

2016-17-02

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST
(FORM CWM #62)

REQUESTOR INFORMATION (Please print or type)

CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: Department of the Chesapeake

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Michael Beard

ADDRESS: 17 Rubins Walk

CITY: Fredericksburg STATE: VA ZIP CODE: 22405

PHONE(S): E-MAIL:

SIGNATURE:

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT Point or Rocks Cemetery Monument

NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION

Point of Rocks Park, Chesterfield County, Virginia

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3rd and Lincoln St)

Near entrance of Point of Rocks Park

GPS N W City State ZIP

WAS FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y N

EXISTING MONUMENT X NEW MONUMENT LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$ 6,800 AMOUNT RAISED \$ 375 REQUESTED \$ 1,000

CHECK PAYABLE TO: Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

ADDRESS: 10111 Ironbridge Road

CITY: Chesterfield State: VA ZIP CODE: 23832

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only

Grant Request # 2016-17-02 Amount Approved \$

Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date

Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.

MONUMENT/ MEMORIAL INFORMATION

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: Proposed WHO OWNS IT: Chesterfield County Parks

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? Chesterfield County Parks

ARE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE? NO FROM WHERE: _____

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? YES FROM WHERE: Department and Camps will contribute as will the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy

WAS A GRANT FROM THE SUVCW PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? NO

DATE: _____ AMOUNT: _____

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet if needed)

Chesterfield County has funded a project to build a Civil War Park at the site of the Union Field Hospital at Point of Rocks, Chesterfield County, Virginia. The County has asked the Civil War Heritage organization to fund a pyramid monument they will place at the entrance of the park. The Park will cost the county in excess of \$1 Million. The County already has the funding, mostly through grants. The National Civil War Society has purchased and placed several interpretive signs at the park.

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? _____

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? _____

Simmons Monument Company

WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDS IF GRANTED? _____

Chesterfield County Historical Society

LIST WHAT THE CAMP/DEPARTMENT HAS AND/OR WILL DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT

Department of the Chesapeake, Irish Brigade Camp #4 and Col. James D. Brady Camp #63 intend to contribute and assist the Historical Society in the effort to get the park open and dedicated.

Point of Rocks to be turned into public park

BY JEREMY SLAYTON Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Thursday, April 4, 2013 12:00 am

Chesterfield County is adding to its long list of assets that tell the county's deep and colorful history.

The county this year purchased 29 acres of the historic Point of Rocks property — a pivotal location in the Bermuda Hundred Campaign during the Civil War — from the family that has owned the site for 371 years in an effort to preserve it and its history for the future.

On Tuesday, a ceremonial title transfer will take place at Point of Rocks to symbolically close a deal that has been years in the making.

George Fickett, a Civil War historian and a preservationist, met Evelyn L. Cox, who lived at Point Rocks, in 1975 as he researched the Bermuda Hundred Campaign.

“She was living in the historic house and was born there,” Fickett said. “We talked for many years of her dream of the county ... buying the site and it becoming a county park.”

When she died in 2003, Fickett saw a for-sale sign go up and contacted the family to start the process of the county purchasing the property. Even then, many things had to be accomplished before the sale was finalized.

One of the main items was financing the deal.

The purchase was made possible by an American Battlefield Protection Program grant, funds from the Lands and Water Conservation Fund and matching money from the county to make the \$700,000 purchase.

In previous years, “we just weren't able to pull the resources together to do it. We got this grant and helped out quite a bit,” said Mike Golden, Chesterfield's director of parks and recreation.

Added Fickett: “I am glad I was able to make a little old lady's dream come true.”

Point of Rocks is named for a 60-foot high sandstone cliff overlooking the Appomattox River in southeastern Chesterfield County. A trading post was established there in 1642 by Abraham Wood and the land has passed through his heirs until it was sold to the county this year.

The house that currently stands at Point of Rocks was constructed in 1841 by the Rev. John Alexander Strachan, who was the founder of Enon Baptist Church. Cox was married to Strachan's grandson, Thomas Blackwood Cox.

When the Union army occupied Point of Rocks in May 1864, a field hospital was established on the site and the house served as the surgeons' quarters. The Strachan family was forced from its home and most

of their possessions were destroyed.

Clara Barton, who founded the American Red Cross, served as the superintendent of nurses at Point of Rocks from June 1864 until August 1864. Less than a year later, President Abraham Lincoln and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant visited the site with their families.

Bermuda District Supervisor Dorothy A. Jaeckle, whose district includes Point of Rocks, said it's been a long-term goal of the county to identify and restore its historic sites.

"One of the great assets of Chesterfield County is the historic sites (and) we have such an active group of citizens that are focused on historic sites," she said.

Plans for the site call for improved public access and parking; a trail system that would take visitors to the house and around the grounds; and ultimately a visitor's center to tell the Point of Rocks story, particularly about its role in the Civil War.

"It was bought for its historical significance. ... Like a number of our other historical parks, it would just be a great place for people to visit, take a walk, read a book and just enjoy being outside," said Stuart W. Connock Jr., chief of the Chesterfield Department of Parks and Recreation's planning and construction services division.

jslayton@

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



thoughtful and evidently wanted to be alone; for he soon left us, walking to the Point of Rocks and sat down under what was called the 'Pocahontas Oak' (See 5 on inside map). There he sat looking toward our line of breastworks. Sometimes he placed his elbow on his knee and rested his head wearily on his hand. Obviously he was thinking of something we knew not of. He had, in fact visited General Grant and probably knew what was about to take place."

Eighteen days later, Petersburg and Richmond had fallen, Lee had surrendered at Appomattox and President Lincoln lay in state.

Point of Rocks — a legacy in Chesterfield County

In 2013, the descendants of Rev. Strachan sold the property to Chesterfield County. The purchase was made possible by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program with funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. Matching funds were provided by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors and the Cox family. The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia was instrumental in the effort. Historic Point of Rocks Park is the culmination of years of work done by a dedicated group of volunteers from the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia and the children of Thomas B. and Evelyn L. Cox, who wished to preserve his family's land and its history for future generations.



For more information, visit:

OnToRichmond.com

ChesterfieldHistory.com

VisitChesterfieldVa.com/CivilWar

Site open by appointment only.

Call 804-796-7131

*Tracing the steps
of our Civil War history*



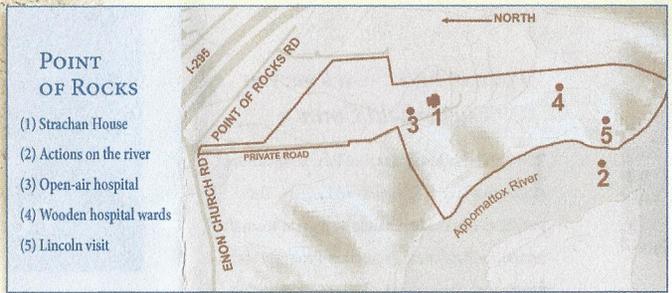
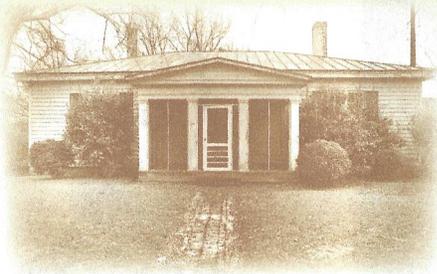
HISTORIC POINT OF ROCKS



"OBVIOUSLY [PRESIDENT LINCOLN] WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING WE KNEW NOT OF. HE HAD, IN FACT VISITED GENERAL GRANT AND PROBABLY KNEW WHAT WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE."

In March 1865, President Lincoln traveled to City Point to visit Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Lincoln spent two weeks there touring the front and reviewing the troops. On March 27, Lincoln, his wife, Mary Todd, and sons Robert and Tad, visited Point of Rocks. Dr. Moses Greely Parker escorted them on a tour of the hospital, describing the visit in a letter:

"The President looked over the hospital buildings without going into them. He seemed anxious and careworn. He was very kind and genial in his manner, and was carelessly dressed, wearing a tall hat. He said but little, was very



POINT OF ROCKS

- (1) Strachan House
- (2) Actions on the river
- (3) Open-air hospital
- (4) Wooden hospital wards
- (5) Lincoln visit

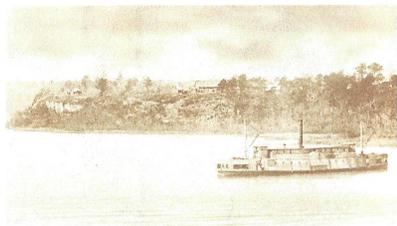
PPOINT OF ROCKS takes its name from a 60-foot high sandstone cliff that stands along the Appomattox River. The site was used by Native American Indians and was mentioned by Captain John Smith in his notes on Virginia. In 1642, a trading post was established there by Abraham Wood. The land was then passed to his heirs for 371 years, making Point of Rocks one of the oldest properties in the country continuously owned by one family.

During the Civil War

At the time of the Civil War, Point of Rocks was owned by the Rev. John Alexander Strachan, founder of Enon Baptist Church. The house that currently stands at Point of Rocks was built by Strachan in 1841 (1).

The first fighting at Point of Rocks took place on June 26, 1862, when a Union flotilla, including 12 gunboats and the ironclads Monitor and Galena, attempted to reach the railroad bridge over Swift Creek, located just a few miles upriver. This attack was personally ordered by President Abraham Lincoln because the destruction of the bridge would impede Confederate reinforcements and supplies coming up to Richmond from the south.

The Galena was positioned off City Point, just



to the south, while the rest of the squadron steamed upriver. Unfortunately for the Union, the sailors had no knowledge of the channel and the treacherous bars of the Appomattox River. Many of the Union ships were grounded and this, combined with the heavy fire from Confederates hidden along the banks, prevented the mission from being successful. (2)



Point of Rocks Hospital

After the Army of the James arrived at Bermuda Hundred in May 1864, a Union field hospital was established at Point of Rocks, consisting of tents set up in the orchard around the Strachan House (3). The tents were 50 feet long and could accommodate 40 or more patients, and the house served as the surgeon's quarters.

As the Bermuda Hundred Campaign gave way to the Siege of Petersburg, the hospital further developed into a large complex, with wooden wards grouped on the bluff in a horseshoe shape (4). The hospital was organized into divisions that distributed patients according to their diseases or injuries. Some divisions contained eight wards that were each 250 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15

feet high. These wards could accommodate 180 patients, and it is estimated that the hospital could hold more than 5,000 patients at a time.

Patients were under the care of two women pioneers in the field of medicine, Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and Harriet Dame.



Clara Barton

At a time when women were not allowed near the battlefields, Barton and Dame saw the war first-hand up in field hospitals. Barton served as superintendent of nursing at Point of Rocks Hospital from June-August 1864. The hospital served the 10th Corps of the Army of the James. Harriet Dame joined the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment as a hospital matron in June 1861 and remained with the regiment until the end of the war. In September 1864, she was appointed matron of the hospital at Point of Rocks, which served the 18th Corps and the United States Colored Troops.

A Union cemetery also was established at Point of Rocks. It contained the remains of more than 2,500 soldiers by the end of the war (6). Among them were 850 United States Colored Troops. A handful of Confederate soldiers also were buried there. After the war, the remains of the Union soldiers were moved to City Point National Cemetery, where the wall around the cemetery was constructed of stone quarried from the bluff at Point of Rocks.



5' 2"

9"

POINT OF ROCKS CEMETERY
IN MEMORY OF THE
43 CONFEDERATE AND 1,337 UNION
DEAD BURIED IN THIS VICINITY 1864-1865.
POINT OF ROCKS CEMETERY WAS CLOSED
AND THE DEAD WERE REMOVED WHEN
CITY POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY
WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1866

4-1/2"

12"

4' 6"