

# Sully District Naming

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# Background

- The Lees were a prominent family who lived in Northern Virginia in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- They were large landholders who owned enslaved African Americans to work the land.
- When Virginia voted for secession, Robert E. Lee resigned his commission with the US Army and chose to fight for the Confederacy.
- Many family members supported the Confederacy, however none were living at Sully at the time of the Civil War (1861-1865).



# Richard Bland Lee and Robert E. Lee

- **Richard Bland Lee (1761–1827), who owned Sully, was a planter, jurist, and politician.**
- **He was the son of Henry Lee II (1730-1787) of "Leesylvania" and Lucy Grymes (1734–1792).**
- **His brother, Major General Henry Lee (1756-1818) was Robert E. Lee's father.**
- **Richard Bland Lee was Robert E. Lee's uncle.**

# Sully

- The Lees owned the property in Chantilly as early as 1746.
- In 1787, Richard Bland Lee inherited the property in Chantilly and 29 enslaved from his father Henry Lee II.



## Sully Timeline

*The Lee Family Owns The Property*

1746

1787

*Richard Bland Lee Inherits Property And 29 Enslaved Persons From Henry Lee II*

# Sully

- Richard Bland Lee's home, known as Sully, was built in 1794.
- Richard Bland Lee owned enslaved persons throughout the time he lived at Sully.
- The origin of the name Sully is unknown.



## Sully Timeline

*The Lee Family Owns The Property*

1746

*Sully Is Constructed*

1794

1787

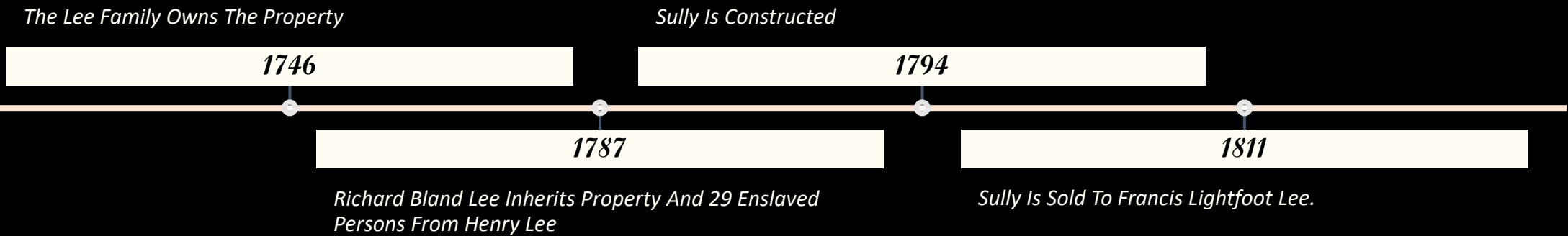
*Richard Bland Lee Inherits Property And 29 Enslaved Persons From Henry Lee*



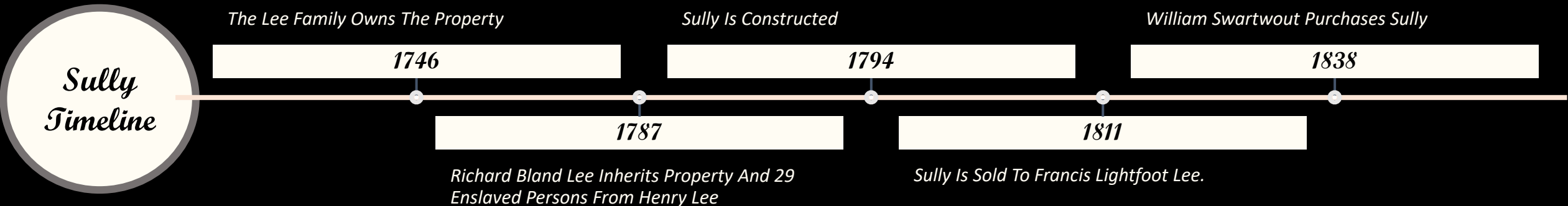
- In 1811, the property was sold to Francis Lightfoot Lee.
- In 1820, Lee's nephew, Richard Henry Lee II, was appointed by the Chancery Court of Fairfax County, to take care of Sully.
- In the span of 18 years, beginning in 1811, Sully had seven administrators/owners, most of whom proved incapable of successfully running the farm. During this period, enslaved people worked the land. Some of these enslaved individuals were sold.



*Sully  
Timeline*



- John Robertson and/or his wife lived at Sully from 1837-1838, but never held title. He was convicted of forgery and banished to Australia. He had purchased an enslaved family when he lived at Sully. Their fate is unknown after his wife vacated the property.
- William Swartwout, a Mississippi merchant, purchased Sully at auction in September 1838. He died at Sully in 1840. His estate inventory for Fairfax County mentions one enslaved man. He also owned enslaved individuals in Vicksburg.





- The Hights and Barlows owned Sully from 1842-1869. They were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) from Dutchess County, New York.
- Family history indicates that the Hights and Barlows abhorred slavery, but in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, they are identified as owning enslaved individuals. These enslaved individuals may have been hired from neighboring plantations rather than being individuals they owned.

*Sully  
Timeline*

*The Lee Family Owns The Property*

1746

*Sully Is Constructed*

1794

*William Swartwout Purchases Sully*

1838

1787

*Richard Bland Lee Inherits Property And  
29 Enslaved Persons From Henry Lee*

1811

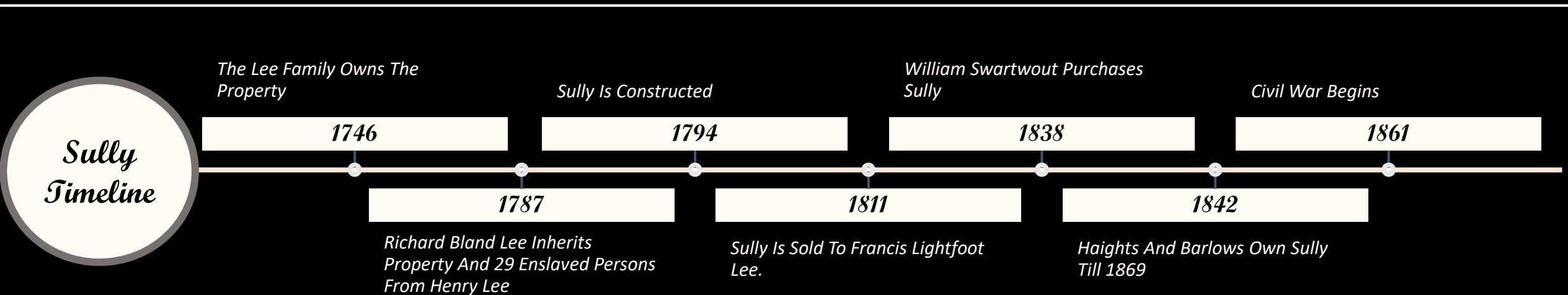
*Sully Is Sold To Francis Lightfoot Lee.*

1842

*Hights And Barlows Own Sully Till  
1869*

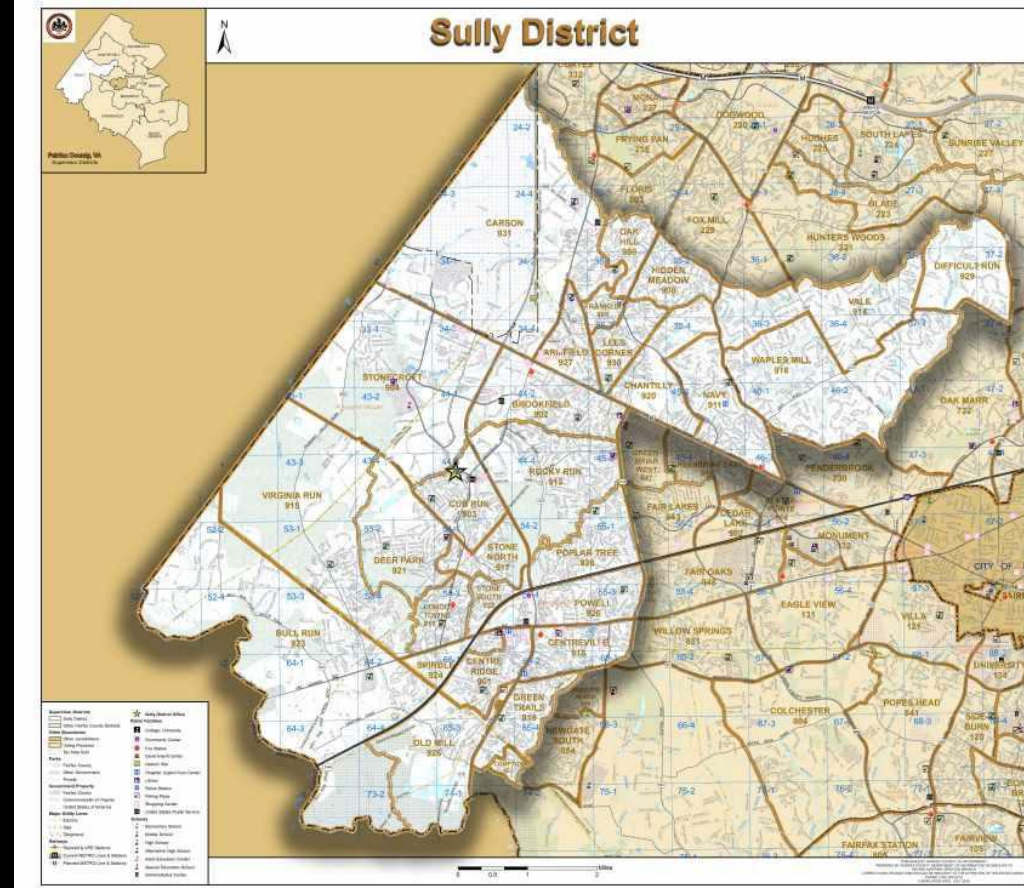


- The Hights and Barlows did not fight in the Civil War and were suspected of being Union sympathizers. The men fled Sully to Union-occupied territory at the beginning of the War.
- Maria Barlow, remained at Sully until 1863, when she fled to Alexandria.

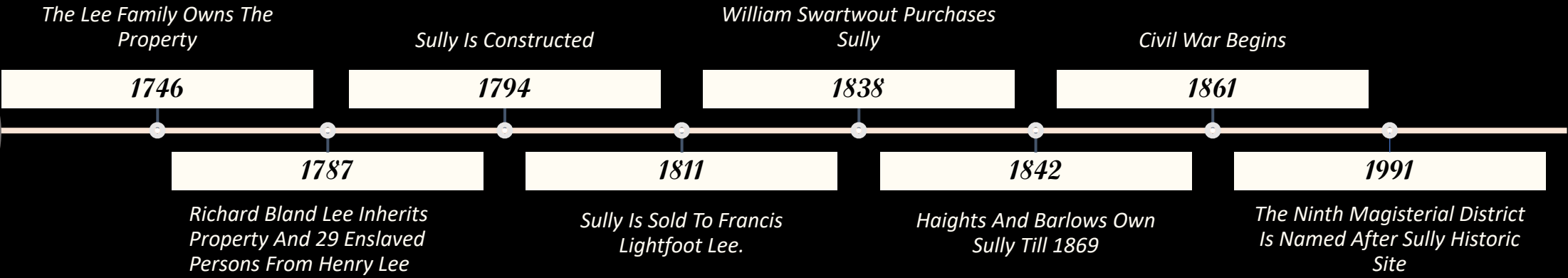


# Sully District

- In 1991, a ninth magisterial district was established and named after Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.



## Sully Timeline



# For Further Information:

- Sully: The Biography of a House by Robert Gamble. Sully Foundation, 1973.
- Sully Historic Site Master Plan, March 2005. [Sully Approved Master Plan \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks-recreation/sully-historic-site/master-plan)
- Historical Overview, Landscape Evolution, and Period Plans for Sully Historic Site, Chantilly, Virginia. Prepared by Rhodeside & Harwell, Incorporated, Alexandria, Virginia and John Milner Associates, Incorporated, Alexandria, Virginia.