

First Raid into Pendleton County

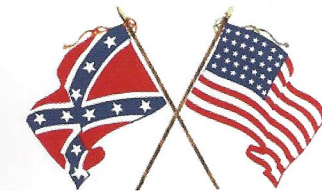
On March 2, 1862, Union troops, numbering 800 to 900 strong, made their first invasion into Pendleton County. Coming over what is now US Route 33 from Harman and setting up camp at the current intersection of Routes 33 & 28 in Mouth of Seneca, they were to capture the group of Confederate guerrillas by the name of Dixie Boys and a company of cavalry stationed in Germany Valley. At Hinkle Gap east of Riverton they encountered the Dixie Boys and two small detachments of Confederate cavalry known as the Charlotte Cavalry and the Rockbridge Cavalry. The Dixie Boys opened fire from the mountainside. The cavalry retreated toward Franklin by Horse Ridge and the Dolly Path. Thomas Powers of the Dixie Boys and Perry Bland of Lantz's Company were killed. The southern troops were forced from the field leaving Pendleton with its first taste of war. The Sons of the Confederate Veterans have erected both Confederate and Union flags at the Battle of Riverton site on Route 9.

A Lutheran Church, located near the Mouth of Seneca, was converted into a military barracks



Re-enactment of the "Battle of Riverton"

and re-christened "Camp Luther." Both Union and Confederate soldiers spent time at Camp Luther. The women of the community did not like the Lutheran Church being used as a military barracks. When the military left the premises, the ladies burned the Church to the ground to prevent further unauthorized use. Today a sign marks the location of Camp Luther.

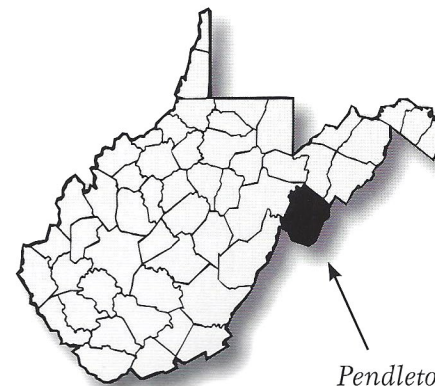


Battle of Riverton Site



Pendleton County Convention & Visitors
Bureau and Chamber of Commerce
304-358-3884
www.visitpendleton.com

Information furnished by Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of Confederate
Veterans and Order of the Bonnie Blue



Pendleton County,
West Virginia

Visit Pendleton County Nature's Vacation Land

Other interesting stops you may want to make
include

- Spruce Knob — the highest point in West Virginia
- Seneca Rocks — in the Monongahela National Forest
- Brandywine Recreation Area — in the George Washington National Forest
- Historic Franklin — the County Seat
- Smoke Hole Canyon — trout fishing stream



Civil War

in
Pendleton County, WV



Within Pendleton County, West Virginia lie the valleys of the North Fork, South Fork and South Branch of the Potomac River. From these valleys approximately 800 men of Pendleton County gave their services, and many of them their lives, to the Confederacy. Another 300 remained loyal to the Union, thus causing a split in many families. Pendleton County was truly "Twixt North and South"!



Union Headquarters in McCoy House

Union Occupation of Franklin

In May 1862, as part of “Stonewall” Jackson’s Valley Campaign, war in earnest came directly to Franklin and the surrounding county. Union troops passed through Franklin on their way to McDowell. Following their defeat, these forces fell back upon Franklin. Union General John C. Fremont soon joined them. This brought the total number of Union Soldiers in and around Franklin to approximately 20,000. Armies of this size and strength would never again occupy Pendleton County during the war. The Union Church, Court House, and several private homes were used as hospitals to treat the wounded from McDowell. The William McCoy house, built with slave labor in 1848 on Main Street across from the Courthouse in Franklin, was used as Union Army headquarters and telegraph office. Telegraphs to and from President Abraham Lincoln were sent and received from this house in 1862.

Following the Battle of McDowell, the Union Church, once located on High Street, was used as a hospital. The dead were buried on the hillside behind the church in what is currently known as Mt. Hiser Cemetery on Byrd Lane. The Union dead were removed and returned to their home states after the war.

Mt. Hiser Cemetery is the final resting place of Brigadier General James Boggs. Boggs commanded the 18th Brigade of Virginia Militia, Confederate States of America. He was under the direct command of General “Stonewall” Jackson. This brigade saw action in the lower Shenandoah and South Branch Valleys in late 1861 and early 1862. The Pendleton County Militia (the 46th Virginia) was a regiment in this brigade. Due to failing health, Boggs returned to Franklin where he died January 28th, 1862.



Mt. Hiser Cemetery

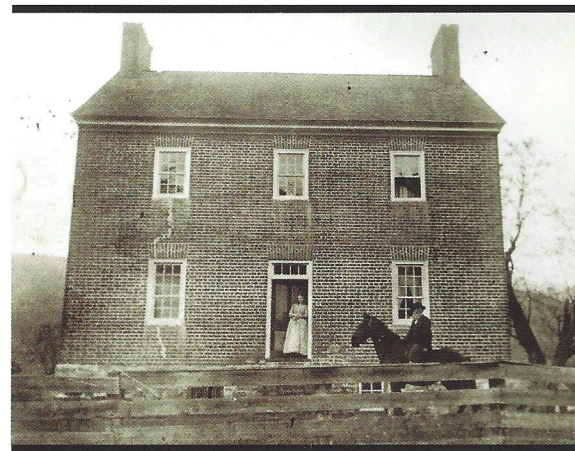
The citizens of Franklin suffered greatly from Union occupation, losing their food supplies, livestock, fences and a few, their lives to the Union Army. On US Route 33 east of Franklin Rev. Ambrose Meadows, a local preacher of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, was murdered. Union forces threatened to burn homes of anyone who cut the telegraph lines. They did not know that Confederate soldiers were responsible for cutting the lines. Meadows, having heard of the cutting and being of Union sympathy, went to General Milroy to convince him that local citizens had not cut the lines. On returning home with a Union escort, Confederate soldiers under the command of Captain Boggs attacked the escort. One Union soldier was killed while others made a beeline to headquarters to tell of the attack. A large party returned to the home and tried to get Meadows to admit to cutting the telegraph lines. They carried Mrs. Meadows and her young baby and twin daughters into the yard. Union soldiers then set fire to the home and every building on the premises. Soldiers were taking Meadows to throw him into the fire when, in the struggle, he was bayoneted and then shot. The army left Franklin during the night of May 24th, 1862.

“Stonewall” Jackson’s Headquarters

Following the Confederate victory at the Battle of McDowell, Jackson set up his headquarters 10 miles south of Franklin at the home of one of his soldiers, Henry Simmons of the 25th Virginia Infantry. This house was built in 1812 and still stands today.

On Sunday morning following the Battle of McDowell, General Jackson and his men attended a prayer service in a field at the Mouth of Smith Creek on US Route 220. At this prayer service, conducted by Adjutant Dabney, Jackson received orders to return to the Shenandoah Valley. The Valley Campaign began soon afterwards.

Throughout the war, Confederate forces used the caves known as Trout Rock on US Route 220 south of Franklin to gather saltpeter. Saltpeter, a form of potassium nitrate that occurs naturally, is used to make gunpowder. As a result, the Union Army attacked this operation on several occasions. During the 1862 Valley Campaign, the retreating Union Army temporarily held the Confederate Army at the narrow gap of Trout Rock.

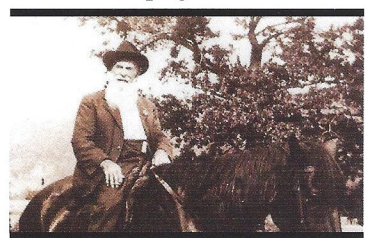


“Stonewall” Jackson headquartered in Simmons house in 1862

Confederate Reunion

Civil War heritage in Pendleton County is kept alive through living history events, reenactments, reunions, and stories of both Confederate and Union valor. The idea of a Confederate reunion in Pendleton County appears to have originated with two former Confederate soldiers, Capt. Ed Boggs and J. Ed Pennybacker, 20 years after the end of the Civil War. September 5, 1885 was chosen by the “Pendleton County Ex-Confederate Association” as the date for the reunion at Thorn Spring Park. Not only ex-Confederate soldiers, but also former Union soldiers were invited. According to old newspaper accounts, the crowd was estimated at 2,500 people. One hundred old soldiers assembled on the grounds and were drilled by Capt. Harman Hiner. Following the speech of G. W. Finley, a former member of Pickett’s Division, the soldiers gave the famous Rebel Yell.

In 1910 the reunion was held at the Daugherty Hotel in Franklin. A highlight of that reunion was a “watermelon” charge by soldiers on the Court House lawn. The last veteran’s reunion was 1925 when only 25 local ex-Confederate soldiers were still living. With the death in 1940 of George “Fatty” Hammer, a page of Pendleton County history turned, for he was the last of the Pendleton soldiers who fought in the Civil War.



George “Fatty” Hammer

Seventy years after the last Veteran’s Reunion in 1995, the Brigadier General James Boggs Camp #1706 Sons of Confederate Veterans, revived the reunion picnic. The spirit of the Confederate Veterans, as well as the reunion, lives on through the efforts of local organizations.