

“If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost!”

Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign

Experiencing the Story Today

Timeline of Jackson's Valley Campaign

Winter 1861-62

Jackson in winter headquarters in 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.

7 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

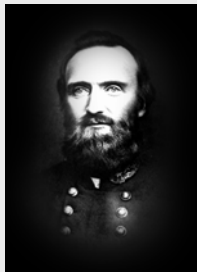
Jackson defeats Frémont at Cross Keys.

9 June

Jackson defeats Shields at Port Republic.

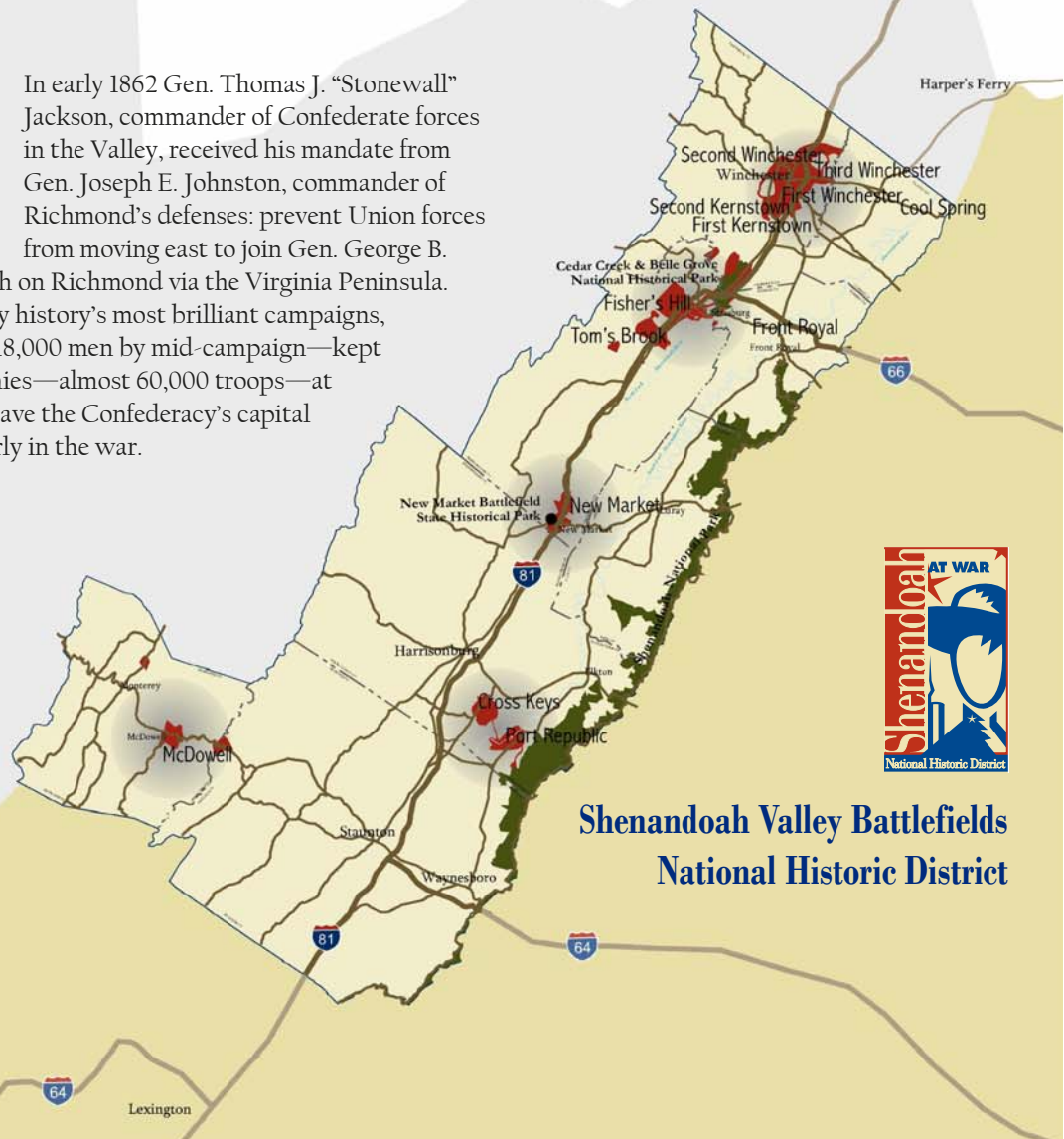
Mid-June

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



In early 1862 Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, commander of Confederate forces in the Valley, received his mandate from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, commander of Richmond’s defenses: prevent Union forces from moving east to join Gen. George B.

McClellan’s push on Richmond via the Virginia Peninsula. In one of military history’s most brilliant campaigns, Jackson—with 18,000 men by mid-campaign—kept three Union armies—almost 60,000 troops—at bay, helping to save the Confederacy’s capital from capture early in the war.



Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District



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 more than 140 years ago. Jackson's army marched up and down and back up the Valley, tracing and retracing their own steps. So following the trail of Jackson's troops chronologically can be a challenge for the leisure traveler. However, there are numerous places in the Valley today that tell the story of this famous campaign and many visitors choose to experience these sites geographically, traveling north to south or south to north through the Valley.

This guide is intended to help visitors find these sites geographically rather than chronologically. However, for true enthusiasts who would prefer to follow Jackson's path, the timeline at left will help you understand how to rearrange the order of the sites in this guide. This publication is a companion to 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 Shenandoah Valley. It offers a concise but comprehensive history of this remarkable campaign.

A list of retailers is available in the “Visit the Valley” area at www.ShenandoahAtWar.org.

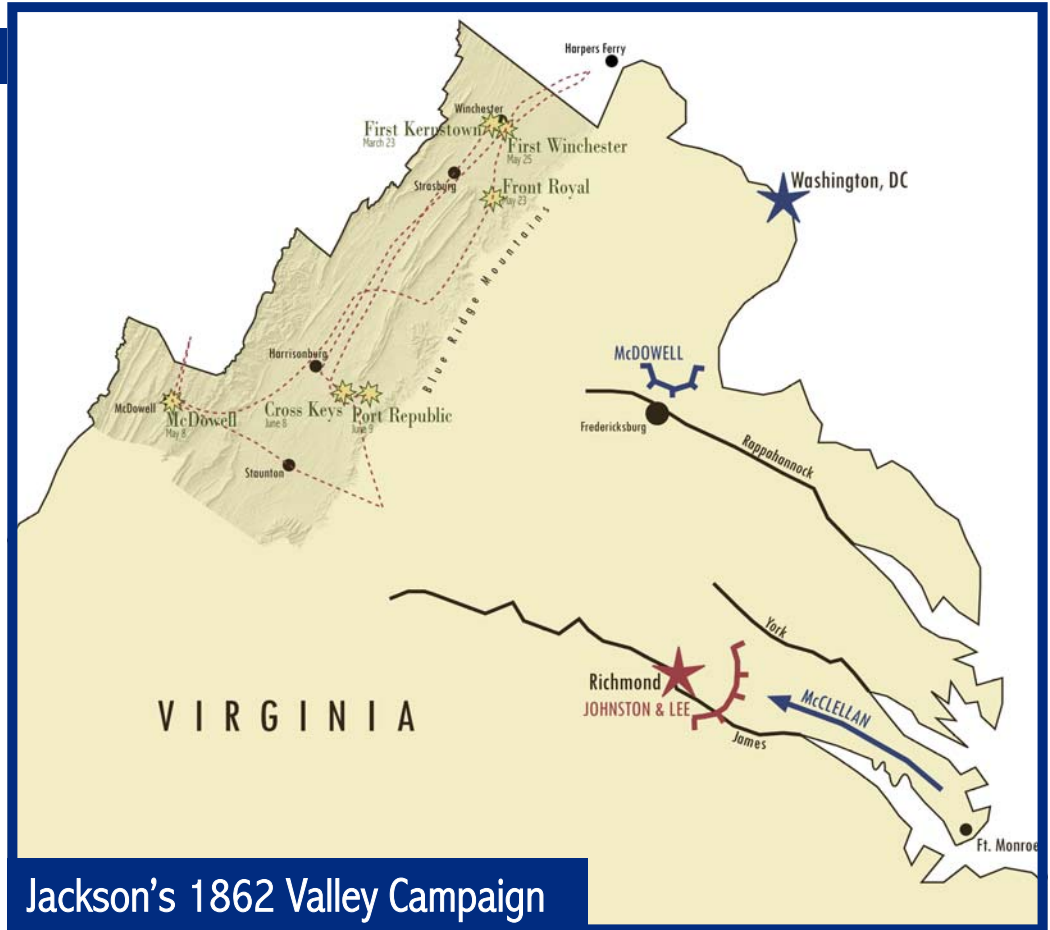
A Brief History

In the spring of 1862, a Federal 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. But 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 Battle of McDowell. He then turned north and marched his army more than 100 miles before defeating Federal forces under Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Front Royal and Winchester.

Jackson pursued Banks north, almost to Harpers Ferry. In early June, two separate Union armies of 20,000 each moved to unite and crush Jackson in a trap. Jackson masterfully fought back-to-back battles at Cross Keys and Port Republic over two days, preventing the Federals from combining. After these "twin battles" and defeats, Union forces withdrew from the Valley. Jackson, having accomplished his mission, departed the Valley 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, causing double the Federal casualties, and seizing countless supplies, Jackson tied up elements of three separate Federal armies—over 60,000 men—and prevented many of them from joining the main Federal effort against Richmond.



Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign

Winchester and Frederick County

First Kernstown and First Winchester — Printed Battlefield Driving Tour

A printed battlefield driving tour for these two battles is available at most Civil War sites in the Winchester and Frederick County area. Two visitor orientation centers also offer additional information about the Winchester area Civil War story. The Winchester-Frederick County Visitor Center is open daily 9am to 5pm and is located at 1360 S. Pleasant Valley Road just north of the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and Millwood Avenue. (Follow the blue visitor center signs.) Shenandoah University's History & Tourism Center operates a Civil War orientation center at its facility in Old Town Winchester at 20 S. Cameron Street. It is open Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm.

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. The museum is located at 415 N. Braddock Street at the north end of Old Town Winchester. Open daily April through October, 10am to 4pm (Sundays Noon to 4pm). Open Friday through Sunday in the winter. Adults \$5.00; Seniors \$4.50; Students \$2.50; Family \$12.00. For more information, call 540-667-3242 or visit www.winchesterhistory.org.

Winchester and Frederick County (continued)

Pritchard-Grim Farm on the Kernstown Battlefield

Central portion of the First Kernstown battlefield. Site includes the original Pritchard House (not regularly open to the public), a visitor center, walking trails, and interpretive signage. Take Interstate 81 exit 310 and follow signs for U.S. 11 north. Follow U.S. 11 north for approximately one mile, passing through three traffic lights. Turn left at the Saturn dealership onto Battle Park Drive and proceed straight through the entrance gate into the battlefield park. Open weekends May through October: Saturdays 10am to 4pm, Sundays Noon to 4pm. Free. www.KernstownBattle.org

Rose Hill Farm on the Kernstown Battlefield

Site of the final stages of the First Battle of Kernstown. Rose Hill is owned and managed by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. The interpretive trail is not yet open to the public on a regular basis, but a roadside marker provides an excellent synopsis of the fighting that occurred at this location. From U.S. 11 in Winchester (Valley Avenue), turn west onto Cedar Creek Grade, proceed for approximately two miles and turn left (at flashing yellow light) onto Jones Road. Follow Jones Road for six-tenths of a mile. The Virginia Civil War Trails marker will be on your left. www.ShenandoahMuseum.org.

Strasburg

Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp's Hill

A new exhibit features Jackson's 1862 Valley campaigns. Located one mile north of Strasburg on U.S. 11. Open daily 10am-5pm. \$4 adults. For more information, call 540-465-5884 or visit www.waysideofva.com/stonewalljackson.

Front Royal

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. Follow blue visitor center signs to 414 East Main Street, Front Royal. The center is open daily 9:00am to 5:00pm. For more information, call 800-338-2576 or visit www.frontroyalbattle.us.

Luray and Page County

Civil War Trails Signage

Located throughout Page County are more than a dozen Virginia Civil War Trails roadside markers telling the story of Jackson's use of the Page Valley during his campaign. An excellent guidebook about Page County's Civil War story is available at the regional visitor center in downtown Luray. The center is open Monday through Saturday, 9am to 5pm and Sunday, Noon to 4pm. For more information, call 888-743-3915.

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County

Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields

A printed driving tour of the final two battlefields of Jackson's campaign is available at the Harrisonburg Visitor Center, 212 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg (540) 432-8935) or you may pick up a copy of the tour at its first stop: Take Interstate 81 exit 245 (Port Republic Road), follow Port Republic Road for approximately 7 miles, passing Cross Keys Road. On your right will be a Virginia Civil War Trails pull-off. Attached to an orientation kiosk will be a box containing copies of the driving tour. 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 the Union artillery during the Battle of Port Republic.

Heritage Center, Dayton

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. The center is located at the corner of Bowman and High Streets in Dayton and is open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. For more information, call 540-879-2681 or visit www.heritagecenter.com.



Harrisonburg and Rockingham County (continued)

Miller-Kite House, Elkton

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. It is open Sunday afternoons or by appointment. For more information, call 540-298-1717.

North River Bridge, Bridgewater

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. The markers are located in a town park along the north bank of the river on the west side of Va. 42 in town.

Augusta and Highland Counties

Ramsey's Draft

Virginia Civil War Trails signage along U.S. 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 U.S. 250.

Fort Johnson

Running along the top of Shenandoah Mountain 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. Follow U.S. 250 to the top of the mountain and look for National Forest signage indicating the pull-off.

Sitlington's Hill

Along U.S. 250 as you approach McDowell from the east, 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.

Highland Museum & Heritage Center 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. As you enter the village on U.S. 250, after crossing Crab Run, veer right onto Va. 654 and then turn left onto Va. 645 — the center will be on your right. It is open weekends April through October. For more information call 540-396-4478 or visit www.highlandhistoricalsociety.com/museum.htm

Camp Allegheny

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

Lexington

While Lexington does not fall within the boundary of the National Historic District, it 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. Lexington is approximately 40 minutes south of Staunton along Interstate 81. For more information about visiting Lexington, call 877-453-9822 or visit www.lexingtonvirginia.com.



This guide was produced by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the non-profit manager of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. The National Historic District is a collection of battlefields, historic sites, and trails that tell the story of the Valley's Civil War experience. The Battlefields Foundation and partners throughout the National Historic District work to preserve the battlefields and share this unique history. For more information about visiting the National Historic District, the work of the Battlefields Foundation and its partners, or how you can help, please visit www.ShenandoahAtWar.org.

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