

Visitor Information



Visitors can explore the historic site through daily tours, adult and school-aged programs, and special events.



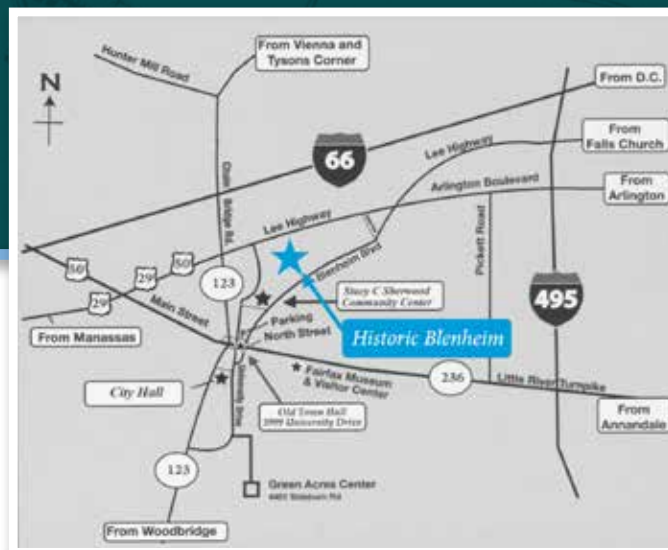
The 2008 Civil War Interpretive Center features an exhibition gallery that includes a full-sized replica of the house's attic.



This provides ADA access to the site's best-preserved signatures. (The house attic is not open to visitors due to its fragility and confined space.)

The City of Fairfax Office of Historic Resources operates Historic Blenheim. For hours and programs at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center and Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, call (703) 385-8414 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/visitors.

Donations to help support Blenheim's ongoing restoration can be made to Historic Fairfax City, Inc., a 501 © (3). Contributions should be designated for Historic Blenheim and sent to HFCCI, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.



Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center

3610 Blenheim Blvd. • Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 591-0560 • www.fairfaxva.gov/Blenheim

[f](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBlenheimCivilWarInterpretiveCenter) @HistoricBlenheimCivilWarInterpretiveCenter

[i](https://www.instagram.com/FairfaxCityMuseums) @FairfaxCityMuseums

*"The Blenheim estate is a hidden gem. . . .
This is a must-see treasure."*

-TRIP-ADVISOR, MAY 2019

Open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-3pm
Guided House Tours Tuesday-Saturday at 1pm

House is ADA accessible on the first floor
Group tours require reservations (703) 591-6728

Civil War Interpretive Center rentals administered
by the Department of Parks and Recreation (703) 385-7858

Photographs not credited are courtesy of City of Fairfax Historic Collections



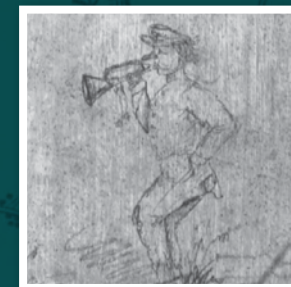
FAIRFAX CITY

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center

A Union Soldier Graffiti Site



*The Civil War Interpretive Center
is open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-3pm*



*Guided tours of the historic house
available Tuesday-Saturday at 1pm*

FREE ADMISSION

The Story of Historic Blenheim (c. 1859)



In July 1861, Federal troops rampaged through the village of Fairfax Court House, Virginia, on a mission to suppress the Confederate forces at Manassas/Bull Run. Federal soldiers ransacked Albert and Mary Willcoxon's newly built brick home:

"...the window glass and sash almost entirely demolished, the doors torn from their hinges, the stair banister broken down and the furniture not removed split to pieces." **-RICHMOND DISPATCH**



National Archives

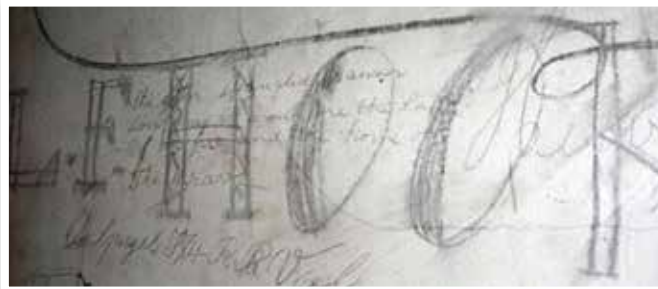
Fairfax Court House, named for the judicial building, was a village of 300 people in 1861. Strategically located in the center of Fairfax County, it was intersected by multiple roads, including the Falls Church-Fairfax Court House Road, which fronted the 367-acre Willcoxon farm.



Susan and Tim Gibson

In 1860 the Willcoxon family owned six enslaved people, including James and Milly Seals and Henson Smith. Their hard labor in the fields and in the home created a prosperous life for Albert, Mary, and their two young children.

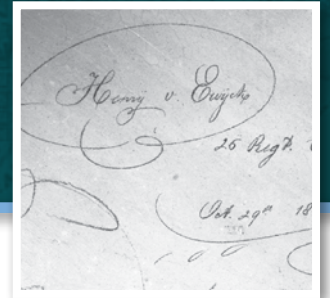
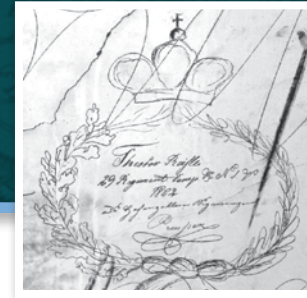
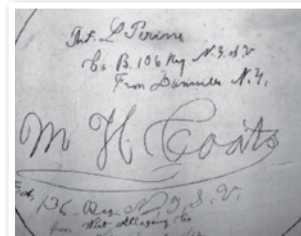
The Soldiers of Historic Blenheim



Private L. F. Hook, 73rd PA Infantry, boldly lettered his name on a wall in March 1862, before leaving with Gen. George B. McClellan for the Peninsula Campaign.

The Federal Army gained control of the Fairfax Court House area in early March 1862. For the next year-and-a-half, the deserted Willcoxon home and farm provided soldiers a camp ground for training, a refuge for convalescing from illness, and a place to rest and prepare for battle.

Thomas L. Perine and Morris H. Coats, both from the 136th NYSV, were sick in what Morris Coats called the "Brick House Hospital" near Fairfax Court House.



Theodor Raefle and Henry van Ewyck were two of the many foreign-born soldiers, who immigrated to the United States and served in the Federal Army.



One soldier's playful message in German translates to "Mischievous writings on the wall."

The unpainted Blenheim house walls were a blank canvas for the writings and pictographs of Federal soldiers. Research has identified more than 125 soldiers, their regiments, hometowns, and musings. Many drew games, the tools of war, or created clever cartoons. Today, these writings on the walls are artifacts for us to learn more about the common soldier in the Civil War.

Four generations of Willcoxon descendants owned and/or lived in the house until the City of Fairfax purchased it and the remaining undeveloped 12 acres of the farm in 1999. Recognizing Historic Blenheim as an historical record of the country's most divisive event, the city created a museum to help tell that story.

