

came on, howling and dancing like devils or redskins," wrote one of Sickles's men. "Their manner of advance was such that neither artillery nor musketry fire seemed to have the slightest effect in checking them. They didn't come in a dense line as we did, but strung out in a skirmish line. West Point tactics were ignored and they adopted Indian fashion....It is astonishing how these creatures will fight. Nothing seemed to check them, and we kept falling back."

☞ *Continue along the path, bearing left when you reach the top of the hill. When you reach the wooden post denoting Tour Stop 5, turn around and face Hazel Grove, where you began your tour.*

Tour Stop 5

Union Artillery Position

Captain Clermont Best commanded the 34 Union guns posted here at the Fairview farmstead. Best first took position here on May 2. His original position faced south, protected by the crescent-shaped gun pits in front of you. In the evening, Best brought up additional batteries and wheeled them 90 degrees to the right to meet Jackson's attack. The long line of gun pits on your left protected those batteries.

On May 3, the Union cannon became the target of Confederate infantry attacks. Best's men fought gallantly, but by 9 a.m. their flanks were threatened and their ammunition was nearly gone. The captain ordered a retreat.

☞ *Follow the mowed path past the signs and through the gun pits to the site of the Fairview house. Stand so that the two historical signs in front of the house are on your right.*

Tour Stop 6

Fairview

Minutes after Best's batteries departed, the Confederates advanced their guns from Hazel Grove to Fairview and began shelling the Chancellorsville house, which stood just to the left of the traffic lights visible in the distance. An Alabama officer described the scene: "We were firing...at a Yankee battery planted near a large house which the enemy had converted into a hospital and was filled with wounded. In another part of the field the woods were fired and many perished in that way. Oh the horrors of war!"

General Lee appeared and began calmly issuing orders to his officers. Under fire from three directions, the Union army gave way and fell back fighting toward the Rappahannock River. Its commander, Joe Hooker, was directing the retreat from the porch of the Chancellorsville house when a shell fired from a Confederate battery here at Fairview struck the building, injuring him. Dazed, Hooker headed to the rear, where he turned command of the army over to General Darius Couch. Although Hooker was able to resume command later that day, he had lost the will to fight. On May 5, he ordered the Union army back across the Rappahannock River.

☞ *After reading the historical signs at this stop, bear to your right and follow the trail to the parking lot at the end of Berry-Paxton Drive. Follow the road down the hill for 275 yards until you come to the 27th Indiana Monument, on the right side of the road.*

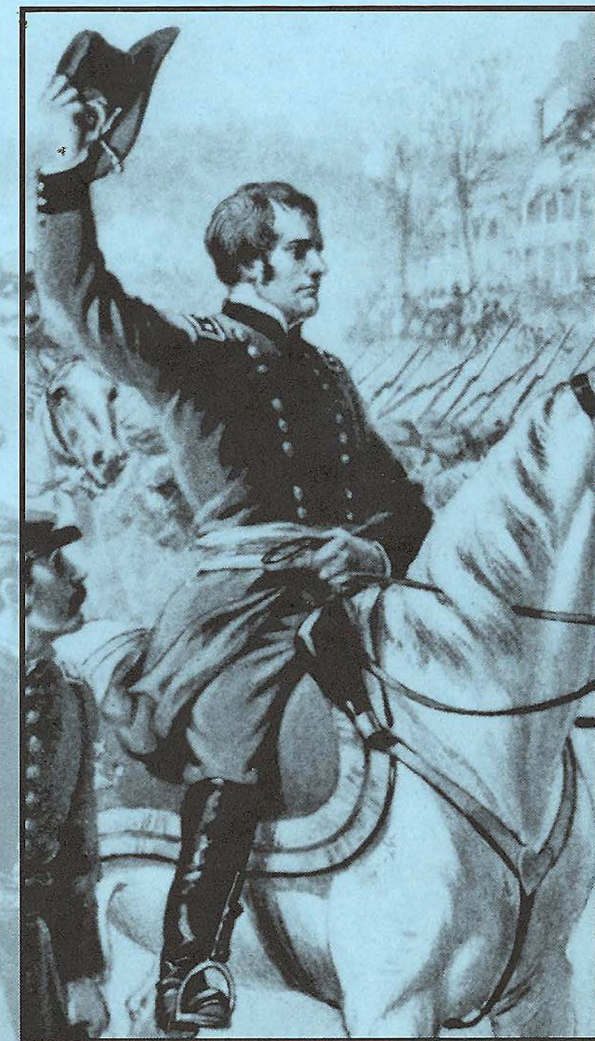
Tour Stop 7

27th Indiana Monument

This monument and the two smaller flank markers on either side of it indicate the position occupied by the 27th Indiana, one of more than 200 Union regiments present at the Battle of Chancellorsville. An average regiment, 430 men strong, could form a pair of lines in the space between the flank markers.

On May 3, the 27th Indiana held this position against repeated Confederate assaults, retreating only after it had exhausted all of its ammunition. In three hours of combat, it lost nearly forty percent of its men. Survivors of the regiment erected this monument in 1901.

☞ *Continue down the road approximately 180 yards to a trail on the right side of the road. A wooden post marks the trail. Take the trail through the woods and into the clearing. Turn left there and follow the path back to Hazel Grove.*



Hazel Grove Fairview

A Walking Tour

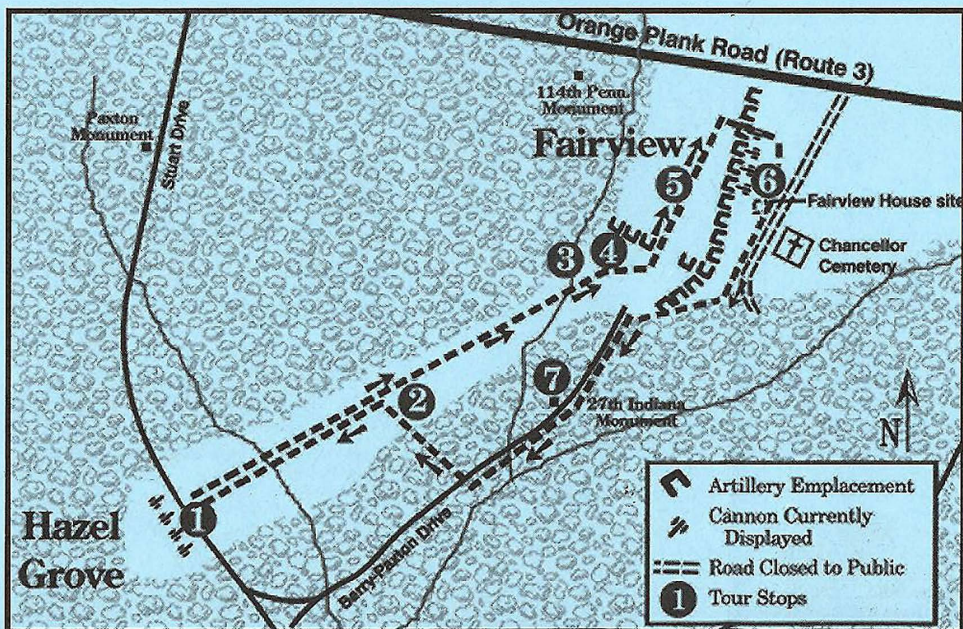
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General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's wounding on May 2, 1863, ended a day of stirring military events at Chancellorsville. That day, Jackson had led 30,000 men of his Confederate Second Corps on a 12-mile march through the dense thickets of the Wilderness and struck the Union army a surprise blow on its exposed right flank. That night, while scouting in front of his lines, the general was mistakenly shot by his own men, receiving wounds from which he would not recover.

Jackson's May 2 attack and subsequent wounding, while the most notable events of Chancellorsville, by no means marked the end of the fighting here. The May 3 combat, described by one historian as "the most intense and concentrated few hours of fighting in the entire war," was far more deadly. In five hours of combat, more than 17,500 soldiers became casualties in an area covering just a few square miles. This one-mile, 45-minute walking tour will lead you to many important points in that struggle. The map below will help you follow the marked route.

The trail begins across the road from the Hazel Grove parking area, Stop 9 on the Chancellorsville Battlefield driving tour. After reading the sign at the beginning of the trail, walk along the road to a point directly across from the cannons. Stand so that you are facing both the road and the cannons.



Tour Stop 1

Hazel Grove

In 1863, a farm called "Hazel Grove" crowned this hill. Owned by the Chancellor family, the clearing was one of the few places in the Wilderness where artillery could be used to advantage. The Union army initially occupied the hill, but following Jackson's May 2 flank attack its commander, Joseph Hooker, evacuated the position in order to shorten his line. It was a poor decision. Abandonment of the hill permitted Jackson's troops, located to your right, to reunite with General Robert E. Lee's portion of the army, located one mile to your left. Once in possession of the hill, Jackson's successor, General J.E.B. Stuart, massed upwards of 30 cannons here, which he used to pummel the center of Hooker's line, located at "Fairview," one-half mile behind you. Southern guns located on the Orange Plank Road and Orange Turnpike joined the bombardment, catching the Union soldiers at Fairview in a punishing crossfire.

Turn around and follow the mowed path through the center of the cleared corridor to the wooden post marking Tour Stop 2.

Tour Stop 2

Struggle in the Woods

While the artillery engaged in a noisy and destructive bombardment, Stuart's Confederates pressed through the woods around you, intent on capturing the Federal batteries at Fairview, ahead. General Alpheus William's division received the brunt of the Confederate attacks. Later, Williams tried to give his daughter some idea of the battle. "If you can stretch your imagination so far as to hear... the crashing roll of 30,000 muskets mingled with the thunder of over a hundred pieces of artillery," he wrote, "the sharp bursting of shells...; the crash and thug of round shot through trees and buildings and into the earth or through columns of human bodies; the 'phiz' of the Minie ball; the uproar of thousands of human voices in cheers, yells, and

imprecations; and see the smoke... hanging sometimes like a heavy cloud and sometimes falling like a curtain between the combatants; see the hundreds of wounded limping away or borne to the rear on litters; riderless horses rushing wildly about; now and then the blowing up of a caisson and human frames thrown lifeless into the air; the rush of columns to the front; the scattered fugitives of broken regiments and skulkers making for the rear. If you can hear and see all this in a vivid fancy, you may have some faint idea of a battle in which thousands are fiercely engaged for victory. But you must stand in the midst and feel the elevation which few can fail to feel, even amidst its horrors, before you have the faintest notion of a scene so terrible and yet so grand."

Continue straight along the path to Tour Stop 3. Face the post.

Tour Stop 3

The Woods Catch Fire

One-quarter mile ahead of you is the Orange Plank Road, modern Route 3. In the course of the battle, the woods north of the Plank Road caught fire, resulting in horrible deaths for wounded soldiers who were unable to escape the advancing flames. "The scene as I marched through the burning woods ...was harrowing," wrote Confederate General James Lane, "unexploded shells & muskets going off in all directions, the dead of both sides enveloped in flames, the appealing cries of helpless, wounded Federals to be removed from the tracks of fire, the heavy pall of stifling sulphurous smoke, all added to the general roar of battle made it a perfect hell on earth. I do not wish to witness anything like it again."

Proceed up the hill to Tour Stop 4.

Tour Stop 4

Charge and Countercharge

For more than three hours, wave after wave of Confederate troops surged forward against the center of the Union line. General Daniel Sickles rallied broken remnants of his Union Third Corps as they emerged from the smoky woods. "Fall in here with no reference to regiments, brigades, or divisions," he shouted. "You are all my men! We must hold this line if every man of us should fall!" By 9 a.m., however, Union ammunition was running low. The Federals fell back, pressed by the advancing lines of gray. "It was but a few moments before they