



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park News Release

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### Alexander's Bridge Rededication and Open House

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia:

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Superintendent Cathy Cook invites you to a rededication of Alexander's Bridge at the Chickamauga Battlefield on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. (EST). Parking will be at the junction of Viniard-Alexander and Alexander's Bridge roads. The roadway across the bridge will be closed to all traffic on March 3rd from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the event. The rededication will be followed by an Open House and refreshments at Park Headquarters from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Information on Volunteer Work Days during 2012, landscape restoration efforts underway on the Chickamauga Battlefield, and monument restoration projects will be available during the Open House. Please park at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center and walk across Lafayette Road to Park Headquarters for the Open House.

On December 23, 2011 the roadway over Alexander's Bridge crossing West Chickamauga Creek was reopened to all traffic, reconnecting the southeast corner of Chickamauga Battlefield to the surrounding communities. Bridges have spanned the creek at this location since before the Civil War. A wooden, Alexander's Bridge played a key role in troop movements and battle tactics during the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga. In 1887, the original bridge was replaced with a wooden, low-truss bridge built on native stone abutments. The bridge was replaced in 1907 with a steel "pony" truss using the existing stone abutments. The "pony" truss bridge served the community and the Park for over one-hundred years, maintaining the historic transportation corridor to and through the Park. In January 2009, it was determined that the bridge had reached its serviceable life and the crossing was closed to vehicle traffic on February 12, 2009. During public scoping on a proposed solution, the community expressed that retaining the "look" of the historic bridge was important as well as maintaining the single-lane access across the creek. The replaced Alexander's Bridge does just that.

For more information about programs at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at (706) 866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at (423) 821-7786, or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/chch](http://www.nps.gov/chch).

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