



**Stop 6: Belle Grove** - Belle Grove was built in 1797 by Isaac Hite Jr., grandson of Jost Hite (who built Long Meadow). This plantation served as Sheridan's headquarters before and after the battle. Heavy fighting swirled around the house before the Confederate advance overran this area around 7:00 a.m.

Turn right onto Belle Grove Road. Proceed 0.1 mile.

1. Turn right onto Meadow Mills Road. Proceed 0.8 mile.
2. Turn left onto Veteran Road. Proceed 0.4 mile.
3. Turn right onto State Route 635 (SR 635). Proceed 0.3 mile to Stop 7.
4. **Stop 7 (Middletown Cemetery)** is located at the small gravel parking area in front of the second set of brick entrance gates to Mt. Carmel Cemetery. *Visitors are encouraged to walk into the cemetery, to near the white cinderblock building along the cemetery's first driveway. Please be respectful of the cemetery grounds. This is an active cemetery. (Please do not enter the cemetery grounds if a funeral procession is in progress).*

**Stop 7: Mt. Carmel Cemetery** - Fighting amongst the cemetery headstones, Union Brig. Gen. George Washington Getty's 2,400 man division held this prominent hill for 1 ½ hours (8:00-9:30 a.m.), slowing the Confederate attack for the first time. Getty repulsed two Confederate infantry assaults and then endured a 30 minute bombardment from Early's artillery (located along U.S. Route 11 near the modern factories). Facing a third Confederate attack that threatened to cut him off, Getty ordered a withdrawal.

Proceed 0.3 mile along High Street.

1. Turn right onto Chapel Road. Proceed less than 0.1 mile.
2. Turn left onto Mineral Street. Proceed 0.5 mile to Stop 8.
3. **Stop 8** is located at **Miller's Mill**. Park the car along the right side of the road, opposite the Miller house and just beyond the intersection of Mineral Street and Cougill Road. *The Miller House is privately owned and not open to the public. (Visitors are encouraged to stay in their vehicles).*

**Stop 8: Miller's Mill** - This brick house marks the furthest point of advance for the Confederate army. Early formed his line along Miller Lane (modern Cougill Road), which was then lined with stone walls. As the Confederates halted to reorganize and rest, others went back to pillage the Union camps for much needed food and supplies.

1. Proceed 0.8 mile along Cougill Road.
2. Turn right onto Hites Road. Proceed 0.9 mile.
3. Turn right onto Klines Mill Road. Proceed 0.9 mile to Stop 9.
4. **Stop 9 (Sheridan's Arrival)** is located on the small concrete bridge that spans Meadow Brook. Park your vehicle in the gravel area on the right side of the bridge. *(Visitors are encouraged to stay in their vehicles).*

**Stop 9: Sheridan's Arrival** - Sheridan arrived back in the Valley on October 18<sup>th</sup> and spent the night in Winchester, 15 miles north. On the morning of battle, he was alerted to trouble by the sound of distant artillery and began his famous "Sheridan's Ride" back to his army, arriving around 10:30 near this location. Riding the length of his disorganized battle lines, the sight of Sheridan instantly rallied his men. Sheridan then began to prepare a counterattack which commenced that afternoon.

1. Proceed 0.5 mile to U.S. Route 11.
2. Turn right onto U.S. Route 11. Proceed 1.4 miles south.
3. Turn left onto Skirmisher Lane (opposite Cougill Road) to Stop 10. (This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> entrance into the Lord Fairfax Community College campus).
4. **Stop 10 (Union Counterattack)** is located at the parking lot at the southern end of the Lord Fairfax Community College campus. Please park in the first available parking spaces at the edge of the parking lot. *Visitors are encouraged to visit the state historical marker titled "Battle of Cedar Creek" located at the western end of the parking lot, fronting Route 11. Caution: The campus parking lots can be quite full on weekdays during the fall and spring semesters. Please respect the campus grounds and facilities.*

**Stop 10: Union Counterattack** - This area marks the Confederate line, which stretched across U.S. Route 11 along Miller Lane (Cougill Road); the Miller House is visible in the distance. At 4:00 p.m. the Union counterattack swept across the fields before you and struck the Confederate line here. After fierce resistance, the Confederate line collapsed from west to east, setting off a full-scale retreat. By nightfall Early's army had disintegrated and Cedar Creek had ended as a resounding Union victory.

**For more detailed tours see:**

\*Joseph W. A. Whitehorne, *Self-Guided Tour of The Battle of Cedar Creek* (Center of Military History, U.S. Army, DC, 1992).

**For sale at Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Headquarters, Hupp's Hill Civil War Park and Belle Grove**

\*Cedar Creek Battle App, Civil War Trust (free at [www.CivilWar.org/battleapps](http://www.CivilWar.org/battleapps)) For both iPhone and Android devices.

\*Cedar Creek Podcast (free at [www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/podcasts.html](http://www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/podcasts.html))

For more information on the park, see: [www.nps.gov/cebe](http://www.nps.gov/cebe)

**1864 Timeline**

**Late June**

Confederate Gen. Jubal Early advances north from the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland

**July 11-12**

Early's army skirmishes at Washington defenses

**July 13-17**

Confederate army returns to the Shenandoah Valley pursued by Federal units

**July 30**

Confederate cavalry burns Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

**August 7**

Gen. Philip Sheridan assumes command of the Army of the Shenandoah

**September 19**

Sheridan defeats Early at Third Battle of Winchester

**September 22**

Early is defeated at Fisher's Hill

**Late September**

Federal cavalry begins "the Burning" of mills, barns, and resources of the Valley

**October 9**

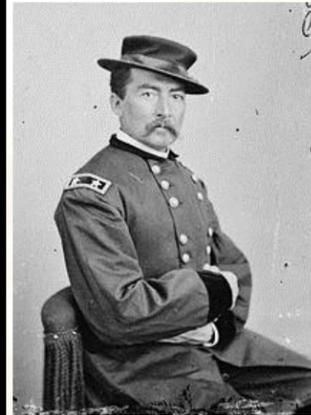
Confederate cavalry routed at Tom's Brook; "the Burning" ends

**October 19**

**The Battle of Cedar Creek**

**November 8**

Lincoln is elected to a second term



Gen. Philip Sheridan

**1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign**

Following his victories in September and October 1864, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan and his 32,000 man Army of the Shenandoah conducted a systematic destruction of a 75-mile swath of the Shenandoah Valley. "The Burning" essentially laid waste to the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy." Confident the campaign was over, Sheridan camped his army north of Cedar Creek before traveling to Washington, D.C. to confer with higher authorities about his army's future movements.

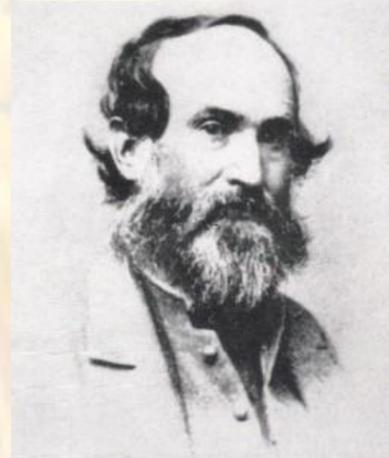
**The Battle of Cedar Creek**

Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's poorly equipped and ill-fed Confederate Army of the Valley, reduced to between 14,000-15,000 men, seemed to pose little threat. Desperate to achieve a victory, however, Early and his commanders devised a daring plan to attack Sheridan. Following an all-night march along the base of the Massanutten Mountain, including two river crossings, the Confederates rolled out of a dense fog in the pre-dawn hours of October 19. Catching many Northern soldiers sleeping, the Confederate onslaught overran the Union 8<sup>th</sup> Corps and then 19<sup>th</sup> Corps, and drove past the Belle Grove Plantation. The Union 6<sup>th</sup> Corps, given more warning, was able to offer stiffer resistance (including a determined stand amongst the stones of the Middletown cemetery), but by 10:30 a.m. the stunned Union army was in full retreat. Feeling he had achieved a spectacular victory, Early sought to secure the captured spoils (including 24 Union cannon and over a 1,000 prisoners), while his soldiers solidified their final line just north of Middletown. Exhaustion, along with widespread looting of the captured Union camps, however, reduced the strength of the already outnumbered Confederate army.

Sheridan, riding from Winchester that morning, was completely unaware of the disaster that had befallen his army. Upon hearing the growing sounds of battle, however, he quickened his pace and rode hard to the field. "Sheridan's Ride" (later celebrated in art and poetry) forever cemented his status in American history. Rallying his defeated forces, he then ordered a counterattack at 4:00 p.m. which swept the Confederates from the field, recaptured all of the lost artillery (plus 24 Confederate cannons) and over 1,200 prisoners. Total casualties numbered approximately 8,600 (5,700 Union and 2,900 Confederate), making it the second bloodiest battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

**Victory for the Union**

Early's army was shattered, and with it further Confederate resistance in the Valley ended. Occurring just three weeks before the presidential election, Cedar Creek gave sagging Northern morale a much needed boost and helped carry Abraham Lincoln to a landslide victory at the polls.



Lt. Gen. Jubal Early



For an overview of the campaign and battle check out this Civil War Trust animated map.

## The Tour

This 18-mile tour consists of 10 stops. All of the roads used are public (state or county) and traffic on some can be fairly heavy (especially the Valley Pike, U.S. Route 11). Use caution, especially when pulling into traffic or slowing for a stop, as some stops are located at pull-offs along the road shoulder. **Long Meadow Road** and **Bowman's Mill Road**, located at the southern end of the park, are unimproved (narrow, gravel surfaced and two-way). Obey all posted speed limits and traffic regulations.

Tour starts at the **Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Headquarters** (8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA).

**Stop 1: CCBF – Overview** – Modern U.S. Route 11 (the Valley Turnpike) was a vital line of supply and communications for both armies. Across the fields and around Belle Grove (Sheridan's headquarters) was encamped the Union army. Signal Knob, the highest peak of the Massanutten Mountain, is located to the southeast, and can be seen throughout the tour as a landmark to gauge the distance of troop movements.

Turn left out of the Foundation Headquarters parking lot and proceed south on U.S. Route 11 for 1.0 mile.

1. Turn left onto Water Plant Road. Proceed 1.0 mile.
2. Turn right onto Long Meadow Road. Proceed 0.1 mile.
3. Turn right onto Bowman's Mill Road. Proceed 1.4 miles to Stop 2.
4. **Stop 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Corps Camps)** is located at sharp left bend on Bowman's Mill Road, near a metal cattle gate (on the right), which is clearly marked "No Trespassing," along with a small white sign which reads "Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation - Access By Permission Only." Pull off to the right side of the road just before the gate.

**Stop 2: 8<sup>th</sup> Corps Camps** – This location marked the left end of the Union line. Signal Knob (marked by the modern radio tower) was used by the Confederate high command to scout the Union army and plan their daring attack. The first Confederate assault struck here at 5:00 a.m., out of the pre-dawn darkness and fog, completely surprising and routing the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps. The Confederate attack continued north, toward the 19<sup>th</sup> Corps and Valley Pike (U.S. Route 11).

1. Proceed 0.6 mile on Bowman's Mill Road. Turn right to stay on Bowman's Mill Road, at intersection with Long Meadow Road.
2. Proceed 0.1 mile to Stop 3.
3. **Stop 3** is located at **Bowman's Mill Ford**. Park on the right side of road just prior to the low water bridge which crosses Cedar Creek.

**Stop 3: Bowman's Mill Ford** – Gen. Kershaw's Division of approximately 2,500 Confederates slashed across Cedar Creek here, just prior to their attack on the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps. After overrunning the Union pickets posted along the creek, Kershaw's men deployed for battle in the fields to the north.

Carefully turn vehicle around and proceed 0.1 mile back on Bowman's Mill Road to its intersection with Long Meadow Road.

1. Turn right onto Long Meadow Road. Proceed 1.6 miles to Stop 4. (The confluence of Cedar Creek and the North Fork of the Shenandoah River is 1.2 miles along Long Meadow Road).
2. **Stop 4** is located just beyond the driveway to **Long Meadow Farm**. Park vehicle along the right side of the road in order to not block the driveway and allow other vehicles to pass. *Long Meadow is privately owned and is not open to the public. (Visitors are encouraged to stay in their vehicles).*

**Stop 4: Long Meadow** – A log cabin built here in 1837 (by Jost Hite and his son Isaac Hite, some of the earliest settlers of the Valley) was replaced by the brick house in the 1840s. Bowman's Ford, another crossing point for the Confederate army, is just beyond. Approximately 7,500 Southern troops then marched up Long Meadow Road to move into their attack positions. The tour follows their route and the general flow of the battle from this point.

Proceed 0.9 mile along Long Meadow Road.

1. Turn left onto Water Plant Road. Proceed 1.0 mile.
2. Turn right onto U.S. Route 11, traveling north less than 0.1 mile.
3. Turn left onto gravel access road to Stop 5.
4. **Stop 5 (19<sup>th</sup> Corps)** is located at the 128<sup>th</sup> New York Monument. Park in the gravel lot beyond the monument.

**Stop 5: 128<sup>th</sup> New York monument** – This monument honors the 128<sup>th</sup> New York, which held the left end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Corps. After crushing the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps, the Confederate attack struck the 19<sup>th</sup> Corps' left and rear at this location. A second Confederate force struck their front (southwest). Fighting lasted about an hour before the Union lines were overrun, and forced to retreat toward Belle Grove. A self-guided walking trail follows the trenches constructed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Corps. (*Permission to visit this site can be obtained from the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation at Hupp's Hill or their Headquarters*).

Turn left onto U.S. Route 11. Proceed north on U.S. Route 11 for 0.7 mile.

1. Turn left onto Belle Grove Road. Proceed 0.5 mile to Stop 6.
2. **Stop 6** is located at **Belle Grove**. *Visitors are encouraged to visit the site, which is managed and operated by Belle Grove, Inc. and offers guided tours of the house (fee). Touring the grounds is free.*

