

★ 1861 ★

May 24-25 Union troops occupy Arlington Heights and Alexandria. Col. E. Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves, removes a Confederate flag from the Marshall House hotel and is killed by proprietor James Jackson. Jackson is killed by Cpl. Francis E. Brownell, who later received the Medal of Honor for his action. Confederate Capt. Matron Ball and 35 cavalrymen are captured, becoming the first Southern prisoners of war. Alexandria is placed under martial law.

May-July Confederates fortify Manassas Junction with a series of 12 earthen forts. Field artillery and naval cannon captured at Norfolk are placed in the works.

June 1 Union and Confederate forces clash at Fairfax Court House and along the railroad at Vienna. Capt. John Quincy Marr of Warrenton becomes the first Confederate officer killed in action.

June 1 Skirmish at Arlington Mill, one of the first engagements of the war.

June 11-24 Ballonist Thaddeus Lowe discusses military use of balloons with President Abraham Lincoln. On June 24, Lowe makes three ascents at Taylor's Tavern in Falls Church to observe Confederate troop movements near Fairfax Court House.

July 18 A Union reconnaissance force is repulsed by Confederate troops in a skirmish at Blackburn's Ford, a prelude to the First Battle of Manassas.

July 19 Piedmont Station (Delaplane) becomes the site of the first strategic use of railroads in warfare when Gen. Thomas J. Jackson's 1st Virginia Brigade entrains for Manassas Junction to reinforce the Confederate army.

July 21 First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Gen. Irvin McDowell's Union forces are defeated by Confederate Gens. P.G.T. Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston in the first major battle of the war. Gen. Thomas Jackson receives his nickname "Stonewall" in the battle, which results in more than 4,600 casualties.

July Confederate and Union forces fight a series of skirmishes before and after First Manassas at Arlington Mill, Peby's Mill, Ball's Cross Roads, and Hall's Hill. Confederate signal stations are erected at Upton's Hill near Seven Corners. The Union army established a military hospital center in Alexandria.

Aug.-Sept. Confederate forces construct artillery batteries along the Potomac River at Freestone Point, Possum Point, Cockpit Point, and Evansport to block shipping to and from Washington, D.C. Confederate troops under Gens. James Longstreet and J.E.B. Stuart occupy Munson's Hill and Falls Church. Skirmishes occur daily in the "Peach Orchard" area of Falls Church.

Oct. 21 Battle of Ball's Bluff near Leesburg. Defeated Federal troops are driven into the Potomac River. Union defeat results in establishment in Congress of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

Dec. 20 The Battle of Dranesville occurs when Union and Confederate foraging parties collide. Federals retain possession of the field in what is regarded as the first Union victory on Southern soil.

Winter 1861-62 Confederates build the first railroad dedicated exclusively to military use, connecting camps at Manassas and Centreville. Confederate Gen. D.H. Hill oversees completion of Forts Evans, Beauregard, and Johnston around Leesburg.

★ 1862 ★

March Confederates evacuate Manassas Junction and other Northern Virginia sites to concentrate near Richmond. Union forces occupy Manassas Junction.

June 19 President Lincoln visits Gen. Irvin McDowell's headquarters at the Weir family home *Liberia* in Manassas.

Aug. 22-23 Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry conducts a reconnaissance behind Union lines in Fauquier County, raiding Catlett's Station. Stuart "liberates" Warrenton and obtains intelligence on the disposition of the Union Army of Virginia that Gens. Lee and Jackson use to plan the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run).

Aug. 25-26 Gen. Stonewall Jackson and 23,000 men of the Army of Northern Virginia conduct a flank march through western Fauquier County into Prince William County where they raid Bristoe Station and Manassas Junction, cutting the supply line of Union Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia.

Aug. 28 Battle of Groveton. Gen. Stonewall Jackson attacks elements of the Army of Virginia to prevent consolidation of Pope's forces. Near The Plains, "Jessie scout" Jack Sterry, disguised as a Confederate officer, detains Gen. John B. Hood's division from its march to Manassas. Sterry is discovered and hanged as a Union spy.

Aug. 29-30 Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Gen. Pope's Union army suffers a decisive defeat but retreats across the river in good order. Total casualties exceed 25,000, and the stage is set for Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of Maryland.

Sept. 1 Union troops retreating from Second Manassas clash with Stonewall Jackson's infantry in the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill). Union Gens. Philip Kearney and Isaac Stevens are killed.

Sept. 2 Col. Thomas Munford's 2nd Virginia Cavalry routs a Federal force composed of Cole's Maryland Cavalry and the Loudoun Rangers at Mile Hill, Loudoun County.

Oct. 15 The City of Alexandria leases land to the Federal government for 999 years for the Alexandria National Cemetery.

Nov. 7-11 Following the Antietam Campaign, Gen. George B. McClellan is relieved from command at Rectortown in Fauquier County and is replaced by Gen. Ambrose Burnside. McClellan holds his final review of Union troops near Warrenton and departs from Warrenton Junction (Calverton).

Dec. Confederate cavalry under Gens. Wade Hampton and J.E.B. Stuart conduct raids on Union garrisons at Dumfries and Occoquan. Hampton briefly occupies the towns, capturing prisoners, horses, and supplies.

★ 1863 ★

Feb. Union army bakers in Alexandria set a record by producing 114,500 rations of bread in a single day.

Mar. 9 Lt. John S. Mosby and 29 of his Rangers undertake one of the war's most daring guerrilla exploits when they slip through Union lines to capture Gen. Edwin Stoughton at Fairfax Court House. Besides Stoughton, the Rangers escape with 32 prisoners and 58 horses, without firing a shot or losing a man.

Mar. 17 Gen. William Averell's Union cavalry raid Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock River. Though Averell fails to destroy Confederate Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry, Union horsemen show growing parity with their Southern counterparts.

May 30 Maj. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers raid a Union supply train near Catlett's Station. A running battle results in the loss of Mosby's mountain howitzer.

June 8-9 During a night visit to his wife at the Hathaway House near Salem (Marshall), Mosby narrowly escapes capture by Union cavalry by hiding in a tree.

June 10 Maj. Mosby formally musters his Partisan Rangers into Company A, 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry, near Rector's Crossroads (Atoka). From 70 men, the unit will grow into a full regiment of two battalions.

June 17-28 Prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, more than 100,000 Federal troops cross the Potomac River at Edwards Ferry east of Leesburg.

June 19-21 Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry clashes with Gen. Alfred Pleasanton's Union cavalry west of Middleburg, at Upperville and Ashby's Gap near Paris. Stuart delays Union detection of Gen. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia as it advances down the Shenandoah Valley toward Pennsylvania.

June 23 Gen. Stuart and Maj. Mosby confer at Rector's Cross Roads (Atoka). Based on Mosby's scouting, Stuart leads his cavalry east around the Army of the Potomac, depriving Gen. Robert E. Lee of valuable intelligence before the Battle of Gettysburg.

Aug. 28 Governor Francis H. Pierpont and the "Restored Government of Virginia" move from Wheeling to Alexandria after West Virginia becomes the 34th Union State.

Oct. 14 Battle of Bristoe Station. Gen. A.P. Hill's Confederates attack Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren's II Corps of the Army of the Potomac as it retires near Broad Run. The vicious fight results in 1,900 casualties as Hill is repulsed.

Oct. 19 Gen. Stuart's Confederate cavalry attacks Union cavalry under Gens. Judson Kilpatrick and George A. Custer in a running battle nicknamed the "Buckland Races," between Chestnut Hill near Warrenton and Buckland Mills in Prince William County.

Nov. 7 The Army of the Potomac achieves strategic victory over Gen. Lee's army by crossing the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station (Remington). Confederate forces retire south of the Rappid River.

★ 1864 ★

Jan. A hospital for freed slaves is established in Alexandria. L'Overture Hospital and Contraband Barracks are later constructed.

Mar.-June The 28th & 29th United States Colored Troops (USCT) are assigned to the Defenses of Washington at Alexandria.

July 11-16 Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's troops threaten Washington, D.C. A heavy skirmish occurs at Fort Stevens, the northernmost fort in the defenses of Washington. Abraham Lincoln becomes the only sitting U.S. president to come under fire in battle. Early withdraws his troops and retires through Loudoun County.

Oct. 5 Mosby's Rangers attack Federal repair crews on the Manassas Gap Railroad at Salem (Marshall), denying its use to Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley.

Nov. 6 In retaliation for the execution of seven of his Rangers by Federal cavalry in Front Royal, Col. John S. Mosby orders 27 Union prisoners at Rectortown to draw seven lots for their own execution.

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 Union Gen. Wesley Merritt's Cavalry division conducts the "Burning Raid" in northern Fauquier and Loudoun Counties in reprisal for Mosby's guerrilla activities against Gen. Philip Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley.

Dec. 21 Col. John S. Mosby is wounded by Union cavalry at Lakeland near Rector's Cross Roads (Atoka). Concealing his identity, Mosby is left to die but recovers and resumes command of his Rangers two months later.

★ 1865 ★

April 21 Rather than surrender his command to Union forces, Col. John S. Mosby disbands the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry at Salem (Marshall).

May 24 Virginia Governor Francis H. Pierpont leaves Alexandria to establish executive offices in Richmond.

July-Oct. The offices of Military Governor and Provost Marshal are abolished in Alexandria, ending military occupation of the city.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE MANASSAS CAMPAIGNS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The First and Second Battles of Manassas dominated military operations in Northern Virginia during the Civil War. Lying midway between Washington, D.C., and the Shenandoah Valley, Manassas Junction was the point where the Orange and Alexandria and the Manassas Gap railroads intersected. As such, Manassas sat astride the only continuous rail connection between the Federal capital and the interior of Virginia.

Union Gen. Irvin McDowell left Washington with 35,000 men on July 16, 1861, intending to outflank and crush Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard's 22,000-man army at Manassas Junction.

The clash along Bull Run on July 21, five miles northwest of Manassas Junction, was small by later Civil War standards and confusing for both sides. Despite this, most Union and Confederate soldiers alike performed better than expected in their baptism of fire. During the battle, Confederate Gen. Barnard Bee pointed to the brigade of Gen. Thomas J. Jackson and cried out to his men, "There

stands Jackson like a stone wall." Bee's comment caused his men to rally on Jackson and gave the Virginian the Civil War's most famous nickname.

Confederate reinforcements arrived on the battlefield by train (a first in warfare) from the Shenandoah Valley via Piedmont Station (Delaplane). Their attack turned an orderly Union retreat into a rout. Federal troops became entangled with civilians who had come from Washington to view what many thought would be the war's only battle. The Confederate army, as exhausted and bloodied as their foes, did not pursue the broken Union force to Washington.

Over the winter of 1861-1862, the Confederates built the world's first military railroad to link Manassas Junction with camps at Centreville seven miles north. Confederate batteries at Freestone Point and other sites blockaded the Potomac. Balloon observations by Thaddeus Lowe and other "aeronauts" provided the Union with information on the Confederate positions. In Washington, Gen. George B. McClellan rebuilt the shattered Union force, renamed the Army of the Potomac. By March 1862, Confederate commander Gen. Joseph Johnston began shifting his forces south to counter McClellan's Peninsula Campaign against Richmond. Union troops occupied the abandoned Southern defenses at Manassas.

In late summer 1862, the new Union Army of Virginia, commanded by Gen. John Pope, moved to unite with McClellan's force along the Rappahannock River in central Virginia. Their goal was to destroy the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, now commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee. Stonewall Jackson's 25,000 men marched rapidly around Pope's flank, raiding the huge Union supply base at Manassas Junction on August 26-27. Jackson's isolated force held off repeated Union attacks at Groveton on August 28, until joined by the rest of Lee's army the next day. The Second Battle of Manassas, fought



"Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861," Color lithograph by Kurz & Allison, 1869. (see rear panel for full description)

August 29-30, was another Confederate victory. Pope's army narrowly avoided annihilation in its retreat north, stopping Jackson's pursuit at the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill) on September 1.

After Second Manassas, Northern Virginia again fell under Union occupation. On October 14, 1863, the two sides fought a short but bloody battle at Bristoe Station in the aftermath of the Gettysburg Campaign. Once the main theater of battle shifted away from Northern Virginia, military activity in the region focused on raids against Union supply lines by Col. John S. Mosby's partisan rangers.



Harper's Weekly engraving of South Carolina troops building earthworks by moonlight at Manassas Junction, 1861.

★ ★ MOSBY'S CONFEDERACY ★ ★

Early in the war, John Singleton Mosby, a small-town Virginia lawyer with no military background, became a trusted scout for Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. Recognizing the potential for partisan warfare behind enemy lines, Mosby gained approval to raise his own command—the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, also called the Partisan Rangers—and conduct raids in Union-controlled territory. In their most famous raid, Mosby and his men slipped into Fairfax Court House, captured Union Gen. Edwin Stoughton, and spirited him back to Confederate lines. Although 1,900 men may have served under Mosby at one time or another, he usually operated with just a few dozen because they could attack and disappear quickly.

The Rangers made raids throughout Northern Virginia but especially in the area bounded by Snickersville (now Bluemont), Aldie, White Plains (The Plains), and Markham. This was known as Mosby's



"Mosby's Death Raffle," held near Rectortown during the Summer of 1864.



Colonel John S. Mosby

Confederacy. Besides disrupting Federal communications and destroying wagon trains and railroads there, Mosby also organized a four-gun artillery battery that stalled Union railroad construction

and forced the Federals to abandon the Manassas Gap Railroad line that supported the Union army's campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley. Mosby considered this his most important accomplishment.

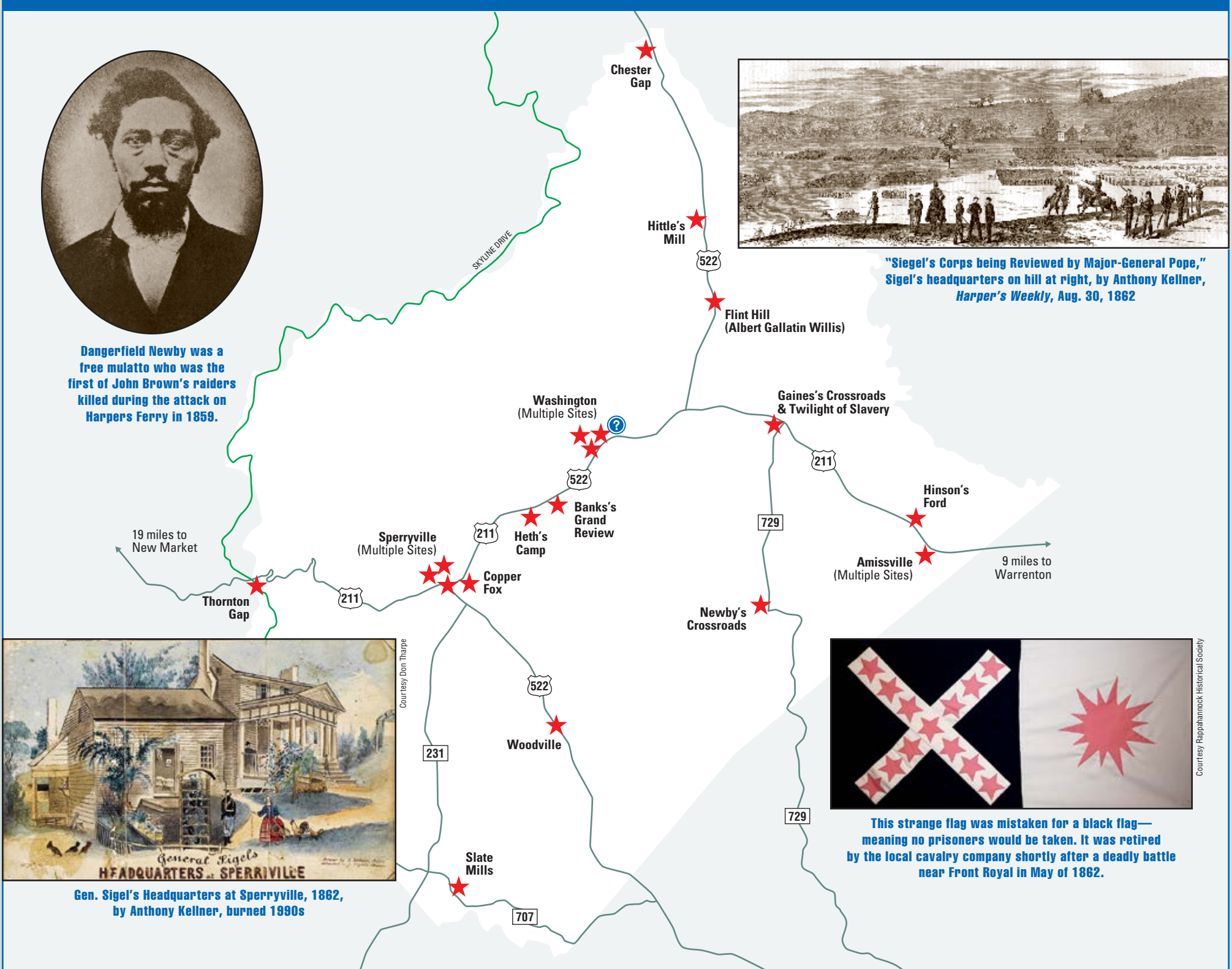
At the end of the war, unable to secure a salary, Mosby assembled his men at Salem (Marshall) on April 21, 1865. His adjutant read the emotional Mosby's order disbanding the Rangers: "I have summoned you together for the last time. ... I disband your organization in preference to surrendering to our enemies."

Mosby lived and practiced law in Warrenton for several years after the war. He became a Republican, supported President Grant, was U.S. consul to Hong Kong, and held posts in the departments of Justice and Interior. He is buried in Warrenton.

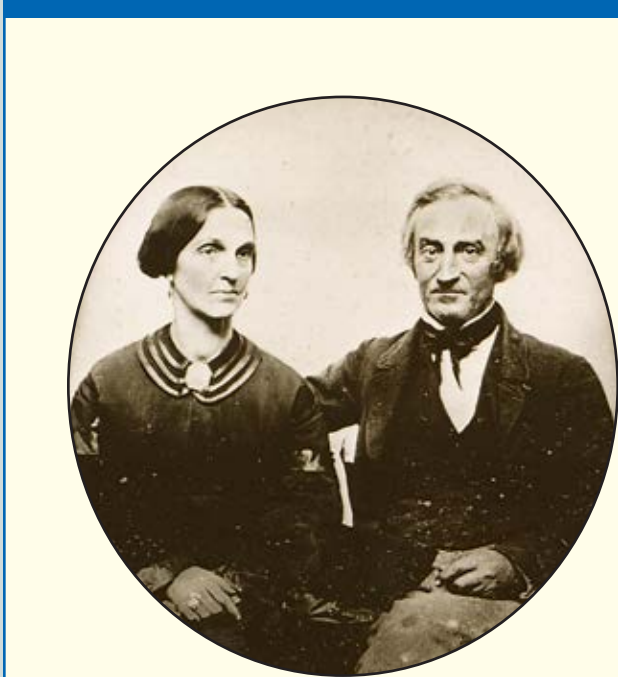


The Mosby Heritage Area includes part of Prince William County as well as Loudoun, Fauquier, Clarke, and Warren Counties. This region — Mosby's Confederacy — afforded his Rangers safe houses and the perfect terrain for daring cavalry raids. Today, this beautiful landscape offers visitors distinctive architecture, significant historic landmarks, rolling horse farms, and Blue Ridge vistas. Programs, tours, teacher resources, family activities and other resources can be found on the Mosby Heritage Area website at www.mosbyheritagearea.org, or by calling 540-687-6681.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CIVILIANS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Mary and Abner Settle of Mount Bleak Farm near Paris typhoided the civilians whose lives were torn asunder by the war.

Civilians in Northern Virginia endured the longest military presence of any area during the Civil War. Over four years, an estimated two-thirds of the population abandoned their homes for points south and west, or left the country entirely. Wilmer McLean, whose farm was overrun during the First Battle of Manassas in 1861, attempted to avoid the conflict by moving to the interior of the state, only to have his Appomattox home become the scene of Lee's surrender to Grant in 1865.

Many who stayed behind saw their homes and farms devastated by both Confederate and Union armies. Crops and livestock were confiscated, fields and orchards were destroyed, and any buildings left standing were used as military quarters and hospitals. Forests were denuded of trees for fortifications

and firewood. Railroads were taken over by the Union army and damaged repeatedly by Confederate partisan rangers. Families living in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties were directly in the path of ever-changing Union and Confederate control. In Alexandria and other Union strongholds, citizens were compelled to take the oath of allegiance to the Union or risk imprisonment.

Edward Carter Turner of The Plains in Fauquier County noted a typical scene in his diary on August 30, 1862, after Second Manassas: *The fighting portion of the army [Confederate] has passed, but the whole country is swarming with stragglers or deserters who are making themselves extremely troublesome to the people. Our yards are crowded with them all day and the barn and stable lofts at night. They are begging for food of people who have none to give and are insolent and revengeful when disappointed.*

When the war was finally over, Northern Virginians began the process of rebuilding their shattered lives and homes. Some, like free black farmer James Robinson of Prince William County, successfully obtained compensation from the U.S. government for property damage suffered during the war. Others began from scratch or left the area forever to start over elsewhere. Yet within a few short years, Northern Virginia recovered from its war wounds to become a prosperous agricultural region.



Unionist refugees



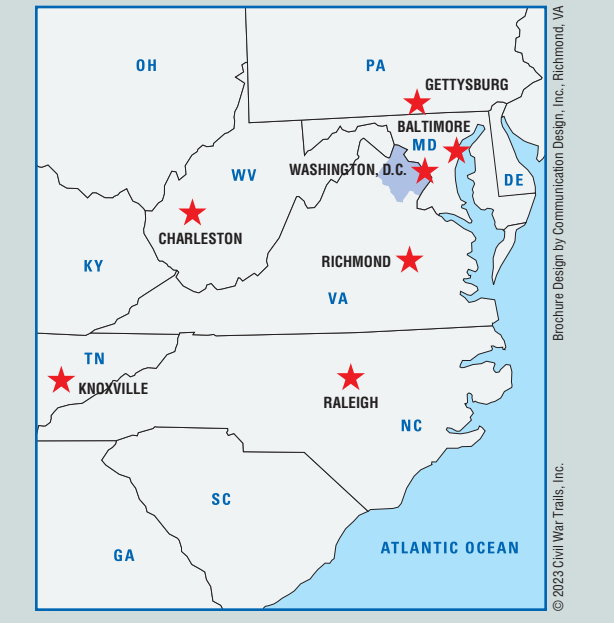
Stone House, Manassas National Battlefield Park.



Freedman's Village, Arlington Heights.

1861-1865
NORTHERN VIRGINIA
CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT

Cover: "Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861." This color lithograph was published in 1869 by Kurz & Allison of Chicago as part of a series of Civil War scenes. While wartime sketches by Louis Kurz were the basis for some of the images, the lithographs he produced with his partner Alexander Allison are noted more for their color and drama than for their historical accuracy.



For more information on other Virginia Civil War Trails, call toll free:
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Get outside, connect with the landscapes, enjoy the vistas, be part of the stories. Inspired by what you saw? Check in on Twitter or Facebook, and snap a photo for Instagram and use our hashtags, #civilwartrails and #openaamuseum.



VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR TRAILS
1861-1865
NORTHERN VIRGINIA
CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT



How to use this Guide

This guide highlights numerous Civil War sites throughout Northern Virginia. Each site allows you to discover the epic and heartfelt stories of civilians and soldiers who experienced triumph and tragedy during the war.

While visiting this diverse region, explore Civil War sites among Northern Virginia's cultural centers, conveniently located adjacent to the monuments and museums of our nation's capital, or head west or south and visit sites throughout the rolling farmland, vineyards, and horse farms that surround the region's genteel estates. Enjoy one of the numerous walking tours available in many communities. Shop at an antique or specialty shop, dine in a 19th century tavern or inn, or simply walk amid the serenity of a preserved battlefield, and let the stories you've discovered ignite your imagination as you envision how now-peaceful landscapes were once the scenes of the deadliest battles known to man.

For more detailed travel information, visit any Virginia Welcome Center or local Visitor Center, or contact any of the organizations listed in this guide. For additional Civil War Trails information, visit civilwartrails.org.



Travelers enjoy one of the colorful interpretive markers along the trail.



Follow these signs to more than 1,600 Civil War sites.

★ ★ ★ PLAN YOUR TRIP ★ ★ ★

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civilwar.org
- Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**
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The Civil War Trust, with more than 250,000 members and supporters, is America's largest nonprofit organization devoted to saving our nation's endangered battlefields. To help, visit battlefields.org or call 202-367-1861.



Warrenton's Old Jail, used during the war, now houses a museum. A monument to Col. John S. Mosby stands on the lawn.

Fort Ward, Alexandria, once protected Washington during the Civil War. Today the partially reconstructed Union fort is a city-owned museum.



The Stonewall Jackson Monument is one of the most recognizable features of the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

★ ★ INVASION! ★ ★



Stuart's and Pleasonton's cavalry clash at Upperville, June 21, 1863.

After Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's stunning victory at Chancellorsville in May 1863, he decided to invade the North again. As in 1862, when his first incursion ended at Antietam Creek in Maryland, he sought to move the fighting out of Virginia, feed his troops on Northern produce, threaten Washington, D.C., defeat the Union army on its own ground, raise Southern morale, and aid the Northern peace movement.

Lee sent the infantry to the Shenandoah Valley and ordered Gen. J.E.B. Stuart to screen the march. Union Gen. Joseph Hooker's cavalry chief, Gen. Alfred Pleasonton, first fought Stuart's troopers to a draw on June 9 at Brandy Station. More clashes followed, June 17-21, in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. Although the Federal cavalry pushed Stuart westward to Ashby's Gap, he kept Pleasonton from locating Lee's army. Soon enough, each side would meet again at Gettysburg.

To follow the armies to Gettysburg, call 1-866-639-3526 to request our map-brochure, *Gettysburg: Invasion and Retreat*.