



## 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](http://www.discoverfrontroyal.com) or <http://frontroyalatcommunity.wordpress.com/>. Complete five Quests and win one of 200 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.