

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Title: The Battle of Port Republic

By Name: Phillip S. Greenwalt

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year.</i>
Krick, Robert K.	<i>Conquering the Valley: Stonewall Jackson at Port Republic.</i> New York: Williams Morrow, 1996.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title. City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in Journal ##, no. # (Date): #.</i>
Cozzens, Peter	<i>Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.
Gallagher, Gary, ed.	<i>The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
Jones, Terry L.	<i>Lee’s Tigers, The Louisiana Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Shenandoah Valley National Historic District	The Shenandoah Valley National Historic District is a National Heritage Area across eight counties in the Shenandoah Valley that preserves the battlefields of 1862-1864.

	Their website is: www.shenandoahatwar.org
Civil War Trails	Civil War Trails calls itself the largest outdoor museum, with wayside informational markers and driving/walking tour maps that lead visitors to the sites attributed to the Battle of Port Republic. Their website is: www.civilwartrails.org

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
Battle of Port Republic, Summary, Facts, Significance, 1862 (americanhistorycentral.com)	America History Central, A Digital Encyclopedia of United States History
Rebel Fury at Port Republic - Warfare History Network	Warfare History Network, online portal for articles of the Sovereign Media's military history publication network
Port Republic Battle Facts and Summary American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org)	American Battlefield Trust's page on the Battle of Port Republic
The Battle of Port Republic — Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District (shenandoahatwar.org)	The official site of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield National Historic District page for the Battle of Port Republic

Scholars

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Topic Précis

Stonewall Jackson's Army of the Valley had reached the town of Port Republic at the confluence of the South and North forks of the Shenandoah River. Following the Confederates were two pursuing Federal armies in the Shenandoah Valley in June 1862. A Federal force under General James Shields, an advance detachment of Union artillery, cavalry, and infantry led by General Erastus Tyler, reached the outskirts of Port Republic at about 6:00 a.m. on June 7. Their arrival caught the Confederates unprepared to the extent that advancing Federal cavalry almost captured Jackson. Jackson was able to organize resistance by pushing scattered units forward and the Federal forces withdrew from the town. A second Federal army under General John C. Frémont was engaged seven miles away at Cross Keys with Confederate General Richard "Dick" Ewell's Division. On the morning of June 9 the Confederate forces advanced over a makeshift bridge to attack Tyler's Union soldiers. The focal point of the battle was a prominence named "The Coaling" where three federal batteries commanded the field and drove the advancing Confederates back. Confederate artillery, poorly positioned, was unable to silence the Union guns. During the fighting portions of Ewell's force arrived fresh from their victory at Cross Keys to reinforce Jackson. Finally, the "Louisiana Tigers" a nickname for a brigade of Louisianans commander by General Richard Taylor outflanked the Federals on their left and overran the batteries on "The Coaling". Supported by a Federal battery less than 350 yards away, Union troops drove the Louisianans back and recaptured the guns. The "Tigers" regrouped and captured the guns a second time, only to be driven off a second time. Their third and final attack captured the guns on "The Coaling" for the Confederates, effectively ending the battle. By 10:30 a.m. the battle was over and Tyler's men retreated from the field. Confederates burned the bridge over the North Fork, preventing Frémont from joining Tyler. Confederate casualties were 816 and Union 1,002. The Battle of Port Republic was the sixth and last battle of Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign. The Campaign saved the Valley for the Confederacy for another two years, ensuring that communication, supplies, and an avenue for invading the north remained in Southern hands. It also cemented Jackson a place in the pantheon of Confederate military heroes, and his infantry the moniker "foot cavalry." Less than eleven months later Jackson was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville and for a final time he returned to his beloved Valley, buried in Lexington in May 1863.
