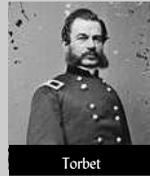


Milford/Overall *

While at least three minor engagements took place here, the most significant engagement was in September 1864 when a force of approximately 1,800 Confederates (cavalry with artillery) held back a Union force of approximately 5,000

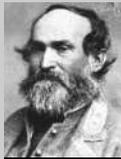
(cavalry with artillery). It might be said that the Confederate effort on that day prolonged the War in the Shenandoah Valley, the Union cavalry force being stalled in crossing the Massanutten and cutting off Gen. Jubal Early's retreat after being defeated by Gen. Phillip Sheridan at the Battle of Fisher's Hill. This site was also a temporary winter (1864-65) quarter for the Confederate cavalry, but they did not remain long, the Page Valley then being unable to sustain the necessary feed for a cavalry division because of the burnings of October 1864. Location: 38° 48.543'N, 78° 20.746'W. (340 North on Page/Warren Line)



Torbet

Fisher's Hill and Yager's Mill

In September 1864, Union Gen. Phillip Sheridan detached two cavalry divisions under Gen. Alfred Torbet to move into Page Valley. While the bulk of Sheridan's army would strike Gen. Jubal Early's Confederates at Fisher's Hill. Torbet was to cross the Massanutten Mountain and cut-off Early's avenue of retreat. This maneuver first met resistance from well-entrenched Confederates at Milford on Sept 22. Unsuccessful at breaking the line, Torbet withdrew to Front Foyal. By Sept. 24, Torbet had learned of Sheridan's victory at Fisher's Hill and marched to Luray, catching up with remnants of Confederate cavalry under Col. William Payne. Gen. George Custer and Col. Charles Lowell, Jr. attacked Payne's brigade with two Federal Cavalry brigades and artillery. Location: 38° 40.281'N, 78°27.442'W. (340 North just outside Luray)



Early



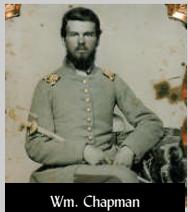
Lowell



Chapman Ruffner House *

Built by immigrant Peter Ruffner about 1739, Before the War, William Chapman bought it and three sons reared here later fought for the Confederacy. For their exploits as members of Col. John Mosby's Rangers, two of them, Lt. Col. William Henry Chapman and Capt. Samuel Chapman, became known as the "Fighting

Chapmans". After the war began, they and their brother Edmond served in the local Dixie Artillery, which disbanded and Edmond joined the Purcell Artillery, while his brothers joined Mosby's Rangers. After Gen. Robert Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Chapman offered the Ranger's surrender to Union Gen. Winfield Hancock, but Mosby opted to disband them instead. Complimenting Mosby's right-hand man, Hancock described Chapman as "important as Mosby". An ordained minister, Sam Chapman was known as Mosby's "Fighting Parson" and was said to have "embraced combat as if it were an article of faith." Location: 38° 40.163'N, 78°27.291'W. (340 North just outside Luray)



Wm. Chapman



Cavalry Engagement

In mid-June 1862, after Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Campaign, Brig. Gen. Beverly H. Robertson's cavalry screened from Union observation Jackson's movement east to join the Army of Northern Virginia near Richmond. Robertson posted two companies of cavalry here., under Harry Gilmore. On 29 June, a Federal reconnaissance force of Maine, Michigan, and Vermont cavalry rode south from Front Royal to locate Jackson. About 9:00 AM, 30 June, the union cavalry charged the outnumbered Confederates and dispersed them. Not finding Jackson, who unknown to them, had left the Valley, the Federals returned to Front Royal. Location 38° 40.24'N, 78° 27.434'W. (340 North just outside Luray)



Confederate Heroes Monument

According to one source, this monument (also known as "Barbee's Monument") was inspired by a visit by the sculptor to the battlefields of Gettysburg. While Union monuments were numerous, at that time (1898) there was but one for the Confederate soldiers. Whatever the actual inspiration, Herbert Barbee got the idea for the pose from his youth. At some point, upon passing through Thornton's Gap, Barbee saw a Confederate sentry standing in a snowstorm with the muzzle of his musket pointed down to keep the snow out. Portraying a Confederate soldier without socks, shoes with holes, and tattered clothing, the monument differed from any other known. Dedicated July 21, 1898. Location: 38° 39.91'N, 78° 26.904'W. (211 East Business). When dedicated no Confederate veterans were on the program nor were any identified as having marched in the grand procession. In 1912, the members of a local camp of the United Confederate Veterans began raising funds for a monument of their own. That monument was dedicated in 1918. Location: 38° 39.7197'N, 78° 27.715'W. (340 South in "circle")



Slave Auction Block or Step-Down Stone

There has been substantial debate over the "stone" that now stands at Inn Lawn Park. A tribute marker beside the block reads: "This native sandstone block...which stood at the corner of Main and Court Streets at the Chamber of Commerce building...was used as a perch for slaves about to be sold at auction...The stone is said to be one of the few now in existence." In his regular column in the Page News & Courier, Jacob Seekford (1857-1939) wrote perhaps the most poignant account of slavery in Page County: "In 1856, when the southern slave buyers would come into this country and would buy slaves and take them to the south in large droves of colored men and women. In 1856, just in front of the door of the house where "Skeet" Good lives in Marksville, was the place where they sold slaves..." Whether an "slave auction block" or a carriage/horse "step-down stone", the thought remains that this block is a historic symbol to Page County's past. Location: 38.663849, 78.459026 W. (Just off 340 South on Zerkel Street)



Post card of the old "Laurance Hotel" showing the original location of the stone used as a "step-down" stone



Page County Court House

In May 1864 when erroneous reports reached Luray that Union Soldiers had burned the Courthouse in Front Royal, the citizens of Luray decided to protect their public records by moving them from the Courthouse to a cave located several miles west. When the Union troops entered Luray, they burned several industrial buildings and mills, but the Courthouse was not touched. When the records were retrieved in December 1864 many documents had suffered water damage from being stored in the wet cave. Location: 116 South Court Street, Luray or 38.6634089, 78.464623. (211 Business West just off Main Street on South Court Street)



Aventine *

Built around 1852 by Peter Brock Borst, with no nails and entirely "pinned and mortised." With the election of republican President Abraham Lincoln in 1860, Virginia set on the verge of joining sister southern states in secession. Page County citizens found the best representative for the state's Secession Convention in Borst. In both of the votes on April 4 and 17 respectively, Borst voted for secession, helping to seal Virginia's role in the Confederacy. Having been a representative to the Secession Convention however, Borst had been earmarked as a target for Federal aggression during the war. On July 22, 1862 an expedition under the command of Col. William Lloyd entered the town of Luray. The town was immediately placed under marshal law and Captain James Abell of the 6th Ohio acted the role of provost-marshal, with his company as the provost guard at the Courthouse. "Aventine" was seized and used as a hospital. PRIVATE RESIDENCE. Location: 38° 39.49'N, 78° 27.53'W. (211 Business West just off Main Street on South Court Street)



Willow Grove Mill

On October 2, 1864, elements of the 2nd US Cavalry Division under Col. William H. Powell reached this area near Luray and quickly laid waste to the mill. Amanda Moore, wife of the mill's owner, later recalled, "We had the mill, sawmill, barn...and all the stabling, granary, corn crib, and everything burnt...the barns were full of wheat and also there was a great deal in the mill." In addition to Willow Grove, several other flour mills, barns, sawmills, stables, tanneries and lumberyards in Page County also fell under the torch within the next 36 hours. These event and others like them were part of Gen. Phillip Sheridan's infamous "burnings" in the Shenandoah Valley. Location: 38° 39.2413'N, 78° 27.716' W. (340 South just outside Luray)



Graves' Chapel *

On November 24, 1862, Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson moved through Page County toward Fisher's Gap to rejoin the main body of the Army of Northern Virginia. Jackson was in command of the newly organized Second Corps, with more than 32,000 men. Bivouacking for the night at the nearby village of Hawksbill, Jackson resumed the march the following morning. At the top of the Blue Ridge, he was said to have looked back upon his troops and his beloved valley that he had so staunchly defended. During the winter of 1863-1864 Graves Chapel served briefly as a field hospital. The two graves there are testimony to the passing of Confederate troops through the area at that time. Calvary. Location: 38° 34.592'N, 78° 29.257'W. (340 South, Stanley)



Execution of Summers and Koontz

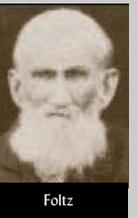
On May 22, 1865, after the Civil War ended, Capt. George W. Summers, Sgt. I. Newton Koontz, and two other armed veterans of Co. D, 7th Virginia Cavalry, en route to obtain their paroles, robbed six Federal cavalrymen of their horses near Woodstock. The horses were returned the next day to the 192d Ohio Volunteer Infantry at Rude's Hill in Shenandoah County. Despite assurances that all was forgiven, Lt. Col. Cyrus Hussy, temporarily commanding the 192d later ordered the men arrested at their homes in Page County. The other two escaped, but Summers and Koontz were shot without a trial on Rude's Hill on 27 June. Location: 38° 33.762'N, 78° 35.197'W. (340 South)



Catherine Furnace *

Built in 1846, Catherine Furnace was one of three Page County furnaces in operation during the Civil War. Ironmaster, Noah Foltz, a secret Union sympathizer, helped Federal soldiers escape from Page County, across the Massanutten Mountain to Fort

Valley. After he mistakenly helped Confederates disguised as Union soldiers "escape", however, Foltz was arrested but was soon released on bond to continue work at the furnace. The 1st Vermont Cavalry made the only known attempt to destroy the furnace on May 7, 1862. However, because of the ensuing engagement at Somerville Heights, the cavalry contingent never reached here. Noah Foltz was also conscripted into Confederate military service in the 8th Battalion Virginia Reserves, although it is very unlikely that he ever saw service. There is a local legend that the handprint that can be seen in one of the iron support arches above one of the furnace openings is that of Noah Foltz, he having to put his hand, along with a rat's tail to show his betrayal to the Confederacy, before the iron cooled. Location: 38° 33.465'N, 78° 38.127'W. (340 South)



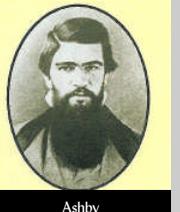
Foltz



Hotchkiss

The Burning of Red Bridge

Gen. Stonewall Jackson' command had worked its way up the Valley to join Gen. Richard Ewell's division near Conrad's Store. On April 19, 1862, Jackson dispatched his mapmaker Jedediah Hotchkiss to burn the three bridges over the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Plagued with problems, in the end Red Bridge was the only one to be burned while the destruction of Columbia and White House bridges was thwarted by the combination of "apple-jack" and Federal resistance. Angered by lack of discipline in his cavalry, on April 24, Jackson re-assigned the Valley cavalry. Infuriated, the cavalry commander Col. Turner Ashby resigned and immediately caused a rife within Jackson's command. In the end, Jackson backed "squared down". Location: 38° 31.627'N, 78° 35.694'W. (340 South)



Ashby



Rube Kite House - Dogtown

Somerville Heights

Early in May 1862, Gen. Stonewall Jackson moved most of his army east over the Blue Ridge leaving Gen. Richard S. Ewell's division at Conrad's Store (Elkton) to hold the Federals in the Shenandoah Valley. Gen. Jeremiah C. Sullivan, guarding nearby Columbia Bridge, ordered Col. Robert S. Foster's 13th Indiana to reconnoiter here to "burned bridge" on the morning of May 7. After marching 2 1/2 miles past Honeyville, Foster encounters Gen. Richard Taylor's Louisiana brigade and supporting Virginia cavalry, driving the Confederates back to Dogtown. A company of Vermont Calvary stumbled into the "reserve of the enemy" and engaged Confederate forces "for a half-hour under most terrific fire". Location: 38° 31.626'N, 78° 35.692'W. (340 South)



Shenandoah Iron Works *

During the Civil War, many thousands of troops marched along the Luray to Staunton Turnpike, which entered Page County near Price's Mill and ran along the river. In May 1862, Confederate General Richard S. Ewell's men passed by on their way to join Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's attack on Front Royal. About two weeks later, Union Gen. James Shields came by twice, en route to and retreating after the Battle of Port Republic. Although Union soldiers devastated nearby Shenandoah Valley farms during "The Burning" in October 1864, they did not destroy any ironworks. In command of the devastation in the Page Valley, Col. William H. Powell, spared the furnaces in Page County, possibly attributable to his being an iron man himself. Location: 38° 29.068'N, 78° 37.347'W. (340 South in Shenandoah)



Price's Mill

Shields' Advance and Retreat

Having successfully driven Gen. Nathaniel Bank's Union Army from the Shenandoah Valley in late May 1862, Gen. Stonewall Jackson's "foot cavalry" had a little time to rest. Union forces under Gen. John Fremont were bearing down from the North, and Gen. James Shields was passing towards the Page Valley. In order to delay Shields, Jackson ordered the destruction of the White House and Columbia Bridge in the Page Valley, resulting in Shields being delayed for three days and forced to abandon his plan to cross the Massanutten. By June 7, elements of Shields' army began moving toward Port Republic, crossing Naked Creek. In the days that followed, Jackson defeated the two armies in piece meal fashion. On reaching the area near Price's Mill, Shields' defeated army finally came to a halt and bivouacked before continuing the march to Luray on June 10, and on to Front Royal. Location: 38° 27.929'N, 78° 37.04'W. (340 South)



Stonewall Jackson Marches

The Shenandoah Valley was the scene of much of Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson's activity during the first two years of the Civil War. His swift and secret marches earned his troops the name of "foot cavalry." Jackson's Valley Campaign supplied the lean Confederacy with captured materials of war. His victories resulted in many Union Troops being withheld from the First Sustained campaign against Richmond, for the defense of Washington, D. C. Location: 38° 32.033'N, 78° 25.35'W. (Skyline Drive - North)



Jackson's Last Mountain Crossing

In November, 1862, Stonewall Jackson moved 32,000 troops from Antietam to Fredericksburg. The army came through the deep notch at New Market Gap. They followed the course of the Old Gordonsville Turnpike which crossed the Shenandoah (Page) Valley, near the present town of Stanley. They struggled up and over the Blue Ridge, through Fisher's Gap and down the eastern slope. Location: 38° 32.034'N, 78° 25.349'W. (Skyline Drive North)



Pass Run and Thornton Gap

In the wake of a sharp fight near Front Royal at Wapping Heights on July 23, 1863, Confederate troops from Gen. Richard S. Ewell's corps withdrew to the Page Valley. On July 25, Gen. Robert E. Rodes' division camped near Bethlehem Lutheran Church (otherwise known as Brick Church) and along Pass Run. The soldiers rested the following day, a Sunday, and many attended the Rev. Beverly Tucker Lacy's sermon at headquarters that morning. Before Stonewall Jackson's death that spring, Lacy has been his "field" minister. Wounded Confederates from the fight at Wapping Heights were taken into the town of Luray, probably after portions of Ewell's Corps arrived here at the church. At least one soldier, Ensign George Hardie of the 2nd Battalion Georgia Infantry, died here and is buried in the small cemetery near Green Hill Cemetery. On July 27, Rodes' and Johnson's divisions crossed Thornton Gap into Rappahannock County. Location: 38° 40.411'N, 78° 22.972'W. (211 West)



Elk Run Meeting House

Built prior to 1846 near Mill Creek, moved adjacent to Luray Caverns for preservation and interpretation. During the Civil War both armies passed by the old meeting house en route to different conflicts in the valley. General Kimball stayed along Mill Creek. During that time soldiers used the meeting house for refuge. Many northern soldiers from the "Gibraltar Brigade" including the 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the 14th Indiana signed their names to the wall. Confederates Jacob S. Painter and Benjamin D. Engle from the 12th Virginia Cavalry also signed their names late in the war on the post beam inside. Valley Brethren minister Elder John Kline gave many services to the members of Elk Run. Sadly, though permitted to move between the lines on account of his religious obligations, Elder Kline was later murdered by renegade Confederates near his home in Rockingham County in the late spring of 1864. Location: 38° 39.8629'N, 78° 28.8737'W. (211 West)



Calendine

Built ca. 1840 by William Townsend Young, the adjacent building served as a general store and stage stop on the Sperryville-New Market Turnpike which ran immediately in front of the building. Also, in later years, the home of Herbert Barbee sculptor of the Confederate Heroes Monument. Young was subsequently elected captain of the Page Volunteers, later Company K, 10th Virginia Infantry. Location: 38° 39.475'N, 78° 30.752'W. (211 West in Hamburg)



Mauk Meeting House

Built for religious purposes by the "Neighbors", mainly Mennonites from Switzerland and southern Germany ca. 1799. According to Stonewall Jackson biographer James I. Robertson, the general halted late on May 22 at "a church to the east of the White House Bridge". It is probable that the Mauk Meeting House in Hamburg is that church. Once here, Jackson learned that Gen. Richard S. Ewell with his two Confederate brigades, was just a few miles ahead. According to Robertson, "Jackson prayed long and hard into the night." Realizing that he held the upper hand in strength against a foe less than a day's march to the north, "he sought to curb the excitement with expressions of faith." Location: 38° 39.514'N, 78° 30.729'W. (211 West in Hamburg)



White House Bridge

On May 21, 1862 Confederate Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's Valley Army plodded north along this road to threaten Front Royal and out flank Union Gen. Bank's position at Strasburg. With the addition of Gen. Richard Ewell's Division, Jackson's command numbered nearly 17,000 men and 50 guns. Jackson's Valley Army reached Front Royal on May 23. There, aided by spy Belle Boyd, it overwhelmed Banks' 1,000-man detachment and continued toward Winchester to attack the main Union Army. In response to Jackson's bold moves, a two-pronged Federal advance was converged at Strasburg in an attempt to cut-off Jackson. Jackson marched south to escape. Two Federal columns followed in close pursuit, Gen. John Fremont on the Valley Pike and Gen. James Shields in Page Valley. If Shields could march quickly enough to overtake Jackson's force in the main Valley, he and Fremont could unite and attach with a superior force. To prevent this combination, Jackson ordered his cavalry commander, Turner Ashby, to destroy both the White House and Columbia bridges. The White House Bridge was burned at 4:00 AM on June 2, only one hour before Shields advance guard reached the river and Shields was forced to abandon his plan. Location: 38° 38.858'N, 78° 31.873'W. (211 West)



Jackson's 2nd Corps Established

With more than 32,000 soldiers Jackson's force made its way up the snow covered Shenandoah Valley toward New Market and then toward Columbia Bridge by way of the gap. On reaching a point atop the Massanutten Mountain, sometime late in the evening on November 23, 1862, Jackson took the rare opportunity to rest and camp nearby. The following morning Jackson emerged from his tent and unintentionally prompted his staff to redirect their awe upon the old hero of Manassas. Having recently been promoted to lieutenant general and wearing a new coat given him by General J.E.B. Stuart, a tall hat purchased by his mapmaker, and a captured sword donated by a cavalryman, Jackson ignored the stares and boldly announced to his staff, "Young gentlemen, this is no longer the headquarters of the Army of the Valley, but of the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia." Location: 38° 38.564'N, 78° 36.674'W. (211 West at New Market Gap)

EXAMPLE Draft Copy Only

SHENANDOAH VALLEY 1861 - 1865
SCALE OF MILES 0 5 10 15 20 25
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A Historical Driving Tour

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