

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Border War



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Fact: A stray Union bullet killed Harpers Ferry resident Frederick Roeder, a Union sympathizer, on July 4, 1861.

Pinched on the border between North and South, the Potomac River became an international boundary during the Civil War. Harpers Ferry changed hands eight times between the contesting armies. The town's famous railroad bridge and its armory factory buildings were destroyed by the Confederates when the war was only two months old. The war on the border lasted four years.