



NEW MARKET TOUR

As part of his 1864 spring offensive, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered Major Gen. Franz Sigel to advance south along the Valley Pike to destroy the railroad at

Staunton and then to move on the rail complex at Lynchburg.

The first battle of the Valley campaign of 1864 occurred at New Market, Shenandoah County, on May 15. As the Union marched toward the town Robert E. Lee authorized use of Virginia Military Institute corps of cadets for support. Two hundred and forty seven young cadets were under the command of Major General John C. Breckinridge and fought in the battle.

Sigel was decisively defeated on 15 May 1864, and the Valley remained in Confederate hands.

Breckinridge's victory at New Market temporarily unhinged Union plans for the Valley. This victory also preserved its resources longer for the faltering Confederate war effort. However the Union loss resulted in intensification of the Union war effort in the Valley. On May 26 Major General Hunter went on the offensive.

You will visit the Bushong Farm where Jacob and Sarah Bushong established their home here in 1818. The current home was built in 1825. Three generations of their family found shelter in the basement as the battle raged around them. After the battle, the house would serve as a field hospital for a week, leaving permanent blood stains in the Parlor. The orchard just behind the house is where the fiercest fighting occurred.



Walk the "Field of Shoes" as you explore other less known battlefield site with your historian guide.

The Hall of Valor is also on the itinerary as it presents exhibits on the entire Civil War with special emphasis on the war in Virginia. The 1864 Battle of New Market is featured.

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