

Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc.

**P.O. Box 2201
Leesburg, Virginia
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NEWS RELEASE

Loudoun Archaeological Foundation Announces Program on “The Civil War Soldiers’ Life”

Dr. David T. Clark, Executive Director for the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc., (LAF) announced today that LAF and the Claude Moore Historic Park have joined forces to present an exciting historical and educational program for the whole family on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at the Claude Moore Historic Park in Sterling, Virginia at 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. This event, entitled “The Civil War Soldiers’ Life,” will depict that historic time period as seen through archaeology of the period and as interpreted by professional re-enactors in anticipation of the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War

Dr. Clark noted that “with the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War right around the corner, the recent celebration of the 250th anniversary of the establishment Loudoun County, and the current celebration in 2008 of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Leesburg, LAF and the Claude Moore Historic Park staff thought it highly appropriate to begin to lay an historically-factual foundation for one of the most momentous and tragic events ever faced by Virginia and this nation. Public archaeology of this type,” said Dr. Clark, “is one of the more interesting and factual means of informing the whole community about its historic and cultural heritage and the importance of protecting and preserving that heritage for future generations.”

LAF and the Claude Moore Historic Park encourage the whole community bring your families out to the park and visit the nine (9) individual stations to learn about the real life of the Civil War soldier. Look at artifacts archaeologists have found at Civil War encampment/fort sites and discover what they tell us about a soldier’s life. See and hear “interpreters” tell tales of civil war life and match artifacts with real or replicated equipment. Learn about the soldier’s camp life, their arms/equipment, foodways, folkways and much more. Most stations will have take-home items for kids and they can collect pieces of a secret civil war puzzle. The nine individual stations include the following:

1. **Enlistment Station**: Sign-up/muster/inspection. Kids will “enlist” and receive a home-made haversack to collect things at stations along the way.
2. **Uniform/Military Equipment Station**: See interpreters wearing/showing a variety of Civil War uniforms/equipment. (**Artifacts**: see dozens of different archaeological items from uniforms and equipment).

3. **Medical/"Saw-Bones" Station**: Learn all about Civil War medicine, medical treatment and medical kits/supplies. (**Artifacts**: kits/surgical tools, medicinal bottles, ointment pots, and more).
4. **Signal Flag Station**: Discover the Signal Corps and learn about signal codes used at Guilford Station at Claude Moore.
5. **Weapons Station**: See a variety of rifles and pistols (**Artifacts**: Minie Balls, "cleaner" rounds, ball shot and other weaponry artifacts).
6. **Civil War Music Station**: Enjoy live Civil War period music throughout the day.
7. **Foodways Station**: What's cookin' for the soldiers? Learn about some common camp foods. What is Hardtack? Smell a Hot Pot cooking over an open fire. Check-out the field-kitchen equipment. (**Artifacts**: food bone, crate nails and other foodways artifacts).
8. **Artillery Station**: Hear details about Civil War artillery. (**Artifacts**: Cannonballs, mortar rounds, shot and equipment).
9. **Tent-Life Station**: Discover a soldier's life around the Tent: Resting, eating, drinking. (**Artifacts**: mess equipment, drinking container fragments, smoking pipes, etc).

The program also will include book signings by Steve Meserve, the author of the recently published book "The Civil War In Loudoun County Virginia" and Jim Morgan, the author of the well-known book "Battle of Ball's Bluff", as well as a table with books and articles about common and unique Civil War collectables.

The following organizations have contributed to "The Civil War Soldiers' Life" program:

- Loudoun Archaeological Foundation
- Claude Moore Park
- Friends of Claude Moore Park
- Ottery Group, Inc.
- Fairfax Park Authority, Cultural Resource Section
- Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association