



NEWS RELEASE

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A BLUE AND GRAY CHRISTMAS IN GORDONSVILLE

Orange County, VA – The Town of Gordonsville will host a Civil War era Christmas Saturday, December 20, 2014. On tap will be a period church service, walking tours, ghost stories, a video documentary, a visit by a Civil War era Santa Claus, children's activities, live music, and a holiday ball all in the spirit of the holidays as they were celebrated 150 years ago.

Starting at 4:30 p.m., the Gordonsville Presbyterian Church will host a holiday service complete with a Civil War era sermon and re-enactors, including one who will portray Stonewall Jackson. The legendary Confederate general was known to worship at that same church in the summer of 1862.

Also, re-enactors will conduct candlelight walking tours of the residential section of Main Street, pointing out antebellum buildings and homes that are standing to this day. And, at the Gordonsville Library, Michelle Hamilton will be telling Civil War ghost stories every 25 minutes from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

From there the festivities move to the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Department. At 6:00 p.m., Phil Audibert will screen two episodes of his 12-chapter video documentary, *All Four Years, The Civil War in Orange County, Virginia*. Viewers will learn about Gordonsville's role during the conflict and the numerous attempts by the Union to capture the strategic railroad town.

Childrens' activities will be scheduled throughout the evening at the fire hall including a visit from a Civil War era Santa Claus. And there's a chance the little ones can hear the 1823 poem, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' read aloud by a re-enactor portraying General Robert E. Lee.

Starting at 7:00 p.m., the Shenandoah Valley Minstrels will tune up their period instruments and provide appropriate music for the Gordonsville Holiday Ball, complete with a dance master and dance cards. Throughout the evening the ladies of the Gordonsville Presbyterian Church will serve a wide variety of refreshments at the Fire hall.

Tickets for the event cost \$5 per person; \$8 per couple **and children 12 and under are free**. They can be purchased by going to www.visitorangevirginia.com or calling (540) 661-5328. All proceeds benefit the Gordonsville Presbyterian Church.

The Blue and Gray Christmas in Gordonsville is the Orange County Sesquicentennial Committee's final event honoring the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Since 2011, the committee has organized and participated in numerous events commemorating the conflict including manning a booth at the re-enactment of the first major land battle of the Civil War, publishing a Civil War driving tour of the county, staging a re-enactment of the Battle of Orange Courthouse, organizing a symposium on the Mine Run Campaign, re-creating a Civil War christening, producing the video documentary *All Four Years*, and now celebrating what Christmas was like in this part of the world 150 years ago.

Orange County is located 72 miles from the State capital, Richmond; 75 miles from Northern Virginia; 87 miles from the Nation's capital, Washington, D.C.; and only 25 miles from Charlottesville. For more information, please visit www.visitorangevirginia.com.

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