



BATTLEFIELD LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

SAVING LAND IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE—RESTORATION IS THE OTHER HALF

The Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA) is proud to stand with the national movement not only to preserve battlefield land but to restore it to its wartime appearance. Over the years, RBA has undertaken major restoration efforts—removing post-war structures at **Cold Harbor**, **Gaines' Mill**, and **Second Deep Bottom**. More recently, RBA cleared a 20th-century house and barn from our **Beaver Dam Creek** property.

Landscape restoration is rarely simple. It is demanding, unglamorous, and increasingly expensive—with average demolition and remediation costs tripling from \$15,000 to \$45,000 over the past two decades. Projects frequently involve hazardous tasks like asbestos abatement, environmental cleanup, tree removal, and decommissioning obsolete wells. Yet despite the rising expense, this work remains essential to honoring the land's history.

By restoring these landscapes, we create authentic outdoor classrooms where visitors can walk the terrain, understand the tactical maneuvers, and truly experience the past. RBA anticipates undertaking another major



RBA Landscape Restoration Projects - Before & After photos.

SAVE THE DATE

- Saturday, October 24
- Annual Meeting & Tour
- Battle of First Deep Bottom
- Location & tour details to follow.

restoration project at **Second Deep Bottom** in the near future. We invite our members and supporters to join us in this vital mission. Together, we can ensure that Richmond's hallowed ground remains a place of reflection, education, and inspiration—preserving and restoring the landscapes that shaped our nation's history. ❖

Battlefield Briefs & Preservation News

- **Beaver Dam Creek:** RBA acquired 11 additional acres across the creek from our existing 8-acre site. These combined parcels directly adjoin the Beaver Dam Creek Unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, effectively creating a contiguous corridor of preserved historic ground.
- **Seven Pines/Fair Oaks:** In partnership with the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC), RBA is moving forward to save 24 critical acres of historic battlefield ground long thought to be lost forever.
- **First Deep Bottom:** RBA, in partnership with the CRLC and a willing landowner, has acquired 41 core battlefield acres known as the *Bradbury Knoll* tract. This critical acquisition safeguards core terrain that played a pivotal role in Union tactical maneuvers during the 1864 Battle of First Deep Bottom.
- **Second Deep Bottom:** Supported by a \$141,700 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) grant, RBA is securing permanent conservation easements across several key tracts of core battlefield land.
- **Malvern Hill:** RBA completed a targeted fundraising campaign supporting the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) to protect key tracts at Malvern Hill and Second Deep Bottom.

Fair Oaks/Seven Pines Tour

RBA sponsored a guided walking tour of the Fair Oaks Battlefield led by historian Victor Vignola, author of *Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31 – June 1, 1862*. From the vantage point of the Adams Farm, the tour explored key tactical sectors of the Fair Oaks battlefield, offering fresh insights into this pivotal 1862 engagement. Ongoing preservation efforts by RBA and partner organizations have allowed for a renewed exploration of this significant, yet often overlooked, Civil War battle. ❖



Richmond National Battlefield Park Programs



RBA participated in commemorative programs honoring the pivotal 1864 campaigns at Cold Harbor and Fort Harrison. At Fort Harrison, the park honored the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and their historic participation in the 1864 Presidential Election—where the first documented



ballots cast by USCT soldiers took place on land preserved by RBA. ❖

Battlefield Stewardship in Action

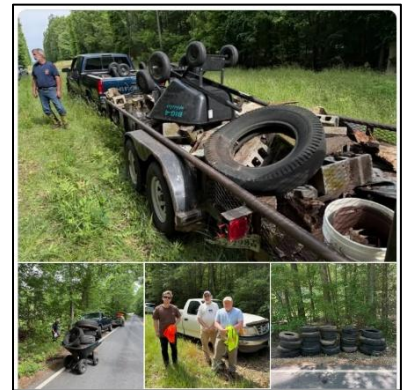


Partnering with the CRLC, RBA volunteers tackled several major cleanup operations to restore protected historic grounds across the region. During a productive *Park Day* workday at our **Seven Pines Battlefield** property, dedicated crews cleared out discarded tires and hauled away several tons of scrap metal, taking an essential first step toward readying the tract for future public visitation.

RBA teamed up again with CRLC to steward preserved ground across the **First & Second Deep Bottom Battlefields**. The volunteer crew removed roadside trash, spent tires, and a full trailer of bulk refuse. This tract provides a vital conservation buffer alongside land already protected by CRLC and the ABT.

Through hard work and shared commitment, our volunteers demonstrated the real power of partnership—safeguarding Richmond’s historic landscape while preparing these sacred grounds for the public to experience and explore.

Interested in rolling up your sleeves for future battlefield cleanup days? We would love to have you on the team. Please contact RBA at [1862rba@gmail](mailto:1862rba@gmail.com) to join our volunteer roster and receive updates on upcoming workdays. ❖



New Interpretive Waysides at Second Deep Bottom



RBA board members joined folks from Civil War Trails and ABT for the installation of two new interpretive signs at Second Deep Bottom. Positioned directly opposite the “*Dry Ravine*” site saved by RBA, these table-top exhibits provide visitors with detailed troop movements, maps, and firsthand accounts of the fierce August 1864 fighting. ❖

Richmond Battlefield History — “Freeman Markers”

WALNUT GROVE CHURCH

Here, on the morning of June 27, 1862, as he was directing the pursuit of McClellan's right wing, Robert E. Lee met "Stonewall" Jackson whose Army of the Valley arrived to join in the attack on the Federals the same afternoon.



Scattered across the crossroads and historic corridors surrounding Richmond, the distinctive “Freeman Markers” represent one of the earliest organized battlefield interpretation efforts in Virginia (“Virginia’s Early Battlefield Markers”, *On Richmond’s Front Line*, vol. 9, no. 2, Summer 2010).

Erected in the 1920s by the **Battlefield Markers Association**, these monuments were purposefully engineered for the dawn of automobile tourism—featuring angled cast-iron tablets set into concrete caps atop natural granite boulders.



“Where Lee and Jackson Met” — 1925 Dedication Ceremony

Authored by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, the plaques provided concise tactical histories directly along the roadside. On November 6, 1925, thousands gathered at Walnut Grove Church in Hanover County—site of the initial meeting between Lee and Jackson during the 1862 Seven Days Battles—to dedicate the markers. Today, these markers remain an iconic, tangible link to early 20th-century preservation efforts and the origins of Richmond’s commemorative landscape. ❖

In Memoriam

RBA mourns the passing of longtime Board member, historian, and author **Marc Ramsey**. He was a cherished friend and a passionate preservationist whose legacy is permanently etched into the historic landscapes he fought to protect. His wisdom, warmth, and deep commitment to saving these sacred grounds leave an indelible mark on our mission and our community. RBA extends its heartfelt condolences to Marc’s family and loved ones, and we remain dedicated to honoring his memory through the preservation mission he held so close to his heart. ❖



Marc Ramsey (center) shown leading a tour of the Second Deep Bottom Battlefield on land saved by RBA.

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The RBA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

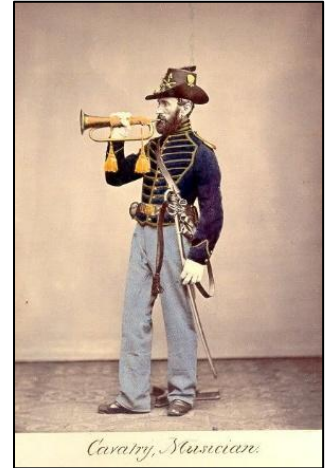
Board of Directors: Mark Perreault, *President* • Jeff Dawes, *Vice President* • Scott Williams, *Secretary* • Joe Fisher, *Treasurer* • Ben Brockenbrough • Doug Crenshaw • George Fickett • Bernard Fisher • Mark Jacobson • Karen Perreault

CALL TO ACTION – RENEW YOUR RBA MEMBERSHIP!

The Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA) stands on the front lines of protecting our nation's historic Civil War landscapes. Today, that ground is vanishing faster than ever. As residential sprawl, commercial expansion, and massive data center corridors sweep across our region, unprotected acreage faces permanent destruction. The recent tragic loss of key acreage at Haw's Shop and Savage's Station underscores how fragile these unprotected parcels remain. We cannot hold the line alone.

Your annual membership provides the vital funds needed to secure purchase options, confront aggressive development, and leverage matching grants before the bulldozers arrive.

Stand with us. Join or renew your RBA membership today to defend these sacred grounds for future generations. ❖



Yes!

**I WANT TO HELP PRESERVE OUR NATION'S HERITAGE.
PLEASE SIGN ME UP.**

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City
State
Zip

E-mail _____

(for newsletter)

Type of Membership:

☐ \$1000	☐ \$500	☐ \$250	☐ \$100	☐ \$35
Benefactor	Patron	Sustaining Member	Active Member	Annual Member

Please return completed form with a check payable to: *Richmond Battlefields Association*
 Mail to: **Richmond Battlefields Association, P.O. Box 13945, Richmond, VA 23225**

Contributions may be deductible as provided in 26 USC Sec. 170