

Manassas National Battlefield Park

Newsletter - FREE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Manassas National Battlefield Park




THE SENTINEL

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FREE

SECESSION COMES TO PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

By Maureen Santelli

The culmination of intense conflict surrounding the issue of slavery came to a head in the spring of 1861 for Virginians. The desire to "be let alone," the motto of states' rights sentiments, escalated as the 1840s and 50s wore on and eventually pushed southern states to the breaking point. With the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency in November 1860, many southerners became intensely concerned for their political presence in the federal government and how the issue of slavery would be addressed with the Republican Party in power. Due to this fervor, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in December of 1860. By February, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Loui-

siana, Mississippi, and Texas had followed suit and formed a southern Confederacy. Eyes turned to Virginia, one of the wealthiest slave holding states in 1860, with earnest interest on which side the Old Dominion would fall.

The decision to secede in Virginia was not as swift as in South Carolina and local residents were far more divided on the questions of slavery and secession. Virginia had become the home of many transplanted northerners, especially in northern Virginia, during the 1840s and early 1850s. When the issue of slavery escalated, however, native Virginians became less receptive to northern emigrants. In 1847, Prince William County residents who attended Sudley Church even refused to

receive a newly appointed minister because of his northern sympathies. These tensions continued through the 1850s in Virginia until locals were forced to arrive at a decision on secession in the spring of 1861.

Virginians were swayed towards secession in April 1861 when Abraham Lincoln, in response to the Confederate fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, called for 75,000 volunteers from all of the states to assist the Federal government in putting down the rebellion in the South. A convention in Richmond convened to determine the state's response to Lincoln's ultimatum. Delegates from the western part of the state, from what is now West Virginia,

Continued on Page 4

Contents

Ranger Programs	...2,3
Visitor Services	...3
Junior Ranger	...5
Superintendent's Message	...6
Park Science	...6
Park Protection	...7
Park Maintenance	...7
Park Partner	...7
Park Passes	...8
Bookstore	...8
Volunteer	...8

RANGER PROGRAMS

First Manassas Programs

Henry Hill Walking Tour: Enjoy a walking tour with a park historian to visit key sites of the First Battle of Manassas.

Location	Time	Duration	Frequency
Henry Hill Visitor Center	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	45 minutes	Daily

Matthews Hill Walking Tour: This walking tour will discuss the opening phases of the First Battle of Manassas. This tour begins April 2.

Tour Stop #4 Matthews Hill	10 a.m.	45 minutes	Daily Starting April 2
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Second Manassas Programs

Brawner Farm Walking Tour: This walking tour covers the first day's action of Second Manassas.

Brawner Farm Interpretive Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	45 minutes	Daily
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Living History

Spring Drill Day. Watch the troops of Manassas drill with musket, bayonet, and artillery. "Loading in nine times" to fire musketry, and artillery firing of 10-pounder Parrott Gun in the Henry House yard.

Henry Hill	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	3 hours	Sunday, March 20
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Civil War Education Days. Military and Civilian demonstrations to describe life of the Civil War era, and the experience of the soldier. 14th Tennessee Confederate impression. Musketry and Artillery firing.

Henry Hill	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 hours	Thurs. & Fri., April 14 & 15
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Confederate encampment and infantry demonstrations. Musketry firing, 27th Virginia and Stonewall Brigade impressions.

Henry Hill	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	6 hours	Saturday, April 30
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Musketry Firing. Infantry drill and musketry firing, 27th Virginia and Stonewall Brigade.

Henry Hill	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	3 hours	Sunday, May 1
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14th Brooklyn Militia Chasseurs. Red-trousered Union troops demonstrate soldier life and musketry firing.

Henry Hill	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	3 hours	Sat. & Sun. May 28 & 29
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Memorial Day Observance at Groveton Confederate Cemetery and New York Avenue. Musketry and Artillery salutes in memory of war dead. Decoration of monuments with state flowers and flags. Groveton Confederate Cemetery. 14th Brooklyn and 42nd Virginia infantry impressions.

Henry Hill	12 p.m. - 2 p.m.	3 hours	Monday May 30
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RANGER PROGRAMS

Spring Hikes

Join a park historian for a three hour hike of the First Manassas Battlefield. The distance is approximately 5.4 miles and will go rain or shine. Be sure to bring plenty of water.

Join a park historian for a three hour hike of the Second Manassas Battlefield. The distance is approximately 6.2 miles and will go rain or shine. Be sure to bring plenty of water.

Location	Time	Duration	Frequency
Henry Hill Visitor Center	1 p.m.	3 hours	Saturday, April 9
Henry Hill Visitor Center	1 p.m.	3 hours	Saturday, April 23

VISITOR SERVICES

Henry Hill Visitor Center Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The park offers a wide array of activities, scenic vistas, historic sites and walking trails to interest the casual visitor or the true Civil War historian. A good place to begin your visit is the Henry Hill Visitor Center. Pick up a park brochure, map, trail guides and check out the daily schedule of interpretive programs.



Park Orientation Film

"Manassas: End of Innocence": This 45-minute film covers both the First and Second Battles of Manassas. The film shows daily, every hour on the hour, starting at 9 a.m. with the last show at 4 p.m. The program is close-captioned and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Admission is free.



Museum Exhibits

Artifacts and exhibits pertaining to the First Battle of Manassas are displayed in the Henry Hill Visitor Center museum. Exhibits include audio-visual displays and a fiber-optic battle map presentation that describes troop movements during the battle. Audio portions are close-captioned.

Brawner Farm Interpretive Center

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Inclement weather may cause closure.

At the Brawner Farm Interpretive Center you will find exhibits and audio-visual programs that provide an overview to the Second Battle of Manassas.



Stone House

Open weekends only starting April 2, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Open daily beginning Memorial Day, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This former tavern served as a field hospital during both battles of Manassas. Today, it has been restored and furnished to represent its wartime appearance.



stormed out of the Virginia convention on April 17, 1861 when a majority voted to withdraw from the Union. The only thing keeping Virginia from joining the Confederate States of America was a ratification of the ordinance by Virginia voters.

Citizens in Virginia voiced their opinions on the issue when they went to the polls in May to vote for or against the convention's Ordinance for Secession. There were many Virginians who were against the ordinance, especially northern and non-slave holding farmers. Many Unionists in Virginia were afraid to express a negative opinion on the secession ordinance and as a result stayed home from the polls. One such Unionist from Virginia living near Groveton revealed, "I knew from threats that were made that I would have been subject to violence if I voted against it as I wanted to." Still others did not stay home from the polls. One such voter, a farmer from the Haymarket area, voted against secession and as a result a crowd gathered to "black him and ride him on a rail." Other Unionists present managed to intercede on the farmer's behalf and prevented such violence from taking place.

Many of these Unionists left their homes because of the escalated tension in the local communities. One resident of Vienna observed that the fear of violence among Union sympathizers in the area "had destroyed the confidence between friends and neighbors... Thirty four families left Vienna in two days with what they could hastily gather up." Others



James Robinson House

chose to stay, such as a free African American, James Robinson. Discussion of an impending crisis, to Robinson and his family, revolved around slavery where they saw northerners as potential liberators. James Robinson, "scorned the view" of secession and feared that should the South succeed, he and his family ran the risk of being sold back into slavery. Robinson and others who stayed would find themselves soon enough embroiled in a war that would ravage northern Virginia.



10th Virginia Infantry Battle Flag

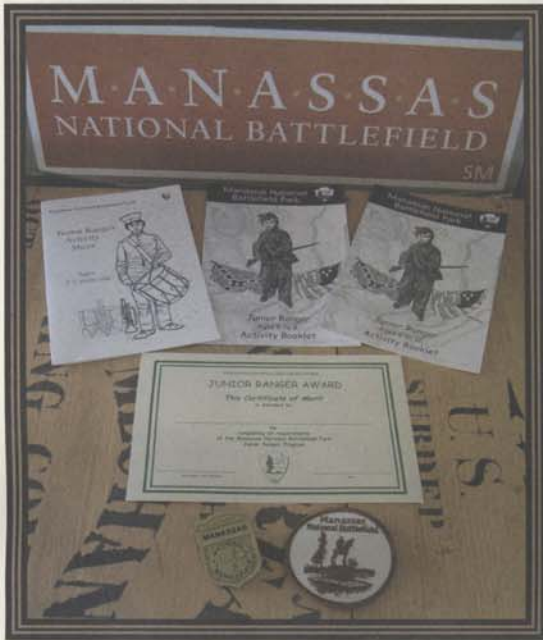
Despite the heated contentions surrounding secession in the local communities, Virginia formally joined the Confederate States of America in late May

1861. Enthusiasm in defending their state motivated volunteers to come forward to form units that would serve in the Confederate Army. Five hundred volunteers from Prince William County enlisted. The Prince William Rifles, which organized out of Haymarket, became Company F of the 17th Regiment Virginia Infantry on May 27, 1861. Frank Lewis of Portici Plantation, located not far from Henry Hill, enlisted in the Piedmont Rifles, which became Company B of the 8th Virginia Infantry. Many other volunteer units throughout the state formed immediately after the Virginia Convention voted in favor of the secession ordinance. One such unit, the "Washington Volunteers," formed in Alexandria on April 26th, 1861. This group of volunteers mustered into state service as Company H of the 7th Regiment Virginia Infantry and saw action at the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861.

Many local citizens poured their efforts into supporting the Confederate cause. While many of the men enlisted into local units, women busied themselves with sewing uniforms and other items the newly enlisted soldiers needed. Such endeavors turned into social gatherings for local women. One woman described a gathering at which local women sewed uniforms while one of the ladies played southern patriotic music such as "Dixie" on the piano. Enthusiasm for war was high among local residents and it was observed only later on by one of these ladies "we had not yet realized the terror of what was to come."

Not long after Confederate units formed in Alexandria, the Union Army moved across the Potomac and occupied the town. Unionists, as well as African American slaves, welcomed the Federal army's presence. Secessionists, on the other hand, were unhappy about this occupation. Some of these secessionists even fled the area. One Fairfax woman departed so abruptly that she left everything behind, including her freshly made breakfast. Many of these secessionist refugees moved to Prince William County. William Slade and his family from Langley fled to Prince William when they decided that the Union presence was too dangerous to stay. They lived in Prince William for a year before the Slade family, realizing that they would be unable to move home again, moved farther South to the Richmond area. For northern Virginians, safety would not be found in Prince William County, as it would soon become the scene of two major battles of the American Civil War.

JUNIOR RANGER PAGE



For younger visitors to the park; between 3 and 12 years of age, an age-appropriate Junior Ranger activity booklet is available at the information desk inside the Henry Hill Visitor Center.

Budget one to two hours of time to complete the booklet during your visit to the park.

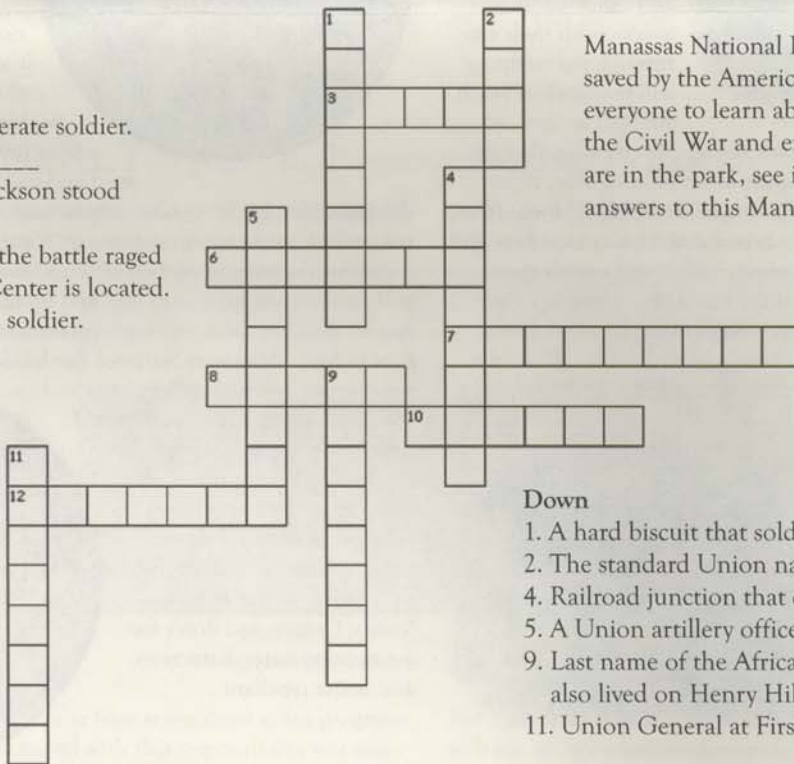
Upon successful completion of the booklet, you will be enrolled as a "Junior Ranger" of Manassas National Battlefield Park and you will be rewarded with a patch or a badge for your efforts.

Be sure to ask about the Junior Ranger program at any National Park site you have the chance to visit.



Across

3. Nickname for a Confederate soldier.
6. President Abraham _____
7. Confederate General Jackson stood "like a _____"
8. Name of the hill where the battle raged and where the Visitor Center is located.
10. Nickname for a Union soldier.
12. Artillery weapons.



Manassas National Battlefield Park is a special place saved by the American people (including you!) for everyone to learn about two significant battles of the Civil War and enjoy the outdoors. While you are in the park, see if you can discover all of the answers to this Manassas related crossword puzzle...

Down

1. A hard biscuit that soldiers ate.
2. The standard Union name for the battle: ____ Run.
4. Railroad junction that drew the armies here.
5. A Union artillery officer at First Manassas.
9. Last name of the African American "freedman" who also lived on Henry Hill.
11. Union General at First Manassas.

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

This year marks the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and the National Park Service and its many partners are preparing for the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas.

The year 1861 was a turbulent one; first the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln, then the

bombardment and capture of Fort Sumter in Charlestown harbor. But what happened at Manassas on July 21, 1861 would shock the Nation into understanding that this would be a costly struggle.

Take advantage of the numerous programs this spring and attend the commemorative events of the

anniversary week-end. Join us on the hallowed ground of Manassas National Battlefield Park as we mark this momentous period of American history and remember the events that captured the attention of the world.

- Superintendent Edward W. Clark III



PARK SCIENCE

Blooming Bluebells By Courtney Asher



Each year, after the snow melts and the ground softens from the harsh winter, Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, and other wildflower shoots push their way through the warming soil to absorb as much sunlight as they can

before the trees leaves block them with shade. Shortly after, they put on an extravagant show by carpeting the forest floor in blue, violet and pink shades of splendor. The flowers of the bluebell bloom from March through June, releasing sweet nectar that attracts local bees and humming birds. The bees crawl out from hiding and stretch their wings as they buzz and dance around the new found abundance of flowering nectars. The bluebells first emerge from the ground with grayish- green foliage and sweeping clusters of pink buds. When the time is right, the buds unfasten themselves into trumpet shaped, light blue flowers that resemble little blue bells. A walk by the Stone Bridge and boardwalk would allow one to enjoy the view of blooming bluebells, the sounds of chorus frogs in nearby vernal pools, and maybe even catch a glimpse of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird hovering in search of nectar.



Springing into Step By Courtney Asher



The cycle of life presents its most enchanting show during the spring, and it is a great time for a walk through the battlefield to experience it. Thanks to support from Unilever's Changing Our World program, the park can provide visitors with educational pamphlets to stimulate interests in natural resources and encourage sustainable, healthy lifestyles. Stop by our visitor center to learn about the battlefield and pick up educational cards about

the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and plants of the park. Use them for reference on a walk through the park and look for plants erupting from the soil, bugs crawling through the cracks, and animals coming out to feed and breed. The rack cards include species lists, fun facts, environmental concerns, and information on how to help. Manassas National Battlefield Park functions as a living outreach program where local and regional biology can be interpreted for visitors that enjoy small reserves and cultural historic sites. Seize the opportunity to take a walk on the wild side and enjoy the wildlife of the park. Grab a map from the Visitor Center, and don't forget to bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent .



VISITOR PROTECTION



The history that the battlefield holds is unique and special. There is only one Manassas battlefield in the world and the events that took place here helped shape our history. While it may be tempting to take a piece of that history home, it is against Federal Law to remove, possess or disturb any natural, cultural or archeological resource within park boundaries. You would also be in violation of Federal Law to use or even have in your possession a metal detector while inside the park. The things here are irreplaceable so if you do happen along something you

think is noteworthy, please contact a member of the park staff so that it can be documented and taken care of correctly.

The Visitor Protection staff at Manassas National Battlefield Park is committed to making your time here safe and enjoyable. You will see us patrolling in our police vehicles, strolling on the park's trails or sitting astride one of our patrol horses. If you are in need of assistance, flag us down or call the park dispatch at 866-677-6677. For life threatening or immediate emergencies dial 911 and a local dispatcher will assist you.

MAINTENANCE

With Sesquicentennial events in mind the view sheds and landscapes are absorbing the effort of much of the division. Problem trees are being removed while shrubs and small trees that have gradually obscured historic view sheds are being trimmed or taken out. Trail rehabilitation will gradually assume a dominant role in maintenance initiatives to serve the needs of the anticipated visitor population for July events in the park, especially in the vicinity of Henry Hill. Turf renovation began in early fall 2010 around Henry Hill. The fruits of that labor to be evident once the ground temperature warms to around 55 degrees in March or early April. Watch for the dandelion blossoms to signal this threshold event.



The interior of Stone House will be receiving attention in the form of plaster repair and whitewash touch up on interior walls. This "silent sentinel" for both Manassas battles will host many thousands of visitors in the upcoming Sesquicentennial events and will be spruced up to meet that challenge.

PARK PARTNER: THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND

Throughout the 2010-2011 school year, Manassas National Battlefield Park has partnered with Prince William County Public Schools and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground to help sixth grade students at Stonewall Middle School produce a series of vodcasts related to the First Battle of Manassas. These vodcasts will provide another interpretive experience for our younger visitors to better connect with park stories through new media. National Park Service staff, volunteers, and many employees from partner agencies and from this local school are assisting approximately 500 students in their brainstorming, writing, editing, filming and production of at least seven short video programs. Stonewall Middle School was vested with this responsibility not sim-

ply because its namesake won his nickname on acreage preserved within the park, but because of the diverse composition of its student body. A few of the vodcasts will use Spanish to help English as a Second Language students better relate to some of the human interest story lines to be found for all modern Americans studying the American Civil War era. When completed in the spring of 2011; in time for the sesquicentennial of the First Battle of Manassas, these vodcasts will provide fresh perspectives upon the significant historical events and themes interpreted at Manassas National Battlefield Park.



Students from Stonewall Middle School listen to living history volunteers during a recent visit to the park.

For more information, visit The Journey Through Hallowed Ground web site at...www.hallowedground.org.

PARK PASSES

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass covers recreation opportunities on public lands managed by four Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies - the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, and by the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service.

Annual Interagency Pass - \$80

The pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a specific period of time, typically a year, beginning from the month of purchase.



Senior Pass - \$10

U.S. citizens 62 or older can purchase a \$10 lifetime Senior Pass.

Access Pass - FREE

Citizens with permanent disabilities can receive a free lifetime Access Pass.

Volunteer Pass - FREE

The Volunteer Pass is for volunteers who accumulate 500 hours of service.

Manassas National Battlefield Park Pass - \$20

Good for one year's admission to the battlefield park only from date of issue. Covers admission for pass holder and 3 adults.



BOOKSTORE



Just off the main lobby of the Henry Hill Visitor Center is the park bookstore. Operated by Eastern National, the park's cooperative association, the store offers an extensive collection of titles on Civil War subjects, Northern Virginia history and specialized topics. Audio CD driving tours and trail guides

are available. Browse through a fun selection of souvenir items and collectible merchandise, prints, music CDs and movie DVDs.

VOLUNTEER

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Last year over 800 people donated more than 17,500 hours to the park. We have a diverse array of volunteer opportunities available to both individuals and groups.

Visitor Services

Volunteers work at the Henry Hill Visitor Center information desk or Brawner Farm Interpretive Center, greeting visitors and providing them with an orientation and overview of the park's historical resources and programs. Volunteers are also needed to staff the historic Stone House, a pre-war tavern used as an aide station during both Battles of Manassas.



Volunteer Fred Brems at the Brawner Farm Interpretive Center.

Trail Maintenance

Manassas National Battlefield Park contains more than 40 miles of trails, over half of which are open to horseback riding. The park works closely with two volunteer organizations to perform routine trail maintenance, combat erosion, and address sustainability issues. Hiking trails at the park are maintained with the assistance of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and bridle trails are maintained with the assistance of the Battlefield Equestrian Society.

For additional information, please contact the park's Volunteer Coordinator at 703-361-1339 x1211.

To view additional volunteer opportunities available nationwide, go to www.volunteer.gov/gov.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Manassas National Battlefield Park
12521 Lee Highway
Manassas, VA 20109

Visitor Information: 703-361-1339

Web Site: www.nps.gov/mana

Facebook: www.facebook.com/manassasbattlefield

