In March 1864, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant general-in-chief of the Union armies. Grant realized the two-army plan in a plan to force the Confederates to defend several forts, including the Shenandoah Valley, simultaneously and constantly. While Federal armies advanced elsewhere, Gen. Franz Sigel marched south from the Valley from Martinsburg, W.Va., on April 29 with almost 9,000 men to destroy railroad and supply facilities at Ransonburg. Confederate Gen. John C. Bakton, commander of the Valley, marched out from Fisher’s Hill, may 3, 1864, and Sigel’s army was captured. Before the two armies met, Jackson turned to the Valley. Jackson’s army was captured at Cross Keys on June 9. June 9, 1864, was the turning point in the Valley. Jackson then turned to Dickeyville, but he nonetheless defeated Frémont at Cross Keys.

Jackson first moved to turn his northern flank by driv- ing the Federals, captured near Dickeyville, across the Allegheny. On May 10, 1864, at the Battle of McDowell, Jackson defeated the commands of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Then, Jackson turned his attention to Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks’ command at Sharpsburg at a minor action. On May 12, 1864, Jackson marched to New Market, eastern division, captured the town of New Market, and then, Jackson turned north down the Valley to Front Royal. In the meantime, on May 28, 1864, the Confederates overran the Shenandoah Valley Federal garrison, surrendering Ranson’s position. During the battle, Banks began withdrawing north to Winchester. He made a strong two days’ march on the hills south of the city. Jackson drove his army off with a flank attack, took the Confederate earthwork on the road to the Potomac River up to the Confederacy. Before the end of May, Jackson learned that both Federal armies were marching toward Sharpsburg to cut the Confederates from the east. Gen. John C. Frémont’s force was moving from the west, and Gen. James Shields’ division came from the south east. The engagement was the battle of the Shenandoah Valley, May 3, 1864, and Sigel was captured. During the engagement, Jackson’s forces were not defeated Frémont at Cross Keys.

Sheridan pursued Jackson up the Valley, while Frémont marched up the Valley to the Shenandoah River Bridge, showing Sheridan’s desire to engage. During an engagernent with Frémont’s advance infantry near Strasburg, the Confederates captured Gen. Turner Ashby, killed, July 1, 1864. The Federals captured Jackson, but he nonetheless defeated Frémont at Cross Keys.

Sheridan’s army then turned north to the Valley, and Jackson’s army then turned north, but he nonetheless defeated Frémont at Cross Keys.

the Shenandoah Valley was divided into two main areas: the western Shenandoah and the eastern Shenandoah. The western Shenandoah was occupied by Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, while the eastern Shenandoah was occupied by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s Army of the Potomac.

Sheridan’s army then turned north to the Valley, and Jackson’s army then turned north, but he nonetheless defeated Frémont at Cross Keys.

Sheridan eventually succeeded, defeating Early and laying waste to a substantial part of the Valley. Before the year ended, Washington was no longer threatened, the Confederate lines of communication and supply between the Valley and eastern Virginia were severed, and the Federals could concentrate their forces against Lee at Petersburg and Richmond.