Union Gen. Irvin McDowell left Washington with 35,000 troops on July 16, 1861, to outflank the strong Manassas Junction defenses and crush a 22,000-man Confederate army under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard.

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 Jack-

Union troops in the abandoned Confederate fortifications at Manassas Junction, March 1862.



son 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 August 29-30, was



"Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861." Color lithograph by Kurz & Allison, 1889.

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.

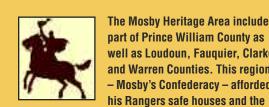
After Second Manassas, Northern Virginia again fell under Union occupation. On October 14, 1863, the two sides fought a short but bloody battle at Bristoe Station in the aftermath of the Gettysburg Campaign. Once the main theater of battle shifted away from Northern Virginia, military activity in the 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.

arly 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 Unioncontrolled 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 operated Colonel John S. Mosby throughout Northern Virginia but especially in the area bounded by Snickersville (now Bluemont), Aldie, White Plains (The Plains), and Markham. This was known



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

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, taped tours, and other resources can be found on the Mosby Heritage Area Web site at www.mosbyheritagearea.org, or by calling (540) 687-6681.



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

as Mosby's 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 truce for his command, Mosby assembled his men at Salem (Marshall) on April 21, 1865. Overcome by emotion, Mosby had his adjutant read his order disbanding the Rangers: "I have summoned you together for the last time. The vision we cherished as a free and independent country has vanished, and that country is now the spoil of a conqueror. I disband your organization in preference to surrendering to our enemies."

Mosby lived in Warrenton for several years after the war and is buried there.

DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON *

ituated on the banks of the Potomac River, Washington, D.C., in early 1861 was better known for its architectural landmarks and unpaved streets than its ability to defend its perimeters. Only 400 marines stationed at the Marine Barracks and 50 ordnance men at the Washington Arsenal comprised the slight military presence near the city. In April, Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to quell the "insurrection" brewing in the Southern states and to protect the capital.

On May 24, 1861, the date that Virginia left the Union, an estimated 10,000 Federal troops began moving into northern Virginia to occupy the ridge line overlooking the capital. They seized port facilities and the railroad in the City of Alexandria and immediately began building earthen forts to serve as supply bases, to protect the

bridges into Washington and control

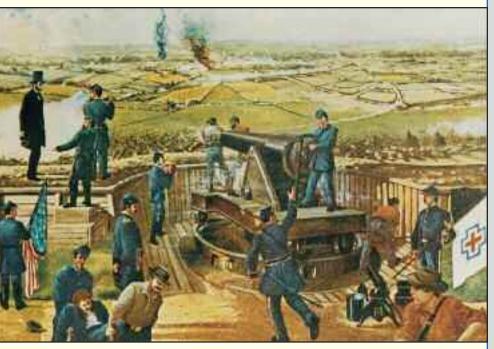
access to the city. After the Union army's defeat at the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) on July 21, 1861, concern for the safety of the capital heightened. Construction began on a system of fortifications designed by the Army Corps of Engineers to encircle the city. By 1864, the system of forts, known as the

Defenses of Washington, consisted of 161 forts and batteries with emplacements for more than 1,000 guns, making Washington the most heavily fortified city in the Western

The only serious threat to "Mr. Lincoln's Forts" came on July 11, 1864, when Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early approached Washington. He attacked Fort Stevens, the northernmost fort in Washington. Lincoln himself traveled to Fort Stevens, located seven miles from the White House, to observe the action. This was the only time a U.S. President was under combat fire while in office. On July 14. Early returned to Virginia, ending the threat.

After Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, the forts in the Washington defenses were

> The Battle of Fort Stevens, Defenses of Washington, July 11-12, 1864.



BALLOONS

n June 5, 1861, Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, a 28-year-old balloonist, came to Washington to offer his services to the U.S. Government. Nearly two weeks later he made a demonstration ascent in his balloon Enterprise. An accompanying telegrapher sent the first aerial message to President Abraham Lincoln extolling the 50-mile bird's-eye view.

On June 24-25, Lowe made several ascents from Taylor's Tavern, a high point in Falls Church at the edge of Union-controlled territory. This was the first military aerial reconnaissance in American history. His success led the army to sponsor the construction of the first military balloon, Union.

Despite Confederate attempts to down the balloons, Lowe made 23 tethered ascents from Arlington beginning August 28, to observe and map Confederate positions in the Falls Church area. On September 24, for the first time, the airborne Lowe used flag signals to direct Union artillery onto targets in the Falls Church area, where Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's troops were celebrating his promotion. On the 26th, the Confederates withdrew from the area.

Army Aeronautic Corps, eventually controlled seven balloons, eight aeronauts, and 12 portable generators. Lowe's balloons were used extensively during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign as Gen. George B. McClellan marched to the outskirts of Richmond. After being replaced as Chief of the Aeronautic Corps, Lowe resigned on May 8, 1863.

VIRGINIA

Lowe, appointed Chief of the U.S.

CIVILIANS



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

ivilians 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.



(Remington). The railroad bridge is in the background.



Manassas Nationa Battlefield Park.

Freedman's Village, Arlington Heights.

Cover: "Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861." This color lithograph was published in 1889 by Kurz & Allison of Chicago as part of a series of Civil War scenes, While vartime 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.

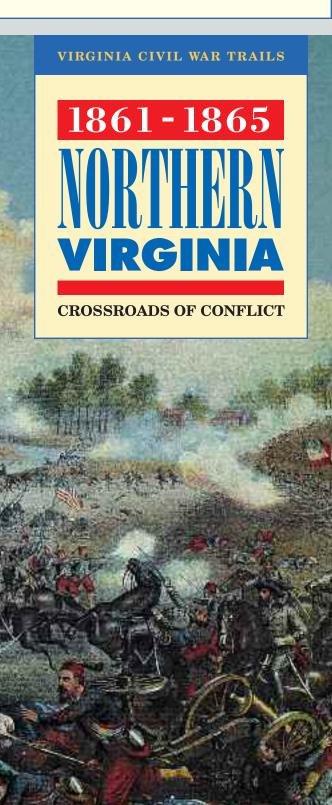


Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Leesburg, Manassas, Vienna, Warrenton, and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William

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This guide highlights more than 70 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 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 nformation, visit www.civilwartrails.org.





CIVIL WAI TRAILS ***

NORTH CAROLINA



WEST VIRGINIA

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www.pwcgov.org

Historic Preservation

www.manassasmuseum.org

The Mosby Heritage Area

www.mosbyheritagearea.org

Kepi worn by E. Elmer Ellsworth,

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Loudoun CVA

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Contact the following for more travel information and visitor services along the Trails:

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Arlington CVS 1-800-677-6267 www.stayarlington.com **Visit Fairfax** 1-800-732-4732

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& Visitor Center 1-800-545-7950 www.fairfaxva.gov **Falls Church Community Center**



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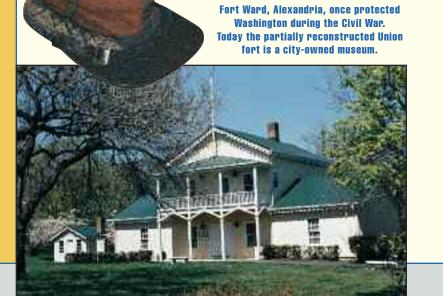
To help, visit www.civilwar.org or call (202) 367-1861.

www.visitfauguier.com www.leesburgva.gov/visitors 1-800-752-6118 www.visitloudoun.org The Manassas Museum System

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



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





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

fter 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 1-888-248-4597 to request our map-brochure, Gettysburg: Invasion and Retreat

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. Motram 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 11-24 Balloonist 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, Febre'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.

Lee and Jackson use to plan the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run).

from its march to Manassas. Sterry is discovered and hanged as a Union spy.

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

★ 1863 ★

the supply line of Union Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia.

family home Liberia in Manassas.

for the Alexandria National Cemetery.

of bread in a single day.

departs from Warrenton Junction (Calverton).

towns, capturing prisoners, horses, and supplies.

32 prisoners and 58 horses, without firing a shot or losing a man.

the unit will grow into a full regiment of two battalions.

cross the Potomac River at Edwards Ferry east of Leesburg.

advances down the Shenandoah Valley toward Pennsylvania

The vicious fight results in 1,900 casualties as Hill is repulsed.

and Contraband Barracks are later constructed.

resumes command of his Rangers two months later.

in Alexandria, ending military occupation of the city.

to the Defenses of Washington at Alexandria.

★ 1864 ★

activities against Gen. Philip Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley.

disbands the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry at Salem (Marshall).

★ 1865★

Union horsemen show growing parity with their Southern counterparts.

