

Visitor Information



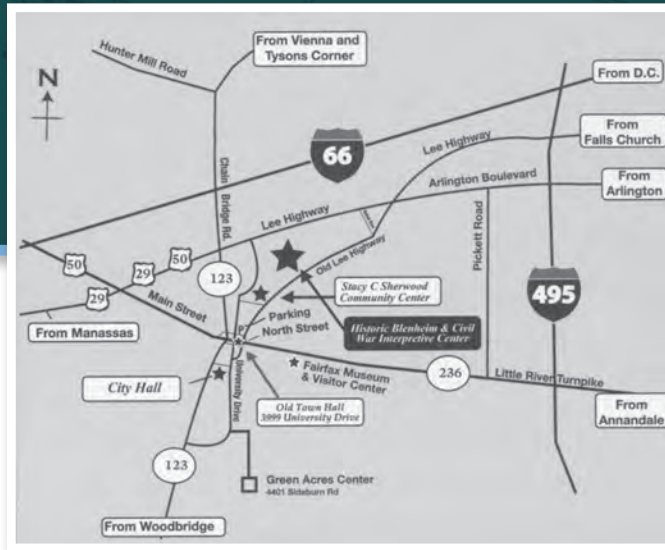
Visitors can explore the graffiti through daily tours, special adult and school-aged programs, and special events such as the annual "Fairfax History Day."



The 2008 Civil War Interpretive Center features an exhibition gallery that includes a life-sized replica of the house's attic. This provides ADA access to the site's best-preserved signatures. (The house attic is not available due to its fragility and confined space.)

The City of Fairfax operates Historic Blenheim through its Office of Historic Resources. For hours and programs at all our sites call (703) 385-8414 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/visitors.

To help support Blenheim's ongoing restoration donations can be made to Historic Fairfax City, Inc., a 501 © (3). Contributions should be designated for Historic Blenheim and sent to HFCCI, c/o 10209 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030.



Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center

3610 Old Lee Highway • Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 591-0560 • www.fairfaxva.gov/Blenheim

*"The Blenheim estate is a hidden gem. . . .
This is a must-see treasure."*

-TRIP-ADVISOR, MAY 2019

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-3pm
Guided House Tours Tuesday-Saturday at 1pm

House is accessible on the first floor
Group tours require reservations (703) 591-6728

Civil War Interpretive Center rentals administered
by the Department of Parks and Recreation (703) 385-7858



11/2019

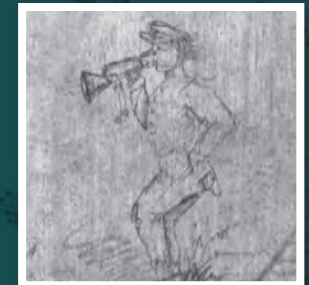
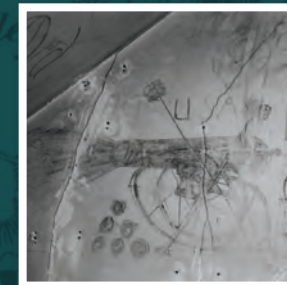
FAIRFAX CITY

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center

A Union Soldier Graffiti Site



*The Civil War Interpretive Center
is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-3pm*



*Guided tours of the historic house
available Tuesday-Saturday at 1pm*

FREE ADMISSION

The Story of Historic Blenheim (c. 1859)



In July 1861, Federal troops rampaged through Fairfax Court House, Virginia, on a mission to suppress the Confederate forces at Manassas. Albert and Mary Willcoxon's newly built brick home "Blenheim," on their 367-acre farm sustained damage by Union soldiers who entered the brick building:

"...the window glass and sash almost entirely demolished, the doors torn from their hinges, the stair banister broken down and the furniture not removed split to pieces." -RICHMOND DISPATCH



Photograph: Library of Congress

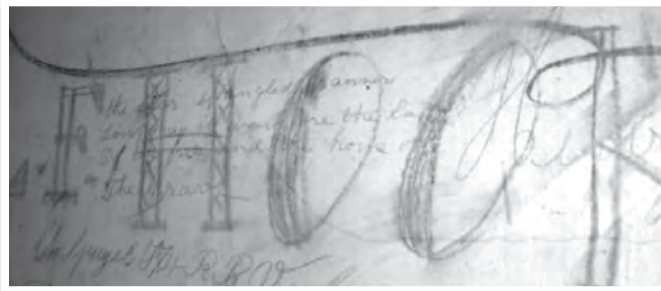
Fairfax Court House, named for the judicial building, was a small, but strategic village of 300 people in the center of Fairfax County. Multiple roads intersected in the center of town including the Falls Church-Fairfax Court House Road, along which was the Willcoxon farm.

Six enslaved people were owned by the Willcoxon family in 1860. Their hard labor in the fields and in the home created a prosperous life for Albert, Mary, and their two young children.



Photograph: Susan and Tim Gibson

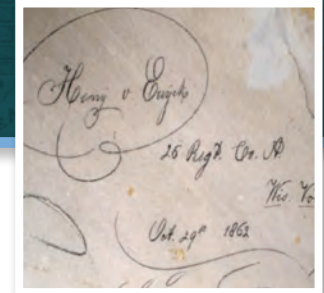
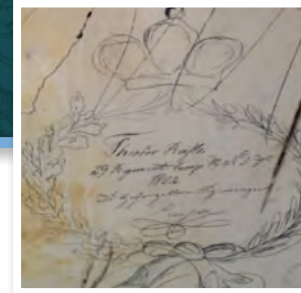
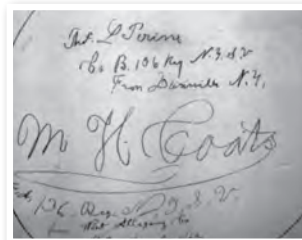
The Soldiers of Historic Blenheim



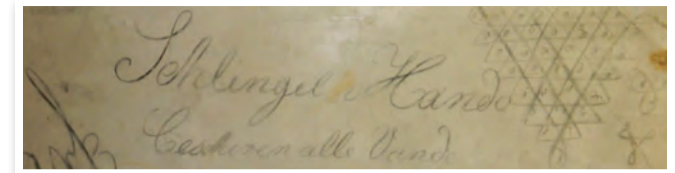
Private L. F. Hook, 73rd PA Infantry, boldly lettered his name on a wall in March 1862, before leaving with General McClellan on the Peninsula Campaign.

The Federal Army gained control of the Fairfax Court House area in early March 1862. For the next year-and-a-half, the deserted Willcoxon home and farm provided soldiers a camp ground for training; a refuge for soldiers convalescing from illness; and a place to rest and prepare for the next major battle.

Thomas L. Perine and Morris H. Coats, both from the 136th NYSV, were sick in what Morris Coats called the "Brick House Hospital" near Fairfax Court House.



Theodor Raefle and Henry van Ewyck were two of the many foreign-born soldiers who immigrated to the United States and later served in the Union Army.



One soldier's playful message in German translates to "Mischievous writings on the wall."

The unpainted Blenheim house walls were a blank canvas for the writings and pictographs of Union soldiers. More than 120 soldiers identified themselves, their regiments, hometowns, and thoughts. Others drew games, the tools of war, or created clever cartoons. Today they are visible for us to learn more about the everyday soldier.

Four generations of Willcoxon descendants owned and/or lived in the house until the City of Fairfax purchased it and the remaining 12 acres of the farm in 1999. Recognizing it as an historical record of the country's most divisive event, the City created a Civil War museum.

