STOP 9—THE BATTLE RESUMES

On the morning of the 29th, Custer’s First Brigade was sent on a reconnaissance toward Bunker Hill to locate the Confederates. As he headed toward Bunker Hill, Custer encountered General Stephen Ramseur’s and General John Gordon’s infantry divisions. These divisions immediately moved against Custer with orders from Early to chase the Federals across the Opequon. Around 11:30 a.m. the Confederates began an artillery bombardment from batteries on the heights across the Opequon. The attack developed with Ramseur’s Division crossing the creek around the bridge and directly west of Smithfield. As Ramseur’s leftmost brigade began to swing around Merritt’s right flank, Merritt realized he was in danger of being trapped and began a withdrawal to the east. The Federals withdrew toward Charles Town. The Confederates, having accomplished their aim to drive the Federal forces from the Opequon Crossing, halted their attack and retired to Bunker Hill.

STOP 8—ENGAGEMENT AT THE OPEQUON

Fighting resumed on August 28th, as Federal cavalry drove Confederate forces around Leetown back to Smithfield (now called Middleway), where a covered bridge offered one of the few all-weather crossings over Opequon Creek. Facing an entire Federal cavalry division, the Confederate troops retreated across the Opequon. At this spot, Cavalry divisions under General Wesley Merritt confronted Confederate General Lunsford Lomax’s cavalry and horse artillery, while General George A. Custer’s division flanked the Confederates sending them in retreat back across the Opequon Creek.

STOP 10—NEW ORDERS

With Winchester, Virginia his eventual goal, Sheridan began to move parallel to the Confederate Army, which at that time spread from Winchester to Martinsburg. On September 3-4, he attacked the Confederates at Berryville, Virginia. With his much larger force, Sheridan was able to push them back to their defenses in Winchester. Encouraged by the news of Sherman’s capture of Atlanta on September 2 and Kershaw’s infantry division leaving the Valley to join Lee in Petersburg, Grant decided it was time for more aggressive action. On September 16, he met Sheridan in Charles Town, WV at the Rutherford house to develop a new strategy for dealing with the Confederate presence in the Shenandoah Valley. It became known as “The Burning.” Not only did Sheridan attack Jubal Early’s forces relentlessly, he systematically destroyed the Valley’s farms and supply sources. Grant told Sheridan that the Valley should be laid bare so that “A crow must carry provisions to fly over.” Sheridan ordered an advance into Virginia at dawn on September 19, and the armies clashed at the Third Battle of Winchester.

Sheridan’s caution up until this point made Early underestimate him as a commander—to his detriment. Early was ultimately defeated at the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, and the heart of the Confederacy, its breadbasket, was lost to the South for the remainder of the war.
from Sheridan’s arrival at Harpers Ferry on August 7, 1864 to his August, lulling Early into a false sense of security, before plunging to the Shenandoah Valley, denying the Confederacy a rich source of

Sheridan generally anticipated Winchester, Virginia as his objective; though he knew he also had to be careful of leaving his supply lines vulnerable. Early had positioned his army along the Old Valley Pike after a vigorous campaign which had culminated with fighting at Kernstown, Virginia. Though Sheridan would move his headquarters as the army moved to various points in the county, Harpers Ferry remained his base of operations for the entirety of his time in Jefferson County.

STOP 2—RIPON STORE

Ripon Store (now just called Rippon) was a crossroad on the Charles Town-Berryville Turnpike. Sheridan’s Cavalry moved through here on their way to a surprise engagement at Guard Hill near Front Royal about a week after taking command of the army in the first battle of the Valley Campaign. This little village played a role in several campaigns and engagements in 1864, during the opening stages of the Battle of Summit Point. Confederate General Fitzhugh Lee pushed Federal cavalry under Charles Lowell back to Front Royal, heading west in 4 miles, turn right onto US 340 S/US 19/US 23/US 230 South toward Berryville. Drive approximately 7 miles to St. John’s Church. The church will be on your left, and there is a pull-off in front. 256B Berryville Pike.

STOP 3—CONFEDERATE ADVANCE

While Fitzhugh Lee followed the Federals back toward Charles Town, Confederate General Joseph Kershaw led infantry and cavalry from Winchester, attacking General James Wilson’s cavalry here in the first stages of the Battle of Summit Point. A pitched fight took place here for hours with the Federal troops ultimately retiring to their lines outside Charles Town. Confederate General Richard Anderson, rather than joining the continued assault, opted to go to camp, a decision that altered the broader conflict, perhaps saving the area a bloody fight.

STOP 4—EARLY IS DOWN UPON US LIKE MAD!

As the fighting was coming to an end at Summit Point on August 21, 1864, Confederate General Jubal A. Early left as though his plan was coming to fruition. Rebel forces had pushed the Federal army back at two points and his large force of infantry had started to deploy along Eark Road and Middleway Pike. They had successfully bought back Federal pickets along the adjutant-neglected old Washington family estate such as Cedar Lawn, Richmond Hill, Harewood and Locust Hill, and now waited for Anderson and Kershaw to arrive from Summit Point for a final large assault on Philip Sheridan’s entrenched forces located about two miles outside of Charles Town. Anderson and Kershaw never arrived, halting the attack and in doing so, ended the Battle of Summit Point. That night, Sheridan withdrew his forces through Charles Town to Hallowell.

STOP 5—PROBING THE LINE

As Sheridan ordered his cavalry north to Shepherdstown on August 25, 1864, Early simultaneously ordered his units mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and two forces began a heated engagement. Simultaneously, forces began to mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and Meade, division chief of cavalry, were to his front. Several skirmishes take place in and around these points and his large force of infantry had started deploy along Eark Road and Middleway Pike. They had successfully bought back Federal pickets along the adjutant-neglected old Washington family estate such as Cedar Lawn, Richmond Hill, Harewood and Locust Hill, and now waited for Anderson and Kershaw to arrive from Summit Point for a final large assault on Philip Sheridan’s entrenched forces located about two miles outside of Charles Town. Anderson and Kershaw never arrived, halting the attack and in doing so, ended the Battle of Summit Point. That night, Sheridan withdrew his forces through Charles Town to Hallowell.

STOP 6—OPERATIONS IN THE BACK COUNTRY

As Sheridan ordered his cavalry north to Shepherdstown on August 25, 1864, Early simultaneously ordered his units mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and two forces began a heated engagement. Simultaneously, forces began to mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and Meade, division chief of cavalry, were to his front. Several skirmishes take place in and around these points and his large force of infantry had started deploy along Eark Road and Middleway Pike. They had successfully bought back Federal pickets along the adjutant-neglected old Washington family estate such as Cedar Lawn, Richmond Hill, Harewood and Locust Hill, and now waited for Anderson and Kershaw to arrive from Summit Point for a final large assault on Philip Sheridan’s entrenched forces located about two miles outside of Charles Town. Anderson and Kershaw never arrived, halting the attack and in doing so, ended the Battle of Summit Point. That night, Sheridan withdrew his forces through Charles Town to Hallowell.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: From St. John’s Church, turn left onto US 340 S. In 20 yards, turn right onto Withers Larue Road. Continue approximately 3 miles to Williams Road. Turn right onto Williams Road. In 13.5 miles, turn right onto Middleway Pike. Drive approximately 7 miles to St. John’s Church. The church will be on your left, and there is a pull-off in front. 218 B Berryville Pike.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: From John’s Church, turn left onto US 340 S. In 20 yards, turn right onto Withers Larue Road. Continue approximately 3 miles to Williams Road. Turn right onto Williams Road. In 11.5 miles, head left onto Sherwood Road, which ends at Summit Point Road. In about 4 miles, go straight at the road to the Rakepike Market. 207 Summit Point Road.

Sheridan withdrew his forces through Charles Town to Halltown. As Early simultaneously ordered his units mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and two forces began a heated engagement. Simultaneously, forces began to mass at Kearneysville for an unexpected engagement. Merritt and Meade, division chief of cavalry, were to his front. Several skirmishes take place in and around these points and his large force of infantry had started deploy along Eark Road and Middleway Pike. They had successfully bought back Federal pickets along the adjutant-neglected old Washington family estate such as Cedar Lawn, Richmond Hill, Harewood and Locust Hill, and now waited for Anderson and Kershaw to arrive from Summit Point for a final large assault on Philip Sheridan’s entrenched forces located about two miles outside of Charles Town. Anderson and Kershaw never arrived, halting the attack and in doing so, ended the Battle of Summit Point. That night, Sheridan withdrew his forces through Charles Town to Hallowell.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR: The Lockwood House, located in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at 293 Filmore Street. From here, a network of trails and roads continues to Washington Road, then to US 340. Drive approximately 3 miles to US 340 S/US 19/US 23/US 230 South toward Berryville. Drive approximately 7 miles to St. John’s Church, the church will be on your left, and there is a pull-off in front. 218B Berryville Pike.

STOP 1—SHERIDAN’S HQ

When Sheridan arrived here on August 7, 1864, he met immediately with his commanders to determine his objectives for the upcoming campaign. Sheridan quickly identified Winchester, Virginia as his objective, though he also had to be careful of leaving his supply lines vulnerable. Early had positioned his army along the Old Valley Pike after a vigorous campaign which had culminated with fighting at Kernstown, Virginia. Though Sheridan would move his headquarters as the army moved to various points in the county, Harpers Ferry remained his base of operation for the entirety of his time in Jefferson County.