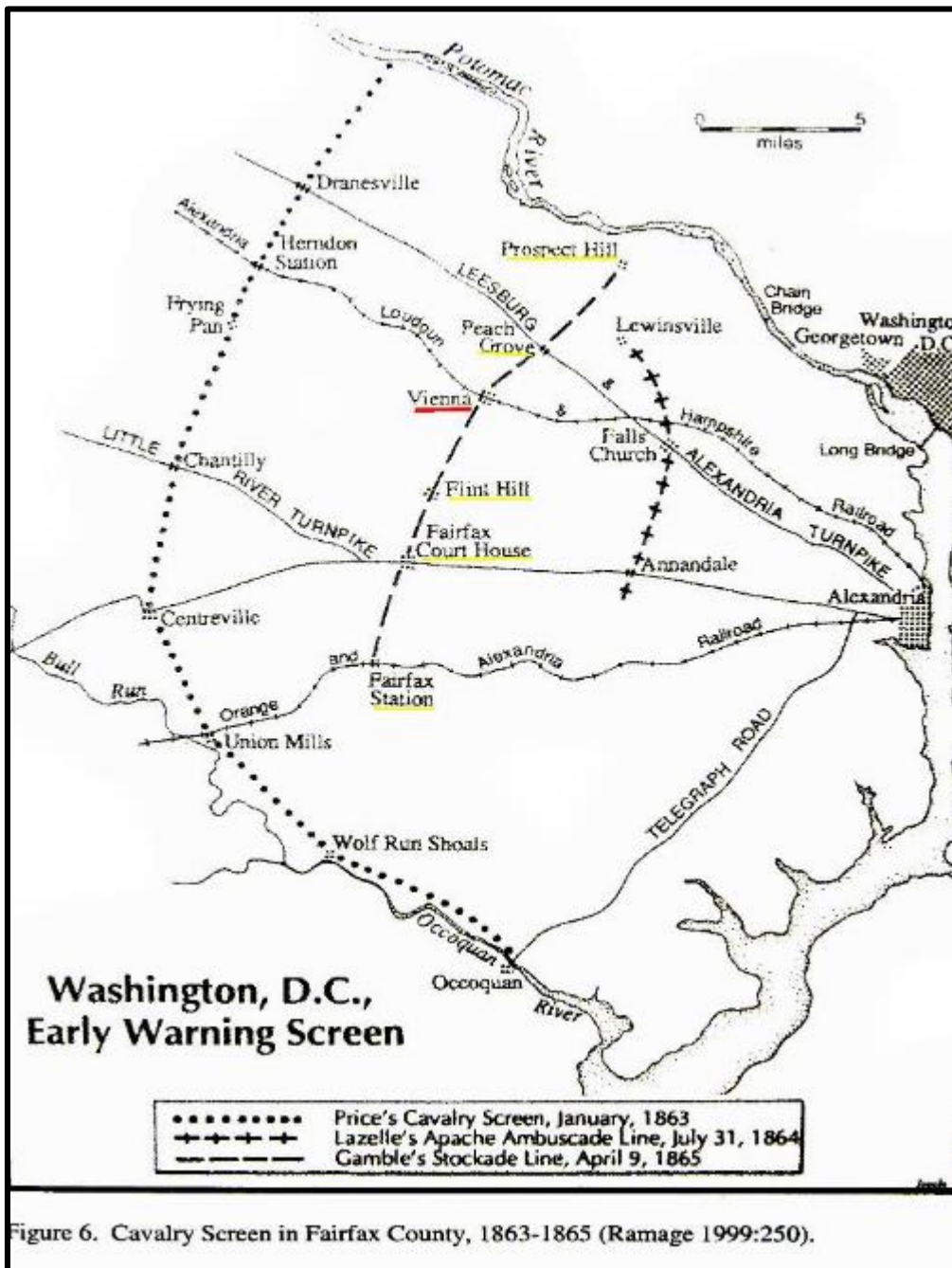


Federal Early Warning in Northern Virginia: 1862-1865

A Tour of Ghost Forts

Brian McEnany
November 18, 2021



Picket Lines, Cavalry Training and Duties



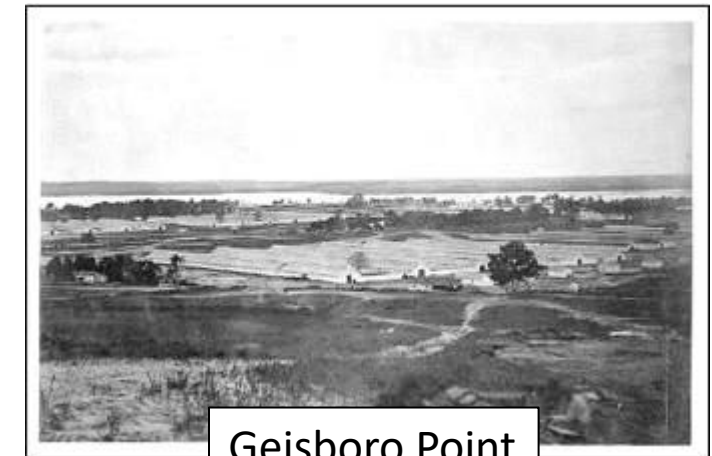
The Vedette



Picket Posts



Scouting Parties/ Raids



Geisboro Point

- ## Picket Lines
- Duties
 - Locations
 - Training and Supply
 - Issues

1862-1863



Col. Richard B. Price
2nd PA Cavalry



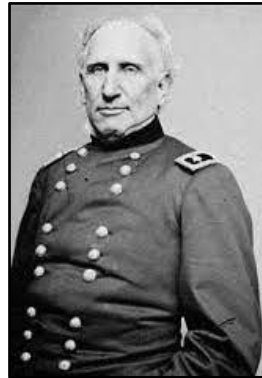
Col. Percy Wyndham
2nd NJ Cavalry



BGEN George D. Bayard
1st PA Cavalry



BGEN Julius Stahel



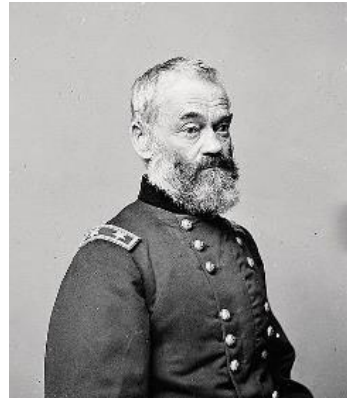
BGEN Silas Casey



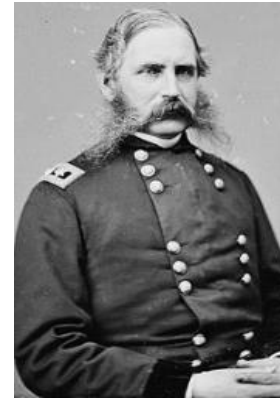
BGEN John Abercrombie



BGEN Rufus King



MGEN Heintzelman



MGEN Christopher Augur

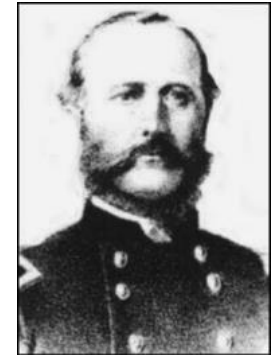
Department of Washington and 22nd Corps

The Commanders

1863-1865



Col. Charles R. Lowell
2nd MA Cavalry



Col. William Gamble
8th IL Cavalry



Col. Henry M. Lazelle
16th NY Cavalry

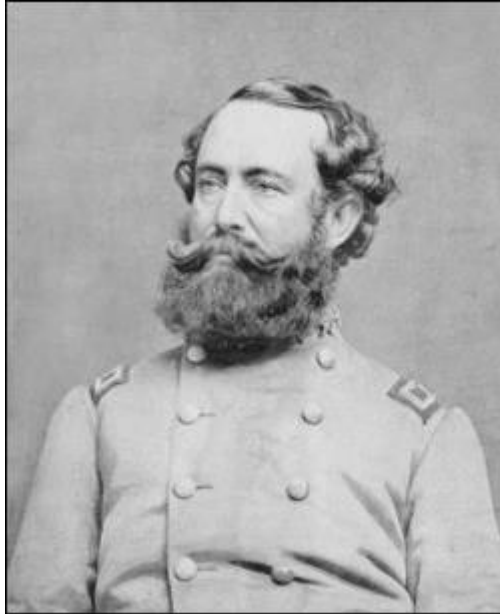


Col. Henry S. Gansevoort
13th NY Cavalry

The Threat



Gen. JEB Stuart



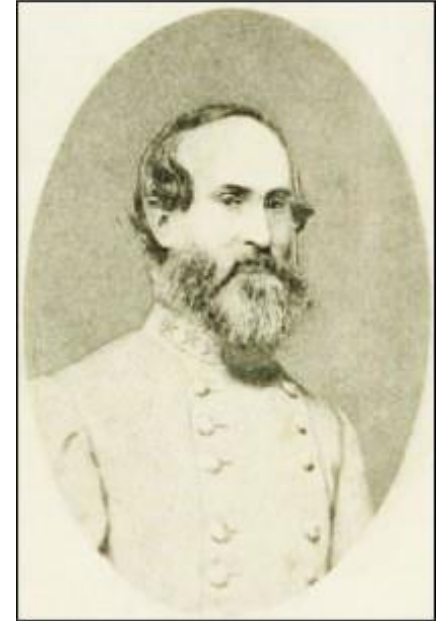
Gen. Wade Hampton



Col. Liege White
35th VA Cavalry



Col. Jonathon Mosby
43rd VA Cavalry



Gen. Jubal Early

Plus activities of the Chinquapin Rangers;
Other Partisan Rangers

Early Warning Lines 1862-1865

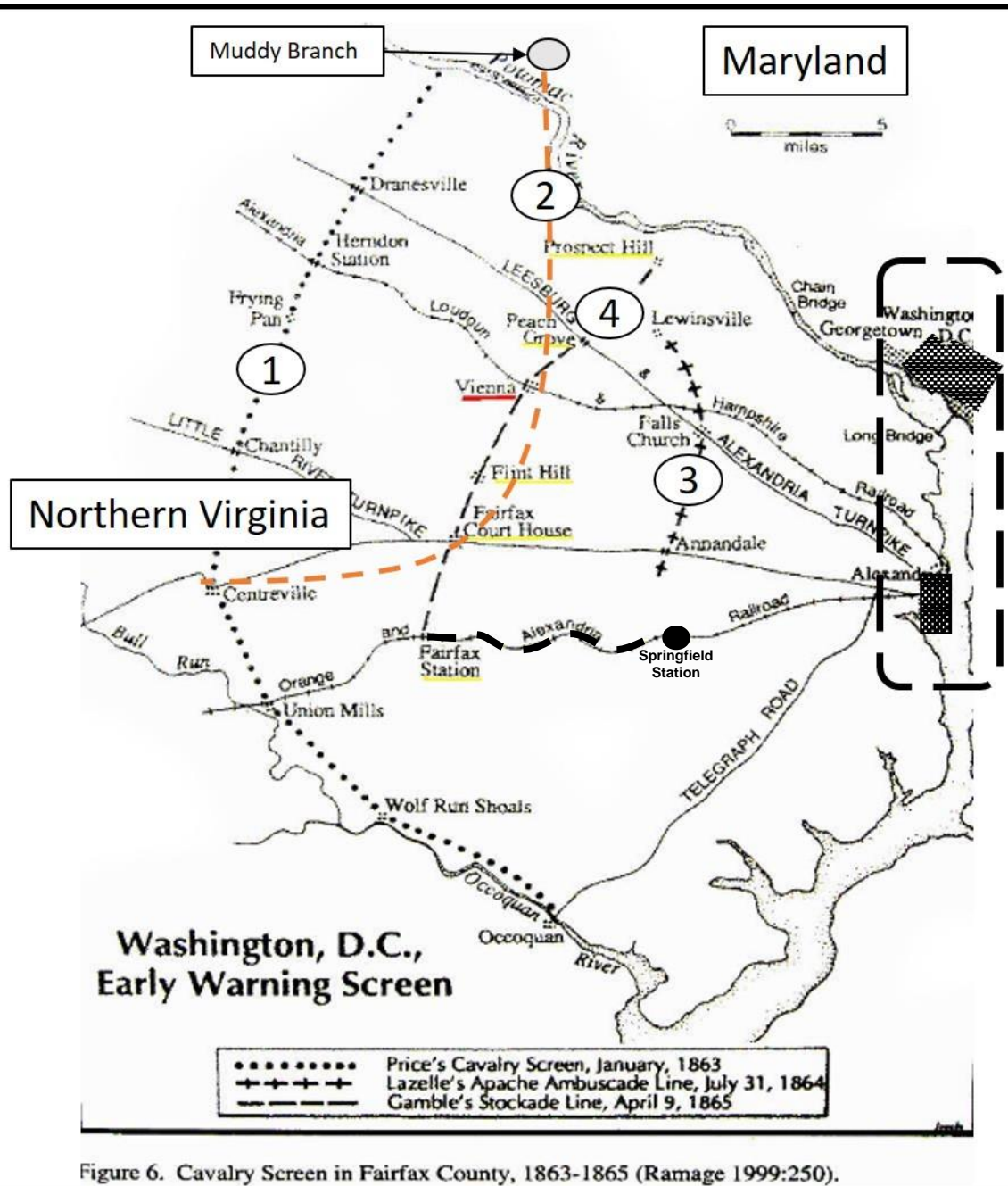


Figure 6. Cavalry Screen in Fairfax County, 1863-1865 (Ramage 1999:250).

1st EWL Sept 1862 – Jun 63 - Price's Brigade 30 miles

- **Oct–Dec:** Bayard takes charge (15 regts)– then reassigned; 11th Corps to Fredericksburg
- **Dec 62 - Price's Brigade (and Wyndham) (7 regts)**
 - New units arrive - Casey's Div (MI Bde (+3 regt))
- **Mar 63 – Jun 63 MGEN Stahel's Cavalry Division (10 regts);**
 - May 63: New Unit arrive (2nd MA) (1 regt)
 - Jun 1863–Cav. Div.+ Inf Divs reassigned to AOP (-10 regts)

2nd EWL Aug 1863–Jul 64: Lowell's Line (3 new regts) 20 miles

- **Aug 63:** 13th NY and 16th NY arrive; King's Inf Div added
- **Aug 63 – Jun 64: 1st Independent Bde;** Contracts line to Vienna (HQ), Fairfax CH, Centreville
- **Aug 1864** Lowell reassigned to Sheridan (-1 regt)

3rd EWL Aug 64–Nov 64: Lazelle's Ambuscade Line (2 regts) 10 miles

- Contracts line to Lewinsville, Falls Church (HQ), Annandale – Lazelle resigns Oct 64, Col Gansevoort in command.

4th EWL Nov 64–Jun 65: Gamble's Stockade Line (3 regt, 2 inf regt) 15 miles

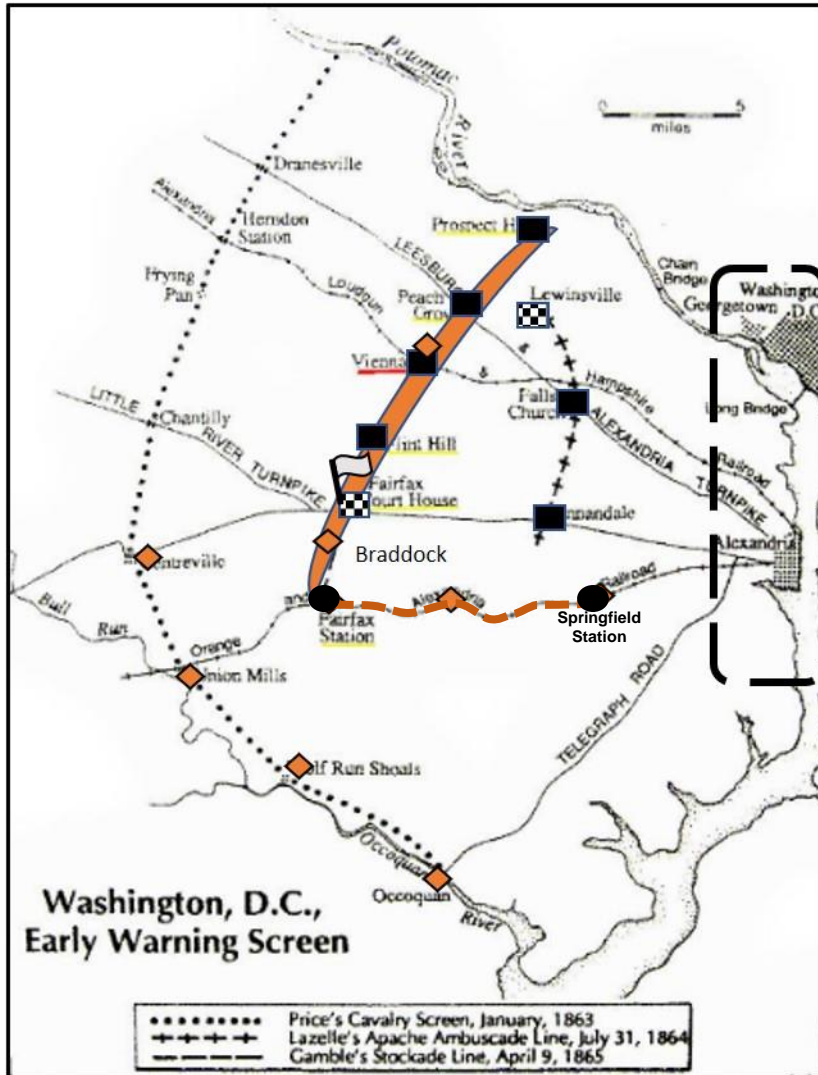
It began with 15 regiments and ended with just three!

The 1864 Early Warning Line

1st Separate Brigade 22nd Corps

"The following units (8th IL Cavalry; 13th NY; 16th NY, 5th PA Heavy Artillery; 202 PA Infantry) are relieved of duty and assigned to the 1st Separate Brigade, 22nd Corps..."

"The line to be held and occupied by this brigade will be the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, from Springfield Station to Fairfax Station, Fairfax Courthouse, and Prospect Hill via Vienna... Interior posts at Annandale and Falls Church to be occupied..."



SALE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, BUILDING MATERIALS, &c., IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON, }
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, }
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 1, 1865.

Will be sold, at Public Auction, to the highest bidder, under direction of Captain H. C. Lawrence, A. Q. M., at the time and places designated below, all the Barracks, Offices, Quarters, Storehouses, Stable Sheds, Block-houses, Stockades, and other structures, composed in whole or in part of lumber and timber, belonging to the United States, on the line recently held by the 1st separate brigade, 22d army corps, extending from Fairfax Station, Orange and Alexandria Railroad, to Prospect Hill, Va., as follows:

AT FAIRFAX STATION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th, one Railroad Platform of Lumber, 270 feet long and 14 feet wide, and 18 Buildings, part lumber entire, and part lumber and stockade, embracing two-story Station-house and two Storehouses of lumber, two Block-houses, a number of Officers' Quarters, &c.

AT FAIRFAX COURT-HOUSE, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th, twenty Buildings, part lumber entire and part lumber and stockade, embracing Officers' Quarters, Stables, 12 Block-houses, &c.; also, a large quantity of Lumber in sheds, &c., and Timber in stockade.

AT FLINT HILL, VA., ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1865, twenty-six Stockade Quarters, with Board Roofs and Floors.

AT VIENNA STATION, VA., LOUDOUN AND HAMPSHIRE RAILROAD, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, about ninety buildings, part Lumber entire, and part Lumber and Stockade, embracing Quarters, Storehouses, &c.; also, 1,300 feet of Stockading, and a large amount of Lumber and Logs in Stable Sheds, Railroad Platform, &c.

AT PEACH GROVE, VA., ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, twenty-two Buildings of Stockade and Lumber, with 512 feet of Oak Stockading 10 feet out of ground, &c.

AT PROSPECT HILL, VA., ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21, about 130 Buildings, mostly of small size, composed part of Lumber entire, and part of Lumber and stockade, embracing Quarters, Stables, Storehouses, and Four Block Houses.

These sales include about 500,000 feet Lumber, and a quantity of Saw Oak Timber, suitable for sawing, and a good opportunity is thus offered to land-owners in the vicinity to secure fencing and building material convenient to their farms.

A guard will protect the purchasers for ten days from date of sale in the removal of their property.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, A. M., each day, and buildings or structures will be sold singly, and stockade or other materials in lots to suit purchasers.

Terms cash, in Government funds.

M. I. LUDINGTON,
Col. and Chief Quartermaster,
Department of Washington.

and-134

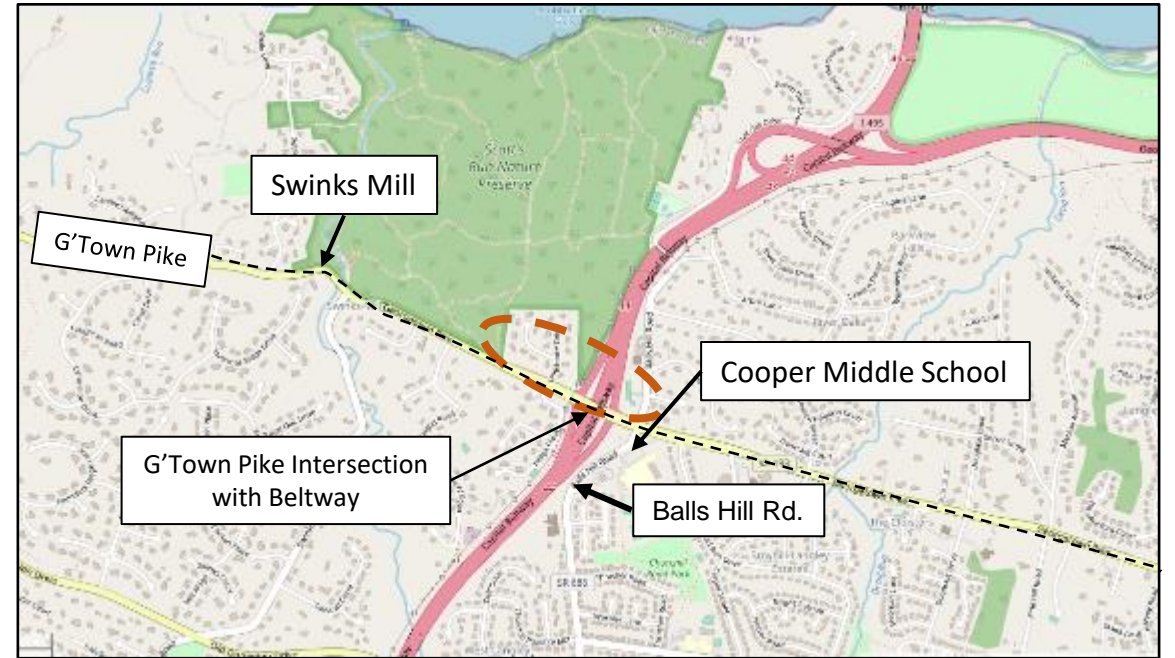
The Big Question: Where were these camps actually located?

Alexandria Gazette Aug 1865

Prospect Hill Cavalry Camp - 1864



"10 acres with blockhouses on each corner"



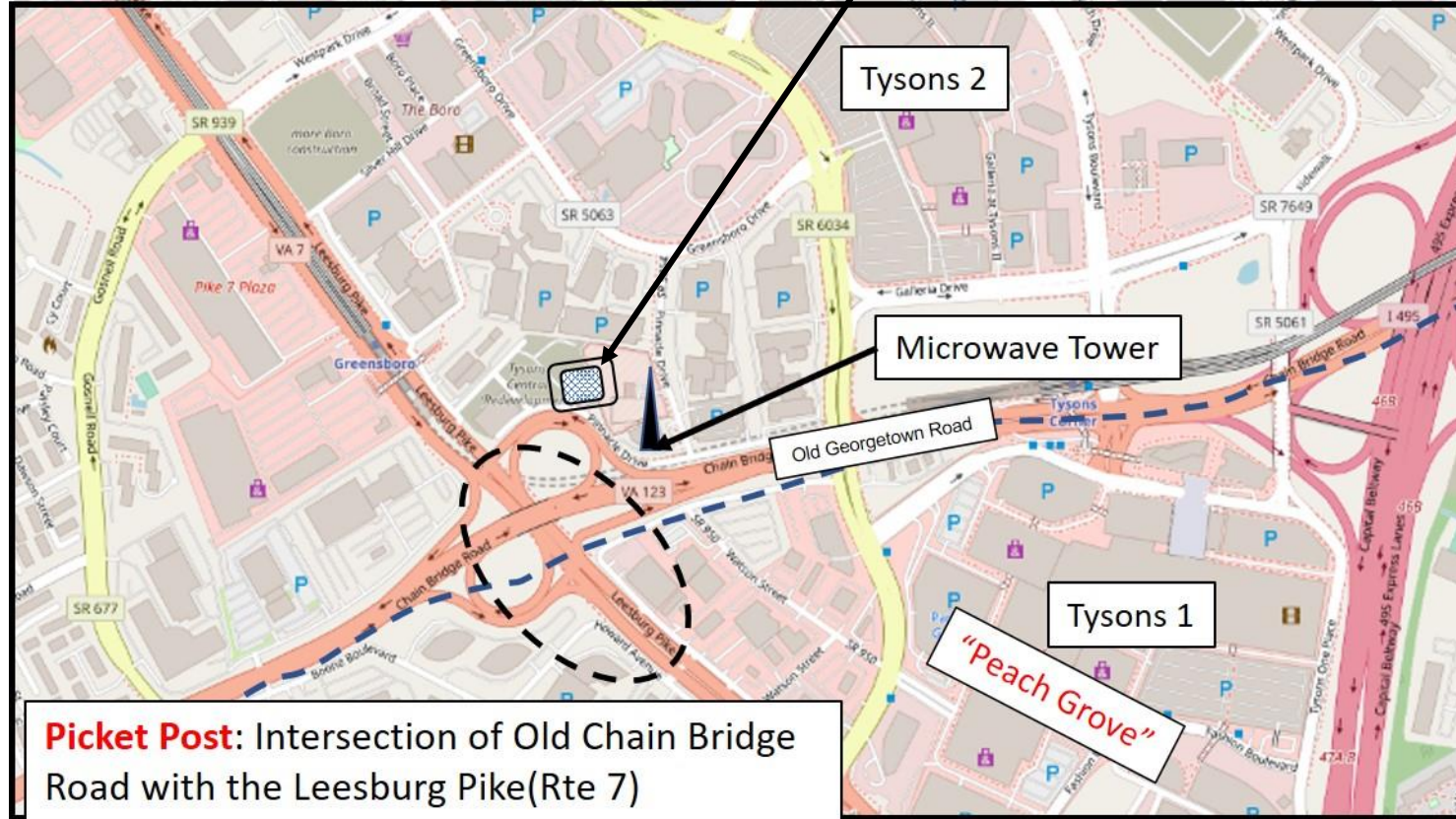
Location: Heavily wooded area along G'Town Pike. Green area is Scott's Run Nature Preserve-former Ball family land.

Auction: 130 buildings, lumber, part lumber and stockade quarters, stables, store houses and four block houses.



Picket Posts: Near intersection of Lewinsville Road with Rte 7 (Leesburg Pike).

Peach Grove Stockade



Picket Post: Intersection of Old Chain Bridge Road with the Leesburg Pike(Rte 7)



Location: On grounds of old Clyde's Restaurant and water tower

- **Foster/ Flagg property owners**
- **Stockade Dimensions:**
 - NW wall – 140 feet;
 - NE Wall – 140 feet;
 - N Wall – 130 feet;
 - ½ E Wall – 54 feet;
 - Bastions 21 feet each;
 - Gate – 12 feet wide
- **USCS 1869/70**

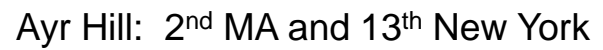


USCS 1869/70
Azimuth
Markers



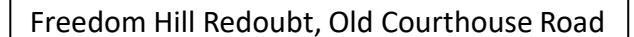
Auction: Twenty-two buildings of stockade and lumber with 512 feet of oak stockading, 10 feet out of ground.

Vienna Cavalry Camps - 1864

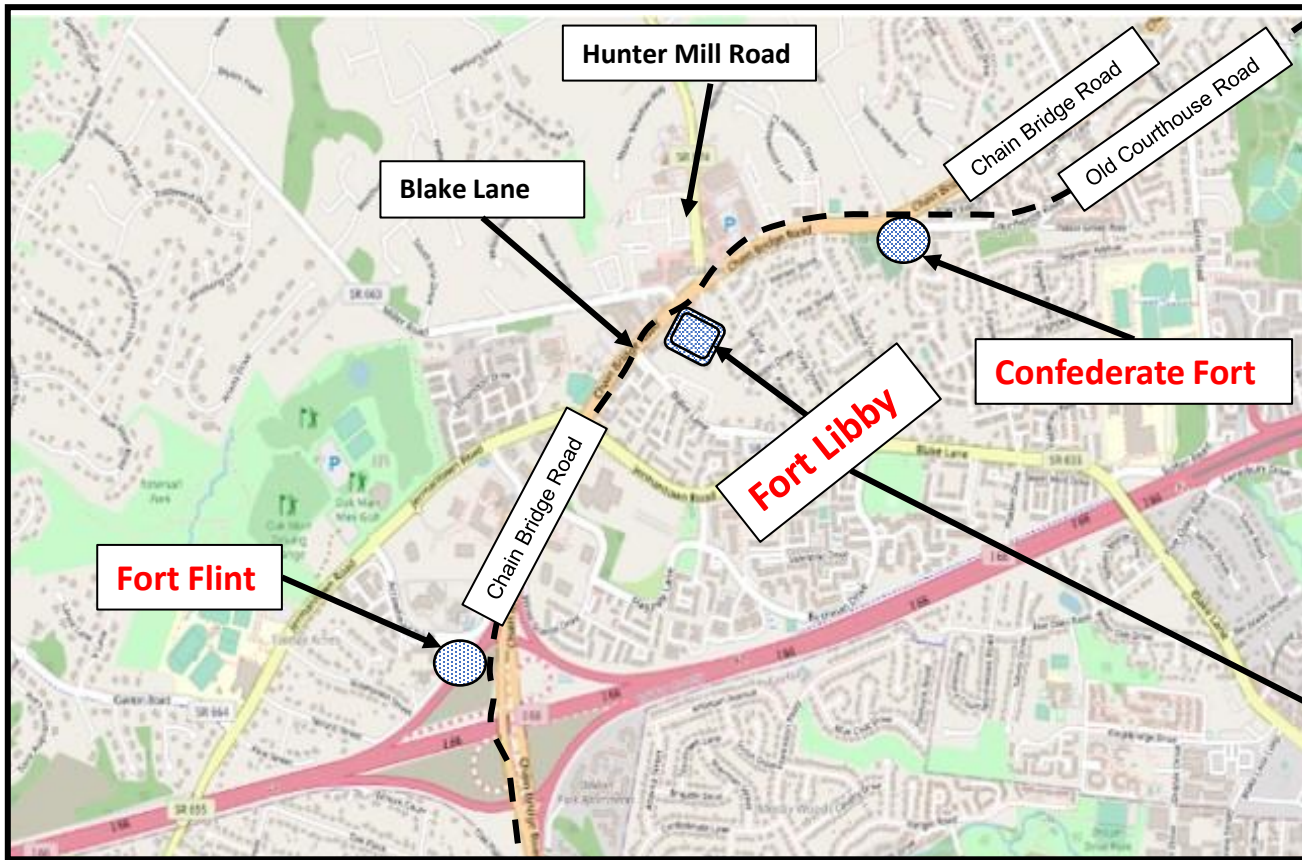


The map shows the proposed A, L, & H RR line (dashed blue line) passing through the Vienna area. Key locations and roads labeled include:

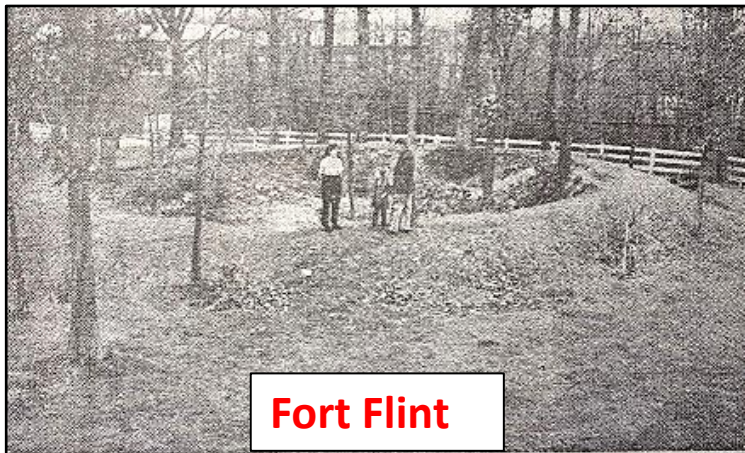
- Locations:** Clarks Crossing, Tysons Green, Freedom Hill, Old Courthouse, Westwood Country Club, Wolftrap Elementary, Ayr hill, 2 MA, 13 NY, Star Fort, Windover Hts, 16th NY, James Madison High School, and Franklin.
- Roads:** Chain Bridge Rd, Maple Ave E, Woodford Rd, Electric Ave, Folger Ln SE, Cottage St SW, Maple Ave W, Center St N, and Makolm Rd NW.
- Other Features:** The map also shows the locations of Wolftrap Elementary, Ayr hill, 2 MA, 13 NY, Star Fort, Windover Hts, 16th NY, James Madison High School, and Franklin.



Flint Hill Stockade



Location: Near and behind the Oakton United Methodist Church at Hunter Mill Rd. and Chain Bridge Rd.



Fort Flint

- Medium Size stockade with walls 7 feet high
- Abandoned at end of war

Auction: 26 stockade quarters with board roofs and floors

Mr. and Mrs. Foy Cockerham and their 4-year-old son Jeff stand on the rim of a gun emplacement at Fort Flint, which is in the path of the new Route 66 in Virginia.—Star Staff Photo.



Church of the Brethren



Confederate Fort

Fairfax Court House

Mount Vineyard



Main St and Oak St



Auction: 20 buildings, part lumber and part stockade; officers quarters, stables, 12 block houses, large quantity of lumber in sheds and in stockade

Jermantown Campsites



Rte. 29 and Jermantown Rd

Cavalry Camps at Chantilly

Farr's Fort



GMU Campus Parking Lot K

Star Fort

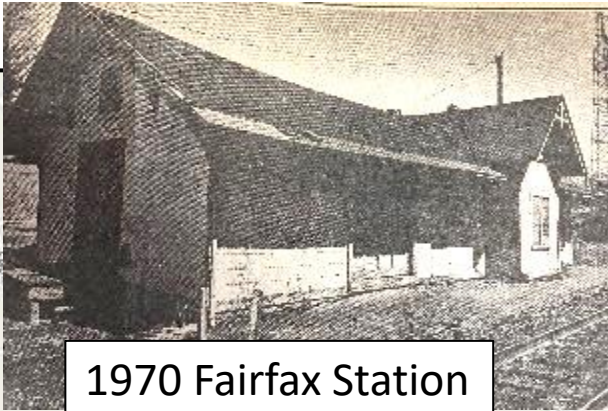
Fairfax Square Apts.

Block Houses

Ox Road

- **Location: HQ Cav Bde; 8th IL; Gen King's HQ**
- **No known stockades**
- **Multiple camp sites**
- **Some fortified positions identified - blockhouses**
- **Specific EWL camps not found**

Fairfax Station Area



1970 Fairfax Station



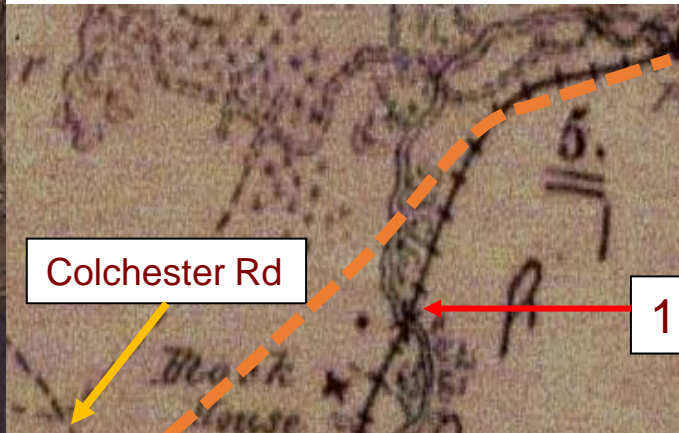
- **Supply Center**
- **HQ, 202 PA Infantry (3 Co) and 8 IL detachment**
- **Multiple fortifications and entrenchments 3 to 5 miles long**
- **No specific locations found**



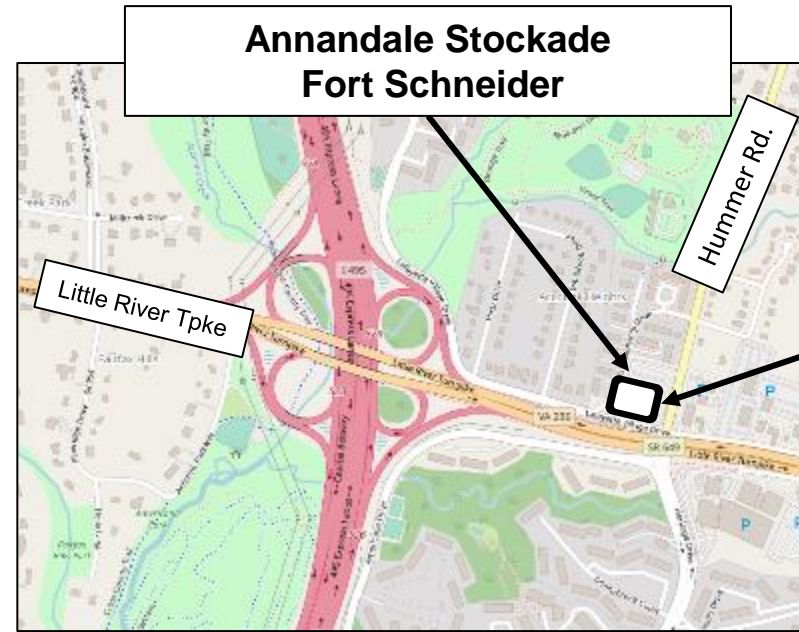
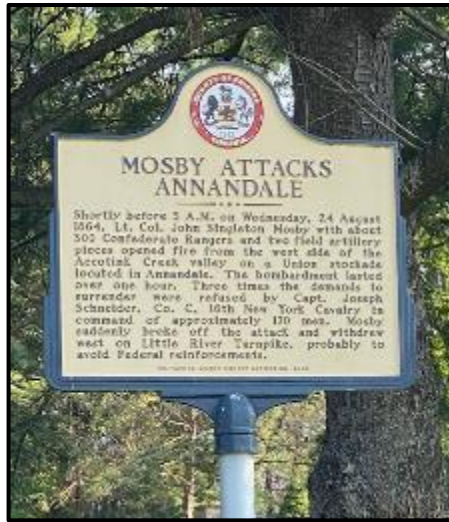
Auction: Railroad Platform of lumber; 270 feet long, 14 feet wide, 18 buildings, a two story station and two store houses, two block houses, a number of officers quarters.

Train Guards and Blockhouses on O&A RR

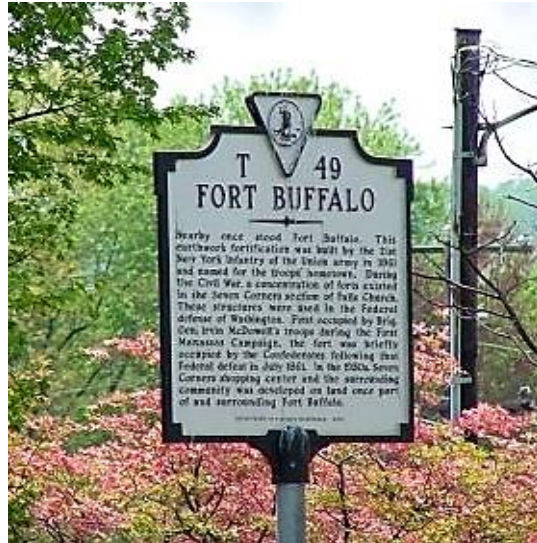
- Five Blockhouses planned along Popes Head Creek RR crossings
- Picket Posts along RR track



Internal Cavalry Camps



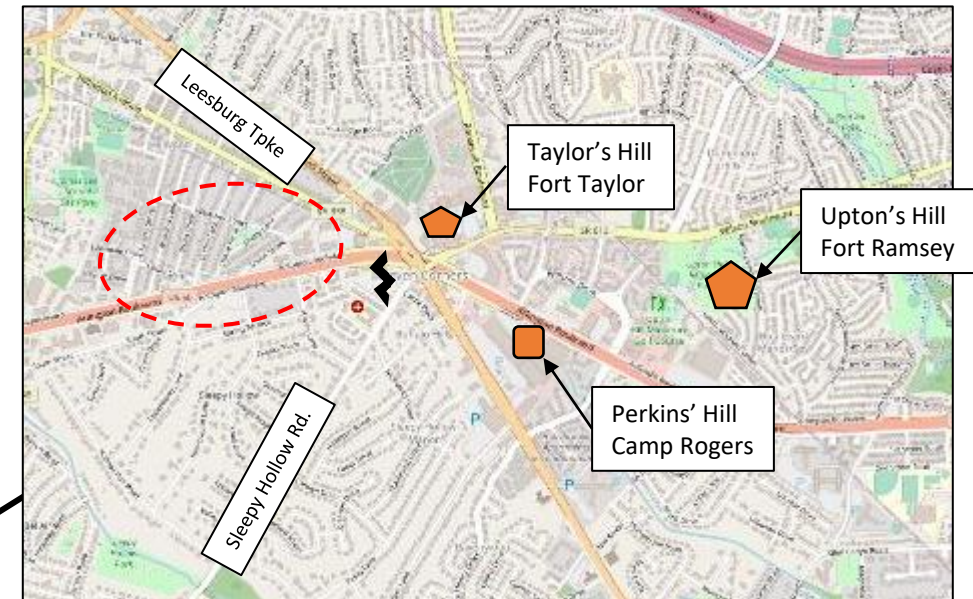
Location: Annandale - Stockade: located near Hummer Road Little River Turnpike.

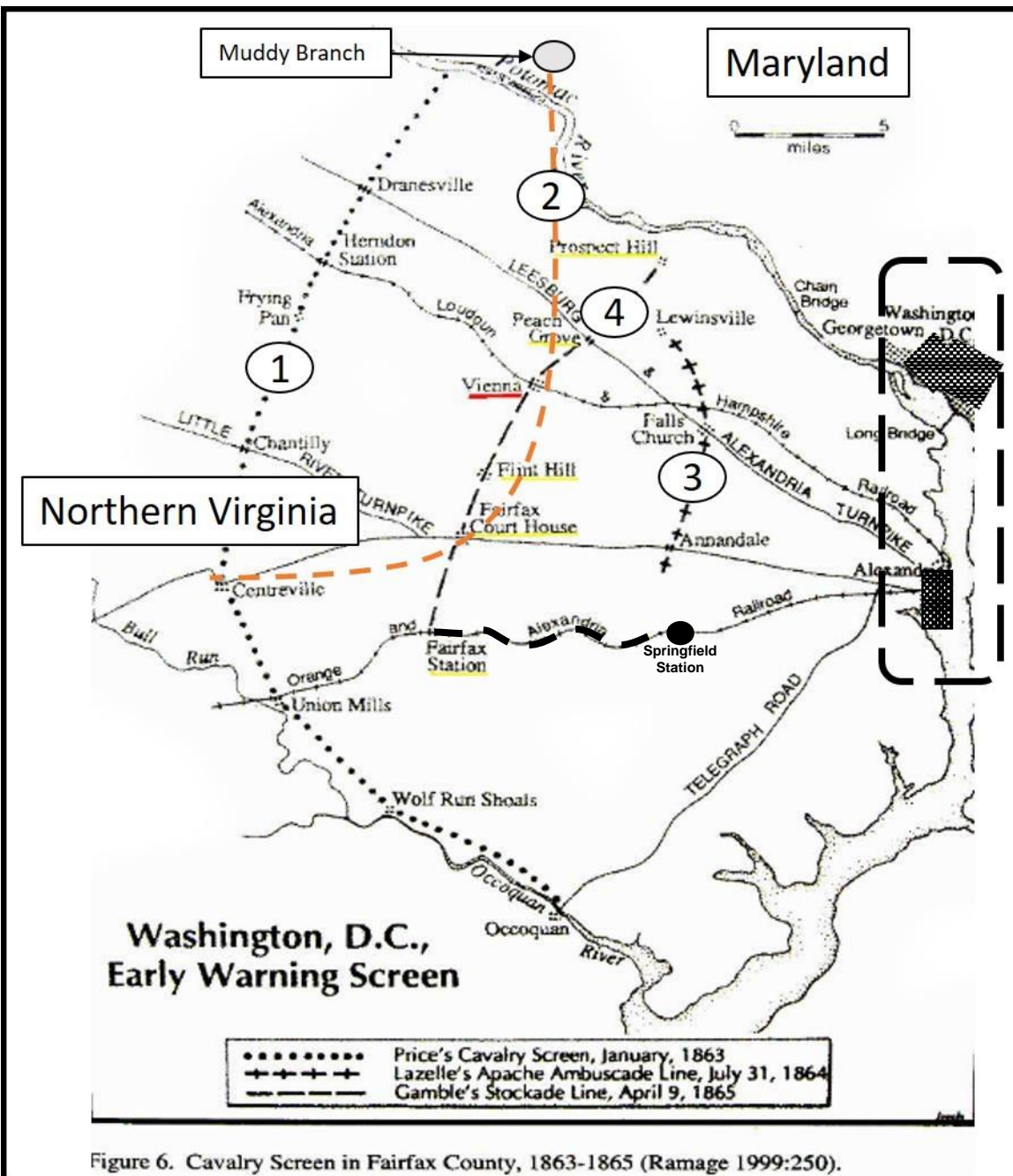


Near Seven Corners Fire Station



Falls Church - Fort Buffalo – Located just south of the intersection of Leesburg Pike and Sleepy Hollow Road. Visible until Seven Corners Shopping Mall was constructed in 1950s.



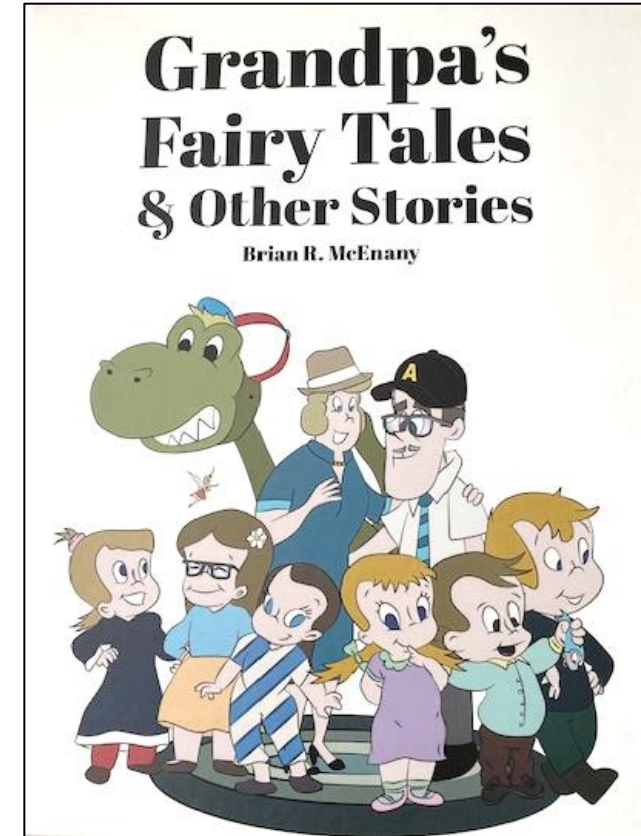
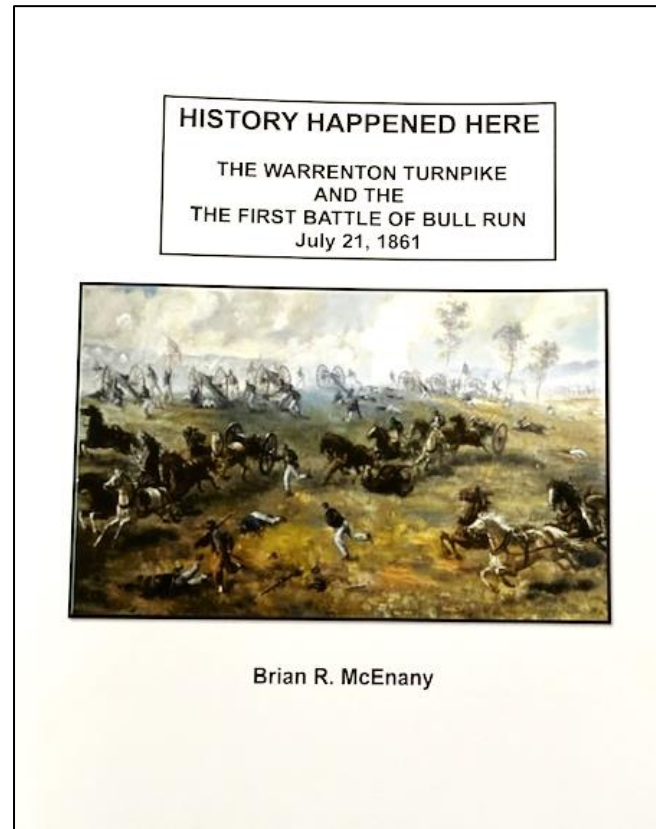
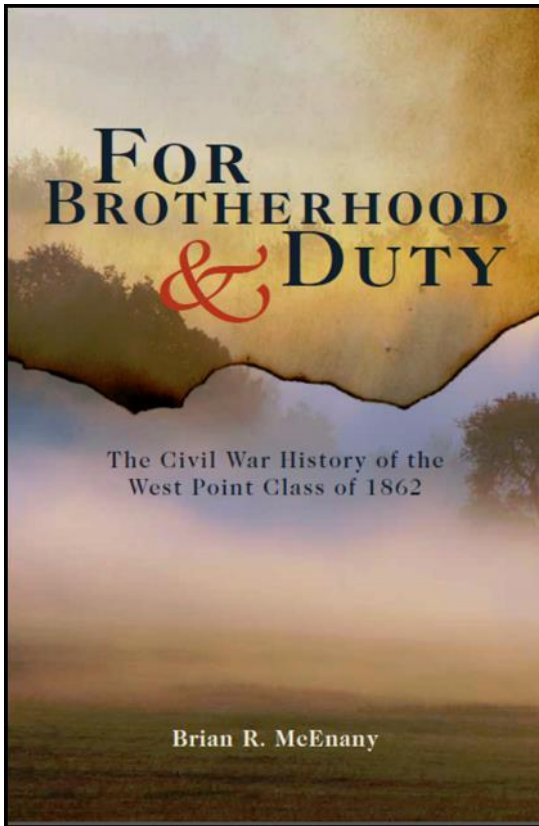


Summary

- **Losses of units affected mission**
 - Shift of 15 regiments to 3 created a drastic reduction in early warning capability
- **Improvements with Gamble's Line**
 - Addition of cavalry and infantry reinforced mission
 - Change from just observers to static defenders and reactive elements
- **Overall Early Warning task achieved its goal**
- **Research on Gamble's line did locate three stockades and fortified camps**
- **But "Ghost Forts" are still out there ...**

Questions ?

If you are interested in any of my other publications...



Send me an email: bmcenany@cox.net; mcbrian1862@gmail.com