



PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK & THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

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Santa Claus is Coming to Town Civil War Santa Visits Pamplin Historical Park During the Holidays

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2008

Petersburg, VA – Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier invites visitors to get into the holiday spirit with a 19th century-inspired Santa Claus. Guests can have their photograph taken with Santa Claus dressed in 1860s costume.

Santa's outfit is based on an illustration by the famous cartoonist Thomas Nast. "Santa Claus in Camp" appeared on the January 3, 1863 cover of *Harper's Weekly*. Nast's drawing, borrowed from descriptions of Saint Nicholas from Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" (more commonly known as "Twas the night before Christmas"), shows Santa Claus visiting a Civil War camp and handing out gifts to children and soldiers. The illustration depicts Santa in his sleigh pulled by reindeer, with a long white beard, star-covered coat, striped pants, and furry hat.

Using their own cameras, Park visitors can take photographs with "Civil War Santa" at The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 29, 2008. Visiting "Civil War Santa" is free and open to the public.

Also, enjoy special holiday programming after you visit with Santa. Hot cider, tree trimming, and decorations will be at Tudor Hall. Come see what items soldiers would receive around the holidays at the "Christmas in Camp" program at the Military Encampment. There will also be a "King of Battle" artillery demonstration at 12:15 pm. These additional programs are available with Park admission. For questions about taking pictures with "Civil War Santa" or the special programming, please call (804) 861-2408.

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One of "Virginia's Best Places to Visit" according to the Travel Channel, and recently designated as a National Historic Landmark, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier is a 422-acre Civil War campus located in Dinwiddie County offering a combination of high-tech museums and hands-on experiences. The Park has four world-class museums, four antebellum homes and costumed living history every day. The Park is also the site of the Breakthrough Battlefield of April 2, 1865 and America's newest participatory experience, Civil War Adventure Camp. For more information, call (804) 861-2408 or visit www.pamplinpark.org.