During the early days of the Civil War, Connecticut was divided almost equally between industrialized cities and rural towns in support of the war. Following the attack on Fort Sumter, and President Abraham Lincoln’s resolve to uphold the Union, many Connecticut men volunteered in the fight against the Confederacy and served a three-month enlistment. Following the massive loss of life at the First Battle of Manassas/Bull Run, Connecticut’s Peace Democrats (“Copperheads” as they were known) organized statewide peace demonstrations. Danbury Unionists who had just returned from a 3-month enlistment in the Wooster Guards objected to the raising of a white flag on the property of the town clerk in New Fairfield. Their protest and subsequent travel to New Fairfield to take down the flag and replace it with the Stars and Stripes resulted in an incident between the New Fairfield townspeople and Unionists on August 24, 1861, known as the “Battle of Charcoal Run.”

**History:**

WCSU - Ruth A. Haas Library
Archives & Special Collections
Truman A. Warner Collection
Horace Purdy 1861 Diary
Commemorative Biographical Record
Newspaper Microfiche Collection
JSTOR Database

New Fairfield Library - New Fairfield Historical Society
Historical Files & Maps
Historical Property Commission
E. H. Pearce 1925 Photo Collection
Carolyn Rogers 1861 Diary

Danbury History Museum - Online Educational Resources

Ancestry.com - Birth, Marriage and Death Records
Census & Voter Lists
Public Member Trees

A special thanks to the Property Manager
At Charcoal Run, New Fairfield, CT

Karen A. Keeler - WCSU 2022