

# EXTEND YOUR STUDENTS' LEARNING:



## ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW OUR PROGRAM CLARKE COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR HERITAGE

1. **Review Activity:** You can receive a copy of *Mosby and his Impact on Your County: A Review Activity for After Your Classroom Program* to be used with small groups in your classroom to reinforce the basic picture of what the Civil War was like in Virginia through Clarke's experience.
2. **Discussion possibilities:**
  - a. You will notice that *at first* people in Clarke were divided on whether to stay loyal to the United States or to support secession and defend their Commonwealth of Virginia in its bid with the other Southern states for independence. Brainstorm with your class what things would make you for "the Union" and what things would make you support independence for the South. Would there be other things that swayed you one way or the other (for example, your family? Your neighbors? The people in your church?)
  - b. War can at first seem exciting, romantic, or even a great adventure, but the cost and impact is devastating both on soldiers and on civilians. Based on the presentation you heard in class, what are examples of the cost to soldiers? What are examples of the cost to civilians in a war zone like Clarke?
  - c. The Civil War happened right around *here*. If you are curious about the Civil War, you can learn more about it very easily, since there are Civil War sites so near your school. What Civil War historical sites are nearby and can easily be visited? What Civil War events happened near our school? Are there any Virginia Civil War Trails signs in Clarke County?
  - d. The landscape so well known to the Civil War soldier remained constant in Clarke County for many years. Recently, it is changing so much and at such a rapid pace that historic places from the Civil War in Clarke may well be destroyed before we realize their importance. Are Clarke's people responsible for taking steps to know about and then protect historic sites in "hallowed ground" where people died during the Civil War? Looking at "Student Heritage Steward: Be One in the Mosby Heritage Area", are there things our class could do to make a positive difference so that future kids won't just read about history in books or websites?
3. **Internet Activities:** Do a search on the web to explore Clarke and Virginia's Civil War history. Start at [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org) the site of the Clarke County Historical Association, then move on to <http://markerhunter.wordpress.com/2008/02/13/civil-war-engagements-in-clarke-county-virginia/> which documents Civil War markers of all kinds in Clarke County. These give a good sense of the county's experience. You can also look at Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial website, [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org) Look for good stories, good photos, interesting people, *famous people* or interesting places. You will find more by searching "Clarke County VA and the Civil War."

#### 4. Extending Learning Beyond Your Classroom:

##### a. **Historic Clarke County Scavenger Hunts**

Encourage students to explore Clarke with their families using the *Historic Clarke County Scavenger Hunt* that you and each of them have been given. The tour shows families a variety of historical sites that have “feel” (that little shiver down your back) and illustrate the key themes and stories of the past of Virginia and Clarke. It is not only reinforcement for what you study in U.S. History, but enrichment as well. It helps families understand their counties, talk about history, and have a bonding activity together. You will find that students who do the scavenger hunt have an increased interest in history in your class afterwards and their grades often improve. The sites have been carefully selected—we recommend *you* visit them, too. These can also be downloaded from our website.

##### **Getting students and their families to do the Scavenger Hunt :**

- 1) The Mosby Heritage Area Association offers students a Mosby Heritage Area t-shirt for completing any two of the three tours in the scavenger hunt booklet. It’s a good bribe, since kids like the shirt (so do parents—we’ll sell them one at cost!) We give out two shirts to the family that completes all three of the tours.
- 2) Give extra credit to students who photograph themselves at at least five of the sites in the Scavenger Hunt.
- 3) Have your class challenge a team-mate’s class to a scavenger hunt duel! Who can have the most students (you could even include brothers, sisters, moms, and dads!) photograph themselves at five historic sites, or who completes the most scavenger hunts? Students doing all three in the booklet could boost your numbers!

##### b. **Virginia Time Travelers Program**

This is a program sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums to get kids to explore Virginia historic sites. Students get a “passport” and by visiting six sites, they get a “Time Travelers” t-shirt. They can get their passport and a list of participating sites statewide by going to [www.timetravelers.org](http://www.timetravelers.org) . This encourages families to include historic sites in their Virginia family travel itineraries. You can always reward this with extra credit or encourage it over spring break, holiday weekends, or summer vacation.

##### c. **Encourage Students and their Families to Attend Local Historical Programming**

By visiting the Mosby Heritage Area Association’s website, [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org), you and your students can learn of a number of upcoming historical programs. We think kids and their families will especially like “*Cavaliers, Courage, and Coffee*” in which storytellers in period dress/uniform will share stories of our local Civil War experience by lantern light at historic sites in Clarke and nearby counties six times during the year.

Of course, the Commonwealth of Virginia has many, many history programs listed on the State’s Civil War Sesquicentennial web site, [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org)