



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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Information Release

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Sully Candlelight Tours Offer a Look at Christmas Past

Tickets are still available for Candlelight Tours at Sully Historic Site on Saturdays, December 12 and 19, and Sunday, December 13, 2015. Tours start at 4:45 p.m. with a new tour starting every 15 minutes. The last tour begins at 7 p.m. As Sully recreates Christmas celebrations of the past, see the 1794 house and outbuildings lit by natural candlelight.

On December 12, Federal and Confederate Civil War soldiers will put aside their differences and gather together to savor their Christmas meal around the campfire. See what families and friends sent to soldiers in the field as they open a Christmas box from home. Inside the house, hear stories of how the ladies of Sully tended the farm while the men were away and enjoy period music by Evergreen Shade. Listen to the story of a young girl from Richmond plotted a course for Santa Claus so he could get around the Union blockade to deliver gifts during the war.

On December 13, Sully celebrates a Federal period Christmas as it would have been in the time of Jane Austen. See the dining table laden with cakes, fruits, and puddings rich with butter, eggs and white sugar. Learn how the twelve days of Christmas were passed without shopping for bargains, decorating the tree and Christmas cards. In the hall, listen to the fiddle as dancers whirl in the candlelight. In the yard, Revolutionary War veterans fire the Christmas guns to celebrate the season.

On December 19, explore Christmas in the Victorian Era. In the mid to late 1800s, Christmas grew to more closely resemble the celebrations we know today. Hear a reading of *The Night Before Christmas*, experience the revival of the holiday spirit in Ebenezer Scrooge in our original puppet show, and share the delight of a young visitor to Sully in 1885 when she saw her first Christmas tree. On the lawn, stroll through our Victorian market to see how Christmas shopping was done in the 1880s.

During your tour, enjoy our colorful holiday exhibit, "Santas of the World". The story of Santa is an endearing one and famous world-wide. Through a variety of objects discover the history behind this jolly old elf.

Each evening visit the open hearth kitchen to see what holiday foods were enjoyed in times past. Make your own holiday ornament to take home. Sit by the roaring fire to sip hot cider and taste sugar cakes made from a recipe in Sully's Open Hearth Cookbook. Snap a holiday photo on our antique sleigh and do some Christmas shopping in our Squirrel's Nest museum store and save 10% during December.

Prepaid reservations are required and space is limited. Tickets are \$10. For information call 703-437-1794. Sign up on line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully.

Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, VA 20151, off Rt. 28 (Sully Road) ¼ mile north of Rt. 50 and 5 miles south of the Dulles Toll Road.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.