

Heritage Rivers

IN SEARCH OF
HERITAGE RIVERS
BEST BBQ

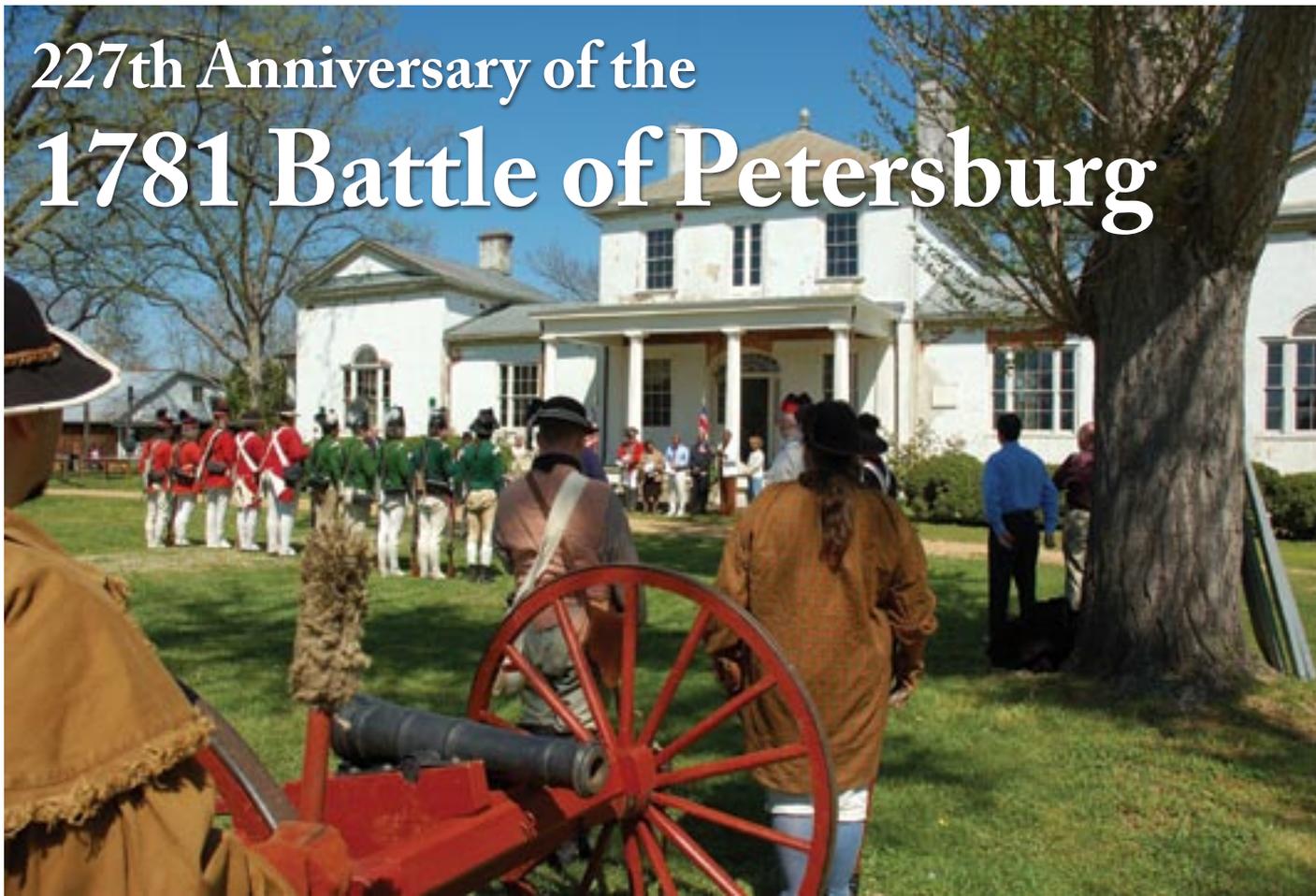
FLOORING OPTIONS
FOR YOUR HOME

Petersburg's Annual
Battersea Reenactment

www.heritagerriversonline.com

2008
BOATING GUIDE

227th Anniversary of the 1781 Battle of Petersburg



Saturday, April 19 & Sunday, April 20 at Historic Battersea



On the banks of the Appomattox River, in the year 1635, a trading station was established by English colonists as a site of commerce with the area's Native American tribes. It is from this crossroads of trade that Petersburg sprang to life; it was also for this very reason that Petersburg played major roles in defining this nation. The importance of its geographic location at the epicenter of regional trade historically provided a dual-edged sword for Petersburg as the country forged and refined its identity. Its geographical positioning was its commercial success; and, its commercial success made it a target when opposing sides were defined.

Petersburg's important role in American history is often overshadowed by the tragic "City under Siege" drama that captivated a nation divided during the Civil War. Yet, the English settlement was almost 150 years old, when in 1781, as the American Revolution raged on, the community became the focus in what is known as The Battle of Petersburg.

Petersburg eloquently tells the story of The Battle of Petersburg to the public every third weekend in April with a reenactment of the fateful event. This year marks the 17th anniversary of what has become not only a wonderful opportunity for the visitor to experience the Battle executed by authentic Revolutionary War re-enactors, but also the opportunity to immerse oneself into the 18th century by exploring true-to-the-period American and British camp life—in addition to enjoying period music, entertainment, dancing and various additional 18th century activities that make it a great, educational weekend experience. There's something for everyone to enjoy, from child to adult—and the event is free to the public.



Continued on page 25

By Kevin Kirby • Photography courtesy of Williams Media, LLC

Briar Patch Tea Room
Continued from page 18

weekly from noon to 2 p.m. There is no menu from which to order as Ginger stirs up new offerings each day. With sufficient notice, she prepares for customers who have allergies or other dietary needs.

Among the special events coming to the Gourmet Briar Patch Tea Room are an Easter Bonnet Tea Party in mid-March; a Spring Has Sprung Tea in April; a Mom and Me Tea in May; and a Dad and Me Brunch in June. Etiquette classes for youths and adults are also planned. Ruth Manners is to teach the

Ms. Manners Comes to Tea series. Saturdays, early mornings and evenings are available for private, catered events. Wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, club and church functions, quilters and groups that play bridge and other games keep the meeting room and restaurant quite busy.

Despite the long hours and hard work of running a successful tea room, "I've never been as happy as I am now," said Ginger. "There's a lot of love in food." And this daughter of a woman who "needs a recipe to make ice" serves up "love" that would be too pretty to eat if it just didn't smell so divine. ■

Reenactment - Continued from page 21

The reenactment takes place on the grounds of historic Battersea, an 18th century, architectural masterpiece showcasing one of Virginia's finest Palladian-styled homes. It was on the grounds of this property, built in 1768, that the British encamped during the spring of 1781.

The actual battle between the British forces of General Lord Charles Cornwallis and the American forces occurred on the banks of the Appomattox in what is today known as Old Towne Petersburg. This Revolutionary battle is unique in that it is one of the few that took place within the confines of a center of commerce.

The setting at Battersea, which is situated on 35 of its original acres, provides a picture-perfect setting for the 18th century reenactment. Without the distractions of modern structures, the visitor is easily able to step back into an April day in 1781. It was on this day that a British Army of 2,500 troops under the command of Major General William Phillips attacked the city to capture the large quantity of supplies they believed were stored there. The city was defended by 1,000 Virginia militia commanded by Major General, the Baron von Steuben. A battle raged for nearly three hours after which the Americans were left with no other resource but to surrender the city to the British and retreat to Chesterfield County. Though losing the battle, General von Steuben's defense of the town bought enough time to safely evacuate the badly needed supplies for General George Washington's southern army.

The event takes place on Saturday, April 19, from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, and on Sunday, April 20, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. On each day the Battle of Petersburg is reenacted at 1:30 pm. On Saturday, at 10:30 am, there is an official wreath-laying ceremony hosted by the City and participated in by local dignitaries. That evening, at 5:00 pm, the event will showcase an 18th century period musical performance by the Battersea Chamber Players—as drawn from The Petersburg Symphony.

The Battersea Reenactment is sponsored by the City of Petersburg and the Department of Tourism. For additional information, please contact the Petersburg Visitors Center - 804-733-2400 or visit the City of Petersburg website - www.petersburg-va.org. ■

CARTER FRAMING & ART

"Quality in every corner"

COLLECTABLES • PHOTOS • DIPLOMAS •
NEEDLECRAFTS PAINTINGS • PRINTS • KEEPSAKES

Offering the largest selection of custom framing in the area. All work done by experienced owner of 30 years.

3210-B South Crater Rd.
Petersburg, VA 23805
804.733.0395

I-95 Exit 48B, intersection of Crater & Wagner Rd.

Hours:

Tues-Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 10am-3pm



Join the Central Location of
Roslyn Farm Office and Retail Parks
located in Colonial Heights,
Petersburg and Prince George



320 C Charles Dimmock Parkway
Colonial Heights, VA 23834
(804) 526-0820
www.roslynfarmcorp.com
info@roslynfarmcorp.com