



CEDAR CREEK: THE MOST IN-DEPTH FIELD & WALKING TOUR OF THIS BATTLE EVER!

October 13-14, 2017 – based in Winchester, Virginia – led by Scott C. Patchan

The 1864 Valley Campaign, one of the most compelling military episodes of the Civil War, pitted General Jubal A. Early and his Confederate Army of the Valley against Philip H. Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah in a series of maneuvers and battles that offered graphic counterpoint to the static siege of Petersburg. At stake was control of the Shenandoah Valley, a source of vital food and fodder for the Army of Northern Virginia, as well as a great covered way that permitted southern military forces to flank the Union capital at Washington.

Through the summer of 1864, Early moved his army with impunity around the Shenandoah and its surrounding area. Ulysses S. Grant dispatched Sheridan to take care of Early's army, which was distracting Grant and preventing him from applying the full pressure of the Union army against the forces of Robert E. Lee around Petersburg, Virginia. Sheridan performed his task well, defeating Early at Winchester, Fischer's Hill, and Tom's Brook. By mid-October, Sheridan's troops were busy destroying the rich harvest of the Shenandoah to deny food supplies to Lee's army.

On October 19, 1864, Early launched a devastating attack on the surprised Yankees at Cedar Creek. Throughout the morning, the Rebels drove the Union troops back more than three miles. By late morning, Early slowed the attack despite the urgings of General John B. Gordon, who insisted that Early press his assault to achieve total destruction of the Federal force. Returning from Washington, Sheridan heard the battle from Winchester and began a furious, 12-mile ride to the front. Along the way, he met his retreating soldiers and turned them back toward the battle for a counterattack. This effort, which was later called **Sheridan's Ride**, became legendary. Sheridan orchestrated his counterattack by late afternoon, and it was devastating. The Yankees tore through the Confederate lines and sent Early's army in retreat. Sheridan lost 5,500 out of 31,000 troops. Early lost almost 3,000 of the 22,000 men in his command, but nearly all of the Confederate artillery was captured in the Union counterattack. It was the last major battle in the Shenandoah campaign, and Early was never able to mount a serious offensive again.

On **Friday morning** of our tour, we will head south from our base in Winchester and first examine the actions, **at Fishers Hill** and **Tom's Brook**, which preceded the clash at Cedar Creek. Then, as we march into the fray of the battle of Cedar Creek, we will explore many seldom seen areas of the battlefield such as the fording locations over Cedar Creek and the Shenandoah River. We will follow Kershaw's and Gordon's overrunning of the little Army of West Virginia on to the location of Col. Thomas Brace's stand against Gordon. **Over the course of Friday and Saturday** of our tour, we will view the trenches of the 19th Corps, and as we walk the streets of Middletown, we'll explore the chaotic actions that ensued when Col. William Payne's cavalry charged into the retreating Federal forces. We will walk much of the course of the southern attacks against the Sixth Army Corps that resulted in some of the bloodiest combat of the day. We will also visit the location where Sheridan rallied his troops after his famous ride from Winchester and walk along the lines of his late afternoon counterattack.

The **annual Cedar Creek Re-enactment** will be held on the weekend of our tour and will add dramatic sights and sounds to our adventure. We have arranged our itinerary so as not to be inconvenienced by the re-enactors and visitors who will gather on the Belle Grove Plantation on Saturday. And our attendees may wish to go back to Belle Grove on Sunday, after our program, for that day's activities. Join the leading authority of the 1864 Valley Campaign, **Scott Patchan**, for this terrific tour, at the best time of the year to visit the storied Shenandoah Valley!

About Our Tour Leader

Scott C. Patchan is widely regarded as the leading authority and tour guide of the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. He is the author of *Shenandoah Summer: the 1864 Valley Campaign*; *Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge*; *The Battle of Piedmont and Hunter's Campaign for Staunton*; *The Forgotten Fury: The Battle of Piedmont*; and most recently, *The Last Battle of Winchester: Phil Sheridan, Jubal Early, and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, August 7 - September 19*.

Friday, October 13

8:15 AM Bus Departs – Overview aboard Bus
9:00 AM Begin Tour of battlefield
5:00 PM Arrive Back at Best Western Lee-Jackson
5:30 PM-8:30 PM Hospitality suite open

Saturday, October 14

8:15 AM Bus Departs
4:30 PM Arrive Back at Best Western Lee Jackson

What is Included in Your Registration:

- the services of an expert historian chosen for his knowledge and experience
- bus transportation * Friday & Saturday lunches * map & information package
- Friday evening hospitality suite with drinks and snacks * refreshments and snacks during the tours

Base Location & Lodging: Our program will be based at the **Best Western Lee-Jackson Inn**, 711 Millwood Avenue, Winchester, VA where we have reserved a block of rooms at the special nightly rate of **\$62.09-Single; \$66.59-Double; \$71.09-3 persons**. To reserve a room under our block, call 540 -662-4154 and identify yourself as a registrant for the **CWEA tour**.

Registration Fee: **\$325** - If You Must Cancel we will refund 100% of your fees paid.

Please complete this portion and return to us as shown below – Cedar Creek tour

Name _____ Name _____
(as desired on name badge) (as desired on name badge)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Check Payable to **CWEA \$ _____** or Charge my MasterCard, VISA, Discover or AMEX

Card # _____

Ex Date _____ Signature _____

3 or 4 digit security code on card _____

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