

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Battle of Second Kernstown

By **Kyle Rothemich**, National Park Service

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Patchan, Scott	<i>Shenandoah Summer The 1864 Valley Campaign</i> . Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Cooling, Benjamin F.	<i>Jubal Early’s Raid on Washington: 1864</i> . Baltimore: The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company, 1989.
Early, Jubal A.	<i>Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early C.S.A. Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States</i> . Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott, 1912.
Gallagher, Gary	<i>Stephen Dodson Ramseur Lee’s Gallant General</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985.
Noyalas, Jonathan	“Early’s Costliest Victory The Second Battle of Kernstown and its Impact on Union Strategy in the Shenandoah Valley, 1864.” <i>Winchester Frederick County Historical Society Journal</i> 14 (Fall 2002): 65-73.

Patchan, Scott	“George Crook’s Tin Ear.” <i>Civil War Times</i> 51, no. 1 (2012):50-55.
Pond, George	<i>The Shenandoah Valley in 1864</i> . New York: Charles Scriber’s Sons, 1883.
Thomas, Lewis	<i>Shenandoah in Flames: The Valley Campaigns of 1864</i> . Alexandria: Time Life Books, 1987.
Wert, Jeffery	“The Old Killing Ground; The Second Battle of Kernstown, 1864.” <i>Civil War Times Illustrated</i> 23, no. 8 (1984): 40-47.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Kernstown Battlefield Association	The Kernstown Battlefield Association owns and operate the Kernstown Battlefield on the Pritchard-Grim Farm in Winchester, Virginia. The address is 610 Battle Park Drive Winchester, Virginia. The Battlefield is open Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sundays noon- 4:00 p.m. May to October. The website is: http://www.kernstownbattle.org/ .
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation preserves and interprets the region’s significant Civil War battlefields and related historic sites. Their website is: http://www.shenandoahatwar.org/ .
Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau	The Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau offers guided Civil War tours from June-October. Their website is: http://www.visitwinchesterva.com/
Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society	The Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society is a non-profit organization of individuals interested in the preservation and expansion of knowledge about the historical and cultural heritage of the Norther Shenandoah Valley, with geographical focus on the City of Winchester and Frederic County, Virginia. Their website is: http://www.winchesterhistory.org/about_us.htm

Web Resources

Other Sources

Scholars

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Google Keywords

As the Army of Northern Virginia began to dig in around Petersburg in June 1864, Lee sent his Second Corps under Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early west towards the Shenandoah Valley. Lee told Early to secure the vital Confederate rail depot at Lynchburg and to cross the Potomac and threaten Washington, diverting Grant's attention from the siege developing at Petersburg. Early approached Washington but, beaten at the Battle of Monocacy, he retreated back up the Shenandoah Valley. Grant diverted troops from Petersburg to the Valley to protect Washington and defeat Early. On July 24, 1864 Early attacked Union forces in the Valley under Brigadier General George Crook at Kernstown aiming to defeat them before they could be joined by Grant's reinforcements, and to clear the way for Early to retreat to Virginia. The battle started about 10:00 a.m. By midafternoon while the Confederates engaged Crook's center, Major General Breckinridge outflanked the Federals on their left with one division and broke Crook's entire left wing. By early evening the Federal right wing had also broken and fled as Major General Dodson Ramseur's men dominated the fighting on that flank. The federal center consisting of one division was then under attack by three Confederate divisions from three directions. This broke and retreated as well, pursued by Early. By 10:00 p.m. the federals had retreated 15 miles and escaped under cover of darkness. Casualties were 200 Confederates and 1,200 Federals. By late July Early controlled the Shenandoah Valley. Grant sent Major General Phil Sheridan to take command of all the Union forces in the Valley and by the fall he finally defeated the Confederates and during what came to be known as The Burning, destroyed the agricultural ability of the Valley to support Lee at Richmond.
