

# Loudoun County in the Revolutionary War

A Virginia Walking & Driving Tour



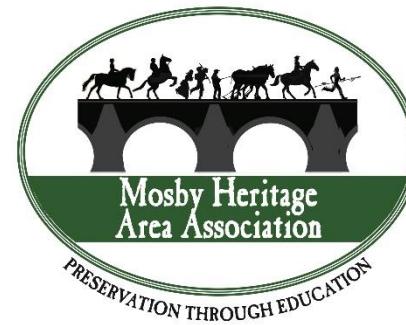
Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial, Leesburg.

by Doug Breton

Mosby Heritage Area Association



*The grave of John Axline, a Revolutionary soldier, in Lovettsville*



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The mission of the Mosby Heritage Area Association is Preservation through Education—to educate about the history and advocate for the preservation of the extraordinary historic landscape, culture, and scenery in the Northern Virginia Piedmont for future generations to enjoy.

# Loudoun County in the Revolutionary War

## A Virginia Walking & Driving Tour

*You must draw your swords in a just cause, and rely upon that God, who assists the righteous, to support your endeavours to preserve the liberty he gave, and the love of which he hath implanted in your hearts as essential to your nature.*

-Thomson Mason, Loudoun lawyer, brother of George Mason

*Nothing but Independence will go down. The Devil is in the people.*

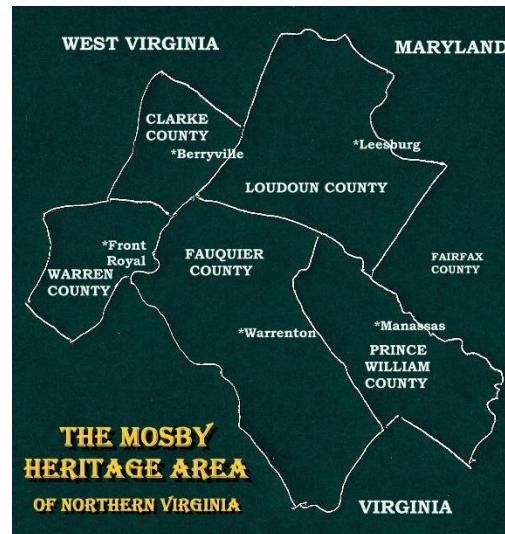
-Nicholas Cresswell, a young British visitor to Loudoun County

Loudoun County may be best known for its horses, wineries, and suburbs, but it is also rich in history. Traveling through the central and western parts of the county, you can see historic homes, churches, and battlefields practically everywhere you go. Each of them has a dramatic story to tell. Finding these places and learning their stories makes the past come to life and makes us natural preservationists!

This tour is designed to show you locations from a largely overlooked era of Loudoun's past—its colonial and Revolutionary history. Though no battles were fought here, Loudoun's Revolutionary Era sites still have important stories to tell. They show a newly-settled county in the upper Southern Back Country divided by religion, economics, politics, and ethnicity, yet still ultimately able to meld and then rally around the cause of American independence. It was a dramatic and uncertain time, showing a Virginia county setting patterns for the future. Today's pluralistic Loudoun shows echoes from this time of its past.

On this tour, you will hear the stories of how Loudoun was founded and how and why it contributed the most soldiers to the cause of American independence of any Virginia county. These sites have *feel*, so we hope you take your time, taking in their atmosphere, composing photos, and stopping to literally *touch* the past where you can.

# What is the Mosby Heritage Area Association?



Encompassing 1,800 square-miles, the Mosby Heritage Area was created in 1995 to bring attention to the remarkably well-preserved historic landscapes of Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke, and Warren Counties. Despite suburban development, this region maintains a sense of rural beauty, with rolling green farmland and miles of unpaved roads. Traveling through this region, one feels

a stronger connection with the past than in almost any other corner of the state. Most importantly of all, it is authentic. Many better-known historic areas have had to reconstruct the past. Here in the Mosby Heritage Area, many of the best buildings have undergone only slight changes since they were first constructed centuries ago. This is a remarkable gift and worthy of preservation.

The heritage area chose to take its name from John Singleton Mosby because he was one of the region's most recognizable historic figures. During the Civil War, this Confederate raider performed daring exploits in all five of the counties mentioned above, making him a compelling symbol for the area. However, there is more to the region than just Mosby. The Mosby Heritage Area Association offers tours and programs about almost every aspect of the area's history, stretching from the colonial days up to the Civil Rights era. Its goal is to ensure that these remarkable stories and places last for the next generation and the ones after that.

We hope you will act out the heritage area's motto—*SEE IT, SAVE IT, PASS IT ON!* We owe that to posterity.

## A Brief History of Colonial Loudoun County

**1722** – Governor Spotswood acquires the land that becomes Loudoun County from the Iroquois in the Treaty of Albany. It becomes a part of Prince William County and then Fairfax County.

**1725-1735** – The first European settlers come to Loudoun.

**1748** – Cameron Parish is created so that settlers do not have to go as far to attend an Anglican church (which was mandatory.) The colonists then petition the Virginia Assembly to create a new county for them, but the bill failed.

**1755** – George Washington marches through Leesburg with Virginia militiamen on their way to attack Fort Duquesne.

**1757** – The colonists once again ask the colonial government to create a new county for them. It faces stiff opposition from tidewater planters, but eventually passes. The new county is named for the commander in chief of British forces in North America, Lord Loudoun.

**1761** – Construction of the county seat, Leesburg, begins. Leesburg is granted town status the next year by the House of Burgesses.

**1770** – Shelburne Parish is created for Leesburg and western Loudoun County. However, there are no Anglican churches in the county seat until 1812.

**1774** – Citizens of Loudoun draft the Loudoun Resolves to protest Britain's taxation of the American colonies.

**1775** – After the royal governor seizes the colony's gunpowder stores in Williamsburg, Loudoun's militia marches toward the capital. Hoping to avoid escalating the conflict, the president of the House of Burgesses, Peyton Randolph, tells them to go home when they reach Fredericksburg. On May 26, this incident and the Battle of Lexington and Concord convince Loudoun to advocate independence from Great Britain.

**1776** – Congress votes for American independence and ratifies the Declaration of Independence. A copy is later read on the courthouse steps in Leesburg.

**1777** – Washington's army spends the winter at Valley Forge. Several Loudoun soldiers, like Leven Powell, were among them.

**1779** – The British capture Charleston and most of the southern Continental Army. A number of Loudouners are among the prisoners.

**1780** – John Champe undertakes his famous mission to capture the turncoat Benedict Arnold.

**1781** – Daniel Morgan wins a decisive victory of the British forces of Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens. General Cornwallis hurries his army into Virginia and takes up positions at Yorktown. Washington and his French allies manage to trap him there and besiege him. After about a month, Cornwallis surrenders, effectively bringing an end to combat in the Revolutionary War.

**1783** – The Revolutionary War ends with the Treaty of Paris.

**1786** – Supported by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, a referendum is called to consider disestablishing the Anglican Church as Virginia's official religion. Because of its Protestant dissenters, Loudoun votes overwhelmingly in favor of disestablishment. Religious freedom is finally achieved in Virginia.

**1787** – To address weaknesses in the federal government, a convention convenes in Philadelphia and creates the Constitution. However, many Virginians fear the strong central government will lead to tyranny and refuse to support it. Jefferson is nervous about this Constitution, Patrick Henry opposes it, and James Madison helped write it!

**1788** – After the Bill of Rights is created, Virginia ratifies the Constitution. In the years that follow, Loudouners will be strong Federalists, supporting a strong constitution, although the leader of the (Democratic) Republicans, Thomas Jefferson, is a popular Virginian.

## Loudoun was named for John Campbell, Lord Loudoun.



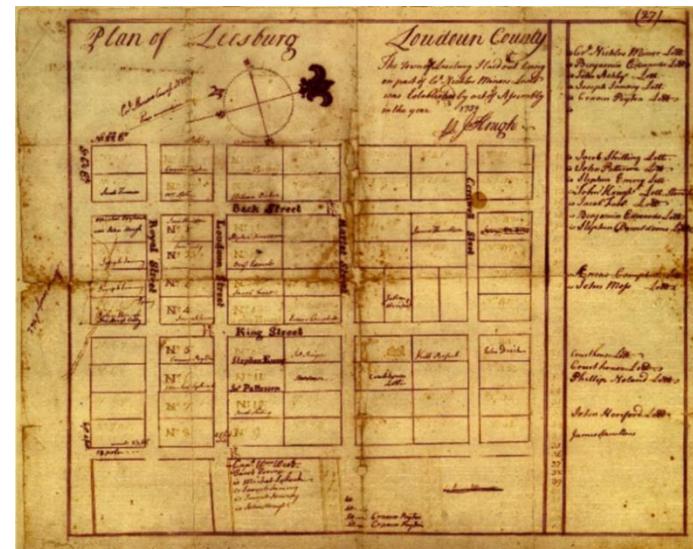
When Loudoun County was created, Great Britain was engaged in yet another war with France. Until 1756, things had been going very poorly for the British. Believing they needed a new commander in chief, several government ministers nominated John Campbell, the Fourth Earl of Loudoun. Loudoun was a Scottish professional soldier with years of experience. When several Highland clans revolted in 1745-1746, Loudoun was one of the generals who helped put it down. He also treated those he captured more humanely than his fellow officers. His commander during that action was the Duke of Cumberland, the son of King George II. Cumberland took a liking to him and used his hefty influence to ensure Loudoun became Commander-in-Chief in of British forces in North America in 1757.

Unfortunately, Lord Loudoun's time in command proved to be inglorious. Britain suffered several catastrophic defeats under his leadership. The worst of these was at Fort William Henry in New York. The fort occupied vital ground near Lake George, and its capture meant that the French could now conduct deeper raids into the colonies. Worse still, dozens of its defenders were slaughtered by the Indian allies of the French after they had surrendered. American colonists did not take this news well. Ben Franklin among others directly blamed Lord Loudoun for this. British Prime Minister William Pitt did too, so Loudoun was quickly removed.

Lord Loudoun never visited Virginia or Loudoun County, but he set the British-American defense in action such that Virginia's House of

Burgesses chose to name their newest county after him in 1757 because they believed he would turn the tide of battle. In a way, he did. Although his defeats drew all the attention, Loudoun successfully reorganized the army's quartermaster corps and gathered vital materiel and weapons. Also, he allowed colonists to use their own frontier fighting tactics, shooting from behind trees in a hit-and-run fashion. This showed Americans that they too could be a vital part of the war effort and were not inferior to regular British troops.

## PART I: Leesburg, a Revolutionary Era Walking Tour



A map of the town of Leesburg in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The northern end of town is at the right. The original is in the Loudoun Museum.

After Loudoun became a county, the Virginia Assembly started looking for a place to construct the county seat. They chose a settlement known as George Town (named after King George II) because it was located at the intersection of the old Carolina Road (now U.S. Route 15) and Potomac Ridge Road (now Route 7.) All of the other streets were then carefully laid out from this point by a man

named John Hough in 1758. The town was then renamed Leesburg. This may have been named for two of its original trustees, the brothers Francis Lightfoot Lee and Philip Ludwell Lee.

To encourage growth, the man who owned much of present-day Leesburg, Nicholas Minor, divided a portion of his property into 70 lots and sold them off to future homeowners. In order to make sure that buyers actually improved their lots, he required that everyone who bought land construct a house within three years. Otherwise the property would return to Minor. These houses were originally very small – only twenty feet wide and sixteen feet long. One traveler said Leesburg was a shabby little place, “of few and insignificant wooden houses.” That is why so few have survived.

In the 1770s, an English visitor to Leesburg named Nicholas Cresswell testified to both the town’s layout and its lackluster construction: “Viewing the town. It is regularly laid off inn squares, but very indifferently built and few inhabitants and little trade, tho’ advantageously situated, for it is at the conjunction of the great Roads from the North part of the Continent to the South and the East and the West.” At that time, Leesburg’s population was only 500.

## 1. The Loudoun Revolutionary War Memorial

*Park in the garage near the town office on West Market Street, then walk down to the courthouse at the intersection of King and Market Street. The Revolutionary War Memorial is to the left (north) of the courthouse building, and is called locally “the Patriot Project.”*

The grounds of the Loudoun County courthouse have long contained memorials to those who fought in America’s wars. Driving past it at any time of day, you can easily see the famous Civil War statue and the monuments for those who fought in both the World Wars and Korea. As of November, 2015, another handsome monument stands on the lawn, tucked away in a corner just left of the courthouse itself. This newest monument is for a conflict that predates all the other memorials – the Revolutionary War. Perhaps you wonder now what

Loudoun could have contributed to the war that would warrant the construction of a new monument. If so, you are certainly not alone.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, Loudoun had the largest militia of any county in Virginia—1,746 men. According to the colony’s law, every free man between sixteen and fifty had to serve. When they mustered out, they came to the same courthouse grounds that you are now standing on and drilled. If you could have seen them back in 1775, you would have been both impressed and underwhelmed. They frequently lacked both discipline and weapons, yet despite this, their patriotic devotion was palpable. When Governor Dunmore seized the colony’s gunpowder stores in Williamsburg, Loudoun’s militia immediately set off for the capital to take them back. They made it all the way to Fredericksburg before the president of the House of Burgesses, Peyton Randolph, told them to stand down. Many of these same men later joined Washington’s Continental Army to fight for the freedom of their new nation.

During the rest of the tour, you will learn what led up to Loudoun’s ardent support of the Revolution and what sort of effects this had on the county’s development.



*Before looking at the rest of the courthouse grounds, take a close look at the statue. Notice how the soldier is dressed. Although we commonly think of Revolutionary War soldiers wearing blue jackets and tricorn hats, Loudoun soldiers would not have worn either. Uniforms were in short supply, so they would have worn their hunting jackets. Washington actually wanted this to be the official uniform of his army because the frontiersmen who wore them had a reputation of being excellent riflemen, thus striking fear in the hearts of British soldiers. Many of Loudoun’s farmers did indeed join the famed Daniel Morgan’s Riflemen.*

## 2. The Loudoun County Courthouse



*A picture of King Street in the early 1800s – slightly after the period covered in this tour. The courthouse shown on the right was the 1811 version. The current one wasn't built until 1894.*

The town of Leesburg, now the largest town in Virginia, owes its existence to the Loudoun County Courthouse. In colonial Virginia, a county was not a county without a courthouse. They were political, judicial, and social centers, so Loudoun had to have one. Therefore in 1761, Nicholas Minor ceded land to Francis Lightfoot Lee, Loudoun's representative in Williamsburg and a future signer of the Declaration of Independence, so that the courthouse could be built. Since it was the first public building to be constructed in the town, its residents must have been pleased.

County courthouses functioned differently back in the colonial era. They did not try capital cases if they involved free whites. Those had to go to the capitol in Williamsburg. Instead, the court could try cases involving civil disputes, theft, or immoral actions like cursing. In fact, Loudoun's own sheriff, Aeneas Campbell, was once fined for foul language. Punishment for any of these was very swift and typically involved paying a fine or spending time in the stocks.

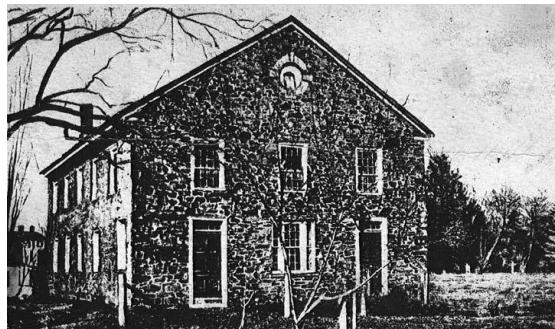
Of course, things were quite different for slaves in those days. They *could* be tried and executed for capital crimes by county courts, as happened in 1768. After three slaves struck an overseer with axes and hoes, killing him, they were put on trial here at the courthouse. In a county that was becoming increasingly afraid of slave violence, they had no hope for leniency. All three were hanged on March 2, 1768 in Loudoun's first public execution.

All cases in the county were tried at the same time each month during a special court day. When Nicholas Cresswell visited Loudoun in December of 1774, he had the chance to see one of these court days. He commented, “The people seem to be fond of Law. Nothing uncommon for them to bring suit against a person for a Book debt and trade with him on an open account at the same time. To be arrested for debt is no scandal here.”

In addition to its legal purposes, this was also a political center. Perhaps the most important thing to happen here before the Revolution was the drafting of the Loudoun Resolves in 1774. Here on a sultry Wednesday evening, June 14, 1774, hundreds of free-holders gathered in response to the closing of the port of Boston and the city's occupation by government troops as coming in the wake of the Boston Tea Party. Northern Virginians could sympathize, *they* had cowed British sailors at our port, Alexandria, causing them to leave without unloading the tea. Prominent citizens like Leven Powell and Francis Peyton created a resolution of protest for their fellow citizens. At this meeting outside the courthouse, Loudoun citizens affirmed their loyalty to the king but denounced Parliament's actions as “unconstitutional.” They also cautioned parliament that continued abuse would undoubtedly lead to civil war. In concluding, they pledged not to buy any tea or trade with Britain until the taxes were repealed. They sent these resolves directly to the First Continental Congress at Philadelphia, meeting in September. This was the first major step the county took toward independence. Loudoun, of course, did this. Two years later, the Declaration of Independence was read on the courthouse steps.

### 1. Old Stone Church site

*Walk north along King Street—away from the stop light--until you reach Cornwall Street. When you do, turn left and travel along it through a handsome late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood until just past Wirt Street. The church site is behind an iron fence at right.*



had other religious convictions. Yet Loudoun lacked an Anglican church, although they sometimes met in the courthouse. The closest Anglican Church was the Fall's Church—at Falls Church to the east. Dissenting Christian faiths, while allowed, met in “meeting houses” with windows closed during services by law—to avoid subjecting passers-by to blasphemy.

Methodism flourished in Loudoun because its spiritual message appealed to the non-gentry, including up-and-coming Leesburg merchants. By 1768, a Leesburg congregation decided to build their own church. A wealthy convert named Robert Hamilton bought the land from town founder Nicholas Minor, marking the first time in North American history that Methodists owned a church site.

Of course, not everyone liked the Methodists. Anglicans like visitor Nicholas Cresswell regarded them with suspicion and voiced sharp criticism. Cresswell, attending a Methodist service, wrote that the Methodist preacher uttered “bombast, noise and nonsense”. Yet the congregation grew; it had to construct an even larger church. This one, completed in 1785 of stone, is seen in the photo above.

Here in the Southern back county—west of the fall line (where the first waterfalls are, and beyond which is not navigable), a variety of sects flourished. Presbyterianism served Scottish merchants, though they did not build a Leesburg church until 1804, a church still standing. In rural Loudoun, Baptists began to meet, first in outdoor meetings, then in simple churches, several of which are still standing. Most of these faiths tended to resist the Crown, supporting the American Revolution.

Back when Leesburg was founded, the only religion recognized by the government was Anglicanism. By law, citizens had to attend services at the Church of England and support it with tithes, even if they

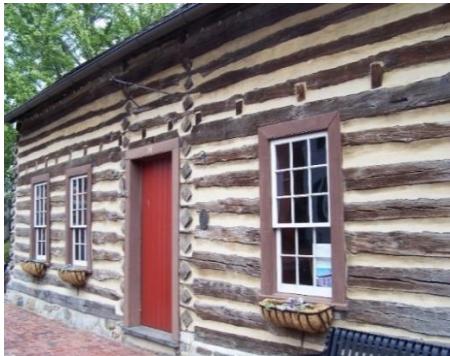
You may be wondering as you look at the stone outline of the church why it is no longer standing. The answer for that came in the years following the Revolution. The church started out with both black and white Methodists worshipping under the same roof. However, in 1848, as America was becoming increasingly divided over slavery, the congregation split. The two groups tried to share the building by meeting at different times, but it wasn’t to last. White members formed Leesburg Methodist Church and black members formed Mount Zion Church. For twenty years, the church sat empty until it was finally torn down. But this story does have a happy ending. Recently, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the church, members of all three of Leesburg’s Methodist churches got back together and celebrated their denomination’s history. Once again, the church was united.

*Walk around inside the church outlines. As small as even the 1785 one is, it once held a congregation of more than 300. Also look at some of the colonial graves. Try to find the marker for Richard Owings, the first American-born Methodist preacher.*

#### **4. Loudoun Museum and Stephen Donaldson’s shop**

*Walk back along Cornwall Street until you reach Wirt Street, turning right. Go two blocks to the intersection with Loudoun Street, turning left. Beside the Loudoun Museum (below)look for the log building.*





The Loudoun Museum is a great place to go to learn about any part of Loudoun's history. Among its colonial possessions are a portrait of Lord Loudoun and documents signed by George Washington and James Monroe.

Adjacent to the museum, you may have noticed a log cabin. This little structure has a very interesting history. Back in the 1960s, the Town of Leesburg decided to tear down an old dry cleaners in order to construct additional parking. When they pulled off the siding of this store, they discovered the inside was made of logs. This dry cleaners had actually been built using a log shop from 1764. The town decided to preserve it, giving rise to the Loudoun Museum.

Back in 1767, this log building housed the shop of Stephen Donaldson. Although Cresswell may have said there were few trades in Leesburg, this shop was selling a surprisingly luxurious good for a frontier town – silver! Even if their homes were crude, some of the early residents of Loudoun were gaining enough money to buy luxuries.

*If you would like to see some of Donaldson's silver creations made here, visit the next door Loudoun Museum, open from 10 am – 5 pm on Friday and Saturday and 1 pm – 5 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students, teachers, and seniors.*

## 5. McCabe's Ordinary

*Keep walking along Loudoun Street until you pass King Street at the light. If you go three buildings further, you will see a stone building with a red roof and dark green shutters. Walk behind it so that what you see matches the picture below, a better view of the McCabe's, of the 1770s, a simple type of tavern Virginians called an "ordinary".*

This building is currently known as the Patterson Building after its builder and first owner, John Patterson. When John Patterson died, his brother Fleming had to sell the building to cover his debts. It was

bought by an Alexandria merchant and sea captain named Henry McCabe, who turned the place into a tavern. Even more than today's bars and restaurants, taverns were social centers. Anytime you wanted to learn what was going on in the community and the world as a whole, you went to a tavern.

Being located along Leesburg's main road, McCabe's would be one of the first places to find out what was going on in other colonies. In 1775, it received two very important bits of information almost simultaneously. Lord Dunmore seized the gunpowder in Williamsburg right after British troops fired on Massachusetts militiamen in Lexington and Concord. Both of these incidents galvanized the public and thoroughly convinced them that the American colonies needed to take action. As a result, the militia assembled and marched toward Williamsburg before they were turned back. Only a few months later, they would march out again to join Washington's army in the north.

The majority of Loudoun's citizens were in favor of independence. However, not everyone was. About the time of this, Nicholas Cresswell began writing bitter denunciations of Loudoun's patriotic fervor. In 1776, when the remaining militiamen were mustered out, Cresswell wrote: "General Muster of the County Militia in town, about 600 men appeared under-armed, with Tobacco sticks, in general much rioting and confusion. Recruiting Officers for the Sleber Army offer



Twelve Pounds bounty and 200 acres of land when the War is over, but get very few men." He used the word "sleber" --rebels spelled backward. Apparently he feared what would happen if his loyalist writings were discovered. Nevertheless, his political feelings did get him in trouble, as you will see at the next site.

*You can go inside this building. On the upstairs walls, there are drawings from when an elderly General Marquis de Lafayette visited Leesburg on a national tour in 1825 and hordes came to visit!.*

## 6. William Baker House (Old Stone House)

*Still on Loudoun Street, return through the stop light at King Street, continuing past Wirt Street to the stone house at right shown below.*

This house, which was built about 1762, witnessed several of the less noble events that happened in Leesburg. On December 4, 1776, "A mob of about 40 horsemen" rode through the city and on toward Alexandria in a desperate search for one of colonial Virginia's scarcest resources – salt. This was essential to preserving meat, especially in the summer when it spoiled quickly. Although you can easily find it in any grocery store today, salt back then was very difficult to acquire in Loudoun. Coastal colonists could produce it using seawater. In Loudoun though, it had to be imported, typically from the British colony of the Bahamas. Since Loudoun had sworn not to import British goods and was now at war with the nation, the price of salt skyrocketed from 4 shillings up to 40. The men who took part in this search intended to obtain salt by any means necessary, including violence. Cresswell wrote that they carried swords and clubs and looked like they were about to revolt. This incident shows the



desperation of many colonists during the hard times of the Revolution. Fortunately for them, their spirits were somewhat lifted a few weeks later when news arrived that the Americans had been victorious at Trenton. Soon thereafter, in Cresswell's words, Washington's name was "extolled to the clouds. Alexander, Pompey, and Hannibal were but pigmy Generals, in comparison with the magnanimous Washington."

Later on March 26, 1777, patriotic zeal resulted in a local shopkeeper named Mr. Dean being attacked by six wagon drivers. It appears that they regarded him as a Tory and thought it proper to correct his beliefs



with violence. As they whipped him, he cried out for help and two men, one of which was Nicholas Cresswell, came to his aid. All of them fought until just about everyone involved had sustained broken bones and bruises. The next day, a very sore Cresswell wrote some remarks on the persecution of loyalists.

"This is the happy fruits of Independence, the populace are grown so insolent if you do not tacitly submit to every insult or imposition they think proper, Immediately call you a Tory and think that if you have that stigma upon your character, they have a right, Nay even take it a meritorious Act, to knock your brains out."

Although nice to think about the acts of Loudoun's Revolutionary Era citizens as *patriotic*, we also have to remember that they sometimes went quite far with their beliefs. One Tory citizen, however, a man named Nixon living southwest of Leesburg, slyly put on the lintel over the entry to his barn "IHMN"—*In His Majesty's Name*. It is still on private property at Woodburn, showing all were *not* on board!

## Nicholas Cresswell



Throughout the tour of Leesburg, you have seen quotes from Nicholas Cresswell, a visitor to Loudoun County. However, you probably still don't know much about him except that he was British and had strong opinions about everything that was not Loyalist and Anglican. Here is a bit of his background.

As a present for graduating from college, the 22-year-old Cresswell

was sent on a trip to America. He arrived in Alexandria and came to Leesburg in late 1774 – just as the patriotic fervor was beginning. He was very opinionated and headstrong. Nevertheless, he also liked to have fun. He visited several of Leesburg's taverns and led a rather dissolute lifestyle. This eventually reduced him to poverty, effectively stranding him in the middle of Revolutionary Virginia.

Cresswell was offered a chance to remove himself from debt, though it was somewhat of a devil's bargain. The county offered him a commission in the Continental Army as a captain of engineers that would have paid an incredible \$3 a day. Yet Cresswell refused. He could not fight in any capacity against his fellow countrymen and even refused to guard some British prisoners of war when they were being kept at the county jail.

After he and Mr. Dean were attacked, Cresswell realized the danger of being an Englishman in an independence-minded county, so he tried to flee to New York. However, upon reaching Philadelphia, he decided this was dishonorable to the man who had been caring for him in Loudoun, Thomson Mason. So he went back to Leesburg.

On April 6, 1777, Cresswell decided that honor had to yield to practicality. With the Rebel army pressing young men into service, it would not be long before he too had to join. This time, Cresswell

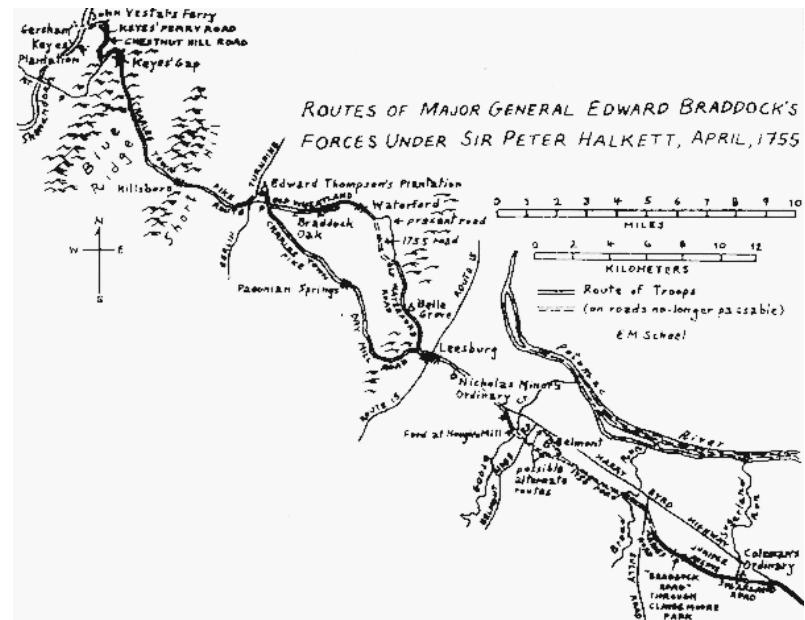
escaped by going southeast, eventually making his way to the British Man-of-war *Phoenix* at the mouth of the Chesapeake. He then visited New York again and finally made his way to England. He must have been very happy to finally see his hometown of Edale in Derbyshire — in today's Peak District—and finally be rid of so many rebels.

*This completes your walking tour of Leesburg. You can go back down Loudoun Street to the parking garage and get in your car. When you exit, turn left on Market Street and immediately right on Wirt Street. Go two blocks to North Street, turn left, then continue to Old Waterford Road, which bends right and heads on to the pristine village of Waterford. This scenic road is ancient—the colonial road to Winchester—and turns to dirt for a good piece for great ambiance.*

## PART II: A Driving Tour of Revolutionary Loudoun.

### 7. Old Waterford Road

*This road is a fine piece of Loudoun's 300 miles of dirt roads, an historic road network we treasure. Though wealthy, Loudoun has the most dirt road mileage in Virginia. A good speed to go is 25-30 mph.*



The road you are now driving along was once part of the great highway from Alexandria to Winchester, connecting the well-settled tidewater and the frontier. It looked quite different back then, as Cresswell testifies in his journal. "...the roads are very bad, cut to pieces with the wagons, number of them we met today. Their method of mending the roads is with poles about 10 foot long laid across the road close together; they stick fast in the mud and make an excellent causeway. Very thinly peopled along the road, almost all Woods."

Among the many people who traveled this road in colonial days was a young George Washington. Back in 1755, he led part of General Braddock's army through Loudoun County on its way to attack the French stronghold of Fort Duquesne (modern day Pittsburgh.) Unfortunately, when they got to the fort, everything fell apart. French soldiers and Indian warriors attacked on both sides of the wooded road, and General Braddock was mortally wounded. Believing they would be massacred, the soldiers started to panic. Fortunately, Washington was able to rally the troops together so they could withdraw. This was the first time he showed off his abilities as a commander, traits which would prove so valuable in the Revolution. It also resulted in Great Britain beginning a war with France that would last more than seven years and cause France to lose nearly all of its North American colonies.

## 8. Waterford's Quaker Meetinghouse

*As Old Waterford Road comes to a stop sign at Loyalty Road at Waterford, a 1771 Quaker meetinghouse will be on the right. Opposite the intersection, there is an elementary school with a parking lot to the right of the entry lane. Park here, and walk across the road retracing your steps down Old Waterford Road to the cemetery entrance at left. Although the cemetery is open to the public, the meetinghouse itself is a private home. Please be respectful.*

One of the first groups to settle the Loudoun Valley was the Quakers. Members of this religious group came down from New York and Pennsylvania and built many small farms in the Waterford area.



This meetinghouse was built in 1761 as a replacement for the smaller log one that had stood on the site in 1741. During one of his trips through western Loudoun, Cresswell attended a service here. Although he was typically quite critical of non-Anglican religions, he did find things to like about the Quakers meetinghouse. He says, "This is one of the most comfortable places of worship I was ever in, they had two large fires and a Dutch stove. After a long silence and many groans a Man got up and gave us a short Lecture with great deliberation."

The beliefs of the Quakers set them apart from other Protestants. Foremost among this was the doctrine that the spirit of God lived in everyone, making all human life sacred. For this reason, the Quakers encouraged community charity and forbade the practice of slavery. Most importantly of all, they considered it a sin to take a human life, meaning they would not serve in the army. It was this belief that caused the most trouble for the Quakers during the Revolution.

Early in the war, the county's citizens were mostly content to let the Quakers be. However, as the shortage of soldiers began to increase, they became quite critical of this large group that refused to do its patriotic duty. In 1777, Colonel Francis Peyton actually forcibly conscripted sixteen Quaker men and took them to Washington's camp near Philadelphia. While there, they refused to take any provisions and used passive resistance to protest their conscription. A day later, Washington ordered Peyton to send them back to Loudoun. After that, no one would try to compel Quakers to serve.

But that was not the end of the Quakers' problems. Since they would not fight, the Virginia legislature decided to tax them so the new state would have more money for the war effort. The Quakers

refused to pay it since they knew the money would support violence. In response, the state seized a great deal of Quaker property. Some Quakers lost almost everything they had because of their pacifist standings. These incidents show that even as Americans were trying to fight for their freedom, they were trampling on the freedoms of others.

## 9. Hunting Hill

*Turn left from Waterford Elementary School onto Loyalty Road. Drive north six miles, a lovely ride. This will take you to Taylorstown. When you reach the intersection with Taylorstown Road turn left, go down the hill, parking just beyond the bridge over rushing Catoctin Creek. Walk back up the hill—a 1798 stone mill at right, Hunting Hill at left.*

Tucked away in the small village of Taylorstown is the oldest home still standing in Loudoun County. Now known as Hunting Hill, this house was built in 1737 by Richard Brown. Because this area is so

close to the Potomac River, Brown decided to build a mill here, which you can see along the road as you leave. Once the grain had been processed, he could easily put it on a boat and take it down to Georgetown, then a part of Maryland since Washington

had not yet been constructed. Brown's house had one large room down—a “great hall”—and a loft upstairs. Note the “catslide” roof!

When Brown came to Loudoun, the county had only been open to white settlement for 15 years. It was mostly forested and had more deer than people. It was the frontier, and a dangerous place for those who were unprepared. Nevertheless, settlers did come, and the fact that this hamlet had a mill testifies that they were putting down roots and starting farms. Two decades after Brown built his house, Loudoun finally had enough people to become a county. The 1798 stone mill replaces an earlier mill build by Richard Brown to serve local farmers.



## 10. Point of Rocks

*Turn left from the bridge parking lot on to Taylorstown Road, going two miles to Lovettsville Road, Rt. 672. Turn right, and go three miles to Rt. 15. Immediately before Rt. 15 is the entry to a boat ramp beside the Rt. 15 bridge; turn left here, travel down the lane park near the water.*

As shown by the many cars crossing the nearby bridge, Point of Rocks is an important place to cross the Potomac River. This has always been the case, even before the first white settlers came to Loudoun. The huge “point of rocks” that rises from the north river bank which you see was the draw. In the 1500s, Algonquin Indians from the east, Iroquois heading on spring and fall migrations north and south, and Siouans from the Ohio Valley would camp and trade here with each other. They constructed v-shaped traps out of rock to catch fish, still visible in the river. In the late 1600s, Piscataway Indians settled on nearby Heater’s Island (the island just down river.) Two British visitors said that their settlement was a fort measuring fifty by sixty yards and contained 18 cabins within it and nine outside. By 1715, the settlement was decimated by smallpox; the Piscataway travelled north to Pennsylvania, leaving Loudoun void of indigenous people until white settlers arrived.

In 1741, Francis Aubrey created the first ferry across the Potomac here at Point of Rocks. Until bridges were built, the only way to cross the river was using a ferry, so these places became very important. Their owners also became quite rich. Just down river, a man named Philip Noland built another ferry in 1754. His ferry was also very profitable because it transported so many different people. Many settlers from the north, including the Quakers, would have taken his ferry to get to Loudoun. Moreover, on May 10, 1776, it transported a Virginia congressman named Thomas Jefferson as he was going to



Philadelphia. About a month later, he started to write the Declaration of Independence.

One last group used Noland's Ferry in the Revolutionary era. After the Continental Army defeated General Burgoyne at Saratoga, many of his Hessian soldiers were taken to Leesburg via Noland's ferry. Then a few years later, Cornwallis's men were taken across the ferry after their capture at Yorktown. When this happened, those citizens of Loudoun who watched the soldiers go across must have believed that America had finally won its independence.

## 11. New Jerusalem Church and the German Settlements that evolved around today's Lovettsville.

*Turn right back on to Lovettsville Road (Route 672) and travel northwest some six miles to Lovettsville. Follow East Broad Way, the main street of Lovettsville, until you reach South Loudoun Street on the left by a small parking lot. Take this one mile to the Berlin Turnpike, Route 287. Turn left, then take the next left on to Lutheran Church Road by the service station. At the end of this, you will find New Jerusalem Church--12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville. Go in to the oldest part of the cemetery to the right of the brick church.*

The first German settlers came to Loudoun in 1732. Most of them traced their lineage to the Palatinate. This area had been devastated by three long wars within fifty years, so many of its poor inhabitants fled to England. However, while this area was certainly safer, it lacked opportunities for employment. Therefore many Germans moved again to Pennsylvania, and from there down to Virginia. Some of the Germans came directly to Loudoun while others came here from the Shenandoah Valley. After Braddock's defeat, Indian raids became

so common in the valley that many of its settlers moved back across the mountains, thus bringing them to Loudoun.

The Germans lived a simple life and maintained many of their traditional ways. They continued to speak their own language and even continued practicing their own religion, although they were supposed to be registered to do so. Their English neighbors considered them stupid and dull, but when Loudoun County decided to support the cause of independence, no soldiers were as loyal as the Germans. A large number of men from New Jerusalem Church joined the Continental Army. However, since many of them only spoke German, they enlisted up north and served under Colonel Charles Armand, a French nobleman who spoke the language fluently. He showed far greater respect for them than most of their English neighbors.

The New Jerusalem Church was founded in 1765. Like most buildings in the town, it was simply constructed and made of logs. The congregation replaced it with a stone building in 1802. This caved in during a snowstorm and was replaced by two more churches. Its services were conducted in German until 1830. By that point, its younger members were only speaking, reading, and writing in English, showing that they had fully assimilated.



*Take a look at the adjacent cemetery. As at the Methodist Church in Leesburg, many Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here. If you come around a patriotic holiday like Memorial Day, you will see their graves marked with flags. The more legible graves include those of John Axline (shown here), John Stoutzenberger, and Phillip Peter Wirz. German-Americans saw the War for Independence very favorably and fought accordingly.*

## 12. Goose Creek Quaker Meetinghouse

Get back onto Berlin Turnpike and travel south. Stay on it until you reach a roundabout entering Purcellville. When you do, go around it so you can get on William T. Druhan Boulevard continuing south. When you come to the intersection with South Maple Avenue and Lincoln Road, turn left onto Lincoln Road. This will take you a mile in to the village of Lincoln. You will see a parking lot by a cemetery on the right, opposite the Lincoln Post Office. Park here.



The first Quaker meetinghouse in Lincoln (known as Goose Creek until 1861) was a log structure built in 1745. It was replaced in 1765 by the stone building that you see next to the parking lot and cemetery. This was the building the

Quakers used during the Revolutionary War. They still own it.

As you saw in Waterford, Quakers could get in a lot of trouble for opposing the war. They could also get in a lot of trouble for taking part in it. If a member of the Society of Friends volunteered in the army, they could be disowned by the meetings. An example of this is the Jared Family. John Jared and his sons, William and Joseph, all joined the Continental Army even though their religion expressly forbade military service. Because they did this in the last years of the war, they did not see any fighting. Yet that did not matter to the Quakers. When the war ended, the Jared family did not remain very long in Loudoun. Instead they moved to Bedford, Virginia – probably because they had been disowned by the Goose Creek meetinghouse. The Waterford meeting alone disowned 15 men. As difficult as it may have been for these individuals to go against their neighbors and religious teachings, they firmly believed in the patriotic cause and felt they had to take a stand. For those who would not help during the War for Independence, whatever their religious beliefs, the angry indignation of their neighbors was the result.

*The 1765 meetinghouse is now a private residence, but the newer 1818 meetinghouse is still used for services and is open to the public. Go inside this one to get an idea of how Quaker worship differed from that of other religious denominations. Notice how simple the décor is compared to many other churches. Also, notice how the pews are aligned. Because anyone could speak at a Quaker meeting, the pews face each other rather than an altar.*

## 13. Ketoctin Baptist Church

*Return on Lincoln Road through the intersection you saw earlier continuing on to the stoplight at East Main Street, Route 7. Turn left on to East Main until you come to 23rd Street at the second stoplight. (Route 690). Turn right, travelling two miles to a roundabout. Go 3/4 around it and turn on to Allder School Road heading west. This soon turns to dirt. At Ketoctin Church Road, turn left. The church is just up on the right at 16595 Ketoctin Church Road. Pull in and park.*



From an Anglican perspective, perhaps the most troublesome group of dissenters were the Baptists. They held their meetings without permission, refused to pay for licenses, and even spoke out against using public taxes to support the Church of England. They

were readily identifiable by their austere clothing, which lacked even basic adornments like cocked hats. Anglicans thought they were the dourest people who ever lived since they would not dance, race, or gamble. Despite this, the Baptists flourished in the backcountry. Their pastors gave sermons that were filled with spirit and stressed the personal relationship between God and man. This emotional way of preaching contrasted markedly with those of the Church of England, so the uneducated members of society flocked to them.

Ketoctin Baptist Church is the oldest Baptist church in Virginia. It was organized back in 1751, before Loudoun was even chartered. Because the church is tucked away in the woods, you can still get a feeling for how far removed it was from civilization at that time. Yet the church grew rapidly over the years thanks to the leadership of the Reverend John Marks. Marks lacked theological training and did not deliver as emotional sermons as other Baptists, but he still managed to increase the size of his flock.

During the 1770s, Marks played another important role as a community leader. Because many of the people who lived in the Loudoun Valley were illiterate, Marks hosted public meetings to inform them about their rights as British subjects and how they were being abused. Even the Germans from Lovettsville came out to see him. Of course, not everyone in the area liked his outspoken views on Britain's conduct. Nicholas Osburn, a wealthy landowner and loyalist, challenged him to a public debate. Unfortunately for Osburn, the audience had already been convinced by Marks's previous appeals and would not listen to anything he said. Osburn continued to hold loyalist views even after the war and had one of his grandsons named Tarleton after the infamous British dragoon commander. As for Marks, his expressions of patriotism convinced nearly every man who was able to serve to join the Continental Army. Many of them served under the now-famous Daniel Morgan, who was recruiting men in Clarke County.

After the war, Ketoctin played yet another significant role in Virginia history. At the urging of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, the Virginia legislature introduced a bill to disestablish the Church of England as the official religion of the new state. Ketoctin's large congregation solidly supported the bill, which eventually passed the General Assembly. Virginia's Statute of Religious Freedom of 1786 officially ended Anglican dominance in Virginia and gave freedom of religion to all other denominations.

The current building dates to 1854—its congregation would see a later war, the War for Southern Independence—the Civil War.

*Go behind the church and look at the cemetery. Among the older graves, you will see the names of several people who served in the Revolution. One was Rev. John Marks's son, Isaiah. Likely inspired by his father, Isaiah joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, serving as one of its captains. In the 1778 Battle of Monmouth Courthouse in New Jersey, Marks was wounded. Recovering, he continued to fight until Washington sent the Continental Army home in the fall of 1784. Sadly, exhausted by the long walk home, Marks died of pneumonia in January 1785.*

#### 14. Clayton Hall

*Drive back to Alder School Road, turn left, and after a mile make another left onto Woodgrove Road. You will enter the small town of Round Hill after two miles. Turn right on W. Loudoun Street at the stop sign, and go out to Route 7, the Harry Byrd Highway. Continue on this road about two miles, beginning to ascend the Blue Ridge, until you see Clayton Hall Road, Route 760 on your left with a sign marked "Bluemont.". Be cautious, you must cross a divided highway.*



*The road descends into the village. When you come to a stop sign at Snickersville Turnpike, you will see the stone Clayton Hall on the left.*

Many members of Ketoctin Church's congregation lived near the village of Snickersville, now called Bluemont. These included the Osburn, Chew, and Marks families. Yet Bluemont's founder is considered to be one William Clayton. Born in Pennsylvania, he belonged to a prominent Quaker family. One of his ancestors had even served as Pennsylvania's acting governor when William Penn was absent. However, during

the Revolutionary War, Clayton was compelled to leave the colony.

Reputedly, William Clayton warned the British army as it approached Philadelphia in 1777 that the American General Anthony Wayne was trying to attack them from behind. This allowed the British to attack the Americans first. As a result, 300 American soldiers were killed in what became known as the Paoli Massacre. When the British left Philadelphia in 1778, Clayton realized he also needed to get out quickly. He ended up traveling to Loudoun, buying land that was to become Snickersville. Did the locals know? Later he helped Snickersville grow by serving as one of the first directors of the Snickersville Turnpike. He built Clayton Hall for his son Amos.

## 15. The Red Fox Inn

*Drive southeast five miles down the Snickersville Turnpike until you reach the intersection with St. Louis Road where there is a flashing light. Turn right here onto Route 611 and proceed until you reach the John Mosby Highway (50). If you are doing this tour on a weekday, you can visit the headquarters of the Mosby Heritage Area Association by turning right on Route 50 and then turning left onto Route 713, Atoka Road. We are located at the stone Rector House, the first building on your left. If you want to proceed directly to the next stop, turn left on to Route 50, proceeding four miles to Middleburg. The Red Fox is on your left at the stop light in the middle of town.*



One of the most famous restaurants in Loudoun County, the Red Fox Inn has been in existence since around 1728. It was originally owned by the Chinn family and called Chinn's Ordinary. Its owner at the time of the Revolution was Thomas Chinn, a first cousin of George Washington. Being located along a major road from Alexandria, many travelers headed west over the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Shenandoah

Valley stopped here. Over the years, it has hosted such famous people as JEB Stuart, John Mosby, John F. Kennedy, and Elizabeth Taylor.

Alongside the Chinns, the Powell family also owned a lot of land near Middleburg. Although both families were supporters of independence, they got into a heated conflict over property. In the years before the Revolution, the Powells had purchased some land that was owned by a member of the Chinn family. Eventually, the two families got into a fight over which land belonged to the Chinns and which belonged to the Powells. The fight dragged on through the war and wasn't resolved until 1814, when the courts gave the Chinns all 700 of the disputed acres. Yet despite this, Thomas Chinn, Jr. was still one of only 11 landowners who signed Leven Powell's independence resolution. Independence was more important than their dispute.

Besides being prominent in politics, Leven Powell also served as an officer in Loudoun's militia. In January 1777, Powell became the lieutenant colonel of the 16<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment of the VA Continentals. In this position, he led the regiment through the harsh winter at Valley Forge until he came down with a severe illness. This forced him to return to Virginia and resign his commission. After the war, he became the county's most active political figure. Surprisingly considering he was a Virginian, he belonged to the Federalist Party. Even more surprising, he was the only member of Virginia's 21 electors to vote for Adams over Jefferson in the Presidential Election of 1796.

One of Leven Powell's friends, David Griffith, also contributed to the war effort, though in a different way. He was the minister for Shelburne Parish and became a chaplain in the army. However, since he had also trained to become a doctor, the army used him instead in this capacity. Armies were in short supply, so during the rough months at Valley Forge, they were very happy to have him. He later served as rector of Christ Church in Alexandria. Interestingly, on December 31, 1775, he gave a sermon in Williamsburg in which he advocated passive resistance to Great Britain but did not advocate total independence.

## 16. John Champe House

Drive approximately three miles east on Route 50 until you see a series of three historic silver and black historic marker signs on the right side of the highway. There is a pull-off by the signs. In the field below, you can catch a glimpse of a 1939 stone monument.



Perhaps the most famous of all the soldiers who came from Loudoun County is Sergeant Major John Champe. He recently regained attention when the county named a new high school for him. However, most people still don't know about his famous deed: taking part in a mission to capture Benedict Arnold.

John Champe was born in Aldie in 1752 and lived there until he enlisted in the Virginia Cavalry in 1776. His

commander was the famous "Light-Horse" Harry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee. After Benedict Arnold defected to the British Army, Lee approached Champe and asked him if he would volunteer for a dangerous mission. He would pretend to desert and join a legion of other American deserters under Arnold's command. Then, when the time was right, he and another man would kidnap Arnold and bring him back – alive – to General Washington. Champe said he would be happy to do it, though he disliked even pretending to do such a dishonorable act as running from the army.

The plan worked perfectly until shortly before the kidnapping was to take place. Arnold moved his headquarters to a different part of New York City and then announced he was taking his army south to conduct raids against the patriots. Champe must have been horrified to learn that Arnold's intended destination was his home state of Virginia. Faced with the terrible possibility of fighting his own countrymen, Champe escaped Arnold's legion as soon as it arrived in Petersburg. He rode rapidly to the north until he managed to meet

back up with Washington. When the general learned his story, he lauded him with praise and allowed him to return back home. Even though the mission was not successful, Champe had shown valor above and beyond the call of duty.



In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the famous engravers Currier & Ives made a lithograph of Champe's escape from Benedict Arnold.

## 17. Aldie Mill

Proceed east on the John Mosby Highway to the village of Aldie. You will see the mill on your right at the east end of the village. It is open



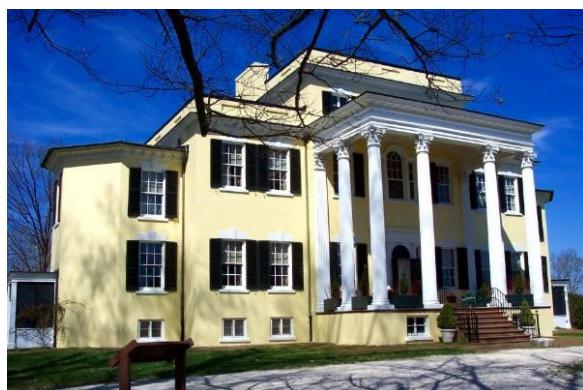
on Saturdays and Sundays from mid-April to mid-November 13 from 12pm to 5pm. You can learn more about the mill's history (including during the Civil War) and see a milling demonstration if you come here between those times. You can walk around anytime.

After the American Revolution ended, Loudoun underwent a population boom. The tidewater lands were no longer as good for farming as they once were, and many of those who fought in the war had been awarded land grants for their service. This resulted in an increase in the amount of wheat being produced in Loudoun and

a need for larger mills to process it. Aldie Mill was one of these. It was first constructed by James Mercer, one of Loudoun's burgesses, in 1764. In 1809, his son Charles Fenton Mercer built a much larger mill to process all of the grain Loudoun was now producing. Because it was located along a major turnpike (now Route 50), the mill proved to be very profitable. Mercer and his business partner earned \$22,500 each year—more than Mercer's home was worth. Perhaps because of its success, Loudouners continued to construct mills up to the time of the Civil War. As for Mercer, he went on to serve as a colonel in the War of 1812, became the first president of the C&O Canal, and helped to establish the country of Liberia.

## 18. Oatlands

*Continue along Route 50 to the roundabout at Gilbert's Corner. Travel north on James Monroe Highway (Route 15) some 5.5 miles until you come to the gates for Oatlands on the right side of the highway. Proceed up the lane until you reach the house. You can tour the grounds if you would like Monday through Saturday from 10:00 – 5:00, or on Sunday from 1:00 through 5:00. Tickets for the house cost \$10 for anyone above the age of 5. It is open April 1-December 30.*



Not everyone who came to Loudoun in the wake of the Revolution was a middle or lower class farmer. One of the most important changes in the societal makeup of Loudoun was the arrival of large

landowners from the tidewater. For nearly two centuries, their ancestors had owned large plantations along the middle peninsula and grown Virginia's chief cash crop, tobacco. But tobacco

tended to drain the soil of its nutrients, meaning planters had to buy new land after a couple of seasons. Many of them moved away from the Williamsburg area, leading to that city's decline, and resettled in the piedmont. Loudoun was a favorite destination, and many lavish plantation homes were built in the first few decades following the Revolutionary War. One of these was Oatlands.

Oatlands was owned by one of Virginia's most elite families – the Carter family. Their prosperity started back in the 1600s, when Robert Carter became so rich that people started referring to him as "King" Carter. Even people back in Great Britain took notice of his wealth. Lord Fairfax for example was so amazed that someone could earn so much money in Virginia that he promptly bought up land in the northern part of the colony and moved to it. In 1798, George Carter, a descendent of Robert "King" Carter, came to Loudoun and constructed Oatlands plantation. Realizing the effects of tobacco on the soil, he decided to produce wheat instead. As you saw earlier, this had long been a staple of Loudoun County and was becoming increasingly more important. But with the arrival of tidewater planters, wheat cultivation took on a new form. It was now being mass-produced with slave labor. George Carter's father, named Robert like their ancestor, had gradually freed all 500 of his slaves after becoming a Baptist. After his father's death, George promptly bought dozens of slaves to support his new plantation. By 1860, the Carters of Oatlands owned 133 slaves--more than anyone in Loudoun.

## 19. The Laurel Brigade Building

*Drive back onto Route 15, turning right, and travel north six miles into downtown Leesburg. When you reach the intersection at the courthouse—Business Route 15 and Business Route 7, turn left on to West Market Street and park behind the Thomas Balch Library of History and Genealogy at 208 West Market Street. You can then walk down the street two blocks (retracing your steps towards the courthouse) to the Laurel Brigade Building shown in the photo. It is just beyond Wirt Street on your left, a significant stone building.*



The Laurel Brigade Building has a very long history, alternatively serving as a home, tavern, and law office throughout its 250 year history. It was first built in 1759, only two years after Loudoun County was formed, on land

owned by Nicholas Minor. At first it was a tavern like McCabe's Ordinary. Then in 1771, a prominent citizen named Captain William Douglas bought the land and rented it to a lawyer named John Thornton. Eleanor and Henry Peers bought it later on and it was known as the Peers Hotel throughout the early 1800s.

By the time the Peers family owned the building, Loudoun had changed a lot. It was still an agricultural county, but it now had large mills and plantations to compliment the small farms. Yet in 1825, the citizens of Leesburg received several living reminders of its Revolutionary past. That year, the famous Marquis de Lafayette was touring America and decided to pass through Loudoun County. He was accompanied by President James Monroe and former President John Adams. All of them stayed at the Peers Hotel. Just imagine, three of the most famous figures in American history all stayed in this building!



**The Marquis de Lafayette at left as he looked about 1824, and President James Monroe at right, Loudoun's most famous resident.**



It was no accident that Lafayette and Monroe chose to come through Leesburg. Monroe had recently built a home in Loudoun called Oak Hill. As for Lafayette, a man from Loudoun County named John Ashby had actually saved his life when he was wounded at Brandywine. The Marquis's visit was commemorated with a portrait that is now in Thomas Balch Library and with sketches in McCabe's Ordinary, which you may have seen earlier. This visit must have reminded many Loudouners how much their own people had contributed to the war for independence, just as the statue on the courthouse lawn reminds us today.

After several more owners, the building again became a restaurant and was named for a famous Confederate unit that received a laurel wreath when it marched through town (and included the local 35<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry). A popular Leesburg restaurant, it closed in 2003.

## 20. Thomas Balch Library

*Walk back to Thomas Balch Library. If it is open, go inside.*

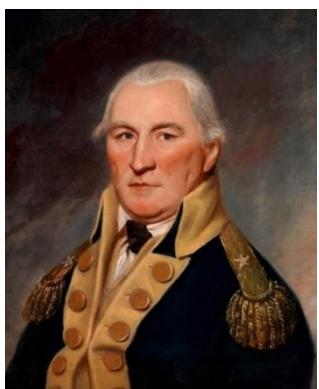
Thomas Balch Library opened in 1922 and was once one of only two libraries in the entire county. Today it is run by the Town of Leesburg and holds a large collection of historical and genealogical resources.



Now that you have seen many of its colonial sites, you may wish to learn more about Loudoun's history. Library staff can help you find books and records on many subjects. You can buy books about Loudoun's history here or pick up more driving tours for some of the other interesting periods in the county's history.

*We hope that you enjoyed your tour. Remember that these sites exist because people learn about their value and strive to preserve them.*

## To visit more: Clarke County Revolutionary War Sites



Loudoun is not the only county that has interesting Revolutionary War sites. Just across the Blue Ridge Mountains in Clarke County, still a part of the Mosby Heritage area, there are several very interesting sites related to the man under whom many of Loudoun County's soldiers fought—Daniel Morgan. If you enjoyed the Loudoun tour, consider visiting the following locations in Clarke County.

### Old Chapel

Located at the intersection of Lord Fairfax Highway and Bishop Meade Road, the Old Chapel is an excellent example of what an Episcopal Church would have looked like just after the Revolutionary War. Although Loudoun Episcopalianians had to worship in the courthouse or the Presbyterian church until the early 1800s, Clarke's Episcopalianians had their own church by 1738. The current church replaced that one after the Revolution and was built by a very famous, very wealthy family—the Burwell family. The Burwells were related to the Carters (the same ones who built Oatlands) and owned a large estate near Millwood called Carter Hall. Like their cousins, the Burwells came to Northern Virginia because the land was more fertile than the exhausted tidewater and was exceptionally cheap. They earned quite a bit of money at their new home in the Shenandoah Valley, as you can see if you choose to go to Millwood.



Before leaving the chapel, be sure to take a look at its cemetery. Although many of the graves belong to Civil War soldiers, several belong to Revolutionary figures. One is Edmund Randolph, the nephew of Peyton Randolph and the first Attorney General of the United States.

### Burwell-Morgan Mill at Millwood



Like Loudoun, Clarke industrialized after the Revolution by building new mills. The Burwell-Morgan Mill was a business venture started by Nathaniel Burwell and the war hero Daniel Morgan. Both were rather celebrated individuals.

Nathaniel Burwell grew up at Carter's Grove plantation near Williamsburg and attended the College of William & Mary (the same as the author of this brochure.) Burwell later commanded the James City County militia at the siege of Yorktown and inherited land in Clarke County after the war. As for Daniel Morgan, he is most famous for winning a decisive victory against Banastre Tarleton's troops at Cowpens.

When the war ended, Morgan settled down at nearby Saratoga (built by German prisoners-of-war) and founded this mill with Burwell. It quickly became very profitable and helped encourage growth in the Millwood area. It continues to run today, though it is now the property of the Clarke County Historical Association rather than an independent commercial enterprise.

*Come to the mill Friday through Sunday between May and November to tour the mill. They give grinding demonstrations on Saturdays. You can even buy fresh-ground pancake mix and flour from them.*

# Loudoun County

