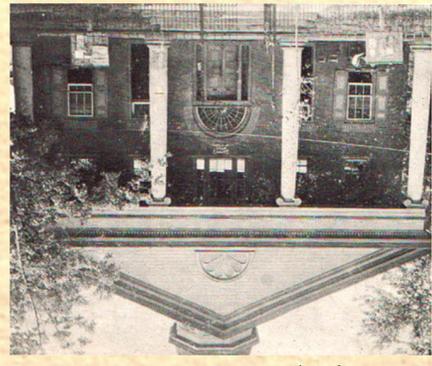


Local Information



Engagement at Romney. The 11th Indiana Zouaves crossing the bridge over the Potomac to attack Confederate forces.

Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.grantcountyva.com
Hampshire County Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.conetohampshire.com
Hardy County Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.vishardcounty.com



The Hampshire County Courthouse was occupied by both Union and Confederate forces.



Petersburg Presbyterian Church. Congregation members abandoned Cemetery after being occupied by Union troops.



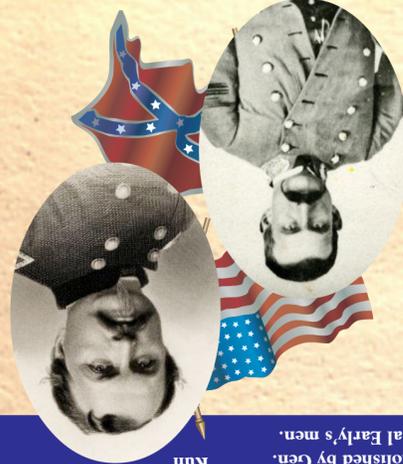
Cape John Hansen Ranglers on raids of throughout the South Branch Valley



Fort Mulligan - Federal or Confederate troops occupied this hill and its surrounding area beginning as early as August 1861. Courtesy of the Lewis G. Alt Collection



West Virginia attains statehood June 20, 1863 J.C. Alder drawing of the state seal done in 1911. courtesy of the West Virginia State Museum



Gen. John McCausland (left) and his Confederate troops at the Battle of Moorefield. Gen. Wm. W. Averell (right) soundly defeated

1861

MAY Citizens of Romney at Wire Bridge Engagement near Romney vote on secession
JUNE Romney at Wire Bridge Engagement near Romney
OCTOBER Citizens of Romney at Wire Bridge Engagement near Romney

1862

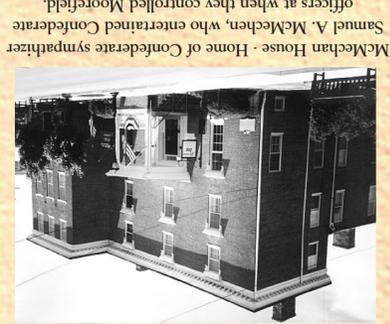
JANUARY Stonewall Jackson plans to pursue federal forces out of Romney and also capture Cumberland, Md.
FEBRUARY Federal troops attack and capture Confederates at Bloemery Gap
MAY 20,000 Union troops march through Wardenville after defeat there.

1863

Fort Mill Ridge near Romney, is built by Union soldiers but used by both armies during the war
APRIL West Virginia secedes from Virginia to become a state and remain part of the Union.
MAY 20,000 Union troops march through Wardenville after defeat there.

1864

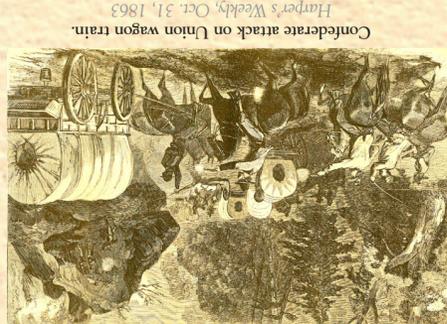
JANUARY Union troops leave Fort Mulligan, which is subsequently demolished by Jubal Early's men.
JUNE Engagement at Johnson's Battle of Moorefield begins
AUGUST



McMechan House - Home of Confederate sympathizer Samuel A. McMechen, who entertained Confederate officers at when they controlled Moorefield.



Cap. George W. Stump Confederate Officer from Romney



Confederate attack on Union wagon train. Harper's Weekly, Oct. 31, 1863



Gen. John C. Fremont led his troops through Wardenville



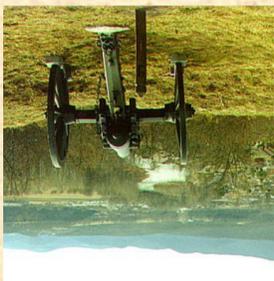
Fort Mill Ridge Civil War trenches Courtesy of Justin A. Wilcox



Gen. Wm. T. "Crumble" Jones defeated Union troops at Greenland Gap



Mill Island - served as a hospital, especially for McNeill's Rangers WV & Regional History Collection



Fort Mulligan, overlooking the South Branch of the Potomac



Moorefield Presbyterian Church - used as a hospital for both sides. Union forces burned the pews for firewood and also stabled their horses inside.

West Virginia Civil War Trails of Hampshire, Hardy and Grant Counties



Your free map and guide to area Civil War Trails markers

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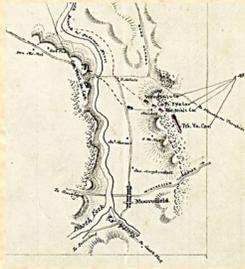
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Battle of Moorefield
Running for the Hills



Midmorning, August 7, 1864 ... Confederate soldiers are running for the hills.
Confederate Gen. John McCausland's cavalry brigade was bivouacked close to Moorefield on the South Branch of the Potomac River, while he was sleeping in Samuel A. McMechen's house in Moorefield, two miles away. His brigade and that of Gen. Bradley T. Johnson had taken part in Gen. Jubal A. Early's raid on Washington, D.C. They had burned Chambersburg, Pa., after trying unsuccessfully to extort money from the town fathers in retaliation for Federal "depredations" in the Shenandoah Valley, which had likewise been in retaliation for Confederate "atrocities." Union Gen. Wm. W. Averell, whose command was in pursuit, surprised them at Old Fields by attacking with "Jesse Scouts" (Federal soldiers in Confederate uniforms). Johnson's men forded the river and attempted to form a defense with McCausland's brigade, but they were outflanked and outgunned. The 3rd West Virginia Cavalry charged three times across the river and made the Confederates run for the hills. In the Meadows, the McNeill family took shelter in their cellar from the bullets.



Willow Wall, Old Fields near the battle site

Averell captured four cannons, more than 400 men with their weapons, and about the same number of horses, which were as difficult to replace as the soldiers. Early claimed that "this affair had a very damaging effect upon my cavalry for the rest of the campaign" in terms of both morale and horses. That campaign ended with the loss of the Shenandoah Valley, the "breadbasket of the Confederacy."

Fort Mulligan
Jumping off point for raids

The valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River saw an incredible amount of troop activity and action. Its story is hauntingly similar to that of the famed Shenandoah Valley, albeit on a smaller scale. Indeed, if the Shenandoah was the granary of the Confederacy, then this bountiful region may well have been known as its stockyard, for it managed to supply stock to Confederate forces in Virginia at least as late as November 1864.
The Valley was a middle ground, situated between the all important Middle Shenandoah Valley and the Upper Potomac region with its vital coal resources and the B&O Railroad infrastructure centered around Cumberland, Md. The railroad itself cuts across the lower South Branch Valley and its adjacent drainages. In addition to offering agricultural products to the South, it offered a mostly sympathetic populace and innumerable remote avenues of approach for a mobile force bent on the destruction of the railroad.



Federal or Confederate troops occupied this hill and its surrounding area beginning at least as early as August 1861, and were on the ground for at least part of every year of the war. Federal forces time and again tried to use this strategic point as a choke hold against raids on the B&O to the north, and as a "jumping-off" point for their own raids further south.
The Fort as it exists today, was constructed August-December 1863, by troops under the command of Colonel James A. Mulligan, from Chicago, Illinois. Infantry, cavalry and artillery from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Illinois carried out the backbreaking labor.
The rugged earthworks bear silent witness to the sacrifices of the thousands of Americans who marched, dug, fought, froze and died here during the war. The tide of war ebbed and waned across the South during the war, but when troops were in the South Branch, they were always "at the front."

Fort Mill Ridge
Commanding the Northwest Turnpike



Col. Jacob M. Campbell

In the March of 1863, a brigade under the command of Colonel Jacob M. Campbell of the 54th Pennsylvania, fortified a low ridge on the west side of the South Branch of the Potomac River about a mile west of Romney. The brigade consisted of the 54th Pennsylvania Infantry and 1st West Virginia Infantry, along with Battery E, 1st West Virginia Artillery and the Ringgold, Washington, and Lafayette (all Pennsylvania) Cavalry. Campbell's command blocked Confederate attempts to control the South Branch, thus shielding the B&O Railroad and the Northwest Turnpike. The place Campbell selected commanded the turnpike as it passed into Mechanicsburg Gap and southern approaches to Romney. The location also provided some protection from the ever-present threat of surprise Confederate raids. With a camp along Mill Creek, Campbell's men were safe under the guns on the ridge.
Campbell's men erected a near textbook fortification. The 3-inch Rifles of Captain Alexander Moore's Battery E easily commanded the turnpike and the gap to the west of the fort.
Operationally speaking, the highlights of the garrison's limited activities included brushes with Captain John H. McNeill's Confederate raiders. However when elements of the Army of Northern Virginia entered the Shenandoah Valley in June 1863, exposing Campbell's fort and with the defeat of Federal forces at Winchester and Martinsburg, Campbell fell back to the west. This opened the South Branch for General John Imboden's command, who occupied Romney then later Cumberland, Maryland in support of the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania.

Courtesy of Craig Swain
February 14, 2010
markerhunter.wordpress.com

Courtesy of the Grant County Press

West Virginia Civil War Trails of Hampshire, Hardy and Grant Counties



Nat'l Register of Historic Places

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

- Capon Springs, Capon Springs
- Old District Parsonage, Romney
- Fort Van Meter, Romney
- Hampshire County Courthouse, Romney
- Kuykendall Polygonal Barn, Romney
- Literary Hall, Romney
- Capt. David Pugh House, Hooks Mills
- Scanlon Farm (Log House), Three Churches
- Sloan-Parker House, Junction
- Sycamore Dale, Romney



Washington Bottom Farm (above), Springfield
Wilson-Wodrow-Mytinger House, Romney

GRANT COUNTY

- Fairfax Stone Site (monument), North of William at corner of Grant, Preston and Tucker counties.
- Gorman Presbyterian Church, Gorman
- Grant County Courthouse (old), Petersburg
- Hermitage Motor Inn (above), (Cunningham; Taylor Hotel), Petersburg
- The Manor, Petersburg



Rohrbaugh Cabin (Allegheny Cabin), Monongahela National Forest, Petersburg
Noah Snyder Farm (Snyder House), Lahmansville

HARDY COUNTY

- Judge J.W.F. Allen House (Ingleside), Moorefield
- Buena Vista Farms, Old Fields
- Henry Funkhouser Farm & Log House, Baker



- Stump Family Farm (above), Moorefield
- Garrett VanMeter House, Old Fields
- Westfall Place, Moorefield
- Lost River General Store, Lost River
- Hickory Hill, Moorefield
- P.W. Inskip House, Moorefield
- Moorefield (Downtown) Historic District, Old Stone Tavern, Maslin-Gamble House, Old Hardy County Courthouse
- Oakland Hall, Moorefield
- The Meadows, Moorefield

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

FORT MILL RIDGE

2 miles west of Romney on US 50
Interpreted trail winds through this well-preserved fort commanding the Northwestern Turnpike (now US 50).
Confederates earlier used this position to defend the approaches to Romney. Union soldiers built the existing fort in 1863.

ENGAGEMENT AT ROMNEY

Trails sign west of Romney on south side of Main Street (US 50), just west of the bridge.
Learning that Confederates were occupying Romney in June 1861, Union troops under Lew Wallace (later of Monocacy fame) marched toward town. As they approached the covered bridge over the South Branch of the Potomac River, they came under fire from Sycamore Dale (across the river and upstream) and a couple of pieces of artillery. Wallace dislodged the Confederates, who fled. Wallace searched the town for weapons before returning to his base in Maryland.

ROMNEY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Trails sign at 340 E. Main Street
Romney, West Virginia
Romney's strategic location along the turnpike connecting Winchester, Va. with the Ohio River and its proximity to the B&O Railroad led to numerous troop movements, battles and skirmishes during the war. The town allegedly changed hands 60 times. Caught in the middle of Northern and Southern sentiments, most of the citizens backed the Confederacy.

WIRE BRIDGE ENGAGEMENT

Trails sign located at the south base of the Route 28 Bridge
On Oct. 24, 1861, the Union high command ordered Gen. Benjamin Kelley to strengthen his position on the B&O Railroad by taking the strategic position at Romney. Part of Kelley's force tried to cross the river here but ran into stiff Confederate resistance and a partially destroyed bridge. This group returned to Maryland. Kelley's other force occupied Romney until Jan. 10, 1862, when they also withdrew over this bridge to Maryland.

STONEWALL JACKSON HEADQUARTERS

Trails sign at 272 Main Street
Romney, West Virginia
Jackson made his headquarters here in Romney at the home of John B. White on Jan. 14, 1862. He planned here the Federal force that had just abandoned the town and perhaps capture Cumberland, Md. Low morale, bad weather and other factors prevented Jackson from carrying out his plans.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

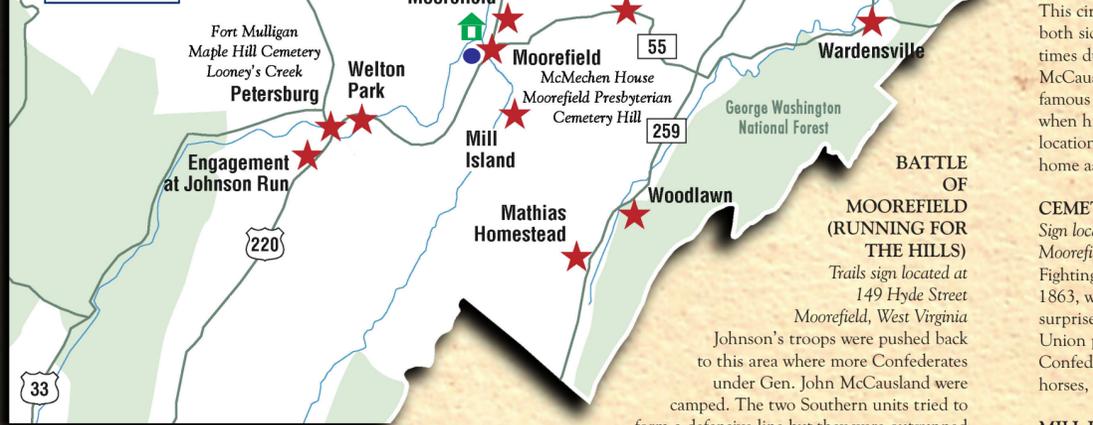
Trails sign at West Main and North High streets
Romney, West Virginia
On May 23, 1861, citizens of Romney gathered at the courthouse to vote on the question of Virginia's secession. 1,188 voted for and 788 voted against. Although West Virginia became a state during the war, most residents continued to side with the Confederacy. The building suffered rough treatment during the war after being occupied by one side, then the other.

SHEETZ GUN FACTORY

2514 Old Jersey Mountain Road, Gore, West Virginia
Gunsmith Jacob Sheetz found himself with more business than he could handle when, in 1861, he was busily converting old flintlock rifles found in storage in the courthouse to the more modern percussion type. This is the site of his shop and near the Confederate camps that were set up to be near Sheetz and his production.

BLOOMERY GAP

Trails sign on Route 127, just west of the Virginia border
Confederates occupying the gap in early 1862 threatened the B&O Railroad and Union operations near the Potomac River. In mid-February a Federal force under General Frederick Lander attacked the Confederate position, scattering the troops and capturing 67. The Confederates soon reoccupied the gap.

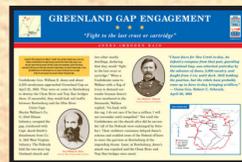


CAPTAIN STUMP

Trails sign on County Route 8 just off Main Street southwest of Romney, West Virginia
Hickory Grove was the home of Capt. George W. Stump, known as "Stump's Battery" because he was always heavily armed. He rode with the Confederate McNeill's Partisan Rangers and Gen. John Imboden during the war, finally meeting his end when he ran afoul of Union troopers in February 1865.

SOUTH BRANCH INNS MOOREFIELD & ROMNEY

CIVIL WAR TRAILS MARKERS



HARDY COUNTY

BATTLE OF MOOREFIELD (START)

Trails sign located at 5196 US Route 220
Old Fields, West Virginia
Union troopers, under Gen. William W. Averell, surprised, attacked and routed Confederate cavalry under Gen. Bradley T. Johnson and camped in Moorefield Aug. 7, 1864.

MATHIAS HOMESTEAD

Trails sign located at 195 Howards Lick Road
Mathias, West Virginia
After John T. Mathias enlisted in the Confederate army, his family faced tough times during the war. Both Confederate and Union troops periodically swept through taking produce and livestock.

WOODLAWN

Trails sign located at 8079 State Route 259
Lost River, West Virginia
The house, still standing, was the home of James W. Wood, who grew up there and was 15 years old when the war began. He joined the Confederate army in January 1864 and fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor. He also served with Jubal Early's Valley army. After the war, he served three terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

MOOREFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sign located at 109 S. Main Street
Moorefield, West Virginia
The leader of this church, Rev. William Wilson, and his congregation were strong Confederate sympathizers. Wilson left town in 1862 to become a chaplain in the Confederate army. During the war, both sides used the church as a hospital. Union soldiers stabled their horses inside and burned pews as firewood.

MCMECHEN HOUSE

Trails sign 121 N. Main Street
Moorefield, West Virginia
This circ. 1853 house served as headquarters for both sides as Moorefield changed hands several times during the war. Confederate Gen. John McCausland, was asleep in the house after the famous 1864 "Burning of Chambersburg" action when his troops were attacked 4 miles north of his location. Union Gen. John C. Fremont used this home as his headquarters in May 1862.

CEMETERY HILL

Sign located at 192 Olivet Drive
Moorefield, West Virginia
Fighting erupted among the tombstones Sept. 10, 1863, when Union troops camped there were surprised by a variety of Confederate troopers. The Union position was soon overrun. The Confederates captured 160 soldiers plus wagons, horses, guns and ammunition.

MILL ISLAND

Sign located at 710 Mill Island Road
Moorefield, West Virginia
This mansion was built about 1840 for Felix Seymour and his wife. During the war, the home was used as a Confederate hospital (especially for sick and wounded McNeill's Rangers). The prosperous 1,500-acre farm suffered the loss of crops and livestock to both sides during the war.

FREMONT'S CAMP

Sign located at 8790 State Road 55
Moorefield, West Virginia
Union Gen. John C. Fremont and his 20,000-man army arrived and camped at this location May 28, 1862. Fremont had been defeated by Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of McDowell earlier in the month. President Abraham Lincoln then urged Fremont to return to the Valley to help defeat Jackson. Rain and road conditions slowed the Federals as they broke camp two days later to return to the Valley.

GRANT COUNTY

FORT MULLIGAN

Trails sign located at 203 Virginia Avenue
Petersburg, West Virginia
Interpreted trail leading to the preserved remains of the fort is accessible from the Grant Memorial Hospital parking lot south of Route 55, Petersburg
Constructed by Union troops in 1863 on a site formerly occupied by both sides, this strong point protected Unionists in the South Branch Valley and served as a supply depot and jumping-off point for Federal activities protecting the B&O Railroad. The fort was evacuated on Jan. 31, 1864 because of an impending attack by Confederate Gen. Jubal Early. Early's men "demolished the works" and, although military activity continued in the area, the fort was never reoccupied.

MAPLE HILL CEMETERY

Trails sign located at 301 N. Main Street
Petersburg, West Virginia
Union commanders ordered the protection of this cemetery while the brick church was used as a commissary. The local congregation had stopped meeting at the church after Union occupation in 1862. It was later burned and its bricks were used for flooring in winter cabins and at Fort Mulligan.

GREENLAND GAP ENGAGEMENT

Trails sign located in Scherr, West Virginia
A small Union detachment occupied the gap April 25, 1863, defending it at the approach of Confederate Gen. William Jones, who was en route to Rowlesburg to burn the B&O Railroad bridge there. Jones's overwhelming numbers eventually forced the surrender of the Union force but the delay perhaps saved the Rowlesburg bridge.

WAR IN GRANT COUNTY: ENGAGEMENT AT JOHNSON RUN

Trails sign located at 199 S. Main Street
Petersburg, West Virginia
Union Home Guard members clashed with a detachment of Confederate Capt. John McNeill's Rangers near Johnson Run June 19, 1864. The Home Guard, returning with supplies from the B&O Railroad, successfully defended its wagon train and withdrew.

HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS



GREENLAND GAP - Scene of skirmish in 1863 between General Jones' cavalry and Federal troops from New Creek. WV 93, at junction with Co. Route 1 (Greenland Rd.), just north of junction with WV 42, Scherr.

MCNEILL'S RAID - Here in 1865, McNeill's Rangers under Lt. Jesse C. McNeill, started a raid on Cumberland, where they captured Union generals Kelley and Crook. The Rangers, organized by Capt. John Hanson McNeill, performed many daring deeds.

US Route 220/WV Route 28, Moorefield
BLOOMERY GAP SKIRMISH/BLOOMERY IRON FURNACE - Feb. 14, 1862, Brigadier General Federick W. Lander, commanding the 5th and 8th Ohio, 14th Indiana Infantry, and 400 men of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry, attacked a Confederate brigade of the 31st, 51st, 67th and 89th Virginia Militia under Colonel J. Sencendiver. The Confederates were routed and fled toward Winchester.

WV 127, 1.5 miles east of junction with WV 29.
BLUES GAP BATTLE - Confederate troops under Captain George F. Sheets, were defeated by Colonel S.H. Dimming's 5th Ohio Infantry here, Jan. 87, 1862. North River Bridge and a number of buildings were burned by the Federals.

U.S. 50, 14 miles east of Romney.
"STONEWALL" JACKSON/ROMNEY IN 1861-65 Jackson arrived here Jan. 13, 1862, after capturing Bath (Berkeley Springs). His Valley Campaign followed. Sitting astride the natural invasion route from the Shenandoah Valley to the Potomac and B&O Railroad, Romney was scoured by both armies. No great battles were fought here, but during the war the town changed hands 56 times. U.S. 50, courthouse square, Romney.