

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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The theme “battle of the Potomac” suggested itself as a unifying context for the archaeological remains and fortifications that have been recorded for the period of June 1861-March 1862 on and near the upper half of the Potomac River estuary. Archaeological research that has been carried out for more than a decade, itself based on historical research and local knowledge, has placed firm locations on contemporary maps for the camps, batteries, and actions in many histories and in the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, as well as the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies.

Archaeological research conducted for compliance with Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act has produced the three nominations submitted with this form, 44PW917, 44PW1412, and 44ST302. Previously listed properties at Cockpit Point and Freestone Point were augmented by compliance related work. A combination of identification survey and compliance survey has produced information on sites at Aquia Creek and Potomac Creek, all to be found in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources site files, accessed via the Data Sharing System. Discussions with researchers interested in unevaluated terrestrial and underwater resources in both Virginia and Maryland indicated the research interest and potential information yield of resources closely tied to this theme.

While this archaeological research puts flesh on the bones of the historic record, the military correspondence of both armies and navies a central part of the information available on this and other battles and campaigns of the Civil War. In recognition of this, a chronology compiled from entries in the Army and Navy Official Records follows in this section.

**Campaign Chronology: battle of the Potomac**

The following list presents a chronology of a portion of the entries in the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (ONR) and *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (OR). All volumes cited are Series I except as noted by “II”. Items in red may have a direct relationship with material remains (e.g., ordnance, earthworks, campsites, shipwrecks).

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Page Ref</b>
4/22/1861	USS <i>Mount Vernon</i> dispatched to search for guns on VA Potomac shore	419 ONR vol 4
4/22/1861	Flying Flotilla' for Potomac and Chesapeake Bay proposed	420 ONR vol 4
4/23/1861	CSS <i>George Page</i> observed at wharf on Aquia Cr.	422 ONR vol 4
4/26/1861	USS <i>Anacostia</i> : reconnaissance of Aquia Creek, CSS <i>George Page</i> observed upstream	422 ONR vol 4
4/27/1861	Blockade proclaimed against VA & NC	340 ONR vol 4
5/14/1861	USS <i>Mount Vernon</i> observes guns at Aquia	461 ONR vol 4
5/2/1861	USS <i>Anacostia</i> : reconnaissance of Aquia Creek, again	464 ONR vol 4
5/27/1861	Commander of Potomac Flotilla proposes blockade at Budd's Ferry and Aquia	484 ONR vol 4
5/31/1861	USS <i>Thomas Freeborn</i> , USS <i>Anacostia</i> , and USS <i>Resolute</i> in action against Aquia batteries	490 ONR vol 4
6/1/1861	Capt. Walker's rifled cannon and rifle pits entrenched on north side of Aquia Cr. (Brent's Point)	496 ONR vol 4
6/2/1861	USS <i>Thomas Freeborn</i> , USS <i>Anacostia</i> , and USS <i>Resolute</i> in action against Aquia batteries	497 ONR vol 4
6/6/1861	Sec. Of Navy: "...rebels are throwing up earthworks between Aquia and Chopawamsic"	505 ONR vol 4
6/9/1861	USS <i>Resolute</i> burns 2 schooners in Breton Bay on MD side of Potomac, near Leonardtown	507 ONR vol 4
6/19/1861	USS <i>Reliance</i> reconnoiters Quantico-Chopawamsic area, debarks cutter which destroys boats, encounters mouted picket at Dipple; troops at Evansport fire on USS <i>Reliance</i>	525 ONR vol 4
6/24/1861	Incidence of musket fire from Mathias Point	533 ONR vol 4
6/25/1861	USS <i>Pawnee</i> shells Mathias Point, landing party burns Dr. Hoes house	535 ONR vol 4
6/27/1861	USS <i>Thomas Freeborn</i> raids Mathias Pt.; Conf. Troops fire, JH Ward killed, 4 wounded	539 ONR vol 4
6/27/1861	Report on action at Mathias Pt. From Camp Ruggles, CSA	542 ONR vol 4
6/27/1861	Steamer St. Nicholas captured by MD Confederates, Pautuxent MD	553 ONR vol 4
6/28/1861	RE Lee to TH Holmes: Three 9 inch columbiads for Mathias Pt, could be used at Evansport	959 OR vol 2
6/28/1861	Command of Potomac Flotilla given to Cmdr. Thomas T. Craven	541 ONR vol 4
6/29/1861	Brig Monticello seized by Cmdr. Hollins CSN in St. Nicholas, Mary Pierce, Margaret seized	548 ONR vol 4
6/30/1861	Letter RE Lee to TH Holmes about having requested 3 9-inch columbiads	961 OR vol 2
7/4/1861	Cmdr. Dove suggests use of Professor Lowe's Balloon	561-2 ONR vol 4
7/4/1861	Confederates burn schooner at Lower Cedar Point Shoals (a "few days" prior)	564 ONR vol 4
7/7/1861	Cmdr. Dove in <i>Pocahontas</i> shelles the CSS <i>George Page</i> from across Brent's Point; Marine guard cited for marksmanship at 32 pndr	565 ONR vol 4
7/7/1861	Confederate torpedoes discovered in Potomac River near Aquia Creek - possible first use of torpedoes (mines)	567 ONR vol 4
7/29/1861	USS <i>Yankee</i> reports batteries at the mouth of Potomac Creek, on both north and south sides	590 ONR vol 4
8/9/1861	A force of 2000 Tennesseans, and another of 200 cavalry reported at Quantico and Chopawamsic Creeks, respectively	600 ONR vol 4
8/10/1861	Union reports a flotilla being assembled at Aquia Cr., and 14,000 troops massing; Confederate invasion anticipated	601ONR vol 4
8/12/1861	Report of two 8-inch columbiads, fortifications at Mathias Point	ONR vol 4
8/15/1861	USS <i>Resolute</i> 2 officers, 1 man killed, 1 man wounded (Log of USS <i>Pocahontas</i> )	766 ONR vol 4
8/16/1861	3 killed, 1 wounded aboard USS <i>Resolute</i> at Persimmon Point	609 ONR vol 4
8/22/1861	Schooner <i>Fair Winds</i> receives musket fire from "Dipret" (Dipple); Owned by E.B. Hooe	630 ONR vol 4

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- 8/22/1861 Letter to Holmes, RE: Evansport & guns 801 OR vol 5
- 8/22/1861 USS *Jacob Bell*, Release (Ice Boat) exchange fire with Potomac Crk, Marlboro Point batteries 638 ONR vol 4
- 9/9/1861 Eight guns "of the heaviest caliber, including the rifled gun taken at Manassas, will have arrived at Evansport this evening, and three 32 pounders, one rifled, will be there within three days." 835 OR Vol 5
- 9/11/1861 Armed tug USS *Tigress* reported sunk in collision (later raised, salvaged) 668 ONR vol 4
- 9/13/1861 Walker's brigade, other troops assigned to Evansport 851 OR vol 5
- 9/18/1861 Report of earthwork under construction at Whitestone Pt. 677 ONR vol 4
- 9/25/1861 Exchange at Freestone Point between batteries and USS *Seminole* and *Valley City* 691 ONR vol 4
- 9/25/1861 Collision of USS *Seminole* and *Valley City* while under fire from Freestone Pt. 697 ONR vol 4
- 9/25/1861 Wigfall: Engagement at Freestone Pt. 215 OR vol 5
- 9/28/1861 USS *Yankee* collides with Schooner *Samuel B. Grice*: owner demand damage payments 701 ONR vol 4
- 10/2/1861 Lt. Simms, CSN, ordered to Aquia, having completed his assignment at Evansport 735 ONR vol 6
- 10/2/1861 Collision of USS *Jacob Bell* and USS *Island Bell* - sent to Navy Yard for repairs 702 ONR vol 4
- 10/11/1861 Raid by Union sailors in Quantico Cr, burning of Martha Washington 709 ONR vol 4
- 10/11/1861 USS *Dana* and *Island Bell* skirmish at Stratford Mills 711 ONR vol 4
- 10/15/1861 Shipping Pt Batteries fire on, damage USS *Seminole* 719 ONR vol 4
- 10/15/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/16/1861 USS *Pawnee* damaged by fire from Shipping Pt. 722 ONR vol 4
- 10/16/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/17/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/18/1861 Brush cleared from Cockpit Point batteries 726 ONR vol 4
- 10/18/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/18/1861 Action at Occoquan
- 10/19/1861 Hay-schooner (*Fairfax?*) captured by Confederates off Shipping Point 727 ONR vol 4
- 10/19/1861 Confederate force of 500 said to be at Budd's Fy., MD; 2 schooners captured 'in fog' 728 ONR vol 4
- 10/19/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/19/1861 Schooner captured at Aquia Cr. By Confederates 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/20/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/22/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/22/1861 Nelson Taylor (camped 1 mile south of Mrs. Posey's): 6 guns in upper, 5 guns in lower Shipping Pt. Battery 372 OR vol 5
- 10/22/1861 Shell lands on Maryland shore 374 OR vol 5
- 10/23/1861 CSS *George Page* steams from Aquia Cr. To Quantico Cr.; Camp Hooker at Budd's Fy noted 731 ONR vol 4
- 10/23/1861 Commodore Craven cites Potomac Flotilla as "utterly useless" recommends putting their guns ashore 733 ONR vol 4
- 10/23/1861 CSS *George Page* reported to have troops on board; later reported to have shelled Union troops in MD 733 ONR vol 4
- 10/23/1861 Gen. Hooker with 8000 men and 18 guns sent to MD 734 ONR vol 4
- 10/25/1861 Dahlgren has guns for counter-batteries: 27-9 inch; 2-11 inch; 1-50 pndr; 4-10 in mortars; 3 rifled 80 pndrs (includes guns from USS *Pensacola*) 736 ONR vol 4

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- 10/26/1861 Confederates said to control 15 miles of river, CSS *Page* "cutting about" (Lewis McKenzie) 736 ONR vol 4
- 10/28/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/29/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 10/30/1861 3 rifled guns 1 1/2 miles below "any fired before" at Evansport, below "new brick house" 741 ONR vol 4
- 10/31/1861 Union shore batteries fire at *Page* (2 parrott guns) 743 ONR vol 4
- 11/1/1861 McClelland supersedes Gen. Winfield Scott 639 OR vol 5
- 11/10/1861 Battery 1 1/2 miles above Boyle's Hole fires at USS *Dawn* 749 ONR vol 4
- 11/10/1861 Lt.Col Geo. Wells, 1st Mass. Describes Confederate positions at Evansport, Chopawamsic 648 OR vol 5
- 11/10/1861 Landing and skirmish at Mathias Pt. 752 ONR vol 4
- 11/11/1861 Gen Hooker comments on an ineffective attack on schooners by Evansport; balloon use 648 OR vol 5
- 11/11/1861 Battery 200 yards below Boyd's (Boyle's) Hole, "nearly opposite Maryland Pt." fires on USS *Freeborn* 750 ONR vol 4
- 11/11/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 11/13/1861 Beauregard to Whiting: "Have Triplett's and Powhatan Hills been fortified, as had been determined upon; if not already, why not? Those and Talbot Hill are the keys of that position; no time ought to be lost in fortifying them, even if it were only for infantry, for if the enemy takes them, how long would the batteries hold out? Not ten minutes! Can you not have it done at once if not already done?" 950 OR Vol 5
- 11/13/1861 Capt. R.S. Williamson discusses construction of Union batteries at Budd's Fy.; mentions 4 guns in battery at the mouth of the Chopawamsic 377 OR vol 5
- 11/13/1861 Gen. French ordered to relieve Gen. Trimble 952 OR vol 5
- 11/15/1861 Log of the USS *E.B. Hale* records Shipping Point batteries firing 762 ONR vol 4
- 11/16/1861 Hooker describes Confederate positions at Evansport, Cockpit Pt 653 OR vol 5
- 11/16/1861 Johnston to Whiting: "I have desired Gen. Holmes to make such fieldworks as can now be made begun on the heights at Evansport. I will advise you in the case!" 958 OR Vol 5
- 11/16/1861 Trimble to Johnston: Discussion of infantry fortifications at Evansport 960 OR vol 5
- 11/20/1861 Commodore Craven asks for reassignment 754 ONR vol 4
- 12/7/1861 Lt. Wyman assumes command of Potomac Flotilla 1ONR vol 5
- 12/11/1861 USS *Stepping Stones* makes foray into Occocquan Creek, takes soundings, exchanges fire, no casualties 5 ONR vol 5
- 12/13/1861 Capt. Rives' Virginia Light Artillery Company ordered to Evansport 411 OR vol 51
- 12/15/1861 Wyman discusses position of CSS *Page* in Chopawamsic Creek and defenses there 6 ONR vol 5
- 12/17/1861 MD Confederate Recruiting agent, Joseph Forrest passes warning of combined Union attack on Evansport 413 OR vol 51
- 12/17/1861 French: shelling from MD, 4 wounded, requests light rifled pieces to reply 469 OR vol 5
- 12/18/1861 Lt. Wyman reports 2 heavy guns at Boyd's Hole that can "fire well into the Maryland shore" 7 ONR vol 5
- 12/18/1861 Lt. Wyman reports a battery under construction near "Hoar's house", across the neck of land that forms Chopawamsic Cr., 7 ONR vol 5
- 12/22/1861 CSS *George Page* is sighted back in Quantico Creek 13 ONR vol 5
- 12/22/1861 Boyd's Hole battery active again, sinks schooner *Mary Willis* 14 ONR vol 5
- 12/28/1861 SS *Chamberlain* "chased" by steamer from VA below Ragged Point 12 ONR vol 5

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- 12/30/1861 Gen. French: steamer shells Cockpit Pt.; mentions "Tredegar gun, just arrived" 1013 OR vol 5  
12/30/1861 French: Troops, positions at Evansport 1013 OR vol 5  
1/3/1862 USS *Yankee* and *Anacostia* attack Cockpit Pt. Battery: *Yankee* damaged, 80 pndr. Gun in battery dislodged 15 ONR vol 5  
1/12/1862 USS *Pensacola* passes Shipping Pt; shells fired high, *Pensacola* holds fire to conceal position 17 ONR vol 5  
1/14/1862 General J.E. Johnston lists the organization of the Potomac, Aquia, and Valley districts of the CSA 1028-1031 OR vol 5  
1/14/1862 French: Passage of the USS *Pensacola*, mentions 2 'new' (placed in December) guns fired from Shipping Pt No. 1 1033 OR vol 5  
1/17/1862 Holmes to Johnston: 2 Regiments between Evansport and Aquia, 14th Alabama down with measles 1035 OR vol 5  
1/23/1862 CSN officers serving at batteries at Evansport and Aquia ordered to report to Richmond for reassignment 135 ONR II vol 2  
2/3/1862 Gen. McClelland gives lengthy discussion of options for attacking Richmond 44 OR vol 5  
2/9/1862 JP Benjamin (sec of War) to JE Johnston: Send regiments of Bate, Maney, Vaughn and GA regiment with Gen Loring to Knoxville; 2 remaining TN regiments to go to Holmes as well as AR regiment of Col. Rust 1067 OR vol 5  
2/11/1862 USS *Jacob Bell*, *Baltimore* and *Harriet Lane* attempt to pass batteries, *Harriet Lane* disabled by shell 22 ONR vol 5  
2/27/1862 Gen. French given notice to prepare to evacuate Evansport 481 OR vol 51  
3/9/1862 Shipping Pt batteries shelled, no return fire, Evansport camps and batteries found abandoned, CSS *Page* burned 24 ONR vol 5  
3/11/1862 Evansport occupied by Union forces 25 ONR vol 5  
3/14/1862 Hooker commands Col. JP Van Leer, 6th NJ, to land 5 companies N. of Quantico Cr, 5 companies S. of Chopawamsic and converge these on Dumfries 756 OR vol 5  
3/18/1862 Confederates continue to occupy positions at Aquia Creek 26 ONR vol 5  
3/17/1862 Secretary of the (Union) Navy orders Joseph Bryan to salvage the CSS *George Page* 26 ONR vol 5  
10/1/1862 Confederate report of Union destruction of batteries at Evansport and Cockpit Pt 751 OR vol 18  
10/11/1862 Destruction of earthworks at Cockpit Pt. And Shipping Pt. (subsequent to 2nd Manassas) 121 ONR vol 5