

March 27, 2020

VIRGINIA VAGABONDS
THIRD BATTLE OF WINCHESTER/BATTLE OF OPEQUON
FREDERICK COUNTY (WINCHESTER), VIRGINIA
APRIL 1 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
5/10/12 KILOMETERS

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Mayflower - Opequon

Virginia Counties - Frederick County

Walk Registration:

Please use the online start box provided by the American Volkssport Association website (www.my.ava.org). The directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods. The entire online process should take less than 10 minutes for a first time user

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the "Maps /Finish" tab. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may later choose to print out.

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START POINT: Parking lot paved for Third Battle of Winchester, 541 Redbud Road, Winchester, VA. GPS Coordinates: 39° 12.643800', -78° 7.608600'

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Interstate 81 North: Take Exit 317. At the traffic light turn right and immediately turn right at the next traffic light on Red Bud Road. Drive .8 mile to a red barn on the left. Turn right into the parking lot

From Interstate 81 South: Take Exit 317. At the traffic light turn left on Route 11 North. Go under Interstate 81 to the second traffic light and turn right on Red Bud Road. Drive .8 mile to a red barn on the left. Turn right into the parking lot

Historical Information: The Third Battle of Winchester (called the Battle of Opequon by the Union Army) was fought on September 19, 1864. Opequon(M) is a name derived from an unidentified local Native American language. General Sheridan's 39,000 troops were opposed by General Early's 10-12,000 Confederate soldiers. On the morning of September 19 General Sheridan's Cavalry divisions crossed the Opequon Creek followed by three infantry corps. After initial success in pushing the Confederates back, Major General Rodes (CSA) division arrived and counterattacked. The Union VI and XIX Corps were forced to retreat. General Sheridan advanced his reserve divisions. About 2:00 P.M. a lull developed over the Berryville Pike sector of the battlefield. General Crook (USA) was ordered to advance his Army of West Virginia on the Confederate left flank. General George Patton (CSA) (grandfather of WWII General George Patton) positioned his brigade behind a stone wall along Hackwood Lane. His brigade was forced to withdraw and he suffered a mortal wound from a shell fragment (he is buried in the Confederated Cemetery in Winchester). The Confederates were forced back toward Winchester and retreated up the Shenandoah Valley toward Fishers Hill. The battle ended in a Union victory.

The term wayside refers to the historical information signs along the trail. Due to battlefield restoration, some to the waysides may be missing and new ones not listed in the directions may be installed.



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1. From the parking lot, walk toward Red Bud Road. **TURN LEFT** and follow the red brick walkway to CROSS Red Bud Road toward the red barn passing the wayside “Three Battlefields”. Follow the walkway around the end of the barn and past the six signs tell about the local battles.

2. Walk to the Visitor Center. Tour the Visitor Center if it is open. **Only restrooms** on the trail are located here.

3. Leave the Visitor Center and retrace your route back to the parking lot. Walk to the back of the parking lot and enter the gravel trail at the wayside “Touring the Battlefield of Third Winchester”.

4. Continue on the gravel trail. After about 400 meters there will be a wooden split rail fence on the left. Continue to a metal gate on the right and an opening in the split rail fence on the left.

5. **TURN LEFT** onto the grass trail through the opening in the split rail fence. Follow the trail to the three cannons. Continue about 20 meters past the cannons to the wayside “Fitzhugh Lee’s Position” **(1.14KM)**. Do not go past the two trees.

6. **REVERSE** direction on the grass trail back to the gravel trail and **TURN LEFT**. As the trail curves left, **TURN RIGHT** on a gravel trail about 25 meters to the wayside “The Attack of the Eighth Corps”.

7. **REVERSE** direction back to the main trail and **TURN RIGHT**. The trail changes from gravel to asphalt as you descend the hill.

8. **CROSS** the bridge over Red Bud Run to the wayside “Fording Red Bud Run”. Continue uphill on the asphalt trail passing two dirt trails on the left. Trail changes back to gravel **(1.97KM)**.

9. Continue on the gravel trail passing the waysides “Hackwood House” and “Confederate Defense” toward the tree line.

10. At the intersection (two wooden benches on the right) continue straight. Pass the next wayside “The Second Woods” and continue toward the power lines to the T intersection.

TRAIL SPLIT:

5 KM Trail:**TURN LEFT** on the gravel trail until you reach a stone monument surrounded by a black metal fence on the right. **TURN RIGHT** to the monument **(3KM)**. Continue with **CHECKPOINT 1** and instruction # 14.

10 and 12 KM Trails:Continue with instruction # 11.

11. **TURN RIGHT** on the gravel trail. As the trail curves left, continue straight about 20 meters to the wayside “The Confederates Reform”. **REVERSE** direction back to the main trail.

12. **TURN RIGHT** and continue on the gravel trail to a wayside pedestal on the right (sign is missing, 8B on the pedestal leg) **(3.21KM)**.

TRAIL SPLIT:

12 KM Trail: **TURN RIGHT** on the dirt trail. Continue on the dirt trail for about 1 KM ignoring side trails leading to a housing area on the left. When trail exits the woods pass the signs “Third Battle of Winchester” and “The West Woods”. Walk to the stone monument **(4.21KM)**.

REVERSE direction back into the woods. Retrace your route back to wayside pedestal **(5.21KM)**. **TURN RIGHT** and continue with instruction # 13.

10 KM Trail:Continue with instruction # 13.

13. Continue on the gravel trail to the stone monument surrounded by a black metal fence on the left. **TURN LEFT** to the monument.

14. **REVERSE** direction back to the main trail and **TURN LEFT**. At the **F** intersection **TURN RIGHT**. Continue past the wayside “The Second Woods”.

15. At the **F** intersection in the tree line **TURN RIGHT**. This is Hackwood Lane. Continue down the lane with trees on both sides to the **Y** intersection with a stone monument surrounded by a black metal fence**(4.15KM/6.15KM)**.

TRAIL SPLIT:

5 KM Trail:Circle the monument counterclockwise and continue with instruction # 30.

10 and 12 KM Trails:Continue with instruction # 16.

16. **BEAR RIGHT** and continue to the **+** intersection with the wayside “The First Woods – A Perfect Slaughterhouse” on the left. **TURN LEFT** and continue to the **T** intersection.

17.TURN LEFT passing the wayside “Union Victories in the Valley” to the stone monument surrounded by a black metal fence.

18. TURN RIGHT on the grass trail toward the wooden split rail fence. **ANGLE RIGHT** keeping the fence on the left. Continue to the wayside “Attack and Defend: The Confederate Left Flank”.

19. Continue on the grass trail keeping the tree line on the left and open field on the right passing the next wayside “Breathed’s Horse Artillery”.

20.Pass the end of a split rail fence **(5.27KM/7.27KM)** to the next wayside “Beal’s Brigade Holds the Fence Line”. Continue past a dirt road that leads downhill on the left.

21. Pass the next wayside “The Middle Field”. Continue as the trail enters a bushy area and then changes to a dirt trail as it enters the woods at the next wayside “Historic Hackwood Lane”.

22. Continue on the dirt trail ignoring trails on the left and right. At the **F** intersection **ANGLE LEFT** on the dirt trail away from the main gravel trail.

23. The trail goes down and then up a hill. Continue straight on dirt trail ignoring all trails to the left. When trail changes to gravel, continue to the **F** intersection with the main gravel trail **(6.12KM/8.12KM)**.

24. Continue straight on the main gravel trail. Pass the wayside “Camp Averell” on the right. At the **λ** intersection **BEAR LEFT**. Exit the woods to the signs on the left: “The Third Battle of Winchester” and “The Union Attacks”. **DO NOT** go down the slope.

25. **REVERSE** direction back on the gravel trail into the woods passing the wayside

“Touring the Battlefield of Third Winchester”. Continue to the Y intersection and **BEAR LEFT**.

26. Continue on the gravel trail ignoring dirt trails on the left that lead to the housing area. At the + intersection of gravel trails **(7.45KM/9.45KM) TURN LEFT**.

27. Follow the trail to exit the battlefield. Continue straight on Averell Avenue (no sign here) to the stop sign at Artifact Avenue. **REVERSE** direction on Averell Avenue and reenter the battlefield. Continue back to the + intersection.

28. Continue straight passing the wayside “The First Woods – A Perfect Slaughterhouse” on the left. Continue to the **T** intersection.

29. TURN LEFT and continue to the **Λ** intersection at the stone monument **(8.1KM/10.1KM)**.

30. BEAR RIGHT and continue down the tree lined Hackwood Lane to the **T** intersection.

31. TURN RIGHT on the gravel trail. Remain on the main trail ignoring all side trails on the left and right.

32. Trail changes to asphalt as you descend the hill. **CROSS** Red Bud Run and continue uphill. Trail changes back to gravel.

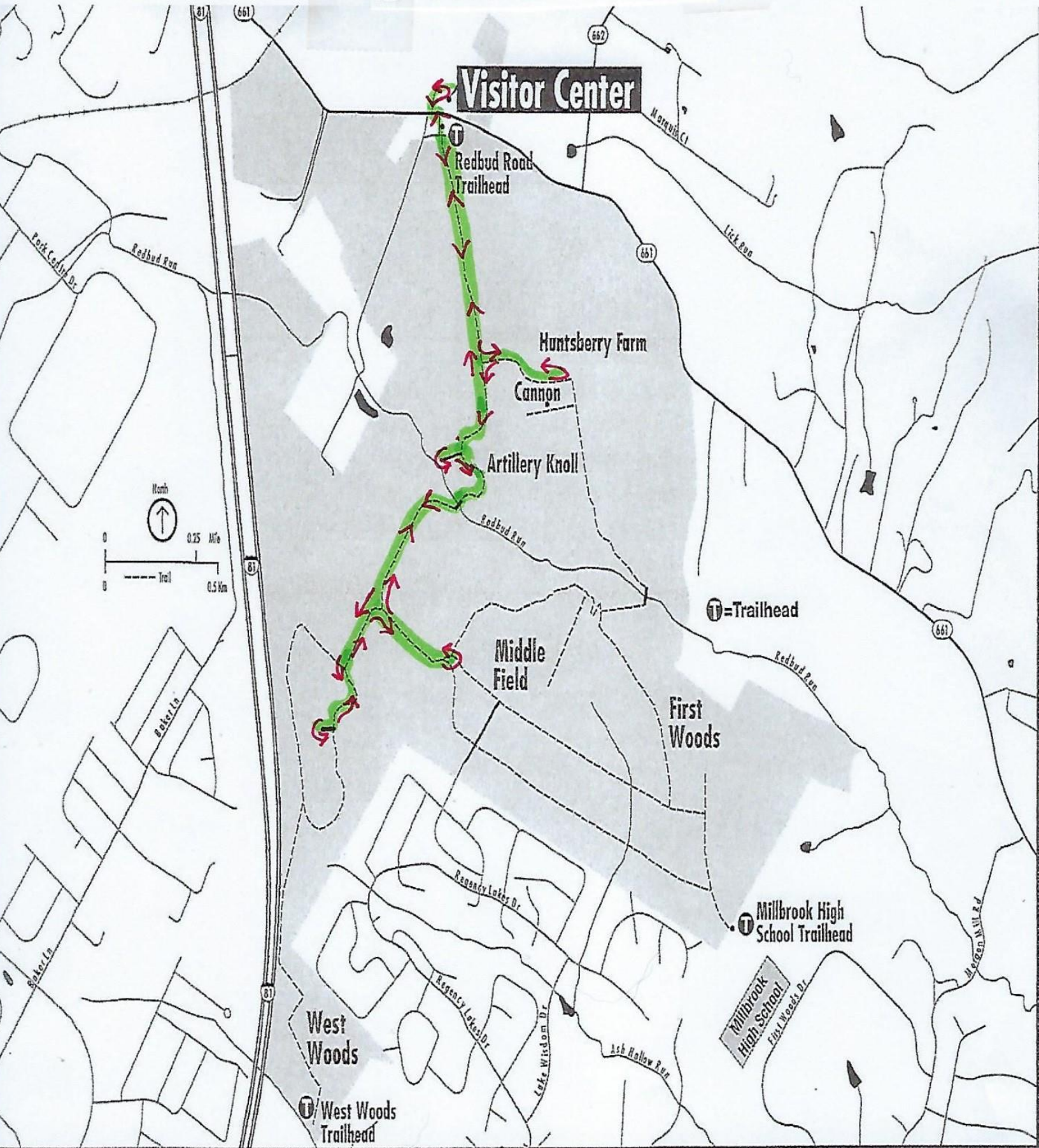
33. Pass the **∩** intersection **(9KM/11KM)**. Continue on the main trail back to the parking lot **(9.84KM/11.84KM)**.

The Virginia Vagabonds hope that you have enjoyed your walk in Frederick County. Please join us for our other seasonal walks in Frederick, Highland, Rappahannock, and Shenandoah Counties, as well as our year rounds in Charleston (WV), Emporia, Poquoson, Newport News, Petersburg, and Williamsburg (Jamestowne Glasshouse).

DRIVING MAP TO START POINT



5 KM TRAIL



10/12 KM TRAIL

