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A HISTORY OF  
PETERSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK  
VIRGINIA

by

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1957

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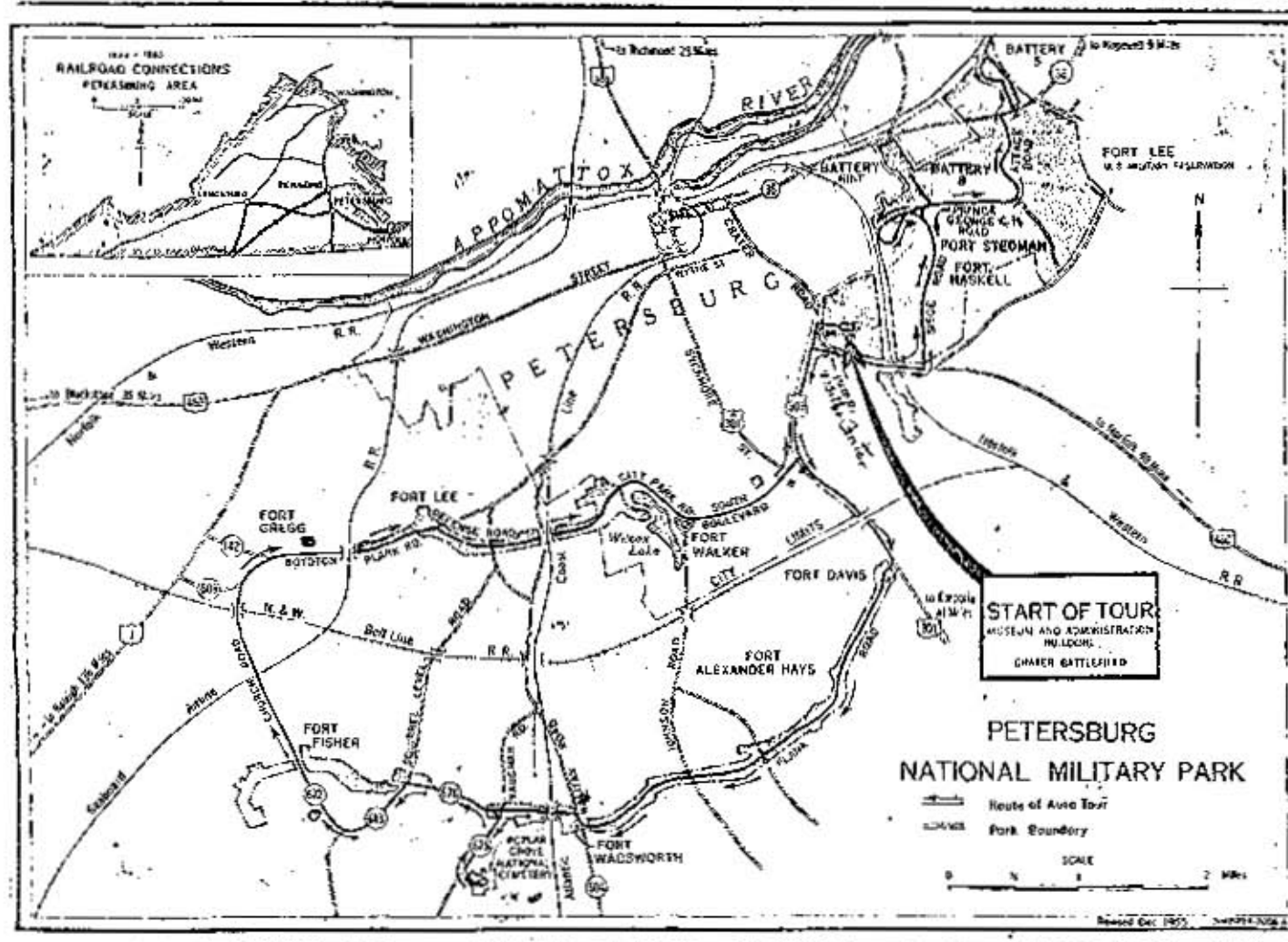
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## HISTORY OF PETERSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

### Geographical Setting

Petersburg National Military Park is located at Petersburg, Virginia, twenty-three miles south of Richmond, the State Capitol. Petersburg is situated on the fall line of the Appomattox River, which flows into the James River at Hopewell, 9 miles east. When tidal conditions are normal, the harbor at Petersburg has a minimum width of about 80 feet, and is approximately 12 feet deep. The river channel to Hopewell, which is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, averages at low tide 12 feet. The close proximity of Hopewell, for all practical purposes, affords the city a deep water terminus. However, railroads and trucking within the past twenty-five years have all but eliminated commerce by water at Petersburg. Plans have been approved to deepen the channel should a demand for increased water transportation arise. Because of its favorable location, Petersburg has been, throughout its history, an agricultural and commercial center.<sup>1</sup> The neighboring counties Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Chesterfield, are primarily agricultural, although certain areas of the latter two have become essentially industrial in character.

Petersburg is located in a temperate climate zone, which is shown by the mean temperature of 58° for the years 1951 - 1955. The temperature extremes between 1951 and 1955,

were a low of 6° F. plus and a high of 105° F. plus. The average rainfall was 3.65 inches per month during the same period.<sup>2</sup>

Approximately 1,233 acres of the Park on the eastern edge of Petersburg are within the boundaries of Prince George County, while the western outlying portions of the Park holdings, 142 acres, are in Dinwiddie County. The extension of the Petersburg city limits, as of January 1, 1956, included 130 acres of the Park in the vicinity of, and including the Crater. The entrance to the Park, leading to the Visitor Center and the Crater Battlefield is located near the junction of U. S. Routes 301 and 460. The Park, which contains 1,505 acres, extends from the Battery Five area east of the city and near the main gate, to Fort Lee, United States Army Military Reservation, westward almost 10 miles to Fort Gregg (Union), southwest of the city.<sup>3</sup>

#### Historical Sketch of Petersburg Before 1860

The history of Petersburg stems from the settlement "Appomattuck," which was shown on Captain John Smith's map of Virginia in 1612. Fort Henry, built in 1645 at the falls of the Appomattox River, stood within the present-day boundaries of Petersburg. This fort served as a trading post and offered protection for the settlers against Indian attacks. The present name of the city is derived from Peter Jones who operated an

early trading post here. In 1738, the town was laid out, and in 1748, it was incorporated.<sup>4</sup>

With the intent of occupying Petersburg and thus cutting off General Nathanael Greene's communications to the north, British troops, about 2,500, under Generals William Phillips and Benedict Arnold, landed at City Point on April 24, 1781. The march to Petersburg began the next morning at 10 o'clock. After a brief rest halt at Whitehill, a residence located in the present Battery Five area of the Petersburg National Military Park, Phillips moved his troops into Petersburg. The British occupation of the town was accomplished after a stiff encounter with the militia, about 1,000, under General Peter Muhlenburg. Some of the fighting occurred over ground which 83 years later became the Crater battlefield area. Tobacco and other public stores were destroyed during the British occupation. On May 10, 1781, General Lafayette placed his artillery on the opposite side of the Appomattox River and shelled the British headquarters in Petersburg. Three days after Lafayette's bombardment, General Phillips, who had been ill with fever for some time, died and was interred in Elandford Cemetery. Several unsuccessful attempts have since been made to locate his grave site. Lord Cornwallis, moving up from North Carolina, joined his forces with those of Arnold, at Petersburg, on May 20th, and four days later they moved

eastward in the direction of Yorktown, where the surrender occurred on October 19, 1781.<sup>5</sup>

The second war with England broke out in 1812, and on October 21, of that year, the Petersburg Volunteers, 103 men under Captain Richard McKee, were mustered into federal service. The conduct of the Petersburg Volunteers at Fort Meigs, in 1813, caused President Madison to dub Petersburg as the "Cockade City of the Union," a sobriquet which has persisted up to the present day.<sup>6</sup>

Petersburg continued to expand as an industrial and agricultural center, with tobacco as its foremost product. Coincidental with the growth of the city was the development of the railroads and roads which later were to give Petersburg its importance in the Confederate States. The first of the railroads entering Petersburg was constructed in 1837, to connect the town with City Point (now Hopewell) 9 miles east. City Point, on the James River, was a busy terminal for the ships carrying freight and passenger traffic along the coast and on the river. Race tracks, theatres, and its famed taverns such as Niblo's, Dodson's, and the Golden Ball, were popular attractions for travelers and local inhabitants. The 1850's were prosperous years for Petersburg, then a city of 14,603, and many of the fine Greek Revival homes which still survive, were built in those years.

The city boasted some splendid and handsomely uniformed militia companies, such as the Grays, the Artillery, the City Guard, and the Petersburg Riflemen. Troop musters, parades, and other celebrations, held on Poplar Lawn in the heart of the city, were gala occasions for ante-bellum Petersburg. On April 21, 1861, the day following Virginia's secession from the Union, five Petersburg companies, about 400 men, left for Norfolk, where they were mustered into the Confederate service. Three years later, some of these same men, those who had survived Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, returned to defend their home city.<sup>7</sup>

#### The Petersburg Campaign, 1864-1865

Petersburg served the Confederacy as a vital rail and supply hub. Into the city from Lynchburg, 120 miles west, came the Southside Railroad. The railroad from Weldon, North Carolina, entered Petersburg from the south. At Weldon a railroad ran southeast to Wilmington, a port for Confederate blockade runners bringing in to the Confederacy supplies from Europe. The Norfolk railroad came into the city from the east, as did the railroad from City Point. City Point was captured by Union forces in May 1864, and served as General Grant's headquarters and supply depot during the Petersburg campaign. In addition to the railroads, and of perhaps lesser importance,



were the highways or plank roads which entered Petersburg from almost every direction. The principal roads were: the Cox Road (now U. S. Route 460 west); the Boydton Plank Road (now U. S. Route 1); and the Jerusalem Plank Road, which ran southeast to Jerusalem (now Courtland), in Sussex County, Virginia.

Realizing how easily General McClellan could have taken Petersburg in 1862, at the time of the Peninsula Campaign, defenses were constructed around the city in 1862-3. When completed, the line extended for ten miles around Petersburg and contained emplacements for 55 artillery batteries, which were numbered consecutively from east to west. These defenses were unofficially called the "Dimmock Line" in honor of Captain Charles H. Dimmock, Confederate Engineer Corps, who had supervised their construction.

Memorable in the annals of Petersburg's history is the Battle of June 9, 1864, when Union forces numbering approximately 3,000, infantry, and 1,500, cavalrymen under Brigadier-General A. V. Kautz, attempted to seize the city. The Union infantry took up positions east of the city, and over-estimating the Confederate strength, remained inactive, while Kautz with his cavalry approached Petersburg from the south on the Jerusalem Plank Road. Kautz's advance was checked by a small force of Confederate regulars and the home guard of about 125 militiamen



composed of youths between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, and men between the ages of forty-five and fifty years of age. After fighting for about 3 hours, Kautz became convinced that Petersburg could not be taken, and withdrew.

After his repulse at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864, General Grant temporarily abandoned his main objective, which was the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia, in favor of taking Richmond. His plan was to capture Petersburg, roll up the Confederate defenses between there and Richmond, and finally invest Richmond itself from the west. The capture of Petersburg would leave the Confederate capitol city with but one railroad, the Richmond & Danville, and this Grant proposed to cut after taking Petersburg. Crossing the James and Appomattox Rivers over pontoon bridges, the Union forces arrived east of Petersburg on June 15th, and attacked the Confederate line that evening about seven o'clock in the vicinity of Battery Five.

By midnight nearly two miles of the Confederate line had been captured. The Confederates fell back to take up new positions along Harrison's Creek. Bitter fighting continued the next two days and, on the night of June 17, the Confederates withdrew to a new line much closer to the city. Heavy Union attacks the next day failed to break this line. An unsuccessful attempt was made June 21-22 to cut the Weldon Railroad south of

the city. At this time it became apparent that the struggle for Petersburg would be a lengthy one, certainly, much longer than originally had been foreseen. Orders were issued, July 9th, from Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, outlining the conduct of future operations which would now assume the characteristics of siege warfare. Working parties from the Ninth and Fifth Corps were detailed to the chiefs of engineers and artillery, for the construction of fortifications. Materials such as gabions, fascines, and sandbags, necessary for the building of fortified positions were to be prepared by troops detailed from units behind the lines.<sup>8</sup>

The spectacular mine explosion and the Battle of the Crater, July 30, 1864, marked one more attempt by the Union forces to enter Petersburg by a frontal attack on the Confederate defense line.

At noon June 25, 1864, men of the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment, Ninth Union Army Corps, began digging a tunnel which was ultimately to extend beneath the Confederate line at Elliott's Salient, east of the city. The Union plan was to explode a large charge of powder and blow a gap into the line, through which the Union forces were to attack while the Confederates were still dazed and confused from the shock of the explosion. When completed on July 23, the tunnel was 536

feet in length. Rumors of the tunnel reached the Confederates soon after the Union mining operations began, and on July 1, countermines were started in an effort to locate the Union mine tunnel. About 4:45 a.m. on the 30th, a tremendous explosion shook the earth east of the city; the mine of 8,000 pounds of powder had exploded forming a crater nearly 170 feet in length, 60 feet wide, and about 30 feet deep. Two hundred and seventy-eight Confederates lost their lives in the explosion. Poor planning and leadership on the part of the Union commanders muddled the attack. By 2:30 p.m., after three counter-attacks by Confederate troops under General William Mahone, the broken line was restored. Union casualties were estimated at slightly more than 4,000, which included about 2,000 prisoners, while the Confederate casualties were approximately 1,500.

On the seventeenth of August, General Gouverneur Warren was directed by Grant to move his corps against the Weldon Railroad and destroy as much of the track as possible. Warren's troops reached the railroad on the 18th near Grove Tavern, about three miles south of Petersburg. For three days there followed a bitter contest for the railroad. Finally, on the 22nd, the Confederates withdrew, and the left flank of the Union Army now rested on the Weldon Railroad. This was the first of a series of flanking moves which would ultimately decide the fate of Petersburg.

Confusion reigned at City Point, on September 16, when about 4,000 cavalrmen, under General Wade Hampton, rode behind the Union lines and captured over 2,400 head of cattle plus more than 300 prisoners, and eleven wagons of supplies -- all within five miles of Union Army headquarters at City Point. Efforts to intercept Hampton's raiders on their return trip failed. The "Cattle Raid" was accomplished with a loss of only 61 men.<sup>9</sup>

Now that the Weldon Railroad had been cut, the attention of General Grant was directed towards reaching the Southside Railroad and the Appomattox River, west of Petersburg. After heavy fighting in the area of Peeble's Farm, September 30 - October 1, the Union lines were extended 2 miles west of the Weldon Railroad. It was in this area, west of the railroad, that Forts Umston, Conahey, Fisher, Welch and Gregg, were later constructed.

On October 23, the Confederates occupied a new line, which extended 5 miles southwest of Petersburg, to Hatcher's Run. A drive towards the Southside Railroad by the Union II and V Corps, was turned back by the Confederates, October 27, at Burgess Mill, where the Boydton Plank Road crosses Hatcher's Run, and at the southernmost end of the new lines of Confederate defenses. During the winter, the Confederate lines near Burgess Mill were extended westward, along the White Oak Road,

to the Claiborne Road. On February 9, 1865, following an unsuccessful move on the Boydton Plank Road, the Union forces fell back and established a line, which extended from the vicinity of Fort Fisher  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south to Hatcher's Run. In September, 1864, Union engineers began work on constructing a railroad from City Point to the western flank of Grant's army south of Petersburg. Branch lines were built, and when completed in February, 1865, the City Point & Army Line had a total of 21 miles of track. This railroad served as the principal supply artery for the Union Army.

Just before dawn, March 25, 1865, approximately 12,000 Confederates, led by General John B. Gordon, attacked the Union lines east of Petersburg at Fort Stedman. The plan of the Confederates was to cut the Union supply railroad at Meade's Station, about a mile to the rear of Fort Stedman, and to drive a wedge into Grant's lines. Lee's defense line, in the spring of 1865, extended for 35 miles, from the White Oak Swamp east of Richmond to Hatcher's Run, southwest of Petersburg. A thrust at the Union Army, east of Petersburg, would perhaps compel Grant to withdraw troops from his lines along the Boydton Plank Road. This would relieve the pressure that was being exerted on the thinly held line to Hatcher's Run, and permit a safe route over the plank road, should Lee wish to evacuate Petersburg. Success marked the Confederate attack at the

beginning. The line south of Fort Stedman was seized as far as Fort Haskell, where the garrison checked the Confederate drive. To the north of Fort Stedman, about half a mile, the Confederates were stopped just short of Battery Nine. About 7:30 a.m., Union troops of General John Hartranft's division, Ninth Corps, counter-attacked, and by 8:00 a.m. the Confederates had been driven back.

Four days after the Battle of Fort Stedman, General Phil Sheridan's cavalry and Warren's V Corps were sent southwest to Dinwiddie Courthouse with the purpose of moving up and cutting the Southside Railroad and reaching the Appomattox River west of Petersburg. Confederate troops under Generals George Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee scored a minor victory on March 31st, near Dinwiddie Courthouse, when they turned back advanced elements of Sheridan's command. The Confederates seeing they were heavily outnumbered, withdrew and entrenched at Five Forks, three miles south of the Southside Railroad. Sheridan attacked at Five Forks the next day, April 1st, about 4:00 p.m., and by nightfall the Confederates had been defeated. Their success at Five Forks now enabled the Union forces to reach the Southside Railroad and the river. On the following day, April 2nd, about 7:00 a.m., Union forces attacked the defense line at Petersburg, and by 9:30 a.m. the line which led to Hatcher's Run had been captured. The Union troops

now returned in full force to attack the defense line west of Petersburg, which extended from Fort Gregg on the Boydton Plank Road north to the river. Taking advantage of the time gained by the heroic defense of Fort Gregg, the Confederates fell back to a new line east of Old Indian Town Creek. Bonfires dotted the Confederate lines around Petersburg that night, and at about 8:00 p.m. the Army of Northern Virginia began leaving the city. Richmond was evacuated that same night. By 4:30 a.m., April 3, Michigan troops had placed their flags on the Petersburg Courthouse and Post Office. A week later the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Court House, 100 miles west of Petersburg.<sup>10</sup>

#### Petersburg Battlefields, 1865 - 1929

Within four months after Appomattox, there appeared some indication that the battlefields at Petersburg would become an attraction for the traveling public. A former lieutenant in the 16th Virginia Regiment, W. B. Hawes, announced in the Petersburg Daily-Index, July 4, 1865, that he had opened a "Retreat" in the vicinity of Fort Stedman where wines, malt liquors, lemonade, and cakes would be sold. The announcement further stated that:

"The umbrageous foliage of the grove, the verdure of the adjacent grounds, and the famous military works immediately at the spot, all form rare attractions for the visitor and the tourists."

The battlefields around Petersburg attracted quite a number of



travelers soon after the end of the war. Visitors from the north usually arrived by steamer at City Point and from there made the trip by rail to Petersburg. For the benefit of the increasing number of battlefield tourists, Jarratt's Hotel, in Petersburg, in 1866, published A Guide to the Fortifications and Battlefields Around Petersburg. A survey conducted in 1955, gave every indication that this 27-page paper-bound booklet was the first published guide book of its type of a Civil War battlefield area. Included in the guide book is an account of a tour of the battlefields taken by Orange Judd, editor of the American Agriculturists. Judd noted that hundreds came daily to Petersburg to visit the battlefields. Remains of thousands of soldiers' huts dotted the area and long rows of surviving abatis and fraise were to be seen on the tour. Gabions and other wooden survivors of the fighting provided a source of fuel for some local inhabitants, recorded one visitor from Scotland.<sup>11</sup> Judd listed as the most interesting sites on the field to visit: Fort Gregg (Confederate), Fort Fisher, the signal tower on Peebles' Farm, Poplar Grove Church (present site of Poplar Grove National Cemetery), Forts Wadsworth, Sedgwick, the Crater, and Fort Stedman. A tour of these points required one day on horseback, and covered approximately twenty miles.

Although large numbers of travelers were attracted to the Petersburg battlefields soon after the war, there were no



serious efforts made to preserve the physical reminders of the war. However, the Crater offered some exception. As the years passed, earthworks began to disappear under cultivation, or into obscurity with heavy vegetative growth. Indeed, as early as June 25, 1867, one visitor wrote:

"... He who seeks, by a survey of the ground at this day to re-establish in his own mind the old lines of the Army of Northern Virginia, in front of Petersburg, has before him a difficult task, unless he was an actor in the scenes that took place here ... His imagination must restore those broken redoubts and trenches that, starting from the Appomattox, swung around the circle of the arc towards Hatcher's Run.

"At present the lines are little more than imaginary lines, broken here and there by embankments and trenches partly filled up by the plow of the husbandman. True, there are traces everywhere of the trail of war winding about over the hills, but to define and mark with the vision a continuous line is difficult. ... The implements of husbandry have, in many places, triumphed over the implements of war ... .<sup>12</sup>

Had the local farmers of that period possessed the power implements of the present there perhaps would be little remaining today of the 65 miles of earthen fortifications built by both armies at Petersburg. Possibly the greatest loss inflicted by agriculture was that of Fort Morton, which had served as a headquarters for General Burnside during the Battle of the Crater. Fort Mahone, on the Confederate line, had disappeared and its site was a matter of controversy, by June 1907, when the A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans were endeavoring to mark certain points of interest on the Petersburg battlefields.<sup>13</sup>

Buildings and other structural reminders from the war began to disappear from the scene soon after 1865. The signal tower at Peebles' Farm, constructed in February 1865, was demolished about 1867 and the material used in the building of a dwelling on the site, which burned in 1835.<sup>14</sup> The wooden log chapel of rustic design, which had been built by the 50th New York Engineers on the present site of Poplar Grove National Cemetery, was razed by April 1868. The chapel was considered to be of such architectural interest that a group in the North tried to promote a plan and obtain funds to have the structure moved to New York for exhibition purposes. This effort was unsuccessful and the chapel was soon demolished thereafter, because of its decayed and unsafe condition.<sup>15</sup> The Avery House, which had served as a headquarters for Union forces and as a signal station, was destroyed within a few weeks after Appomattox.<sup>16</sup> It stood about a mile east of Petersburg. Globe Tavern, focal point of the fighting on the Weldon Railroad in August 1864, was demolished after 1865.

What might have been today the sole remaining building of Civil War association within the Park boundaries was demolished in 1923. Whitehill (Friend House), located near Battery Five and the Jordan House, served as a headquarters building and signal station for the Union forces. During World War I the house was the headquarters of the



Whitehill (Friend House) as it appeared in 1918.

Camp Lee Motor Transport Corps. The razing of Whitehill was described by the Petersburg Progress-Index, July 28, 1935, as "one of the most amazing pieces of stupidity of its kind on record here." Major Joseph Mills Hanson, Historical Technician, Petersburg National Military Park, in an article published in the American Legion Monthly expressed hope that some day Whitehill would be restored, ". . . at least in semblance, as the most fitting place and convenient site for the headquarters of the military park."<sup>17</sup>

#### The Crater

A greater part of the interest shown by tourists in the battlefields at Petersburg during the early post-war years was centered around the Crater. Its owner, William H. Griffith, appears to have been aware of the importance of preserving the Crater as a site of historical significance, and of its potentiality as an attraction for tourists. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Magazine, August 19, 1865, contained a sketch of visitors gathered at the Crater, although the artist for this publication took considerable license in depicting the terrain. Mr. Griffith began to collect objects found in the cultivation of the fields in the Crater area, and started what might be considered as the nucleus of the present museum of the Petersburg National Military Park. Visitors were charged 25¢ to see the Crater and Mr. Griffith's collection. A visitor to

the Crater in 1867 has left us with a graphic description of the appearance of the area in the early post-bellum years:

"... I found myself impelled towards the Crater, following out the Jerusalem Plank Road. Half a mile from Blandford, going nearly southward, a new road starts out east and a sign board pointed 'To the Crater.' Several hundred yards across the field, on the brow of the hill, yawned the Crater, looking black and uninviting."

"... About a year since, being in needy circumstances, Mr. Griffith, encouraged by the number of visitors, conceived the idea of preserving the crater intact, as the war had left it ...; and with that view he enclosed it, and added some conveniences and attractions. Walks were laid out, and steps planted by which the mouth of the crater is reached. Several tenements were built -- one, the 'Crater Saloon,' where visitors can refresh themselves; and the other a museum ... . A small fee is expected but not demanded."<sup>18</sup>

A register book opened in 1867, which contains the names of many prominent persons who visited the area after the war is still preserved at the Park.

The Reverend David MacRae, a Scottish minister who toured the southern states in 1868, described his visit to the Crater in The Americans At Home published in 1871:

"... A booth had been erected beside it (the Crater) now, where relics of the fight were sold, and 25 cents charged for admission to the ground. The Major's Major Giles B. Cook, CSA/uniform, however, gave an official air to our visit, and we were charged nothing. There is still a vast hollow in the earth, though the look of the place has changed ... in consequence of the falling in of the sides. Human bones were still lying about, and shreds of uniform and cartridge-pouches and bayonet scabbards, some then scorched and curled up as with fire."<sup>19</sup>

Efforts to collect the admission fee very often must have drawn violent protests from visiting war veterans. One South Carolina veteran, who had lost a brother in the war, described his visit to the Crater about 1900:

"A hired man, perhaps a Yankee, stays around the Crater and pretends to know everything about it and charged me 25 cents for talking and telling me what I, to a great extent, knew. I told him on principle I refused to pay it ... a place I had helped to make historic by deeds of sacrifice."<sup>20</sup>

On November 6, 1903, veterans of Mahone's command gathered for a reunion at Petersburg. It was a grand event for Petersburg and judging from the press reports, everyone in town turned out for the occasion. During the afternoon the veterans assembled at the Crater and staged a re-enactment of their famous charge of July 30, 1864. The Richmond Howitzers and the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues were among the visiting historic military units participating in the re-enactment. It was at this reunion of Mahone's troops that Douglas Southall Freeman became inspired to write a history of the Army of Northern Virginia. The ultimate result was the publication of the definitive R. E. Lee and Lee's Lieutenants.<sup>21</sup>

The Crater Farm passed from the possession of the Griffith family when it was sold in 1918. In 1926, the property was conveyed to the Crater Battlefield Association, which maintained a museum, the Crater, and the remains of the tunnel; and constructed a golf course on the surrounding grounds.

### The Tunnels and Fort Hell (Sedgwick)

The Confederate tunnels near Battery 25 (Fort Damnation) were opened September 2, 1925, to the public with an admission charge, by David Lyon, Jr. Governor Elbert Lee Trinkle of Virginia attended the opening ceremonies. Condemned as unsafe for further visitation unless drastic means were taken for the support of the roof, the tunnels were closed in 1943. Mr. Lyon, on July 4, 1932, opened a museum at Fort Hell (Fort Sedgwick) with an admission charge to the museum and fort. This establishment is still maintained by Mr. Lyon as a commercial enterprise.<sup>22</sup>

### Monuments Erected on the Petersburg Battlefields

Within the present boundaries, and in the vicinity of the Park, ten monuments of consequence have been erected, which commemorate participants or events in the Petersburg campaign. Below these monuments are listed with their locations and dates of dedication:

1. First Maine Heavy Artillery Monument, near Colquitt's Salient, September 30, 1895.
2. Statue of Colonel George W. Gowen, Union Ninth Army Corps, junction of U.S. Routes #301 and 301A, June 20, 1907.
3. Johnson Hagood's Brigade (South Carolina) Monument, battlefield of the Battle of the Weldon Railroad, August 18-21, 1864, at Fort Wadsworth, 1908.
4. Third Division (Pennsylvania Regiments), Union Ninth Army Corps, interior of Fort Stedman, May 19, 1909.
5. Third Division, Union Ninth Army Corps, on approximate site of Fort Mahone, South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Virginia, May 19, 1909.

Dedication of Maine Monument  
Sept. 30, 1895



6. Monument to the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment, Crater, May 19, 1909.
7. Ninth of June Monument, U. S. Route #301 (Crater Road), May 1909.
8. Massachusetts Monument, Crater entrance road, November 13, 1911.
9. Soldier's Spring Memorial, near Hospital Gate entrance to Fort Lee, U. S. Army Military Reservation, October 1912.
10. South Carolina Monument to Elliott's Brigade, Crater, 1923.
11. General William Mahone Monument, Crater battlefield, July 30, 1927.<sup>23</sup>

A small marker was placed by Union veterans on the site of the Union mine tunnel entrance at the Crater, May 19, 1909, at the time the monuments at Fort Stedman and on the site of Fort Mahone were dedicated. The A. P. Hill Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in 1911, placed markers at Fort Gregg, Colquitt's Salient, and at Lee's Dam, and Battery 45.

#### The Ninth of June Memorial Day at Petersburg

Even the most concise summary of the post-war years at Petersburg could scarcely omit a mentioning of the Ninth of June Memorial Day. The Ladies Memorial Association was formed in Petersburg, May 6, 1866, to supersede an earlier organization, the Paroled Aid Society, which had been formed to assist in providing for the needs of the returning Confederate soldiers. The first act of the Ladies Memorial Association, after their main purpose of caring for the graves of Confederate soldiers, was to

set aside the ninth of June as a Memorial Day for the Confederate dead. This was the anniversary date of the battle at Petersburg in 1864. Mrs. John Logan, wife of General Logan, who was then Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, visited Blandford Cemetery on Memorial Day in 1867. Upon learning of the significance of the occasion, Mrs. Logan remarked that she would tell the General of the Petersburg observance. Traditionally, this was the origin of Confederate Memorial Day.<sup>24</sup> For many years the Annual Memorial Day services were conducted in the Confederate burial section in Blandford Cemetery which had been set aside in 1868. In 1901, the City of Petersburg gave Blandford Church\* to the Ladies Memorial Association to be converted by them into a Confederate Memorial Chapel. Services on the ninth of June have been conducted in the church since 1942. Blandford Church is still maintained by the Ladies Memorial Association and the June memorial services are still held under the auspices of the Association.<sup>25</sup>

Efforts to Establish a Park at Petersburg, 1888-1925.

Senator John W. Daniel, the "Lame Lion of Lynchburg," and wounded veteran of the Battle of the Wilderness, introduced

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\*Erected in 1735, Blandford Church was abandoned after the building of another Episcopal Church in Petersburg in 1801. Damages from the effect of Union artillery on the building and nearby graves are still in evidence. Repairs to insure the preservation of the church were made by the City of Petersburg in 1892.

into Congress in 1868, possibly the first bill which would have provided, if it had passed, for the establishment of a battlefield park at Petersburg.<sup>26</sup> Aside from the attitude among the lawmakers in those years toward the establishment of parks by the Federal government, the Civil War was still quite fresh in the minds of many influential Americans in 1868. National Cemeteries constituted an entirely different matter, as evidenced by the early establishment of cemeteries at Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, City Point, and other sites.

Petersburg National Battlefield Park Association, 1898-1910

Although there were many individuals who advocated the establishment of a park at Petersburg, the first concerted and serious effort was made in 1898, when the Petersburg National Battlefield Park Association was formed with General Stith Bolling as its president. It was quite natural that the inception of the battlefield park idea at Petersburg should have been begun by Bolling and other Confederate veterans who were active in local civic and veteran affairs.

General Stith Bolling (1835-1916) served during the War in Company G, 9th Virginia Cavalry, and held the rank of Captain at the end of the war. He was wounded six times. In 1869, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates where he served for two years. In 1870, Bolling was appointed Brigadier-General in the State Militia by Governor Gilbert C. Walker. In 1882, General Bolling was appointed Postmaster at

Petersburg, a position which he held almost up to the time of his death.<sup>27</sup>

The Association grew out of an effort by local groups to support the Epes bill then before Congress. This bill, introduced in 1897 by Representative Sydney P. Epes, Fourth Congressional District of Virginia, proposed the establishment of a park at Petersburg which would be called the Petersburg National Park. The bill provided for a committee of three, each of whom must have participated in one of the battles around Petersburg. Two of the commissioners were to be appointed from civilian life by the Secretary of War, and the other was to be an army officer considered best qualified for the post. Power to acquire the necessary land by condemnation was invested in this commission. The bill asked for an appropriation of \$125,000.00. The Petersburg Daily Index-Appeal, January 14, 1898, lauded the active support of the people of Fredericksburg in the establishment of a park there, and urged the Petersburg Common Council, and other organizations to support the Epes bill. On February 18, 1898, delegates from the Petersburg Common Council, Chamber of Commerce, and the George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, met in the hall of the A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans, to take positive steps toward the support of Representative Epes' bill. The A. P. Hill Camp abstained because it had just recently passed a set of resolutions endorsing the bill. At this meeting, on the 18th, it was decided

not to send a sub-committee to Washington as originally planned, but to inaugurate a move to organize a battlefield park association. George S. Bernard, veteran of the 12th Virginia Regiment, member of the A. P. Hill Camp, and editor of War Talks of Confederate Veterans, spoke of the advantages of a park to Petersburg. General Bolling said that parks were being established elsewhere and that he would like to have some of the money spent here. "It seems to me that we have got to start and make no mistakes," Bolling said.<sup>28</sup>

At a meeting of the sub-committee on organization, March 1898, it was decided to name the association the Petersburg National Battlefield Park Association.<sup>29</sup> The following month a committee was appointed to determine which positions of the battlefield area should be embraced in the park. Mr. Bernard, at a meeting of the Association in April, read an address which had been prepared to sell the people of Petersburg and the neighboring counties on the idea of the park:

"... That the park will make the city of Petersburg and the portions of the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie that will be embraced within its limits a source of attraction to the great benefit of their people, cannot be questioned."<sup>30</sup>

Unfortunately the Epes Bill was before Congress when the outbreak of the Spanish-American War occurred. As a result, the conduct of the war dealt a death blow to the bill, further delaying the establishment of a park at Petersburg. The Petersburg National Battlefield Park Association appears to

have gradually faded out of existence by 1910, if not before that year, as renewed efforts to establish the park in 1907 scarcely mention the Association formed in 1898.

#### Plans for a Park and Crater Re-enactment, 1907

The defeat of the Epes Bill, and the Spanish-American War, only temporarily curtailed the move to establish a battlefield park at Petersburg. There were individuals, chiefly war veterans -- North and South -- whose enthusiasm for the park ran high. However, it was not until 1907, that the move toward a park was renewed with vigor. If there were any local persons inclined to be content to wait until the Federal government established a park, they were reminded of the real situation on May 3, 1907, when the Petersburg Daily Index-Appeal announced that:

"While it is true that in a larger sense the proposed park is not a local matter, the country naturally expects that the people of Petersburg to take the initiative in such an undertaking, and it is clearly their interest and their duty to do so."

The need for a park was again brought to the attention of the public by that same newspaper in June 1907, on the occasion of the dedication of the Pennsylvania monument: "Petersburg could have a battlefield park without a rival in the world, and would attract thousands ... ."31

At a meeting of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors in April 1907, Mr. Charles Hall Davis, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Battlefield Park Committee,

proposed a re-enactment of the Battle of the Crater to be staged with the full cooperation and support of the A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans,<sup>32</sup> which was obtained with little difficulty. The re-enactment was designed as a means to an end -- the end being the establishment of a battlefield park. It was thought that the dramatic presentation would promote favorable public sentiment toward the park. The Daily Index-Appeal agreed that a more opportune moment for this proposal could not have occurred, ". . . when the eyes of the whole country were directed towards Virginia." The re-enactment would be staged at a time when the Jamestown Exposition would be at its height, and it was expected that such an event here would attract a great number of people to the city.<sup>33</sup>

The Petersburg City Council was asked to appropriate \$5,000 to assist in financing the program, which in effect would be an appropriation to aid in the establishment of a battlefield park. Question of the legality of such an appropriation arose among the councilmen, and the matter was referred to the city finance committee. After some delay, the city's attorney gave his opinion on May 7, that the appropriation for such a financial venture would be illegal; however, the city could buy the Crater farm and make a park of it. At the meeting of the Council, Mr. Davis expressed his disappointment and hoped that the Crater farm would be purchased as a stepping stone to a national park.<sup>34</sup> Meanwhile, the scheme for the re-enactment



of the Battle of the Crater was reaching such a scale of grandeur that it was feared by some that the magnitude of the whole thing would imperil its success, and the eventual development of the park. By May 19, 1907, the idea of a sham battle at the Crater had been abandoned because of the growing diversity in the opinion that the battle would actually be a means to the desired end.<sup>35</sup>

Meanwhile, the news of the move toward a park and its failure, had reached an interested Union veteran, James Anderson, in Massachusetts. For a number of years previous to 1907 he had made frequent trips to Petersburg, and because of his amiability and interest in the affairs of the Confederate veterans at Petersburg, had been made an honorary member of the A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans. In a letter to the editor of the Petersburg Index-Appeal, Anderson proposed that the A. P. Hill Camp send a delegation to the Grand Army of the Republic Encampment and request their influence in securing a park. He stated that very few people in the North understood that the people of the South wanted this battlefield park, and that most people of the North thought of the park idea as a move by the Grand Army of the Republic to perpetuate the fall of the Confederacy and were loath to approve a move for fear of offending Southerners.<sup>36</sup> No record has been found to indicate that delegates were sent to the G.A.R. Encampment as suggested by Anderson.



Gettysburg to Petersburg Memorial Road Plan, 1909

In May 1909, Francis Rives Lassiter, who had succeeded Sydney P. Epes as Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Virginia, sought the assistance of General W. W. Wotherspoon, Assistant Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, in framing a bill to mark the points of primary interest on the Petersburg battlefields. A resolution prepared by the Office of Chief of Engineers at the request of Mr. Lassiter, was looked upon favorably by the Military Affairs Committee, but failed of adoption as a result of delays caused by a filibuster in progress at the time. Lassiter's proposed resolution outlined the plan for marking the sites of troop locations at Petersburg. It did not provide for any appropriation for extensive surveys as it was thought that, with the good maps of the area already at hand, funds for the few incidental surveys needed could be had from funds already under control of the War Department. Mr. Lassiter informed General Wotherspoon that, since a conference with officers who were in Petersburg, in May 1909, he was of the opinion that action was not necessary as given in the resolution, which had failed to be adopted, and that the Secretary of War might authorize an officer of the War College to make a special study of the operations around Petersburg, 1864-65, as a part of the regular course. General Wotherspoon agreed with Mr. Lassiter that the War Department could prepare these studies at least up to a certain point.

At the same time Congressman Lassiter was negotiating with the War Department, Mr. Charles Hall Davis in Petersburg was giving his attention to the establishment of a park such as had been set up at Antietam and Gettysburg. Representative Lassiter was endeavoring to interest members of Congress in the park idea, but made little headway as the Senate was almost entirely absorbed with the tariff question. Mr. Davis' scheme for the park featured an elaborate plan for building a memorial road from Gettysburg to Petersburg, which was actually a means toward the establishment of a park at Petersburg that would eventually include tracts of land. This was at the time of the Good Roads Movement in Virginia and it was believed that public opinion would be in favor of a fine road. In June 1909, Mr. Davis received a letter from Lassiter saying that a member of the Military Affairs Committee believed the road project would be more difficult to pass than the park legislation, and that the Speaker of the House, and other leaders, were as unfavorable toward making an appropriation for roads as they were for establishment of battlefield parks.

Meanwhile, Mr. Davis had submitted his plans for the Memorial Road to several individuals for their comments and suggestions. Maj. Isaac B. Brown, Corry, Pennsylvania, was afraid, at the outset, that such a road would postpone to an even more indefinite time the establishment of a park at Petersburg, which was his primary interest. After some consideration

of the plan, however, he agreed that it had many commendable features. Col. Archibald Gracie, whose father, General Archibald Gracie, was killed at Petersburg in 1864, thought the plan an excellent one and suggested that there be formed a "Gettysburg to Petersburg Memorial Road Association." The Association would promote the plan for the road. Col. Gracie, West Point graduate and historian, had in January 1906 expressed his sentiments for a battlefield park at Petersburg in the Confederate Veteran. Col. Gracie believed that if anything was to get through Congress there must be business attached to it; thus the practical utility of the memorial road plan should be emphasized. If it came to a choice between a park and a memorial, both Gracie and Major Brown made it clear that they held for a park. The plan for the road never received a great amount of publicity, if any at all, and soon died out.<sup>37</sup> Three years later, on April 15, 1912, Col. Gracie was the last man saved from the sinking "unsinkable" Titanic.<sup>38</sup>

#### Plans for a Memorial Boulevard at Petersburg, 1913-1924

About 1910, Patrick Henry Drewry, Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, undertook a study of the various attempts which had been made to establish a park at Petersburg. The plan for the park as envisaged by the A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans and other interested persons, was a rather extensive tract of land which ran roughly from the Appomattox River east of Petersburg, south to the vicinity of Fort

Sedgwick (Fort Hell). Mr. Drewry was convinced that the amount of money that would be required to purchase the land in fee simple and to convert it into a park would be so great that the bill would never pass Congress. The Hon. Walter Allen Watson (1867-1919) of Mottoway County succeeded the Hon. Francis Lassiter in the House of Representatives in 1913. Mr. Drewry proposed to Mr. Watson that a bill be introduced in Congress providing an appropriation from the Federal government to construct a memorial boulevard from the Appomattox River east of Petersburg to the river west of the city. The proposed road was to run between the fortifications of the Union and Confederate Armies. The City of Petersburg and its patriotic organizations, according to Mr. Drewry's plan, would form an organization to secure the titles to the property that would be involved, including the remains of the fortifications. While Mr. Watson was in accord with this plan and agreed that it was practicable and feasible, he at the same time wished to carry out the proposals of the A. P. Hill Camp, in that the desired tracts of land be purchased in their entirety.

Mr. Drewry continued to act on behalf of his plan for the road and in early 1913 published a detailed account of his proposal in the Petersburg Index-Appeal. Mr. Drewry's plan for the road was heartily endorsed by the Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The latter organization took the initiative and asked

all patriotic organizations in Petersburg to send two representatives so that a group could be formed for the purpose of promoting the boulevard plan. An organization was formed after a meeting in Mr. Drewry's office in Petersburg; however, it was short-lived. At the request of Mr. Drewry, the United Daughters of the Confederacy took up the plan for promoting the road scheme where the Sons of Confederate Veterans left off. Their usual zeal and untiring efforts kept the memorial road plan alive until it appeared certain that a park consisting of tracts of land, rather than the road plan, would be the plan to be followed.

In 1923, Capt. Carter Bishop, member of the A. P. Hill Camp, informed Mr. Drewry, who in 1919 had succeeded the Hon. Walter Watson as Representative of the Fourth Congressional District, of another plan for establishing a park. Capt. Bishop had discussed the matter at great length with Col. James Anderson, of Massachusetts, who had long been interested in seeing a park established at Petersburg. Both of these veterans had decided that the best thing to do in the way of a preliminary movement was to have the desired tracts of land surveyed, presumably that more accurate figures in acreage and costs could be used in the proposed park bill. Col. Anderson appeared confident that the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, Massachusetts, would introduce the bill. As the Republicans were in control of the organization of the House of Representatives,

Mr. Drewry, a Democrat, thought the bill for the park as presented by Mr. Gillett would carry more weight. When Congress convened in 1924, Mr. Drewry conferred with Mr. Gillett on the proposed bill and just how it should be handled.

The bill, which would have to go before the Military Affairs Committee, was first sent to the War Department for review and suggestions. The Secretary of War reported that while he had no objections to the specific bill, he was not in sympathy with the establishment of any more battlefield parks. In February 1924, Mr. Drewry was concerned over some recent publicity received on the bill, in that it might mislead the public into believing that the bill had progressed much further than it actually had. Mr. Drewry, at this time, summed up the situation as follows:

"We are a long ways away from the establishment of a memorial road by the Federal Government, and the bill which is under discussion, provides only for a survey of a route, and does not mean that Congress will pass a bill authorizing the building of the road. These things move slowly, and it will be years before we reach any such point; and it will take a great deal of good hard work on the part of all of us to get it accomplished."<sup>39</sup>

Although, in 1924, it seemed that the park at Petersburg would take the form of a memorial road as conceived by Drewry, the plan consisting of tracts of land and a system of roadways, as originally planned by others, chiefly the A. P. Hill Camp, had not been entirely abandoned. It should be

stated here that Representative Drewry was not altogether just for his own road plan, but he considered his plan of the memorial boulevard as the one which would have the most appeal to Congress. Capt. Carter Bishop, who shared with many the belief that the South alone could not secure the park, undertook to gain the support of influential Northerners. He obtained the backing of the Governor of Pennsylvania as well as that of James W. Wadsworth of New York. Capt. Bishop's negotiations with the Governor of Pennsylvania were held in view of the outstanding participation of Pennsylvania troops in the Petersburg Campaign. Senator Wadsworth's father, Maj. Gen. James W. Wadsworth, was mortally wounded in the Wilderness, May 9, 1864. The star-shaped fort constructed by Union forces on the Weldon Railroad in August 1864, had been named for the Senator's father. Capt. Bishop's unceasing efforts to secure the support of influential people played no small part in the success of the final bill which was passed establishing the Petersburg National Military Park.<sup>40</sup>

#### The Establishment of the Petersburg National Military Park

On February 11, 1925, the President approved a bill introduced by Representative Drewry, which created a commission to inspect the battlefields at Petersburg, "in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such fields." December 1, 1925, was the latest date on which the commission was to report its findings.



The commission of three members was to comprise a commissioned officer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army; a veteran of the Union Army; and a Confederate veteran.<sup>41</sup> The appointed commission consisted of: Col. James Anderson, Springfield, Massachusetts; Capt. Carter Bishop, Petersburg, Virginia; and Lt. Col. Francis A. Pope, Corps of Engineers, United States Army. Pope served as secretary and disbursing officer of the commission.

On April 18, 1925, the commission, with all members present, met at the City Hall in Petersburg, and elected Col. Anderson as chairman. Several meetings were held thereafter, and inspections of areas desired for inclusion in the park were conducted. The commission submitted their report on November 19, 1925, advising the inclusion of 185 acres of land with appropriate roadways and markers.<sup>42</sup>

Following the report of the commission, a bill providing for the establishment of the Park was introduced into the House of Representatives, January 16, 1926, by Mr. Drewry.<sup>43</sup> The bill was referred back to the House by the Committee on Military Affairs, without comment, on April 15. After passing the House, the bill was presented to the Senate by Sen. James W. Wadsworth, where it was passed and sent to the President on July 2, 1926. President Calvin Coolidge signed the bill on July 3, 1926.<sup>44</sup> Establishment of a battlefield park at Petersburg was now a reality. Almost 30 years had passed since the Petersburg



Battlefield Association had been formed to support Representative Epes' bill for a park in 1898. By the Act of 1926, the affairs of the Petersburg National Military Park were to be conducted by three commissioners appointed by the Secretary of War. An appropriation of \$25,000 was made for the work of the Commission. It was authorized to receive gifts, and contributions from the States, organizations and individuals for the Park; no lands were to be purchased by the Federal government.<sup>45</sup>

#### Petersburg Battlefield Park Association

Public sentiment in favor of the Park was soon shown by the organization of the Petersburg Park Association, formed for the purpose of assisting the Commission in securing the necessary land for the Park, and superintending the transfer of the land to the government. Mr. Franklin Smith, prominent Petersburg businessman, and well known for his long-time interest in the plans for establishing a park, was elected President of the Association. Other officers were: Dr. L. S. Early, Vice President, and member of the Petersburg Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans; Mr. E. P. Hollenga, Secretary; and Mrs. Elizabeth Bolling Cameron, Treasurer, who was also serving as treasurer of the Petersburg Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.<sup>46</sup>

#### Petersburg National Military Park

##### Under the War Department

#### Petersburg National Military Park Commission

Acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, the duties of the Commission were to superintend the opening or

repair of roads, deemed necessary to the purpose of the Park, to mark with appropriate historical markers all earthworks, lines of battle, troop positions, buildings, and other historical points of interest within the Park or in its vicinity.<sup>47</sup>

Members of the first Petersburg National Military Park Commission were: Carter R. Bishop, who accepted his appointment in February 1928; Henry N. Coney, a Union veteran residing in Massachusetts, who was appointed in January 1928; and Lt. Col. Henry C. Jewett, Corps of Engineers, who at the time of his appointment in January 1928 was stationed at the U. S. Engineers Office in Norfolk, Virginia. Lt. Col. Jewett was also Secretary of the Commission.

A report on plans for the establishment of the Park was submitted by the Commission to the Secretary of War, Dwight F. Davis, in June 1928. The commission was guided in its plans by the recommendations as set forth by the Preliminary Commission of 1925, of which Col. Anderson, Capt. Bishop, and Col. Pope were members. The hearings on the bill in Congress, and public sentiment on the Park in Petersburg and neighboring counties were other guiding factors in making up the commission's plans. One hundred and eighty-five acres was the amount of land originally proposed for acquisition by the commission. The commission further recommended:

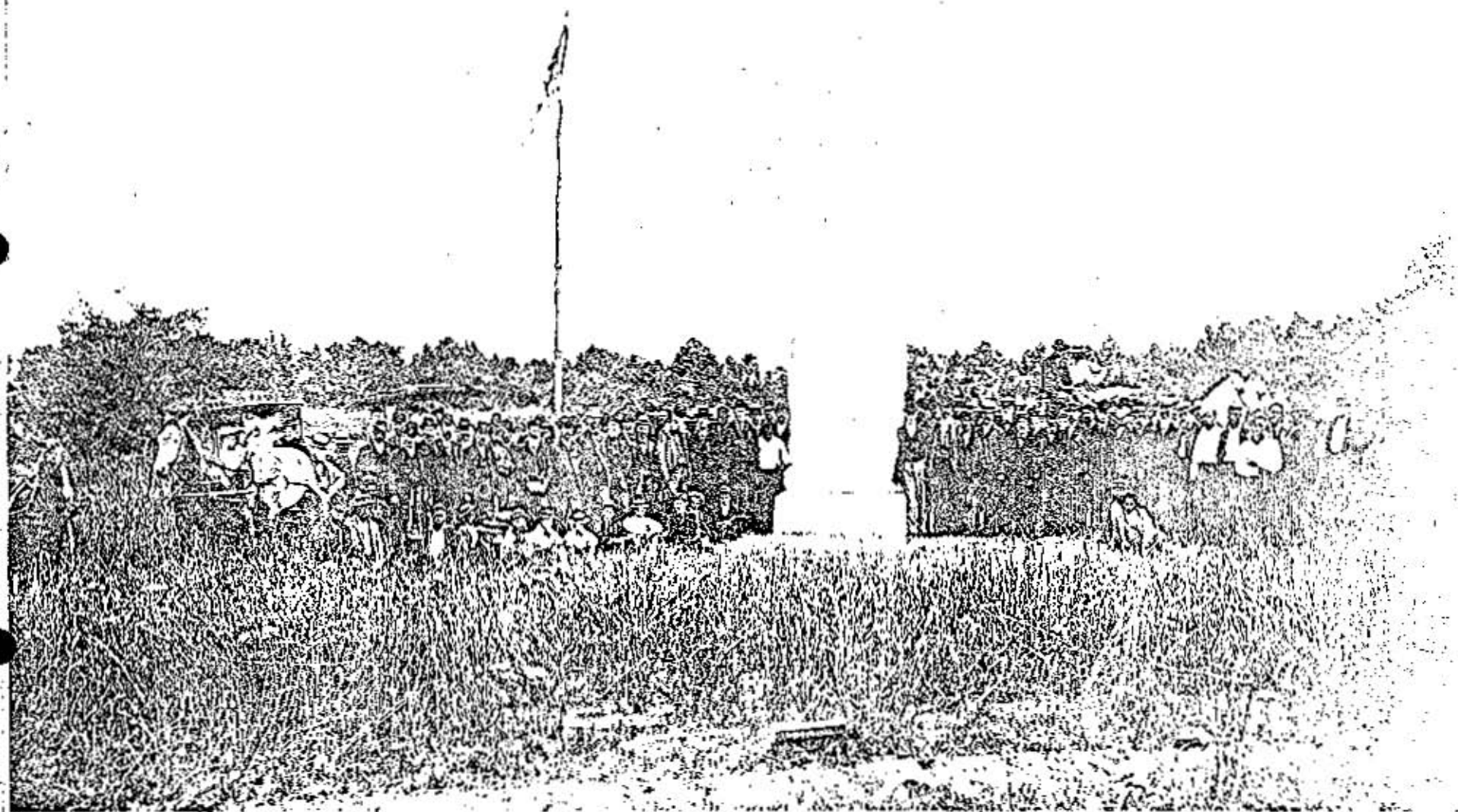
- 1) That roads along each of the main lines of the Union and Confederate Armies, with connecting roads, be constructed.

- 2) To secure the donation of all forts, trenches, and other defenses contiguous to the roads included in the Park,
- 3) The acquisition of the Crater, and that the commission, with the aid of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, would endeavor to acquire the Crater Battlefield.
- 4) In addition to transferring to the Park 200 acres from Camp Lee, it would be desired to increase the acreage in the vicinity of the Jordan House site and Battery Five.

The estimated amount needed to carry out the plan was \$1,065,350. As soon as the commission's plan for the Park was approved by the Secretary of War, an office would be set up and a competent engineer would be hired to survey the parcels of ground needed for the Park. The commission further stated in their report that they "would cooperate with the association of the citizens of Petersburg [Petersburg Battlefield Park Association] in promoting public sentiment on the Park."<sup>48</sup>

The Secretary of War made it apparent in a letter to the commission dated September 7, 1928, that the park would require more land than the originally estimated 185 acres. The Secretary's letter in part read:

"To preserve for historical purpose the breastworks, the earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein. This objective cannot be obtained by merely connecting with a road several isolated forts or earthworks ... It is most important that the Commission make every effort possible to secure the donation of sufficient land to insure the preservation of the forts and trenches adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the road and boulevard system. As far as possible, this land should be in one continuous strip."<sup>49</sup>



Lt. Col. James Blyth who, in October, had succeeded Jewett as member and secretary of the commission, arrived in Petersburg on October 30, 1928. At this time the commission occupied office space on the fifth floor of the Union Trust and Mortgage Company Building, Room Nos. 509 and 516, located on the corner of Sycamore and West Tabb Street, in Petersburg. It was under the guidance of Col. Blyth that much of the land for the Park was surveyed for acquisition, and the early development plans were formulated. By the time Col. Blyth was transferred to Fort Monroe, in January 1930, virtually all of the preliminary work needed for the establishment of the Park had been accomplished. Field surveys of the land involved had been completed, and tracings and descriptions of the desired tracts of land were turned over to the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association for acquisition. By January, 1930, much of the 179.71 acres of land already accepted had been cleared. In this phase of the Park's development the work of the commission was entirely confined to planning, clearing of acquired land, and working with the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association in transferring land to the Federal government.<sup>50</sup>

When Col. Blyth left Petersburg, the responsibility of managing the affairs of the commission was delegated on January 3, 1930, to Col. Tenny Rose, Infantry, United States Army, who was then on duty at Fredericksburg, Virginia, as

member and secretary of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefield Memorial Commission. Col. Ross' duties as a member and secretary of the Petersburg National Military Park Commission were in addition to those at Fredericksburg, where he maintained his office.<sup>51</sup> Periodic trips were made by Col. Ross to Petersburg in order to superintend the work of the Commission.

On June 3, 1930, the Commission vacated its offices in the Union Trust Building and moved into three rooms on the third floor of the Medical Arts Building at Franklin and Adams Streets.

On June 11, 1930, Maj. Arthur E. Wilbourn, Cavalry, United States Army, succeeded Col. Tenny Ross as member and secretary of the Petersburg National Military Park Commission. Like his predecessor, Maj. Wilbourn was also member and secretary of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefield Memorial Commission and maintained his office at Fredericksburg.<sup>52</sup> He was a native of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and had attended Virginia Military Institute, and graduated from West Point in 1904. Major Wilbourn had achieved distinction for his wide historical perspective at the Army's school at Leavenworth and at the War College in Washington before assuming his duties with the Commissions at Fredericksburg and Petersburg.<sup>53</sup> He served as the Executive Member of the two Commissions until 1933, when the parks at Fredericksburg and Petersburg were transferred to the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.



In July 1931 the commission moved from its offices in the Medical Arts Building to a six-room concrete house located on the north side of the Hopewell Road about one and a half miles east of Petersburg. Three rooms were used for offices and drafting rooms and the remainder for storage purposes. The commission moved again, in June 1933, to a space on the second floor (Room 208) of the old Post Office Building on the southeast corner of West Tabb and Union Streets in Petersburg.

Capt. Henry M. Coney, member of the Petersburg National Military Park Commission since 1928, died in Lexington on April 15, 1932. On July 9, 1932, Mr. Seward W. Jones, Boston, Mass., was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Captain Coney. The appointment of Mr. Jones left only one Civil War veteran, Carter R. Bishop, as a member of the commission. Capt. Bishop continued to serve on the commission until the park was transferred to the Department of Interior in 1933.

#### Land Acquisitions, 1929 - 1933

Survey work to determine the boundaries of the land to be acquired began shortly before January 5, 1929, under U. S. Civil Engineer William P. Jervey, a native of Powhatan County, but at the time residing in Norfolk, Virginia. The survey was begun near Fort Stedman. In 1929 it was estimated that it would require at least 5 years to complete the work of establishing the park.<sup>5b</sup>

Under the principles outlined in the Secretary of War's letter to the commission, September 7, 1928, the commission drew its plans for the park and submitted them on April 5, 1929. With certain modifications these plans were approved by the Secretary of War on June 29, 1929. Included in the approved plans was a request for an appropriation of \$780,531.00 to be used in the establishment of the Park.<sup>55</sup>

In January 1930 the commission estimated that 607.40 acres of land were desired for the park. By July of the same year approximately 175.36 acres had been donated or offered for donation. Piece-meal acquisition of land and survey were responsible for the approximation in the acreage figure. Furthermore, no records or minutes were kept of the commission's meeting at this time.<sup>56</sup> A reappraisal of the needed land for the Park was made in 1931, and the original figure of 607.40 acres was reduced to 507.36 acres. The Park at this time was divided into sub-areas as a means of simplifying the procedure in obtaining land. The needed amount in the Battery Five area, 64.13 acres, was the first to be acquired in its entirety. The other areas into which the Park was divided were: Fort Stedman, Fort Sedgwick, Fort Gregg (Confederate), Fort Howard, Fort Unston; all other areas were classified under "detached areas."<sup>57</sup> Of the new amount, 240.91 acres had been transferred to the United States government by the end of the 1931 fiscal year.

In 1932 the total acquired acreage for the Park was



given as 496.39 acres. At the same time, 206.11 acres were reported as having clear titles, and 73.79 acres as having been deeded over to the Federal government, but with unclear titles; 58.71 acres had been promised but not deeded. This left 159.78 acres to be acquired.<sup>58</sup> The estimate of the needed acreage for the Park varies again for the 1933 fiscal year report, this time at 508.31 acres. The acreage acquired with clear titles was still 206.11; land deeded with clouded titles was 104.25 acres, 50.23 acres promised, which left 147.72 acres yet to be acquired.<sup>59</sup> By 1933, when the control of the Park was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service, the Park holdings comprised 346 acres.

Acquiring land for the Park had its difficulties. Misunderstandings with property owners resulted in the failure to obtain at least one historically significant tract of land, which included Union Fort Sedgwick and a section of the Confederate defenses at Rives Salient. The owner of this property, David Lyon, offered to donate about thirty acres, while a representative of the commission tried to bargain for fifty-one acres. The unfortunate result was in that nothing was received.<sup>60</sup> Fort Sedgwick (Fort Hell) is operated today as a private enterprise, and a real estate development in the area has leveled much of the Confederate line.

#### Physical Developments, 1929-1933

Work on clearing and improving acquired land was begun in January 1929 by a temporary force of 32 laborers who also

opened and maintained a temporary road in the Battery Five area, which was the first section to be cleared. Lt. Col. Blyth, addressing the Petersburg Rotary Club March 14, 1929, reported that Forts Walker, Maskell, and Stedman, and Confederate Batteries Four, Five, and Six had been cleared. The public was periodically informed of the progress being made in the development of the Park through Louise Aaron's columns in the Progress-Index. Describing the progress of the Park's development in July 1929, Miss Aaron appropriately noted that:

"Building the park was not merely a matter of erecting monuments and tablets, of constructing fine roads, and publicity. One would hardly have guessed that great stretches of breastworks and other fortifications lay within the tangled undergrowth and dense trees that cover the greater part of the park area. To build a military park meant penetrating those woods and cleaning up."<sup>61</sup>

A short ceremony on the breaking of ground for the construction of the first roadway to be built in the Park was held at Fort Stedman on May 14, 1932. The ground was broken by the Honorable Patrick H. Drewry. Mr. Franklin Smith, President of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, presided at the ceremony. Among those present were: Mayor John R. Jolly of Petersburg; Maj. Arthur E. Wilbourn; Gen. Homer Atkinson, Confederate veteran; and representatives of the City of Petersburg, A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Sons of Confederate Veterans.<sup>62</sup>

The ground-breaking ceremony in 1932 began the construction of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of roadway in the Fort Stedman area. This was accomplished at a cost of \$4,537.85. Local labor was employed from time to time in 1932, to complete the clearing of the Battery Five and Fort Stedman areas.<sup>63</sup>

Much of the work of clearing and developing roads and trails in the Park was accomplished by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. On July 13, 1933, nearly 200 members of CCC Company 1364 arrived from Camp Meade, Md., and established a camp in the Fort Stedman area of the Park. The enrollees were all white veterans of World War I. Work on the Park commenced soon after the camp was completed. Each day, Capt. Richter, United States Army, who was in charge of the camp, assigned working parties to J. V. Colston, Resident Engineer, who directed the work projects. The Progress-Index editorialized on July 17, 1933:

"Even those people who are so short-sighted as to fail to appreciate the value of the reforestation work of the C.C.C. cannot fail to recognize the permanent worth of the work which 200 civilian workers are beginning today in the Petersburg National Military Park. Most people, we daresay, who have not taken the trouble to familiarize themselves with this project think of it as Battery Five on the north side of the Hopewell Highway and the Fort Stedman area on the south side and have a vague idea that in time the park will include a larger territory. The truth is that in six months Petersburg will be almost surrounded by a military park of attractive appearance and, more important still of course, of deep and enduring importance to all lovers of history and especially to students of military history. For this hastened development of the park we have the administration's conservation program to thank."<sup>64</sup>

Dedication of the Petersburg National Military Park  
June 20, 1932

Formal dedication ceremonies for Petersburg National Military Park were held on June 20, 1932, in the Battery Five area. It was estimated that several thousand persons attended, and that over 1,800 automobiles were parked in the area. Present were a large number of veterans and other delegates who were en route to Richmond for the 42nd Annual Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans.

Congressman Patrick H. Drewry, master of ceremonies, introduced the Assistant Secretary of War, the Hon. Frederick Ruff Payns, who delivered the dedicatory address. In his introduction of the principal speaker, Mr. Drewry said that the dedication of the Park marked the accomplishment of nearly a half-century of effort on the part of the people of Petersburg to commemorate the siege of Petersburg. However, Mr. Drewry pointed out that the Park was the result not only of the efforts of the people of Petersburg, Virginians, and Southerners, but that "no greater help was rendered in the matter than by the citizens of the State of Massachusetts, for whose help we here express our gratitude." Mr. Drewry further added that under these circumstances it was especially fitting that the speaker for the dedication ceremony should be from Massachusetts.

The Assistant Secretary of War iterated the significance of the occasion:

"Today marks the fruition of years of painstaking effort and careful thought on the part of the citizens of this community and of local and national governmental agencies. Thanks to their patriotic activity there has been restored the setting of the last act of the Civil War's tragic drama. The opportunity has been provided for Americans of all time to draw inspiration from the valor, the patriotism, the devotion and the loyalty of the men who wore the Blue and of those who wore the Gray."

Mr. Payne paid tribute to the people whose efforts and generosity made possible the establishment of the Park and expressed gratification that Virginia's "fields of military renown are lastingly perpetuated."

Franklin W. Smith, President of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, served as general chairman of the Park dedication ceremonies. Honorary Chairman of the Park dedication ceremonies was Gen. Homer Atkinson, who was at the time serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Northern Virginia, United Confederate Veterans.

Guests included were: Mrs. Frederick Huff Payne; Brig. Gen. A. E. Williams, personal representative of Quartermaster Gen. Devitt, U. S. Army; Col. R. T. Ellis, representative of the War Department; Capt. Jeffrey Montague, U. S. Army; Capt. G. F. Harrison, U. S. Army; and Lt. Kimbell, aide to the Assistant Secretary of War. Confederate Divisional Commanders, UCV., were:

Gen. W. R. Jacobs, of Mississippi; Gen. Gustav Mouton, of Louisiana; Gen. J. P. McCarther; Gen. Edgar Warfield, of Alexander; Gen. J. W. Dykes, Past Commander, Arkansas Division; and Gen. J. E. Williamson, of Alabama.

During the afternoon of the dedication day ceremonies, a pageant depicting wartime events around Petersburg was presented at Fort Stedman. Units of the 1st Virginia Regiment Infantry, Virginia National Guard from Petersburg, Hopewell, Emporia, and Blackstone, were among those who participated in the pageant.<sup>65</sup>

PETERSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK  
UNDER THE  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Principal Administrative Changes, 1933 - 1956

On August 10, 1933, the Petersburg National Military Park was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The transfer of the Park was in connection with the Federal government's Reorganization Act of March 3, 1933, when monuments, military parks, and the National Capital Parks, administered by other Federal agencies, were transferred to the National Park Service by terms of Executive Order 6166, June 10, 1933.<sup>66</sup> When it was announced that Lt. Col. Wilbourn was to be relieved of his duties with the parks at Petersburg and Fredericksburg, Mr. Franklin A. Smith, President of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, stated in a press interview that, "Petersburg

owes him Wilbourn a debt of gratitude for his untiring work on this vast project which will be more and more appreciated as the years go on."<sup>67</sup> In appreciation for Col. Wilbourn's work at Petersburg, he and Mrs. Wilbourn were presented with token gifts by Representative Patrick H. Drewry on behalf of the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs of Petersburg at their annual picnic on the evening of August 10, 1933.<sup>68</sup>

Following the transfer of the Park, Mr. B. Floyd Flickinger was designated as Acting Superintendent. Flickinger was also at this time serving as Acting Superintendent of the Colonial National Monument at Yorktown, Virginia, where he maintained his office. Work at Petersburg was conducted under the supervision of J. V. Colston, Project Superintendent of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp MP-2, at Petersburg.

A Park Field Office was maintained at the CCC Camp, within the immediate area of the camp buildings. In September, 1938, the Park Field Office was moved into the new foremen's quarters, located on a knoll near the camp on the opposite side of the old Prince George Courthouse Road. The new building, of frame construction with tar paper covering, provided accommodations for the foremen on patrol duty, official visitors, and foremen who might desire living quarters on the Park. The building, since the disbandment of the CCC, has been used as a Park employee's residence. In 1955 the building underwent



extensive renovation and now (1956) serves as the Superintendent's residence.

Two significant changes in administration of the Petersburg National Military Park occurred in 1935-36. On September 14, 1935, Dr. J. Walter Coleman was appointed as resident Acting Superintendent of the Park. In March, 1936 the Park was placed under the general administration of a Coordinating Superintendent,<sup>69</sup> Branch Spalding, who maintained his office at Fredericksburg, as Superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park. Mr. Spalding served as Coordinating Superintendent for all Civil War areas in Virginia, namely: Manassas National Battlefield Park, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park, Petersburg National Military Park, and Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument. On July 1, 1936, Dr. Coleman was appointed Park Superintendent and held this position until March 16, 1936, when he was succeeded by Oscar F. Northington, Jr.

In 1937, the National Park Service was decentralized into four Regions and the Petersburg National Military Park became an area under Region One. Regional headquarters were established in Richmond, Virginia. On July 1, 1940, the Park was withdrawn from the administrative control of the Coordinating



Superintendent in Fredericksburg. At the same time the fiscal accounts were transferred to Petersburg, where they were kept until 1948, when they were transferred to Colonial National Historical Park. In February 1955 the fiscal accounts of the Park were returned to the Regional office in Richmond.

In November 1936, upon completion of the new Post Office Building at the corner of Franklin and Adams Streets, Park offices were moved from the Medical Arts Building. Three rooms, top floor, east side, were assigned at first to the National Park Service, but later, during World War II, the office space was reduced to two rooms, which continued to serve until June 27, 1955. On that date Park Headquarters was transferred to the Park proper, and offices were set up in the 20-room Crater House in accordance with plans developed for complete and full Administrative-Museum use of the building. From 1936 until 1955, the Crater House had served a dual role -- one room for the museum and public contacts, with public rest rooms in the back; and the remainder of the one-time club house of the Crater Battlefield Golf Club served as quarters for each succeeding Superintendent of the Park. For the first time in the history of the Park, administrative offices, the museum, and Park orientation services were centralized in the Park. The plan for converting the Crater House into a Museum and Administration Building was conceived by Floyd B. Taylor soon after he succeeded George F. Emery as Superintendent, January 11,

1953. Mr. Emery was promoted to Assistant Superintendent at Colonial National Historical Park, and entered on duty there October 28, 1952. Park Ranger Melvin Proffitt served as Acting Superintendent during the interim between Superintendents.

The 1956 Fiscal Year saw the greatest number of personnel changes within the Park than any similar period since the termination of the CCC Camp in 1942, viz.:

August 29, 1955	--	Franklin A. Cain, Jr., Historian, resigned to return to the teaching profession.
September 15, 1955	--	Howard L. Blick, Historian, was appointed to fill position vacated by Mr. Cain. Mr. Blick was a former seasonal employee of Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Fla.
November 2, 1955	--	Fred L. Elder, Laborer, resigned due to health.
January 5, 1956	--	Charles L. French, Laborer, appointed to position vacated by Mr. Elder.
April 12, 1956	--	Floyd B. Taylor, Superintendent, promoted to Superintendent, Shiloh National Military Park.
May 10, 1956	--	Bernard T. Campbell, Chief Ranger, Everglades National Park, Florida, was announced as the new Superintendent of Petersburg NHP.

#### Poplar Grove National Cemetery

From the date of its establishment in July 1866, Poplar Grove National Cemetery was under the administrative control of the Office of the Quartermaster General, United States Army. The responsibility of administering and maintaining the cemetery was

transferred to the National Park Service in August, 1933, and at that time was placed under the supervisory control of the Superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park. On December 16, 1935, Poplar Grove National Cemetery was made the responsibility of the Superintendent of the Petersburg National Military Park. The position of Cemetery Superintendent was abolished in 1949, the last Superintendent being Benjamin F. Moore.

Aside from being the final resting place for over six thousand veterans of the Civil War, Poplar Grove National Cemetery has still another association with the Petersburg Campaign. The site of the cemetery served as an encampment area for Union troops, and the rustic log chapel constructed by the 50th New York Engineers in February, 1865, stood, until about April, 1868, just north of the present cemetery flagstaff. Poplar Grove National Cemetery includes 8.72 acres. It contains the remains of 6,142 Union and 36 Confederate soldiers. Of the Civil War dead, only 2,126 Union, and 13 Confederate soldiers have been identified. Veterans of other wars have since been buried in the cemetery so that today (April, 1956) there are a total of 6,310 interments. The cemetery is located three miles south of Petersburg on State Route No. 675 (Vaughan Road).<sup>70</sup>

#### Principal Land Acquisitions Since 1933

Ever since the idea of establishing a battlefield park at Petersburg had been conceived, the inclusion of the Crater

Battlefield was envisioned. On July 18, 1936, the Crater area, 123.40 acres, was purchased from the Crater Battlefield Association for \$24,720.51. Included in the acquisition was a large part of the collection of battlefield artifacts which had been preserved for many years by the Griffith family. Since 1928 the Crater Battlefield Association had operated a golf course on the field. The combined club house and museum, which had been built about 1926, was converted into a residence for the Park Superintendent and a small room on the north end was reserved for a museum.<sup>71</sup>

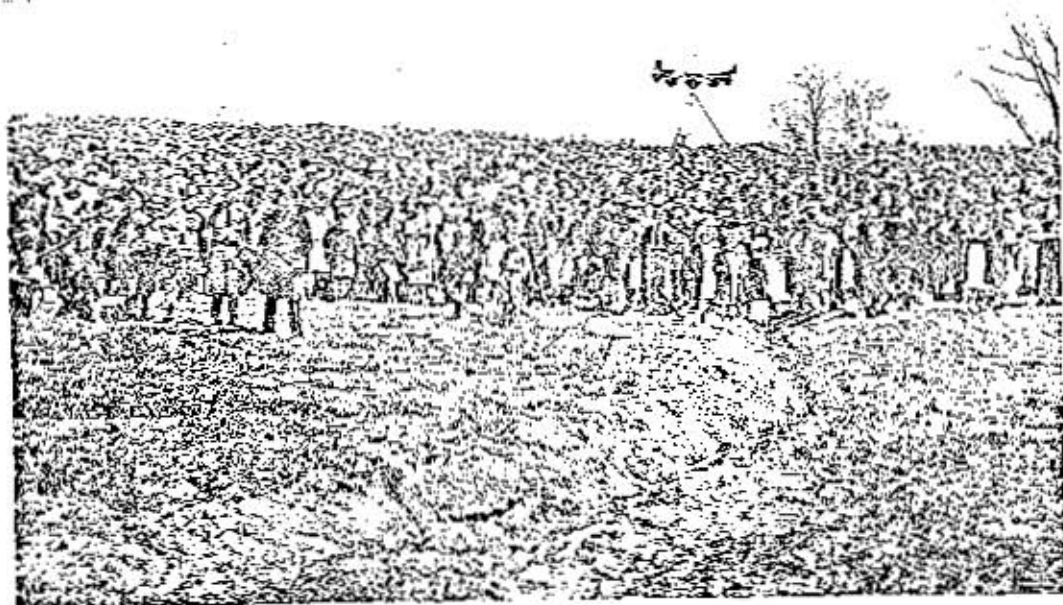
In 1939 the Whitehill tract of 5½ acres, located in the Battery Five area, was transferred to the Department of the Interior by the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice. This tract included the site of Whitehill, or the Friend House, as it was known at the time of the Civil War.<sup>72</sup>

By the end of the Fiscal Year of 1940 the total acreage of the Park was more than 2,000, which represented quite a substantial gain over the acreage of 3½6 in 1933 when the Park was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior.<sup>73</sup> However, during fiscal year 1943, 738.75 acres of Park land were transferred to the War Department, thereby reducing Park holdings to 1,328.25 acres. At the same time, in 1943, the War Department purchased 206 acres of private land which would eventually be transferred to the Department of the Interior in exchange. This acreage was along Siege Road and included the old Taylor Farm. Negotiations for the exchange

apparently were begun promptly. On September 7, 1949, by the approval of Public Law 293, the two tracts of land, 206 acres as described above, were transferred to the Department of the Interior. Section 2 of Public Law 293 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to adjust boundaries of the Park through exchange, purchase, or transfer, provided that the total area would not be increased. The act provided that the changes would become effective upon the publication of a description of the Park holdings in the Federal Register.<sup>74</sup>

Battle of the Crater Re-enactment, April 1937

Approximately 50,000 persons gathered on April 30, 1937, to witness the dramatic re-enactment of the Battle of the Crater which was staged on the Crater Battlefield. United States Marines of the Fifth Brigade from Quantico, Virginia, cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia National Guard units, comprised the almost 3,000 troops which took part in the occasion. Col. James C. Miller, USMC was in charge of all participating troops. Painstaking care was taken to make the scene appear as realistic and unspoiled by modern intrusion as possible. The club house and monuments on the field were camouflaged, and airplanes were prohibited from flying over the area during the day. The celebration opened with a concert by the Marine Band, which was followed by the introduction of the Governor of Virginia, The Hon. George J. Perry; and other distinguished guests, by Congressman Patrick H. Drewry. One of the highlights of the occasion was a graphic narration of



Spectators at the Battle of the Crater Re-enactment, April 30, 1937.

the first phase of the battle's story by Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman. Following the re-enactment, a reception for the distinguished guests was held at Centre Hill Mansion in Petersburg, the old Bolling home built in 1837. Personnel from the CCC Camp at Fort Stedman served as guides to visitors touring other sections of the Park during the day. Four Confederate veterans, who had participated in the battle 73 years earlier, attended the re-enactment. They were: Francis M. Ridout, Petersburg; D. W. Swink and Theodore N. Mayo, Norfolk, Virginia; and George W. Harris of Reams Station, Virginia. Union survivors of the battle were invited to attend, but were unable to do so because of their advanced age.<sup>75</sup>

Centre Hill Mansion, Petersburg, Virginia

Built by the Bolling family about 1825, this architecturally interesting and historically significant brick mansion was presented to the National Park Service as a gift from its owner Mr. Edgar S. Bowling of New York in 1937.

The house was struck by Union shells during the Petersburg Campaign and served as the headquarters of Gen. G. L. Hartsuff during the Federal occupation of the city. President Lincoln visited Gen. Hartsuff at Centre Hill April 3, 1865, and when the subject of paying rent on the building was raised, Lincoln is reputed to have said that "our batteries have made rent enough here already." The President had reference to the damage which the house had suffered during the fighting.<sup>76</sup> Of



more recent interest was the visit of President William Howard Taft to Centre Hill, May 19, 1909, on the occasion of the dedication of the Ninth Corps Monument in Fort Stedman and the Pennsylvania Memorial south of the city on the Jerusalem Plank Road (now U. S. No. 301).

In 1939 \$5,000 was included in the appropriation for repairs to Centre Hill. An Emergency Relief Administration project was set up to bring an additional \$20,000 which was hoped to cover the complete repair of the house. In May and June, 1939, repairs were made to the 38-room mansion under the supervision of Junior Architect A. E. Alexander, of the Branch of Plans and Design, National Park Service. Termite infested wood was removed, a concrete floor was laid in the basement, exterior woodwork was repaired and painted, walls were scraped and painted, and the brick work was pointed. By 1942 the re-conditioning of the Mansion was 90% completed. A Special Use Permit was prepared granting the Petersburg Chapter of the American Red Cross permission to use the building beginning July 1, 1942. Centre Hill Mansion was occupied by the Red Cross until after the close of World War II.

When Centre Hill was first deeded over to the National Park Service it was planned to use the building as a Museum and Administration Building. However, the proposal of having this setup in town with the Park some distance away lost favor among officials and the plan was abandoned. In 1949 the Petersburg



Battlefield Museum Corporation was incorporated to take over Centre Hill and operate it as a museum. The City of Petersburg appropriated \$3,000 for this purpose. In 1950 Centre Hill Mansion Museum was opened to the public under agreement for the use of the building with the National Park Service. The property was turned over to the Corporation on October 24, 1952, with a brief ceremony, at which time Superintendent George F. Emery presented the deed to the property to Mr. Franklin Smith, President of the Corporation.<sup>77</sup>

#### Roads and Trails, 1934-1956

Since the earliest planning for the development of the Park, the idea of having the major roads follow the main lines of fortifications had been paramount. By 1955, with the exception of a few miles of roadway, this plan was realized. Although still incomplete, the present road system permits the visitor to follow at least 20 miles of the remaining fortifications within the Park. This includes a large segment of the main lines of the Union and Confederate Armies.

Within 3 years after the Park had been transferred to the National Park Service a large portion of the Confederate line south of Petersburg was made accessible to the visitor. A major road development program was begun in 1934, with a grant from Public Roads Administration funds. The first project under this appropriation was the building of a drive which extended westward from the Jerusalem Plank Road (U. S. Route No. 301) along the Union line to Fort Wadsworth; a

distance of 3.25 miles. The roadway was landscaped following the completion of the road.<sup>78</sup> In 1938 the Fort Lee - Battery Pegram (Defense Road) road, almost two miles long, was surfaced and opened to the public. This section of the road system was surfaced under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads. The Atlantic Coast Line overpass on Defense Road was completed in September, 1936. That section of Flank Road, from Fort Davis to Fort Wadsworth, was resurfaced in 1936, as the old surface had been severely damaged by the thawing and freezing of the preceding winter. This road was resurfaced again in 1950.

Significant progress was made in the minor roads soon after the acquisition of the Park by the National Park Service. In July 1937 the road from Confederate Battery Nine to the Hopewell Road was opened to the public. Constructed with CCC labor and funds, the base surface of the road was of crushed concrete obtained from the demolition of foundations of World War I buildings in the Camp Lee section of the Park. The old Prince George Courthouse Road was reconstructed from Siege Road to Confederate Battery Nine, in 1937, by the CCC. This historic road once connected Petersburg with Prince George Courthouse. It was used by troops of both sides during the Civil War, and is reputed to have been used by troops during the Revolution. Construction began in March, 1938, with CCC funds and labor on Mortar Road which encircled Battery

Five and the site of the "Dictator." The road was opened in September, 1938. A new Crater entrance road was constructed in 1939. Four and a half miles of truck trails in the Camp Lee area of the Park was completed in the same year by the CCC.

Work began, September 25, 1941, on the Atlantic Coast Line overpass near Fort Wadsworth. The successful completion of the overpass and the opening of the road from Fort Wadsworth to the Vaughan Road would carry out further the plan of having the main Park roads follow the line of Union earthworks in that area. The first estimated date for the completion of the overpass was November, 1942; however, as this was at the time when the National Defense Program was getting into full operation, the shortage of labor and construction materials curtailed the progress of the project considerably. By August, 1942, the overpass was only 32% completed, when a stop work order was received. However, the Federal government deemed the completion of the overpass necessary for the easy movement of troops in the State and the work was resumed. Bad weather, in addition to the inevitable shortage of labor, continued to hamper progress until finally the overpass was completed on August 12, 1944, almost three years after it was begun. The road from Fort Wadsworth to the Vaughan Road was surfaced and opened for public use in 1950. This road passes under the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad near Fort Wadsworth.

A significant change in the Park road system occurred in December, 1955, when the Hopewell Road (State Route No. 36) entrance to Siege Road was closed, and the sections of hard surface at Union Battery Mine, and on Hare Hill, were obliterated. For a number of years previous to this, interpretive development plans for this historic area to the fullest extent had been contemplated. Protests from commuters who had been using the road daily as a shortcut from the Walnut Hill section of Petersburg to Fort Lee and Hopewell were expected. However, the number of complaints registered were far below all anticipation. This was probably the result of favorable publicity and cooperation received from the Petersburg Progress-Index, which in its news stories emphasized the view of the road closing from the standpoint of the Park interpretive program. The newspaper carried several articles and pictures of the road closing, and in addition, printed verbatim a historical sketch of the area which was prepared by the Park Historian.<sup>79</sup> Somewhat to the surprise of Park officials no "letters to the editor," complaining of the road closing appeared in the newspapers. Another factor which perhaps was responsible for the few complaints was the publicity then being given in the Richmond and Petersburg papers about the probable effect of the route of the projected Richmond-Petersburg Toll Road on the Park.

Trails for horseback riders were a popular attraction to the Park in the late 1930's and early 40's. Eight miles of

bridle trails, equipped with log jumps, were constructed. The location of riding stables near the Park seemed to predict that riders using the Park would increase. A horse show held near Fort Meikle on May 28, 1938, featured riders who frequently used the Park trails. From December, 1941, to September, 1942, at least 2,282 riders made use of the Park's bridle trails. Present (1957) use of the trails by horseback riders is barely sufficient to justify their continued maintenance.<sup>80</sup>

#### Historical and Interpretive Program, 1933-1935

Under the Civil Works Administration program for the Petersburg National Military Park a Historical-Educational Staff was set up. Office space for the staff, located on the second floor of the McKenry Library in Petersburg, was provided through the courtesy of Miss Theresa Hodges, Librarian. The staff was divided into two sections, one of which undertook research in the Revolutionary War period, and the other in the Civil War period. However, the work of the staff division members was not strictly confined to the period as indicated by the title of their respective divisions.

Mr. Branch Spalding, whose title was Historical Technician, may well be considered the first Park Historian. In addition to his duties of heading the staff of Petersburg, he supervised the work of similar staffs at Richmond and Fredericksburg, in Virginia, and Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. As time permitted, Mr. Spalding made a study of the fortifications

around Petersburg and was often accompanied on his field trips by Capt. Carter Bishop, member of the Park Commission. The Historical Technician was also engaged in public contact work, and in speaking before local civic and patriotic organizations. Efforts were made to encourage visits from school groups. The earliest recorded visit by a school tour group was on January 31, 1934, when 30 students, accompanied by two teachers from Norfolk, Virginia, visited the Park. The staff in their work of historical investigation worked closely with the Petersburg Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Civil War veterans and other older residents of Petersburg who remembered the Sixties were interviewed and their recollections written up and filed. Talks were made to numerous outside groups, in addition to conducting groups and individuals through the Park. Visitation at the Park was small compared with present day figures.

The Civil War division of the staff, consisting of Edward Steere, Charles Jackson, and Edward Wyatt IV, prepared studies of the Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864; the Battle of the Crater; Battle of Fort Stedman; and the Battle of Five Forks. The Revolutionary War division under the direction of Manning C. Voorhis, consisted of Oscar Northington and Raleigh Taylor. Studies of the operations of the British Army in Virginia were prepared by the Revolutionary division of the staff. All members of the staff were prepared to perform guide

services. In the early years of the Park, facilities were not adequate for handling random visitors in large numbers. The roads through the Park were not completed, and there were no Park buildings such as a central orientation site or museum, rest rooms, etc., nor was there a regular Park entrance. It was thought better at this time to devote more attention to the organized groups visiting the Park until better facilities could be provided for smaller groups and individuals.<sup>81</sup>

In 1935, although work in developing the Park was proceeding at a steady but perhaps at an outwardly slow pace, the Progress-Index expressed their concern over the park's development:

"In spite of its comparative newness, it is a fact that similar parks still more recently created have made much greater progress, and this in spite of the fact that impartial students concede that the Petersburg park has interests more varied and more important than those of any other. It is sorely in need of a museum, headquarters, guide stations, and other structures. With all the millions of dollars being poured out at this time by the Federal government, surely we should be able to obtain funds for these comparatively modest requirements. If the end of the spending era finds the Petersburg National Military Park uncompleted, then we will see a still slower rate of progress, for we will have missed our real opportunity."<sup>82</sup>

A department for the construction of models and other interpretive devices was established January, 1934, in a space over a junk shop at 128 North Market Street in Petersburg. When it was first learned that a shop of this type was to be established



in Petersburg, a number of local persons offered quarters without charge, but none of those offered proved suitable for the needs of the shop. The initial cost of setting up the shop amounted to \$601.00. A model of the Union mine tunnel, a model of Fort Fisher, and a map of the Petersburg battlefield area were perhaps the most outstanding projects accomplished by the shop for Park interpretive use. The model shop was in charge of Francis Powell and William C. Flake.<sup>83</sup>

#### Visitation, 1935-1956

Visitors to the Park were comparatively few in number before 1936. Park interpretive facilities and visitor accommodations were still in their infancy when only 1,924 visitors were contacted in 1935. Park visitation reached a high in 1936 when 29,314 persons received contact services. In that year a guide system for the park was established with the cooperation of the City of Petersburg, the Chamber of Commerce, and Emergency Civil Works organizations. Two contact stations for W. P. A. guides were constructed by the City. One of the stations was erected on the western end of Washington Street, and the other at the foot of the Appomattox River Bridge, in Petersburg. Guides were located in the office of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, and at three stations in the Park, Battery Five, Fort Stedman, and Fort Davis. Members of the historical staff developed a series of illustrated lectures for use in conducting special tours, and also assisted in the training of

guides. Free guide service was maintained for individual parties daily between the hours of 8:30 A.M., and 7:00 P.M., during the heavy travel season of the year. The Park Superintendent estimated in June, 1936, that nearly two hundred persons daily were utilizing this service. They came chiefly in private cars and in small parties.

To meet the demand of increasing visitation, the number of guides was increased, and in 1937, there were four men of the Works Progress Administration and six CCC men serving as guides. Figures for July, 1937, show that 5,943 visitors were contacted, whereas in July, 1935, two years earlier, only 167 persons were contacted. The increase in visitation for 1937 can be largely attributed to the publicity given on the re-enactment of the Battle of the Crater in April of that year.

Battery Five was selected as the starting point for the tour of the Park, and it was appropriate that guides were placed here to meet the visitor. In July, 1937, 2,152 visitors were contacted at the Battery Five station. A small attractive building of colonial design was opened there on July 28, 1937, to serve as a field museum and guide station. The building was constructed entirely by CCC labor with only limited supervisory assistance. A parking areas was constructed adjacent to the contact station. During World War II, due to the shortage of interpretive personnel, it was necessary to



Battery Five Contact Station, 1939.

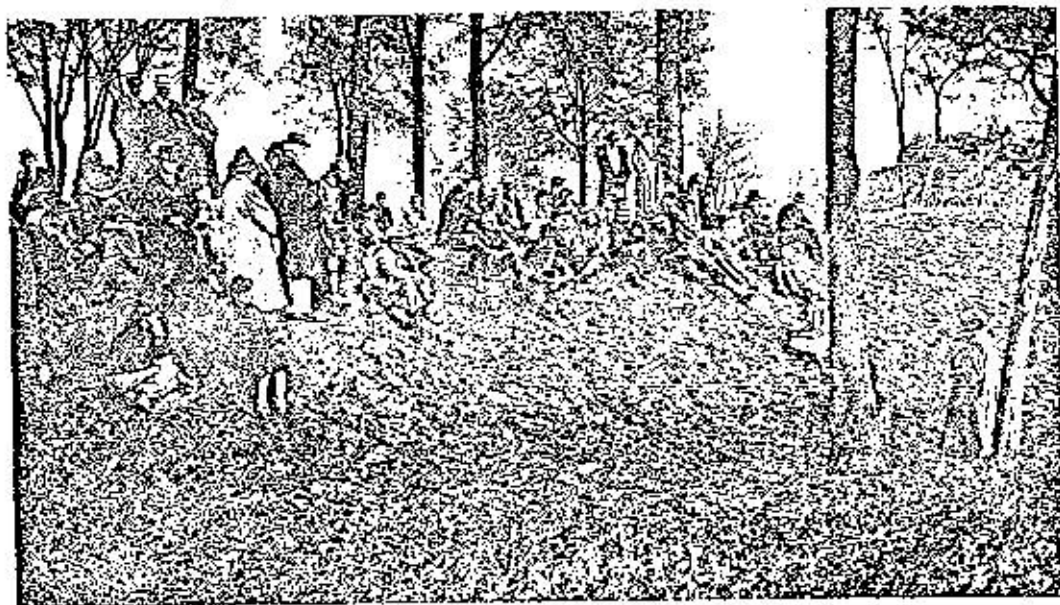
close this station frequently. The building remained in use until 1948, when it was removed to the Utility Area where it has since served as a storage house.

Following is a tabulation of Park visitation 1937-1955:

1937 -----	60,217	1947 -----	138,549
1938 -----	150,486	1948 -----	124,755
1939 -----	192,246	1949 -----	166,903
1940 -----	183,191	1950 -----	203,971
1941 -----	263,169	1951 -----	189,165
1942 -----	212,167	1952 -----	198,136
1943 -----	113,168	*Oct.-Dec. '52	47,231
1944 -----	91,561	1953 -----	223,768
1945 -----	131,059	1954 -----	206,864
1946 -----	146,019	1955 -----	214,836

\*The "Travel Year" was originally based on the period October 1-September 30 of each year. The Calendar Year basis started with the year 1953.

The figure for 1937 excludes the thousands who attended the Battle of the Crater re-enactment, April 30, 1937. Increases in Park visitation preceding 1944 can largely be attributed to the publicity given the Park in newspapers, magazines, radio talks, and other media, and improved interpretive services within the Park. Members of the armed forces constituted a large percentage of the total visitation during the years of World War II; chiefly from nearby Camp Lee. Gasoline rationing and other travel restrictions were undoubtedly responsible for the drop in visitation for 1943-1944. Decrease in civilian travel was apparent in 1944, when it was estimated that almost three-fourths of the total visitation were members of the armed forces. Civilian travel showed a decided increase by 1947, while there



Dr. Douglas S. Freeman addressing a tour group from Richmond at Ft. Stedman, November 7, 1936.



Capt. Carter R. Bishop at the "Dictator" Model, 1939.

was a large decrease in military visitation due to the reduction of training activities at Camp Lee.<sup>84</sup>

Special Interest Park Tours and Visitors, 1937 - 1956

Conspicuous among the tour groups which visited the Park in the years before World War II were the annual tours by the Army War College classes which visited the Park from 1937 through 1939. The groups averaged about 100 officers equipped with maps and mimeographed outlined studies of the Petersburg Campaign. An entire day was usually spent at Petersburg, beginning at Battery Five and ending at Five Forks, with lectures given at Fort Stedman, the Crater, and other key points en route.

A group of British Army officers, stationed in Bermuda, visited the Park on November 2-3, 1937, as a part of their prescribed tour and study of the Virginia Civil War battlefields. These officers, representing varied branches of the British Army, were conducted over the battlefields by National Park Service personnel. Their visit occurred in the days before World War II, when visits to Petersburg by foreign Army officers were infrequent.

On March 30-31, 1940, twenty-five business and professional men of Washington, D.C., styled the "Battlefield Crackpates," visited the Park. These men were Civil War enthusiasts and made battlefield tours about twice a year. On their visit to Petersburg they were conducted over the battlefields by Coordinating Superintendent Branch Spalding and Major Joseph Mills Hanson, Assistant



Historical Technician. The "Battlefield Crackpates" may well be considered the forerunners of the present (1957) District of Columbia Civil War Roundtable, formed in January, 1951, as one of many such groups organized throughout the country in recent years.

In May, 1953, a meeting was held in Richmond of the Civil War Roundtables from Chicago, Washington, and other cities with the Richmond Civil War Roundtable as host. On May 9th, this group of about a hundred persons toured the Richmond battlefields and on the 10th spent the entire day touring the fields around Petersburg, from Battery Five to Five Forks. Portable amplifying apparatus was furnished for the occasion by Fort Lee through the courtesy of Major General Howard L. Peckham, student of Civil War history, and Post Commander at the time.

On every other Saturday, from January, 1953, through January, 1954, groups from the Leadership School, Medical Replacement Training Center, Camp Pickett, Virginia, visited the Park. Their visits were a part of the school program which included a study of leadership in the Petersburg Campaign.

Military groups which have continued to make periodic trips to the Park as a part of their course are the ROTC cadets in summer training at Fort Lee, and the annual visit of cadets from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. The cadets visit the Quartermaster installation at Fort Lee each year.



Since its establishment, there have been many individuals of prominence in varied fields who have visited the Park, far too numerous for even the briefest notation in an account of this length. Of particular interest are those persons of military eminence and those with association with the Petersburg story who have visited the Park since 1938. Perhaps the last known Union survivor of the Petersburg Campaign to have visited the Park was Charles Chapel, June 25, 1938, who served with Mott's Division, II Union Army Corps, from September, 1864, until the end of the campaign. Chapel, one of the 68 surviving Civil War veterans pictured in Life Magazine, May 30, 1949, died in September, 1949, at the age of 102 years.

The name of the last surviving Confederate veteran of the Petersburg Campaign known to have visited the Park is difficult to determine accurately. Capt. Carter Bishop frequently visited the park up until just shortly before his death in 1943. However, Capt. Bishop, a Virginia Military Institute Cadet, who was captured in Chesterfield County and taken to City Point, cannot be rightly considered a veteran of the Petersburg Campaign as he took no active part in the engagements around the City. Perhaps the last known Confederate survivor of the Battle of the Crater was Theodore Mayo of Norfolk, Virginia, who served in Co. C, 26th Virginia Infantry. Mayo attended the 1937 re-enactment of the Battle of the Crater. He died in October, 1948.

On April 18, 1940, on one of his frequent trips, through the years, to the battlefields of Virginia, Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman visited Petersburg. Dr. Freeman on this occasion was accompanied by a photographer and writer for Life Magazine. The background material obtained at Petersburg appeared as a feature article on the eminent historian and biographer in the May 13, 1940, issue of Life.

Visits from persons of military renown have been numerous, but of particular interest are those who came to the Park after the close of World War II. Incidentally, contrary to the popular legend that the German Commander Erwin Rommel visited and studied the Petersburg battlefields, research has failed to produce satisfactory evidence to substantiate the visit of the "Desert Fox." Rommel was scarcely known in this country before World War II, and most likely made his visits to Civil War battlefields in civilian attire. His visit to Petersburg, if it did occur probably went unnoticed. Park visitors of military prominence include:

April 10, 1946 - General and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who were accompanied by the Assistant Quartermaster General, Maj. Gen. George A. Horken and Mrs. Horken.

February 14, 1946 - Eleven Army officers all of whom had been prisoners of the Japanese since the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, were conducted over the park by the Superintendent.

April 4, 1950 - Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgway, who were accompanied by Maj. Gen. Roy C. L. Graham, Commanding Officer, Fort Lee, Virginia.

May 23, 1952 - Brig. Gen. Louis Jean Salaun, Commanding General of the French Army's Transportation School; and Brig. Gen. Pierre Henri Nogues, the Commanding General of the Transportation Corps of the French Army.

July 9, 1952 - Gen. Henri Navarre, who at the time of his visit was Deputy Commander of the French occupation forces in Germany, and who later commanded the French forces in Indo-China.

January 29, 1953 - Five members of the Royal Greek Army General Staff visited the Crater and Museum; they were: Maj. Generals Constantine Katsoridis, Pan. Spanos, Milt. Nicolsou, S. Petropoulos, and Iambires.

January 17, 1954 - Lt. Gen. Anton Von Bechtolsheim, German Corps Commander on the Russian front during World War II. His visit to the Crater recalled the year 1918, when he was in charge of mining operations against the French Army on the Western Front.

March 23, 1956 - Mr. George H. Roderick, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil and Military Affairs, visited the Museum, Crater, Fort Stedman, and Battery Five, in Company with Maj. Gen. Ira K. Evans, Commanding General of the Quartermaster Training Command at Fort Lee, Virginia.

February 9, 1957 - Lieutenant-General Frido Von Sengen und Etterlin, Commander of the German forces, Cassino, Italy, World War II.

#### The Museum

When the Crater battlefield was acquired by the Federal government in 1936 the former country club building was converted into a residence for the Park Superintendent. A small room on the north end of the building with a separate entrance was reserved for the museum and information station. A collection of objects recovered from the battlefields was included in the Crater acquisition. They were chiefly from the Griffith family collection, which was begun soon after the close of the Civil War.

These items were cleaned and arranged for display in the museum. This exhibit was supplemented by artifacts recovered in the progress of Park development. A number of attractive water colors, pastels, and charcoal illustrations for the museum were done under Works Progress Administration projects. These illustrations largely depicted uniforms, battle scenes, and maps of battlefield areas around Petersburg and Richmond. The museum collection continued to grow through donations by individuals, and the recovery of artifacts in the Park by workmen. A ten-cent admission charge to the museum, put into effect in April, 1939, drew many protests from local citizens and visitors. A delegate to the Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, from the State of Washington, visited the Park in September, 1939, and proclaimed that it was a "dirty gyp," and that "if the Federal Government can't afford to keep such shrines as this open to the public without a charge, we have come to a sorry pass. Not because of the 10¢ but because of the principle involved, my wife and I won't go in the museum." The admission fee was abolished within the following year.

Museum interpretive facilities were improved in December, 1939, with the installation of a 11' x 11' relief map of the area covered by the Petersburg Campaign. Built by Junior Historian Raleigh C. Taylor, this map was extensively used for orientation talks and military narratives until July, 1954, when it was replaced by an electric map designed to serve the

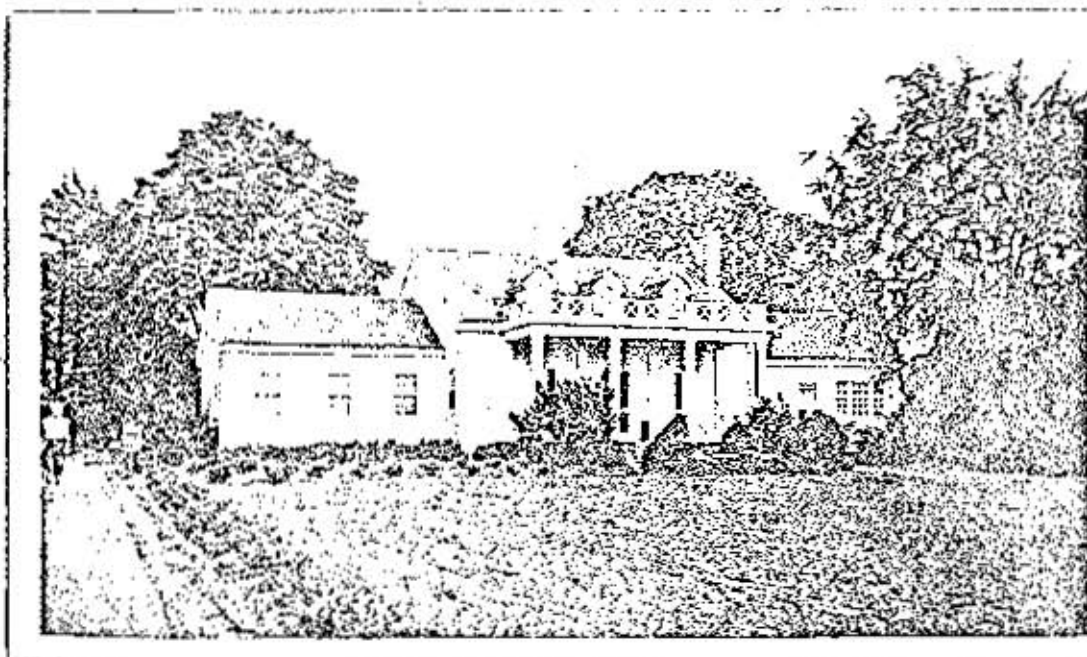
same general purpose. The latter map, 5 feet wide and 4 feet high (wall-type), was the outgrowth of recommendations made by Ned J. Burns, Chief of the Museum Branch, following an inspection of the Park Museum in February, 1952. The worn condition of the relief map, the space factor and the impracticability of repairing and electrifying the map were determining factors in the decision to construct a new unit. Data for the 24-switch controlled electric map were assembled by the Park Historians with construction by technicians of the Service's Museum Laboratory in Washington, D. C. The relief map was removed to the Centre Hill Mansion Museum, on a loan basis, where it is now available for continued public use.

Interpretation at the Crater had been improved in August, 1948, when an amplifier, microphone, and record player were installed in the museum with a loudspeaker unit mounted in a tree top at the Crater. With this apparatus a six-minute recorded narration of the Battle of the Crater could be given to visitors at the Crater, while the museum attendant, operating the machine from the museum, would be free to serve visitors upon their arrival in the museum. The system has been in continuous service since then except when it was put out of commission temporarily by Hurricane HAZEL in October, 1954.

The most significant improvement in the Park interpretive program came in 1955 when the Crater House, formerly the Superintendent's residence, was converted into a Visitor

Center. Since the acquisition of the Crater in 1936, the museum space had been confined to a small room 22' x 21', on the north end of the house nearest the Crater. Although interpretive facilities and museum exhibits had been improved to a great extent by 1954, the museum was still inadequate for Park interpretive needs. The museum room could scarcely accommodate the crowd of visitors on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, or large tour groups. Its exhibits of battlefield artifacts and other material were still antiquated in spite of numerous minor improvements.

The plan for the building conversion began to formulate in late 1952. Plans for the museum expansion developed slowly and painstakingly, and were kept secret until it was officially assured that the project would materialize. Details of the project were carefully worked out and put on paper at a meeting held at the Crater on November 30, 1954. Those attending were: Chief of Museum Branch, Ralph H. Lewis; Assistant Chief of Museum Branch, Frank Buffum; Chief Historian Herbert E. Kahler; Regional Historian James W. Holland; Superintendent Floyd B. Taylor; and Park Historian Lee A. Wallace, Jr. At this meeting the floor plan for the new exhibits to be installed and other physical changes were worked out. In January, 1955, the Park Historian spent almost the entire month working with the Museum Branch in Washington on the preparation of exhibit layouts. Exhibits were constructed by Museum Laboratory technicians during the summer.



Visitor Center, 1956.



Meanwhile, on June 20, 1955, the Superintendent moved from the Crater House into a remodeled house in the Fort Stedman area of the Park. Interior work was now begun in earnest, toward converting the house at the Crater to its new use. All Park offices were moved into the building on July 27. Soon afterward work on constructing the housing for the museum exhibit cases was commenced. This work had just been completed when members of the Museum Branch arrived with the exhibits on August 29. It took a week to install the exhibits and on Sunday, September 5, 1955, the new museum was opened to the public for the first time. In early 1956, the old museum room was redecorated and converted into an orientation room. It is equipped with panel type wall exhibits and one case exhibit, the electric map and chairs to accommodate fifty persons. The museum project from the very beginning received excellent publicity, with photographs, in the Petersburg and Richmond newspapers. A few days in advance of the opening Superintendent Floyd B. Taylor appeared on a television program in Petersburg's then newly opened station WJXX-TV, and spoke of the new developments in the Park and the cameras presented the viewers a picture of the Crater House.<sup>86</sup>

#### Park Literature

The first official informational literature printed for free public distribution appeared around 1935. It consisted of a single folded sheet with a sketch, drawn from the 1867 Michler map, showing the Petersburg lines, and indicating

Government owned property in shading. On the reverse side was a brief sketch of the Petersburg Campaign, a sketch of Revolutionary War events at Petersburg, and a paragraph on "How to See the Park."

In February, 1938, a new informational sheet was made available. This was a considerable improvement over the previous folder as a map showing modern roads and the Park Tour route was substituted for the old map. A revised edition of this informational sheet appeared in April, 1941. In May, 1941, the Park received 20,000 new two-fold leaflets, which was acclaimed by the Superintendent as the most satisfactory printed material for general distribution that had thus far appeared at the Park. This was the first of the type of leaflets containing photographs, maps, and text, now used in the Park. Since the appearance of the first two-fold leaflet, it has undergone various minor revisions. It was entirely revised in 1954 and further improved the following year.

A 16-page illustrated booklet was prepared for the Park and first placed on sale in 1941 at the price of 15¢ per copy. Ten years later the 16-page booklet was replaced by Petersburg Battlefields, National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 13. The book was prepared in 1950 by Park Historian Richard Wayne Lykes. Petersburg Battlefields was revised and brought up to date in 1956. The initial price of Petersburg Battlefields, with a mailing envelope, was 35¢ per

copy. At the next printing of the handbook, the envelope was not included, and the price was reduced to 30¢. The price was further reduced to 25¢ per copy when the handbook was revised in 1956. The mailing envelope is no longer provided.<sup>87</sup>

The Eastern National Park & Monument Association, a non-profit organization composed chiefly of National Park Service employees who contributed funds for its establishment, set up an agency in the Park in 1948. The Association is now licensed to operate in thirteen states. All profits from the sale of Park literature, post cards, etc., is used to improve the interpretive program and facilities in parks which otherwise could not be provided through the annual allotment of funds. The Park has received a number of generous donations from the Association, including funds for: library table and six chairs, \$191.00; fifty-four chairs for the orientation room, \$260.52; and volumes for the Park library, \$94.86. Post cards were placed on sale for the first time in the history of the Park in 1952. A post card vending machine was purchased for the Park by the Eastern National Park & Monument Association for \$65.00. The original sets of cards sold at the Park were views of: The Dictator, the Crater, Battery Eight, Fort Stedman, the Park Entrance, and Elder's painting of the Battle of the Crater. The cards are arranged in sets of three each which sell for 10¢ per set. In 1955, a view of Fort Wadsworth was substituted for the Park Entrance card, and a new copy of Elder's Battle of the Crater,

this one from the original painting now in the Commonwealth Club, Richmond, Virginia. The previous card was made from an enlarged photograph (colored) of the original.<sup>88</sup>

#### Artillery Park Project, 1936-1942

In April, 1936, plans to establish an ordnance museum, or artillery park, at Petersburg were formulated by officials of the National Park Service and the Army Ordnance Association. It was proposed to place this display of Civil War period ordnance at the site of Meades Station. The Association formed a committee of seven to assist in the locating of artillery pieces and having them removed to Petersburg. This committee consisted of the following members of the Army Ordnance Association: Brig. Gen. Benedict Crowell, President of the Association; Brig. Gen. John Ross Delafield, Ordnance Reserve Association Counsel; Lieut. Col. LeRoy Hodges, Ordnance Officer, Virginia National Guard; Lieut. Col. Calvin Goddard, originator of forensic ballistics; Mr. Stephen V. Grancsy, Curator of Arms, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Mr. F. W. Foster Gleason, student of Confederate ordnance; Mr. Claud E. Fuller, writer and collector of arms; and Maj. L. A. Codd, Executive Secretary of the Army Ordnance Association. The following National Park Service officials served in an advisory capacity: Dr. Arno B. Cammerer, Director, National Park Service; Dr. J. Walter Coleman, Superintendent, Petersburg National Military Park; and Mr. Branch Spalding, Acting Assistant Director, Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service.<sup>89</sup>

An article outlining the project which appeared in Army Ordnance, January-February 1937, made an appeal for information on the location of artillery pieces, and expressed hope that ready and willing donors of suitable pieces could be found, as neither the Association nor the National Park Service had funds for the purchasing of guns. Park officials undertook a study of Civil War artillery and compiled invaluable notes and records. Progress in the collecting of the guns developed slowly, and it was not until October, 1938, that the first artillery pieces arrived. These were twelve guns declared excess to the needs of Gettysburg National Military Park. Results of the appeal for guns through Army Ordnance proved nil, and in early 1939 National Park Service officials undertook to spur the artillery project into action by granting Lieut. Col. Calvin Goddard a temporary appointment (three months) as Ranger-Historian, to make a survey of ordnance needs for the project. Col. Goddard entered on duty on June 26, 1939. A survey was made of available guns at Watervliet Arsenal, Haritan Arsenal, Rock Island, U. S. Military Academy at West Point, and other government installations. Visits to a number of these installations were made by Col. Goddard in August, 1939. Gun barrels began to arrive soon after the termination of Col. Goddard's appointment on October 25, 1939. Two bronze 12-pounder Napoleons with iron replica carriages were transferred to the Park from Moores Creek National Military Park and placed on display at the Crater and Fort Steadman

where they created considerable interest among visitors. By April, 1940, 113 pieces of ordnance had been received. Sixty-one gun tubes were placed on display, unmounted, at Fort Stedman. In October, 1942, at the time of the scrap metal drive, a complaint that suitable material for the drive was lying idle, was made to the local chairman of the drive, and by him to the state chairman, who submitted it to the Regional office. As a result, the gun barrels were removed from display and concealed under debris where they remained until after the war, when 16 of the tubes were displayed at the Crater. The "burial of the guns" in 1942, for all practical purposes, marked the end of the artillery park project. Even though the entire project never materialized, it resulted in the accumulation of some very fine specimens of ordnance, which are available for study by students of military history. More of these gun tubes, now in storage, will be displayed on the field as proper reconstructed gun carriages become available.

In 1953 the Park's collection of ordnance was augmented by the receipt of seven gun tubes and replica carriages from Shiloh National Military Park. Included among the guns was a 30-pounder Parrott which has been mounted at Battery Five. In May, 1956, a 12-pounder Napoleon received on an exchange basis from Manassas National Battlefield Park was placed in Fort Stedman. Later, two more 12-pounders, with replica carriages,

were placed in the fort, thereby restoring Fort Stedman to its armament as it was at the time of the Confederate attack on March 25, 1865.<sup>90</sup>

Interpretive Markers, Outdoor Exhibits, and Self-Guiding Tours

Along the tour route in 1938, visitors were aided by narrative and site markers, outdoor maps, and displays of photographs. There were thirty approximately 100-word markers placed at strategic points. The large narrative markers of semi-permanent type construction were made of brown masonite on which the inscription was lettered with yellow paint. Neatly installed in a 2-post upright frame of cedar or cypress, these markers were the adopted style for all Civil War areas in Virginia for many years. The design had been approved in 1937. Smaller signs of the same color scheme were also used, and twenty route markers were placed along the tour route. By October, 1939, there were thirty-five 100-word markers, and slightly more than twenty route markers. Ten outdoor maps, of temporary construction, were placed at Battery Five, Battery Eight, Fort Stedman, and the Crater, by the end of 1939.

In the fall of 1936, the famed 13-inch sea coast mortar, the "Dictator" was reproduced in concrete and mounted on the same site that the original occupied during the war. The nearby magazine was restored to its original outward appearance in 1938. The "Dictator" has continued to be one of the Park's major interest sites.<sup>91</sup>



Significant progress was made in the interpretive tour development plan in 1948, when metal shield "Park Tour" signs were erected along the tour route in the eastern section of the Park. Permits were obtained from the City of Petersburg and from the State to place the tour route markers on property outside Park boundaries.

In February 1948 an experimental aluminum frame glass front outdoor exhibit case was placed beside Siege Road, in front of Fort Stedman. The all metal type case, designed by Park Ranger Melvin Proffitt had proven of such durability that by May, 1954, five of these cases had been installed in the Park in the following order:

Battle of Fort Stedman (experimental case) at Fort Stedman, February, 1948.

Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864; at Battery Five, March, 1949.

Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864; at Battery Nine, March, 1949.

Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864; at Colquitt's Salient, March, 1949.

Battle of the Crater; at the Crater, May, 1949.

In December, 1950, an exhibit case containing a half-tone painting of the Union mine explosion, July 30, 1864, was placed on Siege Road about 800 yards directly east of the Crater. The exhibit at Battery Five was redesigned in 1952 to include the information contained in the exhibit at Battery Nine. The

case frame was removed from Battery Nine to Fort Davis. A pictorial map of the Petersburg Campaign, and indicating the Park Tour Route, was placed in the Fort Davis exhibit case. In August, 1953, the seventh case was installed in the Park. This one, at Fort Wadsworth, contains battle maps of the Battle of the Weldon Railroad, August 18-21, 1864.

The all metal type outdoor trailside exhibit case has proven durable and has been adopted in some of the other park areas. Each unit of this type was fabricated by Hankins & Johann, Inc., Staples Mill Road, Richmond, Virginia, the most recent unit costing \$213 (1953); complete with free leaflet box installed on post. The latter item added \$18.00 to the cost of the unit.

On December 27, 1949, a special ceremony was held at the Park Headquarters, then in the Post Office Building, honoring Ranger Proffitt for his suggestion on the use of metal in place of wood for trailside exhibit cases. Mr. Proffitt was the recipient of a certificate of honorable mention and a \$10 cash award. Because of the adoption of the all-metal exhibit cases by other parks, Ranger Proffitt received a \$100 supplementary award in 1956.

Each trailside exhibit case contains an attractive exhibit painted in oils on flexboard by Sidney King, Central Point, Virginia. Exhibits for the first five cases erected in the Park were designed by Park Historian Richard Wayne Lykes and the remaining two exhibits by Park Historian Lee A. Wallace, Jr.

Financial assistance on some of the exhibits was given by the Eastern National Park & Monument Association. Invaluable assistance was received from Messrs. James W. Holland and J. Paul Hudson; Historian and Museum Administrator, respectively, of the Region One office.

The first of the permanent type markers of cast aluminum were installed in the Park in December, 1949, chiefly in the Crater area. The contract for these markers had been let to Sewah Studios, Marietta, Ohio, in June of the same year. This type of marker has a natural green background with patina green lettering, which blends in with the surrounding terrain. These units are also made on a design approved by the Service.

In 1954, self-guiding tours of two sites within the Park were put into operation, Fort Wadsworth and Battery Five. Copies of the original plan of Fort Wadsworth, drawn by Union Army engineers, were obtained from the National Archives. By these plans, the sites of bombproof quarters, gun positions, and other features of the fort could be easily identified. As the work of clearing the site of excess vegetation progressed, some remarkably well preserved features of the fort were revealed. By early May, 1954, Fort Wadsworth was cleared of the last remaining brush piles, and the last of the interpretive markers, and two light field guns, were placed in the fort.

Simultaneously with the work on Fort Wadsworth, Historian Herbert Olsen was preparing a history of Poplar Grove National

Cemetery. Inquiries on certain aspects of the Cemetery history had been frequent in the past and a comprehensive history of the cemetery with a means of readily locating graves seemed to justify a major project. In addition to the history of the cemetery, an index card file of known dead, alphabetically arranged, was made and maps indicating grave sites, walks, the rostrum, and other features of the cemetery were prepared. Copies of the history, index, and maps were placed at the Cemetery and at the Park Museum where they have since proved of immense interest and value to visitors.

The public was invited, through newspaper publicity articles on the two concurrent projects, to visit Fort Wadsworth and Poplar Grove National Cemetery on Memorial Day, 1954, at which time personnel would be on duty at both places to render additional interpretive services for that day. Historians Olsen and Wallace were on duty at the Cemetery and Fort Wadsworth respectively.

On Sunday, June 6, 1954, the self-guiding tour of Battery Five was formally opened. Mimeographed sheets with information on the area to correspond with numbered stakes on the ground were prepared for the footpaths and for the road which encircles the area. A feature of the tour was the re-opening of Mortar Road, which encircled the area. This road, constructed in the early development of the area, had been closed for a number of years. Private land acquisition and repeated aggressive attempts on the part of business interests in

the vicinity of the main gate to Fort Lee Military Reservation to obtain Park land for personal use under any plan whatsoever forced an "on-site" reversal of planning for this area of the Park. Instead of allowing private development to close entirely the one-time "horseshoe" drive about Battery Five, the new plan would make it a "Loop Drive", with only one access on to State Route 36 (Hopewell Road) instead of two. The reopening of the drive facilitates interpretation of the area and makes this area once again one of the very popular and historically scenic sections of the entire Park. Among those who made the first drive over the reopened road was Major Joseph Mills Hanson, who, as Historical Technician, 1939-1942, did much of the historical research on the Battery Five section of the Park.<sup>92</sup>

#### Home Sites of Civil War Association

There are no structures (houses) of Civil War date standing within the Park today. There are, however, the remains of the brick foundations of three houses of wartime association: Whitehill (Friend House), and the Jordan House, both in the vicinity of Battery Five; and the foundations and chimney of the Taylor House, located about 800 yards directly east of the Crater. Both the Jordan House and Whitehill were used as signal stations and headquarters by the Union forces in 1864-1865.<sup>93</sup>

The Taylor House was built some time between 1800 and 1815 by George Keith Taylor, prominent Virginia Federalist and brother-in-law of Chief Justice John Marshall. The house was

destroyed by shell fire in June, 1864, during the heavy fighting which occurred in that vicinity. For the remainder of the war the ruins served as a convenient reference point. Reports and correspondence of Union and Confederate officers for this period often refer to the "Taylor House Ruins" or simply "the ruins". A new home of frame construction was built on the same foundations after the war. This structure remained until 1949, when it was dismantled. Fortunately, the chimney and foundations were allowed to remain intact. In fact, at the time, it was uncertain that they belonged to the ante-bellum residence. A study of the Taylor House site was made in order to determine the final disposition of the ruins and on January 29, 1954, the Regional Historical Architect, Daniel Breslin, in company with Museum Administrator J. Paul Hudson, inspected the remains and were convinced that they were of pre-war origin. Following recommendations of Mr. Breslin, immediate steps were taken by the Park in stabilizing the ruins. A concrete wash was placed on top of the walls to prevent water seepage, and the chimney was repaired with a concrete cap. Missing bricks were replaced and vines and other vegetation were removed from the site. Finally, an interpretive marker was placed on Siege Road explaining the ruins and its story. At the same time, care was taken to preserve what little remained of the brick foundations of the Jordan House. Stabilization of the remains of Whitehill have been included in Park development plans.<sup>94</sup>

## Petersburg National Military Park During World War II

In September, 1939, concrete was being salvaged from the World War I buildings of Camp Lee that once stood within the old camp area which had been transferred to the Park. This material was crushed and applied as surfacing to Park roads then under construction. Demolition of these reminders of World War I was in progress when the German Army marched into Poland. The peaceful solitude that had existed over this area since the end of World War I was soon to be interrupted by the advent of another conflict. The building of a new Camp Lee, and World War II, were bound to have effect on the development of Petersburg National Military Park. By the time surveys were being made of the new cantonment, October, 1940, steps had been taken in the anticipation of problems that would obviously occur. The regular National Park Service staff and the CCC were alerted to the new situation that existed in the area. Cooperative and friendly relations were established between the Park and Army officers in charge of the construction at Camp Lee. Activity at Camp Lee began to have its repercussions in the Park in November, 1940, when the Quartermaster in charge requested permits to widen certain roads, the erection of temporary power lines, and the construction of water works reservoirs and facilities within the Park area. The Secretary of the Interior, in December, 1940, granted to the War Department a permit to use 100 acres of Park property for



the location of a hospital. An additional 500 acres of Park land was granted under permit in June, 1941, for the purpose of establishing a Quartermaster Training School.

Because of the concentrated activity in the section of the Park adjacent to Camp Lee, the roads in that area took considerable punishment. Arrangements were made whereby the Army would assume responsibility for maintaining the roads in that section of the Park. In October, 1943, the Superintendent reported that, with the aid of the Army, the Park was then in the best condition it had been since its establishment. Assistance from the Army was withdrawn in 1947.

As in the case of other National Park Service areas located in close proximity to main highway routes, Petersburg National Military Park became in 1940 a bivouac area for transient troops. Accommodations provided by the Park for the troops consisted of about 10 acres of camping and parking space, water, and wood. On March 26, 1940, some 900 men and officers of the 18th Engineer Regiment encamped near Fort Stedman, en route from Fort Devins, Mass., to Fort Benning, Ga. Just the previous day to the visit of the engineers, 30 men and officers of the 3rd Cavalry had encamped in the Fort Stedman area. Officers from both of these units correctly predicted that more army units would stop overnight at Petersburg. Approximately 3,332 troops had bivouacked on the Park by July, 1941; the number following that date was negligible.

In July, 1942, the CCC camp which had been in operation since the summer of 1933 was closed down. Until the closing of the camp, enrollees and a supervisory staff had carried out the necessary work for the development, maintenance, and protection of the Park. Project Superintendent John V. Colston was transferred to the Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area Project as Project Superintendent on January 2, 1941. He was succeeded at Camp Stedman by Norman A. Buckley, who had until then been Assistant Park Superintendent. In August, 1941, the CCC camp was assigned to the National Defense Program and a side camp of 25 enrollees was set up to operate in the Park. In the last month of its existence the average strength of the camp was 139. Many of the enrollees obtained work in nearby defense projects almost immediately following the dissolution of the camp. An army unit from Camp Lee occupied the former CCC buildings from the winter of 1942 until October, 1944. In 1949 the camp site was cleared and Hare Hill was restored to its natural appearance. A number of the camp buildings were moved and converted into utility use for the Park.

Military groups, chiefly from neighboring Camp Lee, continued to visit the Park throughout the war. Despite shortage of tires and the rationing of gasoline, Park visitation by military personnel and civilians continued in such a number that in April, 1942, Superintendent O. F. Northington, Jr., reported that the "decrease in the number of interpretive personnel is even

more pronounced. If there were more visitors they could not be accommodated." Visitors in April, 1942, were estimated at 22,489, an increase of 2,638 over the preceding month. Up until the closing of the CCC camp in July, 1942, a number of the enrollees were utilized as guides. After that date shortage of interpretive personnel necessitated, at times, the closing of the Battery Five contact station and the museum at the Crater.<sup>95</sup>

#### First Park Television Program

Although Superintendent Floyd B. Taylor had appeared previously on a local Chamber of Commerce TV program representing Petersburg National Military Park, the first televised program devoted entirely to the Park was presented on Monday, April 23, 1956, when the entire Park staff appeared on a fifteen minute program, with serial title of "The Old Dominion." The theme of the Park presentation was the operation of the Park and the functions of its personnel rather than a descriptive or historical account of the Park. Those appearing were: Park Superintendent Floyd B. Taylor; Park Historians Lee A. Wallace, Jr., and Howard L. Elick; Chief Clerk Kathryne L. Anthony; Ranger Melvin Proffitt; and the regular maintenance staff: Caretaker Rudolph L. Blaha; Norris Field, and Charles L. French, Laborers. Insofar as is known, the program established two "firsts": (1) First time any area in the National Park System has ever had its entire staff on a TV program; and (2) First time the entire NHP staff has appeared on the local station WXEX-TV.

Observance of Establishment Day and Dedication  
of Visitor Center, 1956

Petersburg National Military Park celebrated its 30th anniversary with an "Establishment Day" program held at the Visitor Center, July 3, 1956. In conjunction with the "Establishment Day" program, the Visitor Center building was formally dedicated. Just four days earlier members of the Museum Branch staff had arrived to install the remaining exhibits, thus completing the museum exhibit plan which had been initiated when plans for the building conversion were formulated in 1954.

Franklin W. Smith, President of the Petersburg Battlefield Park Association, the principal speaker, was introduced by Walter T. McCandlish, Secretary of the Petersburg Battlefield Museum Corporation. Mr. Smith reviewed, in light of his own experiences, the progress that was made in obtaining land necessary for the Park. Donors of land to the Park, and problems in raising funds for the purchase of land, were cited by Mr. Smith.

Following Mr. Smith's address, Superintendent Floyd B. Taylor introduced two former Superintendents of Petersburg National Military Park, Oscar F. Northington, Jr., and Dr. J. Walter Coleman, and members of the audience who had played a part in the development of the Park, including officials in the Region One and Washington Offices.

The program concluded with the dedication of the Visitor Center by Director Conrad L. Wirth. Mr. Wirth, who was introduced by Regional Director Elbert Cox, discarded his

prepared address and spoke generally of the aims of the National Park Service and of MISSION 66. The exercises concluded with the cutting of the ribbon by the Superintendent and the Park staff which officially opened the new museum.<sup>96</sup>

The ceremonies conducted at the Visitor Center, July 3, 1956, appropriately marked the end of 30 years of Petersburg National Military Park history and the fruition of a project envisioned almost 60 years ago by the Petersburg National Battlefield Park Association.

## APPENDIX A

### Park Commissioners and Superintendents, with Dates

#### Under the War Department

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
Capt. Carter R. Bishop	Comm. Chairman	1928-1933
Capt. Henry M. Coney	Commissioner	1928-1932
Lt. Col. Henry C. Jewett	Comm. Secretary	1928-1929
Lt. Col. James Blyth	Comm. Secretary	1929-1930
Col. Tenny Ross	Comm. Secretary	Jan. 1930 - June 1930
Maj. Arthur E. Wilbourn	Comm. Secretary	1930-1933
Seward W. Jones	Commissioner	1932-1933

#### Under the Department of the Interior

B. Floyd Flickinger	Acting Supt.	1933-1935
J. Walter Coleman	Acting Supt.	1935-1936
J. Walter Coleman	Superintendent	1936-1938
Oscar F. Northington, Jr.	Superintendent	1938-1946
George F. Emery	Superintendent	1946-1952*
Floyd B. Taylor	Superintendent	1953-1956
Bernard T. Campbell	Superintendent	1956-

\*Park Ranger Melvin Proffitt served as Acting Superintendent during the interim.

#### Park Rangers

Allen C. Burtness	Oct. 1941 - June 1942
Melvin B. Proffitt	Oct. 1942 -

#### Clerks

Miss Ruth Coplen	Jan. 1938 - June 1940
Mrs. Mildred S. Deane	Aug. 1941 - March 1942
Mrs. Kathryn L. Anthony	May 1942 - Nov. 1944
Mrs. Louise Hoppel	Jan. 1945 - Jan. 1946
Mrs. Kathryn L. Anthony	Jan. 1946

# Historical Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
Branch Spalding	Historical Tech.	June 1936 - July 1938
George W. Guy	Jr. Historian	July 1936 - June 1938
Manning C. Voorhis	Jr. Park Historian	July 1936 - Sept. 1940
Raleigh C. Taylor	Jr. Park Historian	March 1937 - May 1940
Ferry O. Wilkinson	Ranger-Historian	June 1937 - Oct. 1938
Joseph Mills Hanson	Asst. Historical Tech.	Oct. 1939 - March 1942
George Y. Wilkins	Jr. Historical Tech.	June 1940 - April 1941
Calvin Goddard	Park Ranger-Historian	June 1939 - Oct. 1939
Clarence L. Johnson	Jr. Historical Tech.	July 1942 - June 1944
Ralph Happel	Park Historian	Nov. 1944 - Dec. 1946
Hugh V. Hubbard, Jr.	Park Ranger-Historian	June 1947 - Sept. 1947
Curtis Renfrew	Park Historian	Dec. 1946 - Jan. 1948
Francis J. Lucas	Park Ranger-Historian	June 1948 - Sept. 1949
Richard W. Lykes	Park Historian	Sept. 1948 - Sept. 1951
Donald Dietrich	Historical Aid	June 1950 - Oct. 1950
Lee A. Wallace, Jr.	Historical Aid	
	Park Historian	Oct. 1950 - Feb. 1957
Frank B. Sarles, Jr.	Historical Aid	Nov. 1951 - Feb. 1953
Herbert Olsen	Park Historian	May 1953 - June 1954
Franklin A. Cain, Jr.	Park Historian	August 1954 - August 1955
Howard L. Blick	Park Historian	Sept. 1955 -



## APPENDIX B

Friends of Petersburg National Military Park now living are far too numerous to list here, but such a listing would have to include:

Mr. Franklin Smith, Petersburg, Virginia

Mr. Walter T. McCandlish, Petersburg, Virginia

Miss Anne V. Mann, Petersburg, Virginia

Petersburg Progress-Index, Petersburg, Virginia

Petersburg Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy,  
Petersburg, Virginia

Ladies Memorial Association, Petersburg, Virginia

Dr. W. W. Pleasants, West Chester, Pennsylvania

Chamber of Commerce, Petersburg, Virginia

Mr. Roy Ash, City Manager, Petersburg, Virginia

Hon. Watkins Abbitt, Representative Fourth Congressional  
District of Virginia, Appomattox, Virginia

Chicago Civil War Round Table, Chicago, Illinois

Richmond Civil War Round Table, Richmond, Virginia

Petersburg Civil War Round Table, Petersburg, Virginia

Petersburg Battlefield Museum Corporation, Centre Hill  
Mansion Museum, Petersburg, Virginia

Roy M. Pickard, Keene, New Hampshire

Rotary Club, Petersburg, Virginia

Kiwanis Club, Petersburg, Virginia

Lions Club, Petersburg, Virginia

General Howard Peckham, U. S. Army Retired

General Ira K. Evans, Commanding Officer, Fort Lee, Virginia

Richmond Newspapers, Inc., Richmond, Virginia

APPENDIX C

Original Act of the Congress of the United States  
Establishing the Petersburg National Military Park

Signed by President Calvin Coolidge, July 3, 1926

"[PUBLIC -- NO. 467 -- 69th CONGRESS]

[H. R. 7817]

An Act To establish a national military park at the battle fields of the siege of Petersburg, Virginia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865 and to preserve for historical purposes the breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters used by the armies therein the battle fields at Petersburg, in the State of Virginia, are hereby declared a national military park whenever the title to the same shall have been acquired by the United States by donation and the usual jurisdiction over the lands and roads of the same shall have been granted to the United States by the State of Virginia -- that is to say, one hundred and eighty-five acres or so much thereof as the Secretary of War may deem necessary in and about the city of Petersburg, State of Virginia.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to accept, on behalf of the United States, donations of lands, interests therein, or rights pertaining thereto required for the Petersburg National Military Park.

Sec. 3. The affairs of the Petersburg National Military Park shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of War, be in charge of three commissioners, consisting of Army officers, civilians, or both, to be appointed by the Secretary of War, one of whom shall be designated as chairman and another as secretary of the commission.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duties of the commissioners, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to superintend the opening or repair of such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and to ascertain and mark with historical tablets or otherwise, as the Secretary of War may determine, all breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelters, lines of battle, location of troops, buildings, and other historical points of interest within the park or in its vicinity, and the said commission in establishing the park shall have authority, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to employ such labor and service at rates to be fixed by the Secretary of War, and to obtain such supplies and materials as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. The commission, acting through the Secretary of War, is authorized to receive gifts and contributions from States, Territories, societies, organizations, and individuals for the Petersburg National Military Park: PROVIDED, That all contributions of money received shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States and credited to a fund to be designated 'Petersburg National Military Park Fund,' which fund shall be applied to and expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 6. It shall be lawful for the authorities of any State having had troops engaged at Petersburg, to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Petersburg National Military Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of troops engaged therein: PROVIDED, That before any such lines are permanently designated, the position of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them by monuments, tablets, or otherwise, including the design and inscription for the same, shall be submitted to the Secretary of War and shall first receive written approval of the Secretary, which approval shall be based upon formal written reports to be made to him in each case by the commissioners of the park: PROVIDED, That no discrimination shall be made against any State as to the manner of designating lines, but any grant made to any State by the Secretary of War may be used by any other State.

Sec. 7. If any person shall, except by permission of the Secretary of War, destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, column, statues, memorial structures, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall destroy, cut, hack, bark, break down, or otherwise injure any tree, bush, or shrubbery that may be growing upon said park, or shall cut down or fell or remove any timber, battle relic, tree or trees growing or being upon said park, or hunt within the limits of the park, or shall remove or destroy any breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelter or any part thereof constructed by the armies formerly engaged in the battles on the lands or approaches to the park, any person so offending and found guilty thereof, before any United States commissioner or court, justice of the peace of the county in which the offense may be committed, or any other court of competent jurisdiction, shall for each and every such offense forfeit and pay a fine, in the discretion of the said United States commissioner or court, justice of the peace or other court, according to the aggravation of the offense, of not less than \$5 nor more than \$500, one-half for the use of the park and the other half to the informant, to be enforced and recovered before such United States commissioner or court, justice of the peace or other court, in like manner as debts of like nature are now by law recoverable in the several counties where the offense may be committed.

Sec. 8. The Secretary of War, subject to the approval of the President, shall have the power to make and shall make all needful rules and regulations for the care of the park, and for the establishment and marking of lines of battle and other historical features of the park.

Sec. 9. Upon completion of the acquisition of the land and the work of the commission, the Secretary of War shall render a report thereon to Congress, and thereafter the park shall be placed in charge of a superintendent at a salary to be fixed by the Secretary of War and paid out of the appropriation available for the maintenance of the park.

Sec. 10. To enable the Secretary of War to begin to carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not more than the sum of \$15,000, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be available until expended, after the United States has acquired title, and disbursements under this Act shall be annually reported by the Secretary of War to Congress.

Approved, July 3, 1926."

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