

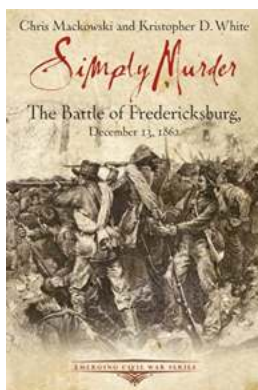
# The Battle of Fredericksburg: A Decisive Turning Point in the Civil War

The Battle of Fredericksburg, which took place on December 13, 1862, was a significant event in the American Civil War. This harrowing battle, part of the Emerging Civil War Series, marked a turning point in the war and had a profound impact on the outcome. In this article, we will delve into the details of this historic battle, exploring its strategic significance, key players, and the lasting effects it had on the course of the war.

## Background: Setting the Stage

Prior to the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Union Army, led by Major General Ambrose Burnside, intended to take control of the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. In order to reach their objective, they had to cross the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg.

The Confederate Army, commanded by General Robert E. Lee, occupied a strong defensive position on the heights behind Fredericksburg, which provided a formidable challenge for the Union forces. Lee's army was well-entrenched and heavily fortified, giving them a significant advantage over the Union.



## Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862 (Emerging Civil War Series)

by Chris Mackowski (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 36227 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 391 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## **The Battle Begins: Fierce Resistance**

On December 11, 1862, General Burnside began crossing the Rappahannock River, with thousands of Union soldiers braving the cold and treacherous conditions. However, their efforts were met with fierce resistance from the Confederates, who held the high ground.

As the Union troops moved forward, they faced a barrage of artillery fire from the Confederate positions. Despite their valiant efforts, the Union soldiers were unable to penetrate the Confederate lines. The Confederate defense was simply too strong, and the Union forces suffered heavy casualties as a result.

## **The Aftermath: A Devastating Defeat**

The Battle of Fredericksburg was a devastating defeat for the Union Army. The Confederate defense proved to be impenetrable, and the Union forces were forced to retreat. The casualties on the Union side were staggering, with over 12,000 soldiers killed, wounded, or missing.

General Burnside's leadership came under intense criticism following the battle, with many questioning his decision to proceed with the attack despite the unfavorable odds. This defeat had a demoralizing effect on the Union Army, further contributing to the growing disillusionment with the war.

## **Strategic Significance**

The Battle of Fredericksburg had significant strategic implications for both the Union and Confederate armies. For the Union, it represented a missed opportunity to gain a crucial victory and strengthen their position in the war. It also allowed General Lee's Confederate Army to solidify their hold on Virginia and create a formidable obstacle for future Union offensives.

Furthermore, the battle showcased the superiority of defensive positions in warfare. The Union's unsuccessful attempt to dislodge the Confederates from their fortified positions demonstrated the importance of proper strategy and positioning in battle.

### **Key Players: General Burnside and General Lee**

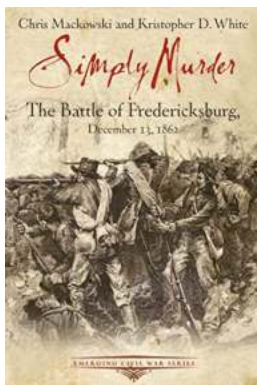
Two key figures emerged during the Battle of Fredericksburg: Major General Ambrose Burnside and General Robert E. Lee. Burnside, the commander of the Union Army, faced immense pressure to deliver a victory. However, his decision-making during the battle was heavily criticized, and his reputation suffered as a result.

On the other hand, General Lee demonstrated his exceptional leadership and tactical prowess. His decision to hold the high ground and fortify his positions proved to be a winning strategy. Lee's success at Fredericksburg further solidified his status as one of the most revered military leaders in American history.

### **The Lasting Effects**

The Battle of Fredericksburg left a lasting impact on the Civil War. It highlighted the challenges faced by the Union Army and the difficulties of overcoming a well-fortified enemy. This battle also marked a turning point in the war, as it eroded public confidence in the Union's ability to win and pushed the war into a more prolonged and deadly phase.

In , the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, was a pivotal moment in the American Civil War. It demonstrated the importance of strategic positioning and defensive tactics, while also showcasing the exceptional leadership of General Robert E. Lee. The battle's significance and lasting effects cannot be understated, and it remains a crucial event in the overall narrative of the Civil War.



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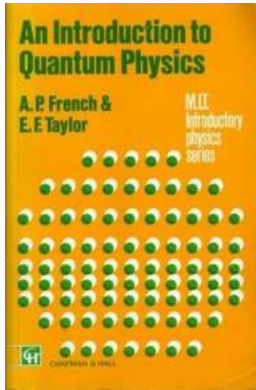


**This Civil War history and guide offers a vivid chronicle of this dramatic yet misunderstood battle, plus invaluable information for battlefield visitors.**

**The battle of Fredericksburg is usually remembered as the most lopsided Union defeat of the Civil War. It is sometimes called “Burnside’s folly,” after Union commander Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside who led the Army of the Potomac to ruin along the banks of the Rappahannock River. Confederates, fortified behind a stone wall along a sunken road, poured a hail of lead into them as they charged. One eyewitness summed it up saying, “it is only murder now.”**

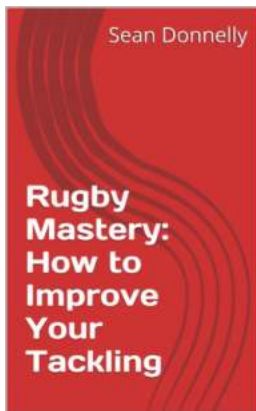
**But the battle remains one of the most misunderstood and misremembered engagements of the war. Burnside started with a well-conceived plan and had every reason to expect victory. How did it go so terribly wrong?**

**Authors Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White have worked for years along Fredericksburg’s Sunken Road and Stone Wall, and they’ve escorted thousands of visitors across the battlefield. *Simply Murder* not only recounts Fredericksburg’s tragic story of slaughter, but includes vital information about the battlefield itself and the insights they’ve learned from years of walking the ground.**



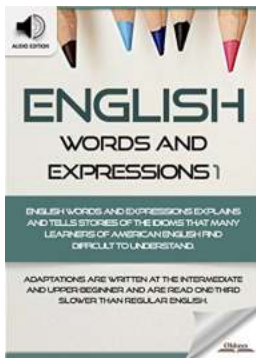
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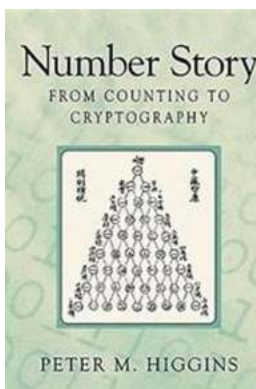
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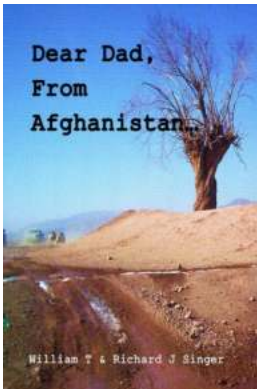
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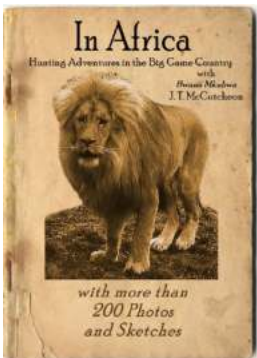
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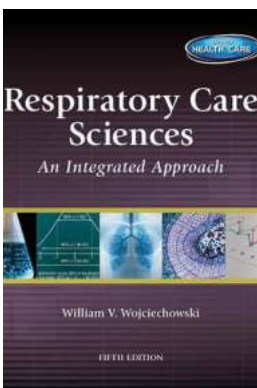
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