



A Nation Remembers

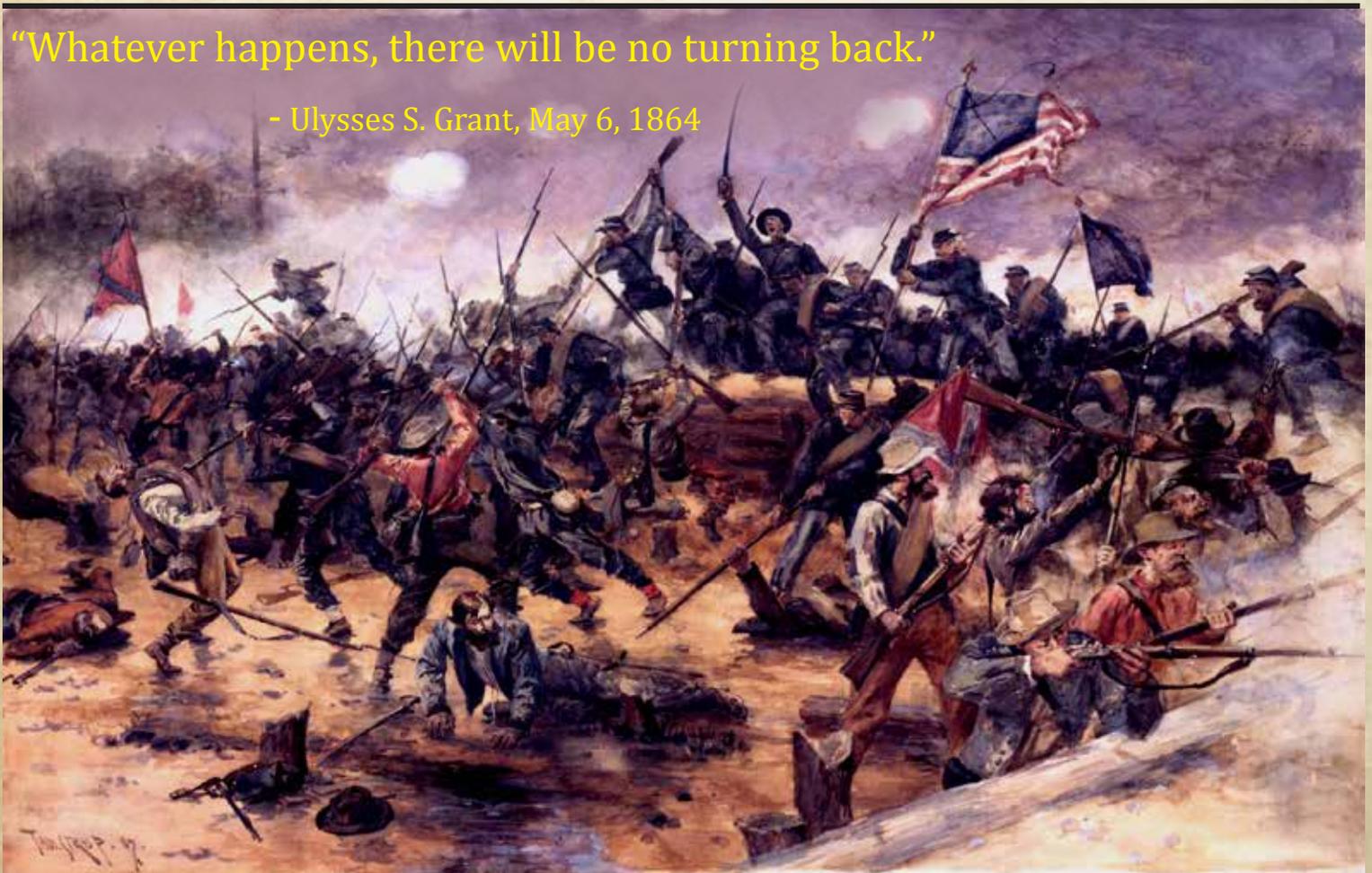
The 1864 Overland Campaign

Wilderness & Spotsylvania

Guide to Sesquicentennial Events, May 3-26, 2014

“Whatever happens, there will be no turning back.”

- Ulysses S. Grant, May 6, 1864



America's Battleground

In 1864, the Civil War roared to its climax in the fields and forests west of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The war's relentless, increasing violence reflected its immense stakes. Radically different visions of nation and freedom teetered in the balance. While the war would not be decided that spring, its bloody course to an end—and peace—would be set here, on America's Battleground.

The power of place...

The proximity of time...

The words of those who were there.

A Nation Remembers Wilderness & Spotsylvania

Culminating Event

May 10, 7:30 p.m.

Spotsylvania Battlefield

No place in America witnessed more struggle during the Civil War than the McCoull farm at Spotsylvania. Here was the Bloody Angle and the Mule Shoe Salient. Here too were families and slaves swept up in war.

On May 10, join with descendants, members of the community, and visitors from across the nation on the McCoull farm. Using music, the power of place, the words of those who were there, and the simulated sound of 20,000 men in battle, we will recall and commemorate the immense struggle



and sacrifice of those who lived, fought and died upon the battlefield at Spotsylvania Court House.

We will gather at the **entrance lane to the McCoull House, Tour Stop 5** on the Spotsylvania Battlefield, and from there, bearing flowers, we will move as a procession to the Bloody Angle.

Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. This sunset program will conclude after dark, at approximately 9 p.m.

Sign Language Interpreters will be provided for this event.





The Schedule at a Glance

Please check daily schedules for details, living history, and additional programs. For information on the May 3-4 re-enactment, visit www.150Spotsylvania.com

Saturday, May 3 ~ Details on page 4

10 a.m. *The Overland Campaign 150th: Opening Ceremony*, at the Bloody Angle, Spotsylvania.

1-3 p.m. *Decisions and Consequences: Grant & the Landscape of War*. At Ellwood.

3:30-4:30 p.m. *Home Interrupted: Civilians, War, and Freedom*. At Ellwood.

Sunday, May 4 ~ Details on page 5

8 a.m. - Noon. *To the Rapidan: March to Battle, A Bus Tour*. Reservations required.

Noon - 1 p.m. *Across Saunders Field—A Walking Tour*.

1-5 p.m. *Grant and Lee at War: The Wilderness*. A bus tour. Reservations required.

2-3 p.m. *Rage of a Home Invaded: The Higgerson Farm*.

4-5 p.m. "Dark, Close Wood": *A Walk in the Wilderness*.

7:30 p.m. *Eve of Battle: A Fireside Program*. At Ellwood.

Monday, May 5 ~ Details on page 6

1-3 p.m. *Opening Shots at Saunders Field*.

5-7 p.m. *Life and Death at the Crossroads*.

Tuesday, May 6 ~ Details on page 7

6-8 a.m. *Sunrise in Tapp Field*.

9:30-Noon. *Longstreet's Flank Attack and Wounding*.

1-3 p.m. *Horror on the Plank Road*.

6-8 p.m. *Gordon's Flank Attack*.

Thursday, May 8 ~ Details on page 8

9-11 a.m. *Encounter at Laurel Hill: March to Battle*.

1-3 p.m. *Melee and Madness at Laurel Hill*.

4-6 p.m. *A New Kind of War: Building the Mule Shoe Salient*

Friday, May 9 ~ Details on page 9

10 a.m.-1 p.m. *Death of General Sedgwick*.

7 p.m. *City of Hospitals*. Fredericksburg Baptist Church.

Saturday, May 10 ~ Details on page 10

8 a.m.-Noon. *Race to the Crossroads—A Bus Tour*. Reservations required.

1-5 p.m. *Spotsylvania's Grueling Punishment—A Bus Tour*. Reservations Required.

12:30-3 p.m. *Warren and Hancock in Crisis: Laurel Hill*.

4-6 p.m. *Upton Earns His Star: Revolutionizing Warfare*.

7:30-9 p.m. *Culminating Event: A Nation Remembers*, at the Bloody Angle, Spotsylvania.

Sunday, May 11 ~ Details on page 11

9 a.m.-4 p.m. *Hidden Spotsylvania: A Hike*.

2 p.m. *Wartime Mothers and Soldier-Sons*, at Chatham.

Monday, May 12 ~ Details on page 11

5-7 a.m. *Mayhem at Dawn: The Union Onslaught*.

8-10 a.m. *Confederate Crisis: Lee to the Rear*.

12:30-2:30 p.m. *East Face of the Salient: Stemming the Tide*.

4-5 p.m. *Union Footsteps*.

6-7 p.m. *Confederate Footsteps*.

8 p.m. *Candlelight Vigil at the Bloody Angle*.

Saturday, May 17 ~ Details on page 12

9 a.m.-2 p.m. *Rise of the United States Colored Troops*. At Fairview, Chancellorsville Battlefield.

Sunday, May 18 ~ Details on page 12

1-3 p.m. *The Battle of Lee's Last Line*. A walking tour.

Memorial Day Weekend ~ Details pp. 15-16

May 24, 8 -11 p.m. *Reverberations and the Illumination of the National Cemetery*.

May 26, Noon: Memorial Day Ceremony, Fredericksburg National Cemetery.



Daily Schedule See maps pages 6 & 8

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park joins with the communities of Spotsylvania, Orange, Fredericksburg, and Stafford to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Battles of Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House—the beginning of the deadly 1864 Overland Campaign. The commemoration will span more than two weeks. It will culminate with **A Nation Remembers**, in the fading light of Saturday May 10, at Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle.

Saturday, May 3

Opening Ceremony, Programs at the Wilderness

All Day or
Ongong

- ~ **Temporary Visitor Center**, Saunders Field–Wilderness Tour Stop 3.
- ~ **Historians stationed at Wilderness Tour Stops 3, 6, & 8**, from 10-6 with 30-minute walking tours available at frequent intervals.
- ~ **Historians stationed at Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter and Bloody Angle** (Tour Stop 3), 11 - 6, with 30-minute walking tours available at frequent intervals.
- ~ **Ellwood open 10-5. Infantry Encampment, Children’s Tent, & Living History.** Medical demonstrations & more.

10 - 11:15 a.m.



Opening Ceremony: The 1864 Overland Campaign. Join acclaimed historian Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. to mark the formal opening of the commemoration of the Overland Campaign. At the Bloody Angle (Tour Stop 3), Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield. *Sign Language Interpreters provided for this event.*

Noon

Interactive Living History Program. Join in! At Ellwood.

1 - 3 p.m.

Decisions and Consequences: Grant and the Landscape of War. A walking tour to the area of Grant’s headquarters, Wilderness Tavern, and other sites associated with the Battle of the Wilderness. Two miles. Meet at Ellwood.

3 p.m.

Tactical and Firing demonstration. Ellwood.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Home Interrupted: Civilians, War, and Freedom. Hear the words and stories of civilians—free and enslaved—caught in the vortex of the Overland Campaign. In the yard at historic Ellwood. *Bring a lawn chair.*

A note on access to Ellwood May 3-4:

Parking at Ellwood is limited and all on grass. Depending on weather and levels of visitation, the NPS may use a shuttle service to access Ellwood. We will update with details as the event nears. For the latest information, go to www.nps.gov/frsp/sesquicentennial/htm



Sunday, May 4

Bus Tours, Living History, and On-Site Programs

- Ongoing
- ~ Temporary Visitor Center, Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive.
 - ~ Historians stationed at Wilderness Tour Stops 3, 6 & 8, with 30-minute walking tours available at frequent intervals.
 - ~ Historians stationed at Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter and Bloody Angle (Spotsylvania Tour Stop 3), 10 - 6, with 30-minute tours at frequent intervals.
 - ~ Ellwood open 10-5. Infantry Encampment, Children's Tent, & Living History. Medical demonstrations & more.
 - ~ Book signings by Eastern National, at Ellwood and Chancellorsville VC.
- 8 a.m. - Noon
- To the Rapidan: March to Battle—a bus tour.** Follow the armies through Culpeper and Orange County to the Rapidan Crossings. **Advanced reservations required.** Call (540) 372-3034. \$25 per person. Departs from the Gordon Road commuter lot on Route 3 (Plank Road).
- 1 - 5 p.m.
- Grant and Lee at War: The Wilderness.** A bus tour. Follow the footsteps of these famous leaders in their first battlefield clash. **Advanced reservations required.** Call (540) 372-3034. \$25 per person. Departs from the Gordon Road commuter lot on Route 3 (Plank Road).
- 11:30 a.m.
- Tactical and Firing demonstration.** Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3.
- Noon - 1 p.m.
- Across Saunders Field: A Walking Tour.** Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive
- 1 p.m.
- Tactical and Firing demonstration.** Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3.
- 2 - 3 p.m.
- Rage of a Home Invaded: The Higginson Farm.** A walking tour that departs from Tour Stop 4, Hill-Ewell Drive.
- 4 - 5 p.m.
- "Dark Close Wood": A Walk in the Wilderness.** Park off Longstreet Drive, inside the entrance to Fawn Lake subdivision, off Route 621.
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Eve of Battle: A Fireside Program at Ellwood.** This is the 150th anniversary of the last peaceful night of spring 1864. This program will take a human look at why the Overland Campaign mattered and what it meant to those who were affected. *Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight.*

Historic Ellwood, an antebellum plantation
Open daily, 10-5 through August
Living history May 3-5.
36380 Constitution Highway, 22508

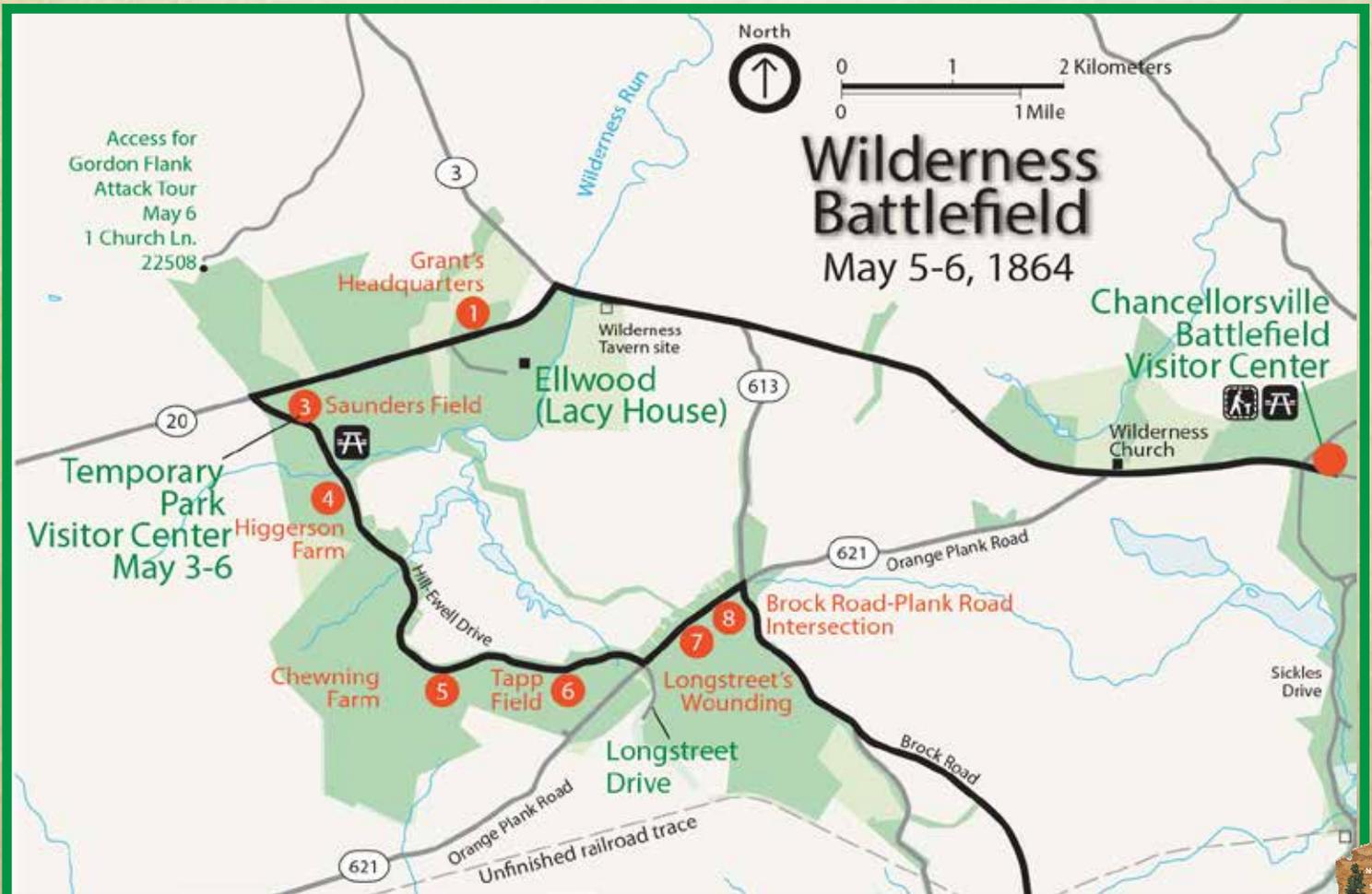
Ellwood served as headquarters for Union generals Gouverneur Warren and Ambrose Burnside. Today, furnished rooms and modern exhibits speak of the house's momentous history. **The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield** will host living history and medical demonstrations throughout the anniversary weekend. For more information about the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield and its many events through the year visit www.fowb.org



Monday, May 5

The Battle of The Wilderness-Real-Time Tours

- Ongoing ~ Temporary Visitor Center, Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive.
 ~ Historians stationed at Wilderness tour stops 3, 4, 6, & 8, from 8 - 11:30 a.m., with 30-minute walking tours available at frequent intervals.
 ~ Living History: Infantry at Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3.
 ~ Ellwood open 10-5.
- 12:30 p.m. **Tactical and Firing Demonstration.** Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive.
- 1 - 3 p.m. **Opening Shots at Saunders Field-a real-time program.** The early afternoon Union advance sparked an engagement that set the whole Wilderness ablaze in battle. Meet at Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive. One-mile walking tour.
- 3 p.m. **Tactical and Firing Demonstration.** Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive.
- 5 - 7 p.m **Life and Death at the Crossroads-real-time walking tour.** The Brock Road/Plank Road intersection was the key to the whole battlefield. Lee wanted it—and Grant struggled to keep it. This two-mile walking tour explores the deep woods that were the scene of intense combat on the afternoon of May 5. Park off Longstreet Drive, inside the Fawn Lake subdivision, off Route 621.



Tuesday, May 6

The Battle of the Wilderness–Real-Time Tours

- Ongoing ~ Temporary Visitor Center, Saunders Field, Tour Stop 3, Hill-Ewell Drive.
~ Ellwood open 10-5.
- 6 - 8 a.m. **Sunrise in Tapp Field: Lee to the Rear!** A crushing Union attack took the Confederates to the brink of disaster—until Robert E. Lee personally entered the fight. A walking tour featuring cannon firing. Tour Stop 6, Hill-Ewell Drive.
- 9:30 a.m. - Noon **Longstreet’s Flank Attack and Wounding.** First-ever public walk of the route of Longstreet’s Flank Attack, ending at the site of his wounding. Two miles. Challenging walk through woods. Meet on Longstreet Drive, inside the entrance to the Fawn Lake subdivision, off Route 621. Wear bug spray.
- 1 - 3 p.m. **Horror on the Plank Road.** The seesaw battle along the Plank Road revealed an intensity that few soldiers had ever experienced. The battle would be decided here. Meet on Longstreet Drive, off Route 621. Two miles through woods.
- 6 - 8 p.m. **Gordon’s Flank Attack—a walking tour.** Confederates exploited an unguarded Union flank in a final bid for victory. Meet at Lake of the Woods Church, 1 Church Lane, 22508. Enter through Lake of the Woods subdivision off Rte. 3, 2.3 miles north of its intersection with Route 20. See map page 6.



WILDERNESS & SPOTSYLVANIA COURTHOUSE

“We have entered the domain of history.”

- Winston Churchill describing his 1929 visit to Spotsylvania

Spotsylvania County will observe the 150th Anniversary of the battles of Wilderness and Spotsylvania with one of the largest 2014 re-enactments anywhere. Camps, a ball, speakers, concerts, and the re-enactments themselves fill a weekend of history, May 3-4. Shuttle buses will run between the re-enactment and Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield on Saturday, May 3.

Where: Spotsylvania Court House, 9019 Old Battlefield Blvd., Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Main Event, May 3: 2 p.m.

Main Event, May 4: 1:30 p.m.

For tickets and more information visit <http://150spotsylvania.com>

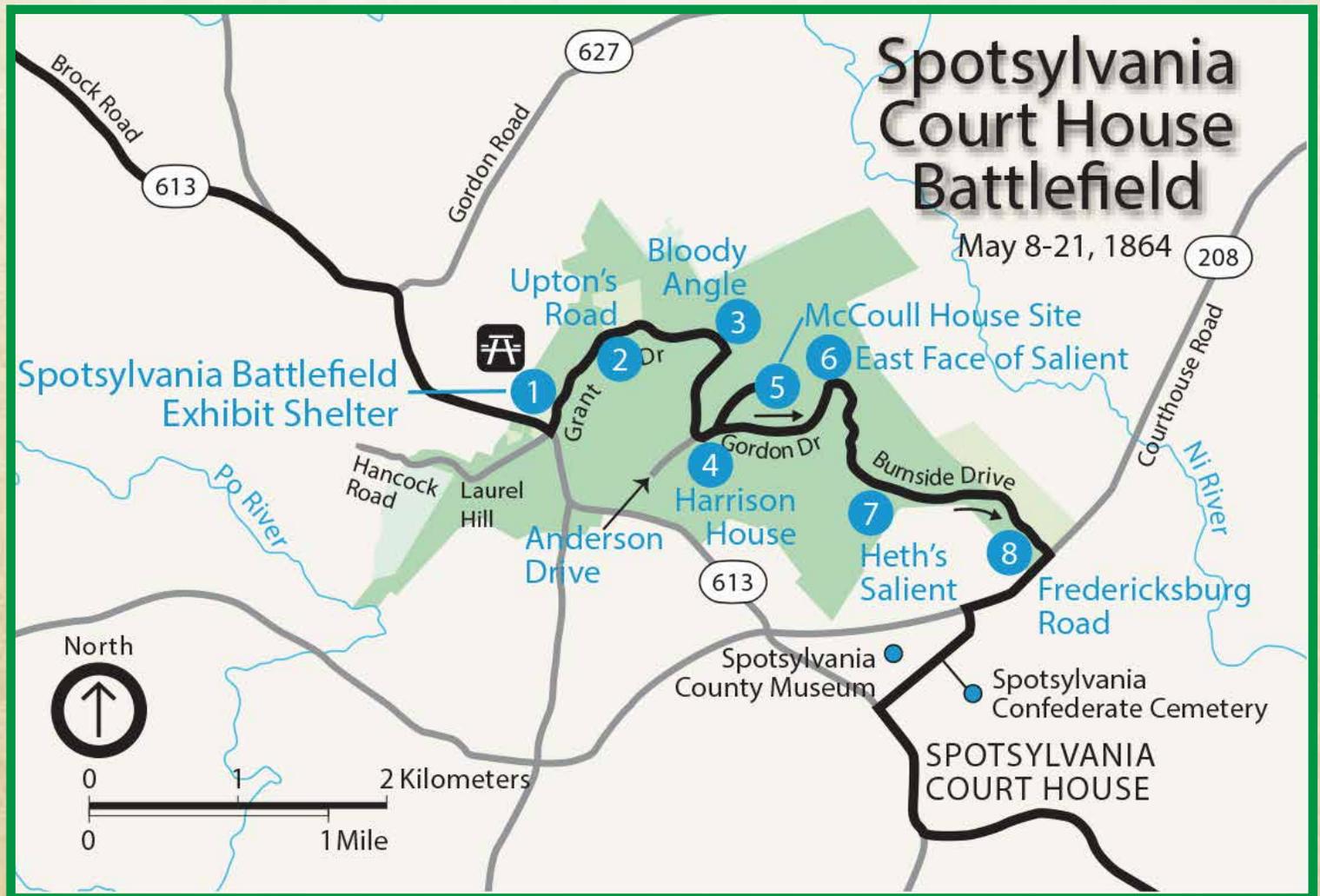
For more information visit www.nps.gov/frsp or www.facebook.com/FredericksburgSpotsylvaniaNMP



Whirlwind South-To Spotsylvania

Nothing in history equals this contest. Desperate, long, and deadly, it still goes on.

- William Taylor, 110th Pennsylvania, May 1864



Thursday, May 8

Real-Time Tours at Spotsylvania

Ongoing

- ~ Historian stationed at Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, 10-6.
- ~ Book Signings, Eastern National, at the Spotsylvania exhibit shelter, noon-3.

9 - 11 a.m.

Deadly Encounter at Laurel Hill—a real-time walking tour. Both armies raced south to Spotsylvania—a race that ended in a surprise clash just north of the village. Meet at the Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1. 1.5 miles.

1 - 3 p.m.

Melee and Madness at Laurel Hill: The Battle Escalates—a real-time tour. Follow the footsteps of Union soldiers as they blundered into disaster. Meet at the Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1. One-mile walking tour.

4 - 6 p.m.

A New Kind of War: Building the Mule Shoe Salient. An exploration of the Confederate earthworks that shaped the fighting at Spotsylvania. Meet at the end of Anderson Drive. 1.5 miles of walking, some of it through woods.

Follow 150th events on Twitter at #Overland150 and #CW150.



Friday, May 9

The Death of Sedgwick and “City of Hospitals”

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. **The Death of John Sedgwick**, Tour Stop 1, Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter. A historian will be on site and giving programs at frequent intervals to mark the 150th anniversary of the highest-ranking Union officer’s death during the war.
- 1 - 6 p.m. **At the Bloody Angle**. A historian will be present and will give tours at frequent intervals, focusing on the site of some of the most intense sustained combat of the war. At the Bloody Angle, Tour Stop 3.
- 7 - 8 p.m. **City of Hospitals: Fredericksburg**. On May 9, 1864, the first of 26,000 wounded soldiers arrived in Fredericksburg, turning the town into a vast hospital. This is the story of the wounded and those who rushed to help them, told in one of the buildings used as a hospital 150 years ago. Fredericksburg Baptist Church, 1019 Princess Anne Street, 22401.



Some of the 26,000 Union wounded from Wilderness and Spotsylvania who passed through Fredericksburg in May 1864, turning the town into a “City of Hospitals.” Note the female relief worker at center, one of about 500 Northern civilians who rushed to Fredericksburg to help.

Saturday, May 10

A Day of Living History, Real-Time Tours & Reflection

“Then came the reaction. All moved by the same impulse, we sat down on the wet ground and wept. Not silently, but vociferously and long.”



Living History, May 10

- ~ Confederate Infantry Camp, East Face of the Salient, Tour Stop 6.
- ~ Union Infantry Camp, Landram House Site, beyond Tour Stop 3.
- ~ 2d Maryland Fife and Drum Corps: concerts at noon and 3 p.m. at Tour Stop 1, Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, and at 6:30 p.m. at the McCoull House Lane.
- ~ Infantry Demonstration included in walking tour at 12:30. Artillery firings at the East Angle at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
- ~ All will participate in the culminating procession and program, starting at McCoull House Lane near Tour Stop 5 at 7:30 p.m.



Ongoing

- ~ Children's Area. Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1.
- ~ Temporary Visitor Center. Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1.

8 a.m. - Noon

Race to the Crossroads: A Bus Tour. Join park staff and follow the opening days at Spotsylvania—from the Wilderness to the Bloody Angle. **Advanced reservations required.** Call (540) 372-3034. \$25 per person. Meet at The Spotsylvania Courthouse Village, 9019 Old Battlefield Blvd., 22553.

1 - 5 p.m.

Spotsylvania's Grueling Punishment: A Bus Tour. Park historians lead an exploration of forgotten Spotsylvania—the fighting at and beyond the Bloody Angle. **Advanced reservations required.** Call (540) 372-3034. \$25 per person. Meet at Spotsylvania Courthouse Village, 9019 Old Battlefield Blvd., 22553.

11:30 - 12:15

Living History: Tactical Firing Demonstration, Laurel Hill.

12:30 - 3 p.m.

Warren and Hancock in Crisis: Laurel Hill, May 10—a real-time walking tour. The forgotten battles of May 10. 1.5 miles. Includes living history demonstrations. Meet at Tour Stop 1, Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter.

4 - 6 p.m.

Upton Earns His Star: Revolutionizing Warfare—a real-time walking tour. Follow the footsteps of Upton's famous attack. Meet at Tour Stop 2.

7:30 - 9 p.m.

A Nation Remembers: Spotsylvania. A Culminating Event. Meet at entrance to McCoull House Lane, near Tour Stop 5, and join the procession to the Bloody Angle. *Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight.* See page 2 for details.



Follow 150th events on Twitter at #Overland150 and #CW150.



Sunday, May 11

Mothers' Day

- Ongoing ~ Historian at the Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1, 10-6, with occasional walking tours.
~ Children's area at the Spotsylvania Exhibit Shelter, Tour Stop 1, 10-6.
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Hidden Spotsylvania: A Hike.** Explore the lesser-known but important aspects of Spotsylvania, including its complex and often confusing earthworks. Eight miles. A rigorous hike—dress appropriately. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the end of Anderson Drive.
- 2 - 3 p.m. **Wartime Mothers and Soldier-Sons: A Reflection on Devotion and Sacrifice.** An exploration of the profound impact of war as described in letters and diaries of the period. At historic Chatham, 120 Chatham Lane, 22405. *Bring a lawn chair.*

Monday, May 12

A Powerful Day of Remembrance at the Bloody Angle

The Silent Sentinel.

National Park Service staff will stand in silent tribute at the Bloody Angle continuously for 22 hours—mirroring the 22 hours of combat in 1864. The vigil begins at 6 a.m. on May 12 and concludes at 4 a.m. on May 13.



Note: All programs begin at the Bloody Angle, Tour Stop 3, Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield.

- Ongoing ~ Historian stationed at Exhibit Shelter and Heth's Salient, Tour Stop 7, 10-4.
- 5 - 7 a.m. **Mayhem at Dawn: The Union Onslaught—a real-time walking tour.** Join park staff to follow the footsteps of the initial Union breakthrough on May 12, 1864. 1.5 miles, undulating. Bring a flashlight.
- 8 - 10 a.m. **Confederate Crisis: Lee to the Rear—a real-time walking tour.** The Confederates responded to disaster, & Lee threw himself into battle. 1.5 miles.
- 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. **The East Face of the Salient: Stemming the Tide—a real-time walking tour.** Walk the ground of the forgotten fighting of May 12. 1.5 miles, undulating.
- 4 - 5 p.m. **Union Footsteps: The Bloody Angle—a real-time walking tour.** Explore the stories of Union soldiers and the subtle ripples and dips in the ground that meant life or death for them during the fighting on May 12, 1864.
- 6 - 7 p.m. **Confederate Footsteps: The Bloody Angle—a real-time tour.** Walk the ground made famous by the defenders of the Bloody Angle on May 12.
- 8 - 9 p.m. **Candelight Vigil.** An hour of reflection on the tragic destruction at Spotsylvania on May 12, 1864.



May 17 & 18

Remembering the First Local Combat of the USCT

Fighting for Freedom and Firesides: The Rise of the United States Colored Troops.

On May 15, 1864, the Army of the Potomac's United States Colored Troops engaged in their first combat against Lee's army at a crossroads north of Spotsylvania Court House. On May 17, 2014, we will remember the emergence of the USCT.



May 17

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Living History Encampment, featuring the 23d USCT, 54th Massachusetts, and the Women of the American Civil War. Visit the camps, talk to the troops, hear the stories. Fairview, Tour Stop 10, Chancellorsville Battlefield.

1 - 1:45 p.m.

"The Rise of the USCT." A reflection on the transformation of African-Americans from slaves to soldiers fighting for the Union and freedom. Fairview, Tour Stop 10, Chancellorsville Battlefield. *Lawn chair suggested.*

2 - 4 p.m.

Footsteps to Battle: A Procession. The 23d USCT will lead a public procession to the site where their predecessor regiment engaged in the first combat of the USCTs in Northern Virginia, and there will dedicate a new historical marker to the event. Park on Furnace Road near Tour Stop 5, Chancellorsville Battlefield. 0.8 mile to the dedication site. Shuttle bus available for return.

May 18

1 - 3 p.m.

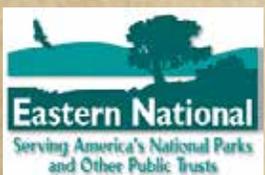
The Battle of Lee's Last Line—a real-time walking tour. Grant's attack on May 18 finally convinced the Union army that they could not break the stalemate at Spotsylvania Court House. Meet at the Bloody Angle, Tour Stop 3. 1.5 miles.



Kids Arise! Become a Junior Ranger!

JOIN A PARK RANGER FOR KIDS ACTIVITIES AT THE CHILDREN'S AREA, MAY 3-4 AT ELLWOOD AND MAY 10-11 AT SPOTSYLVANIA EXHIBIT SHELTER.

Many of the week's sesquicentennial programs are supported by Eastern National, a non-profit partner that assists more than 150 National Parks. During the 150th, items will be sold at various sites. Your purchase of books and commemorative items helps support NPS programs, exhibits, and publications.



May 2: A special evening of reflection on the Overland Campaign. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust will host its annual meeting and dinner, followed by a talk by acclaimed historian Gordon Rhea. Reservations required. For more information visit www.cvbt.org.



Follow 150th events on Twitter at #Overland150 and #CW150.

Thundering Through Virginia

“Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also.”

- Grant to Meade, April 1864

The Overland 150th

When the armies left Spotsylvania County on May 21, 1864, their ordeal had just begun.

For the next six weeks they would thunder through Virginia—to places like North Anna, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, and across the James to the outskirts of Petersburg. The National Park Service will offer interpretive and commemorative moments every step of the way: bus tours, walking tours, speakers, and multi-media programs

Highlights include:

May 23: North Anna bus tour

May 29-31: Battle of Totopotomoy Creek

June 1, 3, & 7: Battle of Cold Harbor

June 29: *Voices from the Storm: The Overland Campaign* (see box, left).

June 14-15: Opening Assaults: To the Gates of Petersburg

July 31-August 3: The Crater at Petersburg



Voices from the Storm: The Overland Campaign, June 29

Sunday, June 29, 8:30 p.m., at the American Civil War Center at Tredegar, Richmond, VA.

This program will use music, reading, images, and the words of those who were there to tell the story of the Overland Campaign.



Sesquicentennial of Wilderness & Spotsylvania

Events by our Friends and Partners

- April 11 -** Two-day tour of the Union and Confederate winter encampments for 1863-1864, in Orange and Culpeper. Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. www.fowb.org
- April 12** winter encampments for 1863-1864, in Orange and Culpeper. Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. www.fowb.org
- April 26** *The USCT Come to the Front*, Inn at Kelly's Ford, with Senate Chaplain Barry Black. www.WomenoftheAmericanCivilWar.com
- May 2** *Wilderness and Spotsylvania: A Symposium*. 1- 5 p.m. Spotsylvania Court House. Sponsored by Friends of Fredericksburg Area Battlefields.
- May 2** Annual Meeting and Banquet, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Reservations and more information www.cvbt.org.
- May 2** Student Day at the re-enactment at Spotsylvania Court House. www.150Spotsylvania.com
- All Day**
- May 3** Battle of the Wilderness Memorial Dinner. www.civilwarstudygroup.org
- May 3 - 4** Battles of Wilderness and Spotsylvania re-enactment, Spotsylvania Court House www.150Spotsylvania.com
- For more events in Orange County, visit: www.visitorangevirginia.com

Wilderness & Spotsylvania May 5-21, 1864

The 1864 Overland Campaign pitted the Civil War's two greatest commanders—Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant—against each other for the first time. Their struggle, fought in the shadow of a looming presidential election in the North, produced a whirlwind of pain, suffering, loss and destruction that reverberated across the land and challenged both sides' will to continue the war.

Grant and Lee first clashed in the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864, in two days of horror that ended in stalemate. Grant vowed, "There will be no turning back," and shifted the Union army south. Lee blocked his path at Spotsylvania Court House. Both sides entrenched and the fighting took on a renewed intensity, reaching a frenzied climax in a 22-hour battle over a bend in the Confederate trenches that became known as the Bloody Angle. After 2 weeks, neither general could break the stalemate.

Grant continued to sidestep and press south; Lee continued to block his every thrust. Their battle would leave a bloody swath across Virginia, going to the North Anna River, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. No one knew it yet, but the first clash in the Wilderness was the first step to Appomattox and the end of the Civil War. Peace was eleven difficult months away.

Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student

In anticipation of the Overland 150th, seventh-grade students from Orange County Public Schools have been participating in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's "Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student®." For months, these students have been working with JTHG and NPS staff to create vodcasts, or mini-movies, related to the Battle of the Wilderness. The vodcasts will premier on May 30 at Orange County High School. For more information, visit www.hallowedground.org.



Planning Your Visit

Weather and Safety

Virginia springs are mild, but changeable, with the omnipresent possibility of rain and storms. Please dress appropriately. Unless otherwise noted, all NPS events are outdoors and will proceed so long as conditions are safe. Prepare for ticks and mosquitoes; be aware of snakes.

Check our Facebook page for updates related to weather: www.facebook.com/FredericksburgSpotsylvaniaNMP

Seating

No seating will be provided. For stationary programs (notably events on May 3, 4, 10, 12 and 17th) visitors are urged to bring easily-carried lawn chairs.

Water and Food

Food will not be available 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 Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. Please dispose of litter and recycling in the provided containers.

Park 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. Some walking tours cover a considerable distance. Know your abilities. Bring water for longer walks. Plan ahead.

Parking, Facilities, and Accessibility

Parking will generally be along park roads near program venues. All events will provide accessible parking. Most events and programs are accessible, though several walking/hiking tours take place over long distances with uneven and rough terrain. Call ahead if you have questions. (540) 786-2880.

Pets

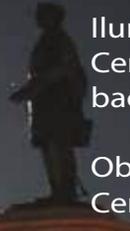
Pets on leashes are allowed within Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, but park buildings and the National Cemetery are off-limits to all pets except service animals.

Sign Language Interpreters

Sign language interpreters will be provided for the Opening Ceremony on May 3 and Culminating Event on May 10. Interpreters are available for all other programs upon request. Please allow seven days' notice. Call (540) 371-0802 to make a request.

Memorial Day Weekend, 2014

In the years after the Civil War, Fredericksburg's African-American community started the tradition of honoring the Union dead in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. The tradition of honoring those who sacrificed continues, as do similar ceremonies at the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery.

May 24 8-11 p.m.		Illumination of the National Cemetery & Reverberations (see back page)
May 26 10 a.m.		Observance, Confederate Cemetery
11 a.m.		Procession to National Cemetery
Noon		Ceremony, National Cemetery

Join us Memorial Day weekend 2014 for a special remembrance of the Overland Campaign.

For more information visit www.nps.gov/frsp or www.facebook.com/FredericksburgSpotsylvaniaNMP



Reverberations



Cyrus Jones, 14th NC
Killed at Spotsylvania

A Nationwide Observance Saturday, May 24, 2014



John Moy, 6th WI
Killed at Spotsylvania

By telegraph and letter, by railroad and newspapers, word of Virginia's deadly spring reverberated across America. The loss of men in Virginia constituted a deep wound to communities near and far: Bangor in Maine, Natchez in Mississippi, Dearborn, Litchfield, Charleston, Wilmington, and even the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe in Wisconsin. These places and hundreds more reckoned with the loss of men who would never come home—most of them buried today in unknown graves on Virginia's fields of battle.

On Memorial Day weekend 2014, the National Park Service will join with a few representative communities across America to remember those difficult days of 1864. We will recall not just what happened on the battlefields themselves, but the ordeal of communities that received the doleful news of that spring. The struggle of everyday Americans against loss, deprivation, and discouragement helped determine the fate of our nation in 1864.

Reverberations will link eight communities to the fields where their citizens often gave all, and will recognize a great and oft-forgotten struggle touched with both virtue and pain.



At 9 p.m. EDT on May 24, "Taps" will echo from eleven sites across the nation that in 1864 were deeply wounded by the losses of the 1864 Overland Campaign. Join us onsite at the illumination in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, an observance at Cold Harbor, or at Petersburg's Poplar Grove National Cemetery. Or, you can join thousands of others and watch live streaming from each distant site—Dearborn, MI, Natchez, MS, Litchfield, CT, Charleston, SC, Camp Nelson, KY, Bangor, ME, Wilmington, NC, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.

For continuously updated information and links, visit www.nps.gov/frsp/sesquicentennial/htm

Follow 150th events on Twitter at #Overland150 and #CW150.

