

★ 1861 ★

May 24-25 Union troops occupy Arlington Heights and Alexandria. Col. E. Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves, removes a Confederate flag from the Marshall House hotel and is killed by proprietor James Jackson. Jackson is killed by Cpl. Francis E. Brownell, who later received the Medal of Honor for his action. Confederate Capt. Motram Ball and 35 cavalrymen are captured, becoming the first Southern prisoners of war. Alexandria is placed under martial law.

May-July Confederates fortify Manassas Junction with a series of 12 earthen forts. Field artillery and naval cannon captured at Norfolk are placed in the works.

June 1 Union and Confederate forces clash at Fairfax Court House and along the railroad at Vienna. Capt. John Quincy Marr of Warrenton becomes the first Confederate officer killed in action.

June 11-24 Balloonist Thaddeus Lowe discusses military use of balloons with President Abraham Lincoln. On June 24, Lowe makes three ascents at Taylor's Tavern in Falls Church to observe Confederate troop movements near Fairfax Court House.

July 18 A Union reconnaissance force is repulsed by Confederate troops in a skirmish at Blackburn's Ford, a prelude to the First Battle of Manassas.

July 19 Piedmont Station (Delaplane) becomes the site of the first strategic use of railroads in warfare when Gen. Thomas J. Jackson's 1st Virginia Brigade entrains for Manassas Junction to reinforce the Confederate army.

July 21 First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Gen. Irvin McDowell's Union forces are defeated by Confederate Gens. P.G.T. Beauregard and Joseph E. Johnston in the first major battle of the war. Gen. Thomas Jackson receives his nickname "Stonewall" in the battle, which results in more than 4,600 casualties.

July Confederate and Union forces fight a series of skirmishes before and after First Manassas at Arlington Mill, Febré's Mill, Ball's Cross Roads, and Hall's Hill. Confederate signal stations are erected at Upton's Hill near Seven Corners. The Union army established a military hospital center in Alexandria.

Aug.-Sept. Confederate forces construct artillery batteries along the Potomac River at Freestone Point, Possum Point, Cockpit Point, and Evansport to block shipping to and from Washington, D.C. Confederate troops under Gens. James Longstreet and J.E.B. Stuart occupy Mamm's Hill and Falls Church. Skirmishes occur daily in the "Peach Orchard" area of Falls Church.

Oct. 21 Battle of Ball's Bluff near Leesburg. Defeated Federal troops are driven into the Potomac River. Union defeat results in establishment in Congress of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

Dec. 20 The Battle of Dranesville occurs when Union and Confederate foraging parties collide. Federals retain possession of the field in what is regarded as the first Union victory on Southern soil.

Winter 1861-62 Confederates build the first railroad dedicated exclusively to military use, connecting camps at Manassas and Centreville. Confederate Gen. D.H. Hill oversees completion of Forts Evans, Beauregard, and Johnston around Leesburg.

★ 1862 ★

March Confederates evacuate Manassas Junction and other Northern Virginia sites to concentrate near Richmond. Union forces occupy Manassas Junction.

June 19 President Lincoln visits Gen. Irvin McDowell's headquarters at the Weir family home Liberia in Manassas.

Aug. 22-23 Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry conducts a reconnaissance behind Union lines in Fauquier County, raiding Catlett's Station. Stuart "liberates" Warrenton and obtains intelligence on the disposition of the Union Army of Virginia that Gens. Lee and Jackson use to plan the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run).

Aug. 25-26 Gen. Stonewall Jackson and 23,000 men of the Army of Northern Virginia conduct a flank march through western Fauquier County into Prince William County where they raid Bristoe Station and Manassas Junction, cutting the supply line of Union Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia.

Aug. 28 Battle of Groveton. Gen. Stonewall Jackson attacks elements of the Army of Virginia to prevent consolidation of Pope's forces. Near The Plains, "Jessie scout" Jack Sherry, disguised as a Confederate officer, detains Gen. John B. Hood's division from its march to Manassas. Sherry is discovered and hanged as a Union spy.

Aug. 29-30 Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Gen. Pope's Union army suffers a decisive defeat but retreats across Bull Run in good order. Total casualties exceed 25,000, and the stage is set for Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of Maryland.

Sept. 1 Union troops retreating from Second Manassas clash with Stonewall Jackson's infantry in the Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill). Union Gens. Philip Kearney and Isaac Stevens are killed.

Sept. 2 Col. Thomas Munford's 2nd Virginia Cavalry routs a Federal force composed of Cole's Maryland Cavalry and the Loudoun Rangers at Mile Hill, Loudoun County.

Oct. 15 The City of Alexandria leases land to the Federal government for 999 years for the Alexandria National Cemetery.

Nov. 7-11 Following the Antietam Campaign, Gen. George B. McClellan is relieved from command at Rectorstown in Fauquier County and is replaced by Gen. Ambrose Burnside. McClellan holds his final review of Union troops near Warrenton and departs from Warrenton Junction (Calverton).

Dec. Confederate cavalry under Gens. Wade Hampton and J.E.B. Stuart conduct raids on Union garrisons at Dumfries and Occoquan. Hampton briefly occupies the towns, capturing prisoners, horses, and supplies.

★ 1863 ★

Feb. Union army bakers in Alexandria set a record by producing 114,500 rations of bread in a single day.

Mar. 9 Lt. John S. Mosby and 29 of his Rangers undertake one of the war's most daring guerrilla exploits when they slip through Union lines to capture Gen. Edwin Stoughton at Fairfax Court House. Besides Stoughton, the Rangers escape with 32 prisoners and 58 horses, without firing a shot or losing a man.

Mar. 17 Gen. William Averell's Union cavalry raid Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock River. Though Averell fails to destroy Confederate Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry, Union horsemen show growing parity with their Southern counterparts.

May 30 Maj. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers raid a Union supply train near Catlett's Station. A running battle results in the loss of Mosby's mountain howitzer.

June 8-9 During a night visit to his wife at the Hathaway House near Salem (Marshall), Mosby narrowly escapes capture by Union cavalry by hiding in a tree.

June 10 Maj. Mosby formally musters his Partisan Rangers into Company A, 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry, near Rector's Crossroads (Atoka). From 70 men, the unit will grow into a full regiment of two battalions.

June 17-28 Prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, more than 100,000 Federal troops cross the Potomac River at Edwards Ferry east of Leesburg.

June 19-21 Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry clashes with Gen. Alfred Pleasonton's Union cavalry west of Middleburg, at Upperville and Ashby's Gap near Paris. Stuart delays Union detection of Gen. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia as it advances down the Shenandoah Valley toward Pennsylvania.

June 23 Gen. Stuart and Maj. Mosby confer at Rector's Cross Roads (Atoka). Based on Mosby's scouting, Stuart leads his cavalry east around the Army of the Potomac, depriving Gen. Robert E. Lee of valuable intelligence before the Battle of Gettysburg.

Aug. 28 Governor Francis H. Pierpont and the "Restored Government of Virginia" move from Wheeling to Alexandria after West Virginia becomes the 34th United State.

Oct. 14 Battle of Bristoe Station. Gen. A.P. Hill's Confederates attack Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren's II Corps of the Army of the Potomac as it retreats near Broad Run. The vicious fight results in 1,900 casualties as Hill is repulsed.

Oct. 19 Gen. Stuart's Confederate cavalry attacks Union cavalry under Gens. Judson Kilpatrick and George A. Custer in a running battle nicknamed the "Buckland Races," between Chestnut Hill near Warrenton and Buckland Mills in Prince William County.

Nov. 7 The Army of the Potomac achieves strategic victory over Gen. Lee's army by crossing the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station (Remington). Confederate forces retire south of the Rapidan River.

★ 1864 ★

Jan. A hospital for freed slaves is established in Alexandria. L'Overture Hospital and Contraband Barracks are later constructed.

Mar.-June The 28th & 29th United States Colored Troops (USCT) are assigned to the Defenses of Washington at Alexandria.

July 11-16 Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's troops threaten Washington, D.C. A heavy skirmish occurs at Fort Stevens, the northernmost fort in the defenses of Washington. Abraham Lincoln becomes the only sitting U.S. president to come under fire in battle. Early withdraws his troops and retreats through Loudoun County.

Oct. 5 Mosby's Rangers attack Federal repair crews on the Manassas Gap Railroad at Salem (Marshall), denying its use to Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley.

Nov. 6 In retaliation for the execution of seven of his Rangers by Federal cavalry in Front Royal, Col. John S. Mosby orders 27 Union prisoners at Rectorstown to draw seven lots for their own execution.

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 Union Gen. Wesley Merritt's Cavalry division conducts the "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.

Dec. 21 Col. John S. Mosby is wounded by Union cavalry at Lakeland near Rector's Cross Roads (Atoka). Concealing his identity, Mosby is left to die but recovers and resumes command of his Rangers two months later.

★ 1865 ★

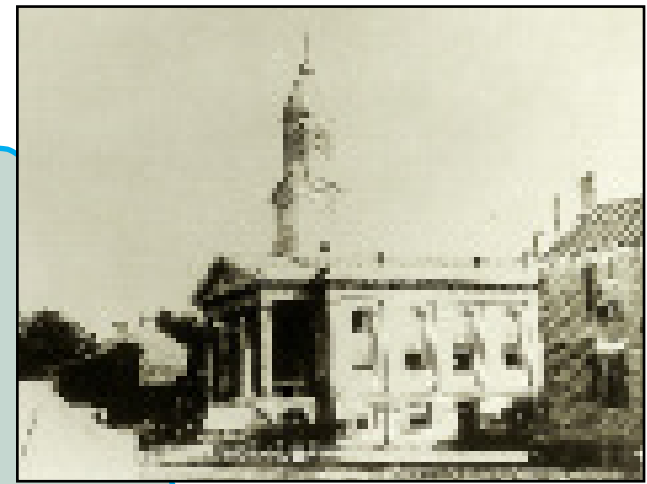
April 21 Rather than surrender his command to Union forces, Col. John S. Mosby disbands the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry at Salem (Marshall).

May 24 Virginia Governor Francis H. Pierpont leaves Alexandria to establish executive offices in Richmond.

July-Oct. The offices of Military Governor and Provost Marshal are abolished in Alexandria, ending military occupation of the city.



Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863) earned his famous nickname at the First Battle of Manassas.



Fauquier County Court House in Warrenton, August 1862.



The Kelly's Ford cavalry clash was marked by fierce hand-to-hand combat. Drawing from Frank Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War.



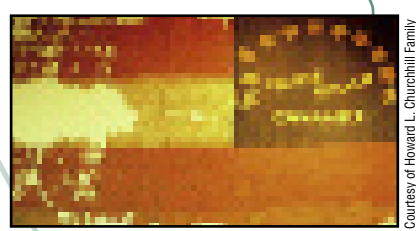
Surgeon's pocket kit, Fort Ward Museum collection.



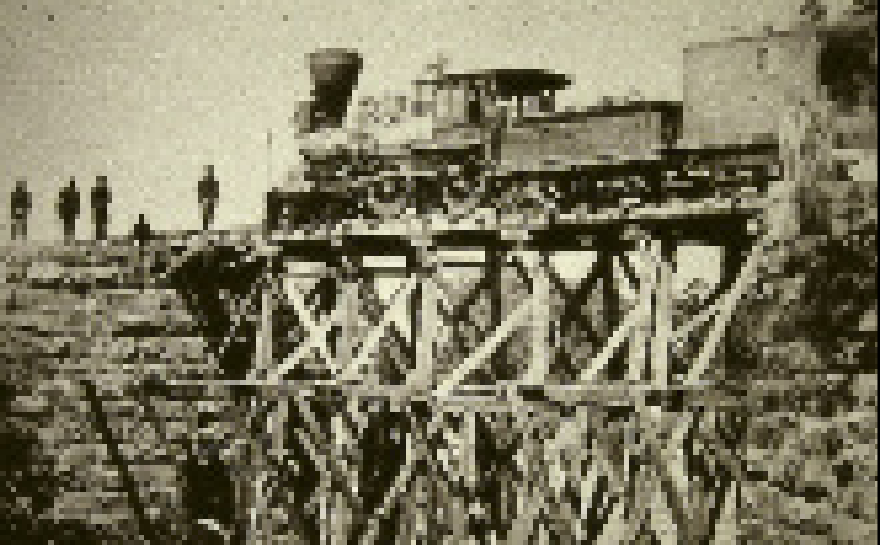
Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) 16th President of the United States.



Morven Park as it appeared at the time of the Civil War.



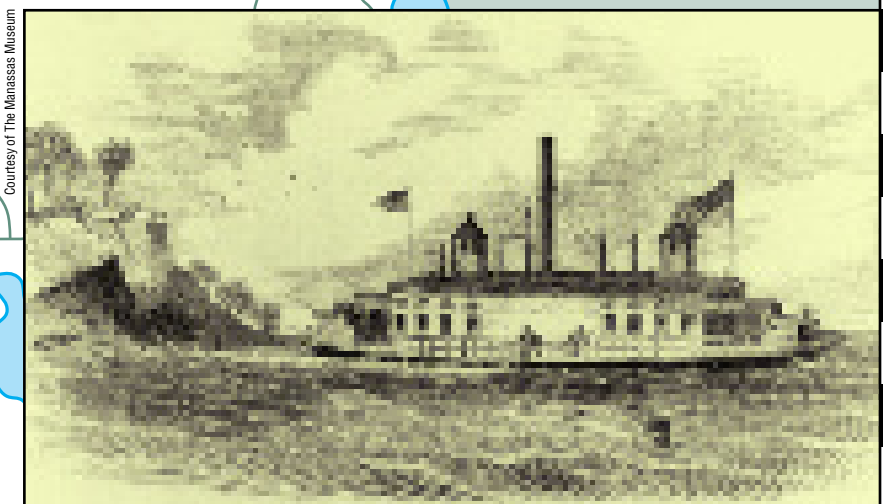
Flag of the Prince William Cavalry (Co. A, 4th Virginia Cavalry).



U.S. Military Railroad locomotive Firefly, on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, ca. 1862.



Arlington House, pre-war home of Robert E. Lee.



U.S. Navy steamer Wyandank engaging Confederate artillery batteries at Freestone Point on the Potomac River, March 11, 1862.

1861-1865 NORTHERN VIRGINIA CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT

- ★ Virginia Civil War Trails Site
● Other Civil War Trails Site
Ⓜ Information or Welcome Center
■ State or National Park

Virginia is for Lovers