

# GUIDE TO VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR

# 2010

BATTLEFIELDS & SITES

## Advertising rates & related information

ADVERTISING RATE CARD NO. 22 • EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2010

**2004**  
Vol. XII  
★ ★

**INFO BY REGION**  
Central Virginia 3-13  
Tidewater 14-19  
Valley & Mountains 20-32  
Southside 33-37  
Northern Virginia 38-43

**CALENDAR**  
Events through December 2004 21-24

**DRIVING TOURS**  
Trenton Station 11  
Overland Campaign 12-13  
Twin Oaks Campaign 14-16  
Battle of Fries River 21  
Lee's Retreat 33-34  
Battle of Lynchburg 35  
Wilson-Kearr Road 36

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**GUIDE TO VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS & SITES**

**A BLAST FROM THE PAST**  
**Story of 'The Crater' still explosive**

Just before dawn July 30, 1864, two Union soldiers crept halfway into a mined Confederate trench set off an explosion that blew hundreds of Confederates to pieces and at least one Unionist charger back to North Carolina. The sensations of that blast are felt today, 140 years later. Thousands of visitors come to the Petersburg National Battlefield each year to see the now-grafted landscape left by arguably the most famous explosion of the Civil War. Thousands more now will see the scene "Old Mountain," which opened with the blast that sent a demoralized John Lee home to Noble Station. The story of "The Crater" reads like fiction, but for those blow-up Confederates and thousands of Union soldiers — black and white — it was all too real.

The line of tunneling under enemy lines and exploding a hole in them was not new, but it was well-regarded when the Union military leadership facing a long, hot summer of trench warfare on the outskirts of Petersburg.

The skeptical Robert High command reluctantly agreed to the plan to dig under a piece of the Confederate line, then

explode tons of gunpowder literally under their noses. The detonation was to be followed with a massive artillery barrage, then an infantry attack in that sector.

It took more than a month to dig the tunnel, avoiding Confederate concrete mines and solving ventilation problems as they went. On July 23, soldiers began carrying four tons of gunpowder through the "tunnels" in a chamber directly under the Confederate earthworks.

Union infantry filed into position the evening of July 29, a hot and muggy night. Originally, black Union soldiers — members of the United States Colored Troops — were given a leading role in the attack and had trained for it. But last-minute changes relegated white troops.

The explosion was set for 3:30 am and the fuse was lit. A tense half-hour followed. Nothing. Two daring miners entered the tunnel to see what went wrong. They found the fuse had gone out at one of the many ignites. They re-lit the fuse.

What followed was felt before it was seen. The explosion rattled underground before an awesome cloud of flame and smoke climbed into the sky. Soldiers a mile away described the sound as a dull thud. Confederates decided that 278 soldiers died in the blast, most killed outright. Many more were buried in piles of dirt, rubble and body parts.

Adding to the Confederate loss, the second Union artillery opened up, pounding the area in and around the gap created.

PHOTO: NATHAN SCHWARTZ

Malone's Cornerneck. Painting by Don Fouant, www.historicalsprints.com

*Battle of Lynchburg commemoration June 19-20, see calendar*



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Quantity: 33,333, each edition

Schedule: Summer edition out by Memorial Day  
Fall edition out in early September

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Advertising Deadlines: Summer — May 3, 2010  
Fall — August 2, 2010

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## Mechanical information

The tabloid publications are printed on newsprint with an 85-line screen; designers should allow for 25–30 percent dotgain. The image area is 9-7/8 inches wide by 12.5 inches deep, including folios. For best results, use measurements in picas: 59 picas wide by 75 picas deep. The format is four columns, each 14 picas wide, with a 1-pica margin between columns. Bleeds beyond the image area are not available.

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Advertisers agree to pay for the contracted space plus any necessary production charges. The advertiser is further obligated to provide Page One Publications with suitable advertising materials by the deadline. Page One Publications is obligated to publish the advertiser's advertising materials, provided they are suitable for adequate reproduction and within the bounds of good taste and not of a nature to put Page One Publications in jeopardy of legal action of any kind.

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