

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

“An Omen of the Final Sunset for the Confederacy”: Sheridan’s 1864 Valley Campaign

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Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Wert, Jeffrey D.	<i>From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864.</i> Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1997.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Beck, Brandon H. and Roger U. Delauter, Jr.	<i>The Third Battle of Winchester.</i> Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1997.
Coffey, David	<i>Sheridan’s Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Years of the Civil War.</i> Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.
Cooling, III, Benjamin Franklin	<i>Jubal Early: Robert E. Lee’s “Bad Old Man”.</i> Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.
Davis, Daniel T. and Phillip S. Greenwalt	<i>Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864.</i> El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2013.
Early, Jubal A.	<i>A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence in the Confederate States of America.</i> Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2001.

Gallagher, ed., Gary W.	<i>Struggle for the Shenandoah: Essays on the 1864 Valley Campaign.</i> Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1991.
_____.	<i>The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
Heatwole, John L.	<i>The Burning: Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley.</i> Charlottesville, VA: Rockbridge Publishing, 1998.
Lepa, Jack H.	<i>The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864.</i> Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2003.
Lewis, Thomas A.	<i>The Guns of Cedar Creek.</i> New York: Harper & Row, 1988.
Mahr, Theodore C.	<i>The Battle of Cedar Creek: Showdown in the Shenandoah, October 1-30, 1864.</i> Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1992.
Morris, Jr., Roy	<i>Sheridan: The Life and Wars of General Phil Sheridan.</i> New York: Crown, 1992.
Noyalas, Jonathan A.	<i>The Battle of Cedar Creek: Victory from the Jaws of Defeat.</i> Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.
_____.	<i>The Battle of Fisher's Hill: Breaking the Shenandoah Valley's Gibraltar.</i> Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013.
_____.	<i>Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion, and Reconciliation.</i> Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2015.
Noyalas, Jonathan A. and Nancy T. Sorrells, eds.	<i>"We Learned that We are Indivisible": Sesquicentennial Reflections on the Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley.</i> Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 2015.
Patchan, Scott C.	<i>The Last Battle of Winchester: Phil Sheridan, Jubal Early and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign August 7-September 19, 1864.</i> El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2013.
Taylor, James	<i>With Sheridan up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864: Leaves from a Special Artists Sketch Book and Diary.</i> Dayton, OH: Morningside House, 1989.
Time Life Books, eds.	<i>Voices of the Civil War: Shenandoah 1864.</i> Alexandria, VA: Time Life Books, 1998.

Whitehorne, Joseph W. A.	<i>Battle of Cedar Creek: Self-Guided Tour.</i> Middletown, VA: Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, 2006.
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Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundations manages the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. This organization, in addition to preserving battlefield land, owns and interprets land at the Third Battle of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Tom's Brook, and Cedar Creek. Their website is: www.shenandoahatwar.org
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park	This is one of the nation's newest national parks. The NPS interprets a wide array of Shenandoah Valley history, but its primary interpretive focus is the Battle of Cedar Creek. The National Park Service Visitor Contact Station is located at 7712 Main Street, Middletown, Virginia 22645. The park is open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Their website is: http://www.nps.gov/cebe/index.htm
Belle Grove Historic Plantation	Building used as the Army of the Shenandoah's headquarters in October 1864. This house museum interprets a wide array of Shenandoah Valley history, the property's role during the Battle of Cedar Creek, and the history of the various families who occupied the home. http://www.bellegrove.org/
Fort Collier Civil War Center	The Fort Collier Civil War Center is an all-volunteer organization which maintains Fort Collier, the position which anchored the left flank of the Confederate line during the Third Battle of Winchester. Their website is: http://fortcollier.com/

Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation	<p>The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation is an all-volunteer organization which owns several hundred acres of land at Cedar Creek and Hupp's Hill. Additionally CCBF operates a museum and hosts an annual reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek on part of the original battlefield. The visitor's center is located at 8437 Valley Pike, Middletown VA, 22645, 540 869 2064. They are open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Their website is: http://ccbf.us/</p>
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Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/	<p><i>The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War</i> was conceived and designed by Dr. Edward Ayers, now President of the University of Richmond. This website contains a treasure trove of primary material from Augusta County, Virginia, and Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Although it covers the immediate prewar and postwar years in addition to the conflict, it contains valuable primary material related to Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign.</p>

Other Sources

Scholars

Name	Email
Jonathan A. Noyalas	jnoyalas01@su.edu
Brandon H. Beck	bbeck1@cableone.net
Eric Campbell	eric_campbell@nps.gov

Précis

Throughout much of the summer of 1864 Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early's Confederate army had the upper hand in the Shenandoah Valley. By late July 1864 Ulysses S. Grant fumed over the inability of Union Forces in the Shenandoah Valley to secure the region, prevent its provender from feeding Confederate armies, and preclude its use as a diversionary theater of war. Grant determined to create a massive force under a competent and aggressive general to crush Early's command and ultimately chose Major General Philip Henry Sheridan to command what became the Army of the Shenandoah. With information supplied by his scouts and Rebecca Wright a union sympathizer in Winchester, Sheridan attacked and defeated Early in the Third Battle of Winchester on September 19. Retreating southwards, Early took up a new position at Fisher's Hill, the narrowest part of the Shenandoah Valley. Here on September 21 and 22 Sheridan again defeated Early who retreated leaving the valley largely undefended. In the last week of September and first week of October Sheridan destroyed barns, farm buildings, iron furnaces, crops and livestock in what came to be called The Burning. Sheridan inflicted a third blow to Confederate morale on October 9 when he defeated Confederate cavalry at the Battle of Tom's Brook. Believing Early was no longer a threat, Sheridan left the army on October 15 to attend meetings in Washington. Stubborn and cantankerous, General Early refused to surrender the Shenandoah Valley without one final attempt to defeat Sheridan. Sheridan returned from Washington reaching Winchester on the night of October 18. At 5:00 a.m. on October 19 Early attacked the Army of the Shenandoah, at its weakest point in its fortified position along Cedar Creek and drove the Union forces back towards Middletown. Receiving reports of artillery fire heard in the distance, Sheridan left Winchester and rode not only to the scene of his army's disaster, but into the realm of legend as the event of Sheridan's famed ride would be forever immortalized in art and poetry by individuals such as Thomas Buchanan Read, Alfred Waud, and Charles Andrus. Taking command of his army Sheridan attacked the Confederates at about 4:00 p.m. and defeated Early's Confederates, reversing his army's fortunes. Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign was over, ending major military operations in the region and finally and permanently wresting the Shenandoah Valley from Confederate control.
