



Discovering Our Past

Remembering the Civil War

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LIGHTHIZER

AS AMERICA MARKS the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a pivotal turning point in history that has captivated the imagination of generations with its dramatic narrative, thousands of people are seeking out ways to participate in the commemoration. While outstanding books or documentaries can convey a tremendous amount of information, some experiences simply cannot be recreated without a visit to a historic site.

Although some major battlefields are virtually synonymous with Civil War history, there are many more sites that can give visitors a taste of the past. By linking more than 600 sites in 31 states, the District of Columbia and three international destinations, the Civil War Discovery Trail teaches the story of the Civil War and its enduring impact on the America we know today. Among the locations included are battlefields, historic homes, Underground Railroad stations, cemeteries and parks.

The trail aims to bring history to life by exposing visitors not only to military history, but also to the political, social and human components of the war.

While individual sites are independently owned and operated, the discovery trail is overseen and administered by The Civil War Trust, a nonprofit battlefield preservation organization that has permanently protected more than 32,000 acres at 110 sites in 20 states.

Born out of the conflict itself, perhaps no state has a deeper connection to the Civil War than West Virginia. For the next three years, as we remember the bravery and sacrifice exhibited by those who lived through the Civil War era, consider visiting the 15 Mountain State sites on the Civil War Discovery Trail. Visit www.civilwardiscoverytrail.org for more information and to plan your journey.

Photography by The Civil War Trust

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field to those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall

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Belle Boyd House and Civil War Museum of the Lower Shenandoah, Martinsburg

The Belle Boyd House is named for the West Virginia debutante who, after witnessing Union troops curse at her mother and replace the Confederate flag with a Union flag on the porch of her family's house, shot a federal soldier. Ultimately, Boyd became one of the most famous Confederate spies, twice-imprisoned for her exploits. The Civil War Museum of the Lower Shenandoah is also incorporated into the house museum.

2

Bulltown Historic Area, Burnsville

The Bulltown Historic Area includes the site of the skirmish known as the Battle of Bulltown. The engagement occurred when Col. William "Mudwall" Jackson, Stonewall's lesser-known cousin, attempted a measure to cut off Union communication lines between Northern West Virginia and the Kanawha Valley in August 1863. In addition to the Union fortification, the area includes a Confederate burial site, intact sections of the turnpike and the Cunningham House, which was used to shelter Confederate supporters.

3

Camp Allegheny Battlefield, Elkins

Confederate forces established Camp Allegheny in the summer of 1861 in order to control the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. Although Confederate Gen. Edward Johnson won a victory over Union troops under Gen. R.H. Milroy in December, the harsh winter climate, coupled with the difficulty of supplying a camp 4,400 feet above sea level, led him to abandon the site the following spring. The battlefield is within Monongahela National Forest.



4

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park, Summersville

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry was a Union victory led by Gen. William Rosencrans in September 1861 in which Confederate troops were forced to evacuate an entrenched position overlooking Carnifex Ferry. This battle is particularly significant to West Virginia history as it meant the movement for statehood status could proceed without threat from the Confederates.



5

Cheat Summit Fort, Elkins

Built in 1861 by order of Gen. George McClellan, Cheat Summit Fort secured Union possession of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike and protected the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The Confederate failure to take Cheat Fort Summit in September 1861 was a major factor in the defeat of Robert E. Lee's western Virginia campaign.

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, Hillsboro

The Battle of Droop Mountain, waged on November 6, 1861, was one of the largest fought in modern West Virginia. After Gen. William Averell pushed Confederate Gen. John Echols south, he failed to regain control of southeastern West Virginia, ceding the area to Union forces.



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Grafton National Cemetery, Grafton

Congress established Grafton National Cemetery in 1867 for the men who died during the Civil War. Following re-internments from other cemeteries, Grafton became the final resting place for 2,133 soldiers, including 664 unknown soldiers. Among them is Private T. Bailey Brown, the first casualty of Civil War land engagement.

9

Jackson's Mill Historic Area, Weston

The Jackson's Mill Museum marks the site where young Thomas Jackson—long before he was “Stonewall”—spent the majority of his formative years living and working with relatives after the death of his parents. The historic area includes an operating grist mill, general store, blacksmith shop, barn and a one-room cabin.

8

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry

Harpers Ferry was the site of radical abolitionist John Brown's 1859 raid on the federal arsenal. During the war it became the base of operations for Union invasions into the Shenandoah Valley. In September 1862, as part of the Maryland Campaign, Stonewall Jackson captured 12,500 Union soldiers stationed in Harpers Ferry, an event that remained the largest mass-surrender of American troops until World War II.



10

Jenkins Plantation Museum, Lesage

Jenkins Plantation was the home of Confederate Brig. Gen. Albert Gallatin Jenkins, who led the 8th Virginia infantry and served in the Confederate Congress before falling mortally wounded at the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain in May 1864. The museum, which was once the heart of a 4,400-acre plantation, has been restored to its mid-19th century appearance.

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11

Lewisburg National Register Historic District and Greenbrier County Visitor Center, Lewisburg

The Battle of Lewisburg was fought on May 23, 1862, when Union forces attempted to cut off railroad communications between Virginia and Tennessee at Lewisburg. Sites located within the Lewisburg National Register Historic District include a Confederate cemetery, a library that served as a makeshift hospital (Confederate graffiti remains on its walls), a church with a cannonball hole, a church that served as a Confederate morgue and a monument to the Confederate dead.

12

Philippi Covered Bridge and Historic District, Philippi

Fought on June 3, 1861, the Battle of Philippi is remembered as the first land battle of the Civil War, as well as the first amputation due to combat wounds. The Philippi Covered Bridge was used as makeshift barracks by Union troops.

13

Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site, Beverly

Gen. George McClellan's routed Confederate troops held the pass over Rich Mountain on July 11, 1861, a victory that led to his promotion to command the Army of the Potomac. It also gave the Union control of northwestern Virginia, ultimately contributing to the formation of West Virginia. The Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site is comprised of the battle site, Confederate Camp Garnett and a connecting section of the old Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike.

Shepherdstown Historic District, Shepherdstown

Following the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, Shepherdstown was overrun by Confederate wounded with virtually every public and private building in town serving as makeshift military hospitals for the wounded. Fighting around Boteler's Ford outside of town marked the final engagement of the Maryland Campaign. The Shepherdstown Historic District also contains Elmwood Cemetery, which has many Confederate burials, including the final resting place of Henry Kyd Douglas, a colorful staff officer of Stonewall Jackson.

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West Virginia Independence Hall Museum, Wheeling

Nearly six years before President Abraham Lincoln signed the proclamation making West Virginia the 35th state in the Union, construction began on the Wheeling Custom House, headquarters for federal offices for the Western District of Virginia. Its completion coincided with the beginning of the Civil War and the grand new building became the home of the Restored Government of Virginia from 1861-1863.

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