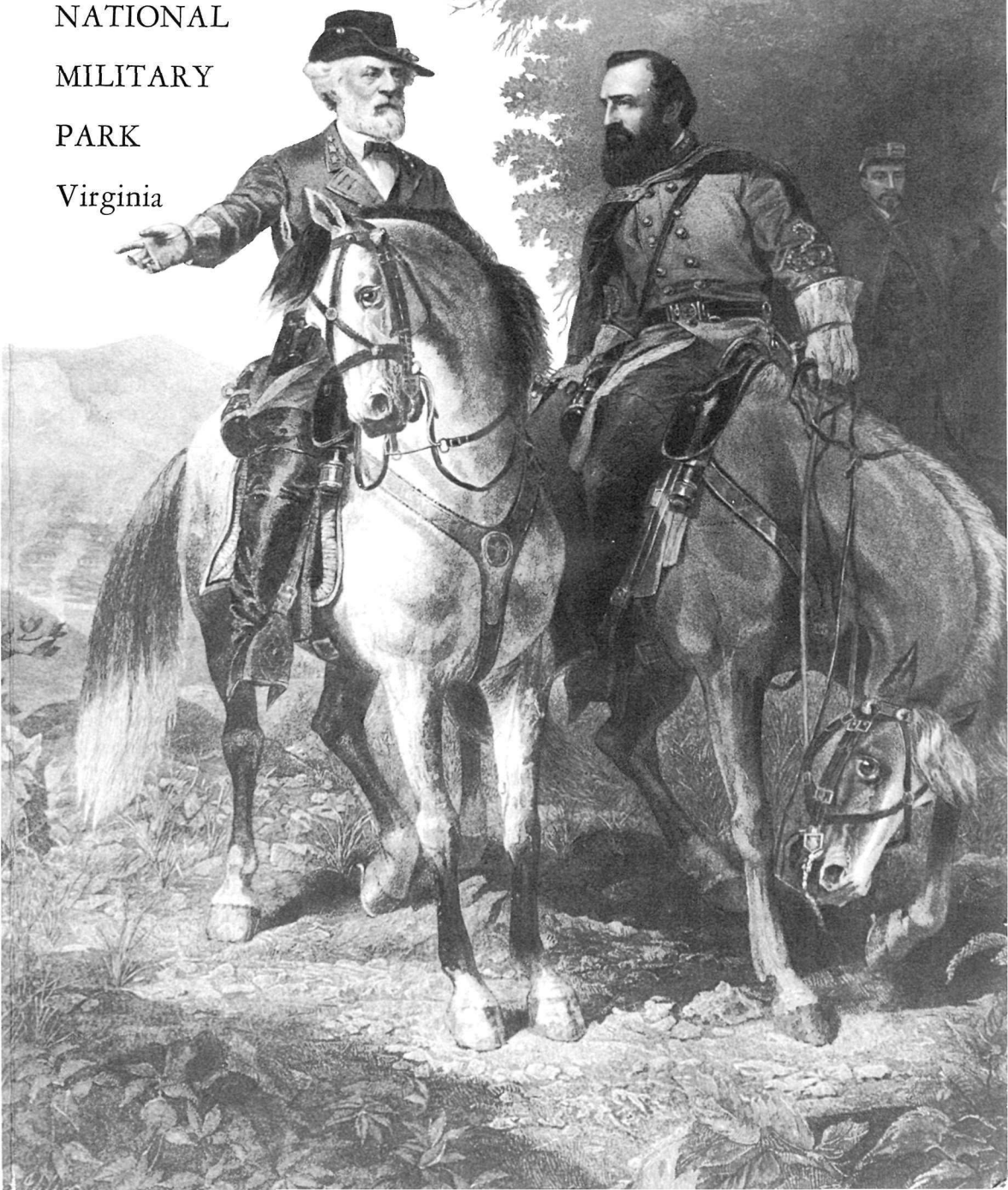
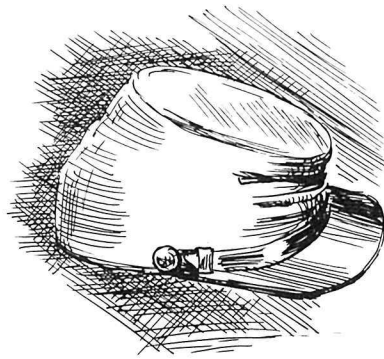


Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania

NATIONAL
MILITARY
PARK
Virginia





Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania

NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Scene of four major battles of the Civil War

This park memorializes the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House—four major engagements of the Civil War. No other area of comparable size on the American continent has witnessed such heavy and continuous fighting. On the fields of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Confederate arms won signal success, but at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House a determined Union army began the final drive that sealed the doom of the Southern cause.

In the West, Federal strategy was directed toward control of the Mississippi River and the strategic railheads; in the East, to the blockage of the Southern coast and the capture of Richmond, capital of the Confederacy, about 100 miles south of Washington, the National Capital.

Directly in the path of invasion from the north lay Fredericksburg, situated at the falls of the Rappahannock River, midway between Washington and Richmond. Here was to be found the shortest route to Richmond along a good railroad, and here an advance would provide a protecting cover for Washington. The Rappahannock offered one of

the main barriers to Federal invasion. Thus, early in the war, Fredericksburg occupied a position of great military importance.

Early Progress of the War

Three Federal thrusts against Richmond occurred before the Battle of Fredericksburg. The first, led by Gen. Irvin McDowell, met defeat at First Manassas (Bull Run), July 21, 1861. The second, Gen. George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, failed at the eastern gates of Richmond, May–July 1862. The third, under Gen. John Pope, was repulsed in Second Manassas, August 28–30, 1862.

Gen. Robert E. Lee then took his victorious Confederate army into the North, only to be turned back by McClellan at Sharpsburg, Md., along Antietam Creek, September 17, 1862. Again in Virginia, leaving Gen. T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson's Corps near Winchester, Lee moved with Gen. James Longstreet's Corps to Culpeper Court House. McClellan gathered his army around Warrenton, across the Rappahannock River from Culpeper County and some 40 miles northwest of Fredericksburg.

McClellan's failure to advance against either of the separated wings of the Confederate army caused his replacement. His successor, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, who assumed command on November 9, 1862, presented to President Lincoln a plan which involved a rapid movement on Fredericksburg, thence a march southward against Richmond, his army to be supplied from Potomac River bases east of Fredericksburg.

Battle of Fredericksburg

Burnside's vanguard arrived on Stafford Heights across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg on November 17. A delay in arrival of the pontoon bridges, however, prevented a crossing at that time. By November 30, his army occupied Stafford County, but the delay had enabled Lee to concentrate on the heights to the west and southwest of Fredericksburg.

Early on the morning of December 11, under cover of fog, the Federals began laying pontoon bridges at two points opposite Fredericksburg and at a point about a mile south. The upper crossings were hotly contested. Federal artillery, though devastating the town, failed to drive off Confederate sharpshooters. Finally, picked troops ferried over, effected a landing, and captured the city after sharp street fighting. On December 12, both sides massed for the coming battle.

Burnside hoped to dislodge the entrenched Confederate right near Hamilton's Railroad Crossing, south of the town, and their left center at Marye's Heights, just west of the town. About 9 a. m. on December 13, Gen. John Reynolds' Corps opened the attack against Jackson's position in the Hamilton's Crossing sector. Despite heavy artillery fire, Gen. George G. Meade's Division managed to penetrate the Confederate line and seemed about to spearhead a Union victory, but Jackson's reserves forced his withdrawal in the mid-afternoon.

Shortly before noon, Gen. Edwin Sumner's wing began attacking Marye's Heights. Artillery atop the hill, and Longstreet's infantry at the base behind a stone wall along the Sunken Road, shattered wave after wave of the Federal battlelines. Burnside wasted the steadfast courage of his troops in piecemeal frontal assaults against an impregnable position. During the night of December 15–16, he retreated over the Rappahannock and put his army in winter quarters.

Casualties (killed, wounded, and missing): The Federals lost 12,653 out of 142,551; the Confederates, 5,309 out of 91,760.

Battle of Chancellorsville

Gen. Joseph E. Hooker superseded Burnside, January 1863. Hooker reorganized the demoralized army and resumed offensive operations on April 27 with a well-conceived strategic plan. He proposed to leave a holding force under Gen. John Sedgwick opposite Lee's front in the Fredericksburg vicinity, while his attack column marched up the river to cross and turn eastward against Lee's rear.

Lee foresaw his adversary's purpose. The



The Sunken Road at the foot of Marye's Heights. (War-time photograph.)

Confederate chieftain detached a division under Gen. Jubal Early to hold the Fredericksburg Heights and took the bulk of his troops westward to meet Hooker's turning column concentrated around Chancellorsville, a country estate 10 miles from Fredericksburg. The sudden shift threw Hooker off balance. He dropped the initiative and assumed a defensive position, his left wing extending securely northeastward to the Rappahannock. His right, however, stretching westward along the Orange Turnpike, did not rest on any natural obstacle.

On May 2, in a daring move, Lee again divided his forces. He sent Jackson by roundabout woodland trails to strike Hooker's right and sever Union communications. Although Hooker's right wing was routed, darkness fell before the Confederates could complete their victory. While reconnoitering about 9 p. m., Jackson was accidentally wounded by the fire of his own men, who mistook his party for a Federal patrol.

On May 3, the Confederates abandoned

the original plan of cutting between Hooker and the river and instead attacked the center of his realignment. Jackson's troops, temporarily led by the cavalryman Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, struck eastward, and Longstreet's men, personally directed by Lee, lashed out northwestward. The converging Confederates drove Hooker toward the river.

At noon Lee heard that Early had lost the Fredericksburg Heights. Leaving Stuart to occupy Hooker, he moved part of his army eastward to meet the oncoming Sedgwick, defeating that Union detachment at Salem Church, 4 miles west of Fredericksburg, May 4–5. Sedgwick, the Rappahannock at his back, escaped over Banks' Ford. Lee then countermarched his weary troops to find that Hooker had retired across the Rappahannock at U. S. Ford.

Confident of further victory, Lee now launched his second invasion of the North, but this time without the services of the irreplaceable Jackson, who had died at Guinea Station, May 10. Meade, the new com-

mander of the Army of the Potomac, defeated Lee at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1–3.

Casualties: In the battle of Chancellorsville, the Federals lost 17,278 men out of 133,868; the Confederates, 12,821 out of 60,892.

Battle of the Wilderness

From Gettysburg Lee returned to Virginia, cautiously followed by Meade. After the indecisive campaigns of Bristoe Station and Mine Run, both armies settled into winter quarters, facing each other across the Rapidan, an upper tributary of the Rappahannock.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, assigned the supreme command of all Federal forces in March 1864, developed a coordinated strategy of simultaneous assault against the entire Confederacy. He set up headquarters at Culpeper with Meade's army and prepared, personally, to take the field against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

On May 4, Meade's Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan, cutting between Lee and Richmond. Not caught napping, Lee determined to strike the Federal columns in the Wilderness, the dense forest west of Fredericksburg.

About 8 a. m. on May 5, Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren's Federal Corps encountered the

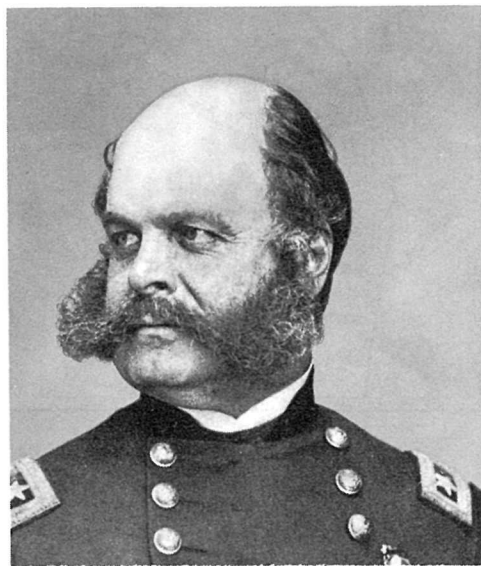
van of Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Confederate corps on the Orange Turnpike. Warren attacked and was repulsed. To the south, Gen. A. P. Hill's Confederate corps on the Orange Plank Road met Gen. George W. Getty's Federal division which had rushed forward to secure the vital intersection of the Plank and Brock roads. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's Corps, reinforcing Getty, held the area against heavy Confederate attack.

At dawn, May 6, Hancock attacked, forcing Hill westward through the forest. Lee's other corps, Longstreet's, had not yet come up. Just as all seemed lost, Longstreet arrived to stop the Federal push. A Confederate counterattack and turning movement flung the Federals back to the Brock Road, but the wounding of General Longstreet by his own flankers disorganized the operation. Confederate charges against the Brock Road trenches failed. Later on, the Confederates outflanked the Federal right on the Turnpike sector, achieving only partial success.

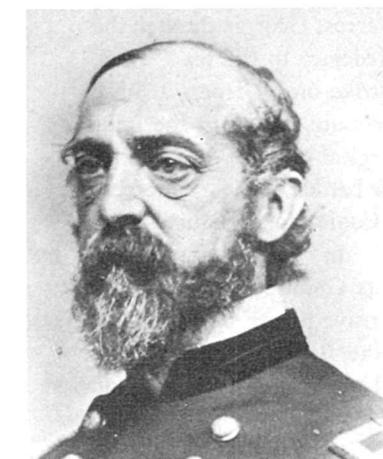
Grant broke the stalemate by sidestepping leftward to get between Lee and Richmond. Whatever the cost, Grant would take no backward step.

Casualties: In the Battle of the Wilderness,

Gen. A. E. Burnside.



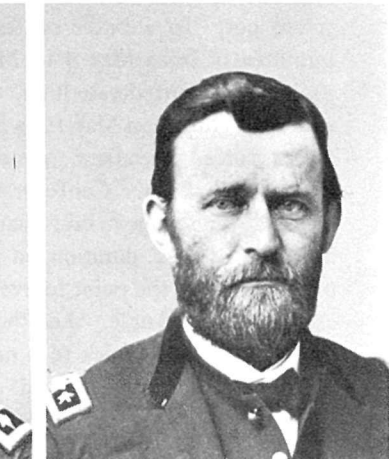
Gen. G. G. Meade.



Gen. J. E. Hooker.



Gen. U. S. Grant.



The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.



Bloody Angle, Spotsylvania Court House. (Contemporary lithograph.)

the Federals lost 15,387 out of 118,000; the Confederates, 11,400 out of 62,000.

Battles Around Spotsylvania Court House

During the night of May 7, leaving the flaming Wilderness behind, both armies raced for the village of Spotsylvania Court House, a key road junction in Lee's rear. The Confederates arrived first and took up an entrenched position, strong at all points except the center, where a vulnerable salient jutted out. In a bitter contest, fought intermittently from May 8 to May 21, Grant probed the Confederate lines. The fighting reached a climax on May 12, when Hancock's Corps pierced the salient and captured a Confederate division. Confederate counterattack led to a savage hand-to-hand struggle of almost 24 hours' duration on the west face of the salient at the point forever after known as the Bloody Angle. Lee then abandoned the salient, falling back to a new line, from which he could not be budged.

Deeming further struggle useless in that area, Grant again moved on, eastward and southward, toward Richmond, absorbing tremendous losses but steadily weakening Lee in the relentless war of attrition. The North Anna and Cold Harbor operations led to the siege of Petersburg, the fall of Richmond, and Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

While Grant was using Meade's army to hammer Lee in Virginia during the summer of 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman had begun the campaign which would capture Atlanta and knife across Georgia through the heart of the Confederacy to the sea. Thus, Grant sought to strike on all fronts at once with increasing pressure. It is in the light of this broad strategical plan for the winning of the war that the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House assume their true significance. In these desperately fought engagements Grant succeeded in destroying Lee's offensive power.

Casualties: In the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, the Federals lost 17,555 out of



House in which Stonewall Jackson died.

110,000. Confederate losses are unknown; their strength, 51,000.

The Park and Cemetery

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, established on February 14, 1927, covers 3,672 acres and includes parts of the 4 battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House, all of which are within a radius of 17 miles of Fredericksburg. Also included in the park is the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Shrine at Guinea Station, the house in which Lee's famous lieutenant died.

The National Cemetery contains the graves of more than 15,000 Federal soldiers, of whom almost 13,000 are unknown.

About Your Visit

The park is located in and around the city of Fredericksburg, 50 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 55 miles north of Richmond. From Fredericksburg, the various battlefields may be reached by highways indicated on the map in this folder.

During your visit you may see miles of original, well-preserved trench remains and

gun pits, as well as such important historic sites as the Sunken Road, Marye's Heights, Hamilton's Crossing, Jackson Trail, Jackson Shrine, and the Bloody Angle. Park roads make trench remains and battle sites easily accessible.

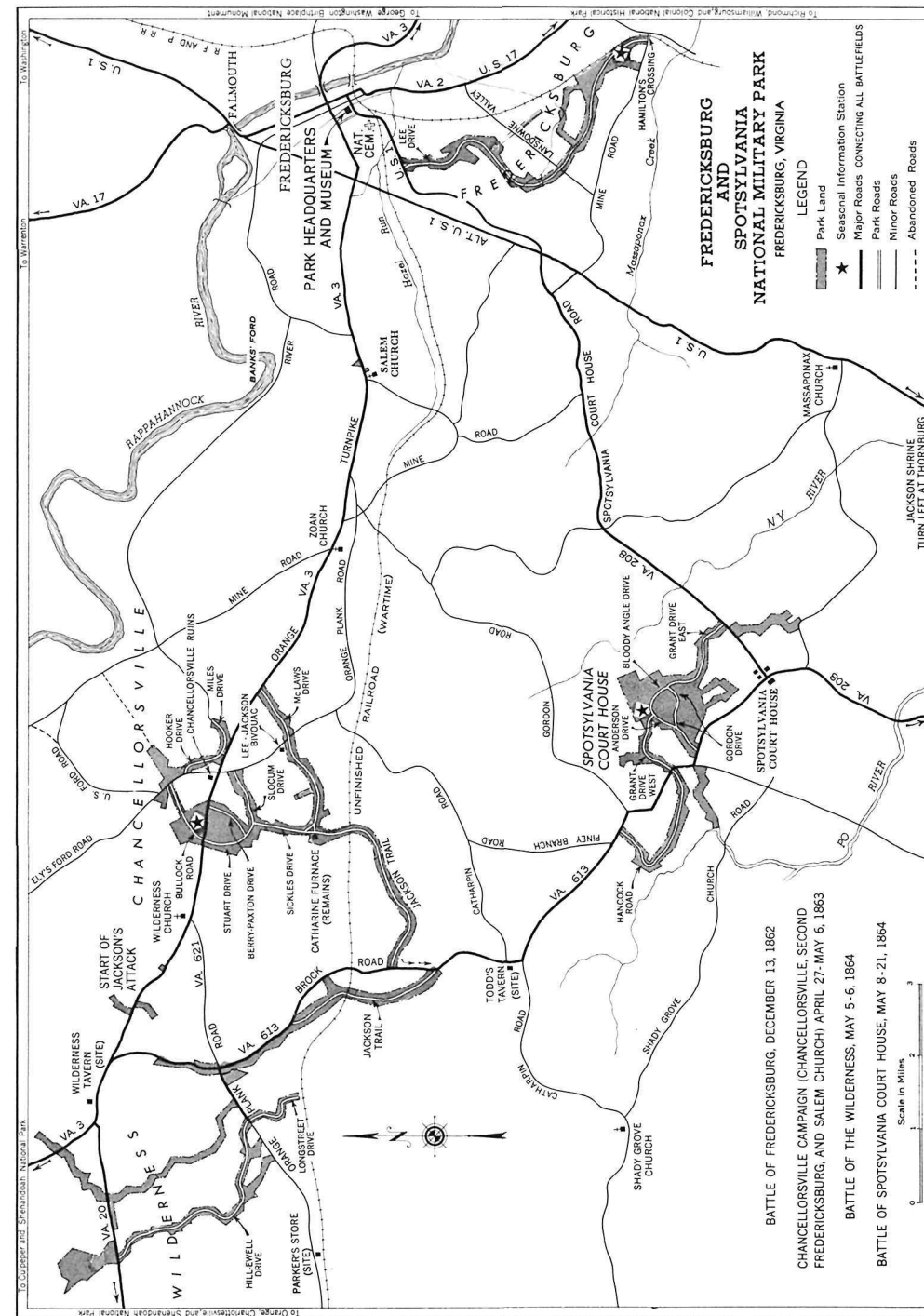
The visitor center, including the museum, is located in Fredericksburg on U.S. 1 (Lafayette Blvd.) at the foot of Marye's Heights across the Sunken Road from the National Cemetery. You should get information and directions here before visiting the battlefields. The museum, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., contains a diorama, an electric map, a firearms collection, wartime photographs, and numerous relics. There is a nominal fee for admission to the museum. Children under 12 years of age or groups of elementary and high school children, regardless of age, and accompanying adults who assume responsibility for their safety and orderly conduct, are admitted free. There is no admission charge to the Jackson Shrine.

Administration

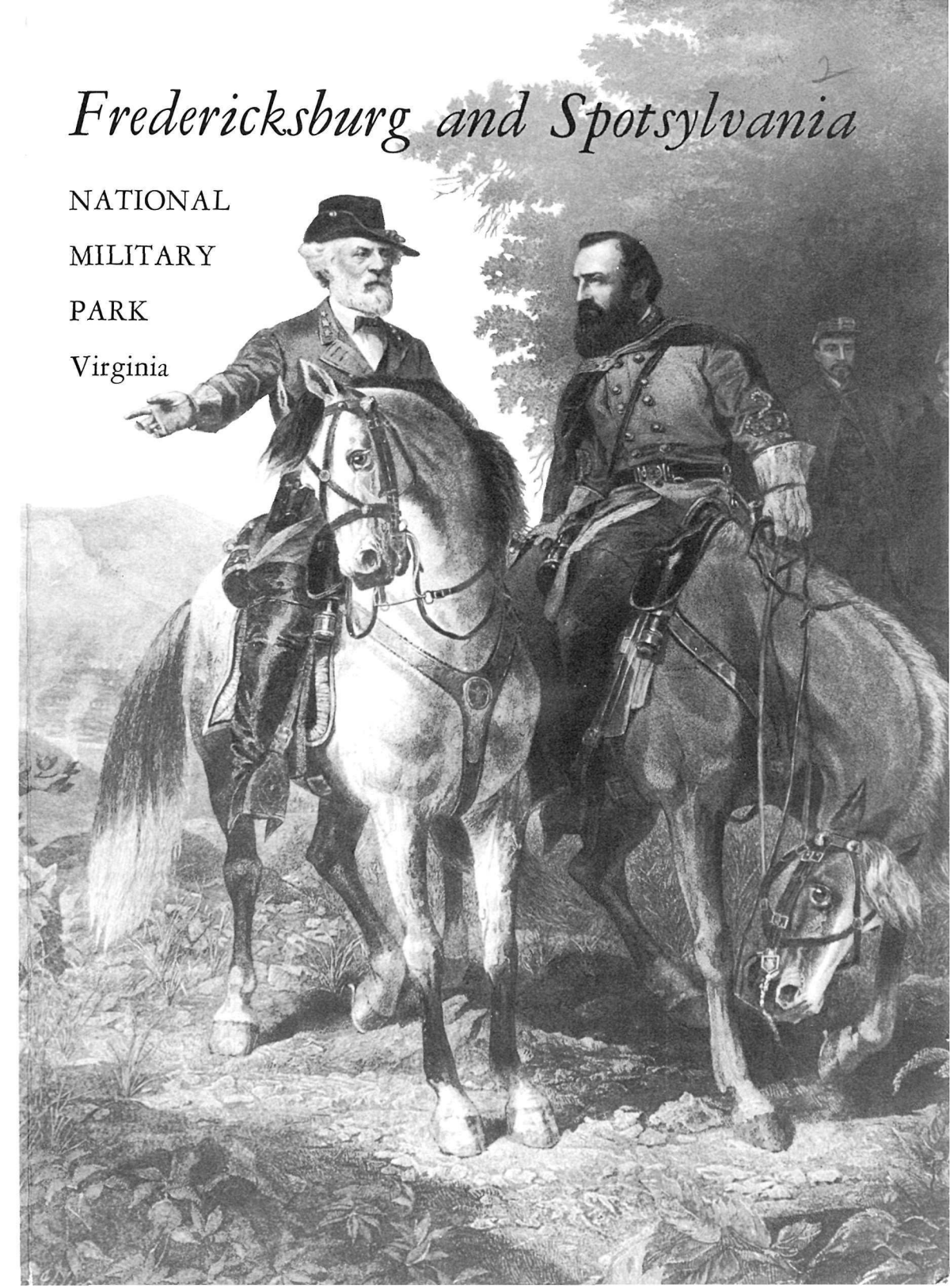
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 679, Fredericksburg, Va., is in immediate charge.

Mission 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Civil War photographs courtesy of the National Archives.
Cover: The last meeting between Lee and Jackson. From the painting by Julio.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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