

Manassas Mosaic

Creating a Community

Crossroads of the Piedmont aptly describes the community that began its life with its roots deeply embedded in the rich red soil and mild climate of the region. Native Americans hunted and fished here for thousands of years before the European colonists came to clear the land for agriculture. It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century and the arrival of the railroad and the American Civil War that the town of Manassas began to emerge as a community.

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, large plantations and small farms populated the countryside around present-day Manassas, which began its written history as Tudor Hall, a village where two railroads joined in the 1850s. Later named Manassas Junction and then simply Manassas, the town developed shortly after the Civil War. Its railroad lines provided transportation for goods and people to Alexandria and Washington, D.C.

Today, the city of Manassas occupies ten square miles of Prince William County and has about thirty-five thousand residents. Although the surrounding community is often included when describing Manassas, we cannot recount the history of Manassas without recognizing that historical events often ignore such boundaries.

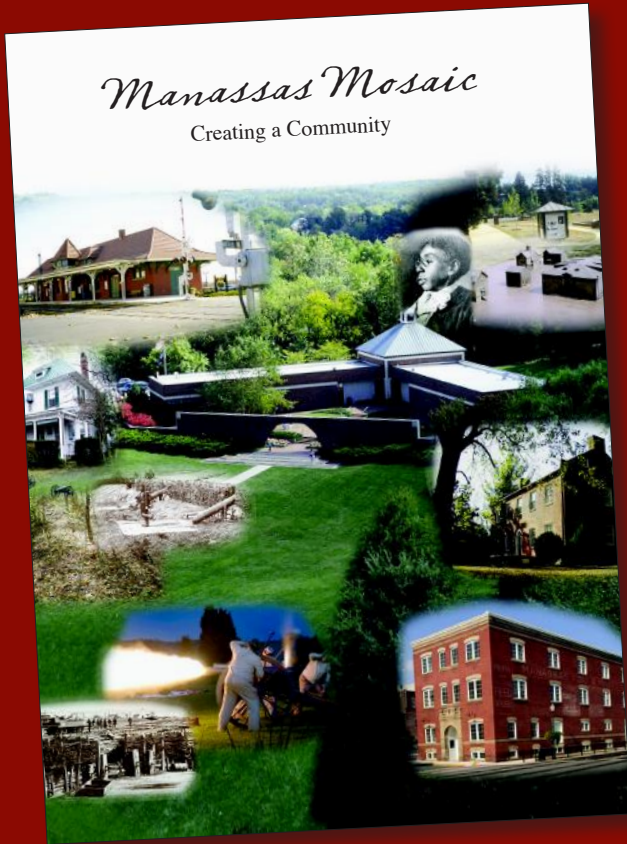
The City of Manassas theme is "Rich in Historical Interest." Turn-of-the-century buildings still grace the narrow main streets of Old Town. Frequent festivals enliven the community, while an old-fashioned Christmas parade each December and a spectacular and patriotic fireworks display on July Fourth brings crowds from throughout Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

This book will give the reader an opportunity to learn about the rich and fascinating history of Manassas gleaned from the resources of the Manassas Museum System archives, the Library of Virginia, and many other community resources.

John H. Verrill, Director of Historic Resources
Manassas Museum System

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