



THE OLD LINER



Springfield Armory National Historic Site to honor workers and families in Worker Weekend, Sept. 9 and 10



Black and white image of three rows of women in uniform. Women Ordnance Workers.NPS

Kelly Fellner, NPS, August 17, 2023

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – Join Springfield Armory National Historic Site and the Friends of Springfield Armory as we celebrate the stories of former Armory workers. Friends and staff will offer a weekend of free activities and programs focusing on labor history highlighting connections with Springfield and surrounding communities September 9 and 10.

“Worker Weekend 2023 marks the beginning of an annual tradition honoring the workers of the Armory, which was in operation from 1797 to 1968 and has deep roots in Springfield,” said Superintendent Kelly Fellner. “We are grateful for the efforts of the members of the Friends of Springfield Armory and Jessica Scott, PhD candidate in public history at UMass Amherst. Jesse’s enthusiasm and dedication to the weekend brings our vision to life

while helping to connect with members of the community.”

Springfield Armory has partnered with the Friends of Springfield Armory to offer Voices of the Armory from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. The community is welcome to share armory memories and be part of the celebration. Activities include a panel discussion with relatives of Springfield Armory employees, sharing memorabilia, ranger-led programs, and refreshments.

Enjoy a special first-person performance Frances Perkins: A Woman’s Work by storyteller Jarice Hanson on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. The performance is free and funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Springfield Cultural Council. Temporary exhibit Frances Perkins: The Woman Behind the New Deal, on loan from the Frances Perkins Center in Newcastle, Maine, will be on display in the museum throughout the weekend.

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Pea Ridge National Military Park to Host “Raise the banner. Raise it high, boys!” on Saturday, August 26, 2023

The National Park Service invites the public to attend "Raise the banner. Raise the banner. Raise it high boys!" on Saturday, September August 26th. The one-hour program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center auditorium and will explore the service and history of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K, during the United States' Civil War.



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For more information, please call 479-451-8122.

Pea Ridge National Military Park preserves and commemorates the March 7-8, 1862, battle that helped Union forces maintain physical and political control of the state of Missouri. Administered by the National Park Service, the 4,300-acre battlefield is located 10 miles north of Rogers, just off U.S. Highway 62.

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New Preservation Activity Marks 161st Anniversary of Battle of Cedar Mountain

Federal Battlefield Land Acquisition matching grant secures protection of 7 acres at Cedar Mountain Battlefield as supporters look toward state park opening

Mary Koik, ABT, August 9, 2023

(Culpeper, Va.) — Virginia bore witness to more than 40 percent of Civil War engagements, more than any other state, and Culpeper County was at the center of the action. Historians have assessed that it was the “most marched upon, camped upon, and fought upon” county in the nation throughout the conflict, but its bloodiest day came on August 9, 1863, amid the Battle of Cedar Mountain. As local residents and preservationists finalized details for the fight’s 161st anniversary this summer, they rejoiced in the National Park Service’s announcement of a \$429,372.50 matching grant toward the protection of 7 further acres at Cedar Mountain.

“The American Battlefield Trust has long been committed to the protection of important historic landscapes at Cedar Mountain, Brandy Station and other battlefields in this region,” said organization president David Duncan. “Projects like this help us bolster those holdings and create the critical mass of battlefield necessary for robust interpretation, especially as we approach next summer’s opening of Culpeper Battlefields State Park.”



Cedar Mountain looms largely over the site of main Union attack on August 9, 1862. Douglas Ullman, Jr.

Thanks to the availability of grant funds, the Trust took ownership of the property prior to the battle anniversary. Although other steps remain before full “victory” can be declared on the project, local battlefield boosters share the Trust’s excitement for this latest addition — and the broader attention being paid to the battle.

“Local residents as well as history buffs are visiting the battlefield in increasing numbers to learn about the events that occurred here and enjoy new programs and amenities. This year’s anniversary events unveiled the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation’s Kids Camp, which brought families and spectators to the field to learn more about both battle and everyday life in camp



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through drill and even a taste of hardtack,” said CMBF’s Diane Logan. “Preservation of this additional battlefield land creates more opportunities for research and enhanced interpretation – what a marvelous anniversary present!”

Earlier this year, the American Battlefield Trust launched a campaign to preserve a combined 104 acres at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain, pursuing federal and state matching grants to leverage against member donations toward the goal. The Cedar Mountain property is immediately south of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson’s command post near Crittenden’s Gate and contiguous to other protected lands, making it a key addition to the future battlefield park. Previously, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation also awarded a grant toward the project.

Administered by the National Park Service, the ABPP Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant aids in the permanent protection of hallowed battlefield land. The successful program also administers grant programs in Preservation Planning, Battlefield Interpretation and Battlefield Restoration. This awards package included a total of \$2.2 million to aid in the protection of 238 acres across seven battlefields including Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina, as well as Virginia. In announcing the grants, NPS Director Chuck Sams noted “[NPS] is proud to help these state organizations and their partners to preserve and protect the irreplaceable historic and cultural landscapes in their communities through local stewardship of these hallowed grounds.”

Set to open next year, the Culpeper Battlefields State Park was brought to fruition in 2022 after the Commonwealth of

Virginia approved the budget for a new unit of the state park system. The park will be formed through a 1,700-acre donation of Trust-owned land on the Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelly’s Ford and Rappahannock Station Battlefields. While master planning and features of the upcoming state park continue in anticipation of the opening, the seven additional acres will further enrich the story and history told in the region.

Cedar Mountain/ Slaughter’s Mountain



Culpeper County, VA | Aug 9, 1862

Maj. Gen. John Pope was placed in command of the newly-constituted Army of Virginia on June 26th. Pope's orders were to defend Washington DC and Union-held northern Virginia while the Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan battled Robert E. Lee outside of Richmond. When McClellan was defeated at the end of the Seven Days battles less than a week later, Lee turned his attention north toward Pope while McClellan regrouped his army. Pope's three army corps were arrayed in a line from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Rappahannock River. Lee responded to Pope’s dispositions by dispatching Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson with 14,000 men to Gordonsville towards the center of Pope's line. Jackson was later reinforced by Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill’s division. On August 6th,



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Pope marched his forces south into Culpeper County with the objective of capturing the rail junction at Gordonsville. On August 9th, Jackson and Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks's Second Corps of Pope's army tangled at Cedar Mountain with the Federals gaining an early advantage. A Confederate counterattack led by Hill on the Union right repulsed the Federals and won the day. Confederate Brig. Gen. Charles Winder was killed. The battle at Cedar Mountain shifted fighting in Virginia from the Peninsula to Northern Virginia, giving Lee the strategic initiative.

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American Battlefield Trust Statement on Vote Against New County Designated Historic Places in Prince William

National preservation organization disappointed that county has declined to initiate investigation into this fitting designation for historic landscapes with close ties to area's Civil War history

Mary Koik, ABT, July 26, 2023

(Washington, D.C.) – Yesterday afternoon the Prince William Board of County Supervisors entertained public comment on measures to consider three sites put forward by the Prince William Historical Commission for potential inclusion in the roster of County Designated Historic Places. Unfortunately, despite feedback from the National Park Service, the American Battlefield Trust, and other organizations, as well as a number of private citizens, the board voted against taking even this preliminary procedural step on two of the three sites. The Blackburn Ford area, associated with that 1861 engagement, was

the only one of the three to pass for further consideration. Reacting to the disappointing news, Trust President David Duncan made the following statement:

“Prince William County is blessed with a rich historic landscape acknowledged by authoritative federal entities as tied to some of the most significant moments of the Civil War. Allowing the consideration of the Rock Hill Farm and Pageland Farm areas, associated with the 1862 Battle of Second Manassas, as potential County Registered Historic Sites would have been a nonbinding step. It would merely have acknowledged that these places, elements of which are already included in the Virginia Landmarks Register, National Register of Historic Places and the legislative boundary of a national park might be deemed worthy of listing in a county-level directory.

“It is shortsighted of officials to decline even this preliminary level of consideration, despite the recommendation of the County Historical Commission. The Trust owns 146 acres within what had been proposed as the Rock Creek Farm area, nearly half of its footprint, which makes our disappointment keenest on that count. As an impacted landowner, we would have enthusiastically welcomed this designation and shared how our rigorous evaluation process prior to purchase demonstrated tremendous historic significance for this region during the battle and its aftermath. I sincerely hope that in their continuing rush to embrace data centers, officials do not further lose sight of the irreplicable historic resources that have long set their community apart.”

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Unpublished letter by Abraham Lincoln discovered in Pennsylvania

Short handwritten note was for Charles Ellet Jr, who had written to US president for civil engineer corps during civil war



Portrait of Abraham Lincoln by the photographer Alexander Gardner. Photograph: Photo 12/UIG/Getty Images

Richard Luscombe, The Guardian, 5 Jul 2023

A previously unpublished letter written by Abraham Lincoln during the civil war has been discovered and put up for sale in Pennsylvania, offering rare insight into the US president's strategic thinking in the first year of the conflict.

The recipient of the short-handwritten note was Charles Ellet Jr, later a colonel in the Union army who wrote to Lincoln seeking the formation of a well-funded civil engineer corps to help fortify Washington against the Confederate threat.

An 1886 menu from Chicago's The Palmer House, where Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, Sarah Bernhardt, and Ulysses S. Grant ate.

Oyster stew, sturgeon soup: historic menus from Lincoln's inaugural to San Quentin prison

Dated 19 August 1861, four months after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter marked the outbreak of hostilities, the letter had been concealed in a private collection for more than 100 years and only came to light this year, according to Nathan Raab, principal of the Raab Collection of civil war and other historical artifacts.

“Discovering unpublished, unknown letters of Abraham Lincoln is increasingly rare,” Raab said in a statement accompanying a notice of the document's upcoming sale on the collection's website for its estimated \$85,000 value.

“[His] autographs and historical documents are among the most collected and are always in demand. His letters are known for their great clarity and economy of words – never two where one would suffice.”

Raab said the letter “fills in a part of the historical record that had been missing”, namely its position in a chain of communication detailing Ellet's efforts to seek the foundation and funding for a civil engineering corps to “survey terrain, disrupt Confederate supply chains and defend the city of Washington”.

The responsibilities, Ellet believed, were beyond the capabilities of the US army's tiny corps of engineers, which was founded six decades earlier.

But in the letter from the White House, which he referred to as the “Executive Mansion”, Lincoln sidestepped the request. He told Ellet to consult three of the president's top generals, Winfield Scott, Joseph Totten and George McClellan, whom Lincoln dismissed as commander of the army of the Potomac, then beat in the 1864



presidential election five months before he was assassinated.

“You propose raising for the service of the US a Civil Engineer Corps. I am not capable to judge of the value of such a corps; but I would be glad to accept one if approved by Gen Scott, Gen McClellan & Gen Totten. Please see them and get their views upon it,” Lincoln wrote.

McClellan, however, refused to meet Ellet and the project was shelved until 1862, when a Union fleet was destroyed by the Confederate ironclad ramming ship Merrimack at the battle of Hampton Roads.

The humiliation prompted Lincoln to appoint Ellet, then 52, as an army colonel to lead a hasty construction program. Ellet was shot aboard one of the Union’s own ironclad vessels on the Mississippi river later that year in the battle of Memphis and died two weeks later.

Raab said there was no record of Lincoln’s letter having reached the market publicly before or appearing in any published works.

“Its existence is referenced in a privately printed work by a descendant of Ellet, though even here its content is not noted,” he said in a statement.

A thriving market exists for civil war memorabilia, with autographed Lincoln artifacts in particular demand. The most expensive to change hands was a copy of his 1863 Emancipation Proclamation owned by the family of another assassinated president, John F Kennedy, which sold at auction at Sotheby’s in New York for \$3.8m in 2010.

A signed copy of Lincoln’s 1864 election victory speech sold for \$3.4m a year earlier,

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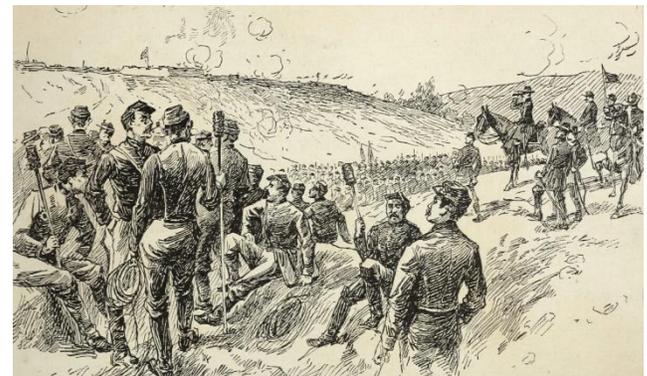
one of five documents to have achieved a selling price in excess of \$3m.

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CHARGING IN THE DARK, THE GALLANT ATTACK OF THESE GUNNERS LED TO THE BREAKTHROUGH AT PETERSBURG

These Rhode Island cannoneers were all recognized for their valor on that April 1865 day.

By Robert Grandchamps, HistoryNet, 8/14/2023



Volunteers of Battery G, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery ponder their pending attack on the Confederates’ Petersburg lines. (Library of Congress)

In the early morning hours of April 2, 1865, a collection of Vermont soldiers and Rhode Island artillerymen performed what was aptly remembered as “one of the most perilous exploits of the war.” During the Union assault at Petersburg, Va., the New Englanders captured two Confederate howitzers and, as the battle raged around them, reversed the guns and began firing at the Rebels. For their contributions in the eventual Union victory that broke the Confederate lines around Richmond, leading



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to Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox one week later, seven members of the battery and two Vermonters received Medals of Honor.

Representing the Ocean State in this daunting mission was Battery G of the 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery. No surprise, as artillerymen from Rhode Island were regarded by many as the best in the Union Army. The nation's smallest state would, in fact, send 10 batteries to the front during the war, all of them trained by the Providence Marine Corps of Artillery, a militia organization dating back to 1801. Battery G was mustered in in the fall of 1861, the unit an amalgamation of Yankees from the rural parts of Rhode Island, the sons of the business elite from Providence, and Irish and German immigrants.

First engaged at Yorktown, Va., in April 1862, as part of the 2nd Corps, the battery would fight at Fair Oaks on the Virginia Peninsula and in the subsequent Seven Days' Battles. At Antietam in September 1862, its guns were heavily engaged at the Dunker Church and in the Bloody Lane and were again in the fray that December at Fredericksburg. In May 1863, Battery G suffered severely during the fighting at Chancellorsville and, after being transferred to the 6th Corps, took part in a rear-guard action near Gettysburg in July.

TIME TO STRIKE

The following spring, the 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, still attached to the 6th Corps, served prominently in the Overland Campaign, and in the fall was engaged in the Shenandoah Valley. Early in the clash at Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, the battery—now under the command of Captain George W. Adams, a tough, no-

nonsense but respected combat veteran—was overrun. It would lose nine men killed and two guns before reinforcements helped produce a monumental Union victory.

After a winter spent reorganizing the unit, including consolidation with the 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery's Battery C, the refurbished Battery G arrived back at the Petersburg siege lines in February 1865. By late March, after the Army of the Potomac had spent nine grueling months besieging Richmond and Petersburg, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant sensed a potential breakthrough for his Union forces. Lee's lines were stretched to the breaking point, as his 40,000 or so men tenuously defended a 40-mile front. With Confederate deserters pouring in each day, Grant felt it was time to strike.

His plan to capture Richmond and end the war was set in motion on March 29, as the Cavalry Corps and the 5th Corps swung to the left and on April 1 captured the strategic crossroads at Five Forks. Yet Grant, unable to flank Lee's defenses, ordered a frontal assault by the Army of the Potomac on Petersburg itself, to begin at 4 a.m. April 2.

It was the task of Major Andrew Cowan's 6th Corps' Artillery Brigade to provide supporting fire for the assault. After receiving notice of the charge, Adams met with corps commander Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright, offering a mission the captain had been considering since arriving in Petersburg. During a charge on the Confederate lines, infantrymen accompanied by select cannoneers would attempt to capture enemy artillery—guns that could then be used both to boost the assault and repel any Confederate counterattack. Adams' remaining cannoneers in Battery G,



meanwhile, would provide support with their own 3-inch Ordnance Rifles.

Before granting Adams permission, Wright “warned him of its extreme danger”; Adams, though, would not back down, finally receiving Wright’s consent. The captain would take only volunteers, however, fearing it was likely to be a costly assault. Stressing the mission’s extreme importance and danger, Adams said none who chose not to volunteer would be looked down upon. Every member of the battery stepped forward instantly, with 20 eventually selected.

Unlike the infantrymen, who were armed with muskets and bayonets, the cannoneers would carry only their friction-primers, sponge-rammers, lanyards, and artillery spikes, which, if the men faced trouble, could be pounded into the guns’ vents to render them inoperable.

“A SHORT BUT DESPERATE FIGHT”

At 10 p.m. on April 1, all eight 6th Corps batteries launched a heavy bombardment on the Confederate defenses, which fortuitously masked the noise of the forming infantry. By midnight, the 6th Corps infantry had formed en masse in front of the Confederate works.

Axmen would lead the assault, cutting away defenses so the infantrymen could quickly exploit the breach. The soldiers were ordered to load but not cap their weapons, to prevent accidental firing. Silence was vital. The men were threatened with death if they spoke.

Adams’ detachment reported to Colonel Thomas W. Hyde’s 3rd Brigade, moving into position near Fort Welch. The 6th Corps formed in the shape of a spear, with Maj. Gen. Frank Wheaton’s 1st Division on the

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right, the 2nd at center, and the 3rd on the left—roughly 14,000 men total. Hyde’s brigade, in Wheaton’s center, was to swing left after entering the entrenchments to cut off the Boydton Plank Road and then the South Side Railroad. It was a moonless, misty night with a heavy ground fog hanging over the trenches—so thick that most soldiers couldn’t see 20 yards ahead. After 4 a.m. passed without a signal, as Grant waited for the fog to lift so the advancing columns would not be struck by friendly fire, Adams asked his men once more if any wanted to return to Battery G’s main position. Three did.

The first shot was finally fired at 4:40 a.m. by the 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery’s Battery E on the corps’ extreme left. Immediately, every gun in the Army of the Potomac opened fire, including Battery G’s four pieces. Because of the cannonade’s immense noise, there was a 10-minute delay before the men realized the barrage had been the signal to advance.

Recorded Dr. George Stevens of the 77th New York: “Without wavering, through the darkness, the wedge which was to split the Confederacy was driven home.” Many of the 6th Corps’ batteries, however, fired only about a dozen rounds before stopping to avoid the “friendly fire” casualties Grant had feared.

As Hyde deployed his brigade, Adams and his men lost contact with the New Yorkers to their right and instead angled left, following Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Grant’s Old Vermont Brigade. The Vermonters rushed onward in total darkness, aiming for a 600-yard long ravine leading directly to an expected weak point in the Confederate line.



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As the Federals advanced, the Confederate defenses came alive. The Rebels, though poorly equipped, clearly had plenty of fight left in them. The guns Battery G had been sent to capture happened to be firing canister and were wrecking the Vermont lines. In merely 15 minutes, 1,100 6th Corps soldiers went down.

Regardless, the 17 Rhode Islanders pushed ahead, and within minutes Union infantry were scrambling into the Confederate forts, many firing a single volley and going in with bayonets. After crossing the deadly killing ground, the Rhode Island detachment angled for its prime destination, an earthen gun emplacement near a swamp in a woodlot. They promptly obeyed a “Capture that battery!” directive from the Vermonters.

Defending the line of earthworks around the fortification was a North Carolina brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. James H. Lane, who had positioned two 24-pounder howitzers at a vulnerable opening and another howitzer, two cannons, and an 8-inch mortar on the right of the ravine through which the Vermonters were charging.

Captain Charles Gould’s Company H, 5th Vermont, which had lost its way crossing no-man’s land during the initial bombardment, leaped into the redoubt, with 30 men following Gould for the cannons. A fervent hand-to-hand clash ensued.

Gould, who would receive a Medal of Honor for his actions, recalled it as “a short but desperate fight.” After the defenders abandoned the position, his unit quickly re-formed and pushed on.

Following directly behind Gould was Major William J. Sperry of the 6th Vermont. Upon seeing the two abandoned howitzers, he directed a dozen men to have the guns reversed and then fired at the fleeing Confederates. Some of his men and a few wayward members of the 11th Vermont were ordered to load the pieces, but Sperry, unable to locate friction primers, resorted to having his soldiers fire blanks into the cannons’ vents.

When the Battery G gunners arrived to find the Vermonters furiously working the howitzers, Sperry surrendered the position to Adams’ men. (The major later received a Medal of Honor as well.)

Some of Adams’ men had understandably worried the assault would inflict a high casualty count, but that was not the case. A ragged final volley by the scrambling North Carolinians did wound two cannoneers, however. Private Luther Cornell received a devastating right shoulder wound from a Minié ball, an injury from which he never recovered, and Private George W. Potter was blinded in the left eye.

Knowing a fierce struggle still lay ahead, Adams had little choice but to relieve his severely wounded cannoneers, ordering them to the rear. Cornell succeeded on his own, but Potter needed to be carried by two comrades. That left Adams with 13 men.

VICTORY AND RECOGNITION

At the South Side Railroad, the 6th Corps re-formed and swung left, capturing hundreds of prisoners while tearing up the tracks but also taking heavy losses as they pushed toward Hatcher’s Run. Nearly 50 Confederate guns would be captured, including a dozen in Battery G’s sector



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alone, but the remaining 13 Rhode Islanders could man only the two captured 24-pounder howitzers.

Union officers had trouble keeping their commands together, with their men, on the brink of victory, excited and energized. As the sun rose, however, the Confederates made a determined stand to hold their line and directed their fire at Battery G's new position. Despite a hurricane of lead, the Rhode Island boys stood firm.

In the early morning light, with the unnerving cavalcade of shouting and Minié balls providing perhaps a perfect backdrop, the artillerists continued to load and fire their captured howitzers. The sustained fire and additional Union reinforcements finally pushed back the last remaining Confederate defenders.

The Rhode Islanders would fire nearly 100 rounds total during the brief engagement. According to one postwar account: "The men who served this gun so nobly, standing up unflinchingly before the terrific fire of the enemy were rewarded for their bravery and daring."

Corporal Edward P. Adams was among the members of Battery G to be excluded from the assault force despite volunteering. He never forgot his comrades' heroism, writing, "The Captain and his trained men with steady tread marched up with the Corps until the opportune moment when, rushing with great impetuosity they scaled the earthworks and crowned their undertaking with success...."

A good cross-section of the state was represented in what was labeled by one historian as "Adams' intrepid band of cannoners." Sergeant Archibald Malbourne,

a mill worker from West Greenwich, had recently transferred from Battery C, as had Sergeant John H. Havron, an Irish immigrant now living in Providence. Corporal James A. Barber was a fisherman from Westerly who joined in 1861 and was one of the few surviving Westerly Boys. Private John Corcoran was a machinist from Pawtucket who had served in Battery C. Private Charles D. Ennis came from a farm in Charlestown, while Corporal Samuel E. Lewis and the grievously wounded George W. Potter were from Coventry.



Three of Battery G's Medal of Honor recipients. (L-R) Private Charles Ennis, Corporal Samuel Lewis, and Private George Potter were among the 17 Battery G volunteers recognized with Medals of Honor for their resolute attack on the Confederate lines. (Courtesy of Robert Grandchamp)

Adams nominated all 17 men who followed him into the "jaws of hell" for Medals of Honor, but trouble lay ahead. The commander had led 17 cannoners into the assault, although only 13 were there to work the captured cannons after two were wounded and two others detailed to help those comrades to the rear. Adams never equivocated in establishing that all had been incredibly brave to volunteer.

In April 1866, the 17 Rhode Islanders were recognized with Medals of Honor, and in striking and engraving the 17 medals, the War Department did not differentiate among the names of those who had entered the fort



and those who had gone to the rear—the citation on each reading: “For gallant conduct at Petersburg, VA., April 2, 1865. Being one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting column and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.” Nevertheless, because of federal bureaucracy, only seven would receive theirs. The existence of the other 10 medals has been lost to history.

On June 20, 1866, four medals were delivered to Rhode Island for Sergeants Malbourne and Havron and for Corporals Barber and Lewis, the non-commissioned officers who had led the detachment in the action. There was no formal presentation; they arrived at the men’s homes in simple boxes along with a certificate announcing the award. Unfortunately, the officer in charge of the process failed to mail them to the privates who had also been recognized.

Potter, Corcoran, and Ennis received theirs in 1886, 1887, and 1892, respectively. When Adams inquired why the Medal of Honor had not been awarded to all at an earlier occasion, he received a nonplussed response: “It is possible that these soldiers have been overlooked, this particular service having been performed so near the close of the war.”

Adams already had a brevet of major for his heroism at Cedar Creek. Instead of receiving the Medal of Honor for planning and executing the mission, he was rewarded with brevets of lieutenant colonel and colonel. He wasted no time in sewing his eagles to his uniform, but his pay grade remained at the rank of captain.

The Battery G men took part in the pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia to

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Appomattox and were then mustered out in June 1865. Now part of Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg, the site of Battery G’s charge remains one of the most decorated places in American military history.

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TRANSFORMED FROM A COLONIAL TOWN TO A POPULAR D.C. SUBURB, FALLS CHURCH HOLDS A HANDFUL OF HISTORY

Located just six miles from Washington, D.C., the Virginia city had a divided population during the Civil War.

By Mel9ssa A. Winn, HistoryNet, 7/31/2023



The Falls Church. The church’s congregation disbanded as the war broke out, with some families fleeing the village. Confederate forces occupied the church in August and September 1861. In 1862, Union troops began to use the structure as a hospital. By 1865, the church had been stripped of furnishings, and graffiti covered the walls. One Union soldier removed the baptismal font and asked the local postmistress to help him ship it home; instead, she hid it until the war ended. In 1866, the U.S. Army inexpertly repaired the church. The congregation formally reorganized in 1873 and elected a vestry that included former Federal soldiers who



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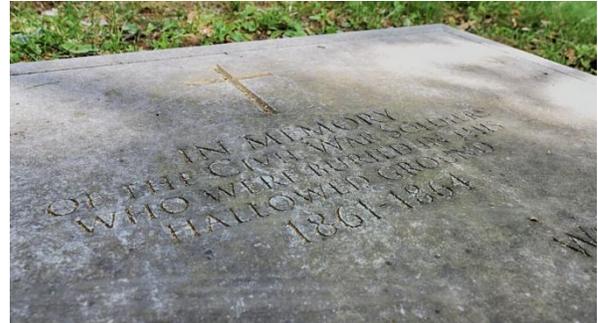
had moved to Falls Church. (Photo by Melissa A. Winn)

A handsome stone church, nestled in the intersection of Fairfax and South Washington streets, embodies the central history of this “little city” in Northern Virginia. Established in the early 1730s as a member of the official Church of England, the then-wood church became known as the one “near the falls” of the Potomac River, and soon thereafter as “The Falls Church,” a name adopted by the community that developed around it and the city itself when it was incorporated in the 20th century. George Washington was an early vestry member and participated in the decision-making that led to the building of the current, Georgian-style stone structure with Palladian windows, completed in 1769.

Located just six miles from Washington, D.C., and settled by many northern colonists, the city’s population was divided in 1861 over secession and many left town when the state of Virginia ultimately voted in favor of it. Confederates occupied the town and the church until silently withdrawing in September 1861 to Centreville, Va. By 1862, the Federals had moved in to occupy the town, the neighboring high grounds at Munson’s and Upton’s Hills, and the church, which was used as a hospital and later a stable.

Confederate Ranger Colonel John S. Mosby reigned terror over the city, conducting raids of it throughout the summer and fall of 1864. In October, his men shot and killed Frank Brooks, a Black member of the highly unusual interracial Falls Church Home Guard, and kidnapped and later killed abolitionist John Read, who is buried in the Falls Church Cemetery. A visit to the church

and its cemetery are a must for history enthusiasts on any tour of Falls Church. A half dozen Civil War Trails signs lay mostly within walking distance and will bring you along the city’s journey from sleepy colonial town, through the Civil War, Reconstruction, and to its reemergence as a metropolitan provision for the capital of the United States.



Falls Church Episcopal Church Cemetery, Falls Church, Va. (Photo by Melissa A. Winn)

Written in Stone

115 E. Fairfax St.

Several memorial stones lay within the Falls Church Episcopal Church Cemetery to commemorate its history, especially during the Civil War. The New York Memorial Stone commemorates New York soldiers buried in the churchyard, including many who died while camped at nearby Upton’s Hill. Some of their remains have been removed to Arlington National Cemetery or family plots. A separate memorial stone in the graveyard commemorates Union soldiers buried here and another commemorates Confederate soldiers buried here, including several unknown. Two poignant markers lay at the head of the walkway leading to the church, including one for James Wren, who designed the church and one “with gratitude and repentance” to honor “the enslaved people whose skills and labor helped build The Falls Church.”



Fort Taylor Park, Falls Church, Va. (Photo by Melissa A. Winn)

Fort Taylor Park

15 N. Roosevelt St.

On June 22, 1861, Thaddeus Lowe and 15 men arrived here, at the site of Taylor's Tavern, with his balloon Enterprise. Earlier that day, Lowe and his team had inflated it at the Washington Gas Works. Over the next three days, Lowe made several tethered ascents, the first aerial reconnaissance in American military history. Over a 34-day period that summer, Lowe made 23 flights from nearby Fort Corcoran and Ball's Cross Roads (present-day Ballston). These ascents drew the first rifled artillery fire at a balloon from Confederate positions.



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Galloway Methodist Church Cemetery, Falls Church, Va. (Photo by Melissa A. Winn)

Galloway Methodist Church Cemetery

306 Annandale Rd.

In 1867, African Americans built Galloway United Methodist Church and established the historic cemetery here. According to local tradition, before and during the Civil War, enslaved people on the Dulany plantation secretly worshiped in the grove of trees at the center of the cemetery. Those buried here include Harriet and George Brice and Charles Lee, a free man of color, who served in the 10th USCI. A large grave marker notes the burial site of Eliza Hicks Henderson, who escaped bondage after the Battle of Vicksburg in 1863, and walked from Vicksburg to Washington, D.C., to rejoin her family. She concealed her young son, William Henderson, in a trunk.



Cherry Hill Farmhouse, Falls Church, Va. (Mark Summerfield (Alamy Stock Photo))

Cherry Hill Farmhouse 312 Park Ave.

Although soldiers repeatedly overran and raided Cherry Hill Farm during the Civil War, this circa 1845 farmhouse and the 1856 barn behind it survived almost intact. William Blaisdell of Massachusetts paid \$4,000 for the 66-acre property in 1856. The



migration of Northerners to this area resulted in a populace of mixed loyalties on the eve of the Civil War. Blaisdell and 25 others in the Falls Church District voted against secession in the statewide referendum held on May 23, 1861, while 44 voted in favor. The Blaisdells, like most families in town, felt the effects of both Confederate and Union occupation. Cherry Hill offers free tours of the farmhouse Saturday mornings, April through October, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Private tours can also be scheduled year round. cherryhillfallschurch.org



Northside Social, Falls Church, Va. (Photo by Melissa A. Winn)

Northside Social
205 Park Ave.

The original house here, “Cloverdale” has late–18th century roots and once faced the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike. It saw its fair share of marauding armies during the Civil War, and by the 20th century the building was home to the American Legion Post 225. After years of neglect, instead of demolition, the structure was adaptively reused into the restaurant and cafe it is today.

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If you are lucky, you can catch one of their afternoon tea events.

www.northsidesocialva.com/location/falls-church

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THE TEXAS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM LOWERS ITS FLAG

The Fort Worth museum is shuttering its doors in December 2023.

By Donald L. Barnhart, Jr. HistoryNet, 7/24/2023



Display cases with historic firearms at the Texas Civil War Museum, which exhibits more than 5,000 items from oilman Ray Richey’s private collection. (Courtesy of Donald L. Barnhart Jr.)

The Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth, one of the country’s largest such facilities, will close its doors on December 30. After 16 years of operation, Texas oilman Ray Richey and his wife, Judy, have decided to retire. “It was a hobby that got out of hand,” Richey professed in 2006 when he opened the 15,000-square-foot facility to house his extensive personal artifact collection.

Touted as the largest Civil War Museum west of the Mississippi River, the building



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has more than 5,000 artifacts on display, valued at \$15 million–\$20 million. Included are Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s presentation sword, Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s saber and personal battle flag, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler’s dress uniform, and Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan’s saber and saddle blanket. The country’s second largest Civil War gun collection is also on display.

The north wall of the exhibit hall features Union artifacts, the south wall Confederate. In addition to the Civil War artifacts, Victorian-era dresses are featured, including one worn by Lady Randolph Spencer Churchill, Winston Churchill’s mother.

The Richey collection will be auctioned off by The Horse Soldier Auctions in Gettysburg, Pa. The Civil War artifacts of the Texas United Daughters of the Confederacy—also displayed at the museum—will be stored at another location, with portions to be occasionally loaned to other museums.

“What a great gift Ray and Judy provided,” says Texas historian Don Frazier. “Ray had an eye for antiques. There’s not another collection like it. It’s the end of an era.”

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Margaret Mitchell's Secret

William M. McKinnon M.D., August 7, 2023, blueandgrayeducation.org



Margaret Mitchell | LOC

Of all the burial sites at Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, the one most often visited is that of Margaret Mitchell. Her Pulitzer Prize–winning novel *Gone With the Wind* was published in 1936 to immediate acclaim.

It is fitting that Mitchell is buried at Oakland. Growing up nearby, she witnessed Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies each year, and listened to the remembrances of elderly friends and family members who recalled in detail their experiences during and just after the war. The book was penned based on these memories of her family and friends as well as the historical record.

In 1922, as “Peggy” Mitchell she became a newspaper writer for the *Atlanta Journal Sunday Magazine* and, in 1925, married John Marsh, director of the publicity department of the Georgia Power Company. When complications of a broken ankle kept her bedridden and bored, John, tired of bringing her library books, suggested she write a novel herself. And write she did; her



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novel of 1,037 pages was largely written in three years. Thinking it unworthy of publication, she kept the manuscript hidden. She finally showed it to Harold Latham, an editor for the MacMillan company, and the book was published in 1936.

The film came out in 1939, debuting in Atlanta before a whites-only audience. Mitchell and others (including Clark Gable) were unhappy that black cast members like Oscar-winner Hattie McDaniel were not permitted. Gable threatened to boycott the opening if McDaniel was not allowed to attend; he relented only after a personal appeal from McDaniel not to disrupt the occasion. Still, some blacks were present—ten-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr., was a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church choir that sang at the opening.



*Hattie McDaniel, Olivia de Havilland, and Vivian Leigh in a publicity photo for *Gone with the Wind* | public domain*

In 1940, Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, a University of Chicago religion professor, became president of Atlanta's Morehouse College. Morehouse was a small college for black men and on the edge of financial ruin. Mays worked to remedy the situation by soliciting donations from the wealthy citizens of Atlanta, both black and white.

Previous letters from Mays to Mitchell requesting funds had gone unanswered as they were intercepted and declined by her husband. This time, Mays sent a message to Margaret via a student courier and asked her for \$80 for the tuition of a worthy student. She agreed to donate with the firm understanding that no one would ever know of her generosity. In the coming years, more and more checks followed, but the two never spoke and never met.

For over a decade they exchanged over 60 letters, stressing that she would “prefer the students to be chosen on a basis of character, good will toward their fellow man, and willingness to work, rather than on brilliance or high scholastic grades alone.” Her generosity supported completion of medical school training for dozens of Black men—all in secret.

In 1984 Dr. Otis Smith, the first licensed Black pediatrician in Georgia, revealed he had been the first recipient of financial support under the Mays-Mitchell agreement. The secret was then out.

Margaret Mitchell died in 1949 after being struck by a speeding automobile as she and John crossed Peachtree Street. Eugene Muse Mitchell, Margaret's nephew, continued the family tradition of philanthropy, and in 2002 he donated 1.5 million dollars to establish a Margaret Mitchell Chair in Humanities and Social Sciences at Morehouse College. In 2005 he donated another 1.5 million dollars for scholarships to the new Morehouse College School of Medicine.

This daughter of the South saw a need for change, and quietly acted. She might not have known what other societal changes would be seen in the decades to come, but I



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think she had faith in the future, for as
Scarlett said, "Tomorrow is another day."

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