

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

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2016 Calendar of Events

Petersburg National Battlefield

Commemorating the 292 day Siege of Petersburg and celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

Schedule is subject to change. Please call (804) 732-3531 to confirm details.

Jan. 2016

Note: Schedule is subject to change please call to confirm details

JANUARY

The Weapons of Five Forks

Date: Sunday January 17, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Five Forks Battlefield Visitor Contact Station
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy_Chernault@nps.gov

A presentation on the type of weaponry used during the battle and an evaluation of those armaments.

FEBRUARY

Battle of Hatcher's Run

Date: Sunday February 7, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Five Forks Battlefield Visitor Contact Station
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy_Chernault@nps.gov

An overview of the battle on the 151st anniversary.

USCT's at the Battle of the Crater

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #7
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

This tour will highlight the role of United States Colored Troop regiments at the Battle of the Crater. Participants will be able to walk in the footsteps of the men who served in these units on July 30, 1864 and see sites that are virtually invisible during the summer months. The program conducted by Park Curator Emmanuel Dabney will begin at Tour Stop 7 in the Eastern Front unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. No reservations are needed. Participants should wear comfortable and sturdy shoes as there is approximately a half-mile of walking involved. Program is included with the entrance fee to the battlefield of \$5 per vehicle.

African Americans in the Civil War

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Aaron Rowland (804) 732-3531 x205 / Aaron_Rowland@nps.gov

The Civil War was a dramatic turning point in the history of black men and women in the United States, and over 100,000 African American men would serve in uniform.

Lincoln at City Point

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Ann Blumenschine (804) 732-3531 x203 / Ann_Blumenschine@nps.gov

President Lincoln's visit in March 1865 to the front at Petersburg would prove key in the final chapter of the Civil War.

The Confederate Craters and Countermines

Date: Sunday, March 13, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #5, 5001 Siege Rd. Petersburg VA
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

Did you know there were other craters at Petersburg? The Battle of the Crater was really only the beginning of mining operations at Petersburg. During this walking tour participants can expect to see remains of Confederate countermines and the location of other lesser-known craters. This tour requires reservations and is limited to 20 participants. Participants will be walking through the woods and have to cross a creek. Appropriate waterproof shoes and clothing is necessary to access this portion of the battlefield. Contact Park Ranger Emmanuel Dabney to make your reservation. Please make sure to leave your name, telephone number, and/or e-mail address. The entrance fee to the battlefield is \$5 per vehicle.

The Irish Brigade at Petersburg

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Ft. Fisher – Western Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy_Chernault@nps.gov

An overview of this historic unit's participation in the fighting at Petersburg and the unit's St. Patrick's Day celebration during the siege.

United States Colored Troops in Winter Camp

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – 11:00am & 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Robert Webster (804) 732-3531 x223 / Robert_Webster@nps.gov

Learn about the lives of USCTs during the siege Petersburg.

Fort Gregg and the Breakthrough

Date: Saturday April 2, 2016
Time: 11:00 am - Noon
Location: Fort Gregg – Western Front Tour Stop #4
Contact: Aaron Rowland (804) 732-3531 x205 / Aaron_Rowland@nps.gov

During the early hours of April 2nd, 1865, the Confederate army struggled to hold on and protect their lines around Petersburg. A small force of just a few hundred soldiers was able to hold off several thousand Union attackers long enough for Gen. Lee to gather his forces on the inner defensive lines.

Evolution of Cavalry Tactics

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Five Forks Visitor Contact Station
Contact: Christopher Castle (804) 732-3531 x202 / Christopher_Castle@nps.gov

This will be a talk starting with the dragoons from 1833-1861, and how they evolved, in 1861, to the light cavalry, and how they went back to using dragoon tactics in 1865. This will culminate in an analyses of the tactics used at the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, 1865.

Artifacts of the Battlefield

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: Five Forks Battlefield Visitor Contact Station
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy_Chernault@nps.gov

View a private collection of artifacts from the Five Forks Battlefield. Join the owner and a ranger to get a better understanding of the April 1st battle that brought an end to the siege.

Hard Hat Tour of Poplar Grove National Cemetery

Date: Saturday April 30, 2016
Time: 10am-Noon
Location: Poplar Grove National Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Get a behind the scenes look at the rehabilitation project of Poplar Grove National Cemetery. Reservations are required, no more than 24 participants. Please contact Elizabeth Dinger for reservations. Parking will be at Fort Wadsworth and we will shuttle people to/from the cemetery.

Propaganda in the Civil War

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Ann Blumenschine (804) 732-3531 x203 / Ann_Blumenschine@nps.gov

Propaganda, whether through illustrations or words, was a way certain groups attempted to manipulate the public's opinion of the Civil War. See a variety of examples of Civil War propaganda and learn about the people who practiced this form of psychological warfare.

The Role of Women in the Civil War

Date: Sunday, May 8, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Aaron Rowland (804) 732-3531 x205 / Aaron_Rowland@nps.gov

Discover the roles women performed on the battle front and the home front.

United States Colored Troops at the Siege of Petersburg

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Departs from Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Robert Webster (804) 732-3531 x223 / Robert_Webster@nps.gov

Travel to the locations where African-American soldiers fighting for the Union army served during the siege and learn about their contributions to the Union victory.

Conversations with the Curator: Union Aid Organizations During the Petersburg Campaign

Date: Sunday, May 29, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

Petersburg National Battlefield's Curator Emmanuel Dabney will offer a one hour lecture about Northern aid organizations that provided critical aid and supplies to United States soldiers during the Petersburg Campaign. Attendees will learn about the men and women of the United States Sanitary Commission, United States Christian Commission, and Northern state relief agents who distributed an astounding amount of supplies to the Armies of the Potomac and James' soldiers on the front, in camps, and hospitals between May 1864 and the spring of 1865. This program coincides with an exhibition about these organizations.

Chaplaincy During the Civil War

Date: Sunday, June 5, 2016
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Christopher Castle (804) 732-3531 x202 / Christopher_Castle@nps.gov

This presentation will explore what the roles of the chaplain were during the Civil War and how they had changed from earlier eras of military history.

June 9th – Battle of Old Men and Young Boys

Date: Thursday , June 9, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – Noon
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

This auto-caravan will visit the key places in a day that citizens took to the streets of Petersburg to keep Union forces at bay. Reservations are required please contact Ranger Grant Gates by phone or email.

Flags of Five Forks

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Five Forks Visitor Contact Station
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy_Chernault@nps.gov

Using the flags on display at Five Forks a ranger will look at the flags represented on this battlefield and their use. A good way to spend your Flag Day.

The Opening Assaults

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 11:30 am & 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #1
Contact: Ann Blumenschine (804) 732-3531 x203 / Ann_Blumenschine@nps.gov

Join a ranger to learn about the opening day of what would lead to the 292-day siege of Petersburg.

Conversations with the Curator: Objects of the the Opening Assaults

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – Noon and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

To commemorate the initial assaults on Petersburg in mid-June 1864, Petersburg National Battlefield's Curator Emmanuel Dabney will discuss several objects associated with the battles that took place between June 15 and 18, 1864. Among the objects shown will be a sword of a Union officer who lost his life, a newspaper with an engraving of United States Colored Troops in action, a post-war letter from a Confederate officer about the initial assaults and several other objects. The program is informal and on-going from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"A... crashing, hissing, hell...": The Charge of the 1st Maine

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 11:30 am & 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #5
Contact: Ann Blumenschine (804) 732-3531 x203 / Ann_Blumenschine@nps.gov

Explore the story behind one of the deadliest charges of the Civil War.

Petersburg In The Civil War

Date: Sunday, June 18, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Blandford Church Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Walking tour focusing on the permanent residents of the City who played a role during the Civil War.

Hard Hat Tour of Poplar Grove National Cemetery

Date: Saturday June 25, 2016
Time: 10am-Noon
Location: Poplar Grove National Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Get a behind the scenes look at the rehabilitation project of Poplar Grove National Cemetery. Reservations are required, no more than 24 participants. Please contact Elizabeth Dinger for reservations. Parking will be at Fort Wadsworth and we will shuttle people to/from the cemetery.

Civil War Bugling

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 11:45 am & 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x 204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Civil War buglers played a key role in the life of a soldier both in camp and on the battlefield. Join park volunteer William Stallings to hear the bugle calls played around the siege lines of Petersburg and learn about the life of a bugler and their contribution to the war.

JULY

Battle of Ft. Stevens

Date: Sunday, July 10 2016
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Aaron Rowland (804) 732-3531 x205 / Aaron_Rowland@nps.gov

In order to divert pressure and resources away from Petersburg and Richmond, Gen. Lee dispatched Jubal Early and his Army of the Valley north to terrorize the Maryland country-side and apply pressure on Washington, DC.

Grant's Tmail

Date: Sunday, July 17, 2016
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Conversations with the Curator: Remembering the Battle of the Crater

Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – Noon and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

To commemorate the Battle of the Crater, Petersburg National Battlefield's Curator Emmanuel Dabney will have several objects associated with the memory of the battle between 1867 and 1937. Among the objects shown will be artifacts recovered from the battlefield for a post-war museum, photographs of veterans' reunions, mementoes from the golf course, and records and articles associated with the 1937 battle reenactment. The program is informal and on-going from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Program is included with the entrance fee to the battlefield of \$5 per vehicle.

152nd Anniversary of the Battle of the Crater

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #7 and Stop #8
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x 204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Along with infantry and artillery drills, living historians and park rangers will present "Union High Tide & Mahone's Counter Attack" to illustrate to the public a key moment in the battle. The program will describe how Union soldiers dug

the tunnel; reveal the role the United States Colored Troops played during the battle; and explain the Confederate's successful defense of their lines.

Remember the Glorious Dead: The Battle of the Crater

Date: Saturday, July 30, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Location: Blandford Church Reception Center
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 732-3531 x208 / Martha Atkinson (804) 733-2396

A special event commemorating southern soldiers killed at the Battle of the Crater, this walking tour will allow participants to learn the story of this encounter, view memorial plaques and stones in Blandford Church and Cemetery and visit the final resting places of Confederate soldiers buried in the Memorial Hill section of the 189 acre cemetery. Doors to the event open at 6:30 PM. Admission is free. This partnership event is sponsored by the City of Petersburg Museums and the Petersburg National Battlefield.

AUGUST

Civil War Clothing

Date: Sunday, August 7, 2016
Time: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Christopher Castle (804) 732-3531 x202 / Christopher.Castle@nps.gov

This presentation will give an overview of how military uniforms were manufactured and distributed to the soldiers

From Slavery to Freedom

Date: Saturday, August 13, 2016
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Departs from Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Robert Webster (804) 732-3531 x223 / Robert.Webster@nps.gov

Travel to the locations where slaves and slave owners walked the streets of Petersburg. Learn about the issues facing these citizens as the Civil War comes to an end in 1865.

America's Best Idea: A History of the National Park Service

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016
Time: 11:00 – Noon & 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Concerts at City Point: A Celebration of the National Park Service's 100th Birthday

Date: Thursday, August 25, 2016
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Ann Blumenschine (804) 732-3531 x203 / Ann_Blumenschine@nps.gov

Civil War Bugling

Date: Saturday, August 27, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 11:45 am & 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x 204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Civil War buglers played a key role in the life of a soldier both in camp and on the battlefield. Join park volunteer William Stallings to hear the bugle calls played around the siege lines of Petersburg and learn about the life of a bugler and their contribution to the war.

Hard Hat Tour of Poplar Grove National Cemetery

Date: Saturday August 27, 2016
Time: 10am-Noon
Location: Poplar Grove National Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 7342-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Get a behind the scenes look at the rehabilitation project of Poplar Grove National Cemetery. Reservations are required, no more than 24 participants. Please contact Elizabeth Dinger for reservations. Parking will be at Fort Wadsworth and we will shuttle people to/from the cemetery.

SEPTEMBER _____

History of Canning

Date: Saturday, September 3, 2016
Time: 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Christopher Castle (804) 732-3531 x202 / Christopher_Castle@nps.gov

This program will discuss the history of canning of vegetables and meats, in both metal and glass containers, and the distribution of canned foods by sutlers.

Victorian Cemetery Symbolism

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Blandford Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger (804) 732-3531 x208 / Elizabeth_Dinger@nps.gov

Walking tour examines the symbolism of monuments and markers of the Victorian era.

Communication via Telegraph During the Civil War

Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016
Time: 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Christopher Castle (804) 732-3531 x202 / Christopher.Castle@nps.gov

This will be a hands-on demonstration of telegraph operation. It will discuss the history and implementation of the telegraph by the military.

The Beefsteak Raid

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Tracy Chernault (804) 469-4093 / Tracy.Chernault@nps.gov

With a showing of "Alvarez Kelly" join a ranger in analyzing this event through the eyes of Hollywood.

Civil War Bugling

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016
Time: 11:00 am – 11:45 am & 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x 204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Civil War buglers played a key role in the life of a soldier both in camp and on the battlefield. Join park volunteer William Stallings to hear the bugle calls played around the siege lines of Petersburg and learn about the life of a bugler and their contribution to the war.

OCTOBER

Fortification Tour

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2016
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Join a ranger to explore the siege trenches of the Eastern Front and to compare them to the World War I training trenches.

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving in the Trenches

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2016
Time: 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm & 6:45pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Eastern Front Tour Stop #3
Contact: Grant Gates (804) 732-3531 x 204 / Grant_Gates@nps.gov

Visit Petersburg National Battlefield to witness how soldiers, Union and Confederate, observed the Thanksgiving season. Guided lantern tours will take place at tour stop #3 of the Eastern Front Unit. Each tour will consist of five stops where different scenes will play out depicting moments of peace to moments of violence. The event is free of charge. Reservations are required to participate in this tour. To make a reservation, please call (804) 732-3531 ext. 204. Reservations can also be requested by e-mailing the event coordinator at Grant_Gates@nps.gov. Please make sure to leave your name, telephone number, and/or e-mail address as confirmation will be made by phone or e-mail. Register early as there is a limit of 30 people per tour. Registration deadline is noon on November 15, 2016.

DECEMBER

Christmas on the Plantation

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2016
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney (804) 732-3531 x222 / Emmanuel_Dabney@nps.gov

The Eppes family spent most Christmas Days during the Civil War as refugees and remained out of their house until after the Civil War was over. The Eppes family was in Petersburg for the holiday in 1865 and thus Christmas 1866 is their first time home for the holidays in several years. This program marks the return of "Christmas on the Plantation" and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the aftermath of the Civil War. Visitors to the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield can expect to find living historians portraying the Eppes and some of the employees who lived at Appomattox Plantation in December 1866.