

Civil War

Throughout history, common soldiers have created a personal legacy in the form of writings and drawings on building walls. Today we call this graffiti. During the American Civil War, soldiers were no different.

Union and Confederate soldiers on the march, in camp, hospitalized, and jailed left their messages in homes, churches, and courthouses. Their names, thoughts, and images have been immortalized, giving us a glimpse into those individuals as they defended and pursued, rested and played, suffered and convalesced.



Historic Blenheim

3610 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Historic Blenheim and the Civil War
Interpretive Center is owned and operated
by the City of Fairfax

Please call or check the website for hours, tours,
programs and events, or to schedule a group visit.
703-591-0560
www.fairfaxva.gov/blenheim

Union soldiers camped or were hospitalized here in 1862 and 1863. They left their names, regiment numbers, photographs, and musings on the walls of the c. 1859 Historic Blenheim House. So far 126 soldiers have been positively identified. The writings and images provide insight into their lives and the dramatic impact of war on the Willcoxon family and enslaved people of Fairfax Court House.

Graffiti



Ben Lomond Historic Site

10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas, Virginia 20109
Ben Lomond Historic Site is operated by the
Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation

Please call or check the website for hours, tours programs
and events. Tours are also available by appointment.
703-367-7872
www.pwcvagov.org/benlmond

Ben Lomond was used as a field hospital after 1st Manassas and as Confederate headquarters before the army left in 1862. Federal soldiers marching through Prince William in Spring 1862 frequently stopped here, writing their names on the walls. Today most of the graffiti in the immersive hospital exhibits is protected, but sections of two walls are left uncovered for view.



Liberia House

8601 Porter Avenue,
Manassas,
Virginia 20110
Operated by the Manassas
Museum System,
City of Manassas

Please call or check the website for tours and
programs or to schedule a group visit.
703-368-1873 www.manassasmuseum.org

Liberia House served as headquarters for both Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War, and may have had visits from Lincoln and Davis. Union soldiers stationed in and around Manassas from 1862-1864 left behind their signatures, drawings, and other writings on the second floor of the home. Six of those men have been identified and their stories are known to us. Additional signatures may be hidden under layers of paint in other areas of the house, awaiting discovery. Built in 1825, Liberia is the oldest structure on the graffiti trail.

The Graffiti House

19484 Brandy Road,
Brandy Station, Virginia
22714

The Graffiti House is owned and operated by the
Brandy Station Foundation, a locally based 501 (c) (3)
non-profit corporation

Please call or check the website for scheduled year-
round tours and programs. Group tours are also offered.
540-317-5581 www.brandystationfoundation.com

Built in 1858 as a general store and residence for the local Postmaster, the house was occupied by both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Using charcoal from the central fireplace, these soldiers decorated the plaster walls with signatures, drawings, and commentaries on their lives. Today over 200 readable graffiti examples survive to give testament to the passing of those soldiers.

Mt. Zion Historic Park

40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, Virginia 20105
Mt. Zion Historic Park is owned and operated by
the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Please call or check website for guided tours and
programs. Tours are also available by appointment.
703-327-9777
www.novaparks.com/parks/mt-zion-historic-park

Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, built in 1851, was an eyewitness to the Civil War, used as a rendezvous site, prison, barracks, and battleground. Union troops used the church as a hospital after the cavalry engagements of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville in June 1863. Remnants of graffiti are visible on the church walls today.





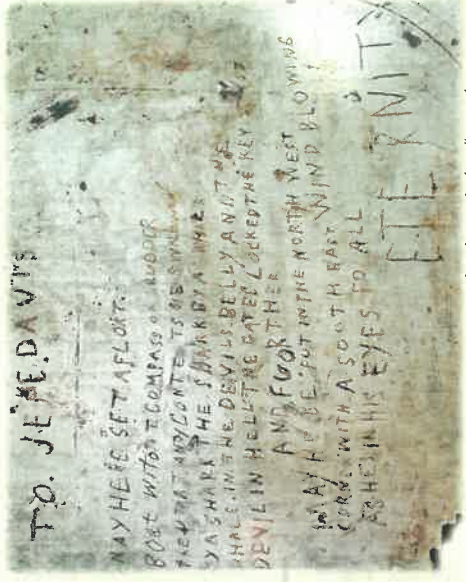
The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum

20 N. Loudoun Street
Winchester, VA 22604

Operated by the
Shenandoah Valley Battlefield
National Historic District

Please call or check the website
for hours, tours and programs.
540-542-1145 www.civilwarmuseum.org
info@svbf.net

The Frederick County Court House in Winchester, built in 1840, served as a prison, hospital, and barracks for both sides during the Civil War. Soldiers wrote their names and drew pictures on the walls, some of which can still be seen. The building now houses the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, which includes the restored court room, the John Brown Trial virtual reality experience, the "One Story... A Thousand Voices" exhibit on the Civil War in the Valley, and the remarkable graffiti on the walls.



The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum

Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail



Follow the trail of Union soldiers and Confederate defenders as they swept through the Northern Virginia countryside. Discover the graffiti they left in homes, churches, and public buildings during the Civil War.

The Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail will lead you from the vibrant suburbs to rolling hills and farmlands. Our sites and towns will reveal a unique glimpse of the common Civil War soldiers as they fought in this decisive event of our American history.

A PDF of this brochure is available on participant web sites



www.civilwartrails.org

Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail



Historic Blenheim

“Old soldiers never die,
they just fade away”

But is it really true?
Find out by visiting the sites along the

Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail

Participants:

- Historic Blenheim, City of Fairfax
- Ben Lomond Historic Site, Prince William County
- Liberia House, City of Manassas
- The Graffiti House, Brandy Station
- Mt. Zion Historic Park, Aldie
- Old Court House Civil War Museum, Winchester

Contact individual sites for additional information