with us since October 2008, he also has worked at a variety of other national park sites including: Yosemite National Park; C & O Canal National Historical Park; Antietam National Battlefield; and Rocky Mountain National Park.

"I always enjoyed being outdoors," said Mike, "so I figured a job in the National Park Service would help ensure that I'd spend most of my time outside. I also enjoy learning more about animals, plants, geology and



Mike Prowatzke, Biological Science Technician for Richmond National Battlefield Park.

history, helping to preserve the associated resources and values, and helping others to appreciate them as well."

Mike's hobbies include hiking, backpacking, whitewater rafting and just about anything that will get him outdoors. He is working on hiking the Appalachian Trail, one piece at a time and he has managed 635 miles so far.

The Superintendent's Letter, continued

improvements, such as the removal of modern farm buildings that are visual intrusions on the Malvern Hill Battlefield. Other funds will be used to upgrade several HVAC systems with more efficient and environmentally-friendly equipment. Other projects include the rehabilitation of trails, removal of hazardous trees and exterior repairs for several historic buildings. All of the work will be performed by local contractors, and should be completed this year.

There is also great progress in the development of our Rural Plains site in Hanover County. Preliminary work for an historic structures report has already revealed many fascinating details about the 285-year-old Shelton house. Two other major planning documents will soon be awarded to contractors. These include a cultural landscape report designed to document the important cultural and natural features of the 125-acre battlefield, and an interpretive concept plan that will help to identify the visitor experience objectives and goals for the site. If you want to learn more about these efforts at Rural Plains, please join us on July 8 for an evening tour of the site, or Sept. 12-13, for a weekend of special living history programs.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer, and invite you to include the park in your activities with family and friends.

Dave Ruth

Park Hosts Its First YCC Group

This summer Richmond National Battlefield Park is hosting its first Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) group. The YCC program was established in 1971 to take young men and women from different social, economic and racial backgrounds and place them in an environment where they could earn wages, and gain social and educational skills.



The YCC team met with Kristen Allen to learn about their summer assignments.

The park's five YCC team members were recruited from local high schools and range in age from 15-18. They will work in the park for eight weeks, earning minimum wage, on a variety of natural resource and landscape management projects. These include management of invasive vegetation, water quality monitoring, trail building and maintenance, earthwork repair and boundary marking.

In addition, the team will participate in projects at the James River Park and Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, as well as go on field trips to First Landing State Park and Shenandoah National Park.

We will ensure that this program will provide a broad range of outdoor experiences and skills that will foster self-sufficiency and confidence to help get them started in life.

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These vignettes illuminated what life was like in the trenches for Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as the effect the battle had on the civilians of Hanover County. One visitor later wrote, "It provided visitors with special insight into the battle of Cold Harbor, and indeed what it must have been like to have endured the battles of the Civil War."



Ranger Ashley Whitehead leads a tour during the Cold Harbor anniversary event.

The Quarterly newsletter is now available by e-mail. Please send your email address to susie_sernaker@nps.gov to start receiving the newsletter on your computer.

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site 2009 Schedule of Events

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are offering many exciting programs this year. Call 804 226-1981 x. 30 for details on all of our free programs.

July 11-12--Malvern Hill Battlefield Living History.

Special talks and tours will look at the last battle of the Seven Days. Union artillery and infantry demonstrations offered throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

July 18--Maggie L. Walker Annual Birthday Celebration.

Join Maggie L. Walker NHS and the Maggie L. Walker Historical Foundation as we commemorate the life and legacy of Maggie L. Walker. Saturday 2 pm at Third St. Bethel AME Church, 614 N Third Street. Refreshments and tours to follow.

History at Sunset

Join park historians each Wednesday in July as they explore the battlefields and related Civil War sites around Richmond. Programs begin at 7 pm.

July 8--Battle of Totopotomoy Creek at Rural Plains

July 15--Chimborazo Hospital

July 22--The Industrial Heart of the Confederacy

July 29--First Deep Bottom

September 12-13--Living History at the Historic Shelton House "Rural Plains."

Special programs commemorate events that took place along Totopotomoy Creek in late May of 1864. Tours of the first floor of Rural Plains, volunteers portraying General Hancock and his staff, and artillery demonstrations will take place throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

September 26-27--145th Anniversary of the Battle of Chaffin's Farm at Fort Harrison.

Special events commemorate the battles that occurred on September 29-30, 1864. Living history encampments, a look at the role of African American troops, walking tours and weapons demonstrations presented throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

September 26-- "Songs Around the Campfire."

Few things brought joy to the weary Civil War soldier more than music. Bring a blanket and enjoy local musicians performing a selection of period tunes. Fort Harrison battlefield. 7 pm.

October 3rd --2nd St. Festival.

Join the Historic Jackson Ward Community and Maggie L. Walker NHS in a celebration of art and business. Musical performances, historic house tours, and arts & crafts for children.

October 3-4--Living History Encampment at Drewry's Bluff.

Living history with Confederate sailors and artillerymen portraying garrison life at Drewry's Bluff. Walking tours throughout the weekend. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 10 am to 3 pm.

October 9-11--Richmond Folk Festival at the Tredegar Iron Works

Enjoy some of the best folk music along the East Coast. Concerts, crafts, films and special activities begin Friday at 6 pm.

December--Holiday Programs.

Enjoy the Walker family traditions during the month of December. The site offers special tours, musical performances and arts & crafts for children.



“Reading” History at the Shelton House

How often have we visited historic houses and wondered to ourselves “if this house could talk, what stories would it tell”? Fortunately for us, historic preservation specialists such as conservators, historians, and architects have the tools to study, or “read,” historic structures for evidence of their construction, use, and change over time—often revealing wonderful hidden stories in the walls, floors, ceilings, attics and other built features.

The Shelton house – a family property from the mid-1720s to 2005 – is a perfect example of how this process of observation, study, and documentation provides new and fascinating information on the evolution of a structure throughout its life. NPS staff members are currently investigating the “time-

line” of the Shelton House through archival research and by studying the historic “fabric” of the house.

Even early in the investigation, we are learning valuable information about the colonial origins of the house and its early floor plans, as well as the many changes that occurred between that time and the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek in 1864. As part of a Historic Structures Report, samples of paint, wallpaper, and other materials will be examined in the conservation lab to determine dates; other studies of doors, hardware, and architectural trim will be conducted in the near future. Stay



NPS conservator Barbara Yocum and park preservation carpenter Bill Reese remove centuries of wall paper specimens from the Rural Plains’ wall.

tuned as we turn the pages on this fascinating “reading” adventure!

Park Enhances its Web Offerings

If you’ve visited Richmond National Battlefield Park’s web site at www.nps.gov/rich lately you may have noticed some improvements.

On Earth Day this year, the park launched its new EarthCache program, a scavenger hunt using a handheld GPS device, a park map and a compass to find clues along battlefield tour routes. Earthcachers receive a certificate of completion from the park when they are done.

The park has created two short movies that interpret elements of the park story, “Cannoneers to Your Posts” and “Torpedoes at Drewry’s Bluff.” They can be found in the Photos and Multimedia section of the park web site.

The park has also moved into the so-

cial networking world by creating a Richmond National Battlefield Park fan page on Facebook.

When you join Facebook and become a fan of Richmond National Battlefield Park, you will receive park updates and reminders of special events. The page also contains videos and photos of past special events, such as our recent, highly successful programs at Cold Harbor and Gaines’ Mill. Join our growing community of fans by signing on to Facebook at www.facebook.com and searching for Richmond National Battlefield Park.



Richmond National Battlefield Park’s new Earthcache program went live on Earth Day 2009.

Keep checking the parks’ web sites at www.nps.gov/rich and www.nps.gov/mawa for additions and improvements that are coming soon.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Quarterly

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dating from 1898 to 1935. The Stallings family loaned this important archival material to the College for processing and digitizing. The documents will eventually be donated to the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site and made available to researchers.

The celebration concluded with the presentation of the first annual Maggie L. Walker Heritage Award to the Stallings family. The award acknowledges their generous contributions toward helping us better understand and appreciate Maggie Walker’s progressive leadership during the Jim Crow era. The event was so successful that another is planned for next April. We hope to see you there.

Locations of front page images (left to right): Chimborazo Medical Museum; Cold Harbor battlefield; Drewry’s Bluff battlefield; Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site; The Parsonage at Malvern Hill battlefield; Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works.



Park Curator Klydie Thomas and College of William and Mary professor Dr. Heather Huyck, who leads the SHARPE Maggie Walker Seminar, present the Maggie L. Walker Heritage Award to Mrs. Stallings, owner of the St. Luke building.