

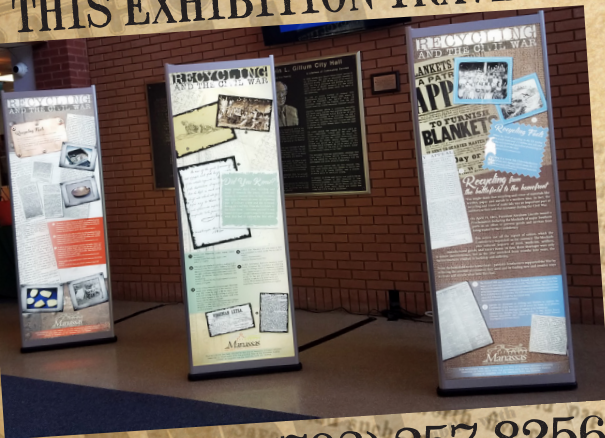
# RECYCLING FACTS

- The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.
- Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.
- The US generates an average of 25 billion pounds of textiles like clothing, shoes, towels, and bedding every year. Only 15% of that gets donated or recycled.
- Over 70% of the world's population (that's 5.25 billion people) wear second hand clothes!
- We use over 80 billion aluminum soda cans every year.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

## Sources:

[www.recyclingrevolution.com](http://www.recyclingrevolution.com)  
[www.wearndonaterecycle.org](http://www.wearndonaterecycle.org)

## THIS EXHIBITION TRAVELS!



PLEASE CALL (703) 257-8256  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION

# KEEP RECYCLING IT'S PART OF OUR HISTORY!

In 2016, the City of Manassas Citizen's Advisory Committee on Solid Waste decided that they wanted to work on a special project that would bring together recycling and the incredible history of our community. They worked together researching the history of recycling during the Civil War.

Committee members spent hours of time poring over hundreds of images and accounts from the battlefield and the many communities (North and South) that sacrificed what little they had in the way of home comforts to support their troops. Their research has uncovered a wealth of information on the way materials like paper, metal and textiles were reused on the battlefield and back at home.

The American Civil War Museum found the research fascinating and published an article acknowledging the hard work of the committee and adding their own contributions to the project.

The City of Manassas would like to thank the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Solid Waste for their wonderful contribution to our community.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

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## RECYCLING AND THE CIVIL WAR



## DI DO YOU KNOW?

Many people think that recycling and reuse of materials like paper, metals and textiles is a modern idea. In fact, recycling and reuse of materials were an important part of military action and the economy during the Civil War. From the battlefield to the home front – everyone pitched in and found new and creative ways to re-purpose what they had to support the War effort.





## WHAT HAPPENED?

On April 19, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a Proclamation declaring the blockade of major Southern ports in an effort to prevent goods and services from being traded by the Confederacy.

This action cut off the export of cotton, which the Confederacy depended on for currency. The blockade also reduced imports of food, medicine, artillery, manufactured goods, and luxury items. At first, these shortages were only a minor inconvenience, but as the War stretched from months into years, the inconveniences resulted in hardship and suffering at home and on the battlefield.

## PAPER

Writing paper, envelopes, books and wrapping paper were hard to find in the South during the War. When the supply of paper made from wood pulp ran short, paper mills used linen and cotton rags to make paper so that important news and information could still be shared between generals, soldiers, families and businesses.

As the War continued, the supply of paper ran out and the rags were needed for dressing wounds, some as far away as England. They also began using substitutes. Newspapers used "necessary paper," printing on everything from cornhusks to wallpaper to old bags.

Desperate for information, soldiers and civilians sent messages on pages torn out of books, the backs of pictures and the space left on old letters. Envelopes were made from folded letters, previously used envelopes, advertising flyers and from wall paper.

## METALS

The timing of the Civil War coincided with the industrial revolution. While the North was well on its way toward a commercial and manufacturing economy, the Southern economy was based on agriculture. This had a direct impact on Confederate army's access to the precious iron, copper, tin and steel that they needed to supply their troops with artillery.

Southerners were called upon to donate any type of old metal to the war effort. Church bells, steeples, gates, pots and pans, farm equipment and scraps were gathered to be recycled or reused.

Even military officers like General P.G.T. Beauregard, asked the people to supply metal that could be cast into cannon. Metal was also needed to build ironclad gunboats that would be used to protect southern coasts and rivers from Union forces during the early years of the War.

Throughout the South, ladies societies were established to raise funds for the building of these boats. The societies also made appeals for donations of scarce metals such as lead, brass, and iron that could be melted down and used to build a boat.

On the battlefields, soldiers gathered spent ammunition and rifles from the fallen to be sold as scrap or reused. Scrap metals were also recycled into bowls, cutlery and cooking utensils to provide some small personal comforts to the soldiers so far from home.

## TEXTILES

In the years before the Civil War, the manufacture of cotton was pretty simple. It was grown in the South and then shipped to the textile mills in the North and overseas. Once converted into textiles, the fabric was then sold back to the South for making clothes and products for the home. By 1860, more than 4 million forced laborers worked across the South generating two-thirds of the world's cotton supply.

Following the Union Blockade of 1861, the export of cotton fell by more than 95% and the South faced two challenges: find a way to pay for food and munitions production and rely on their own mills to manufacture textiles.

Blockades on Southern ports prevented importation of fabrics from Europe and American cities to the southern states, causing a shortage of material for clothing, bandages and even making paper.

Southerners were asked to save rags and donate clothing no longer needed so they could be made into bandages for soldiers or sent to the battlefield to be used for mending soldier's uniforms and even making tents.

At home, drapes, sheet and other material items were used to making clothing. Raincoats were made from oil cloth or rubberized piano covers. Even shoes were in short supply. Women and children repaired old shoes with pieces of rags, carpets canvas, felts and pelts from animals. Accessories such as ladies hats, fans and handkerchiefs were also scarce and often made from just about any material available including feathers, woven grass and straw.