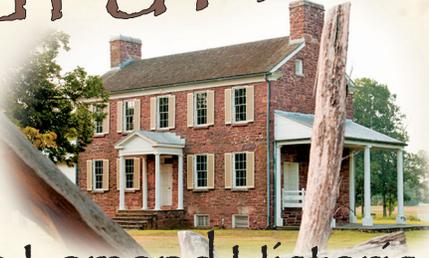


Civil War Graffiti

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.



Ben Lomond Historic Site

10321 Sudley Manor Drive, Manassas, Virginia 20109
703-367-7872 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

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

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
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.

Historic Blenheim

3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-591-0560 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.