

Second Manassas Battlefield: A Driving Tour

This 12-mile driving tour is designed to cover 12 sites that figured prominently in the second battle. Each description is keyed by number to the modern map at right.

Caution: Two heavily traveled highways divide the park. U.S. 29 follows the historical roadbed of the Warrenton Turnpike, an important commercial highway before the war and which played a major part in both battles. The Sudley Road (Va. 234) crosses the turnpike at the Stone House. Use caution in driving across or turning onto and off of these highways.

- 1 Battery Heights** In the late afternoon of August 28, 1862, Stonewall Jackson ordered his troops to attack a Union column as it marched past on the Warrenton Turnpike in front of the hidden Confederate position north of the road. As the lead elements of Gen. Rufus King's Union division emerged from the woods to the west, Jackson pushed his infantry forward from the distant ridge into this open field. King's troops swung to meet this attack and for one-and-a-half hours the two lines fought resolutely, in some places only 80 yards apart. In that short time this opening struggle of the Second Battle of Manassas inflicted casualties amounting to almost one-third of the 7,000 men engaged.
- 2 Stone House** Convinced that Jackson was isolated, Pope ordered his columns to converge upon and attack the Confederates. He was sure he could destroy Jackson before Lee and Longstreet intervened. During the fighting on August 30, Pope made his headquarters directly behind this house. The house served as a field hospital during First and Second Manassas.
- 3 Dogan Ridge** On August 29 Pope's army found Jackson's men posted along an unfinished railroad grade about one-half mile west of this location. Throughout the day these fields were awash with blue as thousands of Federal troops formed here for assaults against Jackson's line. Though bloody, these attacks were uncoordinated and unsuccessful. The low ridges surrounding you were also the site of important Union artillery positions.
- 4 Sudley** Throughout the day on August 29, Federal troops made several brutal but unsuccessful attempts to smash through the extreme left of Jackson's line, positioned on the knoll just west of here. While the fighting raged here, far to the

south across the Warrenton Turnpike, Longstreet's troops arrived on the battlefield and, unknown to Pope, deployed on Jackson's right, overlapping the exposed Union left. Lee urged Longstreet to attack, but "Old Pete" demurred. The time was just not right, he said.

- 5 Unfinished Railroad** Jackson's line covered a front of about one and one-half miles, extending from near the Sudley Church to a point three-quarters of a mile southwest of here. The center of his line rested in this area. The focal point of Jackson's position was the bed of the unfinished railroad. The grade is still visible running into the woods on both sides of the road.
- 6 Deep Cut** The morning of August 30 passed quietly. Just before noon, erroneously concluding the Confederates were retreating, Pope ordered his army forward in "pursuit." The pursuit, however, was short-lived. Pope found that Lee had gone nowhere. Amazingly, Pope ordered yet another attack against Jackson's line. More than 5,000 troops under the command of Gen. Fitz-John Porter moved forward across the road into the field and crashed into Jackson's line in the area around the "Deep Cut." There the Southerners held firmly, and Porter's column was hurled back in a bloody repulse. A trail of about one-third of a mile begins at the road and traces the footsteps of Porter's gallant troops.
- 7 Groveton** The small, white frame L. Dogan House is all that remains of the wartime village of Groveton and one of only three Civil War-era houses remaining in the park. Nearby Groveton Confederate Cemetery contains the remains of more than 260 Confederate soldiers. The identity of only a handful is known.
- 8 New York Monuments** On the afternoon of August 30, seeing the Union lines in disarray following the repulse of Porter, Longstreet pushed his massive columns forward and staggered the Union left. A brief, futile stand on this ridge by the 5th and 10th New York Regiments ended in slaughter. In five minutes the 5th New York lost 123 men killed, the greatest loss of life in any single infantry regiment in any battle of the Civil War.
- 9 Hazel Plain (Chinn House)** This low stone foundation is all that remains of the Chinn House. About 5 o'clock on August 30, Longstreet's attackers converged on this ridge, passing on

either side of the house as they bore down on the Federal line. But the Federals resisted stoutly, buying time for Pope's hard-pressed forces.

- 10 Chinn Ridge** Stretched along this ridge, the Union troops fought desperately to delay Longstreet's advance long enough for Pope to set up a second defensive line on Henry Hill, just to the east. From here you can see a marker near the spot where Fletcher Webster, Daniel Webster's eldest son, was killed while leading the 12th Massachusetts Infantry into battle.
- 11 Henry Hill** Here parts of McDowell's, Porter's, Sigel's, and Reno's corps made a final stand against Longstreet. Taking position in the bed of Sudley Road, the Federals beat off Confederate attacks from Anderson's and Jones's divisions. Darkness brought an end to the fighting. The Union army, though beaten, was still intact.
- 12 Stone Bridge** Finally, under cover of darkness, the defeated Union army withdrew across Bull Run in this vicinity toward Centreville and the Washington defenses beyond. Lee's bold and brilliant Second Manassas campaign opened the way for the South's first invasion of the north and possible European recognition of the Confederate government.

