



A Nation Remembers

The Battle of Fredericksburg

December 7-15, 2012

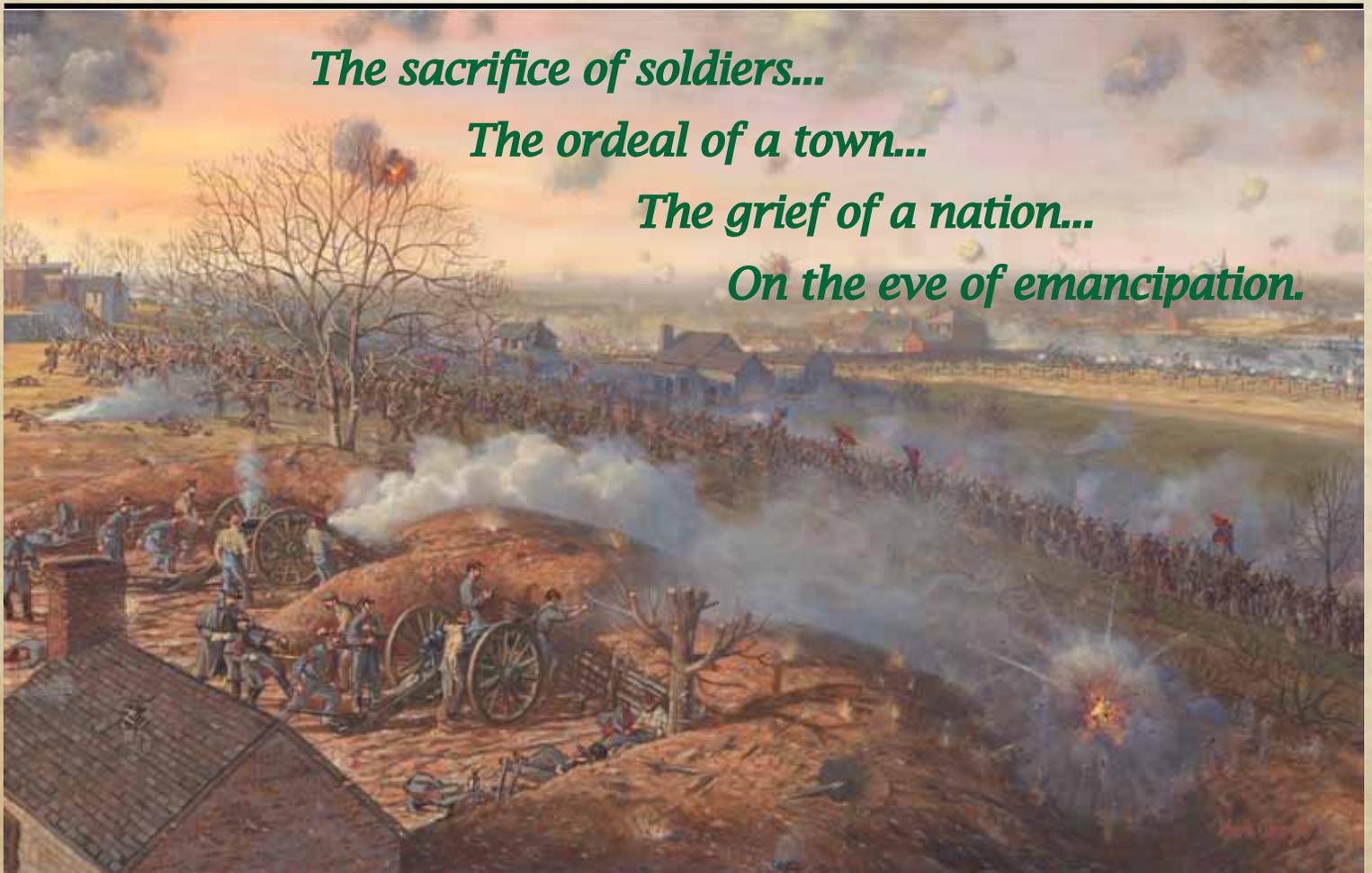
Visitor Guide to Fredericksburg's 2012 Sesquicentennial Commemoration

The sacrifice of soldiers...

The ordeal of a town...

The grief of a nation...

On the eve of emancipation.



Painting by Mark Churms

Fredericksburg
TIMELESS.
SPOTSYLVANIA STAFFORD FREDERICKSBURG



www.VirginiaCivilWar.org



Of all the Southern towns made famous by war, none would be more famous than Fredericksburg.



War in all its fury—and in ways never before seen in America—came to Fredericksburg in December 1862. Residents fled approaching armies. Union troops bombarded then looted the town. The fields west and south of Fredericksburg became killing fields. The Union disaster—a human tragedy—reverberated across the American landscape just two weeks before Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Lee attained legendary status in the South, while Lincoln lamented, “If there is a worse place than hell, I am in it.”

The power of place,

the proximity of time,

the words of those who were there.

Fredericksburg 150th



Photo Courtesy Buddy Secor

The National Park Service joins the Fredericksburg community and the nation in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 7-15, 2012. The weekend of December 7-9 features major commemorative events within the community, including the culminating event, **The Nation Remembers: Fredericksburg**, on Sunday afternoon, December 9 (see page 4 for details). The days following will feature special tours and programs by National Park Service staff, often coinciding with the precise times of events 150 years ago. From the riverfront to the city’s streets to the heights and fields beyond, the week will capture and commemorate the December days of struggle that helped define a nation’s course through war.





The Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission's HistoryMobile will be at Fredericksburg Visitor Center on Friday December 7 and at Chatham on December 8 and 9. This immersive experience is great for kids!

Check it out!

Schedule of Events

A Quick Look

Friday December 7 ~ Details page 5

10-2 p.m. "Fields of Fredericksburg: A Bus Tour." NPS historians. Fee required.
3-5 p.m. "In the Vortex: A Walk on the Slaughter Pen Farm."
7 p.m. "Eve of Battle." With NPS historian Frank O'Reilly, in the sanctuary of the historic Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg.

Saturday December 8 ~ Details page 5

All day: Special NPS tours.
All day: Living History at Chatham.
All day: Pontoon demonstration, living history (non-NPS), Ferry Farm & City Dock.
10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Re-enactment scenarios (non-NPS), City Dock and Trench Hill.
7 p.m. "Ordeal of the Town." With NPS historian John Hennessy, in the sanctuary of historic St. George's Episcopal Church.

Sunday December 9 ~ Details pages 4 & 6

10 a.m. "Prospect Hill." A walking tour.
1 p.m. "A Nation Remembers Fredericksburg—The Procession." Riverfront Park, Sophia Street.
3 p.m. "A Nation Remembers Fredericksburg—The Culmination." The Sunken Road.

Tuesday December 11 ~ Details page 6

Real-time tours:
Noon: "Smoke on the Water." From Chatham to the upper pontoon crossing.
2 p.m. "Deadly Crossing." Middle pontoon crossing, Sophia Street.
3:30 p.m. "Fire in the Streets." Caroline Street.

Wednesday December 12 ~ Details page 6

Real-time tours:
10 a.m.: "Looting the Town." Upper town. Market Square.
1 p.m.: "Driven from Our Homes." Lower town. Departs from City Dock, Sophia Street.

Thursday December 13 ~ Details page 7

Real-time tours:
10 a.m. "Attacking Marye's Heights."
Noon: "Breakthrough at Prospect Hill."
3:30 p.m. "The Hopeless Charge: Last Attacks Against Marye's Heights."

Saturday December 15 ~ Details page 7

10 a.m. "Lee and Jackson at Belvoir."
1 p.m. "Yankees Coming and Going: Franklin's Crossing."
3:30 p.m. "City of Hospitals."

Check out details on partner events—including the re-enactment—beginning on page 9





Years of Anguish: Struggle at Fredericksburg November 17

A speakers' forum. November 17, 2012, 1-5 p.m., with historians George Rable, Susannah Ural, and Frank O'Reilly. In the historic sanctuary of the Fredericksburg Baptist Church, 1019 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, 22401.

A Nation Remembers: Fredericksburg

Culminating Event December 9

1 p.m. **Crossing Hallowed Ground—A Procession.** Gather at Riverfront Park to walk the footsteps of soldiers through town—enveloped by sound, accompanied by the words of those who were there, and witness to the names of those who fell.

The simulated explosion of **100 shells per minute** will symbolize the ordeal of the town. **Tolling bells** will reflect the grief of a nation. **Drums** will speak to the sacrifice of soldiers.

Each participant may carry a flower to the Sunken Road.

Location: From Riverfront Park, Sophia Street, to the Sunken Road.



3 p.m. **The Culmination: Sunken Road.**

A program of music, words, reflection, and salutes, including descendant units of both Virginia's Stonewall Brigade and the Union's Irish Brigade.

Participants will lay flowers upon the stone wall in remembrance of the fallen.

Location: the Sunken Road, behind the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center, 1013 Lafayette Boulevard, Fredericksburg 22401.



Moments of remembrance...

Special tours and talks...

Walking the footsteps of history.

Fredericksburg 150th

Daily Schedule

Friday December 7

Don't forget the HistoryMobile! See page 3.

- 10 a.m - 2 p.m. **"Fields of Fredericksburg: A Bus Tour."** A chance to see the entire battlefield with NPS historians. Advanced reservations required. Call (540) 372-3034. \$20 per person. Departs from Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center.
- 3 - 5 p.m. **"In the Vortex: A Walk on the Slaughter Pen Farm."** Here the battle hung in the balance on December 13. Site owned by the Civil War Trust. 11232 Tidewater Trail, 22408.
- 7 - 8 p.m. **"Eve of Battle."** A talk by NPS historian Frank O'Reilly, in the historic Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. Frank will explore the origins and significance of the battle—to the nation and to those involved. 810 Princess Anne Sreet, 22401.

Saturday December 8

NPS events only. See pages 10-12 for partner events.

- All Day ~ Living History at Chatham--medicine, civilians, music, and headquarters.
~ Hourly tours of the Sunken Road and Marye's Heights.
~ **Children's Muster**, Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center.
- 8 - 9:30 a.m. **"Fire in the Streets."** Union and Confederate soldiers battled house by house, block by block, in the first street fighting on American soil. Meet at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline Street, 22401.
- 10 a.m. - Noon **"Protecting Jackson's Left."** A Union breakthrough threatened to unhinge Jackson's line south of town and became the decisive moment in the Battle of Fredericksburg. Meet at the Bernard's Cabin trailhead, South Lee Drive.
- 1 - 2:30 p.m. **"Across the Bloody Plain."** Follow in the footsteps of Union soldiers who attacked the Confederates along the Sunken Road. Meet at Hurkamp Park, at the corner of George Street and Prince Edward Street, 22401.
- 4 - 5 p.m. **"The Dreaded Heights."** NPS historians will staff stations in the Sunken Road and on Marye's Heights. Begin at corner of Hanover St. and Sunken Road.
- 7:00 p.m. **"Ordeal of the Town."** NPS historian John Hennessy will use letters and diaries to explore the experience of civilians during the battle. In the sanctuary of St. George's Episcopal Church, 901 Princess Anne Street, 22401.





Visit Chatham

Chatham will be a hub for living history and special programs. This 1771 plantation served as a Union headquarters and hospital during the battle, and on December 8-9 will be the setting for music, medical demonstrations, and the busy hum of a headquarters.

Sunday December 9

Today, the nation remembers

- All Day ~ Living History at Chatham--medicine, civilians, music, and headquarters.
 ~ Hourly tours of the Sunken Road and Marye's Heights, until 2. p.m.
 ~ The battle-damaged Innis House open (along the Sunken Road).
 ~ [Children's Muster](#), Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center.
- 9 - 11 a.m. ["Breakthrough at Prospect Hill."](#) Here the armies battled for the key terrain on the south end of the field. A major Union attack took Ambrose Burnside to the brink of victory, prevented only by intense fighting. Meet at Prospect Hill (Tour Stop 6) on South Lee Drive.
- 1 - 4 p.m. ["A Nation Remembers: Fredericksburg. A Culminating Event."](#) See page 4 for details.

Tuesday December 11

Bombardment and crossing, 150 years ago today

- Noon - 1:30 p.m. ["Smoke on the Water: Bridging the River."](#) Follow in the footsteps of Union engineers as they struggled mightily to bridge the Rappahannock River under intense fire at the "Upper Crossing" site. The tour begins at Chatham (Tour Stop 2) and includes some difficult terrain.
- 2 - 3 p.m. ["Deadly Crossing."](#) Explore the Confederate side of the river at the "Middle Crossing" site, where Union troops piled into boats to mount a cross-river landing. Meet at the City Dock, Sophia Street.
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. ["Fire in the Streets."](#) Union and Confederate soldiers fought in the streets of Fredericksburg, house by house, block by block—in an unprecedented and frightening new experience of warfare: urban combat. Meet in front of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline Street, 22401.
- 7 p.m. ["War Comes to Fredericksburg."](#) A presentation by Frank O'Reilly, as part of the Fredericksburg Area Museum's *Evening with an Expert* series. Mansard Gallery, Fredericksburg Area Museum, 1001 Princess Anne Street, 22401.

Wednesday December 12

The Union army occupied town, 150 years ago today

- 10 a.m. - Noon ["Looting the Town."](#) Meet at Market Square behind Old Town Hall to explore the damage inflicted in the upper part of town during the Union occupation.
- 1 - 3 p.m. ["Driven From Our Homes."](#) This program will explore the ordeal of civilians in the lower part of town. Meet at City Dock, Sophia Street.



Thursday December 13

The Battle of Fredericksburg--real-time tours

- 10 a.m. - Noon **“Attacking Marye’s Heights.”** Follow in the footsteps of Union soldiers as they moved through town and attacked Marye’s Heights. Gather at the City Dock. One mile through city streets.
- 1 - 3 p.m. **“Breakthrough at Prospect Hill.”** The Union army briefly broke through Stonewall Jackson’s Confederate lines, which led to some of the wildest close-order combat of the Civil War. The North went to the brink of victory only to be decisively beaten by Robert E. Lee in the end. Meet at Prospect Hill (Tour Stop 6), South Lee Drive.
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. **“The Hopeless Charge: The Last Attacks at Marye’s Heights.”** Union troops repeatedly attacked the Confederate heights, and hope dimmed with each failure. Only a few, like General A. A. Humphreys, still believed they could win. Most Northerners continued to attack anyway—not to win, but to keep the Confederates from destroying their broken army. Meet at Hurkamp Park, corner of Prince Edward and George Streets.



Saturday December 15

Aftermath—150 years ago today

- 10 a.m. - Noon **“Lee and Jackson at Belvoir.”** A rare chance to visit the evocative site of Belvoir—a major Confederate field hospital where General Maxcy Gregg died. Later, Jackson hosted his wife and child here. Meet Frank O’Reilly and John Hennessy in the parking lot at Lee Hill Elementary School, 3600 Lee Hill School Drive, 22408. Access courtesy Crossroads Associates LLC.
- 1 - 2:30 p.m. **“Yankees Coming and Going: Franklin’s Crossing.”** One of the most photographed and illustrated sites during the war, the Lower Pontoon Crossing is today obscured, rarely visited. Half the defeated Union army retreated across bridges here. Join Frank O’Reilly and Eric Mink at 1 Joseph Mills Drive, Fredericksburg, 22408.
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. **“City of Hospitals.”** One writer called it a “city of death,” but amidst the carnage were heroic efforts to save lives. Historian John Hennessy will explore a town suddenly turned into a vast assemblage of hospitals. Meet at Market Square, behind the Old Town Hall and Fredericksburg Area Museum.

Planning Your Visit

Weather

Fredericksburg winters can be cold. Please dress appropriately. Unless otherwise noted, all NPS events are outdoors and will proceed so long as conditions are safe. Check our Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/FredericksburgSpotsylvaniaNMP

Seating

Limited seating will be provided for programs that are stationary and expected to last more than 20 minutes. For stationary programs (notably the culminating event on December 9), visitors are urged to bring easily-carried lawn chairs. Some events cover a considerable distance. Plan ahead.

Water and Food

Food will not be available for purchase at any of the National Park-sponsored events. Visitors are encouraged to bring lunches, snacks, and water bottles with them. Water fountains will be available at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center. Please dispose of litter and recycling in the provided containers.

Roads and Trails

Please stay on designated trails and note special event signs on roadways and trails. Be aware of your surroundings and watch for traffic when crossing streets.

Parking, Facilities, and Accessibility

For events downtown, parking is available at the city parking deck at 600 Sophia Street, 22401. On-street parking is available for events at the park visitor center. All events will provide accessible parking. Most events and programs are fully accessible, though several walking/hiking tours take place over long distances with uneven and rough terrain.

Pets

Pets on leashes are allowed within Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, but park buildings and the National Cemetery are off-limits to all pets except service animals.

Many of Anniversary Week's programs are supported by Eastern National, a non-profit that assists more than 150 National Parks. The park gift shop is at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center, with another outlet at Chatham. Your purchase of books and commemorative items helps support NPS programs.



December 13: A special evening of reflection on the Battle of Fredericksburg. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust will host a dinner, followed by talks, with acclaimed historians Gary Gallagher, Robert Krick, and Ed Bearss. Reservations required. Visit www.cvbt.org for more information. Book sales at the event by Eastern National.

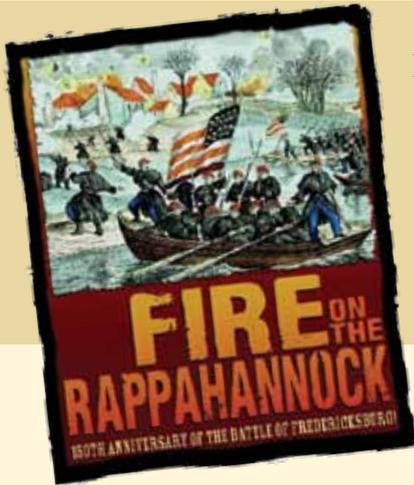


Kids Arise! Become a Junior Ranger!

JOIN A PARK RANGER FOR A MUSTER AND KIDS ACTIVITIES, ALL WEEKEND AT THE FAMILY TENT FREDERICKSBURG BATTLEFIELD VISITOR CENTER.

Photo by Alan Zirkle





Fire on the Rappahannock will bring to life the events that forever changed Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania. Walks, talks, and living history programs will be available throughout the region the weekend of December 8–9. Two battles will be the centerpiece of Saturday’s activities. The first will recreate the Union crossing of the Rappahannock and occupying the city. The second will recreate the Irish Brigade’s assault on Confederate forces at Marye’s Heights.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Educational Programs for Home School Children and School Groups in the camps. Advanced Reservations Required. See School Day info at www.fredericksburg150.org for more information or email Eric Powell at majorpowellaag@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

8–5 Ferry Farm–286 Kings Highway, Fredericksburg 22405 (programs cost \$1 for age 6 and up)–Union Camps, Civil War Hot Air Balloon, Field Hospital, Pontoon Boats, Cooking, Laundry, and Quilting. Enjoy taking tea with the ladies of the 5th Regiment in the Gallery at Ferry Farm from 4–5pm. (Shuttle available see information in box to right.)

8–5 Slaughter Pen Farm—Free of charge. Confederate Camps, Artillery and Infantry Demonstrations, Civil War Games, and Field Hospital (Shuttle see information in box to right.)

10–12 Ferry Farm–“What They Wore” Demonstration, Ferry Farm (Gallery)–Learn about women’s fashion and hairstyles of the 1860s.

10–2 FIELD HOSPITAL–Brompton, Learn about Civil War medicine and see a recreated amputation with surgeon John Ocheltree of the 5th VA.

10–10:20 Union Assault Begins —Hear the cannons roar as the Union artillery opens fire on the city. Reenacted at George Washington’s Ferry Farm.

10:20–11 PONTON CROSSING - Ferry Farm to City Dock

Experience the first amphibious assault, under fire, in U.S. history. Union engineers begin to build the pontoon bridge under fire from Confederate infantry. Finally, soldiers are ordered onto pontoon boats to cross the river and clear the Confederate forces. The bridge could then be completed and the main Union force will cross the river to occupy the city. Pontoon bridge provided by the Virginia National Guard, 189th Engineer Company. **Best seen from the heights at Ferry Farm and the parking lot at the City Dock.**

Many events are scheduled throughout the following week, including CVBT sponsored lectures by noted authors and historians: “Fredericksburg under War’s Savage Heel: the Plight of the City’s Civilians” by Robert K. Krick and “Confederates Respond to the Battle of Fredericksburg” by Gary Gallagher at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., with a cocktail reception, then dinner and the lectures. \$ www.cvbt.org

Shuttle Services will be provided daily 8am – 5pm. Shuttle stops are:

- 11032 Tidewater Trail, 22408 (former GMC Plant) – Public Parking
- Slaughter Pen Farm (no parking)
- Fredericksburg NMP – NPS Visitor Center (limited street parking)
- VRE Parking Lot – (Frederick & Caroline St) – Public Parking
- Fredericksburg Visitor Center 706 Caroline Street (Parking deck at 600 Sophia St, 22401)
- Chatham Heights Shopping Center – 411 Chatham Heights Road 22405 – Public Parking
- Ferry Farm (only Handicapped & Special Needs Parking at this site)
- Shuttles for reenactment are school buses. See map on back cover



HFFI will be hosting its 42nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour

Featured homes include:

700 and 701 Hanover Street
919 Hanover (James Wilkins House)

704 Sunken Road (Brompton)
123 Lee Drive (Braehead)

Shuttles are trolleys.

www.hffi.org for more info

FIRE ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Visit the camps to learn about period hot air balloons, Civil War medicine, and the role of Civil War women. See artillery and infantry demonstrations. Union camp will be at George Washington's Ferry Farm in Stafford County (\$1 admission 6 and up). Confederate camp will be at the Slaughter Pen Farm in Spotsylvania (free of charge). Period Sutlers and demos will be at Riverfront Park. Shuttle information, page 10, with map on back cover.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

11-11:30 STREET BATTLE —Along Sophia Street -Union battalions will advance into the city, meeting resistance from Confederate forces. The street battle can be viewed from Riverfront Park, 600 Sophia Street.

11-1 Civilian Life in Fredericksburg

- Rising Sun Tavern, 1304 Caroline St, Civilian Middle Class Family Portrayal and Field Hospital
- Kenmore Inn, 1200 Princess Anne St, Period Tavern
- Mary Washington House, 1200 Charles St, Lower Class Family Portrayal and Looting Scenario
- Kenmore, 1201 Washington Ave, Upper Class Family Portrayal, Cooking Demo, and Field Hospital

11-3 Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center-Civil War Art Show-Selected pieces from the Silver Family Collection. Several artists will be on hand for the show.

12-1 Ferry Farm-The Black Women Experience in the War—Dr. Cynthia Crater-The Gallery

1-2 Slaughter Pen Farm-Artillery Demonstrations by the 4th MD Artillery.

1-3 Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center-Second Saturday Kids Program, Market Square, 1001 Princess Anne St. Hands-on program with reenactors.

1-4 Ferry Farm-Gallery Quilting Demonstrations

2-3 Military Formation & Inspections

- Confederate Troops-Trench Hill, 1119 Hanover Street
- Union Troops-Federal Hill, 504 Hanover Street

3-4 Battle of Marye's Heights -Come see the Union assault against the Confederate forces behind the stone wall along Sunken Road. Reenactment to take place on Trench Hill behind the UMW Jepson Alumni Center at 1119 Hanover Street. **Viewing areas will be at the corner of Hanover Street and Sunken Road and the parking lot at Marye Street and Sunken Road.**

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

10-11 Period Church Services Join reenactors for a period church service at Slaughter Pen.

11-3 Ferry Farm (\$1 ages 6 and up) -Living history programs such as laundry, quilting, horses and saddles.

12-3 Field Hospital at Brompton, see Sat., Dec 8 on page 10.

1-4 Reenactors will participate in the National Park Service Hallowed Ground Processional and Culminating Ceremony. See page 4.

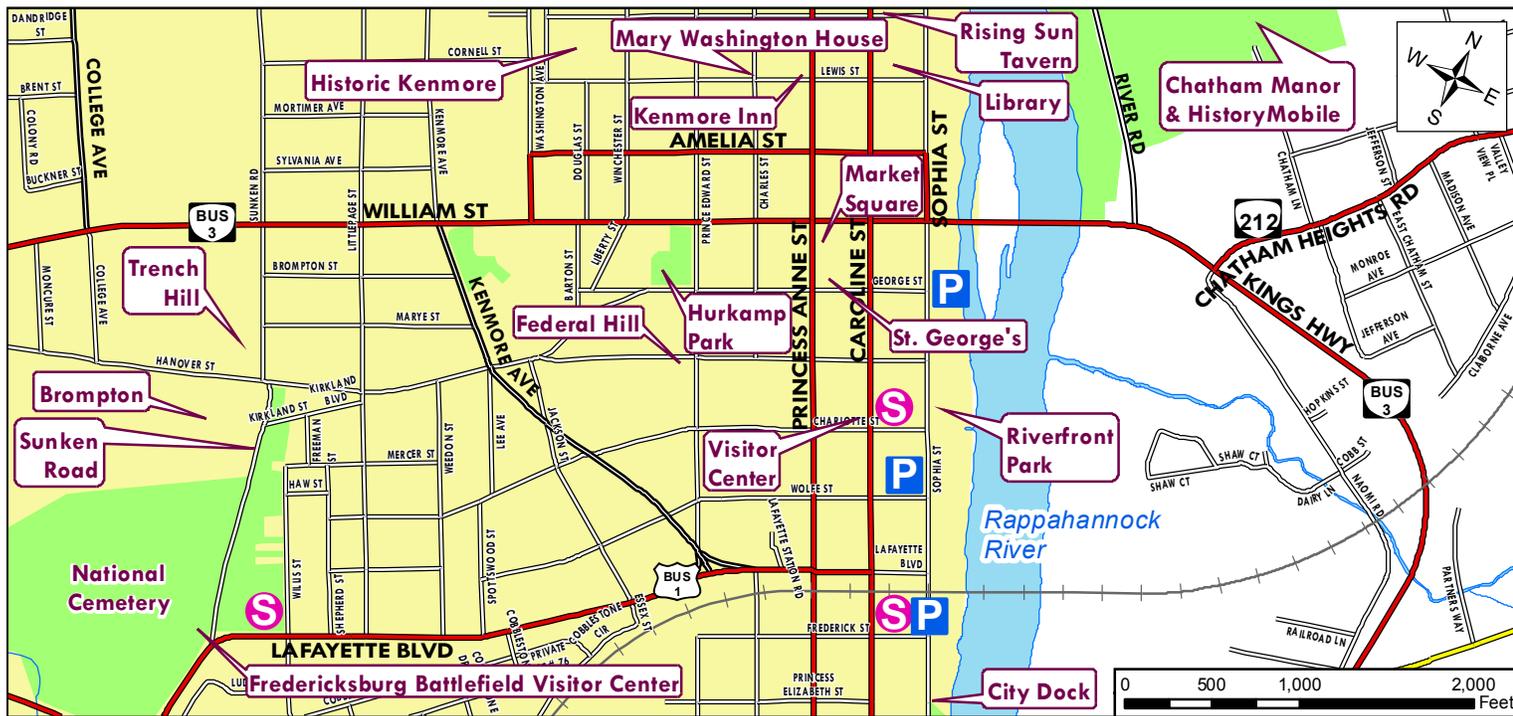
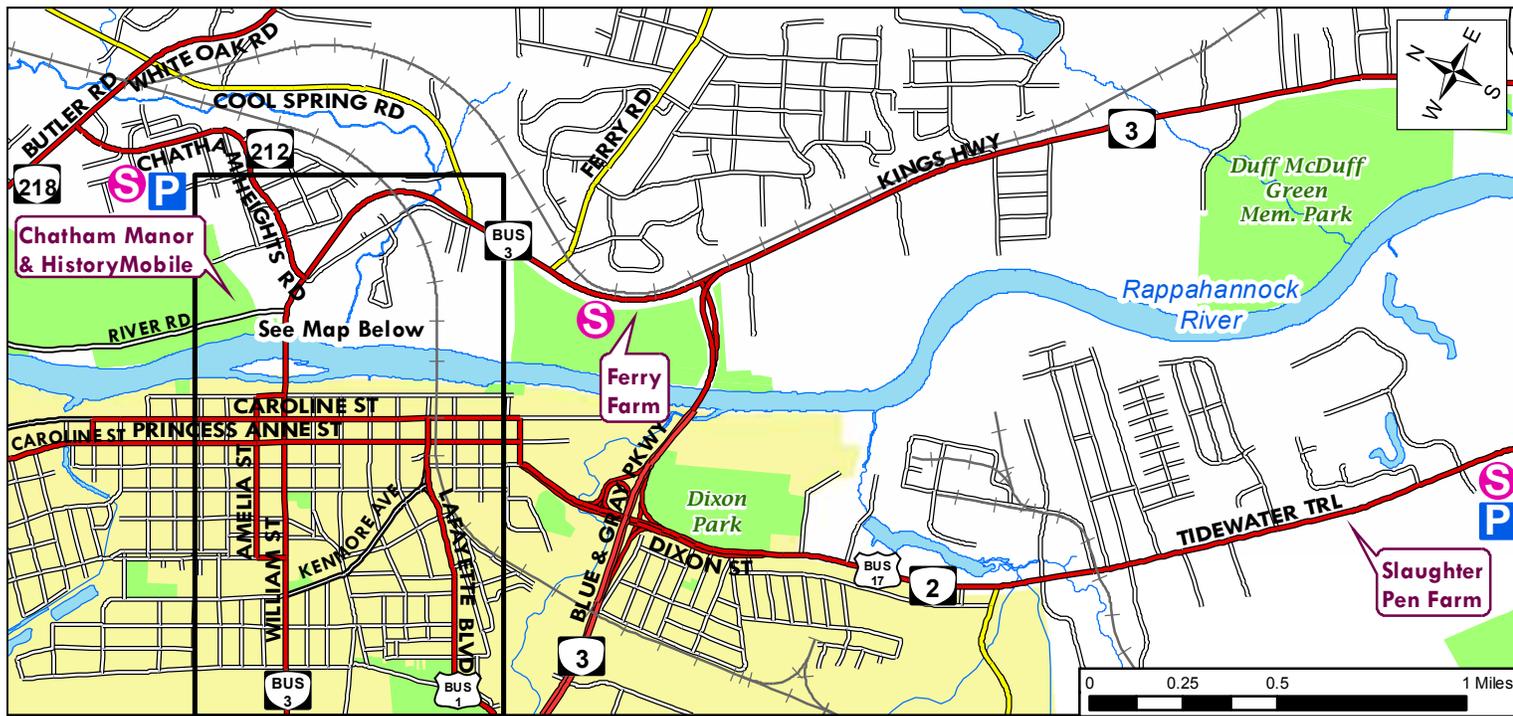


Meet the Generals! On Saturday you have two opportunities to meet the Union and Confederate Generals 9-11 am in the Camps at Ferry Farm & Slaughter Pen and 1-2 pm at Riverfront Park.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

28th Massachusetts, Company B - 47th Virginia, Company I City of Fredericksburg ★ Spotsylvania County ★ Stafford County

The George Washington Foundation ★ University of Mary Washington ★ Civil War Trust ★ Virginia Defense Force
Virginia National Guard, 189th Engineer Company ★ Sons of Union Veterans Irish Brigade Camp No. 4
The Arts and Cultural Council of the Rappahannock ★ The Grey Ghost Gallery ★ Cooper's Towing and Recovery
A Cut Above Landscape and Tree Service ★ Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, Inc.



P = Parking

S = Shuttle Stop

 = Program Participant