



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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Training for a Splendid Little War

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia: Join volunteers of the 3rd Tennessee as they discuss the role Chickamauga Battlefield played as a training post during the Spanish American War. Programs will take place in the Living History area behind Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center on Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22 at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Named Camp Thomas as a tribute to General George H. Thomas and his gallant stand during the 1863 battle, Chickamauga Battlefield served as a training camp for up to 70,000 troops during the short three months it was in operation. Volunteers flocked to the recruiters' calls and vowed to "Remember the Maine" and fight for a nation that was quickly becoming an influence on the world stage. However, very few of the troops who trained at Camp Thomas saw actual combat, but many died during the conflict from epidemics of disease that swept through the camp. Their final resting places can be found in the Chattanooga National Cemetery alongside those gallant and brave Civil War soldiers.

These "Boys of 98" are scarcely remembered today, but it was the battles of that long ago war that began the rise of American power that has dominated the world ever since. Camp Thomas provided the space needed to train those boys to become soldiers in a nation that had not long been reunited from costly Civil War battles fought beneath their very feet.

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.

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