



The Battlefield Dispatch

Chickamauga's 2014 Anniversary Events

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

Between September 18 and 21, 2014, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will commemorate the 151st Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga, as well as the actions that took place here 150 years ago in 1864.

Although the battle ended in 1863, the war was far from over for the residents of North Georgia and Southeast Tennessee.

Union troops came back to the battlefield in 1864 to begin removing their fallen comrades from the previous September's fight. Most Union soldiers were buried in shallow or mass graves and were unrecognizable. Once the bodies were removed, they were taken to the newly opened national cemetery just over the Tennessee state line in Chattanooga. Unfortunately, for most of the soldiers removed from Chickamauga, their final resting places were marked as UNKNOWN. This year, one of our special programs will focus on these Union burial details returning to Chickamauga Battlefield.

Additionally, as General William T. Sherman's troops began their march from Chattanooga, several thousand Union soldiers marched through the old battlefield of Chickamauga. Soldiers commented on their march toward Atlanta, as they passed through the area, about how the landscape was still riddled and scarred from the harsh fighting. The park will have living historians portraying some of these Union soldiers on their march south. At this station, visitors will learn about what it

took to move an army and about the various communication hurdles that need to be overcome to keep contact with the vast numbers of troops in the field.



Guerrillas destroy a railroad.

Although the battle was concluded over a year earlier, the families still remaining in the area were forced to overcome new obstacles. Not only were Union armies marching through their farms, but Confederate deserters and guerrillas became increasingly problematic. At Horseshoe Ridge/Snodgrass Hill, living historians will portray a local family trying to cope with the loss of land and life after the tragic Campaign for Chattanooga. There will also be living historians dressed as Confederate guerrillas, providing visitors the opportunity to interact with these often-overlooked individuals who brought heartache and panic to the countryside.

Even though the park is focusing on the Chickamauga Battlefield during 1864, this does not mean the staff will be neglecting what occurred here in 1863. There will be special tours and programs provided by park rangers and historians between September 18 and 20 as well. Program information will be forthcoming at www.nps.gov/chch or by calling 706-866-9241.

Coming this Fall...

August 16 – Artillery Programs at Lookout Mountain (Point Park – Lookout Mountain Battlefield)

August 16 @ 9:30 am – Chickamauga Bike Ride (Chickamauga Battlefield)

August 16 @ 1:30 pm – Walking tour of Chattanooga (Begins at Outdoor Chattanooga, 200 River Street, Chattanooga, TN)

August 23 @ 2 pm – Faces Behind the Monuments (Chickamauga Battlefield)

August 31 – Artillery Programs at Chickamauga (Chickamauga Battlefield)

September 6 @ 11 am – “Atlanta is Ours and Fairly Won” Program (Missionary Ridge – Sherman Reservation)

September 18-21 – 151st Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga (Chickamauga Battlefield)

September 20 @ 9:30 am – Chickamauga Bike Ride (Chickamauga Battlefield)

October 11 @ 10 am – USCT Program (Chickamauga Battlefield)

October 11 @ 1:30 pm – “The Johnnies Make a Dash: Opening the Cracker Line” Program (Moccasin Bend – Brown's Ferry Federal Road)

October 18 @ 9:30 am – Chickamauga Bike Ride (Chickamauga Battlefield)

October 18 @ 11 am – Sheridan's Ride Program (Missionary Ridge – Bragg Reservation)

Superintendent's Sidebar

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me and my family to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park this summer. I feel grateful to join such a talented team of National Park Service professionals, volunteers, friends groups, and other partner organizations who share a commitment to preserve this special place for the inspiration and education of all Americans.

Those of you who have discovered this national park unit know how fortunate we are to have more than 9,000 acres to explore within our Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee communities. From Chickamauga Battlefield to Lookout Mountain, from Moccasin Bend to Missionary Ridge, and from Signal Point to Orchard Knob, this national park offers a rich variety of opportunities for both visitors and local residents to learn history, appreciate natural beauty and scenic views, watch wildlife, and engage in outdoor recreation.

While more than 900,000 visitors were driving, hiking, and bicycling through this significant cultural landscape last year, they also made a positive impact on our local economy – spending almost \$55 million in surrounding businesses and supporting 771 private-sector jobs in our neighborhoods.

As we commemorate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of America's first national military park in August, and the 151st anniversaries of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battles in September and November, keep in mind that we are also preparing for another upcoming milestone: the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. As we approach this Centennial in 2016, please join us in inviting a new generation of park stewards to create personal, meaningful, and memorable experiences not only in this, our nation's first national military park, but in the 400 other special places from Florida to Alaska. After all, these treasures belong to all of us.

Brad Bennett
Superintendent

Sacrifices Remembered: The Birth of the National Military Park

By Park Ranger Christopher Young

In 1865, as surrendered Confederate soldiers journeyed home from faraway places like Appomattox Court House, Virginia, and Durham, North Carolina, feelings of sadness, anger, and contempt for the victors were still very much alive in the hearts of the vanquished.

Veterans affected by the desolation brought on by the Civil War, a war which ravaged the country by prematurely extinguishing hundreds of thousands of American lives, created safe havens of remembrance. Ex-Confederates organized the United Confederate Veterans Association (UCV), while their Union counterparts created organizations like the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the Society of the Army of the Cumberland. These organizations became the vehicles for the reconciliation of over 24 years of separation and anxiety between the nation's two sections.

In 1889, the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, made up of Union veterans who once fought in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and others, extended an olive branch across the Mason-Dixon Line to their Southern brothers. Upon deciding to hold their reunion in Chattanooga, Tennessee, members of the society invited Southerners to join them in attending a large barbeque feast held at Crawfish Spring (present-day Chickamauga, Georgia).

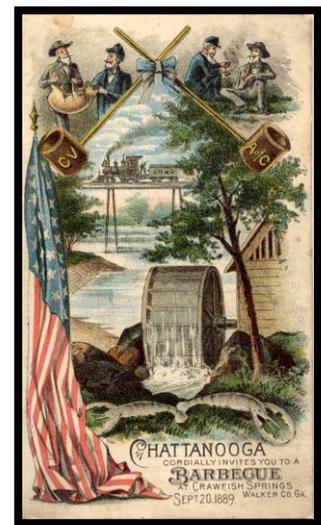
From this gesture, advocates sprung forth supporting the creation of a national park that would honor the sacrifices of soldiers, North and South, yet overlooking the real cause of the war. In less than a year's time, veterans, many of whom were now congressmen and senators in Washington, D.C., passed legislation creating a park that would help heal the still festering wounds of war. As a result of this joint effort, on August 19, 1890, Chickamauga and

Chattanooga National Military Park was established, becoming the first of its kind in United States history.

However, the national military park did not stop growing in 1890. As history marched along, the work and stewardship of the veterans passed to a new generation. On August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was established, eventually being tasked to preserve and protect the grounds and visions passed down by the veterans.

Today, through various efforts, continued land acquisitions provide connective experiences for visitors to learn about the national significance associated with the park. The stories of those individuals who struggled in peace and in war can now be found at places the veterans were unable to immediately preserve, places like Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, Signal Point Reservation, Point Park and sites in Lookout Valley.

This year, while driving, walking, or biking through these sites, remember that although veterans have long ceased walking these hallowed grounds, their memories live through their writings, the monuments they erected, and the people who continue to share their stories of bravery and sacrifice.



Original "Blue-Gray Barbeque Invitation from 1889.

After the Last Echoes of Battle Die Away...

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

Just as you now stand on the Chickamauga Battlefield 150 years after the crashing roar of battle fell silent along the banks of Chickamauga Creek, 70 years ago an old man returned to stand in one of the fields.

Leaning on a cane, his beard white with age, he gazed across the grass at a sign that read, "Site of Poe House, Burned during the battle, Sept. 20, 1863." The man knew the place well. Larkin Poe, now in his 90s, stood where his house once did.

Carving his farm out of the forests that had once been part of the Cherokee Indian Nation, by 1863 Poe lived with his wife, Sarah, in a log house next to the LaFayette Road, just up the road from Sarah's parents, George and Mary Brotherton.

As soldiers poured over their farm in September 1863, Sarah faced the battle alone with two small children, a 2-year-old and a 10-month-old. Larkin was many miles

to the south with his Confederate army unit in Rome, Georgia. Together with dozens of other civilians, Sarah fled from her home and took refuge in the hills to the northwest, a place called Horseshoe Ridge.

Three days after the battle's final shot, Poe returned to the field. The noise of the battle had been so loud he could hear it in Rome, sixty miles away. Now, he saw the damage. His fields: trampled and torn, strewn with shot, shell, and broken bodies. His home: burned to the ground. His family: driven from their home by fear, huddled with their neighbors around a fire, hungry and almost without water.

Yet the war pulled Poe back into battle and away from his family. As the armies moved on, the families tried to return home. They found their lives ruined. Some homes—like that of Sarah Poe's parents, the Brothertons—had been used by both armies as field hospitals. With the floor and furniture now soaked red with the blood of a nation, many saw there was no hope of

staying in their homes. Refugees looking for shelter, many families evicted by the battle took refuge in tents in nearby towns. Yet as the families left the ground they once called home, they saw sights they would never forget: splintered trees, equipment strewn around, dead bodies still unburied and beginning to rot.

After being captured in Knoxville and paroled by the Union army, Larkin Poe returned to his family. With nothing left for them at Chickamauga, they relocated near Cleveland, Tennessee. Yet as an old man, returning to the battlefield brought painful memories of the lost life he had once known.

Refugees fill the news today, people displaced from their land by conflict, political upheaval, civil war. But 150 years ago, on North Georgia farms the Poes and many other families found themselves displaced—refugees of our nation's Civil War.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. However, renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Happy Trails!

By Park Ranger Will Sunderland

With more than 80 miles of trails in the park, it takes more than park rangers to ensure the trails are safe and open to the public. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers called Trail Rovers who walk park trails talking with visitors, looking for maintenance hazards and much more, this goal can be met. Rangers and park staff know visitors are safe and have an expanded opportunity to learn about the park's story from these valued volunteers.

However, the Trail Rovers are not alone. Another group of volunteers takes the information they gather and puts tool to trail by clearing downed trees, repairing drainage issues, and removing overgrowth. These volunteers work together to form a critical part of the staff at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the park website at www.nps.gov/chch or browse thousands of volunteer opportunities around the country at www.volunteer.gov.



Above: Trail Rover Michael Plummer checks a trail washout with Chief Ranger Todd Roeder.

Below: Volunteers from Shaw Industries, Inc. work to clear brush from trails.



Cow High and Hog Tight

By Historian Jim Ogden

“...we reached the fence on the edge of a large corn and stubble field...they opened fire as we crossed the fence...their front line was concealed behind a fence...the enemy {was} entirely hidden from view by the weeds and bushes along a fence row...the men were rallied at a fence...had torn down the rail fences and made breastworks of them...at this fence my regiment captured about 30 prisoners...”

Hundreds of soldier accounts testify to the presence of one of the most ubiquitous features of the Chickamauga Battlefield (and to a slightly lesser extent, the Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge battlefields)—*FENCES*; collectively, miles of them. They were one of the most important and common structures of the rural 19th century agricultural environment in which this and most Civil War campaigns unfolded. Typically they were of the stacked split rail variety and were often called “worm fences” for the way they zigzagged along their course.

In the Empire State of the South, law required that they “. . .shall be five feet high, with or without being staked and ridged, and from the ground to the height of three feet, the rails shall not be more than four inches apart. All paling fences shall be five feet, from the ground, and the pales not more than two inches apart (*The Code of the State of Georgia*, 1861).” As with so much of the United States, this was open range country. If a farmer wished to receive compensation for damage done his crop by another’s livestock, he had to prove that he had erected and maintained stout, proper, and legal fences. To help keep the fences together and the livestock away from them, farmers allowed weeds and brush to grow in the corners and along the fence line; every few years or when the location needed to be adjusted, they would pull the rails out and burn and cut the vegetation along the fence row, then re-erect the rails. Around gardens, fences of vertical pales or pickets would typically be erected. During the fighting, the fences became reference points, battle positions, obstructions, and sources of

construction material as the combat engulfed one farmstead after another. It was in part the extensive destruction of fences and timber here and elsewhere across the South during the war that helped fuel the push in the postwar period for new laws—“stock laws” that fenced livestock in and not just revised “fence laws” to keep them out. When you next visit the Chickamauga Battlefield, try to envision all of the open fields enclosed by the same kind of fence you see around the Brotherton Field at Tour Stop 4.



Damaged runs of worm fencing and paling garden fence appear in this circa early 1864 image of an unidentified farmstead on the greater Chickamauga Battlefield.

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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New Wayside Exhibits at Orchard Knob Reservation

By Chief of Interpretation Kim Coons

On Tuesday, August 5 the national military park, the Friends of the Park and the Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association participated in the annual Orchard Knob Neighborhood block party. As part of this party the park unveiled new wayside exhibits at Orchard Knob. These exhibits provide a new perspective of the actual events that occurred on Orchard Knob in November 1863, over 150 years ago. Each exhibit uses the existing landscape to describe the events that occurred from both the Union and Confederate positions.

The Friends of the Park gave away NPS sno-cone cups and magnets to commemorate the event and historic

Orchard Knob’s connection to the community and neighborhood.

Please take a trip into Chattanooga and see these wonderful new additions telling an important part of the Chattanooga Campaign in your national park.



Superintendent Brad Bennett discusses the importance of the new wayside exhibits and how they will better connect visitors to the Civil War story of Orchard Knob.