

Diary of Jeremiah Collins Harris,  
Schoolmaster  
Apple Grove, Louisa County, Virginia  
December 29, 1860

"Our boasted and much loved confederacy is in a state of fearful agitation and we seem to be on the very eve of a crisis that may plunge us into inevitable ruin. We feel a gloomy dread of what a short future may reveal. We pray that God, in great mercy, may restrain the wrath of man which seems to be ready to force a mighty upheaval on the peaceful elements of the social order."

Major General Alvin Coe Voris  
Military Governor of Louisa  
Letter to his wife, May 12, 1865.

"All are poor here now. Persons with pockets full of what was used for money one year ago, are absolutely penniless. Those who have hundreds of thousands of Confederate Government Bonds are as poor as if they had the same weight in paper rags only. The owners of real estate have few horses, no other kinds of farm stock, hardly enough grain to keep themselves and three Negroes from starvation.

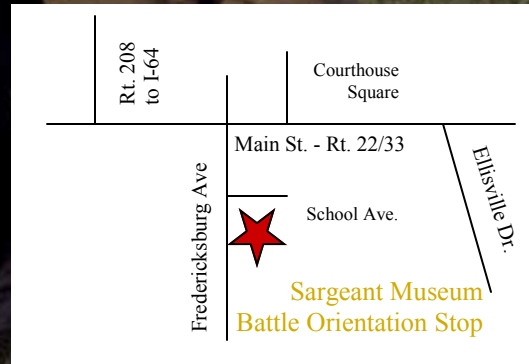
The colored people in many instances are as well off as the whites, with the advantage of knowing how to work."

# The Civil War in Louisa County

1861-1865

Experience the story in the  
Civil War room at:

**The Sargeant Museum  
of Louisa County History**  
(Open 10-4 Monday-Saturday)  
214 Fredericksburg Ave  
Louisa, VA 23093  
540-967-5975  
louisahistory@verizon.net  
www.louisahistory.org/civilwar



## The War at Home



Wounded soldiers from the battles of Chancellorsville and the Wilderness were nursed back to health in private homes, some by the mothers of their comrades in arms.

Trains transported the wounded to the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville, west of Trevilian Station. There 70,000 casualties were treated during the war.

Mills on the South Anna River ground wheat and corn for shipment to the army. Mill ruins are still visible from many bridges over the South Anna.



A few Louisa citizens were supporters of the Union during the war, such as store owner Leon Levy. After the war, he reported that his store goods were confiscated three times by Confederate and later by Union forces. All suffered from the economic and emotional effects of the war.

## Famous Fried Chicken Vendors



As the war ended, former slaves created new lives as free men and women. Some African-American women

sold fried chicken to train passengers arriving in Gordonsville. Their business thrived for decades and built a new life for many families. Some freedmen used the trades they learned during slavery, such as blacksmithing or carpentry, to open their own businesses while those less skilled were forced into sharecropping.

## Delivered From Bondage - Soldiers, Contraband and Freedmen

Slaves who fled to Union forces, called contraband during the war, provided labor for the Northern war effort. U.S. Military Records include 58 African-American men born in Louisa County who enlisted in the Union Army. After the war, the Federal military governor for Louisa County enforced the constitutional rights of former slaves to be treated equally as citizens of a nation united once again.

*From the official report on Stoneman's Raid into Louisa County, May 1863*

*"To the loss in the destruction of the bridges over rivers, public stores of all kinds, horses and mules captured, and those brought out by escaped slaves, there must be added the money value of some 450 negroes, who came out of the country with the various parties. Several thousand more would have obtained their freedom through us could they have procured the means of transportation."*

*Gen. George Stoneman, Union Cavalry Corp.*



Emancipated Slaves in Virginia, Courtesy of the Library of Congress



## John Mercer Langston

Born in Louisa County of a white father and freed slave mother, John Mercer Langston was as articulate in his opposition to slavery as Louisa County's other native son, Robert Lewis Dabney, was in slavery's defense. Langston moved to Ohio where he studied law and helped organize the famed Massachusetts 54th and 55th Colored Regiments.

After the war he returned to Virginia and became the first African-American elected to the U. S. Congress from Virginia.



## Four Years of Civil War in Louisa County

- ◆ Tour the Trevilian Station Battlefield where 15,000 men fought in the largest all cavalry battle of the war
- ◆ Drive or cycle through Green Springs Historic District and see restored antebellum plantations.\*
- ◆ Explore the route taken by military commanders to destroy the Central Virginia Railroad.
- ◆ Honor the graves of fallen soldiers.
- ◆ Imagine the experience of those who were enslaved when the war began and free when it finally ended.

### Battleground for the Railroad Lifeline of the Confederacy.

By 1860, railroads came of age in America. The South utilized the strategic value of the rails to move troops and materials of war. The Central Virginia Railroad crossed Louisa County and was the objective of four different Union raids between 1862-1864. The North viewed southern railroads as key targets for destruction.



### Major Raids on the Central Virginia Railroad

#### 1. Trevilian Station

- ◆ August 6, 1862 - Union Col. Lysander Cutler attacks station
- ◆ June 11-12, 1864 - The Battle of Trevilian Station

#### 2. Louisa Court House (Town of Louisa)

- ◆ May 2, 1862 - Village of Louisa Courthouse traded hands between Confederate and Union troops.
- ◆ May 2-6, 1863 - Union forces temporarily occupied the village during Stoneman's Raid.
- ◆ June 11, 1864, Both armies present during the Battle of Trevilian Station. Battle casualties treated here.

#### 3. Tolersville (Town of Mineral)

- ◆ May 2-6, 1863 - Union soldiers destroyed tracks, switches, water towers, the depot and supplies during Stoneman's Raid.

#### 4. Frederick Hall

- ◆ August 6, 1862 - Union Col. Lysander Cutler destroyed two miles of tracks.
- ◆ May 2-6, 1863 - Track destroyed between Tolersville and Frederick Hall.

#### 5. Bumpass

- ◆ February 29, 1864 - Union Col. Ulric Dahlgren destroyed tracks during a raid from Culpeper to Richmond.

6. Plantations in Green Springs\* sold vast quantities of grain to the Confederacy and pastured exhausted army horses and mules.

7. Oakland Cemetery on West St. in Louisa holds the graves of at least 60 Confederates from the Battle of Trevilian Station. Just inside the gate is the marker for three brothers who died in the war.



8. Yanceyville May 1-6, 1863 A small hamlet\* of one residence, a mill, and a church. Union Gen. George Stoneman's troops camped here between raids in all directions across the countryside to destroy fords and bridges.

9. Thompson's Crossroads May 1-6, 1863 Union troops of Gen. George Stoneman camped during his raid to destroy fords and bridges crossing the South Anna River. His forces left behind the bodies of 200 exhausted horses and mules, slaughtered lest they fall into Confederate hands.



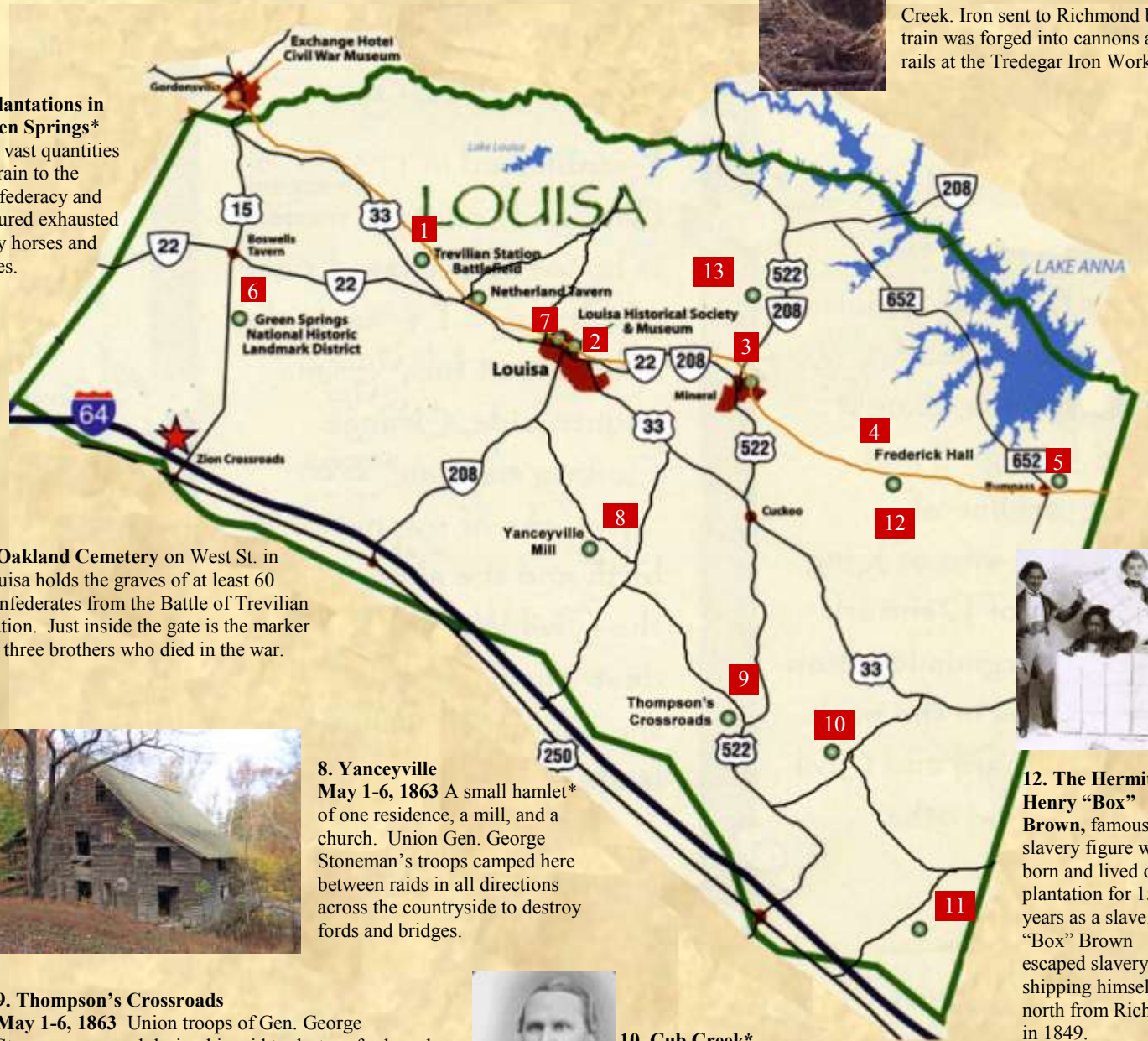
10. Cub Creek\* Robert Lewis Dabney Stonewall Jackson's Chief of Staff was born here 1820. A Presbyterian minister, Dabney served as Jackson's chaplain. Among the most articulate writers for the Southern Cause, Mrs. Jackson asked him to write her husband's first biography.

12. The Hermitage Henry "Box" Brown, famous anti-slavery figure was born and lived on this plantation for 15 years as a slave. "Box" Brown escaped slavery by shipping himself north from Richmond in 1849.

11. Factory Mill, also known as Anderson's Mill\* powered by the South Anna River sold woolen cloth to the Confederacy for uniforms.



13. Tolersville Mines\* (Near Town of Mineral) Ore from mines near Tolersville was smelted into iron at The Victoria Furnace on Conrady Creek. Iron sent to Richmond by train was forged into cannons and rails at the Tredegar Iron Works.



\*indicates private properties visible from road but not open to the public.

## The Battle of Trevilian Station June 11-12, 1864



### Netherland Tavern

1790s tavern on the Fredericksburg Stage Road and the Louisa Court House Road. Site of Confederate General Wade Hampton's headquarters on Friday, June 10, where he slept on a carpenter's bench in the tavern's front yard.

### Baby in the Battle

Saturday morning, June 11, 1864, Mrs. Lucy Hughson fled Netherland Tavern with her baby in her arms. Both sides ceased firing as a Union officer galloped forward to rescue them. He galloped back to Union lines, baby in his arms and mother running beside his horse clinging to his stirrup.

### Custer's First Last Stand

George Armstrong Custer, brevetted lieutenant colonel for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Yellow Tavern one month earlier, was surrounded and nearly captured by Confederate forces. Confederates captured his personal baggage, but not his regimental flag. He tore the flag from its staff and hid it in his own coat as he retreated.



Re-enactment photos courtesy of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation.

## Battle Reenactments



For a complete guide to the Battle of Trevilian Station Tour and re-enactment information, visit [www.trevilianstation.org](http://www.trevilianstation.org).