



Bristoe Station  
Battlefield  
Heritage Park



*A.P. Hill's Folly*  
Trail Map

MAP KEY

- Trail
- 1 Trail Marker
- Park Boundary

**1** **Welcome to the *A. P. Hill's Folly* Trail**  
Stops along this trail highlight facets of the October 14, 1863 Battle of Bristoe Station. The battle began as Confederate Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill came upon the Federal V Corps crossing Broad Run. Hill launched a rash attack toward Broad Run, unaware that the Federal II Corps under Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren was moving into position behind the Orange & Alexandria Railroad at Bristoe Station on his right flank. Warren's men had the advantage of cover, concealment and surprise.

**2** **The Battle of Bristoe Station**  
At 2:00 p.m., Confederate Brig. Gens. John Cooke and W.W. Kirkland advanced their brigades eastward from the Greenwich Road toward the retreating Federal troops beyond Broad Run (advancing across the property on the opposite side of today's Bristow Rd.). As Cooke's right flank neared the railroad, it drew fire from Warren's artillery south of the railroad. The Confederates turned and directly attacked, only to be met by devastating musketry fire from Federal infantry positioned behind the railroad embankment.

**3** **The Brave Men of North Carolina**  
The men in Kirkland's and Cooke's brigades were all from North Carolina. Cooke's brigade was new to Gen. Lee's army and was the largest brigade on the field that day. They advanced over this ground into heavy infantry and artillery fire, reaching the railroad and driving the Federals back before heavy losses forced their retreat. The 27th North Carolina regiment suffered 290 casualties of 416 engaged; 33 of its 36 officers were killed or wounded. The regiments of Kirkland's brigade, on Cooke's left beyond the Brentsville Road, suffered similar losses. Both Kirkland and Cooke were wounded.

**4** **The Fall of Colonel Mallon**  
While Kirkland's troops gained a temporary foothold on the Union right near the railroad bridge, Cooke's attack briefly penetrated the Federal line where the Brentsville Road crosses the railroad. Unseasoned soldiers of Col. James E. Mallon's 42nd New York were among the Federals that the Confederates forced back. Serving as the brigade commander, Col. Mallon was killed near this location while rallying his men to stabilize the Federal line.

**5** **Confederate Reinforcements**  
The Confederate brigades of Carnot Posey (who would be mortally wounded later in the day) and E.A. Perry advanced to cover Cooke's right flank but could not prevent the collapse of the Confederate attack. They were also forced to fall back. Warren solidified his line along the railroad as Gen. Lee arrived on the field after 4 p.m. with the balance of his army. Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's corps extended the Confederate line westward beyond Warren's position along the railroad.

**6** **The Federal Advance and Capture of McIntosh's Battery**  
On orders from Hill, Maj. David McIntosh deployed seven guns from his artillery battalion on this hill overlooking Bristoe Station to support Kirkland's and Cooke's attack on the railroad. Exposed to intense Federal artillery fire, McIntosh suffered the loss of many men and horses. Even with the advance of Posey's and Perry's brigades on the right, the retreat of Cooke's infantry left the guns unprotected and vulnerable. In the wake of the Confederate retreat, several Federal units advanced from the railroad around 3:45 p.m., capturing hundreds of Confederates and two of their flags. Skirmishers from the 1st Minnesota and 19th Massachusetts found McIntosh's abandoned guns and hauled five of them back to the Federal line with little resistance. Heavily outnumbered, Warren restrained his actions to artillery exchanges with Confederate batteries until night fell. After dark, Warren's corps executed a stealthy withdrawal from Bristoe to rejoin the rest of the Federal army in Centreville.

**7** **Aftermath**  
Although the Confederates had caused a Federal withdrawal, they lost over 1,300 men killed, wounded and missing during this brief engagement. Gen. Lee reprimanded Hill for his rash decision to rush into battle with the admonition, "Bury these poor men and let us say no more about it." In the days after the battle, Lee's army remained at Bristoe to care for their wounded and bury their dead. Many men were buried where they fell. After destroying much of the railroad, Gen. Lee withdrew his army south of the Rappahannock River, ending his last offensive campaign of the war.