Follow the trail of the Union and Confederate Armies as they swept through the Northern Virginia countryside. Discover the graffiti the soldiers left in homes, churches, and public buildings during the Civil War.

The Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail will lead you from the vibrant suburbs to rolling hills and farmlands. Our sites and towns will reveal a unique glimpse of Civil War soldiers as they fought in this decisive event of our American history.

A PDF of this brochure is available on participant web sites.

Participants:
- Historic Blenheim, City of Fairfax
- Ben Lomond Historic Site, Prince William County
- Liberia, City of Manassas
- The Graffiti House Foundation, Brandy Station
- Mt. Zion Historic Park, Aldie
- Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, Winchester

Contact individual sites for additional information.
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 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 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.

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.