



## VISIT LOUDOUN CIVIL WAR FACT SHEET

- Overview:** Located just 25 miles west of Washington, D.C., Loudoun County, Va., may be best known as D.C.'s Wine Country®. However, it is also known for its scenic byways, towns and villages that are steeped in history, showcasing the area's storied Civil War past.
- Virginia has more Civil War sites than any other state and offers a statewide system of trails that served as battle routes for armies of both sides during the Civil War. Loudoun is part of the Northern Virginia Trail, "Crossroads of Conflict," and is home to Ball's Bluff Battlefield Park and historic Morven Park, as well as other trails, heritage and history. Loudoun's website, [www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org), offers visitors an overview of Loudoun's Civil War history, along with a series of interactive, high-definition videos and 360-degree views of various Civil War sites. Civil War events held throughout the year are also listed along the left side of the website.
- Civil War Sesquicentennial:** 2011 marked the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, of which Loudoun found itself at the crossroads.
- Civil War Timeline:** **An overview of Civil War events in Loudoun:**
- **1840s to 1850s:** Loudoun County serves as a pathway on the Underground Railroad.
  - **May 23, 1861:** Virginia votes to secede from the Union. Loudoun is divided; one in three residents votes to remain in the Union.
  - **Oct. 21, 1861:** Battle of Ball's Bluff is the second-largest battle to take place in the county during the Civil War.
  - **Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 1862:** Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart mounts a successful attack on Federals at Mountville in Battle of Unison.
  - **1863:** Calvary Battles of 1863 take place in Aldie (June 17), Middleburg (June 19) and Upperville (June 21)

- **July 6, 1864:** Col. Mosby famously defeats the Union forces of Maj. William H. Forbes in the late afternoon at Mt. Zion Church, east of Aldie.
- **Nov. 28, 1864:** “Burning Raid” led by 5,000 Union cavalrymen designed to destroy the Confederate forces of Col. John Singleton Mosby, the “Gray Ghost,” devastates Loudoun Valley.
- **June 1865:** Loudoun’s 5,501 remaining slaves are freed.
- **1891:** Land is donated by former Mosby Ranger Dallas Furr for the first Union battle monument south of the Mason-Dixon Line. It is erected to the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, which suffered heavy casualties in the June 17, 1863, Battle of Aldie.
- **1901:** Veterans of the 15th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry who fought at Ball’s Bluff donate a memorial monument to Loudoun’s Sgt. Clinton Hatcher, a flagbearer with the 8th Virginia Volunteer Infantry, which is placed near the spot where Hatcher fell on the Ball’s Bluff Battlefield.

**An overview of general Civil War events:**

- **Dec. 20, 1860:** South Carolina secedes from the Union. By Feb. 1, 1861, six more southern states follow.
- **March 4, 1861:** Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th president of the United States.
- **April 12, 1861:** The Civil War begins with the first shots fired at Fort Sumter in South Carolina.
- **July 21, 1861:** Some Loudouners maintain they can hear the gunfire at the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run).
- **Sept. 17, 1862:** The bloodiest single day of the Civil War occurs at Sharpsburg, Md. (the Battle of Antietam).
- **Jan. 1, 1863:** The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.
- **November 1864:** President Lincoln is re-elected.
- **April 9, 1865:** Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surrenders to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s Army of the Potomac at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia.
- **April 15, 1865:** President Lincoln dies after being shot the night before at Ford’s Theatre.
- **June 1865:** Civil War ends and peace returns to the United States.

**Loudoun’s:  
Civil War  
Battle Sites:**

Civil War battle sites are located right in Loudoun. Among the most well known are:

- **The Battle of Aldie:** On June 17, 1863, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart directed Col. Thomas Munford to take his 2,000-strong Confederate cavalry to Aldie. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Joseph “Fighting Joe” Hooker,

commanding general of the Army of the Potomac, directed several generals to lead an advance of about 1,200 troopers to Aldie. Federal casualties for the day numbered 305 killed, wounded and missing. The Confederates lost about 120 men. Munford's defense of the turnpikes brought Stuart time to move his brigades into Loudoun Valley.

- **Battle of Middleburg:** On the surface, the June 19, 1863, Battle of Middleburg was a Federal victory. However, Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart was successful in thwarting Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton's mission to find out the movements of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Lee was able to move into northern territory quickly. About 4,500 men engaged in the fight along the Ashby's Gap Turnpike. Both sides lost nearly 100 men each.
- **Battle of Upperville:** This June 21, 1863, battle saw Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and his cavalry division struggled to maintain a tenacious defense, holding Ashby's Gap. Two Confederate brigades of 3,000 men successfully fended off 5,800 Federals. The week's battles allowed Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to cross the Potomac River into Maryland and continue his steady march upward.
- **Battle of Unison:** During this sprawling cavalry battle from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 1862, Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart successfully delayed Union Gen. George McClellan's pursuit of Gen. Robert E. Lee. On Nov. 2, 1862, a Sunday morning, opposing forces clashed and, as shells exploded from both sides, worshippers fled the Unison United Methodist Church. The Federal Army took over the church and turned it into a hospital. Today, the church is the most prominent building in this small National Register village.

**Loudoun's  
Civil War Sites  
And Heritage:**

Loudoun's countryside is filled with parks, sites, memorials, monuments and other landmarks commemorating Civil War history. These sites include:

- **Aldie Mill Historic Park:** Aldie Mill was built from 1807 to 1809 and survives today as Virginia's only known grist mill powered by twin waterwheels. The mill provided grain for soldiers and their horses during the Civil War. Union Soldiers hid in the wheat bins to escape Confederate partisan John Singleton Mosby.  
([www.nvrpa.org/parks/aldiemill](http://www.nvrpa.org/parks/aldiemill))
- **Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park:** This park preserves the site of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. This Oct. 21, 1861, clash was the second

largest to take place in the county during the Civil War. A one-mile hiking trail offers interpretive signs.

([www.nvrpa.org/parks/ballsbluff](http://www.nvrpa.org/parks/ballsbluff))

- **Claude Moore Park, Lanesville Heritage Area, Gilford Signal Station:** Visit this park's Historic District for a self-guided tour and witness layers of park history. Visit the Gilford Signal Station telegraph/flag site and learn about its role in the Civil War. Participate in a history hike or a re-enactment.  
([www.loudoun.gov/claudemoorespark](http://www.loudoun.gov/claudemoorespark))
- **Goose Creek Bridge:** Located on Route 50, west of Middleburg in Atoka, this four-arch stone bridge was built in 1802 as part of Ashby's Gap Turnpike. It was the scene of a cavalry and artillery duel on June 21, 1863. A Civil War Trails marker and interpretation is available.
- **Morven Park:** Morven Park is the home of Westmoreland Davis, progressive farmer and governor of Virginia from 1918 to 1922. Civil War buffs will enjoy learning about the Civil War camp built on this 1,000-acre property by Confederate soldiers from the winter of 1861 to 1862 and seeing replica log huts that tell the story of their daily living during that time. ([www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org))
- **Mosby Heritage Area:** This is a unique region of the Virginia Piedmont named for Confederate Col. John S. Mosby, who harried Union troops during the Civil War. The Mosby Heritage Area Association produces self-guided historic driving tours and a map that details more than 300 years of history. The association also produces an annual Civil War Conference. ([www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org))
- **Mt. Zion Old School Baptist Church:** During the Civil War, this 1851 church served as a rendezvous site for Confederate Col. John S. Mosby's men, as well as a barracks, prison, hospital and burial ground for Confederate and Union soldiers. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ([www.mtzioncpa.org](http://www.mtzioncpa.org))
- **Oatlands Historic House and Gardens:** The Oatlands Plantation was formed in 1798 from 3,408 acres of farmland by George Carter II, a descendant of one of Virginia's first families. Confederate Gen. Nathan "Shanks" Evans used the Oatlands as his headquarters in 1861. The battle that was predicted to take place there actually took place at Ball's Bluff. Today, Oatlands is a National Trust Site, encompassing 360 acres. Tours of the grounds, mansion and gardens are offered.  
([www.oatlands.org](http://www.oatlands.org))

- **Red Fox Inn:** During the Civil War, the Red Fox Inn (known then as the Beveridge House) was often used by the Confederates as a social meeting place. It is where Gen. J.E.B. Stuart famously shared intelligence reports with Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers on June 17, 1863, before the five-day battle at Aldie. The inn served as both headquarters and hospital for the Confederates. ([www.redfox.com](http://www.redfox.com))
- **Union Cemetery:** Established in 1855 as a public cemetery open to people of all faiths, this cemetery contains several notable monuments, including a Confederate War memorial. The cemetery is located at 323 N. King St. in Leesburg.

**Civil War  
Itineraries/  
Tours:**

Whether by foot or by car, a variety of guided and self-guided tours allow visitors to retrace Civil War history in the area through historic sites, battlefields and other places:

**Guided Heritage Tour**

- **Fighting & Frolicking: The Civil War Comes To Morven Park:** This guided heritage tour brings to life Confederate soldiers in camp early in the Civil War. The living history program features historical interpreters portraying Civil War soldiers who lived at Morven Park in the winter of 1861 to 1862, as well as civilians. ([www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org))

**Self-Guided Heritage Tours**

- **Loudoun's Civil War History in a Day:** Begin with a one-mile hiking loop through Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park. Next, visit historic Morven Park, a 1,000 acre property that includes replica log huts that tell the story of Civil War soldiers' lives. Conclude with a visit to Mt. Zion Church, a final resting place for Federal Cavalrymen killed there. ([www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org))
- **Civil War Towns and History Itinerary:** Start the day with a tour of the Civil War battle site of Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park. Dine in historic downtown Leesburg at the Green Tree Restaurant. Travel to the town of Middleburg, site of the Battle of Middleburg, one of three cavalry battles fought in Loudoun County in 1863. End the day in Middleburg at the Red Fox Inn, offering hospitality to travelers since 1728. During the Civil War, injured soldiers were cared for in the inn's tavern. ([www.visitloudoun.org](http://www.visitloudoun.org))

### **Guided Driving Tour**

- **Mosby's Confederacy Tours:** Civil War students and novices alike will enjoy discovering John S. Mosby, "Gray Ghost" of the Confederacy. Half- and full-day tours explore where Mosby and his Rangers lived, fought and died in Loudoun and the surrounding counties. Many areas are remarkably preserved from the war period. There are several tours to choose from, and lunch, water and information packets included in fee. Custom tours available. ([www.mosbytours.com](http://www.mosbytours.com))

### **Self-Guided Driving Tours**

- **Crossroads of Conflict: Northern Virginia Civil War Trails:** This statewide system of five trails escorts visitors along historic roadbeds that served as battle routes for armies of both sides during the Civil War. Loudoun County is part of the Northern Virginia Trail, "Crossroads of Conflict." Sites included are Ball's Bluff Battlefield Park, Historic Morven Park, nearby Manassas Battlefield and other sites. ([www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org))
- **Journey Through Hallowed Ground:** This self-guided driving tour allows travelers to discover where America happened along a 180-mile route from Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, Va., to Gettysburg, Pa. ([www.hallowedground.org](http://www.hallowedground.org))

**Civil War Links:** For additional information on Loudoun and the Civil War, visit the following links:

- **Virginia Civil War Trails** ([www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org))
- **Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission** ([www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org))
- **The John Brown 150** ([www.johnbrownraid.org](http://www.johnbrownraid.org))
- **The Mosby Heritage Area** ([www.mosbyheritage.org](http://www.mosbyheritage.org))
- **The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area** ([www.hallowedground.org](http://www.hallowedground.org))
- **Civil War Preservation Trust** ([www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org))

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