



Shenandoah Valley 1862

Battles of Kernstown & Winchester

The Battle of First Kernstown was fought on March 23, 1862 between the forces of Confederate general Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and Union General James Shields. Shields was not on the field in person and only colonels faced Jackson, eleven of whom later became general officers. The battle was Jackson’s only defeat in the Shenandoah Valley and changed his command style from that day on.

The field at Kernstown has been encroached by some modern development, but enough remains so that the visitor can imagine the forces as they went into the contest. We will visit the site of the famous stone wall on the Rose Hill farm, and will also see the ground where probably the only hollow square of the war was attempted to repel a cavalry charge.

Following Kernstown, we will visit **the First Winchester battlefield**. The battle was fought on May 25, 1862 between Jackson and Union general Nathaniel Banks. It was an overwhelming Confederate victory.

Today, the battlefield lies wholly in the city of Winchester, but there are hidden sites that most tours do not visit. We will see where the Louisiana Brigade and the 10th Virginia Infantry flanked Banks and broke the battle open. The field is still there, you just have to know which thicket behind a development to push through to gain access to the site.

The tour will visit the **Stonewall Jackson Headquarters Museum** occupied by Jackson during the fall and early winter of 1861. The museum has many Jackson associated items, as well as rare artifacts connected to Turner Ashby and other Confederate military leaders.

Depending on your group’s interest this can be a one day tour or one week tour.

Highlights Include

- Historian/Guide
- Kernstown Battlefield
- First Winchester
- Tour of Winchester Court House
- Stonewall Jackson’s Headquarters
- Box Lunch at a local winery



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