



Warren Heritage Society

Front Royal & Warren County Virginia History and Heritage

Quest Shenandoah is a program of the Front Royal/Warren County Appalachian Trail Community™ program. Front Royal/Warren County is a proud host of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and was designated an Appalachian Trail Community on April 21, 2012. Find other Quests, and guidelines for designing a Quest of your own at www.discoverfrontroyal.com. Complete three or more Quests and earn a special edition patches (pictured left).

Battle of Front Royal Quest

Front Royal, Virginia

Easy/Historical/Walking Tour/45 minutes

To get there: From I-66 take Exit 6 and head south on the Winchester Road (Highway 340/522) across the bridges over the Forks of the Shenandoah River. Continue to follow Route 340 South into Front Royal, which will become Royal Avenue. Two blocks after crossing the intersection of 6th Street, turn left off of Royal Avenue on to Chester Street (the intersection is “Y” shaped), and your destination will be on the left; park along Chester Street or along nearby streets or in public lots. This quest begins at the Warren Heritage Society’s Ivy Lodge Museum, located at 101 Chester Street.

Clues: The clues in *italics* are movement clues, and will guide you on this Quest. The clues not in italics are teaching clues and will tell the story of the Battle of Front Royal.

*Go back in time to May of ‘62
When Stonewall Jackson rode through here too,
Just walk on back down the gravel lane
And find yourself upon a flat brick plain*

Belle Boyd Cottage

Moved here to save it many years ago
The Innkeeper’s house was Belle’s home don’t
you know!

Sent to Front Royal by her father who feared for
her by and by,
‘Twas the Yankees who should have feared the
rebel spy!
Belle passed information she heard while
working in her uncle’s hotel,
And what happens next is this battle’s history we
now tell.

Return up the drive paved over with gravel

And you're done – that wasn't too far to travel!

Warren Rifles Confederate Memorial Museum

The Battle of Front Royal was fought in a day,
But many more battles were bourn by the brave
boys in grey.

Come in here to learn of their marches and
attacks,
From Manassas to Richmond, Spotsylvania to
Appomattox.

*How far must you go on your Quest from this spot?
Not far, to the white house to the south on the
neighboring lot!*

Balthis House

From the 1700s this house has stood here,
Seeing wagons and wars and everything in
between.

In the martial 60s the family looked out their
windows in fear
At the cavalry, artillery, and hungry soldiers to
be seen.

The family of William Balthis sent their sons to
the Army
And those left at home tended the wounded –
friend or enemy.

*Walk south up Chester Street past gardens so solemn
To a white two-story house supported by columns*

Samuels Apartments

The apartments of the late Dr. Samuels have
seen much come and go
From this spot on which they were built over two
centuries ago.

On May 23rd of 1862 the family inside watched
the men dressed in blue

As they hustled northward through town,
wondering where to go, what to do?
The rebels were back and pouring down the
street
As the Federals ran by, sounding out the retreat.

*Proceed south again and pause at our gazebo
Where occupied Front Royal did its business, friend
and foe.*

Town Square

A square in shape it is not, but our town square
need not be,
Everyone about knew to meet here, you see.
In peacetime they sold farm goods – chickens,
wheat and the lot,
And in wartime they drilled, marched and
eventually fought!
Look across Main Street at the old buildings,
standing still,
And what you are seeing used to be Belle's
Fishback Hotel.

*Turn right and head west down Main Street, so
shady,
Until you reach Church Street – tip your hat to the
ladies!*

Old Methodist Church

In the southwest corner she sits, tall and grand,
The Old Methodist Church from the 1850s, it is
said.
Used as a stable by cavalry units
It wasn't in good shape after the battle ran by it.

*Keep walking, you're not far, from where our County
Court meets,*

You'll be there in 259 steps of your feet!

Warren County Courthouse

On this spot stood an older Courthouse made of brick

And within it some soldiers in blue awoke in a fit
That morning in May, as the rebels came in town
And captured these men still in their nightgowns.

*Go west, young person, and cross Royal Avenue,
Then turn after the Police Station onto Luray – enjoy
the view!*

Confederate Hospital

Bowman's park is up this street – come here on your quest,
And learn on this site about the hospital, it was an orderly mess.
Confederates built it in the winter, but Union troops moved in around March,
And during the opening of the battle fired on the rebels en masse!
Down the hill charged troops from Maryland and Louisiana
And took the hospital back after some drama.

Return to the Courthouse, cross over from whence you came

And notice the statue of a soldier, the base covered in names.

These were men from Warren County who marched off to war,

Some died, some came back, and here you can recall them once more.

After taking this in cross Main Street again

And head north on Crescent Street to where you began.

Ivy Lodge

Ivy Lodge, home so dear, to us all in Front Royal,
Saw victory and defeat all right in front of its door.

The Federals fell back north of town right by here

With Confederate horsemen on their heels to the end.

Come inside our Museum and get your passport stamped now, ya' hear!

If we're not here, on weekends, say,

You'll find our box outside all day.

Just check the shrubs near our front door.

You'll find our stamp and so much more!

Let us know what you think of this Quest.

We want to make sure we've done our best.

COVID OPTION OR BOX MISSING:

In time of COVID, treasure boxes are removed.

Yet treasure can be found for those that are shrewd.

Instead of a stamp, it is a color you seek.

Figure out the clue and follow your feet.

To the store Mountain Trails located on Main Street.

Submit your proof and receive a patch to wear for all to see!*

Look at what hangs under the porch eave,

Note the letters' color and then you can leave.

*For the creative quester or those with difficulty discerning colors, you may take a photo of you/your group or your mascot (surprise us) at the site of the final clue.

