

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Battle of Brandy Station June 9, 1863

By **Clark B. Hall**

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
McClellan, H. B.	<i>The Life and Campaigns of Major General J.E.B. Stuart</i> . New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1885.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Beattie, Dan	<i>Brandy Station 1863: First Step Towards Gettysburg</i> . Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, 2008.
Carter, III, Samuel	<i>The Last Cavaliers: Confederate and Union Cavalry in the Civil War</i> . New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1982.
Dowey, Fairfax Davis	<i>Clash of Cavalry: The Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863</i> . New York: David McKay Company, 1959.
McKinney, Joseph W.	<i>Brandy Station, Virginia, June 9, 1863: The Largest Cavalry Battle of the Civil War</i> . Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2006.
United States War Department	<i>The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies</i> , 128 vols. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series I, volume 27, part 1 and 2.

Wittenberg, Eric J.	<i>The Union Cavalry Comes of Age: Hartwood Church to Brandy Station, 1863.</i> Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books, 2003.
_____.	<i>The Battle of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle.</i> Mt. Pleasant, SC: The History Press/Arcadia Publishing, 2010.
Wittenberg, Eric J. and Daniel T. Davis	<i>Out Flew the Sabres: The Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863.</i> El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beattie, 2015.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, contact information including address, email
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park	The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park is operated by the National Park Service and includes Brandy Station. The park is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week all year. It is located at 20 Chatham Ln Fredericksburg, VA 22405. (540) 693-3200. Their website is: https://www.nps.gov/frsp/learn/photosmultimedia/kelly.htm
The Battle Brandy Station, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park	This is the park's page on the battle which includes directions to the battlefield and a self-guided tour. Scroll down past Kelly's Ford to see Brandy Station. Their website is: http://www.fauquiercivilwar.com/Assets/downloads/Tour_Battle%20of%20Kellys%20Ford.pdf
Brandy Station Foundation	The Brandy Station Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural and historic resources of the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County, Virginia. Their website is: http://www.brandystationfoundation.com/

<p>Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance</p>	<p>The Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance is a group dedicated to transforming these two battlefields into Virginia’s next state park. Their Facebook page is: https://www.facebook.com/BSCMStatePark/ The Civil War Trust’s support for this initiative can be viewed here: http://www.civilwar.org/take-action/speak-out/bscm/</p>
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Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<p>http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandy-station.html?gclid=CPydofOZjM4CFQgOaQodBiYNNnQ?referrer=https://www.google.ca/</p>	<p>Brandy Station. This is the Civil War Trust’s page on Brandy Station.</p>

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
<p>Graffiti House</p>	<p>Graffiti House at 19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, VA is an ante bellum building containing graffiti left by Civil War soldiers. It is now a museum and serves as the Visitors’ Center for the Brandy Station battlefield. It is open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday from April to October and Friday-Saturday November to March.</p>
<p>New Interpretive Markers Coming to Fleetwood Hill</p>	<p>The Culpepper Times article on Fleetwood Hill Interpretive Markers can be viewed here: http://culpepertimes.com/2015/10/01/new-interpretive-markers-coming-to-fleetwood-hill/154610/</p>

Scholars

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Topic Précis

Brandy Station is best understood when viewed as the opening combat action concurrent with the Confederate advance to Pennsylvania following the Chancellorsville Campaign. Some twelve years after the Civil War, Colonel Frederic Cushman Newhall, a Federal staff officer during the Battle of Brandy Station, boldly asserted, "The Gettysburg campaign was opened actively in Virginia, when General (Alfred) Pleasonton's command crossed the Rappahannock River on the morning of the 9th of June, 1863, at Kelly's and Beverly's Fords, and engaged the command of General J.E.B. Stuart. The influence of that day's encounter on the great campaign which it inaugurated, has never been fully understood or appreciated by the public." Jeb Stuart assembled a cavalry force of nearly 10,000 troopers and conducted a Grand Review on June 5. On July 8, Robert E. Lee arrived to inspect the force. Stuart was ordered by Lee to cover and screen the movement of General Richard Ewell's Second Corps as it advanced into the Shenandoah Valley on June 9. Meanwhile on the other side of the Rappahannock, General John Buford reported to General Joseph Hooker that all available Confederate cavalry was concentrated in Culpeper County. Hooker ordered General Alfred Pleasonton to take his Union cavalry force of about 10,000 troopers to "disperse and destroy" the Confederate cavalry before they could carry out their intentions. At 4:30 a.m. on June 9, 1863, the 8th New York Cavalry charged across at Beverly's Ford, opening the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest and most significant cavalry battle in American history. Surprised, Stuart nevertheless led a spirited defense and by nightfall Union forces retreated. Suffering 500 dead and wounded to the Union force's 900, Stuart lost officers, men and horses which at that stage of the war could not be properly replaced. But it was the loss of the ascendancy of Confederate cavalry, a loss of prestige, which was the worse result for Stuart, because Union cavalry finally proved themselves the equal of Confederate cavalry, which before Brandy Station had proved itself consistently superior to Union cavalry. Pleasonton did not disperse and destroy Stuart's force as ordered. Nor did he obtain any intelligence on the Confederate forces then planning to advance into Pennsylvania. But, on the morning of June 9, 1863, Jeb Stuart's cavalry was unquestionably perched at its combat zenith. And on the evening of the same day, Stuart's command suffered the beginning of a plunging, rapid decline in assets, which inexorably degenerated their combat effectiveness for the succeeding twenty-two months of the war. The days of shining success for Confederate cavalry were forever over. 1st Maine Cavalry veteran Brevet Brigadier General Charles Henry Smith wrote in 1885, "A higher value attaches to Brandy Station...than has ever been sounded in praises...The rebel cavalry had been in the ascendancy...but Brandy Station broke its spirit...It lost its prestige

there and never regained it afterwards.... It was the beginning of the end of the war."
