

Fredericksburg National Military Park



**John Washington**



## John Washington

*Fact: Washington's "Memorys of the Past" is one of only about 200 published slave memoirs.*

Born into slavery, John Washington was working at a local hotel in Fredericksburg when he heard about the approach of the Union army. Hope rose in his heart. "Every man servant was out on the house top looking over the river at the Yankees for their glistening bayonets...I could not begin to express my new born hopes for I felt already like I was certain of my freedom now." Within hours he was a free man.