Hiking through History
South Mountain Civil War Sites along the Appalachian Trail

Monterey Pass Battlefield Park
www.montereypassbattlefield.org
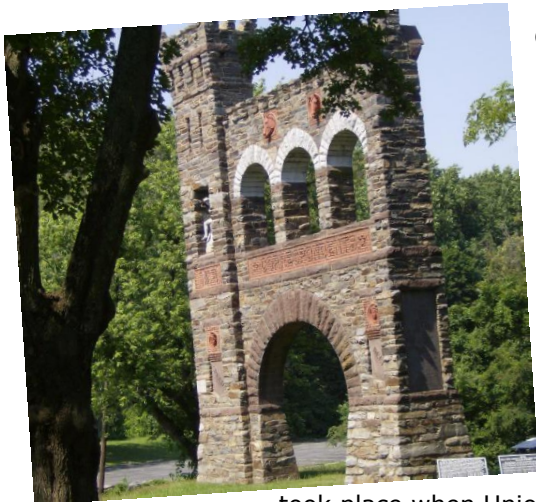
FRANKLIN COUNTY | PA
Great moments along the way.

The Appalachian Trail, or the A.T. as many call it, is a trail system that is approximately 2,178 miles long starting at Springer Mountain, Georgia and ending at Mount Katahdin, Maine. It was first established on paper in 1921 by Benton MacKaye. Every year, thousands of people hike this famous trail. Some for a day, many for a weekend, but there are several who attempt to hike the entire trail from beginning to end. Those who hike the whole trail will spend roughly five to six months hiking. Starting in February gives the through hiker the opportunity to hike during comfortable weather temperatures and ensures that they will be in Maine before winter weather conditions set in. As trail hikers travel northward from Georgia it takes about three months before they come to South Mountain, entering Maryland roughly around mid-May to mid-June. The A.T. covers the entire South Mountain range, entering into Maryland from Harper's Ferry. It enters Pennsylvania near Pen Mar Washington County Park.

During the years leading up to the American Civil War, South Mountain was used as part of the Underground Railroad. After John Brown's failed attack on Harper's Ferry, a few of his men escaped and sought refuge among the ridge of South Mountain. Captain John Cook was eventually captured near Mont Alto Pennsylvania. Four years of the American Civil War produced three major campaigns where the Confederate army invaded the north. The first was known as the Maryland Campaign which took place during September of 1862, and was Confederate General Robert E. Lee's first northern invasion. The second was the Invasion of Pennsylvania, better known as the Pennsylvania Campaign that took place from June 15 to July 14, 1863. The third and final campaign was known as Confederate General Jubal Early's Maryland Campaign, or commonly referred to as Jubal Early's Raid on Washington that took place in July of 1864.

The first major Civil War site is located at **Weverton Cliffs**, Maryland. The area where modern day route 340 runs through was occupied by Confederate troops during the Maryland Campaign of September 1862, during the Siege of Harper's Ferry. Weverton Cliffs has a wonderful view of the water gap of Harper's Ferry. Walking northward from Weverton Cliffs, the next several miles of the A. T. became a battleground that was fought over during the Maryland Campaign.
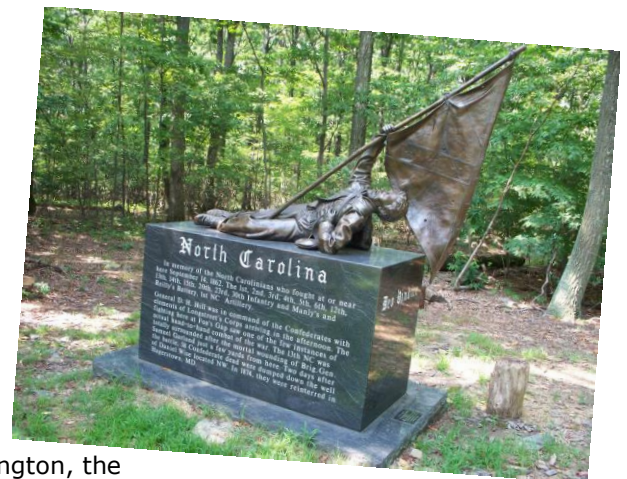
Brownsville Pass, Maryland, was the site of a Civil War battle on September 14, 1862. It is where Confederate General Lafayette McLaws' Infantry Division crossed South Mountain in preparation of the Siege of Harper's Ferry. General Paul Semmes was left behind to guard Brownsville Pass, the backdoor to Harper's Ferry. Keeping most of his force, General Semmes sent a small detachment of troops to Crampton's Gap to picket, but he felt that the main Union attack would most likely occur at Brownsville Pass. As the Union VI Army Corps pressed on toward Crampton's Gap, General Semmes positioned artillery on Brownsville Pass in order to bombard the Federal positions. By the time General Semmes realized that Crampton's Gap was the target for the VI Corps, it was too late.

Gathland State Park, Maryland, was named after George Townsend, a Civil War correspondent, and was the scene of a major Civil War battle known as the Battle of Crampton's Gap. Federal soldiers from the Union 6th Corps attacked a small band of Confederate soldiers at Crampton's Gap during the evening of September 14, 1862, and by night fall Union troops occupied Crampton's Gap. During the Pennsylvania Campaign and General Early's Raid on Washington, it was used by Union troops as a Signal Corps station, as well as an encampment. Today, Gathland State Park is known for its unusual monument, the War Correspondents Arch that was designed and financed by George Townsend and his partners. After the Civil War, George Alfred Townsend bought about a hundred acres of land to create his summer estate here.

Fox's Gap, Maryland, is another site where the Battle of South Mountain took place when Union and Confederate troops engaged on September 14, 1862. By days' end the Confederate troops held Fox's Gap but at a costly rate. Among the casualties of the Confederate troops was the loss of General Samuel Garland, killed during the morning of the battle. During the afternoon phase of the battle Drayton's Confederate brigade of infantry lost about 60% of their force in a mere one hour of heavy fighting. Among the Union dead was General Jesse Reno, commander of the IX Corps, killed toward the evening phase of the battle. Union wounded included future president Rutherford B. Hayes, who was wounded during the morning action of Fox's Gap. During the Pennsylvania Campaign of 1863, Union troops occupied Fox's Gap before and after the battle of Gettysburg. On July 8th, 1864, during the Confederate Raid on Washington, the Department of South Western Virginia under the command of General John C. Breckenridge marched through Fox's Gap just one day before the Battle of Monocacy.

Turner's Gap, Maryland, is connected to Fox's Gap by the old Wood Road, which is part of the Appalachian Trail. Although most of the fighting took place toward the eastern side of the gap, the South Mountain Inn served as the headquarters for Confederate Major General Daniel H. Hill during the Battle of South Mountain. A section of Confederate artillery under the command of Captain John Lane was deployed in the area near the Dahlgren Chapel. During the Pennsylvania Campaign in June & July of 1863, the South Mountain Inn and Turner's Gap were occupied by portions of the Union army. In 1864, during his march on Washington, Confederate General Early marched his corps over Turner's Gap. On July 6, the First Maryland Cavalry skirmished with Union troops, pushing them back to Middletown, and on July 8, secured the site for General Early's Army as they marched toward Frederick.

Washington Monument State Park, Maryland, is home to the first completed monument in honor of George Washington, which was first built on July 4, 1827, and completed later in the fall of that year. During the Civil War Union troops used Washington Monument as a signal station, especially during the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. A month later, Union troops occupied Washington Monument during Confederate General JEB Stuart's Chambersburg Raid. It was used once more by Union troops during the pursuit of General Robert E. Lee's retreat from Gettysburg, in July of 1863 and during the Battle of Boonsboro that was fought on July 8, 1863. The monument was

rebuilt in the 1880's, and again in the 1930's. Today Washington Monument overlooks the town of Boonsboro and offers a spectacular view of the Cumberland Valley.

Black Rock, Maryland, located near Wolfsville, was used by Union troops during the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg as an observation post in July of 1863. This area overlooks the Hagerstown and Williamsport area. At the time of the Civil War a road existed that led over South Mountain from Wolfsville to Beaver Creek known as Black Rock Road. Traces of the road can still be seen near the Appalachian Trail.

Raven Rock, Maryland, located near Smithsburg was the scene of a cavalry battle that took place on July 5th, 1863 between Confederate General JEB Stuart and Union General Judson Kilpatrick. After attacking Monterey Pass during the night of July 4-5, General Kilpatrick's cavalry division took up positions on the outskirts of Smithsburg. Around 3:30 in the afternoon, General JEB Stuart's cavalry was attacked by Kilpatrick in and around Raven Rock Pass. Kilpatrick soon gave up the fight and fell back to Boonsboro.

Because of the vista seen from **High Rock**, Maryland, Union cavalry patrols often observed the Cumberland Valley from this point. Before the Battle of Gettysburg in June of 1863, Union General John Buford, observed Confederate infantry marching in the distance. After the Battle of Monterey Pass, Union cavalry occupied High Rock to observe the Confederate movements toward Hagerstown. During the burning of Chambersburg in July of 1864, High Rock was used by Union troops. This is where they witnessed the smoke on the horizon and realized that Chambersburg had been burned by the Confederate Army. From High Rock, one can see the northern section of the Cumberland Valley, as well as the Maryland portion of the Monterey Pass Battlefield. Waynesboro and Greencastle, Pennsylvania can also be seen in the background.

Pen Mar Park, Maryland, was once a resort era park from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. The Washington County, Maryland Park has a Maryland Civil War Trails wayside exhibit along the Appalachian Trail dedicated to the Retreat from Gettysburg. This wayside explains the Union cavalry movements from Monterey Pass, in addition to General Stuart's movements to Smithsburg.

Old Waynesboro Road, Pennsylvania, is the site of the Battle of Monterey Pass, Pennsylvania's second largest Civil War battle, and the only battle fought on both sides of the Mason and Dixon Line. Union cavalry under the command of General Judson Kilpatrick were ordered to destroy and break through this mountain gap in an attempt to force General Robert E. Lee to take another route back toward Virginia. After midnight on July 5, 1863, and after several hours of fighting, Union cavalry broke through the Confederate battle line and captured about nine miles worth Confederate wagons as the column marched toward Williamsport after the battle of Gettysburg. The Monterey Pass Battlefield Museum, open weekends in April – November, interprets this important and forgotten Civil War battle. Follow Old Waynesboro Road east to Route 16 and the museum is located on the right of the intersection.

Caledonia State Park, Pennsylvania, is the site where on June 23, 1863 Confederate cavalry skirmished with Union cavalry. On June 26, 1863, Confederate General Jubal Early's troops burned the ironworks at Caledonia. These ironworks belonged to Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, whose radical antislavery views were widely known. After the battle of Gettysburg on July 4-5, 1863, Confederate General John Imboden led a wagon train of wounded through this area as they headed back home to Virginia. Along with the wagon train of wounded, the wagon trains of Longstreet, portions of Hill Corps, along with Stuart's divisional trains moved from here back toward the Potomac River. On July 6, 1863, thousands of New York State National Guardsmen and Pennsylvania State Militia encamped in this area after emerging from the ridge of South Mountain.

Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Pennsylvania, is where on July 4-5, 1863, thousands of New York State National Guardsmen and Pennsylvania State Militia encamped as they were ordered to Gettysburg. The weather had turned foul due to heavy rains and many creeks in this region overflowed their banks. The mountainous roads leading from Mount Holly Springs to Laurel Forge and Pine Grove Furnace were quickly torn up by thousands of soldiers marching upon them. It was a night to be remembered.

Today, as you hike the South Mountain portion of the A.T. through Maryland and in Pennsylvania, imagine for one minute, that you are seeing many of these Civil War related sites that most Civil War buffs overlook. The A.T. is such a wonderful recreational resource, and it is there for everyone to experience. If you're looking for something different to do for a day trip, we would highly recommend taking a trip to these Civil War sites. You have to walk a little bit, but it's worth every step. To the through hiker, good luck on getting to your much bigger destination in Maine.