

13th April 1862
 Sunday Head Mt. Carington
 Present in Col. Fulkersons Regiment

14 Loaned Mr. Gilmore 1.00
 to Camp

15 Rained In Camp Near
 New Market. Nearly all
 the Volunteers drafted into
 the Volunteer Regiment -

16 In Camp

17 Riddled about New Market
 with by. Had his tobacco horse shot
 saw him

18 Loaned Ash Christian
 10.00 in New Market - Paid
 in Money July 11th 62

19 Came from Harrisonburg with
 a dispatch to Staunton

19 Staunton Gene Woods an
 Check on Valley Bank for
 \$600 for making off the
 Roll of the District

20 Rained at Christiansburg

21 do do

22 Staunton
 Went to Westview to see
 Gen. Johnsons Army

23 at Wash. Halls funeral

24 Staunton, Sat of Christian
 80

25 do do

26 Sunday at Bethel

27 at Home

28 do do

Pages from the 1862 diary of
 William Scott Sproul of Middle-
 brook. A member of the 93rd
 Regiment, Col. Sproul was stationed
 in the Valley during the spring of
 1862, moving between New Market,
 Staunton, Port Republic, and
 Rockfish Gap. As with many Valley
 farmers, he came home on furlough
 from time to time to take care of farm
 business. Courtesy of Alex Sproul,
 Middlebrook.

The side passage plan became popular among more wealthy farmers
 during the second housing boom in the 1820s and 1830s. Usually brick or log
 in construction, it is exclusively a pre-Civil War form.¹⁰⁶ Only ten stand within
 the project area, the best known being the brick Charles Berry House (ca.
 1800-1820), north of Newport on Route 252. Two frame and two log side-
 passage examples also remain.

The Civil War Years in the Route 252 Corridor

As soon as Virginia seceded from the Union in April 1861, eight infantry
 companies from Augusta County organized for a march to Harpers Ferry. One,
 under the command of Captain Williams, left from Middlebrook. Several
 companies from Rockbridge County joined them, including the Rockbridge
 Guards from Brownsburg, forming the Fifth and Twenty-Fifth Virginia Regi-
 ments. The Second Dragoons of Brownsburg went on to join the Fourteenth
 Virginia Cavalry.¹⁰⁷

The Staunton-Lexington Turnpike was the focus of military action for a
 brief period during June 1864. After defeating Confederate forces at the Battle
 of Piedmont near New Hope, almost 12,000 Federal troops under General
 David Hunter entered Staunton on June 6th, burning the railroad for three
 miles on each side, the depot, and various mills. After the defeat at Piedmont,
 Confederate General John McCausland and 1,400 cavalry fell back to Goshen.
 They followed the Virginia Central Railroad to Staunton, camping at Bell's
 Valley along the way, and arrived at Buffalo Gap on June 6th. They skirted

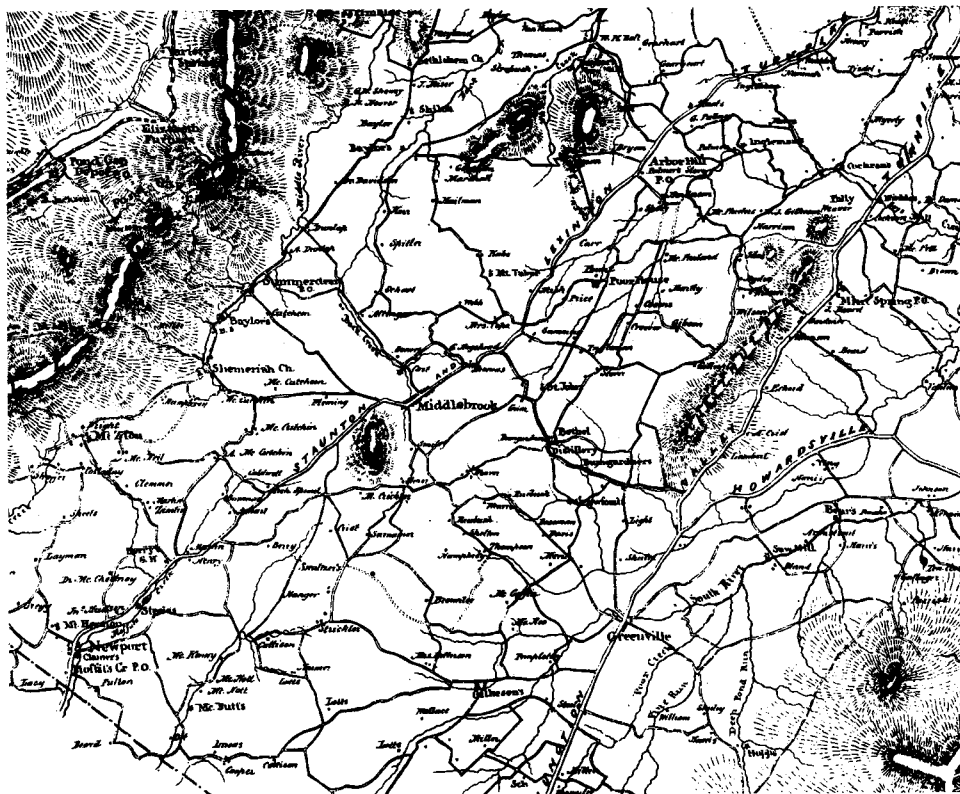
Staunton and took the Middlebrook Road to Brownsburg. According to local lore, a band accompanying McCausland presented a short concert for the residents of the town before moving north again to Arbor Hill.¹⁰⁸

Joined by forces under generals Crook and Averill, Hunter's command moved on to Lexington, shelling and burning the buildings at Virginia Military Institute, the residence of Governor Letcher, and the library of Washington College on June 10th. Between June 6th and 10th, skirmishes between Confederate and Union troops took place, many along the turnpike between Middlebrook and Brownsburg. "Hit and run" fighting took place between Walkers Creek and Hays Creek. There were reports of "puddles of blood" on the Middlebrook Road, as well as casualties. Camps of soldiers from both sides sprang up throughout the area, and several families who live along Route 252 today tell stories of their ancestors caring for the sick and wounded.

Although General Hunter was ultimately defeated, freeing the Valley of Federal troops, the Confederate victory was short-lived. By August, General Grant replaced Hunter with General Philip Sheridan as commander of Federal forces in the Valley, ordering him to destroy the "bread basket of the Confederacy." As Sheridan reported in October 1864 prior to the Battle of Cedar Creek in Frederick County, "The whole country, from the Blue Ridge to North Mountain, has been made entirely untenable for a rebel army. I have destroyed over 2,000 barns filled with wheat, hay, and farming implements; over 70 mills filled with flour and grain; have driven in front of the army four herds of stock; have killed and issued to the troops no less than 3,000 sheep; and a large number of horses have been obtained."¹⁰⁹

Setting the Modern Pattern: 1865–Present

After the war, agriculture tended toward specialization due to the greater commercialization in the farm economy. Wage labor became important to the farm economy. Farm prices fell significantly in the early 1870s, marking the



Southern section of Jedediah Hotchkiss' 1875 Map of Augusta County, Virginia. Prepared in December 1865 on order of the Federal government, the map provides a view of the upper Valley after the Civil War's end. Note the small number of mills standing at this time; most had been burned during the war. The Staunton and Lexington Turnpike is shown as generally following the path of modern Route 252. Facsimile, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, James Madison University, Harrisonburg.