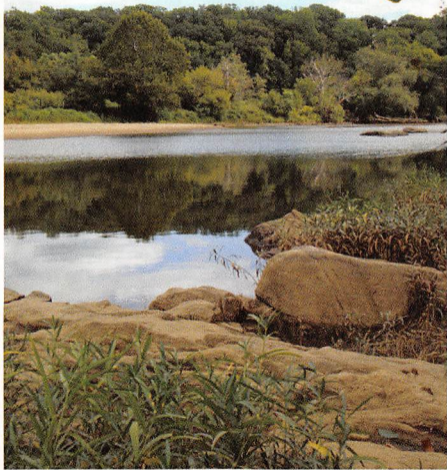


# Fredericksburg National Military Park



# The Crossing



## The Crossing

*Rappahannock River, Virginia*

As the Federal army approached, slaves fled farms and plantations to freedom in Union lines. As many as 10,000 slaves crossed the Rappahannock River to freedom in the spring and summer of 1862. One of them recalled: "I had begun to feel like I had truly escaped from the hands of the slaves master and...I never would be a slave no more. Life had a new joy awaiting me."