



View of Parkersburg from Mount Logan (site of Fort Boreman), 1861  
Courtesy West Virginia University Library



Nancy Hart, Confederate Spy  
Courtesy West Virginia Division of Culture and History



Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans  
Courtesy Library of Congress



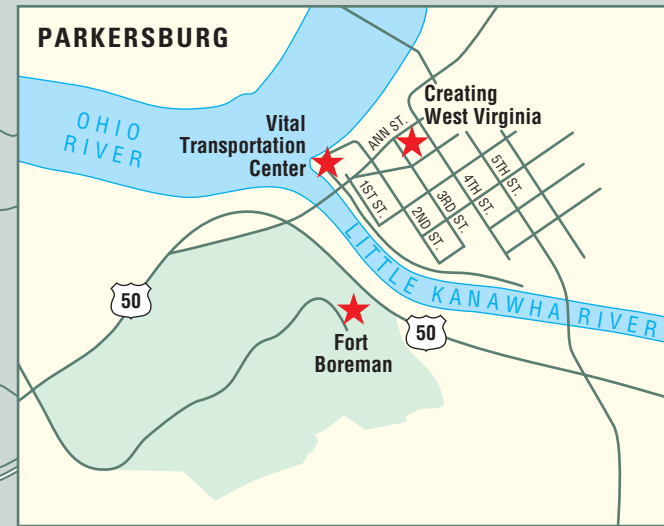
This large bronze bell, now at the Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum in Wheeling, called people to the slave auction. Cast in Troy, New York, in 1854, it stands four feet high and has a three-foot-diameter base.  
Courtesy Oglebay Institute



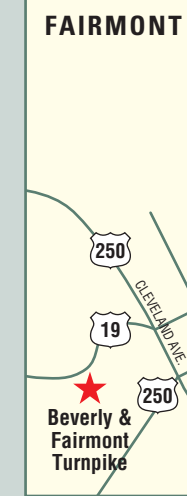
Custom House interior, Wheeling Convention, Harper's Weekly, July 6, 1861



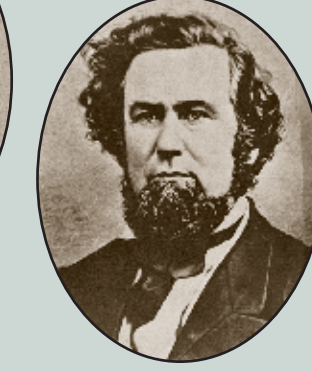
Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans's brigade attacking at Rich Mountain  
Courtesy Becker Collection, Boston, Mass.



Cannons opened fire on Philippi to start the first land battle of the war.  
Courtesy Library of Congress

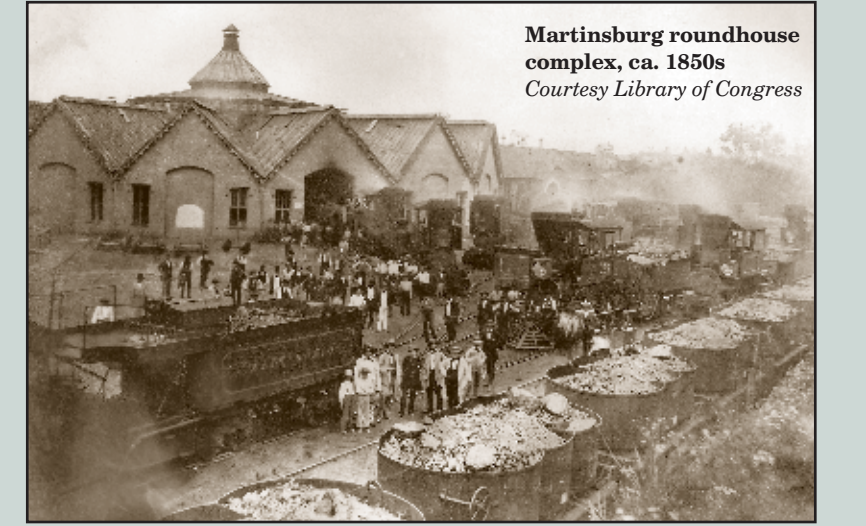


Julia Pierpont  
Courtesy West Virginia University



Francis H. Pierpont  
Courtesy West Virginia State Archives

"It may be said with truth that no spot in the United States experienced more of the horrors of war."  
— Joseph Barry, Harpers Ferry resident



Martinsburg roundhouse complex, ca. 1850s  
Courtesy Library of Congress



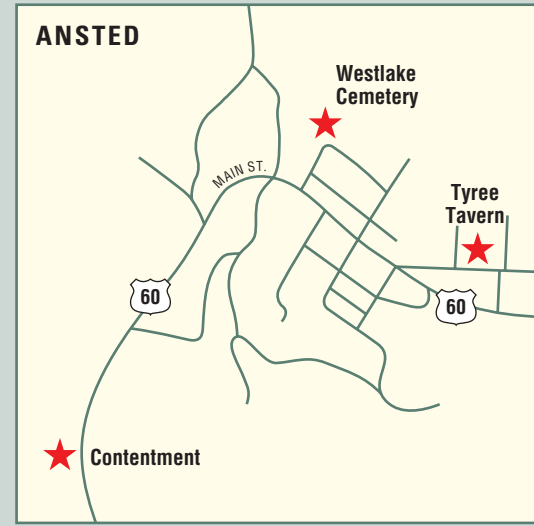
Maj. Martin R. Delany, Charles Town native and highest-ranking black U.S. Army officer  
Courtesy Smithsonian Institution



Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson  
Courtesy Library of Congress



"Following Stonewall" by W.L. Sheppard  
Museum of the Confederacy



Brooks Salt Works  
Courtesy West Virginia & Regional History Collection



"Burning of McDonald House" by Geraldine Walters  
Courtesy Billy Hinkle



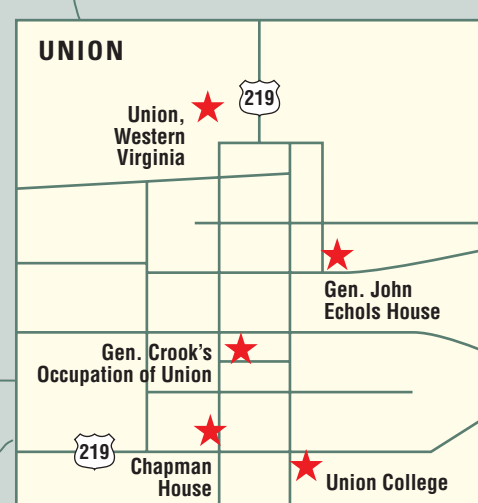
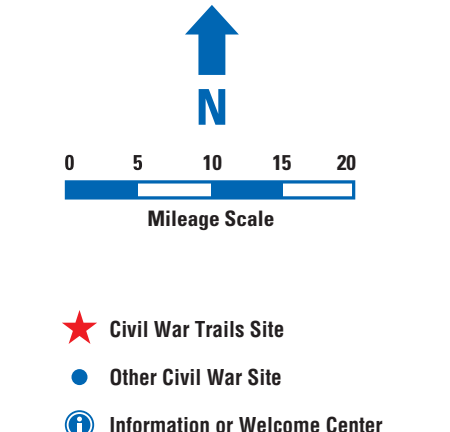
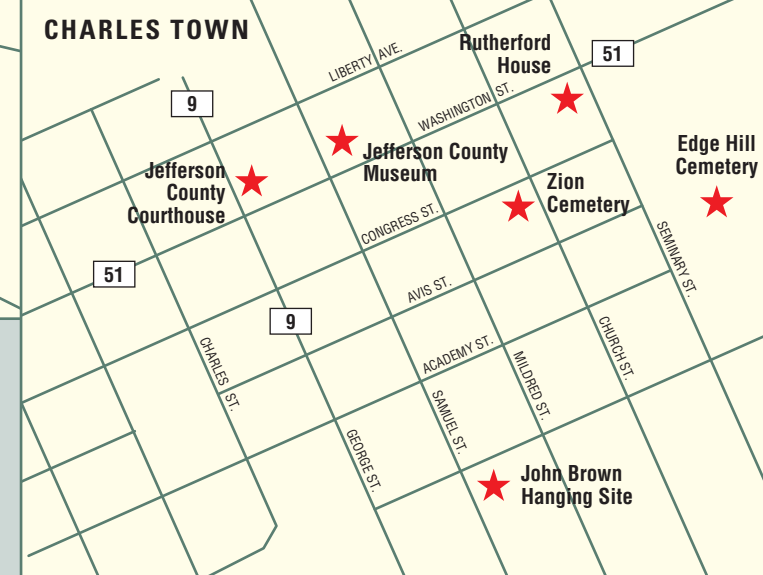
Civil War-era saltpeter mining hopper, Organ Cave  
Courtesy Organ Cave, Inc.

"We have been torn from Virginia by wicked force, but we are Virginians still."  
— Mary Elizabeth McMechen, Hardy Co., 1866

UNION OR DISUNION?  
THE ISSUE IS UPON US!

Broadside (with original typographic error) advertising the Unionist meeting of November 24, 1860  
Courtesy West Virginia University Archives

"Why should we risk a new government in the south when we are already governed by the best constitution ever and God given freedoms which might disappear under a new government after secession?"  
— Arthur I. Boreman, later first governor of West Virginia, February 1861



Fremont's army marching through the woods  
Courtesy Library of Congress

# HARPERS FERRY

Few places played such an important role in the Civil War as Harpers Ferry. This was where some of the first shots of the conflict were fired when abolitionist John Brown led his "army" of would-be slave liberators there on October 16, 1859. After shedding the first blood and seizing the U.S. Armory, Brown and his followers were overwhelmed two days later, when a detachment of marines stormed the engine house. Col. Robert E. Lee with his aide Lt. J.E.B. Stuart commanded the force. Brown was captured, tried, convicted of treason against Virginia, and hanged at nearby Charles Town on December 2, 1859.

When the war came, both Union and Confederate forces coveted this strategic location as the gateway to the Shenandoah Valley. The Federals used the town and its connection to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a supply base, launching repeated incursions from here into the heart of Virginia. The Confederates marched through the area when they invaded the North and occupied Harpers Ferry during the 1862 Maryland (Antietam) Campaign, the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign, and Gen. Jubal A. Early's 1864 raid on Washington. Nearby Shepherdstown and Martinsburg also played key roles in the conflict, as hospital and transportation centers respectively.



Gen. William E. Jones  
Gen. John Imboden

# JONES-IMBODEN RAID

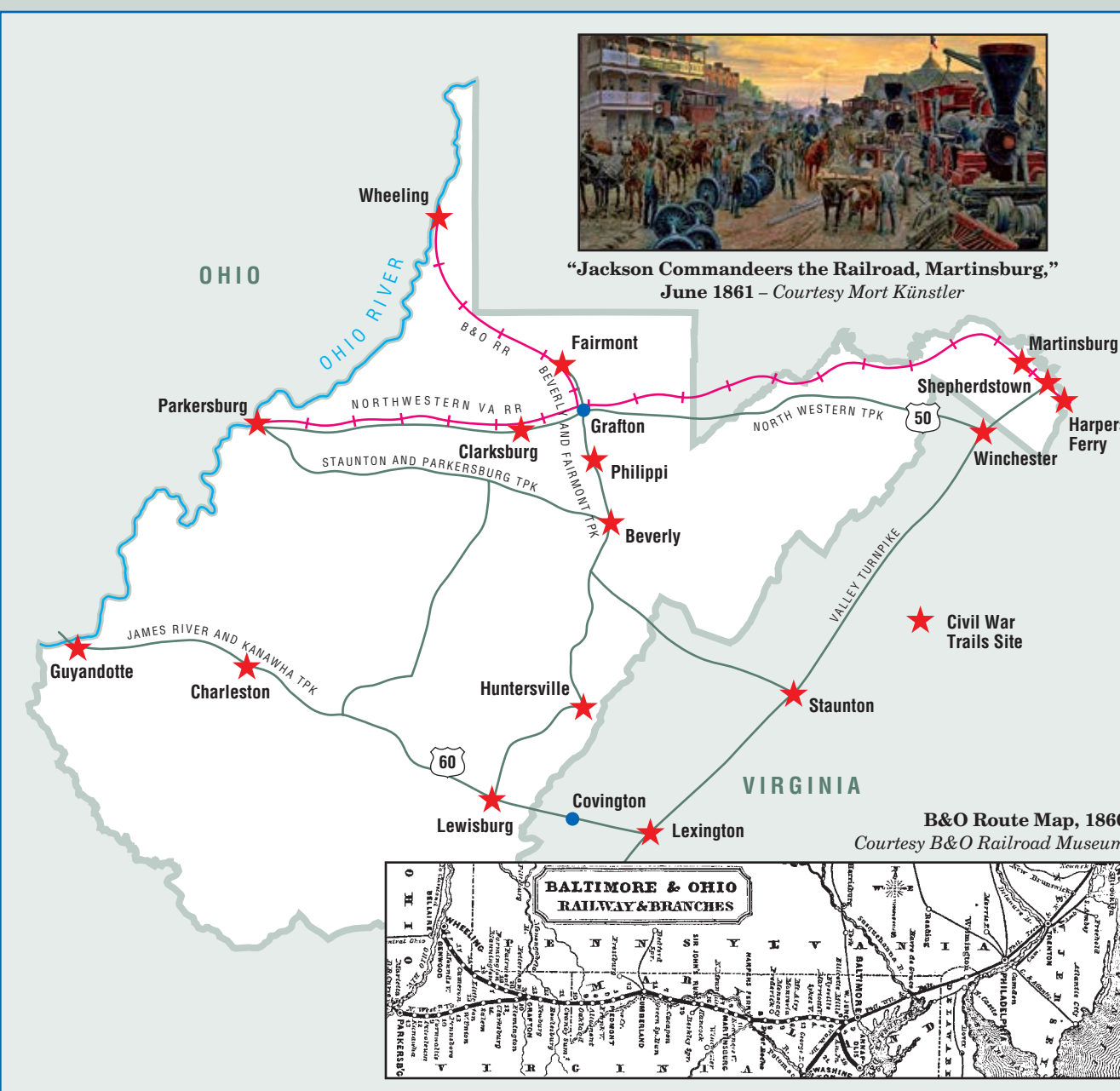
On April 20, 1863, Confederate Gens. William E. "Grumble" Jones and John D. Imboden began a cavalry raid through present-day West Virginia. They planned to disrupt rail transportation, cut telegraph lines, weaken Federal control, and seize supplies. The primary goal was to destroy bridges at Rowlesburg. Imboden led 3,365 men from Staunton through Beverly and Buckhannon. Jones rode with 2,100 men through Petersburg and Moorefield, fought an engagement at Greenland Gap in Hardy County, and was repulsed after a daylong battle at Rowlesburg. The largest battle of the raid, it was Jones's only defeat, despite outnumbering the Federals six to one. He occupied Morgantown and seized supplies and horses on April 28. The next day, Jones fought an important engagement at Fairmont. Despite facing 500 Union regulars and home guards there, he burned a railroad bridge and the library of Francis H. Pierpont, governor of the Restored Government of Virginia. Jones temporarily rejoined Imboden at Buckhannon and skirmished to Weston where they seized the mass of supplies stockpiled for the opening of the newly constructed Trans Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. Jones destroyed oil wells and equipment at Burning Springs. The raiders returned to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley by May 26. The generals claimed that they marched 1,100 miles, captured 700 Federals, seized 1,200 horses and 4,000 cattle, and burned 4 turnpike bridges, more than 20 railroad bridges, 2 trains, and 150,000 barrels of oil. Most bridges were soon repaired.



Gen. Albert G. Jenkins

# JENKINS'S RAID

Confederate Gen. Albert G. Jenkins led 550 cavalymen on a 500-mile raid through central West Virginia between August 22 and September 12, 1862, attacking Federal forces, capturing prisoners, and destroying military stores. From Salt Sulphur Springs in Monroe County, he rode along the Tygart and Buckhannon Rivers, capturing Union scouts in Huttonsville and taking 5,000 weapons in Buckhannon on August 30. As Jenkins and his men rode west on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, he occupied Weston and destroyed the telegraph line there. He drove off two companies of Federals at Glenville and then captured the Union garrison (5 companies of the 11th West Virginia Infantry) under Col. John C. Rathbone at Spencer on September 2. Next, he took Ripley in Jackson County and seized \$5,550 from the U.S. paymaster. At Ravenswood on September 4, the Federals retreated across the Ohio River. That evening, Jenkins forded the river and raised the Confederate flag in Ohio. He captured Racine, recrossed the river, and passed through Point Pleasant. Jenkins then continued through Barboursville, Logan Court House, Pineville in Wyoming County, and Beckley in Raleigh County. On September 12, Jenkins ended the raid at Red House on the Kanawha River. Jenkins's Raid, like most cavalry expeditions, temporarily disrupted the Union communication and supply system but had no long-term consequences, although planting the Confederate flag in Ohio provided a brief lift to Confederate morale.



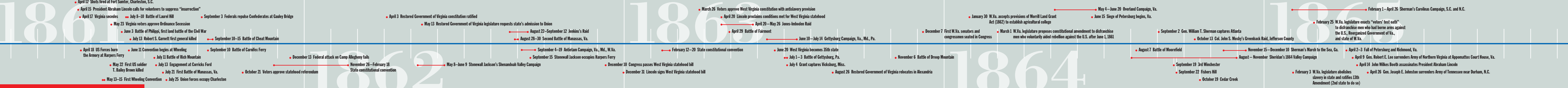
B&O Route Map, 1860

# MOUNTAIN MANEUVERING

West Virginia's rugged terrain made campaigning extremely difficult despite numerous gravel turnpikes. Major western turnpikes included the Staunton and Parkersburg, Beverly and Fairmont, James River and Kanawha, Valley, and North Western. In northern West Virginia, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Northwestern Virginia Railroad linked Wheeling and Parkersburg on the Ohio River with Grafton, Martinsburg, Baltimore, and the Chesapeake Bay. These railroads were the most strategically important lines of communication and transportation in the state.

The turnpikes were serviceable in dry weather, but heavy rain and snow often rendered them impassible. Gen. John D. Imboden reported that two weeks' hard rain had made the roads "horribly bad": to lighten his artillery enough to get it through the mud, he "had to destroy the spare wheels ... and throw away fifty solid shot from each caisson." Road maintenance, infrequent in peacetime, was minimal during the war. Most large-scale military campaigns, therefore, took place farther east in Virginia.

Both sides sought to control or disrupt the railroads. Besides Confederate cavalry raids, there were numerous Federal raids, including the one that Gens. William W. Averell and Alfred N.A. Duffield led in November 1863. Most of the raids succeeded only briefly, as the lines were quickly repaired or rebuilt.

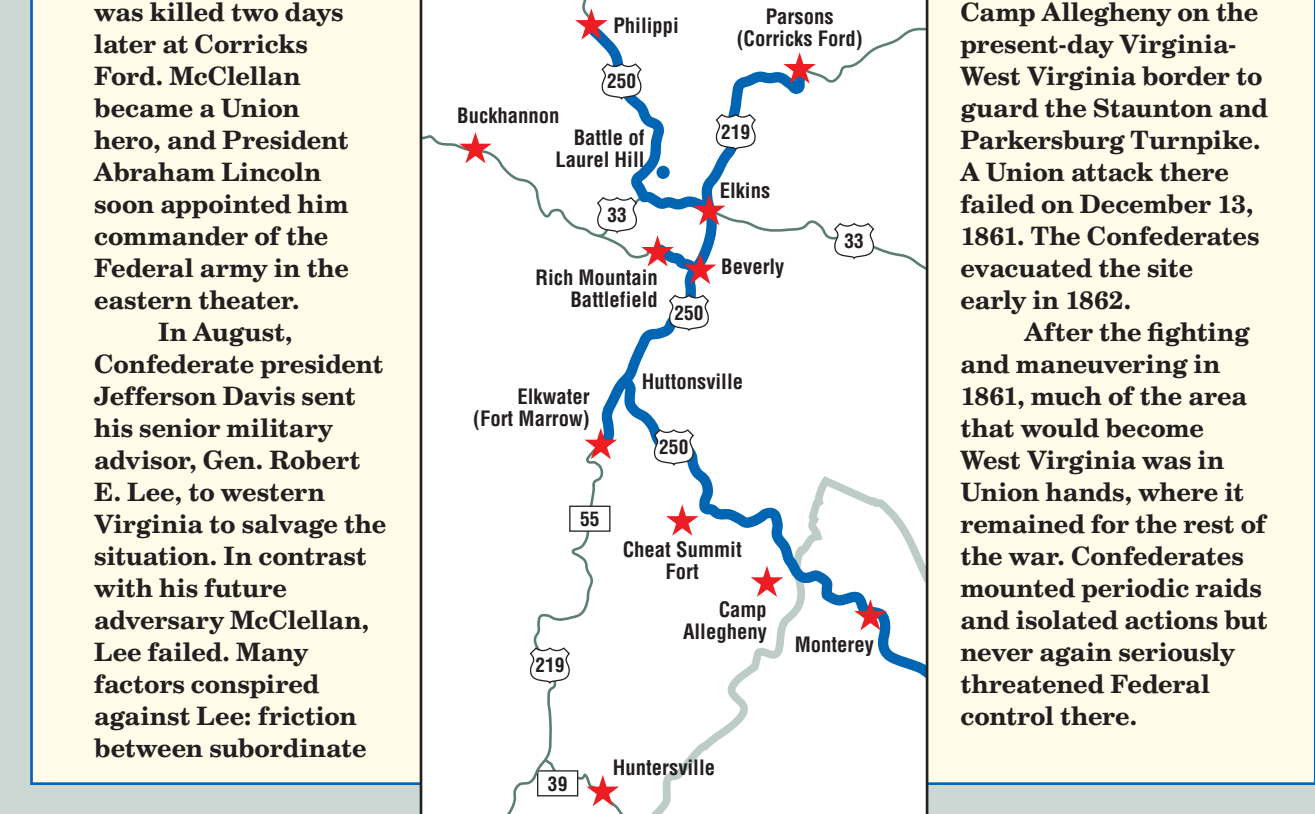


## WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR TRAILS



# THE FIRST CAMPAIGN

In the spring of 1861, after the secession of Virginia from the Union, Federal forces rushed to secure the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which passed through northwestern Virginia and linked the Chesapeake Bay with the Ohio River and the West. Gen. George B. McClellan led the Union effort to hold the railroad and to protect the largely Unionist part of Virginia that soon became West Virginia. The first land battle of the Civil War occurred on June 3, 1861, when McClellan's forces brushed aside Confederate resistance at Philippi. The next month, on July 11, Union troops under Gen. William S. Garnett overcame Confederate forces at Rich Mountain commanded by Gen. Robert S. Garnett, who was charged with protecting the turnpike crossroads at Beverly. Trying



# ROAD TO STATEHOOD

The longstanding political, social, and economic differences between western and eastern Virginia reached a crisis in April 1861, when Virginia seceded and created a pro-Confederate state government in Richmond. Union supporters generally dominated western Virginia, where there were fewer slaves, especially in the northwestern counties. On June 11, delegates from 26 western counties convened in Wheeling, reorganized, and restored the loyal government of Virginia under Gov. Francis H. Pierpont. A later session authorized a referendum to dismember Virginia and create a new state, Kanawha (later named West Virginia). However, not all of the residents within the new state's boundaries concurred; secessionists dominated the eastern and southern portions. In the months after November 1861, a convention drafted a state constitution. Voters in the western counties ratified it on April 3, 1862. The new legislature, which convened on May 13, requested the state's admission to the Union. The U.S. Congress passed a bill—soon amended to address the slavery issue—that President Abraham Lincoln signed on December 31, 1862, and on March 26, 1863, the voters approved a state constitutional provision to deal with slavery. West Virginia became the 35th state on June 20 under Gov. Arthur I. Boreman. Two 45th U.S. Colored Troops companies were credited to the new state.

# GUERRILLA WARFARE

Northwestern Virginia (including present-day West Virginia) was the first part of the state to experience guerrilla conflict. There, John H. McNeill in northern Virginia. Guerrillas resisted "invading" forces from the opposite side and carried out often-personal vendettas against civilians who supported the other side. In the spring of 1861, the Unionists, who generally dominated the area, formed guerrilla bands to intimidate their pro-Confederate neighbors, who formed their own bands to retaliate. Such rival groups included the Confederate Moccasin Rangers and the Unionist Snake Hunters. Confederate guerrillas also attacked the occupying regular Union troops who sought to protect Unionist civilians and control the strategically important turnpikes and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Federals frequently resorted to extreme measures to subdue the Confederate guerrillas, whom they considered little more than outlaws. Unionist volunteers acting under official orders targeted Confederate guerrillas, capturing or killing them wherever they found them. The Confederate guerrillas, likewise, struck any target of opportunity from Unionist civilians to local government officials. Officially, both the United States and the Confederate States denounced such "irregular" warfare, but each side supported its own guerrillas while condemning those of the other side. The "war within the war" was so vicious and uncontrollable, despite attempts to regulate it with "partisan ranger" legislation, that hatreds and low-level violence continued in some areas for decades after the war ended.

# TRAVEL RESOURCES

Contact the following for more travel information and visitor services along the Trails.

- West Virginia Tourism Office**  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E, Charleston, WV 25305  
800-CALL WVA  
WVtourism.com
- West Virginia Department of Culture and History**  
304-559-0220  
www.wvculture.org
- Preservation Alliance of West Virginia**  
304-345-6005  
www.pawv.org
- West Virginia State Parks**  
1-833-WVParks  
www.wvstateparks.com
- MOUNTAINER COUNTRY**  
**Greater Bridgeport CVB**  
800-368-4324  
www.greater-bridgeport.com
- Greater Clarksburg CVB**  
304-622-2157  
www.exploreclarksburg.com
- Marion County CVB**  
800-834-3365  
www.marioncvb.com
- Greater Morgantown CVB**  
800-458-7373  
www.tourmorgantown.com
- Philippi**  
Blue and Gray Reunion  
304-457-3700  
www.philippi.org
- Rowlesburg Tourism Commission**  
304-454-2095  
www.rowlesburgguide.com
- NEW RIVER-GREENBRIER VALLEY**  
**Chamber of the Two Virginias**  
304-487-1502  
www.ccovtwvirginias.com
- Greenbrier County CVB**  
800-833-2068  
www.greenbriervw.com
- Historic Fayetteville CVB**  
888-574-1500  
www.visitfayettevillewv.com
- Monroe County Tourism**  
866-677-3003 ext.15  
www.travelmonroe.com
- New River Gorge CVB**  
800-927-0263  
www.newrivergorgecvb.com
- Visit Southern West Virginia**  
800-VISIT WV  
www.visitwv.com
- Wyoming County CVB**  
304-732-8128  
www.visitwvomingcountywv.com
- EASTERN PANHANDLE**  
**Berkeley Springs Travel**  
800-447-8797  
www.berkeley-springs.com
- Jefferson County CVB**  
304-279-3637  
www.discoveritallvv.com
- Martinsburg-Berkeley Co. CVB**  
304-742-8801  
www.travelwv.com
- METRO VALLEY**  
**Charleston CVB**  
304-344-5075  
www.charlestonwv.com
- Huntington Area CVB**  
800-635-6329  
www.visitHuntingtonWV.org
- Putnam County CVB**  
800-458-7373  
www.visitPutnamWV.com
- MID-OHIO VALLEY**  
**City of Spencer**  
304-927-1640  
www.cityofspencer.com
- Greater Parkersburg CVB**  
800-752-4982  
www.greaterparkersburg.com
- Ripley CVB**  
304-514-2609  
www.visitripleywv.com
- Ritchie Co. Tourism & Visitors Bureau**  
833-290-8659  
www.visitritchiecounty.com
- POTOMAC HIGHLANDS**  
**Beverly Heritage Center**  
304-637-7424  
www.beverlyheritagecenter.org
- Elkins-Randolph County Tourism CVB**  
304-635-7829  
www.elkinsrandolphwv.com
- Grant County CVB**  
304-257-9266  
www.visitgrantcounty.com
- Hampshire County CVB**  
304-822-7477  
www.cometohampshire.com
- Hardy County CVB**  
304-897-8700  
www.visithardydv.com
- Pendleton County CVB**  
304-358-3884  
www.pendletoncountywv.com
- Pocahontas County CVB**  
800-336-7009  
www.pocahontascountywv.com
- Tucker County CVB**  
800-782-2775  
www.canaanvalley.org
- MOUNTAIN LAKES**  
**Braxton County CVB**  
304-344-5075  
www.braxtonwv.org
- Lewis County CVB**  
304-269-7328  
www.stonewallcountry.com
- Summersville CVB**  
304-872-3722  
www.summersvillecvb.com
- Upshur Co. CVB**  
304-473-1400  
www.visitupshur.org
- NORTHERN PANHANDLE**  
**Wheeling Heritage**  
304-232-3087  
www.wheelingheritage.org
- Wheeling CVB**  
800-828-3097  
www.wheelingcvb.com

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www.wvtrails.com

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1-800-VISIT VA  
virginia.org

Maryland Trails Information  
1-877-209-5883  
visitmaryland.org

North Carolina Trails Information  
1-800-VISIT NC  
visitnc.com

Tennessee Trails Information  
1-615-741-2159  
tnvacation.com