



## NORTHERN VIRGINIA: CROSSROADS OF CONFLICT

### A War No Less Deadly: Small Battles in Northern Virginia

(1 - Day Itinerary)

**R**obert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, George Armstrong Custer, J.E.B. Stuart, John Mosby, George Meade - some of the most well known personalities of the Civil War - took part in some of the fiercest small engagements of the War in Northern Virginia. Although battles like Antietam and Gettysburg captured most of the attention during and following the War, smaller engagements had just as much impact on the participants as the large scale battles. This itinerary reveals them to you some of the most interesting aspects of these smaller Civil War engagements that took place in Northern Virginia.

#### Sites

**A War No Less Deadly: Small Battles in Northern Virginia** travels in a circuitous route that can be begun at any location. This itinerary offers one sample route.

*Note: All sites along Virginia Civil War Trails are motor coach accessible. Some sites are museums with admission charges, and are noted with a (\$) symbol. However, all Virginia Civil War Trails markers are accessible without paying admission charges.*



Begin your tour in the City of **Alexandria**, the site of the Union invasion of May 1861. During the invasion, an incident at the Marshall House resulted in the first Federal officer to die in the War. Next, travel to Vienna for a visit to the **Freeman Store/Museum**, used by Union and Confederate troops, and the nearby Civil War Fort.

From there, head west to Leesburg and **Ball's Bluff Battlefield**, where a tiny National Cemetery and a 173-acre regional park represent the small but significant battle fought here Oct. 21, 1861. Federal

troops tried to cross to the south side of the Potomac River here but were overwhelmed. Your next Leesburg stop is **Mile Hill**, at Morven Park, site of a surprise attack of Federal forces led by Confederate Col. Thomas Munford on Sept. 2, 1862 in the Maryland Campaign.

Take a break for lunch in **Leesburg**, a Colonial and Civil War town.

Next, head to **Middleburg**. With lots of rural charm and clusters of historic buildings, Middleburg reminds visitors of the town's Civil War heritage. Cavalry fights raged



through here June 19, 1863 at the beginning of the Gettysburg campaign. Mosby also used the town as a base for his missions. The town also was a Mosby base. The next stop is **Upperville**, site of another engagement where Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's troopers successfully fought off Union cavalry while screening Lee's advance to Pennsylvania.

Continue on to **Buckland Races**, the site of a trap sprung by Stuart's cavalry on their approaching Union counterparts October 18-19, 1863, forcing a Federal withdrawal. The site is part of the Bristoe Station campaign of the fall of 1863.

Travel on to **Rappahannock Station**, just outside Remington, where the Orange and Alexandria Railroad crossed the Rappahannock River, making it a strategic focus point for both armies. Fighting November 7, 1863, put the crossing under Union control for the rest of the war. From there, head to **Kelly's Ford**, where another big cavalry fight took place along the Rappahannock River on March 17, 1863 resulting in a technical victory for the Confederates. But the South lost the promising young artillery commander Maj. John Pelham, who died in the fighting.

From Kelly's Ford, head to nearby **Catlett's Station**,

where J.E.B. Stuart's cavalrymen attacked a Union supply depot August 22, 1862, capturing, among other things, Federal commander John Pope's cloak, hat and dispatch book. Intelligence gathered here helped Stonewall Jackson plan his Second Manassas campaign.

Another site associated with the Campaign of Second Manassas is **Ox Hill Battlefield (Chantilly)**, where a small but significant piece of the September 1, 1862, battlefield includes monuments to Union generals. Phillip Kearny and Isaac Stevens, both killed that day.

End your day at the **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**. Exhibits here outline the rich history of the city with some emphasis on the Civil War. ★

## Sites Visited

- ★ Alexandria
- ★ Freeman's Store
- ★ Ball's Bluff
- ★ Mile Hill
- ★ Middleburg
- ★ Upperville
- ★ Buckland Races
- ★ Rappahannock Station
- ★ Kelly's Ford
- ★ Catlett's Station
- ★ Ox Hill Battlefield (Chantilly)
- ★ Fairfax Museum



For more information: