

Heart of the Civil War



HEART OF THE CIVIL WAR HERITAGE AREA GUIDE

The HCWHA is ideally positioned to serve as your “base camp” for driving the popular Maryland Civil War Trails and visiting the battlefields and sites of Antietam, Gettysburg, Monocacy, South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.



The Mason-Dixon Line

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is adjacent to the Mason-Dixon Line, generally viewed as the dividing line between North and South. This geographic location offers opportunities to discuss both sides of the monumental conflict and to examine the unique experience of “border states” and individual communities that were divided in loyalty.

The initial population growth of today's Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties dates back to the 1730s–40s, with many German-born immigrants coming from Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, English and

Scots-Irish families moved into these counties from the south. These settlers from southeastern portions of Maryland assimilated smoothly with their Dutch brethren.

Slavery was found throughout this region but took on new meaning after Pennsylvania abolished the institution in 1781. The western part of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Ohio River became a border between free and slave states, although Delaware remained a slave state. By the 1850s, the Mason-Dixon Line symbolically became the cultural boundary between the Northern and Southern United States.

The Potomac River marked the southern boundary of Washington County and southwestern Frederick County. This famed waterway became the true dividing line between North and South but did little to separate many of the shared ideologies, such as slavery, between plantation owners living adjacent to the Maryland side of the river with their counterparts on the Virginia side.

At the Heart of it All...

While the word “heart” denotes the center or core of some thing or place, it also relates to three major Civil War themes found within this geographic area, exemplified by the images on this brochure's cover.

♥ **Intuition** and feelings that civilians on the “home front” had to grapple with as they decided to support the North or the South. At the Union Mills Homestead (in Carroll County, cover illustration at center), this struggle divided families.

♥ **Courage** to enter the violent hell of battle and continue fighting for the cause. The Dunker Church at Antietam National Battlefield (Washington County) saw some of the most intense fighting of America's bloodiest single day.

♥ **Compassion** toward others, clearly demonstrated by how the wounded and dying of both armies were treated by physicians, surgeons, and caregivers. Learn how by visiting the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

THE NEWCOMER HOUSE

The historic Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield serves as the HCWHA Exhibit and Visitor Center. The center provides information about the large concentration of Civil War sites in Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties and how visitors can further explore the heritage area's main themes: On the Homefront, In the Heat of Battle, and Beyond the Battlefield. Originally built in the 1780s as a part of a prosperous mill complex, the Newcomer House itself encompasses each of these themes. In the 1860s, the Newcomer family saw life changing as war loomed close, witnessed the ravages of Antietam, and after the battle the house was used as a hospital. Today, it is one of the few original homes on the battlefield that is open to the public.

The Newcomer House is located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756. It is open daily, May–October, from 11am–5pm. It is open weekends from 11am–5pm during April and November, and it is open 11am–5pm the first Saturday in December for the annual Memorial Illumination at Antietam. www.newcomerhouse.com

VISITOR QUESTIONS

Carroll County Visitor Center: (800) 272-1933 | Frederick Visitor Center: (800) 999-3613 | Washington County Visitor Center: (888) 257-2601
Heart of the Civil War Exhibit & Visitor Center: (301) 432-6402

ON THE *home front*

Visit the towns and homes of those who experienced the war firsthand. See what civilians saw. Feel what they felt. Try to comprehend why townspeople and other legendary figures of the era did what they did.

INTERESTING DOMICILES

One of the precipitating factors of the Civil War was the legendary Dred Scott vs Sanford case heard by the US Supreme Court in 1857. Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who launched his legal career in Frederick Town in 1801, delivered the landmark decision on behalf of the Court. Taney's gravesite is in St. John's RC Cemetery in Downtown Frederick. The Roger Brooke Taney House interprets a property once owned by the former Chief Justice and includes living quarters, a summer kitchen, and slaves quarters. Learn more about this man who swore in seven U.S. Presidents. Operated by the Historical Society of Frederick County, this site is open from 10am–4pm on Saturdays and 1–4pm on Sundays between April and mid-December. www.hsfinfo.org/taney/index.htm \$

At the Kennedy Farm House, see where John Brown stayed in 1859 prior to his ill-fated attack on the US Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Special tours of the house interior by appointment only: (202) 537-8900 or www.johnbrown.org. Donation

Stop by the Chesapeake and Ohio NHP Visitor Center at Ferry Hill Place where exhibits tell Civil War stories of the canal including the experiences of Ferry Hill resident Henry Kyd Douglas who grew up there and later served on Gen. Stonewall Jackson's staff during the Maryland Campaign. Situated on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River, along Rt. 34 near Sharpsburg. Check website for seasonal hours. www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/ferry-hill-place.htm

FREDERICK CITY

Frederick witnessed a steady stream of both Northern and Southern soldiers and full-blown military occupations of both armies from 1862 through 1864. In the last of these, CSA Gen. Jubal Early received his \$200,000 from the town. Historians believe that Early's ire with Frederick stemmed from his experience during Lee's Invasion in the fall of 1862 in which the Confederates received a "cold reception" by loyal townspeople, including flag-waving heroines Mary Quantrell, Nancy Crouse of nearby Middletown, and Barbara Fritchie. Walk down the same streets as Stonewall Jackson and see where Fritchie made history in downtown Frederick. Today Frederick warmly welcomes you to experience its 50-block historic district and a variety of shopping, dining, entertainment, and public art experiences. For a comprehensive listing of Frederick area special events, historic sites, restaurants and shops, visit the website of the Tourism Council of Frederick County www.fredericktourism.org.

UNION MILLS

Explore the 1797 Union Mills Homestead and Grist Mill of the German-descended Shriver family and learn about the split loyalties and troop interaction among area residents. One set of Shrivvers was strongly pro-Union, while relatives across the road favored the South. As the Battle of Gettysburg loomed, Confederate cavalry units on their way north stayed with the Southern-sympathizing Shrivvers. Almost as soon as J.E.B. Stuart's men rode off the next morning, Union troops set up camp with the Shrivvers across the road. Interestingly, the pro-Southern Shrivvers were not slave owners, while the pro-Union family did own slaves. Open June 1–September 1, Tuesday–Friday 10am–4pm and weekends 12 noon–4pm. Weekends only in May and September (Admission). For a listing of special weekend events planned from April–October, go to www.unionmills.org. \$

WESTMINSTER

Now a vibrant area full of restaurants and specialty shops, Union troops came to Downtown Westminster in August 1862 and arrested a number of local men accused of being secessionists. Just a few days before the Battle of Antietam, the town was occupied by Rebels. Unionists kept low profiles while Southern sympathizers entertained officers connected with a scouting party of Virginia Cavalry. Less than 10 months later, Gen. George Meade made Westminster a major Union supply depot on July 1, 1863—the opening day of the Battle of Gettysburg. An estimated 5,000 wagons, 30,000 mules, and 10,000 men were quartered in the town. A Confederate force visited Westminster again on July 9, 1864, when CSA cavalry under Marylander Harry Gilmor dashed into town and cut telegraph lines. Go to www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org for more information on special events, museum sites, retail and dining opportunities.

HAGERSTOWN

Divided loyalty, riots, sackings, a newspaper office burning, and other incidents took place in Hagerstown as passions erupted before and during the war years. Even "Little Heiskell," Hagerstown's symbolic weathervane of a Hessian soldier atop City Hall, could not escape the violence of war; a Rebel sharpshooter used it for target practice, shooting it through the heart. Today the weathervane is perched atop the Jonathan Hager House and Museum in Hagerstown City Park. Caught in the line of retreat, Hagerstown was the site of multiple skirmishes in the weeks following Gettysburg. Smallpox was a major problem during the war, with an outbreak spreading through the town. In 1864, Hagerstown avoided a Confederate torching by paying a \$20,000 ransom. Hagerstown now boasts several historic buildings, thriving retail stores, fabulous restaurants, and a busy calendar of exciting downtown events. Interpretive markers throughout the town share stories about Hagerstown's Civil War experience. The Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau provides valuable information on upcoming events, restaurant and shopping opportunities and historic/cultural attractions. Log onto the Visitor Bureau's site at www.marylandmemories.org for more information.

IN THE HEAT *of battle*

Walk the hallowed ground and landscape where armed conflicts occurred. Imagine the chaos, the carnage, and the fierce bravery.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

Stand where the first major battle on Northern soil took place, straddling the border between Frederick and Washington counties. After invading Maryland less than two weeks before, Gen. Lee divided his forces upon departing Frederick. The Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George McClellan reached Frederick on September 12, 1862 and pursued the Confederates, primarily over the National Road through Braddock Heights and Middletown to South Mountain. On September 14, pitched battles were fought for possession of the South Mountain passes: Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's gaps. By dusk, Confederate defenders were driven back. Among the dead were Union Gen. Jesse Reno and Confederate Gen. Samuel Garland, Jr. All three gaps are part of the seven-mile South Mountain State Battlefield, and are connected by the famed Appalachian Trail. South Mountain Battlefield is open daily 8am–4pm and features museums, special interpretive programs, and demonstrations throughout the summer months. Within the larger Battlefield area, Gathland State Park (near the village of Burkittsville) encompasses Crampton's Gap and includes the War Correspondents Memorial Arch. www.dnr.md.gov/publiclands/western/southmountain.html

ANTIETAM

For nearly 100 years after its founding in 1763, the village of Sharpsburg enjoyed a serene and peaceful existence. But the events of September 17, 1862 would change the place forever as the surrounding fields played host to the bloodiest single day battle in American history. The legendary engagement produced an estimated 23,000-plus casualties, more American losses than from the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Spanish-American War combined. Simple landmarks took on legendary status once the smoke of battle cleared, including the Cornfield, Dunker Church, the Sunken Road, and Burnside's Bridge. Although outnumbered two to one, Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia held off the Federals in what most historians consider an inconclusive outcome. Lee was forced to order his battered army to withdraw across the Potomac into the Shenandoah Valley. Open year round from 8:30am–5pm (6pm in summer), Antietam National Battlefield's Visitor Center offers films, ranger programs, museum, a bookstore, and driving tour maps. The roads of the park stay open until dusk. Visit www.nps.gov/anti for additional information. \$

SKIRMISHES

Interpretive markers tell of engagements between soldiers of both armies that occurred throughout the three-county area. Early in the war, Stonewall Jackson's troops met Union resistance at Hancock while trying to cripple the canal and railroad. Many other encounters preceded the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 with fighting around the northern Catoctin Mountain passes at Monterey and Blue Ridge Summit (PA). In Westminster on June 29, 1863, elements of the Union First Delaware Cavalry engaged the vanguard of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry. Though thoroughly lacking in experience and vastly outnumbered, companies C and D of the Delaware Regiment (109 men in all) rode to meet the head of the rebel column of 5000 horsemen. The brisk little cavalry fight became known as "Corbit's Charge" after Captain Charles Corbit. Following the Battle of Gettysburg, the weary Rebel Army troops were the object of numerous cavalry attacks as they retreated through Washington County toward the Potomac and Shenandoah Valley. Combat activity was recorded at Smithsburg, Hagerstown, Funkstown, Boonsboro, and Williamsport.

MONOCACY

Discover the Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor Center and the home of "The Battle that Saved Washington." After marching north through the Shenandoah Valley, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early crossed the Potomac River at Shepherdstown into Maryland on July 5 and 6, 1864. On July 9, 1864, a makeshift Union force under Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace attempted to arrest Early's invading Confederate divisions along the Monocacy River, just southeast of Frederick. Wallace's Federal troops were outflanked by Rebel forces and defeated, but hearing of Early's incursion into Maryland, Gen. Grant sent troops northward from Petersburg (VA). Wallace's defeat at Monocacy bought time for these troops to arrive to bolster the defenses of Washington. Early's advance reached the outskirts of Washington on the afternoon of July 11 but could not overpower the additional Union forces that were added that afternoon and evening. Recently, at Monocacy's Best Farm property, archaeologists excavated one of the largest slave habitations in the mid-Atlantic. Monocacy National Battlefield is open year round, 8:30am–5pm with park roads open until dusk. www.nps.gov/mono/

BEYOND THE *battlefield*

Discover how the wounded were cared for by local residents. Learn about the medical procedures used to treat the wounds of battle. Hear stories of compassion and struggles of the dying.

HOSPITAL CENTERS

As war raged for four years, local residents witnessed the human cost of the fighting. Thousands of soldiers were wounded in battles and skirmishes, and much of the area resembled one big hospital ward for most of the war. Large government tent hospitals were erected in fields, and many churches, homes, barns, schools, and other public buildings were also used to care for the sick and wounded. In the fall of 1862, just days after playing host to both armies during the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, Frederick was inundated with more than 9,000 wounded and sick soldiers.

Westminster and Hagerstown played similar roles in hospital care, as did smaller towns such as Boonsboro and Burkittsville. Future US President Rutherford B. Hayes recovered in a Middletown dwelling from wounds suffered at nearby South Mountain; future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes convalesced in Hagerstown at the Howard Kennedy home; and Paul Joseph Revere (inset), grandson of the famed Revolutionary War patriot, died in Westminster from wounds at Gettysburg. In October 1862, President Lincoln visited the wounded at Sharpsburg and Burkittsville and made a personal visit to see Gen. George L. Hartsuff, who was being cared for in a private home in Frederick. During the war, 600 sisters from a dozen religious communities served as nurses. Following Gettysburg, the Daughters of Charity were among the first at the battlefield to give aid to the wounded. Exhibits about the Daughters' Civil War caregiving may be seen at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

CEMETERIES

There were over 23,000 casualties at Antietam, including soldiers who were killed, wounded, missing, or captured. Burial details worked hard, but many graves were inadequately prepared, as many were simply shallow ditches for hundreds of bodies, marked only by crude wooden headstones. While some friends and relatives were able to transport their loved ones home, many men were left in the fields surrounding Sharpsburg. By 1864, many bodies were exposed, with no plan for re-interment. A bill was introduced in the Maryland Senate for dedicating a state or national cemetery at Sharpsburg for all Marylanders who died in the Maryland Campaign. However, bitterness and the South's inability to raise funds forced the cemetery to be dedicated only to Northern troops.

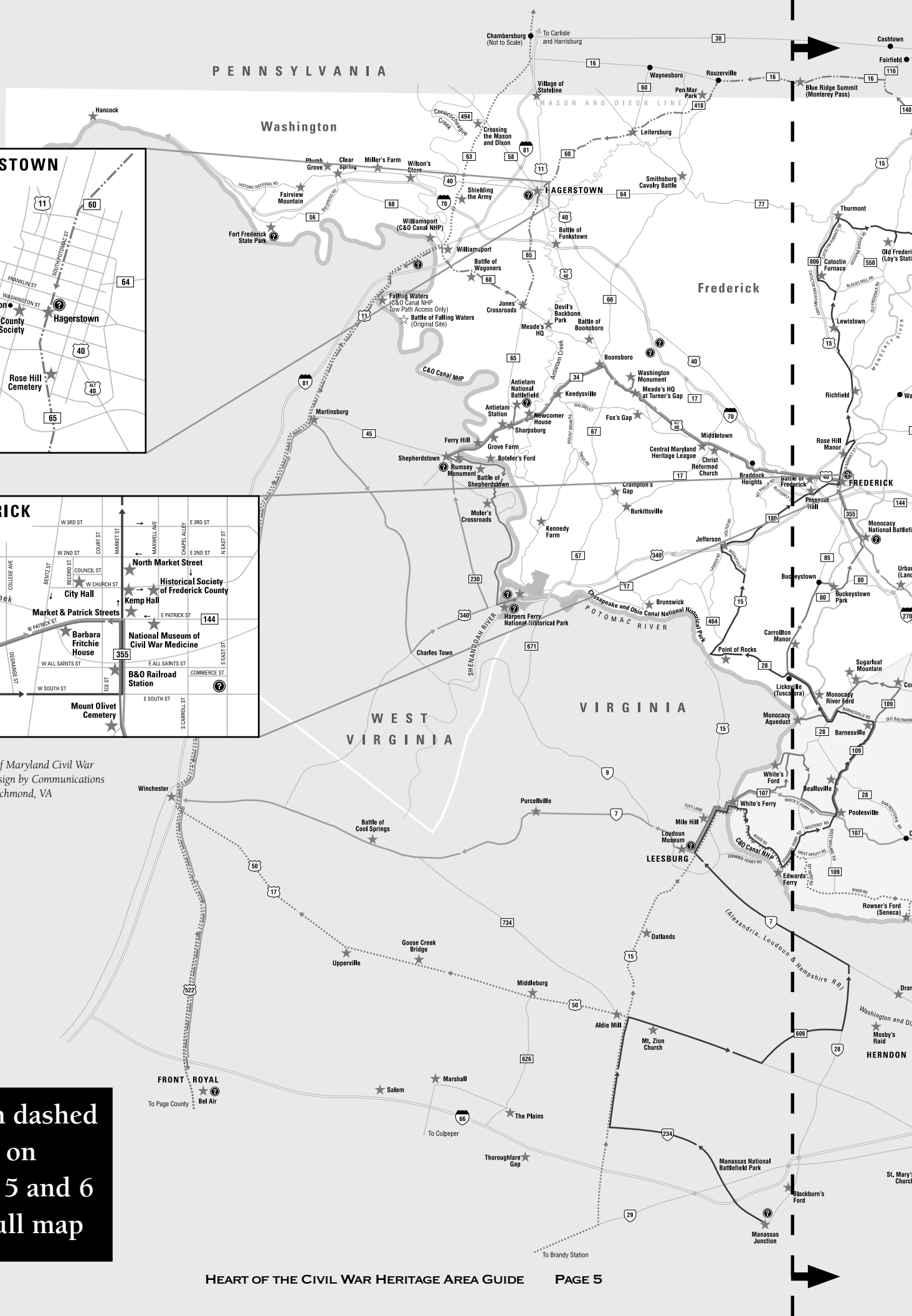
On September 17, 1867, the fifth anniversary of the battle, President Andrew Johnson and other dignitaries officially dedicated Antietam National Cemetery. Confederate remains for about 2,800 soldiers were re-interred in Washington Confederate Cemetery in Hagerstown, Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, and Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown (WV).

Union and Confederate soldiers can be found in many cemeteries and small churchyards throughout the heritage area. This includes men who served in colored regiments. Frederick's Laboring Sons Memorial Ground and Fairview Methodist Church Cemetery near New Windsor are the final resting places of several U.S. Colored Troops. The latter also includes interesting gravestones by "Boss" Hammond, a slave who is buried there and who bought his freedom by carving beautiful headstones. The Westminster grave pictured (below) marks one of two Confederate officers killed in Corbit's Charge. Tradition holds that the sycamore tree at Lt. John William Murray's head was planted to provide shade for the fallen soldier. Words cannot capture the emotional intensity of visiting the annual Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination ceremony the first Saturday evening in December. With luminaries to represent each of the Union and Confederate soldiers killed, wounded, or missing during the battle, it is a truly moving experience.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

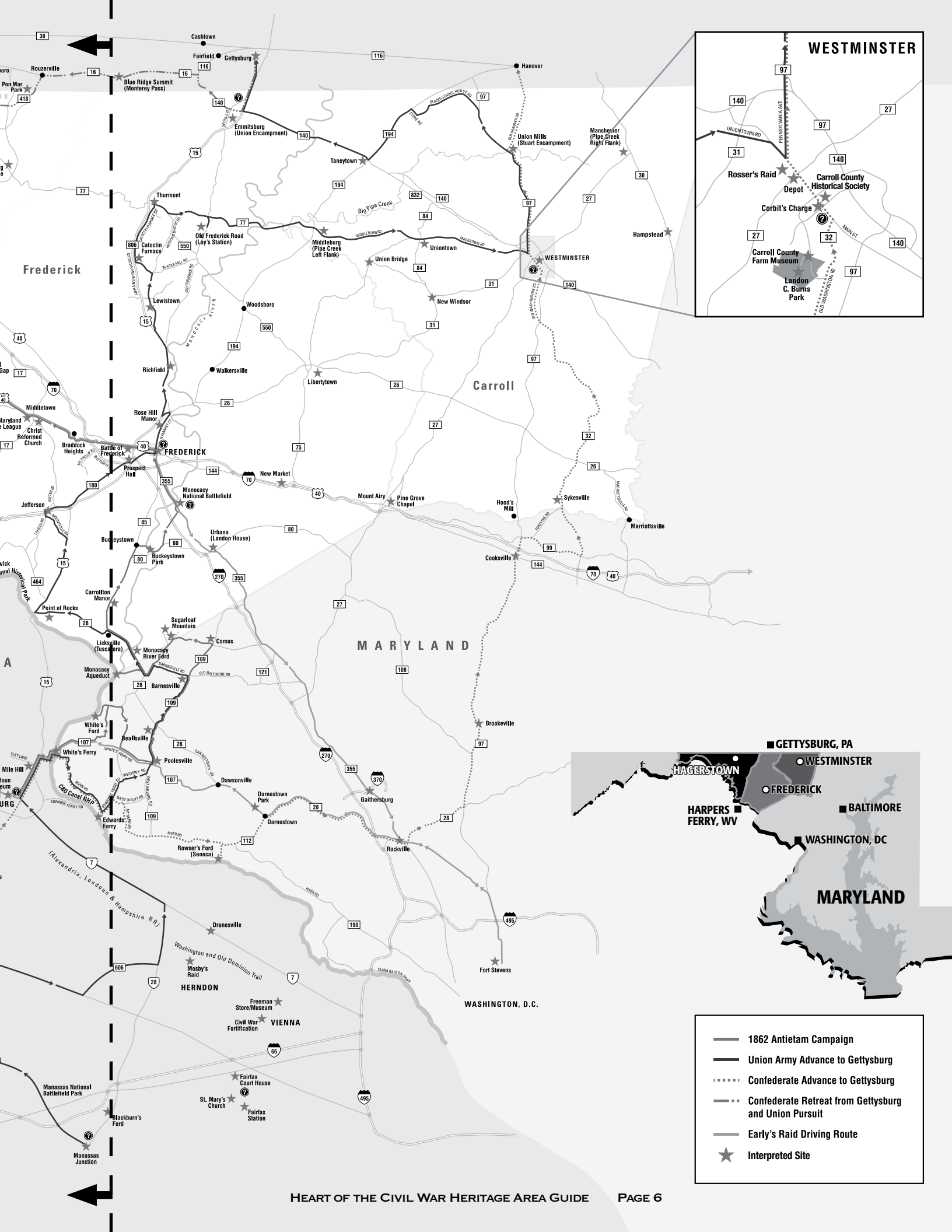
The National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) is located in Frederick. Through artifacts and illustrations, museum exhibits tell the story of the sick and wounded, surgical and care techniques, hospital structure, the role of nurses, and the challenges of field medicine. Open Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. \$

A satellite museum operated by NMCWM is the Pry House Field Hospital Museum, located on the grounds of Antietam National Battlefield (just east of the main park). Quartered in an historic farmhouse utilized by Maj. Gen. McClellan for his headquarters, the museum houses medical exhibits demonstrating the challenges faced at Antietam and a unique recreation of a field hospital. Open daily June–October 11am–5pm; May/November weekends only. www.civilwarmed.org Donation

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Map courtesy of Maryland Civil War Trails. Map Design by Communications Design, Inc., Richmond, VA

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lines on
page 5 and 6
for full map



LAY OF THE LAND

The geography of the HCWHA had great bearing on the events of the Civil War. Mountains were used for reconnaissance and defensive positions. The Potomac River and other waterways were utilized for defense and often determined campsite locations. Existing transportation routes, dictated by the landscape, were utilized by both armies traveling to and from battlegrounds. The famed Historic National Road runs east to west through all three Maryland counties and carried cavalry, infantry, and artillery in the same manner that it had carried early pioneers, immigrants, and goods. The HCWHA is also bisected by two more of the country's earliest transportation routes—the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad—paths of trade, commerce, and communication that connected western lands and resources to established metropolitan areas in the east. These arch-rivals first competed to concurrently cross at the same location a major tributary of the Potomac River, Catoctin Creek. After extensive renovations, the Catoctin Aqueduct is newly open to the public. Coveted by both armies, the vital transportation and supply links of the canal and railroad also became targeted for destruction to disrupt the other side. The Monocacy Aqueduct in southern Frederick County and the Conococheague Aqueduct in Washington County were eyed by Civil War artillery and demolition teams. The B&O was a constant victim of track destruction and cut telegraph lines.

CIVIL WAR TRAILS



Follow the “bugle signs” to more than 60 interpreted Civil War sites linked together within Maryland’s Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. The Maryland Civil War Trails program features individual routes focusing on the 1862 Maryland Campaign (Antietam) and the 1863 Gettysburg Invasion and Retreat. In addition, a new trail based on Jubal Early’s 1864 Raid on Washington D.C. is shown here on the map. These driving tours take you through the heritage area, connecting towns, battlefields, and other significant sites of the Civil War. Map guides and interpretive markers show the routes of troop movements and provide interesting stories and asides, many hidden within the landscape for 150 years. Civil War Trails Map/Guides are available at Maryland Welcome Centers, County Visitor Centers and the HCWHA Exhibit & Visitor Center at the historic Newcomer House. For more information and downloadable maps, go to www.civilwartrails.org.

■ OCTOBER 16, 1859

John Brown’s Raid on
Harpers Ferry, VA (now WV)

■ SEPTEMBER 4, 1862

Gen. Lee crosses Potomac and enters Maryland
(Beginning of Maryland Campaign)

■ APRIL 12, 1861

Fort Sumter in Charleston
Harbor, SC is fired upon

■ SEPTEMBER 14, 1862

Battle of South Mountain, MD

■ SEPTEMBER 17, 1862

Battle of Antietam, MD

PRE-WAR EVENTS

As a border state with a sizeable pro-Southern constituency, Maryland was a crucial linchpin for both the preservation of the Union as well as the Southern strategy for independence. The significance of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area to the Civil War began long before the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861. Issues of slavery and states rights had strong ties to the nearby Mason-Dixon Line, the 1857 Dred Scott decision, John Brown’s ill-fated insurrection plot at Harpers Ferry, and the hotly contested Presidential election of 1860. Marylanders faced the choice of remaining with the Union or seceding with the South. The state was predominantly pro-Union, but, to ensure the state’s loyalty Abraham Lincoln advised Maryland Governor Thomas Hicks to convene the 1861 General Assembly in Frederick, where Union sentiment was stronger than in Annapolis. The General Assembly met in Frederick’s Kemp Hall in the spring and summer of 1861 but sputtered to a halt in September after Federal soldiers arrested many pro-Southern legislators to ensure Maryland’s loyalty. With these delegates arrested prior to reaching Frederick, a quorum could not be reached and a vote on secession could not be taken.

1862 ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN

After experiencing success at the Second Battle of Manassas in August 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee invaded Western Maryland, hoping to rally Confederate support, resupply his army, and gain foreign recognition for the Confederacy. Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties soon became occupied by troops of the Southern army. The Union army under Gen. George McClellan arrived on the scene and pursued the Rebels toward the west. McClellan was aided by the amazing discovery of Special Orders No. 191, which outlined Lee’s campaign strategy. The first experience of major battle occurred on September 14 atop South Mountain, the boundary between Frederick and Washington counties. Lee’s hopes were dashed three days later at Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, and he retreated back over the Potomac into Virginia. Five days after the Battle of Antietam, on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. With that, the Union’s war aim expanded from reunification to become a moral crusade to free the enslaved.

■ **JUNE 15, 1863**
Confederate Army crosses Potomac at
Williamsport, MD (*Beginning of Gettysburg Campaign*)

■ **JUNE 29, 1863**
Corbit's Charge at Westminster, MD

■ **JULY 1–3, 1863**
Battle of Gettysburg, PA

■ **APRIL 9, 1865**
Gen. Lee surrenders to Gen.
Grant at Appomattox, VA

■ **JULY 11, 1864**
Confederate attack repelled at
Fort Stevens, Washington, DC

■ **JULY 9, 1864**
Battle of Monocacy, MD

■ **JULY 4–14, 1863**
Confederate retreat through
Washington County, MD

■ **JULY 5–6, 1864**
Gen. Early's forces cross into Maryland from
Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, WV

1863 GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN

Following Lee's victory at Chancellorsville (VA) in May 1863, Gen. Lee marched through the Shenandoah Valley with a plan to invade the North. He reached Pennsylvania, sending a feeling of panic throughout the Northern states. In Frederick, Union Gen. George G. Meade was given command of the Army of the Potomac. He led his troops northward toward the Mason-Dixon Line and made Taneytown (Carroll County) his headquarters. Meade designed a defensive strategy utilizing nearby Pipe Creek, and Carroll County became a primary transportation, supply, camping, and staging ground for the US forces. Meade and Lee's armies faced off at Gettysburg in an epic three-day battle. Once again, the Confederate tide was turned back, and Washington County was traversed by the retreating Rebels.

1864 JUBAL EARLY'S RAID

In the spring of 1864, Union commander-in-chief Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched simultaneous attacks against the Confederates throughout the South. He succeeded in maneuvering Gen. Lee closer to Richmond (VA) and finally besieged him in the CSA's capital city and at nearby Petersburg. Confederate Gen. Jubal Early took Rebel forces north in a desperate attempt to turn the tide by capturing Washington, D.C. Confederate soldiers disembarked trains at Martinsburg (WV) and crossed into Maryland near Sharpsburg. Towns such as Hagerstown, Middletown, and Frederick were ransomed by the invaders in an effort to collect money and supplies for the ragged Southern army. After collecting \$200,000 from the town fathers of Frederick, Early's Rebels were stalled by Gen. Lew Wallace and a hastily assembled Union force at the Battle of Monocacy. Although the Confederates were victorious in this conflict, they failed in achieving their final objective as Union defenses around Washington DC had been replenished and strengthened.