

STRATEGIC

BATTLEFIELD SITES OF THE CIVIL WAR



COMMEMORATING THE **150**TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

LEARN MORE AT VISITFAUQUIER.COM



About Fauquier County

At the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, just 45 minutes from Washington, D.C., Fauquier County has managed to maintain its small-town feel and pristine countryside, with a sophistication influenced by its location.



Heart of Virginia's Horse and Wine Country

Rich in history, Fauquier County is also known as Virginia's Horse and Wine Country. Known for its equestrian tradition such as fox hunting, Virginia and International Gold Cup races, horse shows, point-to-point races, and numerous horse farms, Fauquier is quickly becoming known as wine country as well. But there's more to Fauquier County than just majestic horses and great Virginia wine.



Unique Attractions Abound

Throughout this historic County, unique attractions abound, including private bed & breakfasts, spas, over 25 wineries & vineyards, museums, traditional & boutique farms, cattle drives & trail rides, The Flying Circus, unique shops & restaurants, and numerous outdoor activities like bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing and fishing.



'Hallowed Grounds' Offer Look into History at Every Turn

The rolling land, traversed by wooden fences and old stone walls that speak of history, hide the quaint towns and villages that instill the special character of this unique place. In addition to its many small villages, Fauquier County has three incorporated towns, including The Plains, Remington, and Warrenton, the County seat.

These historic communities, each with its own character, offer ample opportunities for visitors to lose themselves and explore, discovering unique shopping and dining experiences with scenic views along the way.

Want more information about Fauquier County in the Civil War?

Request your free Fauquier County Civil War Heritage brochure with more historical information and three different history driving tours. Call (800)-820-1021 or visit www.FauquierCivilWar.com.

Want more information about Fauquier County in the Civil War?

Request your free Fauquier County Civil War Heritage brochure with additional historical information and three different history driving tours.

Warrenton-Fauquier County Visitor Center

33 N. Calhoun Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 341-0988
(800) 820-1021

www.VisitFauquier.com
www.FauquierBusiness.com
www.FauquierCivilWar.com



Fauquier County Department of Economic Development

35 Culpeper Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 422-8270
Fax (540) 422-8269



www.virginiacivilwar.org

Virginia is for Lovers

www.virginia.org

This information is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior. Information was compiled by History Associates, Inc. for Fauquier County Community, in collaboration with the American Battlefields Protection Program, grant GA-2255-07-008. This brochure has been paid for in part by a Virginia Tourism Corporation Sesquicentennial Marketing Leverage Grant.

Fauquier County sits in the heart of the Civil War

With its proximity to Washington, DC and the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, Fauquier County saw troop movements and frequent occupation. The occupation of Fauquier changed hands over 67 times during the Civil War. Twelve battlefield sites, countless troop movements, encampments, and skirmishes took place throughout this land, which lies at the heart of America's 'Hallowed Grounds' of Civil War history. From Stonewall Jackson to John Mosby, Fauquier County is at the crossroads of the most divisive time in American history.

'Hallowed Grounds' Shaped Civil War

From 1861 to 1865, Fauquier County's "hallowed grounds" were the site of twelve battles and countless troop movements, raids, skirmishes, and encampments. With its proximity to Washington DC, the county was key territory in Union and Confederate strategy.

Strategic Sites Set Tone for Later Battles

In 1862 and 1863, General Robert E. Lee used Fauquier County to his advantage. The engagements at Rappahannock Station I and Thoroughfare Gap were indispensable to his victory at Second Manassas in August 1862, while the cavalry battles at Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville shielded

Lee's infantry as he commenced his second invasion of the North during the spring of 1863.

Contested Battlefields Dot Landscape

After a fateful engagement in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Fauquier County's role in the war changed. No longer the cradle of Confederate invasion, the battle lands of Manassas Gap, Auburn, Buckland Mills, and Rappahannock Station II became Lee's path of retreat. Yet, much as Gettysburg did not end the war, Lee's retreat was not the last that Fauquier County saw of Civil War soldiers. Throughout the entire span of the Civil War, the "hallowed grounds" of Fauquier County were contested fields of battle.

For additional history about Fauquier in the Civil War, request your *Fauquier County Civil War Heritage* brochure at FauquierCivilWar.com.



Download Driving Tours

Download three different driving tours by scanning this QR code with your mobile device.

Other Notable Battlefields

The battlefields included in this brochure are among the top 3% most important Civil War battlefields according to a 1993 Congressional Study, however there are a number of smaller battlefields of note and areas where skirmishes took place. Visit the website for more information about these locations.

Interesting facts

July 19, 1861

Delaplane - Stonewall Jackson's troops became the first in history to be transported by railroad. Two days later the troops fought in Manassas, the first major battle of the Civil War.

August 12, 1862

Salem (now Marshall) - Gen. Robert E. Lee spent the evening at the nearby home of Mrs. John Marshall and narrowly escaped capture by Federal troops.

In Their Own Words:

To read additional journal entries from both Union and Confederate soldiers and citizens of Fauquier County, visit: FauquierCivilWar.com

August 22, 1862

Catlett's Stations (now Catlett) - J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry captured 200 Union prisoners, \$25,000, and Union Gen. John Pope's personal items, including his dispatch book. Intelligence from the book enabled Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson to develop a strategy that led to victory at the Second Battle of Manassas a week later.

November 7-11, 1862

Warrenton - Following the Antietam Campaign, Gen. George B. McClellan is relieved from command at Rectortown in Fauquier County and is replaced by Gen. Ambrose Burnside. McClellan bids farewell to his troops at the location of today's Warren Green Building in Old Town Warrenton.

October 19, 1863

Buckland - Confederate Gens. J.E.B. Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee sprang a trap on Federal troops. The ensuing retreat by Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's Union Cavalry resembled a steeplechase race and was dubbed the "Buckland Races."

November 6, 1864

Rectortown - In retaliation for the execution of seven of his Rangers by Federal cavalry in Front Royal, Col. John S. Mosby orders 27 Union prisoners to draw seven lots for their own execution. The building where the Mosby lottery took place still remains.

Nov 28 - Dec 1, 1864

Northern Fauquier - Union Gen. Wesley Merritt's Cavalry division conducts the "Great Burning Raid" in northern Fauquier and Loudoun Counties in reprisal for Mosby's guerrilla activities against Gen. Philip Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley. The Union army took or destroyed crops and animals, burned barns and mills and arrested all men under the age of 50 capable of bearing arms.

1 1st Battle of Rappahannock Station

Northern Virginia Campaign

Date:	August 23, 1862
Result:	Inconclusive
Troops Engaged:	2,000 US 2,500 CS
Casualties:	172 US 53 CS



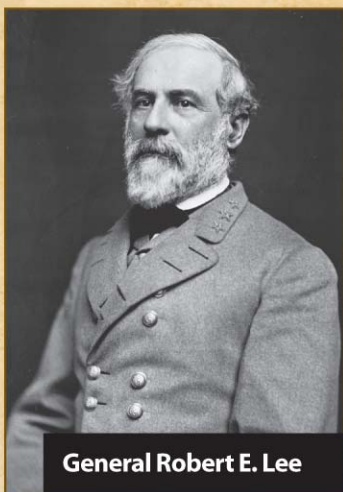
On the morning of August 23, Pope learned that Jackson and his men were on the north bank of the Rappahannock River at Rappahannock Station, attempting to cross at Sulphur Springs. Heavy rains made the river impassible at this point and the Confederates remained isolated from the main body of their force. Recognizing the opportunity, Pope planned to attack Jackson's troops at Sulphur Springs. He ordered McDowell's Corps, which was in position on the south side of the river at Rappahannock Station, to cross the river and prevent a Confederate withdrawal by destroying their route—the railroad bridge.

Longstreet Ordered to Push Federals North

Before McDowell could act, however, Lee ordered General James Longstreet to push the Federals back to the north side of the river. Two hours of Confederate artillery bombardment failed to dislodge McDowell's men, so Longstreet called on his infantry. As Longstreet's men approached the base of the Federal position on a knoll, their opponents retreated down the opposite slope and over the railroad bridge.

Confederates Fall Back

Once atop the knoll, Confederate soldiers took fire from Union troops, which had already safely crossed over to the north bank of the Rappahannock. Fire was so heavy that the Confederates were forced to fall back and seek cover. Likewise, at Sulphur Springs, pressure from an offensive launched by Pope forced Confederate engineers to construct a bridge across the Rappahannock so that Jackson's forces could retreat to the south side of the river. Thus, while the battle of Rappahannock Station resulted in little tangible gain for Confederate forces, the conflict did help set the stage for one of Lee's greatest victories.



General Robert E. Lee

2 Battle of Thoroughfare Gap

Northern Virginia Campaign

Date:	August 28, 1862
Result:	Confederate Victory
Troops Engaged:	5,000 US 25,000 CS
Casualties:	75 US 25 CS



Jackson Moves Forces Through Thoroughfare Gap

On August 26, after Lee divided his Confederate army, Jackson moved his forces through Thoroughfare Gap, a pass through the Bull Run Mountains, and into position near the old Manassas battlefield. Two days later, General James Longstreet was moving eastward to join Jackson, but found the Gap held by General James Ricketts' Union division. Longstreet's staff officer Moxley Sorrel described the terrain: "This is a mountain gorge, not long, but narrow, rocky, and precipitous. It was capable of stubborn defense. Its echoes were wonderful — a gun fired in its depths gave forth roars fit to bring down the skies." Ricketts' men put up a fierce fight.

Snipers Hold Federal Forces at Bay

Heavy fire erupted from sharpshooters defending the Gap from the six and-one-half-story Chapman's Mill (now Chapman's/Beverly Mill), and one Federal regiment threatened to take position on Pond Mountain.

To counter this threat, Longstreet ordered Colonel Henry Benning's men to climb Pond Mountain and flank Ricketts' left. He also ordered Colonel Evander Law's troops to cross Mother Leathercoat Mountain, to the north of the Gap, and flank the Union right. Together, these two advances ensured Ricketts' withdrawal and Longstreet's safe passage through Thoroughfare Gap.

Longstreet, Jackson Unite

The next day, Longstreet successfully united with Jackson, already engaged in the Second Battle of Manassas, and their combined forces achieved a signal victory against Pope's army.

3 Battle of Unison

No Associated Campaign

Date:	November 1-3, 1862
Result:	Inconclusive
Troops Engaged:	Estimated 5,000
Casualties:	200 Estimated



The Battle of Unison consisted of a series of brief engagements that took place over a three-day period between Philomont in Loudoun County, south to Upperville in Fauquier County. Led by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart and Union General George B. McLellan, the Battle of Unison engaged an estimated 5,000 combined Union and Confederate troops at its peak. The number of troops killed, wounded or captured is estimated to be 200.

In the end, Stuart's effort to delay the passage of Federal forces through the lower Loudoun Valley and the Unison Road corridor, effectively pushed the Federal advance southward so that the Confederate forces could reach Culpeper Court House in time to block the Union initiative to sever Lee's communications with Richmond, as Lincoln directed McClellan. The Confederate's success led to the dismissal of General McClellan and his replacement by Major General Ambrose E. Burnside.

Unison Today

The eight-mile long battlefield district stretches from Philomont and Unison in Loudoun County, south to Upperville in Fauquier. The Unison battlefield area has changed little over the past 150 years. This rural countryside remains untouched by housing subdivisions and commercial development. The dirt roads and stone walls of this rolling land are still intact, including a stream ford that Union and Confederate cavalry fought across during the first two days of the Battle of Unison.



Use QR Codes to Learn More

For more information and troop movement maps for each of these battlefields, scan the code for each campaign or visit us online at fauquercivilwar.com.

4 Battle of Kelly's Ford

No Associated Campaign

Date:	March 17, 1863
Result:	Inconclusive
Troops Engaged:	2,100 US 800 CS
Casualties:	78 US 133 CS



Ordered to attack General Fitzhugh Lee's Confederate cavalry near Culpeper, General William Averell and his Federal horsemen crossed the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford on the morning of March 17. After driving back Lee's skirmishers, Averell took up a defensive position in the woods near the ford, and awaited Lee's horsemen.

Confederates Charge Across Wheatley Farm

When the Confederates charged, they rode across the Wheatley farm towards a stone wall, in an attempt to turn the Union right flank, but fierce fire forced them to veer left, exposing their flank. It was during this charge that the "Gallant" Major John Pelham fell, mortally wounded. On the Union right, Lee's men attacked but withdrew when Federal regiments moved to strike their own flanks.

Lee Withdraws Confederate Line

Lee withdrew the entire Confederate line, and made one final charge. "It was like the coming together of two mighty railroad trains at full speed. The yelling of men, the clashing of sabers, a few empty saddles, a few wounded and dying, and the charge was over," wrote one soldier. As Federal artillery fire began to cut gaps into the Rebel line, they retreated.

Averell didn't press his advantage, however. Fearing he would soon face Confederate reinforcements, Averell withdrew his men back across the Rappahannock. The battle ended in a draw, marking the first time Confederate cavalrymen had not defeated their Union opponents.

5 Battle of Brandy Station

Gettysburg Campaign

Date:	June 9, 1863
Result:	Inconclusive
Troops Engaged:	11,000 US 9,500 CS
Casualties:	936 US 523 CS



Civil War's Largest Cavalry Battle Occurred at Brandy Station

On June 9, 1863, the war's largest cavalry battle occurred at Brandy Station, involving 9,500 Confederate and 8,000 Union horsemen. The battle began when General Alfred Pleasonton's Federal cavalry units crossed the Rappahannock River at Beverly's Ford and Kelly's Ford, attacking Stuart's surprised Confederates.

General John Buford led the 4:30 a.m. charge across Beverly's Ford, forcing Southern horsemen to ride "into the fray partially dressed and often riding bareback." Buford's men engaged Stuart's at the nearby Cunningham farm, St. James Church, and Yew Ridge. As the Federals gained ground near Yew Ridge, the Confederates began pulling back, "to the amazement of Buford's men."

Horsemen Arrive from Kelly's Ford

They had been forced to shift positions to meet General David Gregg's horsemen arriving from Kelly's Ford. Gregg met little resistance at Kelly's Ford and took some time arriving at Brandy Station; some of Gregg's men never arrived on the battlefield, delayed by Confederates at Stevensburg, where Duffie was ordered to hold his position. Those who reached the field immediately engaged the enemy at Fleetwood Hill.

A series of confusing charges and countercharges swept back and forth across the hill. When the battle finally ended, Confederate cavalry still held the field, but could not pursue their advantage. The Union forces re-crossed the Rappahannock at Beverly's Ford and Rappahannock Station to their camps in Fauquier. The Confederates, however, had managed to prevent the Union cavalry from learning the intentions of General Robert E. Lee, who had begun marching his infantry to the Shenandoah Valley to invade the north.

6 Battle of Aldie

Gettysburg Campaign

Date:	June 17, 1863
Result:	Inconclusive
Troops Engaged:	2,000 US 1,500 CS
Casualties:	305 US 119 CS



Lee's Army Uses Blue Ridge Mountains

Lee's army continued its march north behind the Blue Ridge Mountains, with General Stuart and his cavalry corps under orders to screen the infantry from Union forces. On June 17, General Alfred Pleasonton's Federal horsemen moved toward the village of Aldie, described by wartime photographer Alexander Gardner as "very charming, very much diversified with hill, wood and valley, fine farms, [and] pretty brooks." Union General Kilpatrick's 1,200-man cavalry brigade intercepted a detachment of the 2nd Virginia Cavalry and drove the outnumbered Confederates back past the Aldie Mill.

The Federals and Confederates pushed each other back and forth through Aldie along the Aldie Gap Turnpike. Later that afternoon, the battle moved off the turnpike to the Adam and Furr farms. After attacks and counter attacks, Stuart finally withdrew the brigade to Middleburg, where more Union troops had arrived.



7 Battle of Middleburg

Gettysburg Campaign

Date: June 17-19, 1863
 Result: Inconclusive
 Troops Engaged: 6,000 US
 7,000 CS
 Casualties: 367 US
 40 CS



Rhode Island Cavalry Forces Routed at Middleburg

On June 17, the 1st Rhode Island cavalry was ordered to scout west from Thoroughfare Gap to Middleburg. The Rhode Islanders initially took the town, forcing Stuart and his staff to flee. The 1st Rhode Island Cavalry regiment of less than 300 men, however, was insufficient to hold the town when three Confederate brigades arrived and reoccupied the town. The 1st Rhode Island was routed, losing more than two-thirds of its force killed, wounded, or missing.

Cavalry Protects Lee's Flanks

As Lee's infantry continued its march northward, Stuart's cavalry continued to protect its right flank by occupying the Blue Ridge passes. Elements of Stuart's and Pleasonton's forces again engaged in Middleburg on June 19, 1863. The day's early fighting occurred just west of town at Mount Defiance along the Ashby's Gap Turnpike. Stuart initially held this position but was pushed back more than one mile to Bittersweet Farm.

Stuart's Forces Survive

Both of Stuart's flanks were threatened during the battle, but the Federals did not push this advantage. Although Pleasonton held the battlefield when the firing ceased, he failed to do serious damage to Stuart or his screening movements.

Learn More About African-Americans in the Civil War

For more information about African-Americans in the Civil War, please visit the Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County at 4243 Loudoun Avenue, The Plains 20198. Telephone: (540) 253-7488 or www.aahafauquier.org.

8 Battle of Upperville

Gettysburg Campaign

Date: June 21, 1863
 Result: Inconclusive
 Troops Engaged: 5,500 US
 6,000 CS
 Casualties: 209 US
 180 CS



Upperville Takes Off Where Middleburg Left Off

The Battle of Upperville began where the Battle of Middleburg left off. Stuart formed his line on high ground but after the Union troops attacked, Stuart retreated and lost a piece of artillery—the first he lost in the war. The Confederates withdrew further along the turnpike and formed another line to prevent Federals from crossing Goose Creek.

Confederates Hold Off Federals

For several hours the Confederates held off their opponents but were finally forced to withdraw further west. The Confederates staged an admirable fighting withdrawal, making stands at Vineyard Hill, just east of Upperville, and Trappe Road, just west of town. Although pushed back considerably, Stuart fell back to and held Ashby Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lee's infantry remained secure in its march north.



Encampment at Courthouse Square in Warrenton, 1862

9 Battle of Manassas Gap

Gettysburg Campaign

Date: July 23, 1863
 Result: Inconclusive
 Troops Engaged: 11,000 US
 7,000 CS
 Casualties: 126 US
 102 CS



Following defeat at Gettysburg, Lee's army retreated across the Potomac River with Stuart's cavalry shielding its eastern flank. Meade pursued, and on July 23, he ordered General William French's Third Corps to cut off the Confederates at Front Royal. To do so, French first had to pass through Manassas Gap, guarded by a portion of General Richard H. Anderson's Confederate division.

Confederates Pushed Through Manassas Gap

Throughout the day, French pushed the Confederates through the gap, but by late afternoon, Confederate General Robert E. Rodes arrived with reinforcements to help defend against renewed Union assaults. At dusk, French abandoned his attacks, and during the night, the Confederates withdrew. Union forces awoke the next morning with a clear path to Front Royal, but by the time they arrived, Lee's army had slipped away.



Encampment near Rappahannock Station (known today as Remington), 1864

10 Battles of Auburn I and II

Bristoe Campaign

Date: October 13-14, 1863
 Result: Inconclusive
 Troops Engaged: 20,000 US
 32,000 CS
 Casualties: 78 US
 85 CS



Auburn an Important Crossroads

In the late afternoon on October 13, Confederate cavalry under General Lunsford Lomax encountered the Union Third Corps as it marched north along the Old Carolina Road to Greenwich. Lomax, guarding an important crossroads south of Auburn, skirmished with the Third Corps but withdrew to Warrenton upon discovering he confronted a much larger force.

Lomax's commander General J.E.B. Stuart and his men spent the day reconnoitering near Catlett Station. Upon their return, they found themselves cut off from their Confederate base and trapped between portions of the Union army. Stuart hid his men in a ravine for the night and sent scouts to Warrenton to procure reinforcements from General Richard Ewell. The Union Third Corps passed by unknowingly.

Caldwell Advances Over Cedar Run Bridge

The next morning, Union Brigadier General John C. Caldwell's Second Corps Division advanced over the Cedar Run bridge and prepared for action on a hill to the north, where some broke for breakfast. Stuart moved part of his force to a hill located one-half mile east of these Federals. While they ate their repast on this hill, known afterwards as "Coffee Hill," Stuart unleashed artillery fire. After recovering from this unexpected assault, the Federals responded with their own artillery fire.

Ewell Skirmishes at Coffee Hill

Meanwhile, Ewell's reinforcements drew near Auburn and skirmished with Federal troops. Once the sound of fighting was heard, Stuart began a full attack. Stuart ordered General John B. Gordon to charge Union General John Caldwell's men east of Coffee Hill near St. Stephens Road. The Federals eventually beat back Gordon's charge, but not before Stuart and his men escaped. This battle allowed but did not deter the Federals from their rendezvous at Bristoe Station.

11 Battle of Buckland Mills

Bristoe Campaign

Date: October 19, 1863
 Result: Confederate Victory
 Troops Engaged: 4,000 US
 8,000 CS
 Casualties: 250 US
 30 CS



Stuart Occupied Buckland Mills

On the morning of October 19, General J.E.B. Stuart's divisions held the Town of Buckland using its buildings as cover against the Federals who occupied the heights east of Broad Run. Leaving George A. Custer's brigade to guard the town and Buckland bridge, Union Generals Davies and Kilpatrick followed Stuart west on the turnpike.

When Kilpatrick's force attacked from the east, Stuart "retreated designedly toward Warrenton" luring the federals down the turnpike and into a trap. Confederate General Lee concealed 5,200 cavalymen in the woods on the federal left. Lee sounded cannon signals as the rear of Davies' brigade passed them. Confederates then "came up perpendicular to the pike and cut their column in two," driving Custer (at the rear of the Federal column) back over the Buckland bridge.

Lee and Stuart Join Forces

Meanwhile, the front of General Davies' column had moved west past New Baltimore, where Stuart's brigades charged the front of the Federal column at the sound of General Lee's cannon fire, causing General Davies to reverse direction and take a position on a low range of hills between New Baltimore and Buckland to make a stand. Lee's men combined forces with Stuart's, attacking furiously the Federal front, flank and rear, driving the remaining US cavalry over Broad Run and north in full retreat.

In addition to the 250 US casualties, half the federal ambulances, wagons, and ammunitions were seized, Custer's personal papers were confiscated, and 200 prisoners were marched to the Warrenton jail.

12 2nd Battle of Rappahannock Station

Bristoe Campaign

Date: November 7, 1863
 Result: Union Victory
 Troops Engaged: 2,000 US|
 2,000 CS
 Casualties: 419 US
 1,674 CS



Meade Attacks Lee's Forces

On November 7, Meade ordered an assault against Lee's Confederate infantry along the Rappahannock River. Dividing his forces, Meade ordered General John Sedgwick to attack Rappahannock Station while General William H. French moved five miles downstream to Kelly's Ford. In response, Lee shifted some of his force to Kelly's Ford, hoping to defeat French soundly, and left only a small number of men under General Jubal Early at Rappahannock Station.

Sedgwick's sharpshooters drove in the Rebel skirmishers and seized a range of high ground near the river. Sedgwick's guns and Confederate batteries maintained an active fire until dark. According to Lee's report: "It was not known whether this demonstration was intended as a serious attack or only to cover the movement of the force that had crossed at Kelly's Ford, but the lateness of the hour induced the belief that nothing would be attempted until morning." He was mistaken.

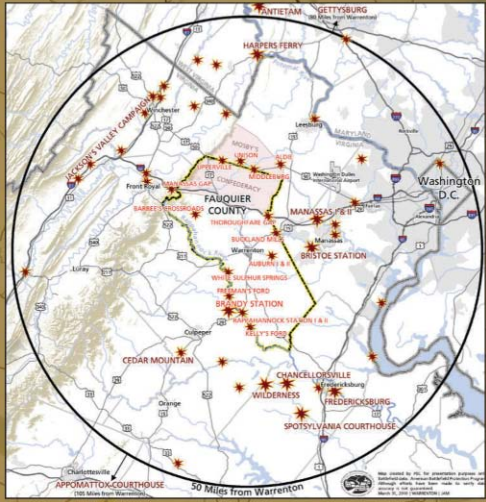
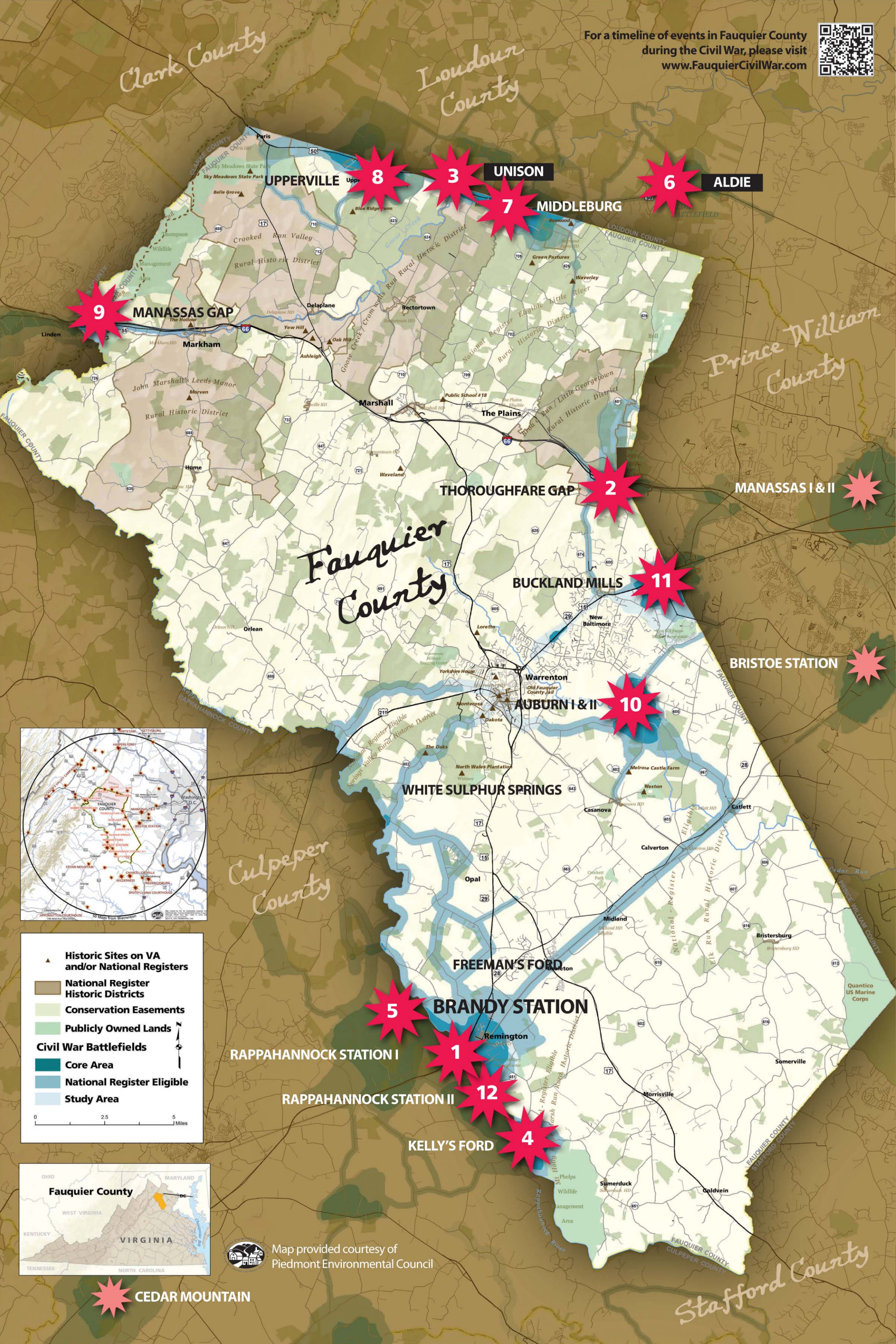
Hand-to-Hand Combat

Sedgwick's infantry rushed the works and engaged Early's men in hand to hand combat. No information of the attack was received on the south side of the river until too late for the artillery stationed there to aid in repelling it, and fear of injury to their own captured men further prevented that action.

Confederates Trapped by Federal Fire, Freezing Water

Many Confederates tried to escape across the river, but Federal fire and freezing water stopped most. In total, more than 1,670 Confederates were killed, wounded, or captured in this engagement. This disastrous Confederate defeat forced Lee to retreat further south for the winter than originally planned.

For a timeline of events in Fauquier County during the Civil War, please visit www.FauquierCivilWar.com



- Historic Sites on VA and/or National Registers
- National Register Historic Districts
- Conservation Easements
- Publicly Owned Lands
- Civil War Battlefields
- Core Area
- National Register Eligible
- Study Area

0 2.5 5 Miles



Map provided courtesy of Piedmont Environmental Council

CEDAR MOUNTAIN

Stafford County