

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Richmond: Capital of the Confederacy

By **Mary A. DeCredico**, United States Naval Academy

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Thomas, Emory M.	<i>The Confederate State of Richmond – A Biography of the Capital</i> . Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
DeLeon, Thomas Cooper	<i>Four Years in Rebel Capitals: An Inside View of Life in the Southern Confederacy</i> . Mobile, AL: Gossip Printing, 1890.
Link, William A.	<i>Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
Crofts, Daniel	<i>Reluctant Confederates: Upper South Unionists in the Secession Crisis</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.
Putnam, Sallie Brock	<i>Richmond During the War: Four Years of Personal Observation</i> , New York: G. W. Carleton, 1867.
Jones, J. B.	<i>A Rebel War Clerk’s Diary at the Confederate States Capital</i> , 2 vols. Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippincott, 1866.

J. B. Jones, James I. Robertson Jr., ed.	<i>A Rebel War Clerk's Diary at the Confederate States Capital</i> , 2 vols. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2015.
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Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
The American Civil War Museum	The American Civil War Museum comprises three sites: The Museum and White House of the Confederacy as well as Historic Tredegar, both in Richmond, and The Museum of the Confederacy-Appomattox in Appomattox, Virginia 1201 East Clay Street Richmond VA 23219 500 Tredegar Street Richmond VA 23219 159 Horseshoe Road Appomattox VA 24522. Their website is: https://acwm.org/
Virginia Historical Society	The Virginia Historical Society collects, preserves and interprets the history of Virginia. 428 North Boulevard Richmond VA 23220 Their website is: http://www.vahistorical.org/

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwartraveler.com/EAST/VA/va-central/richmond.html	The CivilWarTraveller provides useful information on Civil War events and locations in and around Richmond.
http://www.mdgorman.com/	Civil War Richmond is an online research project to collect documents, photographs and maps pertaining to Richmond during the Civil War.
http://www.civilwarphotos.net/files/richmond.htm	Civil War Photos has a page dedicated to Richmond.

http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/richmond_during_the_civil_war	The Encyclopedia Virginia entry on Richmond During the Civil War was authored by Mary DeCredico and Jaime Amanda Martinez.
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Other Sources

Name	Description, contact information including address, email
Richmond National Battlefield Park	<p>The Richmond National Battlefield Park is operated by the National Park Service. The park offers an eighty mile driving tour covering 13 separate sites and four visitor centers. Contact the park service at 3215 East Broad Street Richmond VA 23223 804 226 1981</p> <p>A list of the addresses for the 13 sites of the park is available at: https://www.nps.gov/rich/planyourvisit/address-list.htm</p> <p>The home page for the park is: https://www.nps.gov/rich/index.htm</p> <p>The park driving map is available at: https://www.nps.gov/rich/planyourvisit/maps.htm</p>

Scholars

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Topic Précis

<p>The Virginia Secession Convention had voted against secession on April 4, 1861, however, with the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter and Lincoln’s subsequent call on April 15 for 75,000 ninety-day volunteers to “crush the rebellion,” by a vote of 88 to 55 the Convention took Virginia out of the Union on April 17, 1861. While the first Confederate capital was in Montgomery AL, Richmond was Confederacy’s most industrial city and Virginia was the largest Confederate state, so Richmond was chosen as the permanent capital for the</p>
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Confederacy. Richmond's population in 1860 was 38,000 including 11,700 slaves. By 1864 it had swelled to between 100,000 and 130,000 inhabitants. With the constant influx of soldiers, visitors and other newcomers flocking to the city, Richmond's economy was stretched. Lodging, food and other necessities of life quickly disappeared. The initial prosperity that the relocated Confederate capital brought soon was accompanied by a crime wave, the establishment of houses of prostitution and gambling haunts. After the Battle of First Bull Run Richmond did not contain enough hospitals to take care of the 1,600 Confederate wounded as well as the 1,400 Union prisoners of war. Locals opened their doors to tend to the wounded. By the end of the war, the Chimborazo Hospital would care for almost 70,000 patients with a mortality rate under ten percent and Richmond became the hospital center of the Confederacy. As the war progressed, Richmond suffered from food shortages and massively inflating prices. The battles of Second Manassas and Antietam added to the already overcrowded and strained hospital system as thousands of wounded and captured men streamed into the Confederate capital as did the subsequent Battle of Fredericksburg. In March 1863, an explosion at the Brown's Island munitions facility killed and injured many young girls working there. On April 2, 1863, the Richmond Bread Riot occurred as women concerned about the good prices looted stores. After the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, the Richmond Capitol building was used for Stonewall's Jackson's lying in state. The winter of 1863-1864 saw further food shortages, price increases as Confederate money became increasingly worthless and a rise in robberies especially of food. During the battles in 1864 in the Overland Campaign Robert E. Lee foresaw the eventual loss of Richmond through siege if he could not stop Grant. The Petersburg-Richmond Campaign was fought from June 1864 to March 1865. On April 2, 1865 Lee faced the inevitable and evacuated Richmond. After four long years of war, the proud capital stood on the brink of self-inflicted destruction.
