Fauquier County Scavenger Hunt

The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association

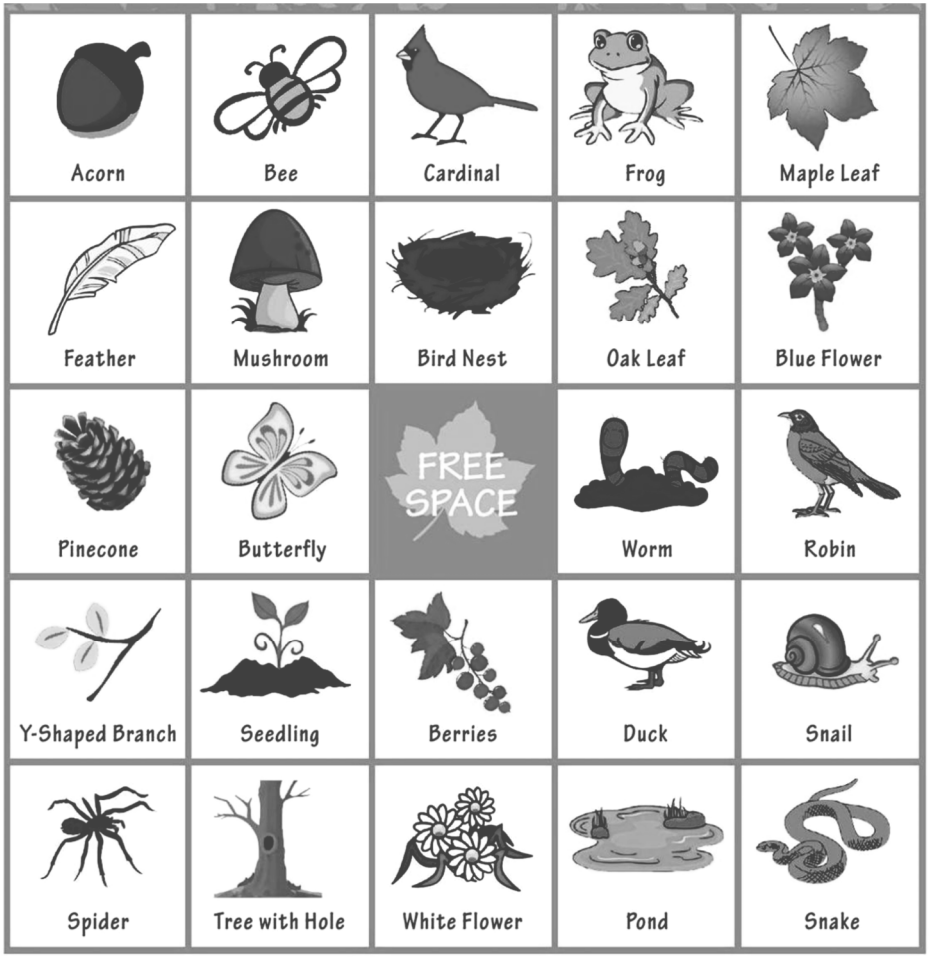
Fauquier County Scavenger Hunt

A History Expedition in the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area

Fauquier County is in the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area and is one of Virginia's most historic and scenic counties. This scavenger hunt takes in a sampling of the best the county has to offer.

How to do the Scavenger Hunt:
1. Choose a day to go exploring with your parents. You will need most of that day. We suggest you bring a picnic. There are several good sites to have one, or, you can buy one.
2. You will need a phone with GPS or print the scavenger hunt map from PiedmontHeritageArea.org.
3. Complete the tour answering the questions as you go.
4. To qualify for a shirt you must complete your own scavenger hunt. Additional copies can be printed from our web site.
5. You may wish to look over the scavenger hunt before you go. If you have any questions, call the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area at (540) 687-6681 Monday through Friday 9:00-5:00 p.m.
7. Send the completed scavenger hunt with its Honor Pledge and the completed information form in the back of the booklet to: Director of Education Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association PO Box 1497, Middleburg, VA 20118

The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area helps both visitors and residents recognize, appreciate, and help preserve our region's history. The 1,800 square-mile Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area was recognized by the State of Virginia in 1995 and includes parts of Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Warren counties. With its distinctive local architecture, handsome farms, historical villages and miles of country roads situated at the foot of the world-famous Blue Ridge Mountains, it is a region worth loving and preserving.



What was your favorite stop? Why?

What are your top 3 favorite things to learn about?

Thank you!

Hunts and Stops: To earn your t-shirt, you must complete the 'Walking in Warrenton" section, plus two others.

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Walking in Warrenton

A view of Warrenton in 1862. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

1. The Fauquier History Museum
10 Ashby St, Warrenton, VA
There is parking in the town lot at the intersection of Ashby and Lee Streets. You can tour the Fauquier History Museum now or come back to it for another time. Examine the informational signs near the entrance to the Museum.
The town that became Warrenton began as a small crossroads village settled where the Falmouth-Winchester and Alexandria-Culpeper roads met. By 1790 it had grown to include a courthouse and other public buildings, and in 1810 it became the Fauquier County seat. During the Civil War the town changed hands at least 67 times, and many homes, churches, and other buildings were used as hospitals for the soldiers. The history of Warrenton and Fauquier County is told in the Fauquier History Museum.

Question #1: What was the Museum building originally used for? When was it built?

Honor Pledge: I actually took the tours for which I have given answers. I saw these sites, and answered these questions during my visit(s). I did not get or copy the answers from anyone else. The answers here are my own work.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

If under 17, Parent's Signature: _____

If a Student, Your School: _____

If a Student, Your Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

_____

_____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone (in case we have questions): _____

Shirt Size (options: Youth M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL) _____

Additional shirts ordered @ $15.00 each:

Number____ Size(s)_____

Form continues on back

Congratulations!

You've Reached the end of the Scavenger Hunt

We hope you have enjoyed this scavenger hunt, and found some places you would like to visit again to show someone else. You've explored one of Virginia's most historic and scenic counties. Be sure to sign your Honor Pledge and fill out the form to get your t-shirt. The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association offers Scavenger Hunts for other counties in the Heritage Area.

Go to our website to download a printable version or contact us at (540) 687-6681 to have another scavenger hunt mailed to you. We also offer driving tours that take you along major routes in the Heritage Area. There is always something interesting to see and do in the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area!

Complete the opposite page, then cut it out and mail to:

VA Piedmont Heritage Area Association

P. O. Box 1497 Middleburg VA 20118

2. Fauquier County Courthouse
15 Main Street, Warrenton, VA
The Courthouse is next to the Museum. Leaving the Museum, follow Courthouse Square to the right to get to Main Street. The Courthouse is the large building with the columns on the front.
This building is the fourth courthouse to stand on this site. All of the earlier buildings were destroyed by fires. The courthouse that you see was built as a replica of the 1854 courthouse that burned in the 1890s. One of America's greatest judges, Chief Justice John Marshall, was born in Fauquier County. He helped to establish the American legal system that we know today. He is celebrated by a statue in front of the brick building to your left.

Question 2: Take a close look at the Marshall Statue. How long did he serve on the Supreme Court?

3. The Warren Green Hotel
10 Hotel St, Warrenton, VA 20186
Follow Court Street between the two courthouses, then turn left on Hotel Street. Stop at the corner of Hotel and Culpeper Streets.
Warrenton was a busy town in the 1800s, and travelers needed places to stay. An early hotel, called Norris Tavern, was built here in 1819. That hotel later became known as the Warren Green Hotel. A lot of famous people visited the hotel over the years, including Presidents Andrew Jackson, James Monroe, and Teddy Roosevelt. You can't stay here any longer, though! It is now home to offices used by the Fauquier County government.

Question #3: Name two generals who visited this site back when it was still a hotel.

4. The Warrenton Branch
S 4th St, Warrenton, VA

From the corner turn right onto Culpeper Street, walk one block, and turn left onto E Lee Street. Follow Lee for three blocks and turn right onto 4th Street. Follow the street to the end, where the Greenway begins.

The Orange and Alexandria Railroad connected Fauquier County to the rest of northern Virginia. In 1851 a branch, or track, of the railroad was built to connect Warrenton, bringing in goods and people to the growing town. During the Civil War this railroad was an important supply line for both armies. The tracks are now gone and the old railway is used as a trail for hiking and biking.

Find the red caboose near the old train tracks. What are three things that rail crews used the caboose for?

5. Brentmoor—The Spilman-Mosby House
173 Main St., Warrenton, VA

Turn around and return to Lee St. Take a right on Lee Street and walk three blocks to Calhoun Street. Take a left on Calhoun Street. Brentmoor is located at the corner of Calhoun and Main Streets, ahead and to your right.

Built in 1859, Brentmoor was originally the home of a local judge named Edward Spilman. He lived here with his family during the Civil War. The house was sold to James Keith, a Civil War veteran, in 1869. The most famous resident of the house, however, was Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby. During the Civil War Mosby was known as the "Gray Ghost" for his hit and run attacks on the Union Army. His men, known as Mosby's Rangers, mostly came from the local area, and would hide in safehouses around Fauquier and Loudoun Counties until it was time to gather together for raids. From 1863 to the end of the war in 1865, Mosby and his Rangers created constant problems for the Union Army by attacking supply wagons, trains, and army patrols.

4. John Marshall Birthplace
5160 Germantown Rd, Midland, VA
Turn right onto Elk Run Road, then take your next left onto Midland Road. Follow Midland Road for 4 miles, when it will turn into Germantown Road. The Marshall Birthplace Park will be on your right before you reach the railroad tracks.

John Marshall is one of Fauquier County's most influential residents. For over 30 years he served as the Chief Justice of the Unites States Supreme Court, where he defined the role that the court system would play in the new American government. Long before that, however, he grew up on what was at the time the frontier of Virginia. He was born in a small cabin near this park and lived there until he was eight years old. His family moved further west, to the area near modern day Marshall. They had two homes out there—The Hollow (1763) and Oak Hill (1773).

If you follow the trail through the woods for approximately 1/2 mile it will take you to a monument marking the spot of the Marshall cabin. This is also an excellent spot to stretch your legs and have a picnic lunch!

What group was Marshall a part of during the Revolutionary War?

Where did Marshall go to law school?

What position did John Marshall hold under President John Adams?

The Elk Run Church appears along the colonial road from Falmouth to Winchester (Modern US 17) in what was at the time part of Stafford County. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

3. Elk Run Church Historic Site
12187 Elk Run Rd, Midland, VA

Leaving the Gold Mine Museum, turn left onto Route 17. Follow the road for 4.3 miles and turn right onto Elk Run Road. Stay on Elk Run Road for 4.6 miles and the church site will be on your right before you reach Midland Road.

This site marks the former location of the Elk Run Church, one of the earliest European settlements in Fauquier County. The first church on this site was a wooden chapel built in the 1740s. A decade later it was replaced by a brick church that stood here into the early 1800s. The church was an important meeting place for the community, and local soldiers gathered here during the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.

Although the church is long gone, archaeologists were able to uncover the foundation as well as thousands of artifacts related to the church and the people who used it. Using these valuable clues, archaeologists and historians are able to learn more about the everyday lives of people who lived in the past. If the museum is open stop in and check out the artifacts that they uncovered!

What happened to the materials used to build the original church after it stopped being used?

Pauline Mosby was the beloved wife of John S. Mosby . The couple had nine children, but sadly Pauline died shortly after the birth of her youngest son, Alfred. John, Pauline, and several of their children are buried in the nearby Warrenton Cemetery.

After the Civil War, John Mosby returned to Warrenton and worked as a lawyer. He became close friends with his former Civil War opponent, Ulysses S. Grant, and helped run Grant's presidential campaign in Virginia. Because of his friendship with Grant and his support for Reconstruction, many former Confederate veterans grew angry with Mosby. After an assassination attempt at the Warrenton train station, Mosby was given a government job as US Consul in Hong Kong. He later returned to the United States and worked as a lawyer for a railroad company, then working for the United States government. He fought corruption as a special agent for the Department of the Interior.

In addition to John S. Mosby and James Keith, there was a third Civil War veteran who lived at this house. Who was he? Name three battles where he fought during the war?

The Ashby's Gap Turnpike

A car on the Turnpike passes the Caleb Rector House in the early 20th century

1. Caleb Rector House—VPHA Headquarters
1461 Atoka Road, Marshall, VA

The road now known as Route 50 had its beginning as a Native American trail connecting the Shenandoah Valley and Piedmont to the Tidewater region to the east. Later settlers expanded the road and by the early 1800s it was known as the Ashby's Gap Turnpike. Settlers, farmers, merchants, and enslaved people travelled this road through the early 1800s. During the Civil War armies marched along this route, leading to many battles and skirmishes. Built around 1801, the Caleb Rector House was an important landmark on the Turnpike, and was at the heart of a small village known as Rector's Crossroads. On June 10th, 1863 Confederate officer John Mosby met with officers here at the Rector House to form his Ranger unit. The house was also used as a headquarters and hospital during the Civil War. Take a look around and if the house is open feel free to come inside for a visit!

The original owners of the house operated a mill. Where was it located?

2. Gold Mining Camp and Museum
14421 Gold Dust Pkwy, Goldvein, VA
Recross the Kelly's Ford Bridge and take a right onto Summerduck Road. Follow this road for 8.2 miles until you reach US Route 17. Turn right onto 17 and follow it for .7 miles. Turn right onto Rock Run Road, then take the first left into the park. Park in the lot near the old mining equipment.

The first commercial gold mine in Fauquier County was opened nearby in 1819, and for much of the 19th century this area was covered with over a dozen mines. Before the California Gold Rush of 1849, Virginia was one of the top gold producing states. Immigrants from all over western Europe flocked to the area, working alongside both African-American and white locals. Gold production mostly stopped during the Civil War, but picked up again and lasted into the early 20th century. The Gold Mining Museum has reconstructions of the types of buildings that the miners would live, work, and eat as well as some examples of the machinery used to extract gold. Keep an eye out for the giant Hornet Balls!

What did an assayer do at the mine? What were the two techniques they would use?

Along the Rappahannock

Did you know? The Rappahannock River was once the southern boundary of a property known as the Fairfax Grant? This property was granted to a group of English nobles by King Charles II in the late 1600s. By 1719 the land was inherited by Thomas Fairfax, and included all of the land between the Rappahannock River and the Potomac River, and stretching west to the Appalachian Mountains. Sometimes called the Northern Neck Grant, it included over 5 million acres of land!

1. Kelly's Ford
Intersection of Virginia Route 674 and Virginia Route 620, Remington, VA
From Remington, take Sumerduck Road south for 4.5 miles, then turn right onto VA 620 (Kelly's Ford Road). Cross the Rappahannock River and take your first right onto VA Route 674. There is a gravel pull-off immediately to your right. Park there and examine the signs.

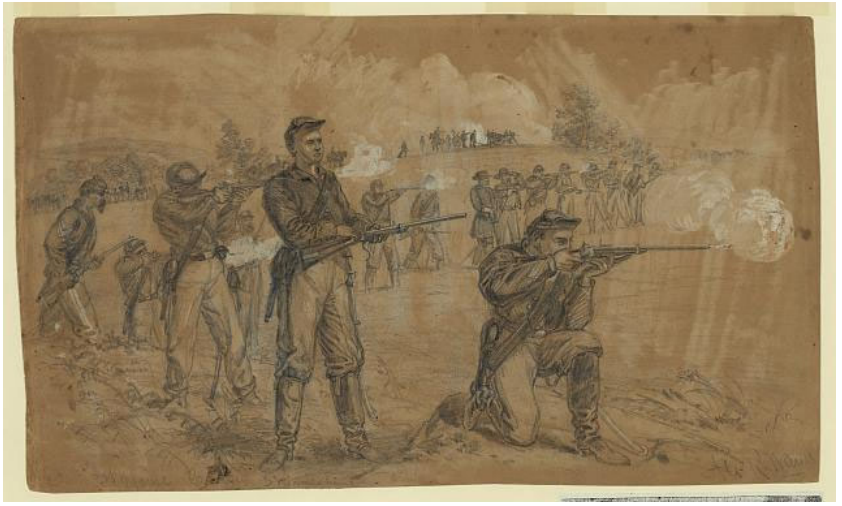
Kelly's Ford was one of many points where the shallow water allowed travelers to cross the Rappahannock River. These fords became very important during the Civil War, when the River often marked the boundary between the Union and Confederate armies. Several battles took place near Kelly's Ford, including a skirmish in March, 1863. Union cavalry under the command of General Averell surprised Confederates under the command of his of his old friend General Fitzhugh Lee. After 12 hours of fighting, Averell's men fell back across the river here. Three months later the Battle of Brandy Station was fought in this area. This was the largest cavalry (soldiers mounted on horseback) battle of the entire Civil War, and was the start of the Gettysburg campaign.

General Averell jokingly left a sack of something for Fitzhugh Lee. What was it?

2. The Goose Creek Stone Bridge
State Rt. 832, Middleburg, VA
Return to Route 50 and take a left. Follow the highway for .9 miles, then turn right onto Lemmons Bottom Road. Parking is available at the end of the road.

This stone bridge was built to carry the Ashby's Gap Turnpike over Goose Creek when Thomas Jefferson was still president. In the 1800s there was a toll house on one end to collect money from travelers wanting to cross the bridge. In June, 1863 the bridge played an important role in the Battle of Upperville. Union soldiers had to fight their way across the bridge while Confederate troops defended the west side (up near the modern parking lot and road). During your visit take the time to walk down to the overlook and check out the signs describing the battle and the work done to preserve this historic location for future generations.

Who commanded the veteran infantry brigade that finally captured the bridge during the Battle of Upperville?



Union cavalrymen skirmishing along the Ashby's Gap Turnpike.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

3. Vineyard Hill—The Battle of Upperville
8585 John S. Mosby Highway Upperville, VA
Return to Route 50 and turn right. Follow the highway for 2.7 miles, then turn left into the Upperville Community Park.

This park is located on the eastern end of the village of Upperville, one of the many small historic villages that grew up along the Ashby's Gap Turnpike. It was originally called "Carrstown" after its founder, Joseph Carr. In 1819 the name was changed to Upperville, and it has remained the same ever since. In June 1863 the final part of the Battle of Upperville was fought on this ground where you are now standing. After the Confederates were pushed off the Goose Creek Bridge they retreated to this hill. At the time of the battle there was a large vineyard (grape farm) on the hill here, so the area was known as "Vineyard Hill." After several charges the Union Army was able to push the Confederates off the hill and they retreated to Ashby's Gap.

Just next to the park is a community center named Buchanan Hall. It was originally built in the 1920s by General James A. Buchanan for his daughter's wedding. Soon it became a popular place for locals to enjoy live music. Legendary jazz musician Duke Ellington would come out from Washington DC to play with his local friend, Chauncy Brown. Country music superstar Patsy Cline also played here as a teenager before she was famous.

This same area was the site of a battle that happened on November 3, 1862. What was the name of that battle?

4. First Ashville Baptist Church
4218 Ashville Rd, Marshall, VA
Leaving the parking lot, turn left onto Winchester Rd. Take the next left at the light onto West Main St. (Business Rt. 17). Follow Main Street for .7 miles, and keep straight to continue on Grove Lane. After 1.4 miles turn left onto Ramey Road. Follow Ramey Road for 2 miles and take a right on Ashville Road. The Church will be on your left.

Before the Civil War, nearly half of the people living in Fauquier County were enslaved African-Americans. Most worked as farm laborers on local plantations, or as cooks and maids for wealthy families. Some were skilled tradespeople, working as carpenters, blacksmiths, stone masons, and other trades. All African-Americans were denied the right to learn at school or to organize in groups before the Civil War. Following the end of slavery many of these newly freed people established communities in the area. Former slaves Frank Settle and Jacob Douglas established Ashville on land willed to them by their former owners, the Ash sisters, in 1870, and a small community soon grew here. Two of the most important buildings in the community were the school and the church. Initially students went to school in the church building, but by 1910 a separate school building was constructed across the street. Education was seen as the best route to achieve a better life, while the church was an important place for people to gather and work towards improving the community. The village also featured a cemetery and a general store. It is an excellent example of a village founded by freed African-Americans following the Civil War.

When was the church constructed?

3. Marshall—The Fauquier Heritage Society
4110 Winchester Rd. Marshall, VA
Turn right to get back on Route 55. Continue for 1.3 miles into Marshall. Turn left onto Winchester Road. The Heritage Society will be immediately on your right. Park in the lot.

The town of Marshall was originally known as Salem, but changed its name in 1881 to celebrate local hero Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Salem was a prosperous railroad town before the Civil War. Because of the rail connections, both armies used this area during the war, and troops marched through the area constantly. This area was also the heart of "Mosby's Confederacy," an area of northern Virginia controlled by John Mosby and his Rangers. Union Army supply trains and patrols were always at risk of being attacked when they entered this area. At the end of the war, Mosby disbanded his unit here in Salem and sent the soldiers home. Like The Plains, Marshall became a popular destination for northerners interested in horses and riding, and it's now the heart of Virginia's "Hunt Country" landscape.

Who stayed here on the night of August 25th, 1862?

The Old Salem Meeting House
The building that now houses the Fauquier Heritage Society was once known as the Old Salem Meeting House. Built in 1771 it is the oldest existing building in town and has been used as a church, school, and community center. In 1860 it was where Salem residents went to vote during the presidential election. Unlike today, voting was not secret—you had to state out loud who you were voting for, and everyone in the community would soon know. In 1860 local plantation owner Henry Dixon came to the Meeting House to cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln, despite the fact that he was a wealthy slave owner. Knowing that Lincoln was deeply unpopular in Fauquier County, Dixon showed up to vote with "a pistol in hand" in case he needed to defend himself. He was the only person in the County to vote for Lincoln.

4. Paris and Ashby's Gap
684 Federal Street, Paris, VA
Return to Route 50 and turn left to pass through Upperville. Remain on Route 50 for 4.4 miles. Turn left onto Federal Street and park in front of the Methodist Church.

Paris is the last village you pass through before climbing over the Blue Ridge Mountains and across Ashby's Gap into the Shenandoah Valley. The village was founded in the early 1800s by a Revolutionary War veteran named Peter Glasscock. Legend has it that the town was originally called Punkinville, but that the name was changed to Paris to celebrate the famous French General the Marquis de Lafayette.

Ashby's Gap is named for John Ashby, who lived nearby in the early 1700s. His family owned an ordinary — a colonial inn and tavern—at the bottom of the Gap around the time of the American Revolution. In 1781, thousands of British, Loyalist, and Hessian prisoners were marched from Yorktown through Ashby's Gap and to prison camps near Winchester. A Scottish officer named Samuel Graham later wrote about stopping at the tavern:

"*We moved on toward the base of the lesser blue ridge of mountains in the direction of an opening or gap called [Ashby's] gap, where there was a public house kept by a person of that name. Happening to ride on in front of the column, I asked Mrs. [Ashby] if she could give two or three of us anything to eat.*"

The original Ashby Ordinary is no longer standing. It was hit by a truck in 1939. Many of the buildings in town are nearly 200 years old, though. One important building is the Old Meeting House, built in 1830 at 720 Republican Street. It was originally built as a church, but after the Civil War was used as a school by recently freed African-Americans.

In what year was the Methodist Church built?

Virginia's Hunt Country

1. The Plains

6483 Main St, The Plains, VA

Park in the middle of town, near the crossroads of Route 55 (John Marshall Highway) and Fauquier Avenue.

The Plains is a small crossroads village founded in the early 1800s, and was a relatively quiet farming community. That all changed in the 1850s, when the Manassas Gap Railroad was extended to the town. Now farmers from the surrounding area travelled to The Plains to load their goods on trains to take to markets in Alexandria and Washington. In return, goods flowed into the village and The Plains prospered. This prosperity did not last long, because the surrounding area suffered heavily during the Civil War. Crops and livestock were taken by hungry soldiers, and many barns and mills were burned. The area began to prosper again in the early 1900s, as hundreds of wealthy northern families moved to the area. They were interested in raising horses for foxhunting and racing, both of which are still very popular in Fauquier County today. Great Meadow, just a few miles outside of town, hosts the Virginia Gold Cup race every year.

Find the Civil War Trails marker in town. Who were the "Jesse Scouts" named after?

Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County

Located at 4243 Loudoun Avenue in The Plains, the AAHA is a valuable community resource for people looking to research their family history or learn more about Black history in Fauquier County. They also have a museum that showcases thousands of artifacts and photos from the local Africa-American community. Check out www.aahafauquier.org for visitor hours and other info!

Students outside the #18 School on the last day it was open in January 1964. Photo courtesy of John Toler/Fauquier Democrat.

2. #18 School House

7592 E Main St, Marshall, VA

Go west on Route 55 for 3.2 miles. The schoolhouse will be on your right immediately after you pass Whiting Road.

Before the Civil War there was no public school system in Virginia. Wealthy families sent their children to private schools or hired tutors, while most poor children worked alongside their parents. For many years it was illegal to teach African-Americans to read or write. This all changed after the Civil War, when the Constitution of 1869 established free public schools in the state. This schoolhouse was built in 1887 as part of that system. It is a one room schoolhouse, meaning that all of the students, no matter what age, learned together with a single teacher. There was no running water or indoor bathrooms.

Schools remained segregated at this time, and Schoolhouse #18 was open only to white students until 1910. When a new school was built in Marshall, the white students moved there and Number 18 school was turned over to African-American students. It continued to be used until 1964, as part of a plan to consolidate students into larger schools. School segregation continued in Fauquier County until 1968. Today, the Number 18 school is the last remaining public one room schoolhouse in Fauquier County.

List three plants growing in the school garden: