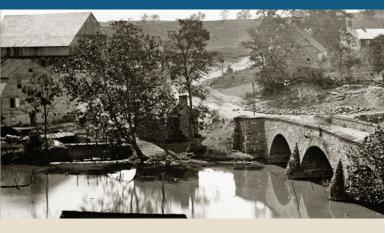


# **★** The **NEWCOMER** House ★



PICTURED ABOVE The roof of the Newcomer House can be seen in the upper portion of this photograph by Alexander Gardner taken shortly after the Battle of Antietam in 1862. National Archives.

The historic Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield, built in the 1780s as a part of a mill complex, serves as the HCWHA Exhibit and Visitor Center. The Newcomer family witnessed the ravages of war firsthand during the



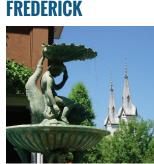
Battle of Antietam in September 1862. The house was restored following the Secretary of Interior's standards for preservation in the 1990s. In 2010, it opened to the public under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, Heart of the Civil War, and Visit Hagerstown & Washington County. The visitor center at the Newcomer House provides information about historic sites in Maryland's Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties.

*More info: heartofthecivilwar.org/newcomer-house* 







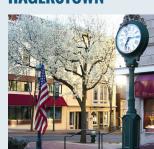


Frederick acted as Maryland's temporary capital when lawmakers debated secession in 1861. It experienced occupations of both armies from 1862 through 1864, when it was ransomed for \$200,000 by CSA Gen. Jubal Early. His ire with Frederick stemmed from the fall of 1862, when Confederates led by Lee

received a "cold reception" from townspeople. Today, visitors can enjoy shopping, dining, entertainment, and public art in the city's well-preserved 50-block historic district and brush up on local history at institutions such as the Museum of Frederick County History.

*More info: visitfrederick.org* 

#### **HAGERSTOWN**



Hagerstown witnessed riots. sackings, a newspaper office burning. and the largest urban cavalry battle of the Civil War. Caught in the line of retreat, Hagerstown was the site of multiple skirmishes in the weeks ollowing Gettysburg. In 1864, Hagerstown avoided a Confederate torching by paying a \$20,000

ransom. Today, it boasts a thriving arts & entertainment district with retail shops, restaurants, a busy calendar of events, and community landmarks such as the Washington County Historical Society's Miller House. Markers throughout the town share Hagerstown's Civil War history.

*More info: visithagerstown.com* 

# **UNION MILLS**



Explore Union Mills Homestead, home to six generations of the Shriver family. The grounds, located 17 miles south of Gettysburg, include the 1797 house, a working grist mill, and blacksmith, carpenter and miller's shops. During the Civil War, the Shriver family embodied Maryland's

split loyalties. Staunch Unionist Andrew Shriver owned slaves. His brother William did not own slaves but supported the Southern cause; four of his sons served for the Confederacy. As the Battle of Gettysburg loomed. William's family hosted Confederate cavalry units on their way north. When J.E.B. Stuart's men rode off the next morning, Union troops set up camp with Andrew across the road.

*More info: unionmills.org* 

# WESTMINSTER



Westminster was occupied by Union troops in August 1862, who arrested local men accused of being secessionists; just days before the Battle of Antietam in September, the town was occupied by Confederates. Gen. George Meade made Westminster a major Union supply depot on July 1, 1863—the opening day

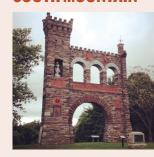
of the Battle of Gettysburg. An estimated 5.000 wagons, 30,000 mules, and 10,000 men were quartered on fields near what is now the Carroll County Farm Museum. A Confederate force visited Westminster again on July 9, 1864, when CSA cavalry under Marylander Harry Gilmor cut telegraph lines. Now a vibrant area with restaurants and specialty shops, these and many more stories can be found at the Historical Society of Carroll County.

*More info: carrollcountytourism.org* 

#### OTHER TOWNS

In addition to the three county seats, historic villages and Main Street communities throughout the Heart of the Civil War give visitors a sense of everyday life in the 19th century. Markers, plaques, and brochures acquaint travelers with towns such as Boonsboro, Emmitsburg, Middletown, Taneytown, Union Bridge, and Williamsport.

# **SOUTH MOUNTAIN**

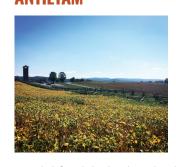


The first major battle on Northern soil took place here in September 1862. After invading Maryland less than two weeks before, Gen. Robert E. Lee divided his forces upon departing Frederick. The Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George McClellan reached Frederick and pursued the Confederates, primarily over the

National Road through Braddock Heights and Middletown. On September 14, possession of the South Mountain passes—Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's gaps—led to pitched battles and the 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 South Mountain State Battlefield and are connected by the Appalachian Trail.

More info: dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/ western/southmountainbattlefield.aspx

#### ANTIETAM

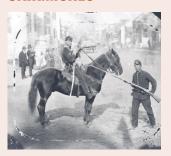


For nearly 100 years after its founding in 1763, the village of Sharpsburg enjoyed a serene existence. But September 17, 1862 would change the place forever as the surrounding fields were witness to the bloodiest single day battle in American history. The legendary engagement resulted in over 23,000 soldiers being killed or

wounded. Simple landmarks took on legendary status once the smoke of battle cleared, including the Cornfield, Dunker Church, the Sunken Road, and Burnside's Bridge. Lee was forced to order his battered army to withdraw across the Potomac into the Shenandoah Valley. Five days after the battle, President Abraham Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation—shifting the aims of war from preservation of the Union to the abolition of slavery.

*More info: nps.gov/anti* 

#### **SKIRMISHES**



**COURTESY OF U.S. MILITARY** HISTORY INSTITUTE

Skirmishes took place 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. Fighting around the northern Catoctin Mountain passes preceded the Battle of Gettysburg. In Westminster on June 29, 1863, elements of the Union 1st Delaware Cavalry engaged Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry. Though lacking in experience, companies C and D of the Delaware Regiment (109

men in all) met a column of 5,000 horsemen. The brisk fight became known as "Corbit's Charge" after Captain Charles Corbit. Following the Battle of Gettysburg, weary CSA Army troops were attacked as they retreated through Cearfoss, Smithsburg, Hagerstown, Funkstown, Boonsboro, and Williamsport. The Battle of West Frederick, just two days before action at Monocacy in July 1864, turned back the Confederates' attempted occupation of Frederick.

More info: crossroadsofwar.org

#### MONOCACY



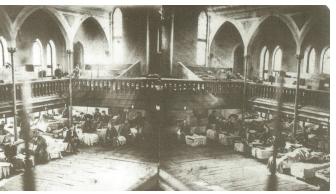
Monocacy is remembered as "the battle that saved Washington." After marching through the Shenandoah Valley, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early crossed the Potomac into Maryland on July 5 and 6.1864. On July 9, a makeshift Union force under Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace attempted to stop Early's Confederate

divisions along the Monocacy River just southeast of Frederick. Wallace's troops were outflanked and defeated. Hearing of Early's incursion, Gen. Grant sent troops from Petersburg (VA). Wallace's defeat at Monocacy bought time to bolster the Union defenses of Washington. Early's advance reached the outskirts of Washington on July 11 but could not overpower the additional Union forces. Today a national park, recent archaeological excavations at Monocacy National Battlefield have uncovered one of the largest slave habitations in the mid-Atlantic.

More info: nps.gov/mono

#### **HOSPITAL CENTERS**

As war raged for four years, local residents witnessed the human cost of the fighting. Thousands of soldiers were wounded in nearby battles and skirmishes, causing much of the area to resemble "one vast hospital." The government erected medical tents in fields to care for the sick and wounded and established hospitals in many churches, homes, barns, schools, and other public buildings.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FREDERICK

After the battles of South Mountain and Antietam in the fall of 1862. Frederick was inundated with more than 9,000 wounded and sick soldiers. The city's General Hospital No. 1. established in the Revolutionary-era barracks for Hessian prisoners, operated throughout the war; today, the surviving Barracks building sits on the Maryland School for the Deaf campus. Westminster and Hagerstown played similar roles in care, as did smaller towns such as Burkittsville—where the South Mountain Heritage Society has restored the Resurrection Reformed Church to its 1896 appearance. Future President Rutherford B. Hayes recovered in Middletown from wounds suffered at nearby South Mountain; future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes convalesced in Hagerstown; and Paul Joseph Revere, grandson of the famed Revolutionary War patriot, died in Westminster from wounds he sustained at Gettysburg. In October 1862, President Lincoln visited the wounded at Sharpsburg and Burkittsville and made a personal visit to 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 can be seen at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

More info: setonshrine.org/civil-war-sisters

#### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR MEDICINE



The National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM), located in the historic Carty building in downtown Frederick, tells the medical story of the Civil War—a story of courage, care, and healing amidst America's bloodiest war. Visitors will discover the harsh circumstances and personal sacrifices of soldiers and surgeons,

whose brilliant innovations continue to save lives today. Exhibitions explore the often-surprising side of Civil War medicine, including triage, ammunition and amputations, and anesthesia. Special after-hours events, walking tours, and lectures are offered regularly.

*More info: civilwarmed.org* 

### PRY HOUSE FIELD HOSPITAL MUSEUM



The Pry House, located on the grounds of Antietam National Battlefield, interprets the structure's use as the headquarters of Maj. Gen. McClellan as well as a field hospital. Samuel Pry owned this farmhouse and a grist mill in 1862, and both his land and his brother Philip's nearby property were converted to Union

hospitals just after the battle. Exhibitions at the museum recall the achievements of Jonathan Letterman, whose innovation and reorganization of the Union Army's Medical Corps during the chaotic battles of 1862 made him a hero of Civil War medicine. The house, barn, and grounds, just east of the main battlefield park, make a great destination for student groups.

*More info: civilwarmed.org/pry* 

#### RECONSTRUCTION



The Confederate surrender at Appomattox (VA) in April 1865 ushered in both relief and confusion. Property damage caused a large financial strain on everyday citizens. Maryland men who had fought for the Confederacy often faced hostilities upon returning home. Because Maryland had not

After the bloody battle of Antietam,

countless men were left in the fields

surrounding Sharpsburg. 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,

seceded from the Union, it was not subject to the wide-ranging policies known as Reconstruction.

The most resounding impact was the emancipation of an estimated four million enslaved Americans. While President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued just after the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, it only dealt with the states in rebellion. Enslaved Marylanders finally tasted freedom on November 1, 1864. Without any formal education and little means of supporting themselves, this population faced enormous new challenges. The War Department established the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to provide education and relief in the form of food, clothing, medical care, housing, and legal assistance.

#### *More info: crossroadsofwar.org*

Documentation survives for 25 Freedmen's Bureau schools in the Heart of the Civil War. Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg (pictured above) was home to the "American Union" Freedmen's Bureau school from 1868 until 1870. The church, which double as a schoolhouse, has been restored to its Reconstruction-era appearance. Tolson's Chapel is open to visitors during special programs and by appointment.

More info: tolsonschapel.org

# **CEMETERIES**



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Cemetery in Shepherdstown (WV).

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 dedicated Antietam National Cemetery. The remains of 2,800 Confederate soldiers were re-interred in Washington Confederate Cemetery (now part of Rose Hill Cemetery) in Hagerstown, Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, and Elmwood

Civil War soldiers, including U.S. Colored Troops veterans, can be found in cemeteries such as Frederick's Laboring Sons Memorial Ground and small churchyards like Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg and Fairview Methodist near New Windsor. The latter features gravestones by "Boss" Hammond, who bought his freedom by carving beautiful headstones.

## **CIVIL WAR MEMORY**



Those who had endured the Civil War began commemorating its toll immediately after battle. Writers, photographers and illustrators documented the scenes of battle and soon, curious sightseers began visiting these sites. Communities dedicated monuments and national cemeteries sought to honor the Union

dead in an official manner. By the 1890s, commemorations were guided by sectional reconciliation—at the expense of recognizing African American contributions to the war effort. The countless monuments erected in the 150+ years since the war reflect more about the time they were created rather than the actual individuals etched into stone. Ongoing debates provoke discourse on questions of freedom and human dignity.

*More info: crossroadsofwar.org* 

Visitors can honor those who gave the "last full measure of devotion" throughout the Heart of the Civil War, including the annual Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination on the first Saturday in December. With luminaries to represent each of the soldiers killed, wounded, or missing during the battle, it is a truly moving experience. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and battle anniversaries are especially poignant times to visit.

Maryland's Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (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 Heart of the Civil War includes portions of Maryland's Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties and is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. Stop by or contact any of our Visitor Centers to learn how you can experience Civil War Maryland. www.heartofthecivilwar.org









#### **VISITOR CENTERS**

Carroll County Visitor Center 1838 Emerald Hill Lane Westminster, MD 21157 (800) 272-1933

carrollcountytourism.org Heart of the Civil War Exhibit & Visitor Center at Newcomer House 18422 Shepherdstown Pike Keedysville, MD 21756 (301) 432-6402 www.heartofthecivilwar.org/

newcomer-house

Frederick Visitor Center 151 S. East Street, Frederick, MD 21701 (800) 999-3613 visitfrederick.org

**Washington County Visitor** Welcome Center 6 N. Potomac Street Hagerstown, MD 21740 (888) 257-2601 x10 visithagerstown.com

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Carroll County





# The MASON-DIXON Line



The Heart of the Civil War sits just below the Mason-Dixon Line, the official Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary line surveyed by Mason and Dixon in 1768. Generally viewed as the dividing line between North and South, this location offers opportunities to discuss both sides of the monumental conflict and to examine the unique experience of a border state with divided loyalties.

The initial European settlement 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 the area from southeastern Maryland. Tension over the slavery debate increased in the region after Pennsylvania abolished the practice in 1781.

The Mason-Dixon Line and Ohio River became a border between free and slave states, although Delaware remained a slave state. By the 1850s, the Mason-Dixon Line became the cultural boundary between the Northern and Southern United States. The Potomac River marked the southern boundary of Maryland in Frederick and Washington counties. This famed waterway became the true dividing line between North and South but did little to separate many of the shared ideologies between plantation owners on both sides of the river.





As a border state with a sizeable pro-Southern constituency, Maryland was a crucial lynchpin 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 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 in October 1859, and the hotly

contested Presidential election of 1860. Radical abolitionist John Brown prepared for his raid at the Kennedy Farmhouse, south of Sharpsburg, under the alias "Isaac Smith." Marylanders faced the choice of remaining with the Union or seceding with the South. To ensure its 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.



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 were soon occupied by the Southern army. The Union army under Gen. George McClellan arrived on the scene and pursued the Confederates toward the west. Maryland Heights, on the cliff overlooking Harpers Ferry,

became a strategic target for both sides: the Union army occupied this position from September 19, 1862 through the end of the war. 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. 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 over the Potomac into Virginia the following day. Five days after the Battle of Antietam, on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. With that, the Union's war aims expanded from reunification of the United States to a moral crusade to free the enslaved.



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 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 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

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 Confederates.





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 his forces north in a desperate attempt to turn the tide by capturing Washington, D.C. Confederate soldiers disembarked from trains at Martinsburg (WV) and crossed into Maryland. 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. The towns of Hancock and Westminster were spared before Confederates could collect ransoms there. After collecting \$200,000 from the town fathers of Frederick, Early's men 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.