

Shenandoah

AT WAR



*If this Valley is lost,
Virginia is lost!*

— Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson



One story... a thousand voices.



Visitors Guide to the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War Story

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

Explore the National Historic District area by area...

Other Areas

including Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, and Charles Town

Harpers Ferry
Page 40

Winchester

including areas of Frederick and Clarke counties
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Signal Knob

including Middletown, Strasburg, and Front Royal
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New Market

including Luray and areas of Page County
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Rockingham

including Harrisonburg and areas of Page County
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McDowell

including areas of Highland and Augusta counties
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Augusta

including Staunton and Waynesboro
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Rockbridge

including Lexington
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Second Winchester
First Kernstown
Second Kernstown
Rutherford's Farm
Third Winchester
Berryville
Cool Spring
Third Winchester Battlefield Park

Cedar Creek
Fisher's Hill
Tom's Brook
Guard Hill
Front Royal
Manassas Gap
Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park

New Market Battlefield State Historical Park
New Market
National Historic District Headquarters
Strayer House
Luray
Shenandoah National Park

Harrisonburg
Elkton
Civil War Orientation Center
Civil War Orientation Panel
Civil War Orientation Center

Cross Keys
Port Republic
Piedmont
Staunton
Waynesboro
Civil War Orientation Panel



...or follow the Valley's Civil War campaigns.

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Welcome to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District!

Fierce battles were fought across much of the nation during the Civil War. The Shenandoah Valley saw some of the most significant action: Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign, Lee's drive toward Gettysburg, and Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign all played key roles in the course of the war.

Today visitors are able to view the Valley's historic towns and landscapes much as they were seen by soldiers and civilians during the war.

This guide was created to help visitors explore that history. The guide is divided into two main sections. The first introduces you to the Valley's Civil War history. The second tells you about the wealth of sites in the National Historic District where you can learn about – and experience – that history today. Finally, there is a list of resources available across the Valley to help you plan your visit.

Thank you for your interest in the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War story.

Visit Us at the Strayer House!

The historic Strayer House (c. 1808), located at 9386 S. Congress St. in New Market, serves as the headquarters for the National Historic District. The building also features:

- A Civil War Orientation Center – interpretive displays, artifacts, youth activities, printed materials, interactive tools, and more
- “If This Valley is Lost,” a 12-minute film on Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign
- Visitor Information and Souvenirs
- Jackson's Corner Cafe and Coffee House
- National Park Service Passport Stamp Station



Directions: From Interstate 81, take exit 264 and drive east to the second traffic light; you'll see the Strayer House across the intersection to the right. Parking is behind the house or along the street. Open 9am-5pm, Mon-Sat. For more information call 540-740-4545.

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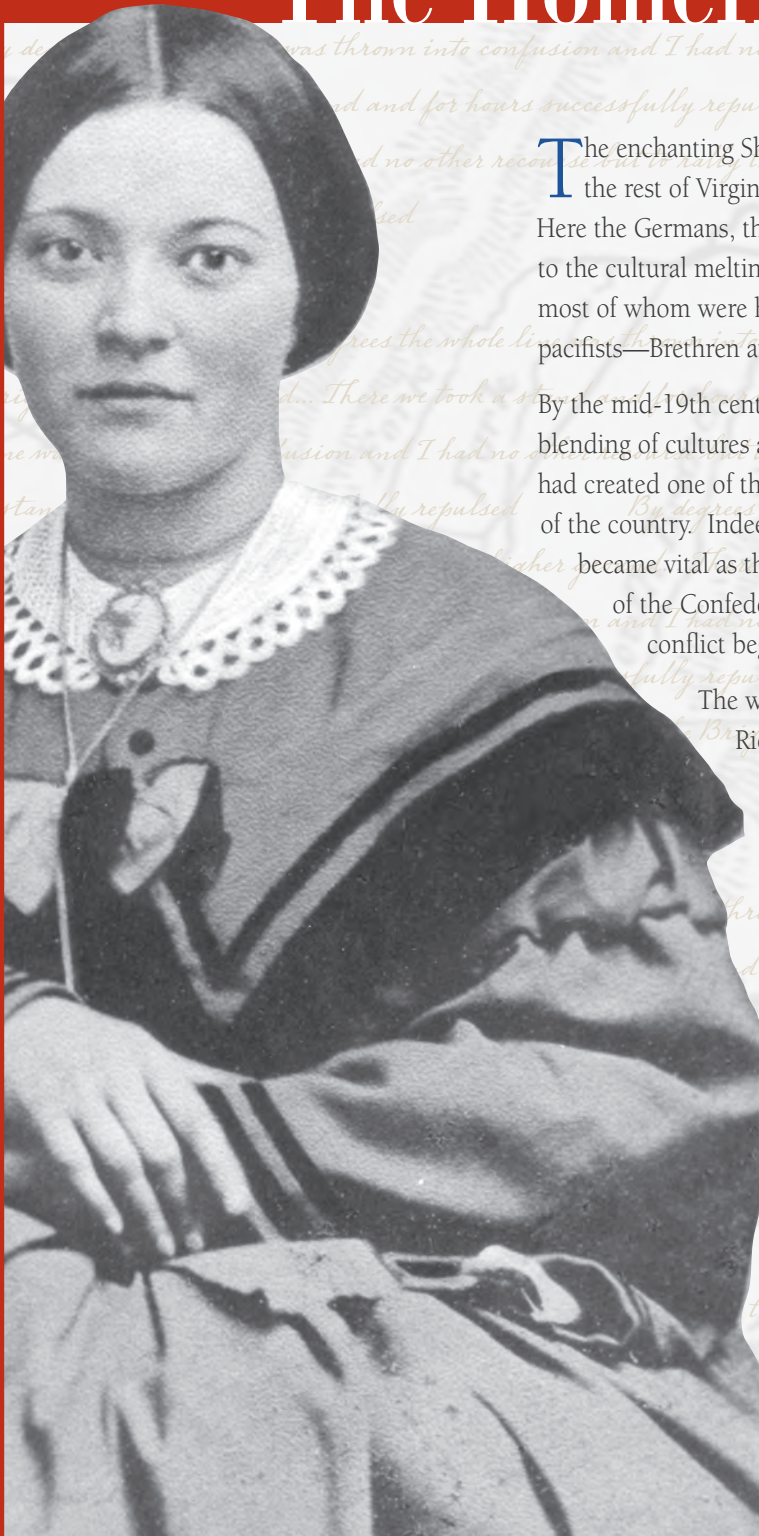
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The Homefront



The enchanting Shenandoah Valley has always been a bit different from the rest of Virginia and it became a valued pawn in this most uncivil war. Here the Germans, the Scots-Irish, and the English met and melded. Adding to the cultural melting pot was a significant population of African-Americans, most of whom were held in bondage, and large numbers of German-speaking pacifists—Brethren and Mennonite.

By the mid-19th century, this rich blending of cultures and geography had created one of the wheat capitals of the country. Indeed, the Valley became vital as the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy” when the conflict began.

The weathered Blue

Ridge Mountains on the east and rugged Alleghenies on the west protect the rich limestone valley plain. This region was strategically significant thanks to its ability to feed armies and its geographic location in relation to the opposing capitals: Richmond and Washington. Certain hills and fields were contested time and time again—taken, lost and retaken by both sides. The city of Winchester alone changed hands as many as 70 times.

Throughout the war, the lines between the homefront and warfront blurred as battles raged in farmers’ fields, filling churches and homes with wounded. When the curtain closed on this horrific conflict, much of the region lay devastated, its population decimated. The Valley had experienced the full measure of the horrors of war and was forever changed.

Eliza Clinedinst Crim, resident of New Market

They commenced carrying the dead from the field... O, what a sickening sight after the battle... Our poor soldiers, how they suffered and died that day!

— Eliza Clinedinst Crim

I had no sooner gotten into the saddle when the most vicious sounding bullet I ever heard swished by my ear and I thought it had taken a part of it off.

— Sgt. William B. Colston, 2nd Virginia Infantry

campaigns in American history, drawing thousands of Union troops from the Federal campaign to take Richmond.

The next year, in crafting his Pennsylvania campaign—an effort that would end at Gettysburg—Gen. Robert E. Lee used the Shenandoah Valley's unique geography and position as an "avenue of advance" for his invasion north.

The Valley supplied his men but most importantly, Lee used the Blue Ridge to screen his army from Federal eyes as it moved north into Pennsylvania.

The year 1864 saw the turning point in the Civil War

for the Valley. A series of summertime victories

were the last the Confederates would see in the Shenandoah Valley. Desperate Federal leaders turned to a new commander,

Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, and

in the fall Sheridan delivered several stinging defeats, dashing

Confederate hopes. Federal

forces embarked on scorched-earth operations that burned

and laid to waste much of the

Valley's agricultural bounty. The

Confederacy had lost control

of the Shenandoah Valley. Six

months later, the war ended 50

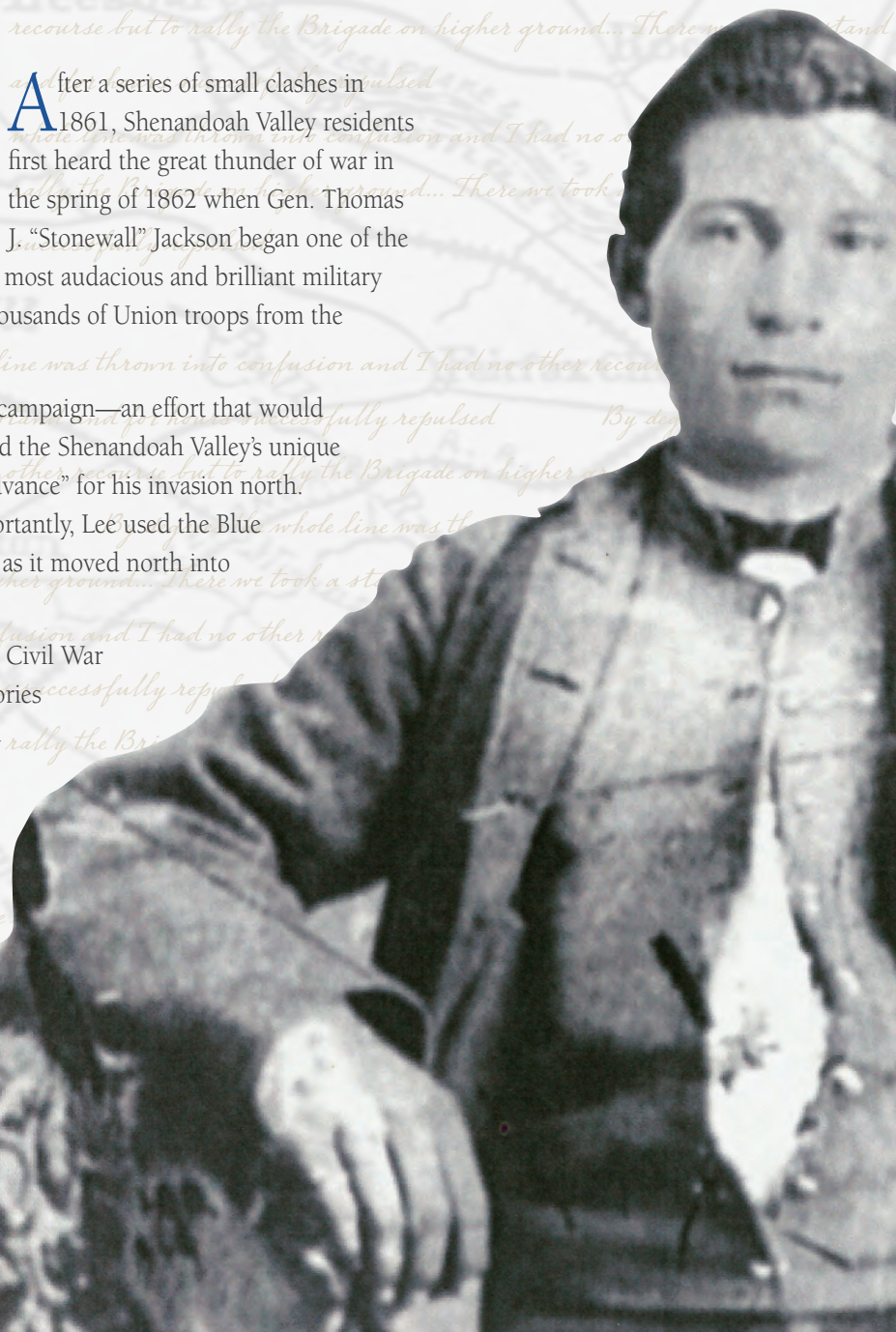
miles away in the small Virginia

town of Appomattox.

Pvt. John J. Rhodes
5th Virginia (Stonewall Brigade)

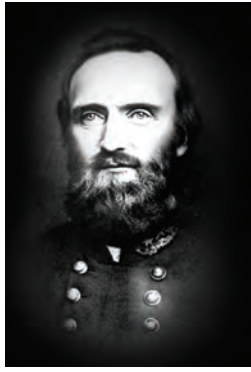
By degrees the whole line was thrown into confusion and I had no other recourse but to rally the Brigade on higher ground... There we took a stand

After a series of small clashes in 1861, Shenandoah Valley residents first heard the great thunder of war in the spring of 1862 when Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson began one of the most audacious and brilliant military



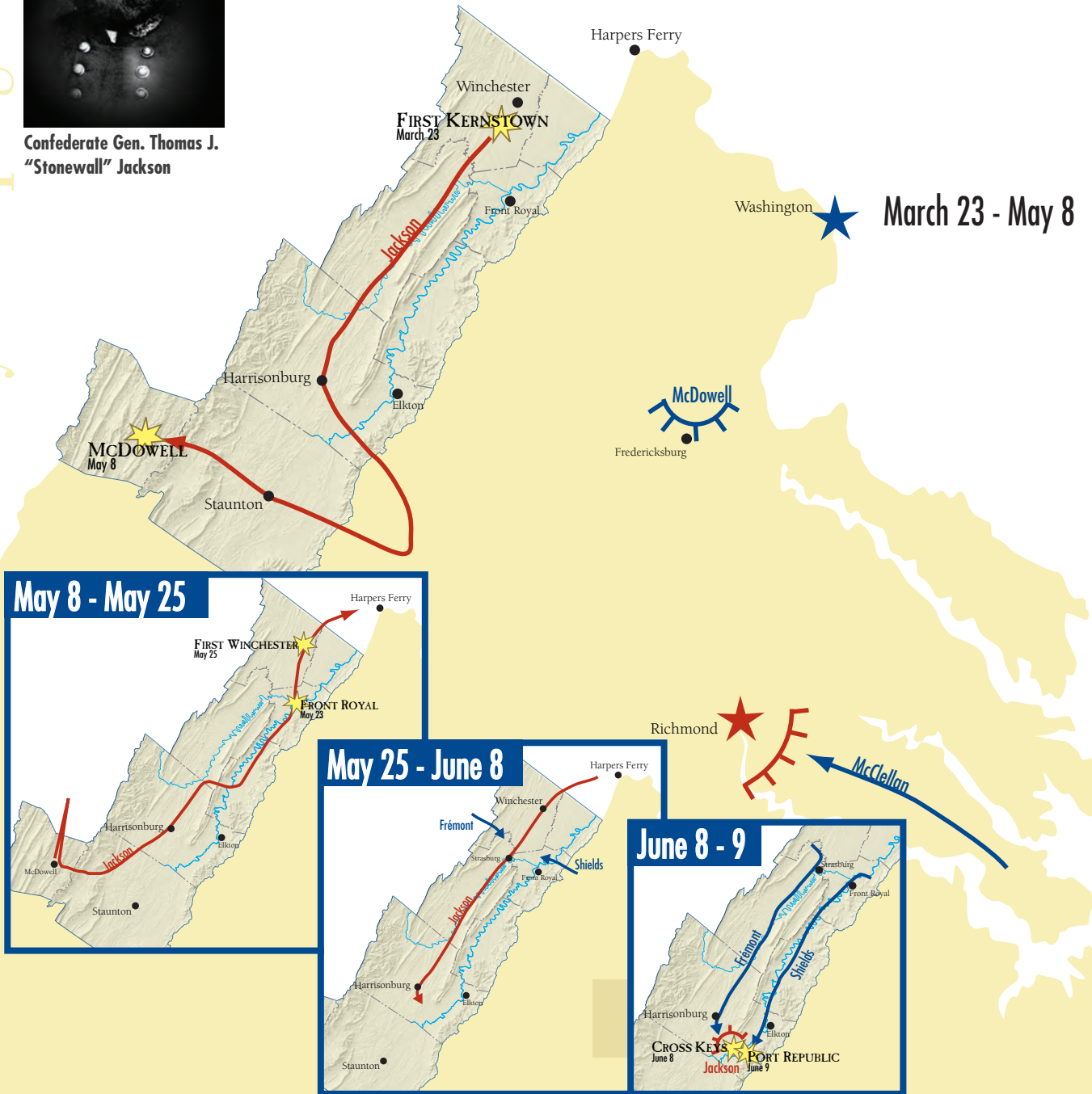
Fatal Fields

Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign



Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

*If this Valley is lost,
Virginia is lost!*
- Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson



A Brief History

In the spring of 1862, a Union army of 100,000 was approaching Richmond from the southeast, attempting to take the Confederate capital. The plan also called for Gen. Irvin McDowell, with 30,000 men near Fredericksburg, to advance on Richmond from the north. By unleashing a vigorous offensive in the Shenandoah Valley, Confederate Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson kept McDowell in Fredericksburg, wresting the initiative away from the Federal campaign.

Despite an initial setback in March at Kernstown, Jackson quickly recovered. In May, after a feint to the east, he headed west, up into the mountains of Highland County. Here he turned back Union troops at the village of McDowell (May 8). He then turned north and marched his army more than 100 miles before defeating Federal forces under Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Front Royal (May 23) and Winchester (May 25).

Jackson pursued Banks further north, almost to Harpers Ferry. In early June, two separate Union armies of 20,000 each moved to unite near Strasburg and crush Jackson in a trap. Jackson raced south, eluding the trap—the two northern armies pursuing him on either side of the Massanutten Mountain, which runs down the spine of the Shenandoah Valley. At the Massanutten’s southern tip, Jackson’s army fought masterful back-to-back battles at Cross Keys (June 8) and Port Republic (June 9), preventing the Federals from combining. After these “twin battles” and defeats, Union forces withdrew from the Valley. Jackson, having accomplished his mission, moved east and joined Gen. Robert E. Lee in front of Richmond.

In a swift feat of marching, deception, counter-marching and sheer boldness, Jackson had conducted one of the most audacious and brilliant campaigns in American military history. With only 18,000 men, marching several hundred miles over the course of a few weeks, Jackson inflicted twice as many casualties as he suffered, seized countless supplies, and tied up elements of three separate Federal armies totaling more than 60,000 men that would otherwise have been used against Richmond.

To learn more about the history...

In addition to the numerous books and articles that have been published about Jackson’s Valley campaign, a concise but comprehensive history can be found in the booklet “If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost!” *Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign*, available in most visitor centers and many bookstores in the Valley. A list of retailers is available online at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org.



If the enemy can succeed so readily in disconcerting all our plans by alarming us first at one point, then at another, he will paralyze a large force with a very small one.

— Union Gen. Irvin McDowell



Timeline of Jackson’s Valley Campaign

Winter 1861-62

Jackson in winter headquarters at Winchester.

March 1862

Jackson retires south, up the Valley, as Union forces occupy Winchester.

23 March

Jackson is defeated at the First Battle of Kernstown, near Winchester, and retreats south.

April – May

After pausing at modern-day Elkton, Jackson moves his army out of the Valley to deceive Federal forces and then returns via rail through Staunton.

8 May

Jackson defeats Federal forces under Gen. John Frémont at McDowell.

23 May

Jackson defeats a Federal garrison at Front Royal.

25 May

Jackson defeats Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks at the First Battle of Winchester.

Early June

Jackson narrowly eludes an attempt by Union Gens. Frémont and James Shields to trap him in the lower Shenandoah Valley.

8 June

Jackson defeats Frémont at Cross Keys.

9 June

Jackson defeats Union forces at Port Republic.

Mid-June

Federal forces withdraw from the Valley and Jackson is free to join Lee in front of Richmond.

Jackson's Valley Campaign: Experiencing the Story Today

The ability to follow an entire Civil War military campaign... is one of the many unique appeals of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. In particular, following Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign is a favorite activity of Civil War historians and enthusiasts.

But it's not easy, for many of the same reasons that it wasn't easy for the soldiers who marched these roads nearly 150 years ago. Jackson's army marched up and down and back up the Valley, tracing and retracing their own steps and earning the nickname "Foot Cavalry." Following the trail of Jackson's troops chronologically can therefore be a challenge for even the hardest traveler.

To explore the numerous places in the Valley that today tell the story of this famous campaign, many visitors choose to visit these sites geographically, traveling north to south or south to north. The information on these pages is arranged to help visitors find these sites that way. However, for true enthusiasts who would prefer to follow Jackson's path, the timeline on the previous page will help you understand how to revise the order of the sites in this list.

Winchester, including areas of Frederick and Clarke counties

Pages 20-23

First Kernstown and First Winchester — Printed Battlefield Driving Tour

A free printed battlefield driving tour for these two battles is available at most Civil War sites in the Winchester and Frederick County area, online at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org, and at the Civil War Orientation Center inside the Winchester-Frederick County visitor center.

Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters

This is where Jackson and his wife spent the winter before his campaign. Today it is a historic house museum managed by the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society.

Kernstown Battlefield—Pritchard-Grim Farm

The central portion of the First Kernstown battlefield. This site—owned and managed by the Kernstown Battlefield Association—includes the original Pritchard House, a visitor center, walking trails, and interpretive signage.

Kernstown Battlefield—Rose Hill Farm

Site of the final stages of the First Battle of Kernstown. Rose Hill is owned and managed by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Site open on select days and by appointment. A Civil War Trails sign at the entrance provides an excellent synopsis of the fighting that occurred at this location.

Signal Knob, including Middletown, Strasburg, and Front Royal

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Battle of Front Royal Driving and Walking Tours

Printed driving and walking tours of the key sites of the battle are available at the Front Royal Visitor Center. The driving tour is also available on CD.

New Market, including Luray

Pages 28-31

Strayer House

Jackson's headquarters when he consulted with Jedediah Hotchkiss on June 4, 1862. Today it is a Civil War Orientation Center and headquarters of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.

Civil War Trails Signage

Located throughout Shenandoah County and Page County are more than a dozen Virginia Civil War Trails markers telling the story of Jackson's campaign. A printed driving tour of Page County's Civil War sites is available at the Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce.



Kernstown Battlefield -- Pritchard Farm



Kernstown Battlefield -- Rose Hill



Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters Museum

Rockingham, including Harrisonburg and areas of Page County

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Cross Keys and Port Republic Battlefields, Port Republic Museum, and The Coaling

A printed battlefield driving tour for these two battles is available at most Civil War sites in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area, online at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org, and at the Civil War Orientation Center inside the Harrisonburg visitor center. The driving tour includes a stop at the Frank Kemper House/Port Republic Museum, which offers a walking tour of the village of Port Republic, as well as directions to “The Coaling,” the site of Union artillery during the Battle of Port Republic.

The Heritage Museum

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society operates a museum and heritage center that features a light map offering a strategic overview of Jackson’s Valley Campaign as well as other Civil War exhibits.

Miller-Kite House

In the spring of 1862, while using the Miller-Kite House as a headquarters, Jackson developed the outline for what would become his Valley Campaign. The house has been restored by the Elkton Historical Society, which operates it as a museum.

North River Bridge

Along the banks of the North River on Va 42 in the village of Bridgewater are two Virginia Civil War Trails signs, one of which tells the story of the movements of Jackson’s troops across the river at this site after the Battle of McDowell.

McDowell, including areas of Augusta and Highland Counties

Pages 36-39

Ramsey’s Draft

Virginia Civil War Trails signage along US 250 in western Augusta County tells the story of the opening phases of the Battle of McDowell. Look for the Virginia Civil War Trails bugle sign and arrow as you travel west on US 250.

Fort Johnson

Running along the top of Shenandoah Mountain—where US 250 crosses the Augusta/Highland county line—is a series of trenches created by Confederate troops guarding the “back door” to the Valley. Amazing views of the surrounding hills and mountains, short walking trails, and interpretive signage at this site in the George Washington National Forest.

Sirlington’s Hill

Approaching McDowell from the east along US 250, a Virginia Civil War Trails pull-off and sign marks the trailhead of a fairly demanding hike to the top of the hill. The hill offers tremendous views of the village of McDowell and the surrounding mountains—views virtually untouched by the modern world.

Cemetery Hill

A Virginia Civil War Trails marker tells the story of the Union artillery at this position during the Battle of McDowell. Park at the top of drive and take an easy walk to the marker for great view of the battlefield from Federal perspective.

Highland County Museum and National Historic District Civil War Orientation Center

In the village of McDowell an antebellum home has been converted into a museum and National Historic District orientation center, owned and operated by the Highland Historical Society.

Camp Allegheny

Just across the western border of Highland County in West Virginia along US 250 is the site of what was both Union and Confederate encampments. Signage and short walking trails.

Lexington and Rockbridge County

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Lexington

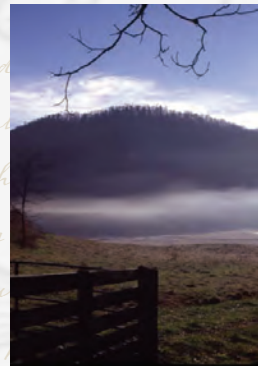
Lexington is the site of the Virginia Military Institute, where Jackson taught before the Civil War, and Jackson’s house, now a historic house museum that interprets Jackson’s life and experience living in Lexington. Jackson was laid to rest after the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863 in what is now the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.



Cross Keys Battlefield



The Heritage Museum

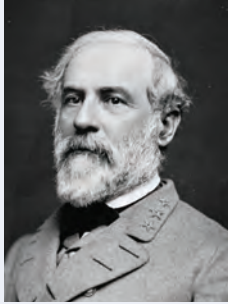


McDowell Battlefield



Fort Johnson

Lee's 1863 Gettysburg Campaign

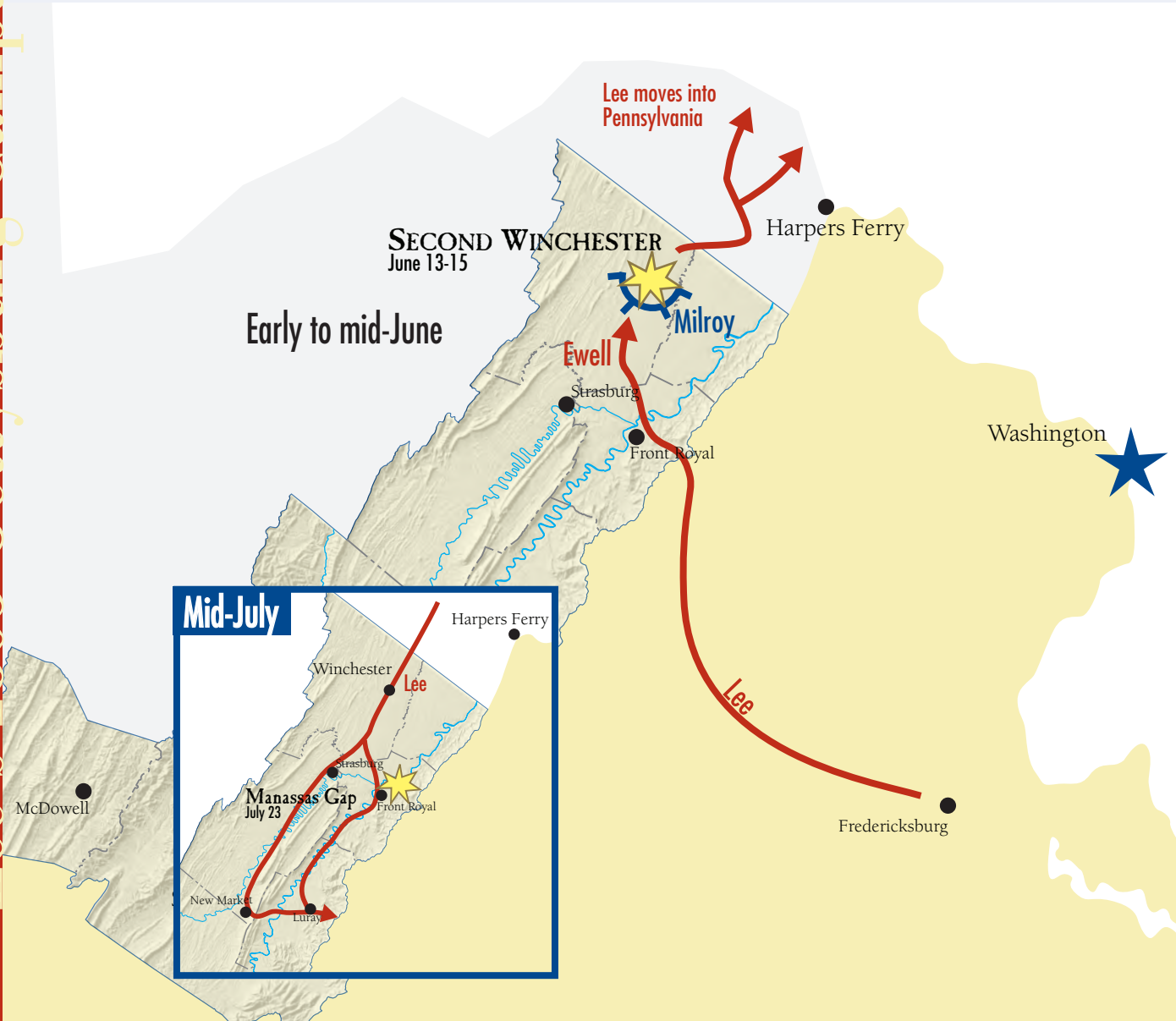


Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee

If I had had Stonewall Jackson with me, so far as a man can see, I should have won the Battle of Gettysburg.

— Gen. Robert E. Lee

● Gettysburg



A Brief History

In the summer of 1863, Gen. Robert E. Lee made the Shenandoah Valley an “avenue of advance” for his invasion of the north. He selected the Valley due to its obvious advantages. The Shenandoah Valley’s bountiful farms were a welcome respite for Lee’s long-suffering Army of Northern Virginia, supplying it with food and livestock.

But more importantly, Lee used the Blue Ridge to screen his army from Federal eyes, thus avoiding a general engagement until he and his troops were ready. The Valley was a natural avenue of advance that led perfectly to the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania where Lee hoped to draw the Federal army away from war-weary Virginia. During the advance, Confederate Gen. Richard Ewell defeated a small Federal force at Winchester in mid-June, clearing the way for Lee to move north.

After the devastating defeat at Gettysburg, the Confederates crossed the Potomac at Williamsport and – after defeating a final Federal attempt to cut off their withdrawal at the Battle of Manassas Gap (July 23, 1863) – once again found safety and provisions in the Shenandoah Valley as the Army of Northern Virginia regrouped and amassed vital supplies.

Exploring Lee’s Gettysburg Campaign: Shenandoah Valley Sites

Winchester, including areas of Frederick and Clarke counties

Pages 20-23

Second Battle of Winchester

Two Civil War Trails signs on US 522 west of Winchester—west of Va 37 at the Virginia Farm Market and at Star Fort just east of Va 37—describe action around the defensive forts northwest of the city during the battle.

Stephenson’s Depot

A Civil War Trails marker at Stephenson’s Depot north of Winchester tells the story of the final moments of the Second Battle of Winchester, when Federal forces retreating along the Valley Turnpike were overwhelmed by Confederate artillery on the hills to the east.

Signal Knob, including Middletown, Strasburg, and Front Royal

Pages 24-27

Lee at Bel Air

Diarist Lucy Buck recorded the story of a visit to her home, Bel Air, by Gen. Robert E. Lee as his army moved through Front Royal after the Battle of Gettysburg. A Virginia Civil War Trails marker provides details.

Battle of Wapping Heights (Manassas Gap)

Civil War Trails marker tells the story of last Federal attempt to cut off Gen. Robert E. Lee’s withdrawal after Gettysburg.

New Market, including areas of Luray and Page County

Pages 28-31

Pass Run and Thornton Gap

Confederate units camped in the safety of the Shenandoah following the retreat from Gettysburg.

...we have been on the march since yesterday week we were 10 miles below Fredericksburg we crossed the Blue Ridge and the Rappidan Rappahannock and both branches of the Shenandoah north and south and are within 2-1 miles of the Potomic and I would take any amount for the trip the most butiful scenery I ever beheld since I have been in the army... It is supposed that we will go into Pennsylvania...

– Lt. William B. Taylor, 11th North Carolina Infantry
June 22, 1863

Timeline of Lee’s 1863 Gettysburg Campaign

Early May

Lee defeats Union forces at Chancellorsville, near Fredericksburg.

June 3

Lee’s army begins to move north.

June 9

Confederate cavalry under Gen. James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart defeats Union cavalry at Brandy Station, east of the Blue Ridge.

June 13 - 15

To clear the way for Lee’s army to move north through the Shenandoah Valley, Gen. Richard S. Ewell defeats Robert H. Milroy’s Union garrison at Winchester.

June 15

Confederates begin crossing the Potomac into Maryland.

Late June

Lee moves into Pennsylvania and Federals cross north into Maryland east of the Blue Ridge.

June 30

Confederate Gen. Henry Heth receives permission to take his division the next day to Gettysburg in search of shoes.

July 1 - 3

On July 1, Heth finds Union forces defending Gettysburg and for the next three days, the Battle of Gettysburg rages through the town and the surrounding fields.

Early to mid-July

Confederates retreat southward, crossing the Potomac into the relative safety of the Shenandoah Valley.

July 23

Confederates forces withstand final attempt to cut off their retreat at the Battle of Manassas Gap.

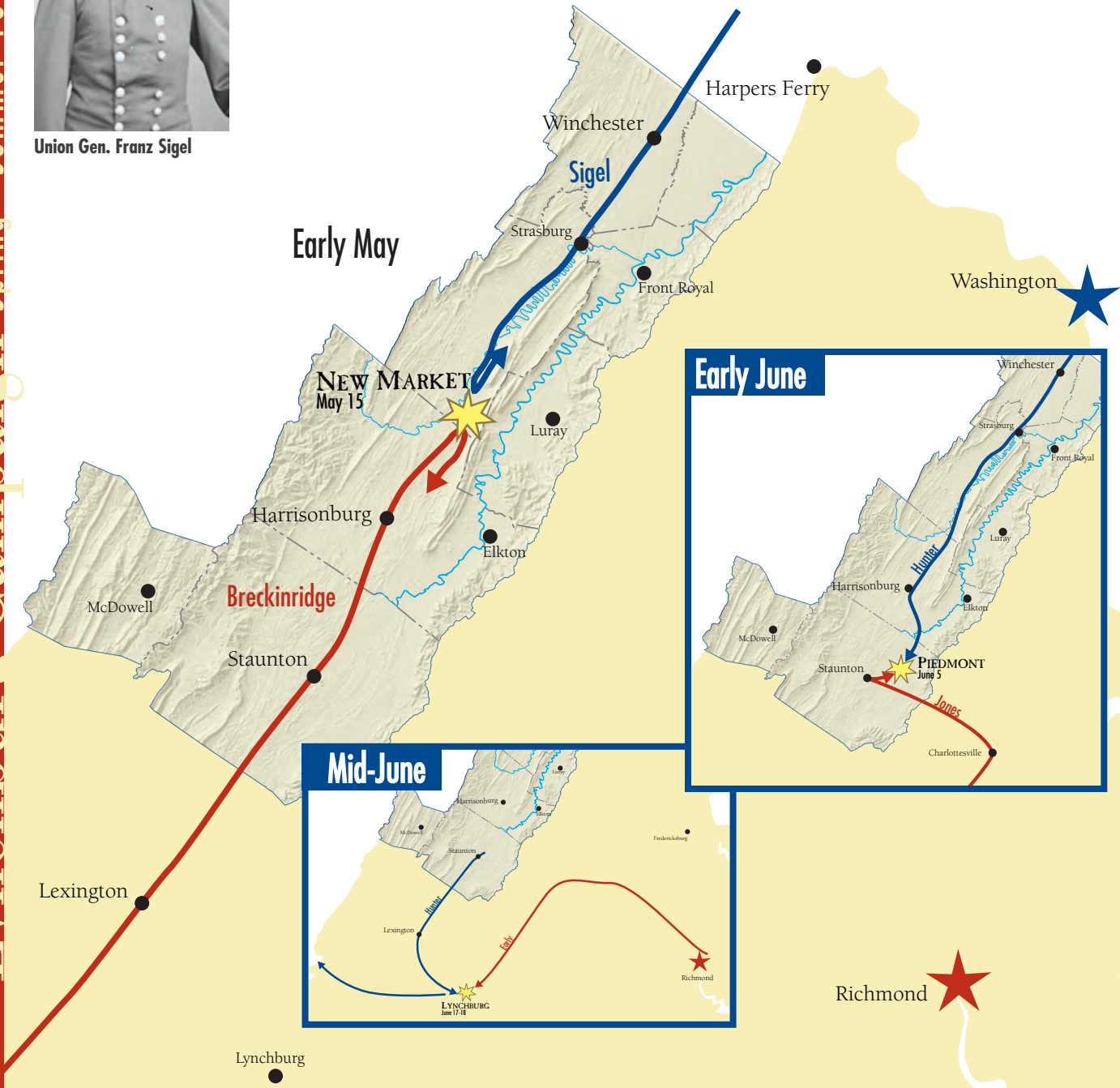
Lynchburg Campaign Spring - Summer 1864



Union Gen. Franz Sigel

If Sigel cant skin himself he can hold a leg whilst some one else skins.

— Gen. Ulysses S. Grant



A Brief History

The year 1864 saw the turning point in the Civil War for the Valley. It was a complex year of multiple military operations that ended Confederate control of the Valley and wrought the near total destruction of its agricultural economy.

With Ulysses S. Grant's promotion to general in chief of all Union armies in March 1864, he lost no time in organizing a huge offensive across the entire front of the embattled states. In Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and the new state of West Virginia, Union forces were ordered to disrupt railroad and transportation networks and destroy Confederate forces and the economic and agricultural resources that supported them.

In May, a Federal army under Gen. George Crook advanced south through West Virginia with orders to cut railroad links from Virginia to the west. Union Gen. Franz Sigel was to move south through the Shenandoah Valley and meet Crook in Staunton. This would also prevent any Confederate movement out of the Shenandoah Valley to assault Grant's flank as it advanced south toward Richmond.

Sigel met defeat at New Market (May 15) in a battle with Confederate forces under Gen. John C. Breckinridge, reinforced by cadets from the Virginia Military Institute. Sigel was relieved and replaced by Gen. David Hunter.

In June, Hunter gained a victory in the rolling landscape at Piedmont (June 5), east of Staunton. With most Confederate resistance checked, Hunter moved south and burned the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. Lee sent Gen. Jubal Early from the defenses of Richmond to confront the Federal threat. Early defeated Hunter at Lynchburg (June 17-18), on the east side of the Blue Ridge, and the Union army retreated into the mountains of West Virginia, leaving the Valley—and its pathway north—in Early's hands.

The Lynchburg Campaign: Exploring the Story Today

New Market, including areas of Luray and Page County

Pages 28-31

Virginia Museum of the Civil War

The story of the Civil War in Virginia and the Battle of New Market is told in this 300-acre battlefield park, 19th century farmstead, and museum, owned and operated by the Virginia Military Institute. Additional Virginia Civil War Trails signage on US 11 north of New Market describes the end of this battle.

Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County

Pages 40-41

Battle of Piedmont

Trails signage describes Hunter's victory at Piedmont, which allowed him to continue south to wreak havoc in Staunton and burn buildings at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

Staunton

Trails signage at the railroad station in Staunton describes Hunter's destruction of railroad infrastructure in the city after his victory at Piedmont.

Lexington and Rockbridge County

Pages 42-43

Lexington

The VMI Museum in Lexington interprets the role of the Institute during the Civil War, including its burning by Hunter.

Timeline of the Lynchburg Campaign

Early May

Sigel begins to move south in the Valley to meet Crook in Staunton.

May 15

Breckinridge's hastily-gathered Confederate army confronts and defeats Sigel at New Market.

Late May

Union leaders replace Sigel with Hunter, who begins to move south.

June 5

Hunter defeats Confederates at the Battle of Piedmont, east of Staunton.

Early June

Hunter continues south, looting Staunton and destroying much of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

June 17-18

Hunter moves toward Lynchburg where he is defeated by Early's arriving forces.

Late June

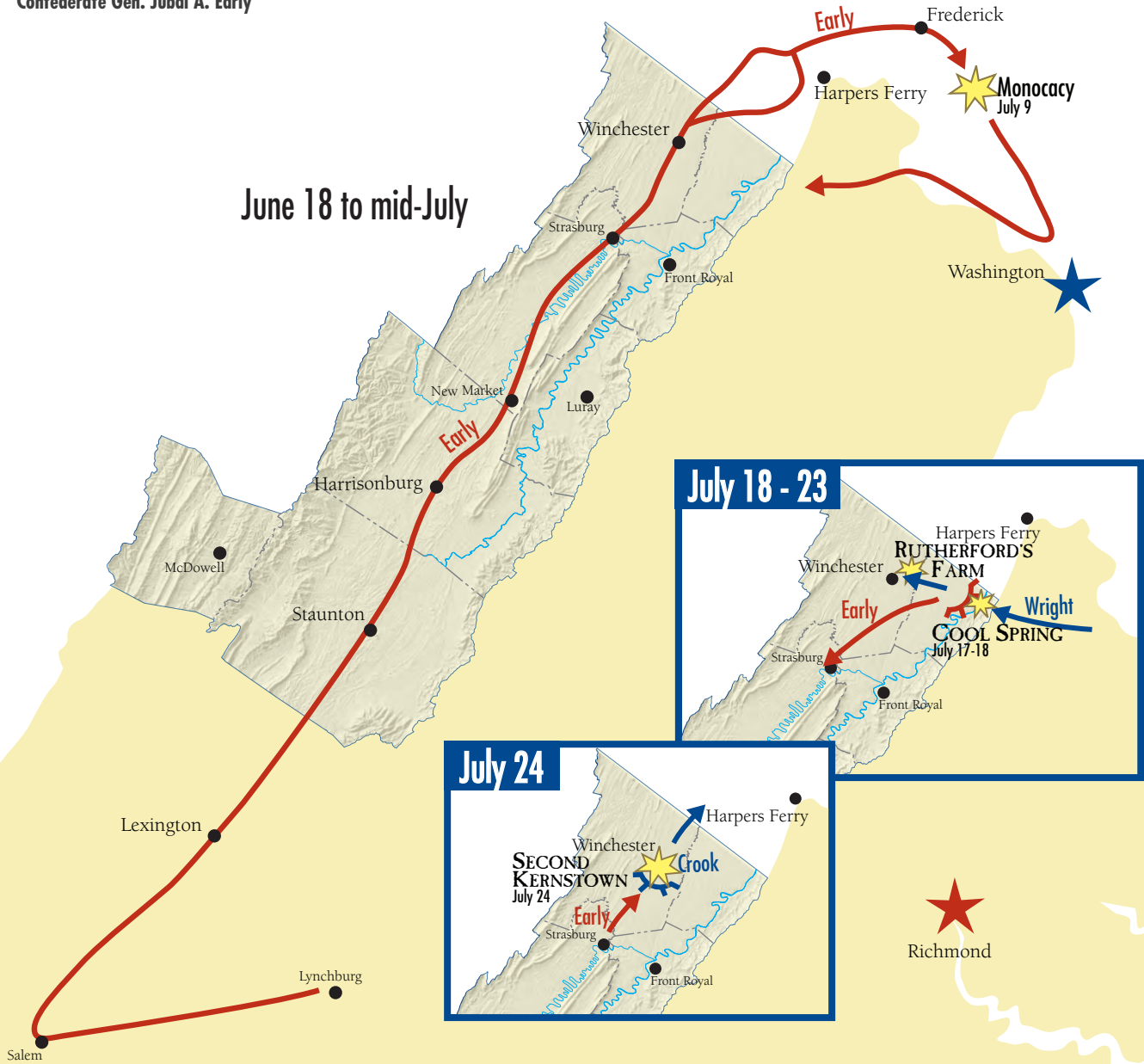
Hunter retreats into the mountains of West Virginia.



Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early

If you can continue to threaten Grant I hope to be able to do something for your relief and the success of our cause shortly. I shall lose no time.

— Gen. Jubal A. Early to Robert E. Lee
June 1864



A Brief History

In an effort to divert Federal troops from Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign north of Richmond,

Gen. Robert E. Lee sent Gen. Jubal Early north through the Valley with instructions to strike all the way to Washington DC, if possible.

After his victory at Monocacy, Maryland on July 9, Early made limited attacks against Washington's strong fortifications. His assaults near the Federal capital caused the Lincoln Administration great consternation.

Failing to take the capital city, Early withdrew, crossing the Potomac into Virginia near Leesburg and thence to the Valley, followed by Federals under Gen. Horatio G. Wright. The Confederates confronted their pursuers along the western base of the Blue Ridge, defeating them at Cool Spring (July 17-18) on the Shenandoah River and then retiring to the relative safety of Fisher's Hill, south of Strasburg.

Wright, believing that Early was departing the Valley to rejoin Lee, began to move some of his units to join Grant at Petersburg, leaving a small force at Winchester under Gen. George Crook. Early attacked Crook just south of Winchester at Kernstown (July 24) and then his cavalry moved north and burned Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in retaliation for the burning of Lexington. The July battles would be the Confederacy's last major victories in the region and would pave the way for a new, more destructive level of war in the Shenandoah Valley.

Major, we havent taken Washington, but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell.

— Gen. Jubal A. Early

Exploring Early's Maryland Campaign

Winchester, including areas of Frederick and Clarke counties

Pages 20-23

Battle of Cool Spring

There are three Civil War Trails markers about the battle along a walking trail on the east side of Shenandoah River. Take Parker Lane north for approximately 1.5 miles to the parking area. (The site is owned by Shenandoah University, but open to the public.) There is an additional marker about the battle just west of the river, on Route 603, just off VA 7.

Battle of Rutherford's Farm

A Civil War Trails marker tells the story of the surprising Union victory. One of three markers accessed from a parking area off US 11 westbound, approx. 1/3 mile east of Exit 317 on I-81.

Second Battle of Kernstown

More than 300 acres of the Second Kernstown battlefield have been protected by the Kernstown Battlefield Association. This working farm is open to the public on weekends May through November.



Pritchard's Hill at the center of the Second Kernstown battlefield.

Timeline of Early's Maryland Campaign

June 18 - 21

Following the Battle of Lynchburg, Early pursues Hunter as far as Salem and then turns north.

Late June to Early July

Early advances north, down the Valley, crossing the Potomac into Maryland.

July 8

Early ransoms the town of Frederick, Maryland.

July 9

Early's advance on Washington is delayed by Federals along the Monocacy River, south of Frederick.

July 11-14

Early makes limited assaults on the defenses of Washington before withdrawing westward along the Potomac, crossing the river near Leesburg.

July 14-17

Confederates move west across Loudoun County and cross the Blue Ridge at Snicker's Gap (along modern-day Va 7).

July 17-18

Pursuing Union forces engage elements of Early's army along the Shenandoah River at Cool Spring and retreat.

July 18 - 23

After additional limited engagements, Confederates camp at Fisher's Hill, south of Strasburg and Federals occupy Winchester.

July 20

Union cavalry defeats Confederates at Rutherford's Farm.

July 24

Early attacks the Federals at Kernstown, south of Winchester, driving them north towards Harper's Ferry.

July 30

Confederates burn Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

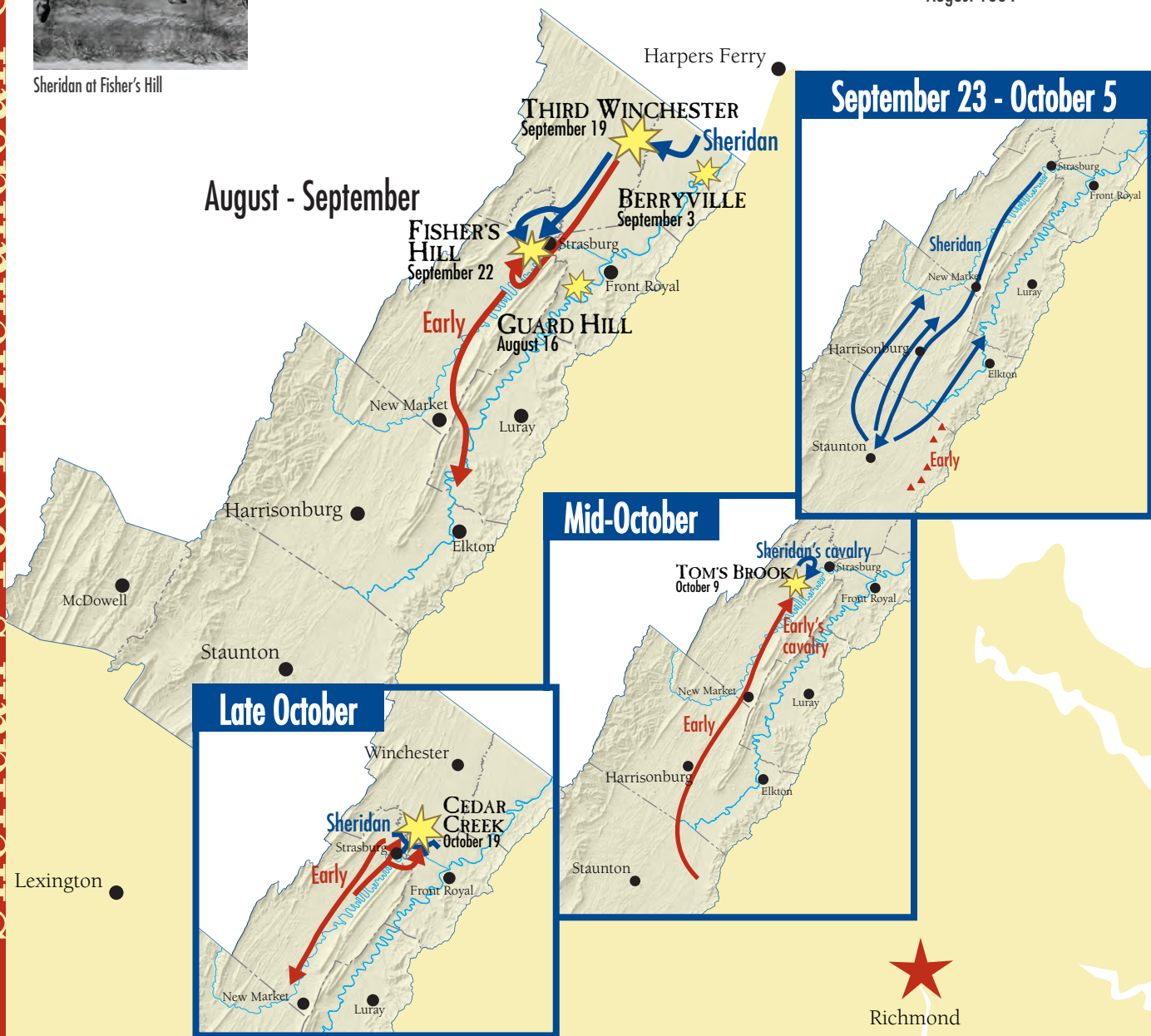
Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign



Sheridan at Fisher's Hill

Do all the damage to railroads and crops you can. Carry off stock of all descriptions... so as to prevent further planting. If the war is to last another year, we want the Shenandoah Valley to remain a barren waste.

— Gen. Ulysses S. Grant
August 1864



A Brief History

By the late summer of 1864, the Union had experienced the disaster at Kernstown and the Confederate burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant resolved to crush Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's army and destroy the fertile Shenandoah as a military granary for Lee's army. He reorganized several military districts under one commander and chose his aggressive cavalryman, Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, to lead this new army with the bulk of the Federal cavalry. Sheridan's instructions were to defeat Early and conduct a campaign of total warfare in the Valley.

Sheridan took command of his new army in early August and marched south. After weeks of watching—and occasionally engaging—one another, including smaller actions at Guard Hill (August 16) and Berryville (September 3), the situation changed dramatically in mid-September, when Sheridan delivered a shattering blow at Third Winchester (September 19). Early retreated and made an unsuccessful stand at Fisher's Hill (September 22) before withdrawing south, seeking the safety of the western slopes of the Blue Ridge.

The Union army proceeded south and Federal cavalry embarked on a two-week campaign of destruction to neutralize the Shenandoah Valley's agricultural base, the "breadbasket of the Confederacy." In what became known as The Burning, thousands of mills, barns, and farm buildings were put to the torch, stores of grain and livestock were destroyed or confiscated, and livelihoods were turned to ash.

Early's cavalry pestered the Union raiders from Staunton and Harrisonburg north until Sheridan routed the Confederates at Tom's Brook (October 9) and pursued them 10 miles south to Woodstock.

Early attempted to turn the tide with a surprise attack at Cedar Creek on October 19, but a Union counterattack turned the day into a crushing defeat for the rebels. Thereafter, the Confederacy lost control of the Shenandoah Valley and its bounty. The final remnants of Early's army were destroyed at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865.

To learn more about the history...

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has published a companion to its booklet "If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost!" *Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign*. The second publication, "Give the enemy no rest!" *Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign*, is available in most visitor centers and many bookstores in the Valley. A list of retailers is available online at ShenandoahAtWar.org.



The blazing buildings everywhere—the smoke that all that day obscured the sun and flying cinders of shingle and of straw—the countenances of women, and little children holding them by the hand, looking on!...What were we coming to? What would all this end in?

— Newton Burkholder
Confederate soldier

Timeline of Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign

August 6

Sheridan is made commander of the new Army of the Shenandoah.

August 16

The two sides fight the small and inconclusive Battle of Guard Hill.

September 3-4

The armies fight another indecisive battle at Berryville.

September 19

Sheridan decisively defeats Early at the bitterly-fought Third Battle of Winchester. The Confederates withdraw to Fisher's Hill.

September 21-22

Early's army is defeated again at Fisher's Hill and retreats south through the Valley.

September 23 – October 8

Sheridan moves south to Staunton, then withdraws northward as Union cavalry systematically destroys or confiscates barns, mills, crops, and livestock during "The Burning."

October 9

Federal cavalry units defeat their pursuing southern counterparts at the Battle of Tom's Brook.

October 19

At Cedar Creek, Early's brilliant surprise attack overwhelms much of the Union army, but the Federals rally and counterattack, routing the Confederates and all but destroying Early's command.

March 2, 1865

Federal cavalry destroys the small remnant of Early's army at Waynesboro.

Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign: Exploring the Story Today

The story of Sheridan's campaign resonates in Valley families even today. Indeed, this history is especially compelling—not only because of its effect on the eventual outcome of the Civil War—but also because of its impact on the personal lives of the Shenandoah's citizenry.

There are many places in the Valley that today tell the story of this dramatic campaign, from mill sites to battlefields to museums. As you explore the Valley, you may even encounter a resident who might share with you his or her own family's experience during this dark chapter of the Valley's history.

Winchester, areas of Frederick and Clarke counties

Pages 20-23

Third Winchester Orientation Center

Located across Redbud Road from the Battlefield Park parking area, the orientation center provides historical and visitor-related information for Third Winchester battlefield sites throughout Winchester, Frederick County, and Clark County.

Third Winchester Battlefield Park

Miles of interpreted trails guide visitors through the area that saw some of the fiercest fighting of the battle – and the entire war – including Artillery Knoll, First Woods, and the Middle Field. Start at the Redbud Road parking area across from the Orientation Center. Open dawn to dusk.

Third Winchester — Printed Battlefield Driving Tour

A printed battlefield driving tour for this battle is available at most Civil War sites in the Winchester and Frederick County area, online at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org, and at the Civil War Orientation Center inside the Winchester-Frederick County visitor center.

Stephenson's Depot

This area at the northern end of the battlefield is interpreted by Civil War Trails signs at the intersection of Old Charles Town and Milburn roads.

Sheridan's Field Hospital at Shawnee Springs

Located along the Winchester Green Circle Linear Park is the site of one of the largest field hospitals of the Civil War. Signage describes the state-of-the-art system used to heat the almost 500 tents in this sprawling facility used during and after Sheridan's campaign.

Signal Knob, including Middletown, Strasburg, and Front Royal

Pages 24-27

National Park Service Visitor Contact Station

Orientation center with interpretive exhibits and displays, fiber optic map on battle, and driving tours, maps and brochures. 7712 Main Street, Middletown.

Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Headquarters and Hupp's Hill Civil War Park

The CCBF Headquarters in Middletown interprets the Battle of Cedar Creek, and Hupp's Hill Civil War Park in Strasburg interprets Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign. Both sites are operated by the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation.



Third Winchester Battlefield Park



Depiction of Sheridan's Field Hospital



Belle Grove Plantation

Belle Grove Plantation

This antebellum plantation complex owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and managed by Belle Grove, Inc. interprets the pre-war story of this historic site as well as its role as a headquarters and focal point of the Battle of Cedar Creek.

Cedar Creek Battlefield

Other battle sites open to visitors include the 8th Vermont Monument Trail, the 19th Corps Trench Trail, Thoburn's Redoubt, and more. The NPS's self-guided tour brochure and CD audio tour (available at the Visitor Contact Station) can help you discover these sites.

Fisher's Hill Battlefield

Just south of Strasburg along US 11, travelers will encounter the first of several Virginia Civil War Trails signs that describe this "Gibraltar of the Valley" and the Battle of Fisher's Hill. Following Battlefield Road west of I-81 takes you to Ramseur's Hill, a one-mile walking trail at the site of the flanking movement that turned the tide of this battle. This site is owned by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Tom's Brook Battlefield

Inside the Shenandoah County Park south of the town of Toms Brook, there is a Virginia Civil War Trails sign that describes this battle.

Guard Hill Battlefield

A Civil War Trails marker on the battle is located off Riverton Road, north of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

New Market, including Luray and areas of Page County

Pages 28-31

Edinburg Mill and Museum

In the town of Edinburg stands one of the few mills that survived The Burning. Trails signage tells its story.

Civil War Trails Signage in Luray and Page County

Located throughout Page County are a number of Virginia Civil War Trails roadside markers telling the story of Sheridan's campaign—from his effort to cut Early off at Fisher's Hill to the destruction of The Burning. A printed driving tour of Page County's Civil War sites is available at the regional visitor center in downtown Luray.

Rockingham, including Harrisonburg and areas of Page County

Pages 32-35

Silver Lake Mill

Site of the old Daniel Bowman Mill, destroyed during The Burning. Trails signage here describes the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy" and the role of mills in the Valley's agricultural economy.

Downtown Dayton

Virginia Civil War Trails signs describe the fear and retaliation during the dark days of The Burning.

Site of the Death of Lt. John Meigs

Here the son of the U.S. quartermaster was shot and killed. In retaliation, Sheridan ordered the wholesale destruction of not only the barns and mills of the surrounding area but also homes. Trails signage interprets this story.

Lacey Spring

This is the site of one of the final engagements of the war in the Valley—a December 1864 cavalry skirmish between Union Gen. George Custer and Confederate Gen. Thomas Rosser.

Breneman-Turner Mill

The Breneman-Turner Mill survived The Burning, despite being set on fire once and catching fire a second time. Trails signage tells the story.



Interpretive signage along the walking trail at Ramseur's Hill on the Fisher's Hill battlefield



Edinburg Mill



The Heritage Museum in historic Dayton, home of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Historical Society.



Site of the Death of Lt. John Meigs