

## Civil War 150 Years Ago July 1861

- July 5 Engagement at Carthage, Missouri
- July 7 Skirmish at Laurel Hill, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- July 11 Engagement at Rich Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)
- July 18 Engagement at Blackburn's Ford, Virginia

July 21 War's first major battle erupts at Manassas (Bull Run), VA. This was the first major land battle of the armies in Virginia. On July 16, 1861, the untried Union army under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell marched from Washington against the Confederate army, which was drawn up behind Bull Run beyond Centreville. On the 21st, McDowell crossed at Sudley Ford and attacked the Confederate left flank on Matthews Hill. Fighting raged throughout the day as Confederate forces were driven back to Henry Hill. Late in the afternoon, Confederate reinforcements extended and broke the Union right flank. The Federal retreat rapidly deteriorated into a rout. Thomas J. Jackson earned the nom de guerre "Stonewall." By July 22, the shattered Union army reached the safety of Washington.



Centennial reenactment, in 1961 (Courtesy of Manassas National Battlefield Park)

Go to this site to see an excellent 5 minute animated description of this battle.

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/firstmanassas/first-manassas-maps/bull-run-animated-map/>

- July 25 Major General McClellan appointed first commander of the Union force
- July 26 Federals evacuate Fort Fillmore, New Mexico Territory
- July 27 George McClellan put in command of the Federal Division of the Potomac
- July 31 Ulysses S. Grant promoted to Brigadier General