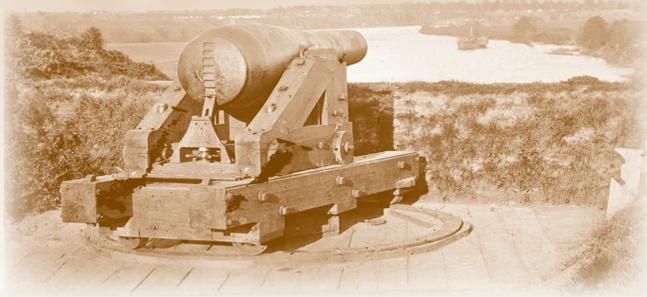


1862



Drewry's Bluff

*Richmond National Battlefield Park
7600 Fort Darling Road*

On May 15, 1862, a Federal flotilla led by the ironclads *USS Monitor* and *USS Galena* attempted to force its way past the Confederate fort at Drewry's Bluff. The Federals were turned back after a three-hour battle. Richmond was never again seriously threatened by a water-based attack.

Appomattox River Raid

On June 28, 1862, Federal gunboats led by the ironclads *Monitor* and *Galena* attempted to make their way up the Appomattox River to destroy the railroad bridge at Swift Creek. The attack was abandoned after one gunboat ran aground and was destroyed in the winding, shallow channel. Confederate gunfire from the banks of the Appomattox also helped turn back the attack.



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CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Tracing the steps of our Civil War history



Many people recognize the major battles of the Civil War – Gettysburg, Manassas, Antietam, Shiloh or Cold Harbor. Yet, the smaller battles and campaigns were just as significant to the soldiers who fought and to the civilians living in the paths of the armies. All of these engagements, big and small, tell the whole story of the Civil War, a war fought by men marching 15 to 40 miles a day, advancing and retreating, in victory and defeat.

In Chesterfield County, discover some of the lesser-known stories of the war. Explore Bermuda Hundred, Drewry's Bluff and eight other sites throughout the county that may not be as well-known, but were every bit as important as some of the bigger battles. The county's location near the capital of the Confederacy meant it was the center of several major campaigns, on land and water.

1864



Bermuda Hundred

In May of 1864, Gen. Benjamin F. Butler landed 40,000 troops on the Bermuda Hundred peninsula in Chesterfield County. His goal was to set up a base of operations and then advance toward Richmond and Petersburg. Battles fought here during May and early June 1864 prevented Butler from reaching his goal, and pushed his troops back into their defensive positions in Bermuda Hundred, where they remained for the rest of the war. Casualties on both sides of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign totaled approximately 6,000. Union and Confederate troops stationed in Chesterfield County also played important roles in battles during the Siege of Petersburg. When that city fell on April 2, 1865, the majority of the army under the command of Robert E. Lee passed through the county on its retreat to Appomattox.

Today, many of the sites associated with these events are preserved as parks. While each of these sites has a compelling story, collectively they encompass some of the important events of the Civil War.

Point of Rocks Park

201 Enon Church Road

In May 1864, Gen. Butler began to construct his main defensive line shortly after landing at Bermuda Hundred. His headquarters, an army hospital and a cemetery also were established nearby. President Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and other officers visited the headquarters and the defensive positions just weeks before Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865. The field hospital, built just east of the park, is where Red Cross founder Clara Barton served during the Siege of Petersburg.

Fort Stevens Park

8900 Pams Avenue

Fort Stevens was the main bastion of the Confederate inner defense line built in 1862 to defend the southern approach to Richmond. On May 16, it became the pivot point for a major Confederate counterattack that halted Butler's advance, known as the Second Battle of Drewry's Bluff.

Fort Wead and Sgt. Engle Park

1107 Greyledge Blvd.

Fort Wead was built at the rear of the main Union defensive line to prevent Confederate forces from advancing if the main lines were captured. The nearby Sgt. Engle Park is named after Union Sgt. James E. Engle of the 97th Pennsylvania Volunteers. During a skirmish on May 18, 1864, Engle volunteered to carry ammunition from this area to soldiers at the front. He remained there, distributing ammunition under constant fire, for the rest of the day. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Ware Bottom Church Battlefield Park

1600 Old Bermuda Hundred Road

Ware Bottom Church Battlefield Park marks the center of the fighting that took place during the Battle of Ware Bottom Church on May 20, 1864. The site contains more than 1,500 feet of well-preserved trenches and artillery positions that were constructed in the months after the battle, and one of the largest unbroken sections of the Howlett Line still in existence.

Howlett Line Park

14100 Howlett Line Drive

The park's earthworks were part of the Howlett Line that stretched across the Bermuda Hundred peninsula. This site was one of the largest artillery positions along that line. On June 2, 1864, Col. Olin M. Dantzler led an attack from the site toward a nearby Federal position. Dantzler and 16 of his men were killed in the failed assault.

Parker's Battery — Richmond National Battlefield Park

1801 Ware Bottom Spring Road

Parker's Battery is a well-preserved example of the Confederate defenses known as the Howlett Line. The site was manned by Parker's "Boy Company" comprised of men from the city of Richmond. Parker's Battery occupied this site until the fall of Petersburg on April 2, 1865, when they joined Lee on his retreat to Appomattox.

Battery Dantzler Park

1820 Battery Dantzler Road

The fort was named Battery Dantzler in honor of Col. Olin Miller Dantzler, 22d South Carolina Infantry, who was killed in action just south of the park. Battery Dantzler anchored the northern end of the Howlett Line. The Battle of Trent's Reach, one of the last naval actions of the war, took place at the foot of Battery Dantzler in January 1865.

Dutch Gap Canal at Henricus Historical Park

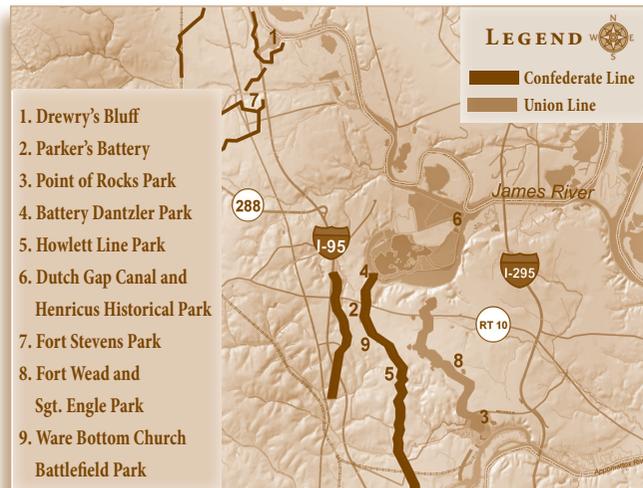
251 Henricus Park Road

Gen. Butler devised a plan to build a canal across the neck of land known as Dutch Gap. The purpose of the canal was to bypass Battery Dantzler and other Confederate guns along the James River. Construction of the canal took place from August to December 1864, with the majority of the work done by African-American troops who were frequently shelled by nearby Confederate gun positions. The canal was not completed until after the war, and was widened to its current extent in the 1930s.

Mid-Lothian Mines Park

13301 N. Woolridge Road

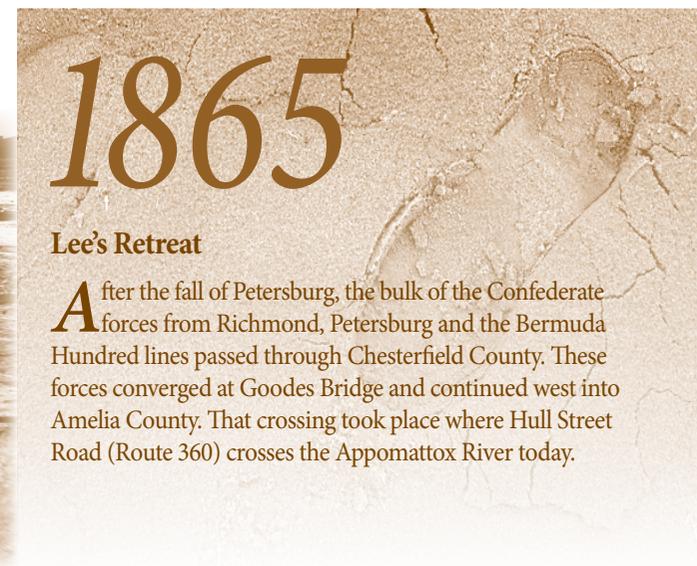
Coal from these mines was used to fire the furnaces at Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. Tredegar was the main supplier of artillery and iron for the Confederacy. A Union cavalry raid passed through this area in May 1864.



1. Drewry's Bluff
2. Parker's Battery
3. Point of Rocks Park
4. Battery Dantzler Park
5. Howlett Line Park
6. Dutch Gap Canal and Henricus Historical Park
7. Fort Stevens Park
8. Fort Wead and Sgt. Engle Park
9. Ware Bottom Church Battlefield Park

LEGEND

- Confederate Line
- Union Line



Battery Dantzler

1865

Lee's Retreat

After the fall of Petersburg, the bulk of the Confederate forces from Richmond, Petersburg and the Bermuda Hundred lines passed through Chesterfield County. These forces converged at Goodes Bridge and continued west into Amelia County. That crossing took place where Hull Street Road (Route 360) crosses the Appomattox River today.

Point of Rocks