

# Unit returns for Polegreen ceremony

Contributed Report  
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A local living history unit volunteered to be a partner for the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation in an effort to maintain the appearance of Polegreen's newly enhanced site.

Beginning in July, seven members of the group donated time to cut grass, weed, rake leaves and pick up litter left by motorists on Rural Point Road.

These volunteers strive to tell the accurate story of the Civil War soldier in the Virginia Theater between 1861 and 1865.

While they portray the infantry soldiers experience, they also tell the story of the artillery soldier from both Union and Confederate perspectives.

Ironically, one artillery unit that they often portray is the Richmond Howitzers who in 1864 were forced to fire on Polegreen Church after Union soldiers took up sharpshooter positions in the church.

Today, the modern gun crew of the Richmond Howitzers is giving back what the original gun crew was forced to take away.

Their group will have living history programs for Richmond National Battlefield Park Sept. 27 and 28.

Today's gun crew members who have participated are:

Park Ranger Eddie Sanders, Richmond National Battlefield Parks; Tom Carlton, Hanover County; Mike Powell, Henrico County; Bill Brown, Henrico County; Sam Watkins, Chesterfield County; Robert Walton, Hanover County; Chris Atkinson, Hanover County; and Fletcher Atkinson, son of Chris Atkinson.

The Foundation welcomes visitors to the site for its ceremonial ribbon cutting event at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Board members and community supporters will gather to celebrate the newly improved physical plant, including a state historic highway marker, dedi-

cated parking, and a granite timeline of religious freedom with flagpole.

If you would like to contribute to these efforts, go online to [www.historicpolegreen.org](http://www.historicpolegreen.org).

In 1990, the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation began its work to preserve the site now marked by the well-known steel skeleton that outlines the original dimensions of the meetinghouse.

Polegreen's mission is to preserve the historic Polegreen Church site and commemorate the struggle for civil and religious freedom in Colonial Virginia by Rev. Samuel Davies and the Hanover Dissenters.

For more information, visit [www.historicpolegreen.org](http://www.historicpolegreen.org).