

# The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum

20 N. Loudoun Street  
Winchester, VA 22604  
540-542-1145 [www.civilwarmuseum.org](http://www.civilwarmuseum.org)  
Operated by the  
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields  
National Historic District  
[info@svbf.net](mailto:info@svbf.net)

Open November – March  
Friday–Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
April – October  
Monday – Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The Frederick County Court House in Winchester, built in 1840, served as a prison, hospital, and barracks for both sides during the Civil War. Soldiers wrote their names and drew pictures on the walls, some of which can still be seen. The building now houses the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, which features the restored court room, a nationally recognized collection of relics, and exhibits that tell the story of the Civil War era in the Shenandoah Valley – and of the graffiti on the walls.



The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum

# Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail



*Follow the trail of the Union and Confederate Armies as they swept through the Northern Virginia countryside. Discover the graffiti the soldiers left in homes, churches, and public buildings during the Civil War.*

*The Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail will lead you from the vibrant suburbs to rolling hills and farmlands. Our sites and towns will reveal a unique glimpse of Civil War soldiers as they fought in this decisive event of our American history.*

A PDF of this brochure is available on participant web sites.

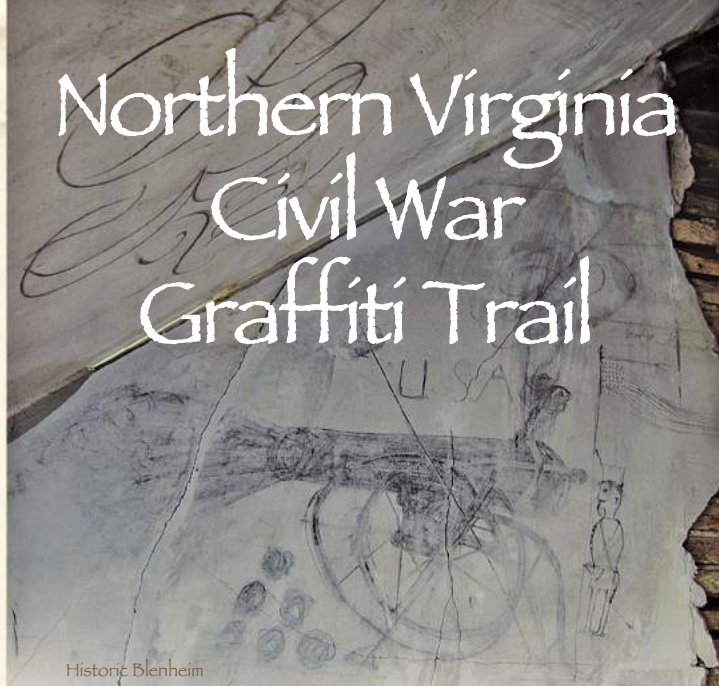


4/2017



[www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org)

# Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail



Historic Blenheim

*“Old soldiers never die, they just fade away”*



Participants:

- Historic Blenheim, City of Fairfax
- Ben Lomond Historic Site, Prince William County
- Liberia, City of Manassas
- The Graffiti House Foundation, Brandy Station
- Mt. Zion Historic Park, Aldie
- Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, Winchester

Contact individual sites for additional information

# Civil War Graffiti

Throughout history, common soldiers have created a personal legacy in the form of writings and drawings on building walls. Today we call this graffiti. During the conflict of the American Civil War, soldiers were no different.

Union and Confederate soldiers on the march, in camp, hospitalized, and jailed left their messages in homes, churches, and court houses. Their names, thoughts, and images have been immortalized, giving us a glimpse into these individuals as they defended and pursued, rested and played, suffered and convalesced.



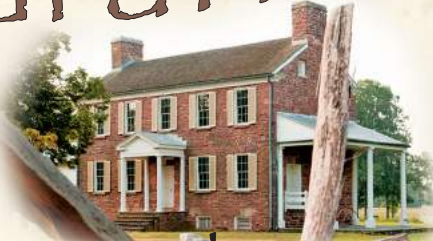
## Historic Blenheim

3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-591-0560 [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov)  
Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center are owned and operated by the City of Fairfax.

Open 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday – Saturday. Guided tours of the  
Historic Blenheim House and site are offered  
only at 1:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Union soldiers camped or were hospitalized here in 1862 and 1863. They left their names, regiment numbers, pictographs, and musings on the walls of the c.1859 Historic Blenheim house. More than 120 soldiers have been positively identified. The writings and images provide insight into their lives and the dramatic impact of war on the local community of Fairfax Court House.

# Civil War Graffiti



## Ben Lomond Historic Site

10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas, Virginia 20109  
703-367-7872 [www.pwcgov.org/benlomond](http://www.pwcgov.org/benlomond)  
Ben Lomond Historic Site is operated by the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division

Tours are offered 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Thursday –  
Monday, May – October. November–April  
tours are available by appointment.

Ben Lomond was used as a field hospital after 1st Manassas and as Confederate headquarters before the Confederates left in 1862. Federal soldiers marching through Prince William in Spring 1862 frequently stopped here, writing their names on the walls. Today most of the graffiti in the immersive hospital exhibits is protected, but sections of two walls are left uncovered for view.



## Liberia House

8601 Portner Avenue,  
Manassas,  
Virginia 20110

Operated by the Manassas Museum, City of Manassas  
703-368-1873 [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org)

Please call or check the web site for scheduled year-round  
tours and programs. Group tours are also offered.

Liberia served as Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard's headquarters in 1861, when Confederate President Jefferson Davis visited. In 1862, General Irvin McDowell set up his headquarters in the house, when President Lincoln visited. The house was later occupied by General Daniel Sickles and Union troops who were guarding the railroad at Manassas Junction. Graffiti dating from 1862-1864 is on display, and soldiers who wrote their names and drew on Liberia's walls are still being identified.



## The Graffiti House

19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714  
540-727-7718 [www.brandystationfoundation.com](http://www.brandystationfoundation.com)

The Graffiti House is owned and operated by the Brandy Station Foundation, a locally based 501 (c) (3) group, and is part of the Brandy Station Battlefield. A 1400-acre Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain state park is under consideration here.

Open Saturday and Sunday,  
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Tours are available by appointment – 757-371-6451

Built in 1858 by the local postmaster, the house was occupied by both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Using charcoal from the central fireplace, these soldiers decorated the plaster walls with signatures, drawings, and commentaries on their lives. Today over 200 readable pieces of graffiti survive to give testament to the passing of these soldiers.

## Mt. Zion Historic Park



40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie, Virginia 20105  
703-327-9777 [www.nvrpa.org/park/mt\\_zion](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/mt_zion)  
Mt. Zion Historic Park is owned and operated by NOVA Parks.

Open for guided tours 1:00-5:00 p.m. on the fourth  
Sunday of the month, April – October,  
and by appointment. Grounds open daily year-  
round during daylight hours.

Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church, built in 1851, was an eyewitness to the Civil War, used as a rendezvous site, prison, barracks, and battleground. Union troops used the church as a hospital after the cavalry engagements of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville in June 1863, and examples of graffiti on the church walls are remnants.