



**LINCOLN
PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION**

About Lincoln Preservation Foundation

Lincoln Preservation Foundation (LPF) is a non-profit corporation founded in 1999 by residents concerned about the future of the Goose Creek Historic District (GCHD); a 10,000-acre tract of land that includes working farms,

historic schools, churches, private residences, small businesses and wildlife habitat in western Loudoun County.

The Goose Creek Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is anchored by the Quaker village of Lincoln. Founded in 1730, Lincoln is home to Goose Creek Friends Meeting House and is rich in historic sites and features.

We work together with other conservation and preservation organizations under the umbrella of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition (LCPPC). We work very closely with our community, including the Lincoln Community League (LCL).



Our mission is to do historical research, provide information and proactively preserve and restore significant local historical and cultural heritage.

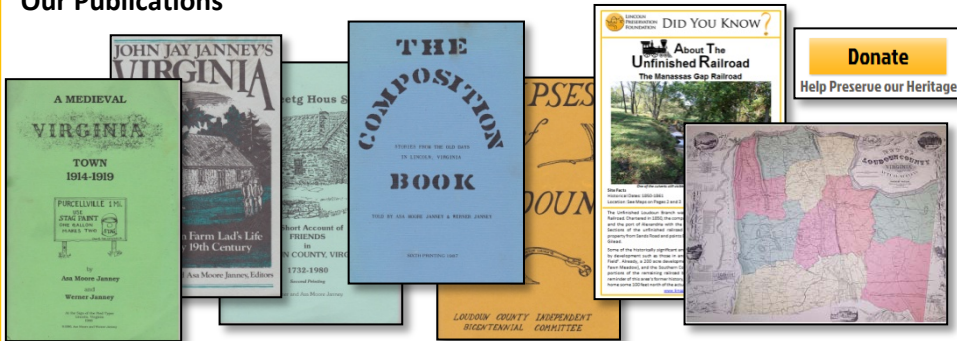
Contact us to become a member of LPF and help us in our mission. Follow us on Facebook.

Contact Us: Website: www.lincolnpreservation.org; Email: info@lincolnpreservation.org ;

Phone: (703) 727 5576 - Carol Dukes, Vice President

 www.facebook.com/LincolnPreservationFoundation

Our Publications



Order publications, a copy of the Yardley Taylor map (39½" x 29½") , download the free "Did You know?" publications and donate to support the activities of LPF by accessing our website at: www.lincolnpreservation.org.

"Did You Know?" is a publication of the Lincoln Preservation Foundation highlighting interesting historical facts about our community. Visit our website for more information. If you have additional information, documents, and/or photos that you are willing to share, please submit them to us through the website or contact us to allow us to copy or scan them. www.lincolnpreservation.org



DID YOU KNOW?

 **About The
Unfinished Railroad**
The Manassas Gap Railroad



One of the culverts still visible today near the Foundry Rd and Taylor Rd intersection.

Site Facts

Historical Dates: 1850-1861

Threat Level: Medium

Location: See Maps on Pages 2 and 3

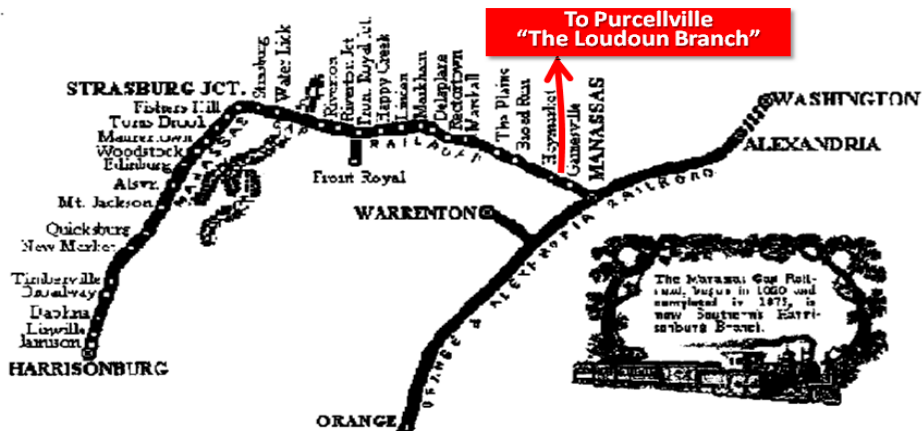
The Unfinished Loudoun Branch was a planned extension of the Manassas Gap Railroad. Chartered in 1850, the company promised to link merchants, urban markets, and the port of Alexandria with the rich farmland of the northern Virginia region. Sections of the unfinished railroad bed remain intact running through private property from Sands Road and points East along North Fork/Crooked Run towards Mt. Gilead.

Some of the historically significant and impressive stretches are in areas threatened by development such as those in and around what is locally known as "Irishman's Field". Already, a 200 acre development, at the former Frazer Farm (now known as Fawn Meadow), and the Southern Collector Road in Purcellville are infringing upon portions of the remaining railroad beds. A historical marker on Sands Road is a reminder of this area's former history, placed incongruously in the backyard of a new home some 100 feet north of the actual location.

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Route: The planned path of the railroad began at a point near Centerville, in Fairfax County, where it connected with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The Loudoun Branch continued in a northwesterly direction, cutting through Mount Gilead of Catoctin Mountain to reach the heart of Loudoun Valley, the breadbasket of Loudoun County. Following the curves of this landscape, gently winding its way through the fields of Loudoun Valley, it entered Lincoln on a path to Purcellville. The Loudoun Branch was expected to eventually extend to Harpers Ferry where it was to intersect with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Manassas Gap Railroad System in 1873



Beginning of the Loudoun Branch as part of the Manassas Gap Railroad.

Construction: A small surveying team completed their work by 1853. The company reported that “a very considerable force” was digging the trail for the Loudoun Branch in May 1855. Railroad crews cut through soil and rock from hills and slopes. They moved this material, using it as fill in some places, leveling the grade of the intended path.

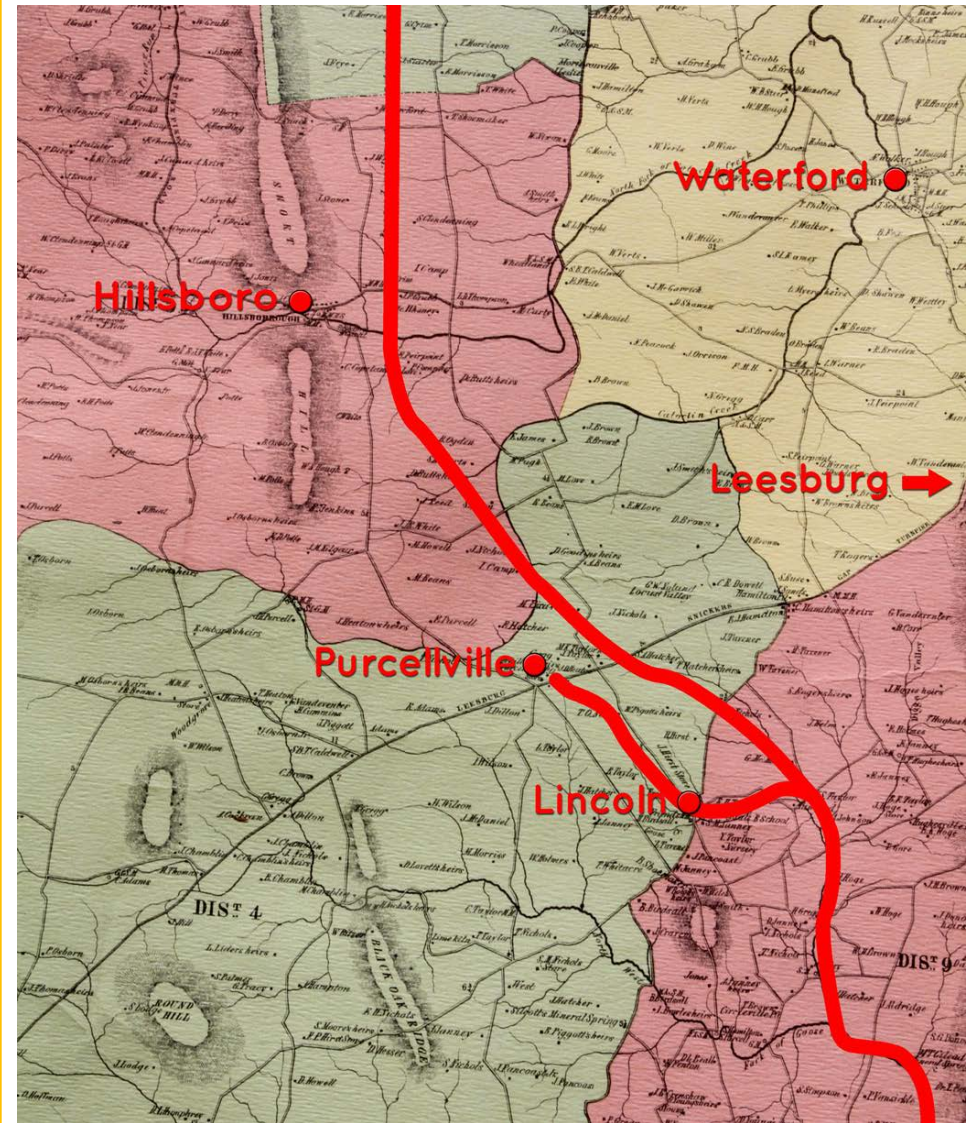
Culverts, designed and built of stone, allowed stream and creek water to flow unobstructed under the railroad line. A partial tunnel was constructed under Mt. Gilead where the line entered the valley.

Labor Force: For two years, recently arrived Irish immigrants lived and labored in camps alongside of the grade. Oral tradition attests to their skill and hard work. An old Loudoun County saying, “With an Irishman and a mule there is nothing that can’t be built,” originates from this mid-century presence in our community. Tom Taylor (1911-2001), a Lincoln resident, also preserved a part of their story. He was a boy when his father, Henry B. Taylor (1873 - 1968), said to him, “Irishmen and mules can do anything.”



The historical marker on Sands Road.

Demise: Work stopped in May 1857. A declining economy, overexpansion by the railroad company, and the high cost of labor were contributing factors. The Civil War and Reconstruction ended the project. Economically distressed Virginia diverted its resources elsewhere.



Route of the railroad bed in the Lincoln area.

Present Day: Surviving sections of the unfinished Loudoun Branch are partially hidden by new undergrowth and trees. As recently as 2001, this unfinished rail line between Lincoln and Purcellville was still being used as a clear and graded walking path.

Learn more about Manassas Gap Railroad and see additional photos at www.lincolnpreservation.org