



Upper Shenandoah Valley 1862

Stonewall" Jackson erupted on the national scene, and became an overnight phenomenon, while fighting in his beloved Shenandoah Valley. Jackson's 1862 Campaign became a model of military art and ability that is still relevant today. Jackson's success offered the Confederacy its only glimmer of hope in an otherwise dismal spring of 1862. News went from bad to worse for Southerners, until an obscure professor from the Virginia Military Institute won an impressive string of victories and set the nation's imagination afire.

The Confederacy's success quickly became synonymous with Stonewall's success. We will spend two days visiting sites associated with Stonewall Jackson and the Upper Shenandoah Valley. We will see where his association with the Valley began and ended—in Lexington: visiting his home, Washington and Lee University, the Virginia Military Institute, and his grave. We will also see the beginning of Jackson's genius for war at the remote battlefield of McDowell (where Jackson won his first battle which started the Confederates on their impressive string of victories). We will also tour the climactic moment of Jackson's Valley Campaign---visiting the battlefields at Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, and Port Republic.

Complete the tour at Buckhorn Tavern for a full lunch. Its history is legendary and the stories abound. In 1854, Stonewall Jackson and his wife spent the night. During the Civil War many of the soldiers from the battle of McDowell were cared for at the Buckhorn, and then used as a hospital. Some say you can still see the bloodstains on the old hard pine floors. The narrow passage where The Buckhorn Inn is located was well suited for canon batteries. Passages like this are typical along the route to nearby McDowell and lent themselves to Jackson's guerilla tactics.

You historian guide will be **Frank O'Reilly**. Frank graduated in 1987 with a B.A. in American History from Washington & Lee University. I worked for the "Stonewall" Jackson House in Lexington, and even guest lectured at Washington & Lee on Civil War topics while still an undergraduate. He joined the National Park Service in 1987 as a temporary historian at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, and later took a fulltime position at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. He returned to Fredericksburg in 1990 to fill the permanent historian's position at the "Stonewall" Jackson Shrine. He has also served as an historical consultant for the City of Fredericksburg and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Planning Commission.

Tour Highlights

- Dinner at Ryan's Steakhouse
- Deluxe Continental Breakfast
- Lunch at Buckhorn Tavern
- Historian guide Frank O'Reilly
- Lee Chapel
- Cross Keys
- Port Republic
- Harrisonburg
- McDowell Battlefield



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