

LOOTING OF FREDERICKSBURG: BETH PARNICZA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 1:00 – 2:00 PM



Title

Night. The sacking of
Fredericksburg-- & bivouac [sic]
of Union troops

Summary

Street scene of soldiers
plundering, buildings in
shambles--some on fire.

Contributor Names

Lumley, Arthur, approximately
1837-1912, artist

Created / Published

[1862 December 12]
drawing on tan paper: pencil;
17.4 x 22.2 cm (sheet)

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The Looting of Fredericksburg

After fighting their way across the Rappahannock River and through the streets of Fredericksburg, Union soldiers held the vacant Southern town on a cold December night. As darkness fell, soldiers took to the houses and streets, searching for comfort, souvenirs, and entertainment. In the carnival and chaos that ensued, soldiers described not only the unfathomable scene but also the underlying motivations which drove them to loot Fredericksburg. What was the extent of the looting, and could these actions be justified?

Beth Parnicza is a park historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where she also supervises the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. A 2011 graduate of West Virginia University, she joined the National Park Service and moved to the "other Virginia" to pursue her passion for Civil War History. Beth's research interests focus largely on the human aspects of war, including the looting of Fredericksburg, the movement toward hard war, the experience of battle, and early historians of the park.

Registration not required. Free and open to the public.