

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Second Battle of Bull Run

By **Michael Burns**, South Dakota State Historical Society

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Hennessy, John J.	<i>Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Martin, David G.	<i>The Second Bull Run Campaign, July–August 1862</i> . Conshohocken, PA: Combined Books, 1997.
Matsui, John H.	<i>The First Republican Army: The Army of Virginia and the Radicalization to the Civil War</i> . Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2016.
Patchan, Scott C.	<i>Second Manassas: Longstreet’s Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge</i> . Dulles, VA: Potomac Books, 2011.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Manassas National Battlefield Park	The National Park Service runs the Manassas National Battlefield Park located near Manassas Virginia. The Park is open

	<p>daily from dawn to dusk. The Henry Hill Visitor Center is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day. The Brawner Farm Interpretive Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Stone House is open on weekdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Park's website is http://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm</p>
Manassas Battlefield Trust	<p>The Manassas Battlefield Trust is an active partner with the Manassas National Battlefield Park, to preserve and protect the lands and resources associated with the First and Second Battles of Manassas. The Trust assists the Park's mission to foster an understanding and appreciation of the battles and their significance through philanthropic support of opportunities for interpretation, education, enjoyment and inspiration. The Trust's website is: http://manassasbattlefield.org/</p>

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
https://www.civilwar.org/learn/civil-war/battles/second-manassas	The American Battlefield Trust's page on Second Manassas (Second Bull Run, Brawner's Farm) contains a summary of the battle and links to a variety of resources and maps relating to the battle.

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Self-Guided Tour: The Battle of Second Manassas	Whitehorne, Joseph W. A. <i>Self-Guided Tour: The Battle of Second Manassas</i> . Fort McNair, Washington D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1990.

Scholars

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Topic Précis

In late August 1862, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia faced Pope's thirty-two thousand-man Army of Virginia across the Rappahannock River. Fearing he would soon be outnumbered if McClellan's Army of the Potomac, then evacuating its position on the Peninsula east of Richmond, joined with Pope, Lee made the bold decision to split his force in the face of the enemy. Over August 25 and 26, he sent Jackson's twenty-five thousand troops on a flank march toward Manassas Junction—the main Union supply depot in northern Virginia—to dislodge Pope from his position by cutting his supply and communication line to the Union capital. Lieutenant General James Longstreet kept his thirty thousand strong force in place to hold Pope's attention. Jackson's men captured and destroyed the union supply depot on August 27, forcing Pope to fall back toward the junction. The Battle opened late on August 28 when Jackson, in position close to Brawner's Farm near the old Bull Run battlefield, attacked a Union division marching toward Centerville on the Warrenton Turnpike. The fighting brought Pope and the rest of his army to confront Jackson on ground of Jackson's choosing with the main battle commencing on August 29. By the end of the day the two forces were in position facing each other. Unbeknownst to the Federals, Longstreet had been marching to join Jackson and he came into position late on August 29. On August 30, the fighting began again with Pope launching attacks on Jackson, still not understanding that Longstreet was on the battlefield positioned on the Federal left flank. Longstreet launched his attack on Pope late in the afternoon. For an hour and a half, about seven thousand Union and fifteen thousand Confederate troops fought a furious battle along the slopes of Chinn Ridge, with the majority of brigades suffering fifty percent or more casualties. Although overwhelmed, the Union forces bought enough time for Pope to set up a defensive position on Henry Hill. Longstreet restarted the assault after a brief lull on Chinn Ridge. Until the sun set around 8:00 p.m. on August 30, Longstreet's wing threw itself against the makeshift defensive position on Henry Hill, where the Union line held. Pope, recognizing his failure, abandoned the field along the banks of Bull Run retreating back toward Washington, D.C., that night. The Battle of Second Bull Run marked the culmination of a summer of successes for the main Confederate field army in the east. The Army of Northern Virginia had defeated the Union Army of the Potomac outside of Richmond then proceeded to almost destroy the Army of Virginia on the fields near Bull Run. Lee's force had turned the momentum of the war on its head, marking the first major hope for the Confederates to end the conflict in victory, and announcing the arrival of what could be considered the Confederate triumvirate—Lee above Longstreet and Jackson—in the Army of Northern Virginia. The Union defeat highlighted Lincoln's struggle to find capable officers and

commanders to fight the Confederates in Virginia. Most significantly, the Battle of Second Bull Run opened the way for Lee's first attempt at invading Union held territory, setting the stage for further bloodshed along the banks of another small creek named Antietam.
