

Arlington House

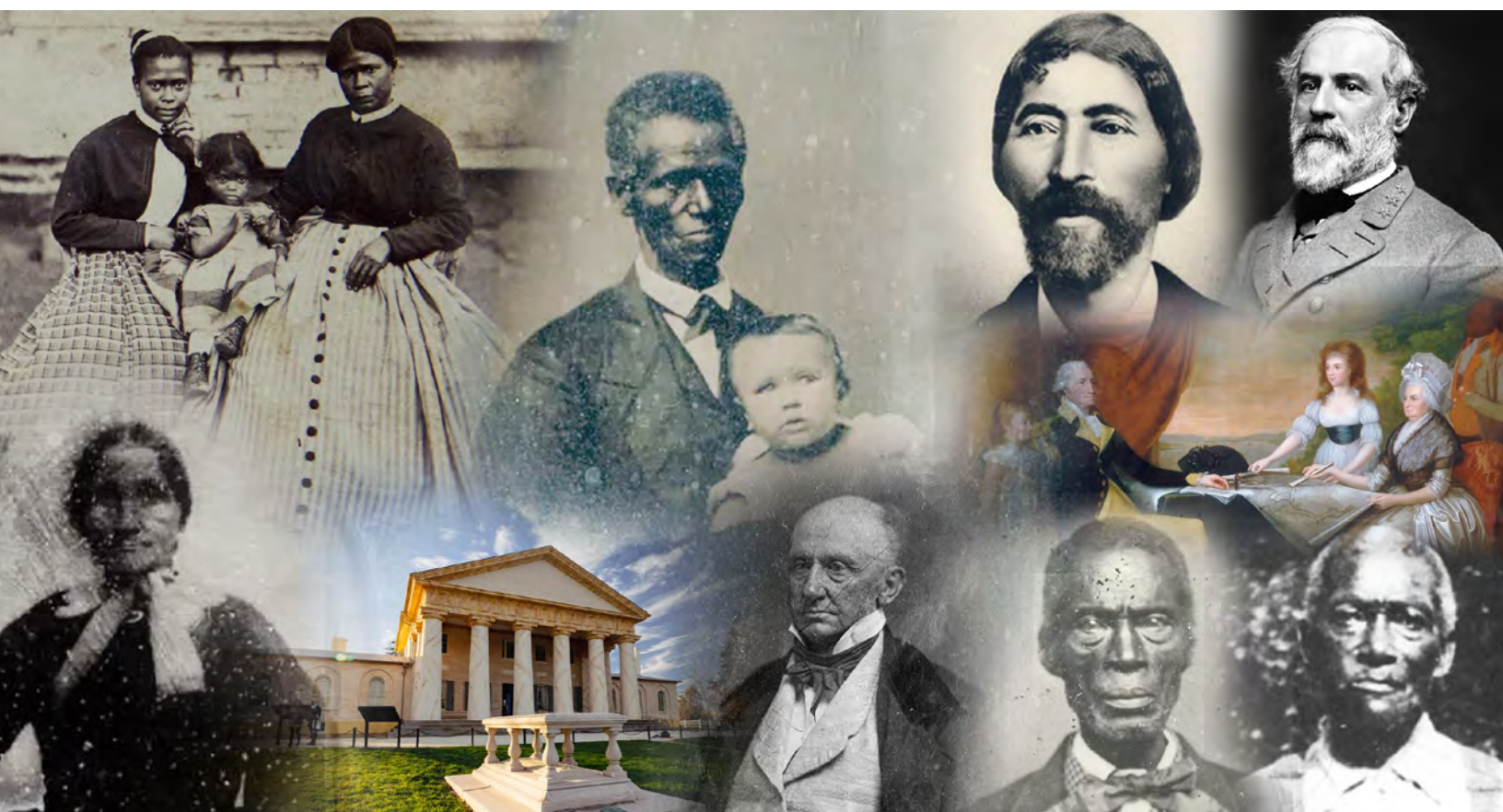
The Robert E. Lee Memorial



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
George Washington Memorial Parkway



Junior Ranger Activity Book



Welcome to Arlington House

This book is about the people who lived here, people today, and you. With this book in your hands, you're already on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger! To become an Arlington House Junior Ranger, follow the directions below to begin your adventure.

1 Complete this booklet

- 7-8 year olds: do 3 activities
- 9-11 year olds: do 4 activities

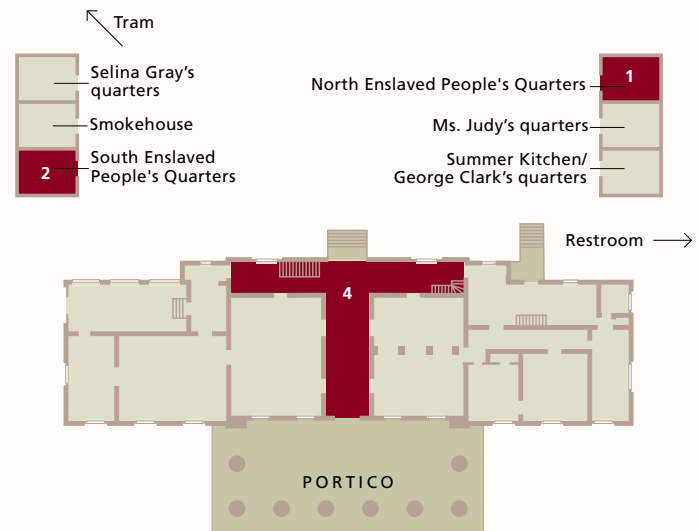
2 Check your work

Show your completed booklet to a park ranger

3 Earn a Junior Ranger Badge!

Follow the map to complete the activities

Activity	Room
1	North Enslaved People's Quarters
2	South Enslaved People's Quarters
3	Anywhere
4	Any location with a descendant family portrait



Work Together

Arlington House's history is difficult. We hope you do this booklet together with your family. It's okay to feel sad, angry, empty, confused, hopeful, or something else. It's okay if your feelings are different from what other people are feeling. Take breaks when needed.

What's slavery?

Slavery is when someone owns another person as property. Enslaved people:

- could be split up from their families at any time
- were forced to work without getting paid
- were not treated as people

The main reason some people enslaved others was to make money. Enslavers invented excuses to enslave people, such as the color of someone's skin. Enslavers made laws that said slavery was okay. Now, almost all societies consider slavery to be wrong. Many people continue fighting for justice and equality.

We say "enslaved person" to show that we're talking about a human being; a person. We say "enslaver" because "owner" or "master" are hurtful and hide what was really going on. "Slavery" and "enslavement" mean the same thing.

What was the Civil War?

The Civil War was a war in the United States about slavery and freedom from 1861-1865. Ever since the United States was created, people didn't agree about slavery:

- some believed it was wrong and should be ended
- some didn't mind it, but didn't want more people to be enslaved in new places
- some wanted to spread slavery to new states

People who wanted slavery to spread decided to secede from (or leave) the United States so that they could continue enslaving people. The seceding states were called the Confederacy.

The United States went to war to stop these states from leaving. When the United States finally won the war, its leaders decided to end slavery. Hundreds of thousands of Americans died in the Civil War. Millions of Americans became free.

What was Arlington House? Who lived here?

Arlington House was a plantation from 1802-1863. It was home to many people—most not by choice. George Clark was an enslaved gardener. Thornton Gray was an enslaved valet. Ms. Judy was an enslaved nurse. Here, George Custis enslaved people he inherited from his grandmother, Martha Washington. Later, Robert E. Lee lived here. He joined the Confederacy and fought against the United States in the Civil War.



North Enslaved People's Quarters

Many Voices of Arlington Plantation

Many people lived and worked at Arlington House. Their names are on this wall. For some, the only part of their story we have so far is their name.



Talk as a family: What is the story of your name?



Look up these people in the book. Match their name to part of their story:

James Parks

Protected her family and many of George Washington's heirlooms



Wesley Norris

Moved to Liberia with her family in November 1853



Maria Syphax

Enlisted in the United States Army and fought for freedom



Lucius Bingham

Rejected slavery, went to Maryland, was captured, then tortured



Rosabella Burke

Fought to keep the land given to her by her father, George Custis



Selina Gray

Worked for Arlington National Cemetery and is buried here



Write 3 things you want people to know or remember about you:

.....

.....

.....



South Enslaved People's Quarters

A Continuing Influence

During the Civil War, the United States government freed most enslaved people. Millions of Americans could finally choose how and where to live. They built communities called Freedman's Villages.

There was a Freedman's Village here. In it, people built houses, a school, a hospital, a kitchen, a carpenter's shop, a home for the elderly, and much more. In these places, people felt more happy, safe, and free.



Have each person in your group (including you!) draw or write a place they feel happy, safe, or free.



Talk as a family: What about these places makes you feel happy, safe, or free?



Anywhere Quiet and Thoughtful

There are people today whose great-grandparents were enslaved. There are people today whose great-grandparents were enslavers. They're called descendants.

At Arlington House, descendants are helping park staff talk about slavery, freedom, and how to tell everyone's story.

Together, we talk about stories like:

- *What was life like for people enslaved at Arlington House?*
- *This park used to ignore stories of people enslaved here and praise Robert E. Lee*
- *In 1829, Robert E. Lee promised to serve in the Army and protect the United States. In 1861, he broke his promise and fought for slavery*

These conversations can be hard. Park staff and descendants try to be honest with each other. We focus on the ideas below.

Have each person in your group (including you!) select one idea that you like:

- ☐ Give each other your full attention (no multitasking; no phones)
- ☐ Really listen when other people speak (pay more attention to what they're saying than what you're going to say back)
- ☐ Say what you think and feel (don't try to say how other people feel)
- ☐ When disagreeing, ask questions about yourself ("why do I feel this way?")
- ☐ Apologize for mistakes



Talk as a family: When has talking about something—even if it was hard—made things better?

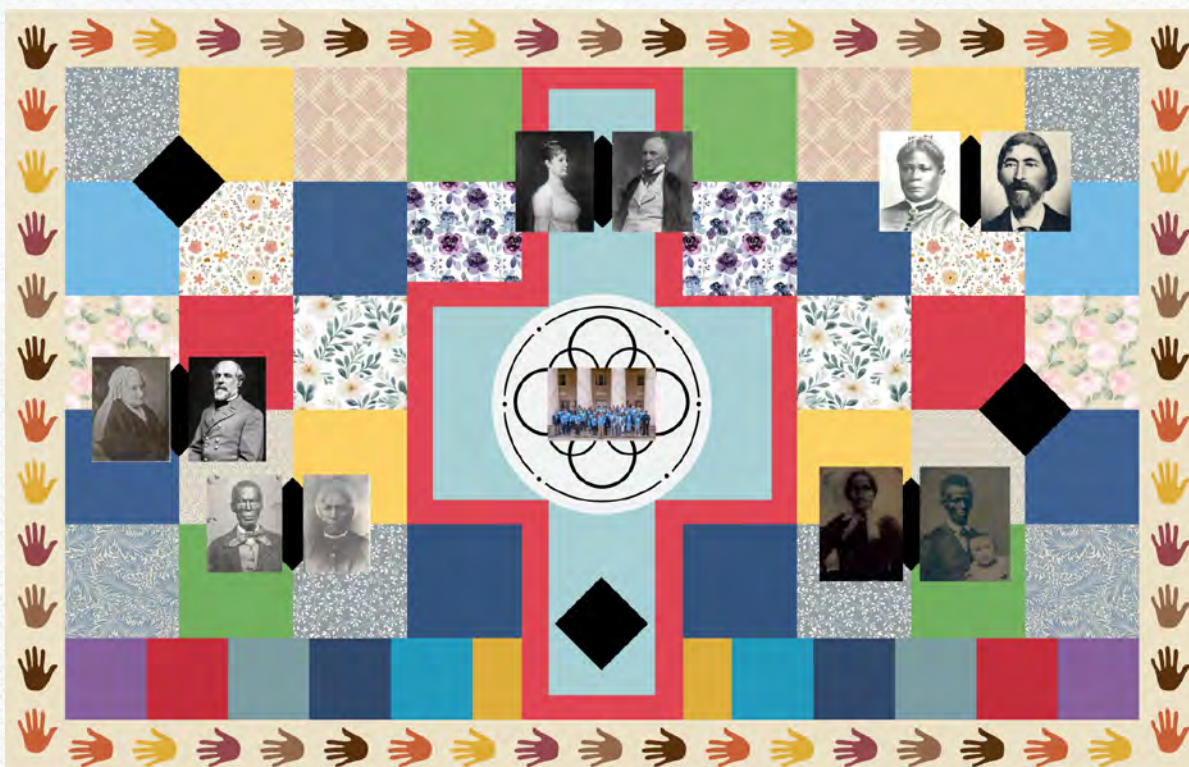


Write one way you'll work on having honest conversations. It can be from the list above or something you think of yourself:

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.....

Plantation House Center Hall

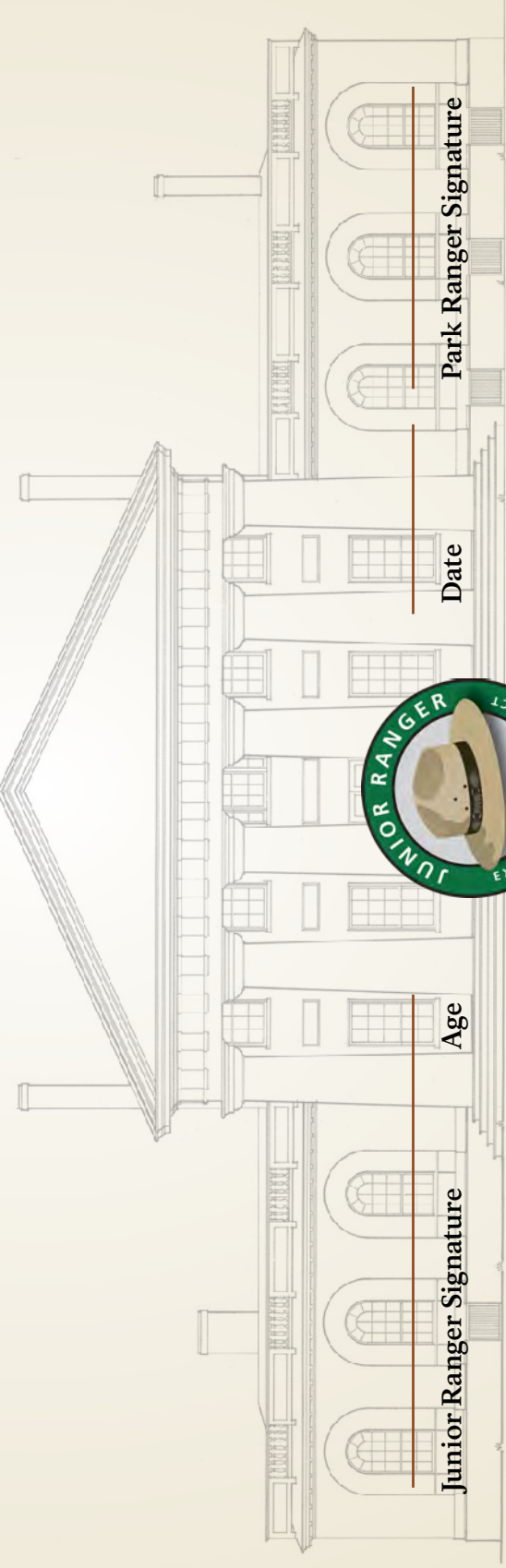
Today, descendant families call themselves the Family Circle because of their shared history. The Circle includes everyone: the Branham, Custis, Gray, Henry, Lee, Norris, Parks, and Syphax families. Together, they're making a family quilt. A quilt is a blanket sewn together from lots of pieces of fabric. Quilts represent many stories coming together as one. Handprints and photographs will decorate the Family Circle's quilt. One day, the quilt will hang in Arlington House.



Draw together. Decorate a quilt with things you like doing with your family. Everyone can add ideas, words, or art.

Junior Ranger Certificate

has successfully completed the requirements to be an official
National Park Service Junior Ranger at Arlington House



_____ Junior Ranger Signature

_____ Age

_____ Date

_____ Park Ranger Signature

Continue exploring George Washington Memorial Parkway



1. Great Falls Park*

- *Great Falls Park Book*
- *Captain George Pointer Book*

2. Clara Barton National Historic Site*

3. Glen Echo Park*

4. Turkey Run Park - Parkway Headquarters*

5. Fort Marcy

6. Theodore Roosevelt Island*

- *Theodore Roosevelt Island Book*
- *United States Colored Troops Book*

7. U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

8. Netherlands Carillon

9. Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial*

10. Lady Bird Johnson Park

11. Gravelly Point/ Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary

12. Daingerfield Island

13. Jones Point Lighthouse

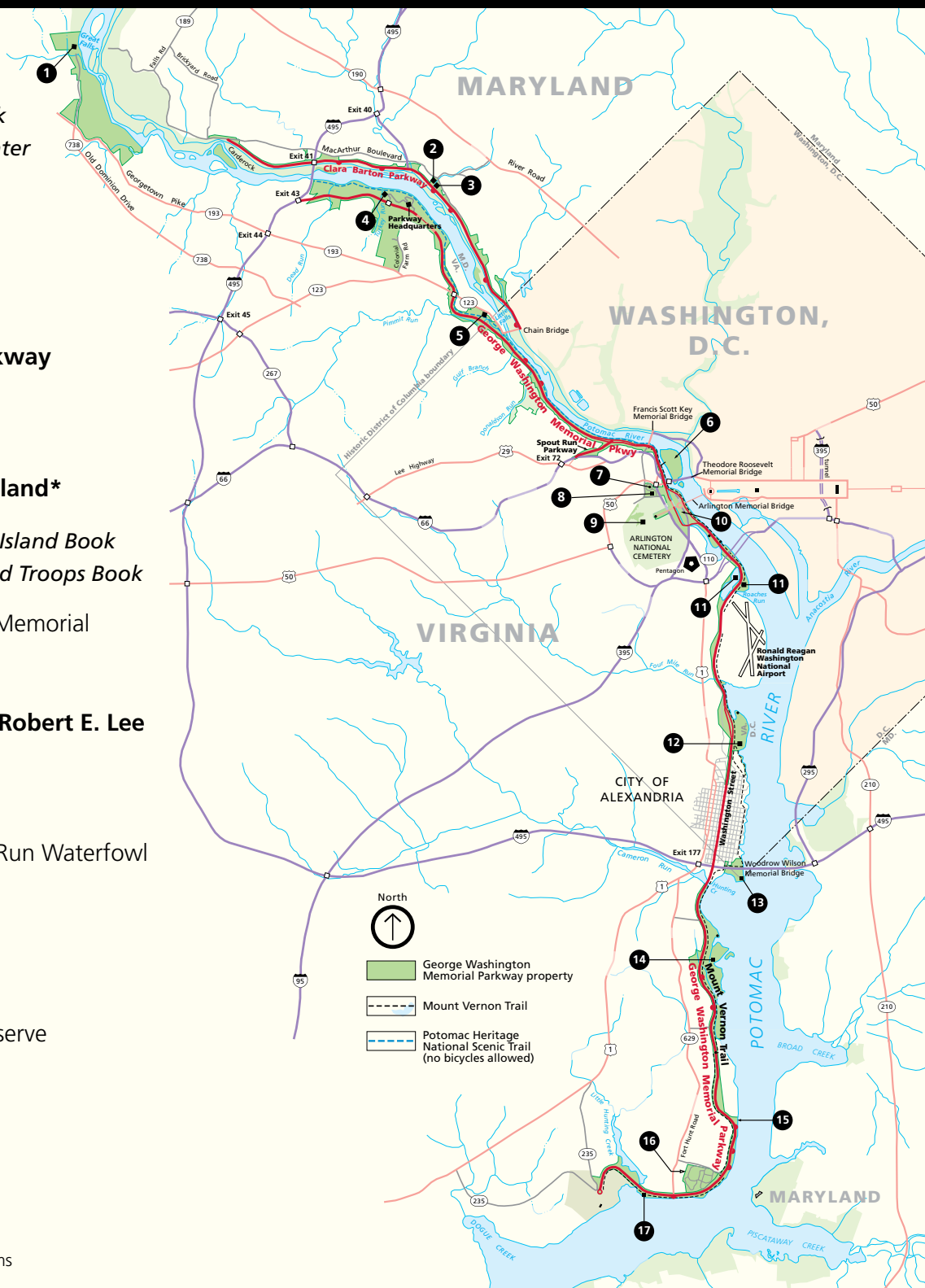
14. Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

15. Collingwood Picnic Area

16. Fort Hunt Park*

17. Riverside Park

* Park sites with junior ranger programs



Credit: This book was created by descendant families and park staff

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For visitor Information:
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www.nps.gov/gwmp