



## *SUMMARY OF FSCWS PAST EFFORTS*

*2005- 2010*



Since it's founding in early 2005, the FSCWS has engaged in several major efforts to preserve Stafford's Civil War History for Everyone's Future. While our efforts all involved many sub-categories or work ranging from research, to interpretation, writing, presentations to developers and County Government, etc., the key efforts can be placed into two categories. These categories include (1) our general effort to facilitate historic site identification and preservation throughout the county, and (2) specifically targeted site preservation efforts where sites were potentially at risk, or where short term actions were needed to ensure the sites themselves would not be lost or diminished without immediate action.

### **General Effort:**

Our largest general effort to date was to simultaneously identify multiple Civil War Sites throughout Stafford County where significant physical structures remain that might be preserved for the future. The product of this effort was a book initiated in mid 2005 and completed in June of 2006. This book Stafford County Civil War Historic Sites, Candidates for Stafford County Government or Developer Protection and Preservation provided property ownership information, aerial photographs, topographic mapping, brief histories, and drawings of over twenty Civil War sites in Stafford, the majority of which were not in either the County Preservation Planner's, nor the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' data bases. This effort did not try to identify the literally hundreds of small and large encampment areas throughout Stafford.

The book was conceived and authored by Glenn Trimmer, Co-Founder and Director of the FSCWs. The effort produced 44 separate drafts and took over 1000 hours of work from start to finish. Mr. D.P. Newton, Co-Founder and President of the FSCWS provided key site information and detailed drawings to support this book. The FSCWS took this project on, and funded printing and distribution of these books solely through member contributions. Because the book contains very detailed information on sites, many of which are on private property, it was provided only to County Supervisors, County Planners, the County Historic Preservation Planner (position now vacant and unfilled) and County Historic Commission members. These individuals (often the first to know of and to review requests for development that may impact such sites) were selected in hopes that the book would help them take actions in their districts to safeguard these sites. Stafford County has taken action in several cases. Most notable are their contributions and support for the FSCWS proposed Stafford County Civil War Historic Park

which if completed will capture multiple Civil war fortifications, and other historic features owned by Stafford County. That effort is currently in work per an agreement between the FSCWS and the Stafford County Board of Supervisors.

### **Site Location Focused Efforts:**

FSCWS specific site focused efforts have included projects in two subdivisions with local developers and the Civil War Park effort in conjunction with Stafford County. The Developer efforts included one with SYG Homes Incorporated in the local Sentinel Ridge Development off of Brooke Road in Eastern Stafford County, and one with C.T. Park Inc. at the Forbes Landing Development in the Falmouth District of Stafford County. These efforts were initiated soon after our founding as construction was either underway or in the final stages of planning for the areas where we felt Civil War historical sites were at risk. In both cases the FSCWS worked to facilitate and sign specific agreements which achieved key objectives for us, for Stafford County, and for the developers who owned the property.

### **Sentinel Ridge:**

The Sentinel Ridge effort was focused on providing a Monument to the Union 12<sup>th</sup> Corps at the site of Redoubt #3 of the Aquia Landing Defenses whose destruction in 2005 led to the formation of the FSCWS. This effort also led to the mapping and preservation of a Union 12<sup>th</sup> Corps Winter encampment located in the proposed development area. FSCWS efforts in Sentinel Ridge included the following:

- Initiated, proposed and worked contracting details for a Redoubt # 3 Monument. This over 6 foot tall, 18 inch thick Vermont granite monument was dedicated at the former site of Redoubt # 3 in January of 2006.
- Informed SYG of the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps Infantry Camp on their property and proposed plan to confirm occupancy and set aside a significant portion of this Camp for Stafford County.
- Meticulously mapped, and plotted camp layout, hut sites, and visible features and provided the resulting map to the developer.
- Five members of the FSCWS confirmed camp occupancy via metal detector search. All artifacts were turned over to SYG Homes and are currently exhibited in the SYG model home.
- Prepared booklet on FSCWS site survey results for Stafford County and SYG homes. SYG later provided copies of this book to home buyers to illustrate the history of the area.
- Provided SYG Homes Inc. with suggested street names appropriate for the troops and fortifications which occupied the area. Many were subsequently adopted.

- Provided text for and designed interpretive signs with County Logo for marking Civil War Sites identified by the FSCWS. (3 signs approved / funded for Sentinel Ridge).
- Briefed Stafford County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on this project on multiple occasions.

Links to several local press articles on this effort can be found on the FSCWS website accessible at [www.fscws.org](http://www.fscws.org) . Look under News/In the Media.

### **Forbes Landing:**

The Forbes Landing effort initially focused on providing for the proper mapping of this historic site. Subsequently, based on that mapping, it focused on expanding the area needed to fully preserve a Union 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, Regimental encampment. FSCWS efforts in Forbes Landing included the following:

- Contacted C.T. Park Inc. over concerns that a Phase I archeological Study by Cultural Resources Inc., a local firm had not detailed in their report extensive numbers of visible hut site and other Civil War features of a 5th Corps Regimental Camp on the property. Asked for permission to map the property and point out differences to the builder and their archeological firm.
- Spent days measuring, mapping out and detailing this camp. FSCWS President, Mr. D.P Newton, then spent weeks creating a scale drawing of the encampment including nearly five times more likely hut site locations in the area of our concern than had previously been noted. Conducted site visit with C.T. Park personnel to show the features. Previous firm was invited to attend this visit to the site, to see the features in question, but declined. FSCWS map was later used by Dovetail Cultural Resource group (hired after the FSCWS effort) and their findings very closely paralleled our findings.
- Conducted additional research on the campsite at the U.S. Army War College.
- Presented proposal to C.T. Park regarding proposal to pursue a re-zoning of part of the property not of historical significance, in order to allow funding necessary for additional preservation, monument emplacement, walking trails, and emplacement of interpretive signs on the site. Contacted the responsible Planning Commission member and later met with he and other County Officials to lobby for support of the re-zoning to allow the desired preservation. The C.T. Park Plan for this preservation was approved in November, 2006 by Stafford County.
- Produced a 5th Corps monument design to include investigation of contracting details, estimated costs etc., and submitted these proposals to Stafford County Officials and the Developer.
- **Note:** Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn this development failed. While a true blow to our desires for this site, the proffers of the preserved areas remained on the

property. In the fall of 2009, the FSCWS engaged with the new owners of this property, and was able to also gain their commitments to 4 historical signs on the property and to three key Civil War sites on the property being treated as a single historic easement to be placed under a qualified non-profit organization in the near future. The proposed monument was lost.

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## **Stafford County Civil War Park**

Our current and largest project to date focuses on several specific historic sites and structures between the Stafford Landfill and Accokeek Creek here in Stafford County. This effort was first proposed in the book we provided to the County in June of 2006, which included detailed information on four Civil War fortifications, a remaining pre-Civil War road and remains of a bridge which likely saw use during the Civil War. In July of that year we took a group of County officials to this site, also pointing out the well preserved remains of a Civil War corduroy road near Accokeek Creek.

Between July and August of 2008, Stafford County and Fredericksburg worked out final details and reached agreement to preserve approximately 25 acres of this property as a passive Civil War site. This agreement left to Stafford County to maintain and provide access to this site. In October, 2008, the FSCWS put forward to the Stafford Board of Supervisors a plan to conduct an engineering feasibility study, and proposals to raise construction funds, and provide a construction plan, schedule and cost estimates. The FSCWS also asked that the County fund the Engineering Study. The FSCWS proposed agreement was refined by Stafford County and the FSCWS and approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March of 2009.

In 2009, the FSCWS prepared a Statement of Work for the engineering feasibility study, reviewed four proposals for this work, and selected a professional engineering firm (Freeland Engineering P.C.) to conduct this study as well as meeting multiple times with local developers to gain access to the Park via easements through this development.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the FSCWS presented and the Stafford Board of Supervisors approved a plan for the preliminary construction of the Stafford County Civil War Park. This agreement triggered official fundraising efforts. This effort was further supported by the Federal Government's final approval of the FSCWS application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status as a public charity under sections 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) of the Internal Revenue Code on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We have a long way to go on this effort with a major challenge of raising the approximately \$1,000,000. We need to raise (one third each year) to construct this park. Every single dollar

counts, and ninety percent of each dollar will go directly to the Park construction effort. Ten percent or less will support FSCWS administration or other Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites efforts. No Directors, Officers, or Members of the FSCWS are compensated for their efforts. Tax deductible donations can be made on the FSCWS website where you will also find periodic project updates, history and many other additional details, including a virtual tour of the site. The FSCWS website can be accessed at [www.fscws.org](http://www.fscws.org) . Just click on the “Stafford Civil War Park” Logo.

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