

Top Ten Sesquicentennial Experiences

Civil War 150: THE HEART OF THE CIVIL WAR

Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties

Every day of the year there is an opportunity for visitors to discover something new in Maryland's Heart of the Civil War Heritage area. With one foot in the north, and one foot in the south, the story of the Civil War, its causes, battles, heroes and villains...its very meaning can be told nowhere better than here.

(Note: Events and times are subject to change.)

- 1. Civil War Trails.** A sojourn along Maryland's Civil War Trails retraces the steps of Union and Confederate soldiers en route to battles at Antietam and Gettysburg. More than 60 HCWHA sites along the *Antietam Campaign Trail* and *Gettysburg Invasion and Retreat Trail*, relate home front, military and care giving experiences at storied locations interpreting history where it happened. Pick up Civil War Trails map guides at any of our visitor centers (see right), or visit their websites for downloadable versions.
- 2. Frederick** hosted the Maryland Legislature which met here in special session for the first and only time in 1861 - when was secession debated but not resolved (Southern leaning legislators were arrested leaving no quorum for a vote!). Later, the city witnessed a steady stream of Northern and Southern soldiers and full-blown military occupations from both armies, from 1862-1864. Several museums and historic sites offer Civil War exhibits, including interpretation of events that led up to war and post-battle care of the wounded and dead. Each July a *Civil War Encampment at Rose Hill Manor Park* (July 14 & 15 in 2012), with programs for all ages, recalls the encampments that took place there by Confederate troops in the fall of 1862, and by Federal troops in the summer of 1863. Besides numerous ways to explore history, Frederick offers a variety of shopping, dining, entertainment and public art experiences for Civil War travelers to enjoy.
- 3. Hagerstown** is where near riots, a newspaper office burning and other incidents took place as passions erupted before and during the war years. The *Miller House, headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society*, recently opened a new exhibit that explores how Union and Confederate armies impacted Washington County. In June 2012 the *Washington County Museum of Fine Arts* opens an extensive exhibit featuring artifacts and works of art of various media, examining themes of combat, military life, medicine, related history of African Americans, women and children, music and literature. Downtown Hagerstown boasts historic buildings, thriving retail stores, great restaurants, and a system of *interpretive markers that focus on local Civil War stories* as a complement Civil War Trails. Hagerstown will host the *2012 First Call weekend* (June 16 & 17) with programs and activities highlighting the Maryland Campaign and visitor opportunities in all three counties. First Call is the bugle call to attention. Westminster will host First Call in 2013, followed by Frederick in 2014.
- 4. Westminster** offers a vibrant visitor experience, infused with Civil War history. Two not-to-be missed annual events are May's *Civil War Living History Reenactment at the Carroll County Farm Museum* (May 5 & 6 in 2012), where various regiments will occupy grounds surrounding the family farmhouse, and the *Corbit's Charge Commemoration* in downtown Westminster on the last weekend of each June. Both events include a variety of interpretive programs, demonstrations, tours, period entertainment and more. Nowhere is the border state experience of divided loyalties in families more striking than at *Union Mills Homestead*. Annual encampments (July 21-22 in 2012) relive some of these times surrounding the Battle of Gettysburg. In addition to being rich in history and tradition, the charming small-town setting of downtown Westminster provides unique shopping, superb dining, and cultural experiences for visitors of all ages.

(Continued on reverse)



Begin your visit to the Heart of the Civil War at one of our local visitor centers:

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Exhibit and Visitor Center at the historic Newcomer House Antietam National Battlefield www.heartofthecivilwar.org
(301) 432-6402

Carroll County Visitor Center
www.carrollcountytourism.org
800-272-1933

Frederick Visitor Center
www.fredericktourism.org
800-999-3613

Washington County Visitor Center
www.marylandmemories.org
888-257-2600

Other ongoing activities...

Exhibits, lecture series, driving and walking tours, guided hikes, interpretive programs and opportunities to see archeological excavations are offered by museums, state and national parks, arts organizations and Main Street communities.

Annual events such as *Museums by Candlelight* (first weekend each December in Frederick County), the *Civil War in Maryland Annual Conference* (each March in Carroll County), *Bell and History Day* (first Saturday each April in Frederick County), the *Museum Ramble* (first weekend in May in Washington County) and the *Salute to Independence* (first Saturday in July at Antietam Battlefield with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra) also provide enjoyable ways to engage with Civil War history at local museums and historic sites.

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is a Maryland certified heritage area including portions of Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties, and comprising the Maryland portion of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

For more information visit www.heartofthecivilwar.org or contact Elizabeth Scott Shatto, Director, at 301-600-4042 or info@heartofthecivilwar.org.

- 5. South Mountain State Battlefield** is where the first major battle on Northern soil took place. Numerous guided hikes, interpretive programs and artillery demonstrations are offered throughout the year at Washington Monument and Gathland state parks, situated at two of the famous gaps. September brings the *annual Battle of South Mountain anniversary weekend* when the park offers a variety of public activities, including Battlefield hikes (see The Maryland Campaign, below).
- 6. Antietam National Battlefield** is where pastoral, peaceful Sharpsburg became the location of the bloodiest single day battle in American history. Battle anniversary commemorations occur each September, with the *150th commemoration* scheduled for September 14-17, 2012. In-depth hikes (several, including some that follow the events of the battle in real time), artillery demonstrations, ranger programs, living history interpretations and special guest speakers are planned. On the actual anniversary, September 17, a moment of silence will be observed at noon, cannon will fire hourly from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., and a reading of the names of the dead will take place at Antietam National Cemetery. A number of other special events are planned throughout the year, including programs on *the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation* set for September 22, 2012. The strategic northern victory at Antietam prompted President Lincoln to issue his edict to emancipate slaves in occupied territories. The annual *Memorial Illumination*, with 23,110 luminaries, represents the battle's casualties in a beautiful and poignant tribute. Special guided tours of the Illumination by motor coach are offered by the Hagerstown-Washington County CVB. The Illumination takes place on the first Saturday of each December.
- September 8-22, 2012: The 150th Anniversary of the Maryland Campaign**, including the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam, will be the focus of a multi-layered program presented in numerous locations throughout the heritage area. State and National Parks, museums and libraries, the towns of Frederick, Middletown, Boonsboro, and Hagerstown and numerous other partner organizations will explore home front stories, the heat of battle, and the aftermath of conflict through reenactments, speakers, period concerts, Civil War balls, tours, and much more. For details, visit www.marylandcampaign150.org.
- 7. C & O Canal National Historical Park** - The C&O Canal runs alongside the Potomac River, a dividing line between the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War. Strategically important to both sides - the Union army used the canal for the movement of war materials and troops, while Confederates tried to damage canal aqueducts and impair boat traffic. Several campaigns were fought on or near the canal. **Three beautiful aqueducts** -engineering marvels with Civil War survival stories to share - may be visited in the Heart of the Civil War - **Monocacy** and **Catoctin** in Frederick County and **Conococheague** in Washington County. The park partners with heritage area Canal Towns such as **Brunswick**, and **Hancock**, on Civil War interpretation and events such as the *Commemoration of the Bombardment of Hancock* (January 6-8, 2012). Also popular is the annual *Retreat through Williamsport* (July 13, 14, & 15 in 2012) that explores the town's experience from July 5-14, 1863, after the Battle of Gettysburg. Highlights include storytelling and music by bonfire and an interpreted 5-mile "March to Falling Waters" in which participants follow the retreat of the Confederate Army through letters and diaries of Southern and Northern soldiers.
- 8. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** - Much of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is located in Washington County, Maryland, in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. From the spark that ignited the conflict in 1859 - John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry - to the largest surrender of Federal troops during the war, to the education of newly freed slaves after the war, this area was integral to every aspect of the Civil War. A number of 150th anniversary commemorations are planned, including programs related to the Battle of Harpers Ferry (1862) and those that focus on the significance of Maryland Heights, Harpers Ferry and Loudoun Heights prior to the Battle of Gettysburg (1863), and the role of Maryland Heights and Harpers Ferry in delaying Jubal Early's march on Washington (1864). In 2013 a yearlong exhibition, *Forever Free*, will highlight the refocused war effort following the Maryland Campaign and the Union commitment to ending slavery. In 2015, *The Freedman's Bureau, Educating the Newly Freed Slaves and the Prelude to Storer College*, will offer a full year of activities and an exhibit.
- 9. Monocacy National Battlefield** - Known as the "Battle that Saved Washington," this was the final Confederate effort to move the war into the north. The battle anniversary is observed with programs each year; the *150th commemoration* is planned for July 9-13, 2014. Before this land saw battle, it played a significant role in 1862, prior to the Battle of Antietam, when a copy of *Robert E. Lee's Special Orders #191* was lost in a farmer's field and later found - wrapped around a few cigars - by passing Union soldiers. The original "Lost Orders" will find their way back to the area, on loan from the Library of Congress, in a special exhibit at the Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor Center, August-October, 2012. An even earlier history of the property is being unearthed now, a powerful reminder of one of the chief causes of the Civil War. At Monocacy's Best Farm, the *largest known slave habitation site in the Mid-Atlantic region* has been found. Visitors are welcome to visit the excavation when archaeologists are on site.
- 10. National Museum of Civil War Medicine** - A visit to any of this museum's locations yields surprises and the discovery that *"Civil War Medicine - It's Not What you Think!"* Whether viewing immersion exhibits at the *main site in Frederick*, which was once an embalming center for victims of the war, or displays at the *Pry House Field Hospital near Sharpsburg*, also General McClellan's headquarters for a time, visitors will learn stories of compassion that knew no boundaries, courage, and innovations in medicine and crisis management that changed the face of modern medicine and provided the foundation for practices used today in military and civilian settings. Something special is happening on nearly every weekend of the year.