THE FIRST CAMPAIGN

In the spring of 1861, after the secession of Virginia, the Unionists and the Confederates were prepared for war. The Shenandoah River and the Ohio River, which formed the borders of the state, were of utmost importance. The Unionists had a total of 80,000 men in the Shenandoah Valley, while the Confederates had 14,000 men in Virginia. The Shenandoah Valley was a network of railroads that provided easy access to the interior of Virginia.

On April 18, 1861, the Confederate Army of the Shenandoah under Gen. E. Lee took over the Shenandoah Valley and began to move south towards Washington, D.C. The Unionist Army of the Shenandoah under Gen. A. G. Jenkins fought back, but was defeated by the Confederates.

On May 18, 1861, the Confederate Army of the Shenandoah under Gen. J. E. B. Stuart captured the town of Frostburg, Maryland. The town was burned, and the U.S. Arsenal was destroyed.

THE ROAD TO STATEHOOD

On July 21, 1861, the First Battle of Manassas, Va., was fought. The Union forces were defeated, and the Confederates gained control of the area.

On July 25, 1861, Union forces occupied Charleston, South Carolina. This was a major victory for the Union.

On September 3, 1861, the Federals repulsed the Confederates at Gauley Bridge. This was a major victory for the Union.

On December 13, 1861, the Federal attack on Camp Allegheny failed.

On December 31, 1862, Lincoln signed the West Virginia statehood bill.

THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

The following battles are highlighted and explored upon the story of the Civil War:

- Shiloh
- Antietam
- Gettysburg
- Vicksburg
- Atlanta
- Appomattox

Each site is interpreted and accessible, and there are over 1,000 Civil War Trails sites located in the United States. The websites of the National Park Service and the Civil War Trust provide information on the locations and events associated with the Civil War.