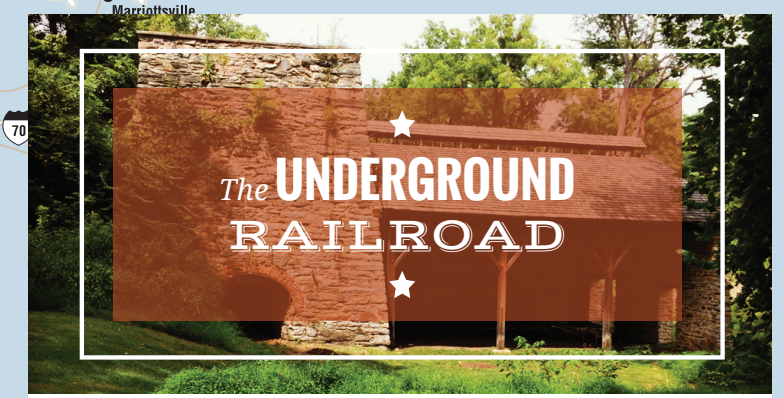


The geography of the HCWA had great bearing on the events of the Civil War. Mountains were used for reconnaissance and defensive positions. The Potomac River and other waterways played a role in defense and often determined encampment locations. Existing transportation routes, bound by the landscape, were utilized by both armies traveling to and from battlegrounds. The famed Historic National Road running east to west carried cavalry, infantry, and artillery in the same manner that it had carried early pioneers, immigrants, and goods.

The Heart of the Civil War is bisected by two of more of the country's earliest transportation routes: the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. These paths of commerce and communication connected western lands and resources to established metropolitan areas in the east. The vital transportation and supply links of the canal and railroad were coveted by both armies during the Civil War. The B&O was a constant victim of track destruction and cut telegraph lines. A number of aqueducts over the canal, which artillery and demolition teams sought to damage during the Civil War, are open to visitors today—including the Catoctin, Monocacy and Conococheague.



Enslaved Marylanders contributed much to the economy of Maryland. This region was made up of mostly small farms and African American laborers, both free and enslaved, worked in agriculture as well as in industry. Dependence on slave labor declined in the decades leading up to the Civil War and by 1860, the region was home to more free people of color than enslaved Marylanders. The system of guides and places of refuge known as the Underground Railroad provided one path to freedom before Maryland abolished slavery in November 1864.

The National Park Service's Network to Freedom program includes several local sites open to visitors, including the Best Farm at Monocacy National Battlefield, the Catoctin Iron Furnace and Manor House Ruins in Cunningham Falls State Park, and Ferry Hill Plantation within the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

More info: npr.gov/ugrr



Follow the "bugle signs" to more than 60 interpreted Civil War sites in Maryland's Heart of the Civil War. The Maryland Civil War Trails program features individual routes focusing on the 1862 Maryland Campaign (Antietam), the 1863 Gettysburg Invasion and Retreat, and Jubal Early's 1864 Raid on Washington D.C. These driving tours take you through towns, battlefields, cemeteries, and other significant Civil War sites. Map guides and interpretive markers show the routes of troop movements and provide interesting stories and asides, many hidden within the landscape for 150 years. Civil War Trails Map/Guides are available at Maryland Welcome Centers, County Visitor Centers and the HCWAH Exhibit & Visitor Center at the historic Newcomer House.

More info: civilwartrails.org

1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867

- OCTOBER 16-18, 1859** John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry, VA (now WV)
- APRIL 12, 1861** Confederate forces fire upon Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, SC
- APRIL 18, 1861** Burning of US Army and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, VA (now WV)
- SEPTEMBER 4, 1862** Gen. Lee crosses Potomac and enters Maryland (Beginning of Maryland Campaign)
- SEPTEMBER 12-15, 1862** Battle of Harpers Ferry, VA (now WV); Union surrender at Harpers Ferry is largest single capture of Federal troops during the entire war
- SEPTEMBER 14, 1862** Battle of South Mountain, MD
- SEPTEMBER 17, 1862** Battle of Antietam, MD
- JUNE 15, 1863** Confederate Army crosses Potomac at Williamsport, MD (Beginning of Gettysburg Campaign)
- JUNE 29, 1863** Corbit's Charge at Westminster, MD
- JULY 1-3, 1863** Battle of Gettysburg, PA
- JULY 4-14, 1863** Confederate retreat through Washington County, MD
- JULY 5-6, 1864** Gen. Early's forces cross into Maryland from Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, WV
- JULY 9, 1864** Battle of Monocacy, MD
- JULY 11, 1864** Confederate attack repelled at Fort Stevens, Washington, D.C.
- SEPTEMBER 17, 1867** Dedication of Antietam National Cemetery, MD
- APRIL 9, 1865** Gen. Lee surrenders to Gen. Grant at Appomattox, VA

★ PRE-WAR Events ★ ★ 1862: ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN ★ ★ 1863: GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN ★ ★ 1864: JUBAL EARLY'S RAID ★

As a border state with a sizeable pro-Southern constituency, Maryland was a crucial linchpin for both the preservation of the Union as well as the Southern strategy for independence. The significance of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area began long before the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861. Issues of slavery and states' rights had strong ties to the nearby Mason-Dixon Line, the 1857 Dred Scott decision, John Brown's ill-fated insurrection plot at Harpers Ferry in October 1859, and the hotly contested Presidential election of 1860. Radical abolitionist John Brown prepared for his raid at the Kennedy Farmhouse, south of Sharpsburg, under the alias "Isaac Smith." Marylanders faced the choice of remaining with the Union or seceding with the South. To ensure its loyalty, Abraham Lincoln advised Maryland Governor Thomas Hicks to convene the 1861 General Assembly in Frederick, where Union sentiment was stronger than in Annapolis. The General Assembly met in Frederick's Kemp Hall in the spring and summer of 1861, but sputtered to a halt in September after Federal soldiers arrested many pro-Southern legislators to ensure Maryland's loyalty. With these delegates arrested prior to reaching Frederick, a quorum could not be reached and a vote on secession could not be taken.

After experiencing success at the Second Battle of Manassas in August 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee invaded Western Maryland, hoping to rally Confederate support, resupply his army, and gain foreign recognition for the Confederacy. Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties were soon occupied by the Southern army. The Union army under Gen. George McClellan arrived on the scene and pursued the Confederates toward the west. Maryland Heights, on the cliff overlooking Harpers Ferry, became a strategic target for both sides: the Union army occupied this position from September 19, 1862 through the end of the war. McClellan was aided by the amazing discovery of Special Orders No. 191, which outlined Lee's campaign strategy. The first experience of major battle occurred on September 14 atop South Mountain. Lee's hopes were dashed three days later at Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, and he retreated over the Potomac into Virginia the following day. Five days after the Battle of Antietam, on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. With that, the Union's war aims expanded from reunification of the United States to a moral crusade to free the enslaved.

Following Lee's victory at Chancellorsville (VA) in May 1863, Gen. Lee marched through the Shenandoah Valley with a plan to invade the North. He reached Pennsylvania, sending panic throughout the Northern states. In Frederick, Union Gen. George G. Meade was given command of the Army of the Potomac. He led his troops northward toward the Mason-Dixon Line and made Taneytown his headquarters. Meade designed a defensive strategy utilizing nearby Pipe Creek, and Carroll County became a primary transportation, supply, camping, and staging ground for the US forces. Meade and Lee's armies faced off at Gettysburg in an epic three-day battle. Once again, the Confederate tide was turned back, and Washington County was traversed by the retreating Confederates.

In the spring of 1864, Union commander-in-chief Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched simultaneous attacks against the Confederates throughout the South. He succeeded in maneuvering Gen. Lee closer to Richmond (VA) and finally besieged him in the CSA's capital city and at nearby Petersburg. Confederate Gen. Jubal Early took his forces north in a desperate attempt to turn the tide by capturing Washington, D.C. Confederate soldiers disembarked from trains at Martinsburg (WV) and crossed into Maryland. Towns such as Hagerstown, Middletown, and Frederick were ransomed by the invaders in an effort to collect money and supplies for the ragged Southern army. The towns of Hancock and Westminster were spared before Confederates could collect ransoms there. After collecting \$200,000 from the town fathers of Frederick, Early's men were stalled by Gen. Lew Wallace and a hastily assembled Union force at the Battle of Monocacy. Although the Confederates were victorious in this conflict, they failed in achieving their final objective as Union defenses around Washington DC had been replenished and strengthened.