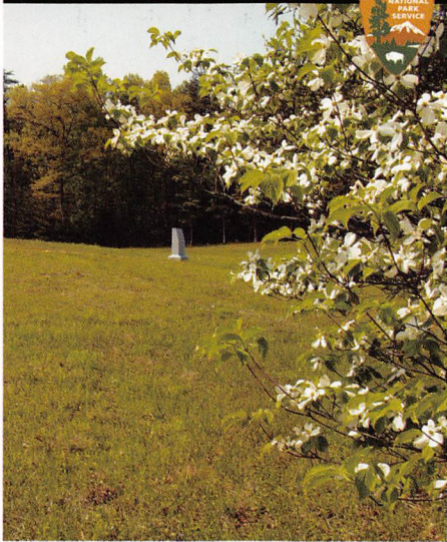


Fredericksburg National Military Park



Saunders Field



Saunders Field

Battle of the Wilderness

Date: May 5, 1864

It was just an old cornfield, but “among its stubble that day were sown the seeds of glory.” So wrote Union Lieutenant Morris Schaff about Saunders Field, a small clearing in the heart of the Wilderness. Here on May 5, 1864, Union and Confederate soldiers fired the first shots of the Overland Campaign, the opening contest between the war’s two greatest generals, Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee.