

The Bandy Heritage Center for Northwest Georgia Battle of Chickamauga Driving Tour

Overview

The Army of the Cumberland's advance to Chickamauga.

In the summer of 1863 the Confederacy suffered the twin disasters of Lee's defeat at Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi to Ulysses S. Grant. Middle and eastern Tennessee remained the only areas in which the Rebel army maintained solid control. The Confederate Army of Tennessee, under the command of General Braxton Bragg, and Major General William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland continued to face each other in the area of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, site of their indecisive yet costly battle of December 31, 1862 -January 1, 1863.

Finally conceding to pressure from President Lincoln to maintain the offensive momentum gained by the victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg as well as liberating eastern Tennessee from Rebel control, Rosecrans began his move against Bragg on June 24, 1863. Skillfully deploying his forces despite the torrential summer rains, Rosecrans used his cavalry and reserve infantry as a feint against Bragg's left flank at Shelbyville, Tennessee while his main force moved east towards Manchester, Tennessee thus outflanking Bragg's position and forcing him to fall back across the Duck River to Tullahoma. Continuing the same tactics of flanking and maneuver, Rosecrans next crossed the Elk River near Winchester causing Bragg to fall back to Chattanooga which he occupied on July 4, 1863. In less than two weeks in a nearly bloodless advance known as the Tullahoma Campaign Rosecrans had forced Bragg to abandon middle Tennessee and left the eastern region of the state open for eventual Federal occupation.

After six weeks of rest and preparation following their success in the Tullahoma Campaign, the next goal of the Army of the Cumberland was to

cross the Tennessee River and seize Chattanooga. Believing that Rosecrans would advance on Chattanooga from the north so as to remain in contact with Federal forces advancing on Knoxville, Tennessee, Bragg left the river crossings below the city virtually unguarded save for scattered units of Major General Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Corps. Instead of taking the direct route over the Cumberland Plateau from his camps surrounding Winchester, Rosecrans swung his army to the west and south, crossing the Tennessee River at Stevenson and Bridgeport, Alabama and Shellmound Tennessee. Using the heights of Lookout Mountain and Sand Mountain as screens the Army of the Cumberland, divided into three columns, would threaten Bragg's supply and communications line to Atlanta and force him to once again abandon a strong position and flee south.

On August 16, 1863 Rosecrans' army began its advance. From its river crossing at Shellmound, Tennessee, the XXI Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, under the command of Major General Thomas Crittenden, moved east, following the route of the railroad that connected Chattanooga with Bridgeport. Eighteen miles south, Major General George Thomas's XIV Corps advanced from Bridgeport, Alabama, crossed Sand and Lookout Mountains enroute to Lafayette, Georgia. From Stevenson, Alabama, the XX Corps, commanded by Major General Alexander McCook, crossed the southernmost spur of Lookout Mountain near Alpine, Georgia. From here, McCook could advance directly east towards Summerville, Georgia or turn northeast to support Thomas advancing to Lafayette.

Bragg, realizing the threat posed to his supply and communications lines by the Army of the Cumberland's dispersal abandoned Chattanooga on September 8. But, rather than fall back closer to Atlanta as Rosecrans hoped, Bragg stationed his forces between Ringgold and Lafayette, Georgia, ever watchful for an opportunity to strike one of Rosecrans' isolated units. Bragg saw his best chance for success disappear at the Battle of Davis Crossroads.

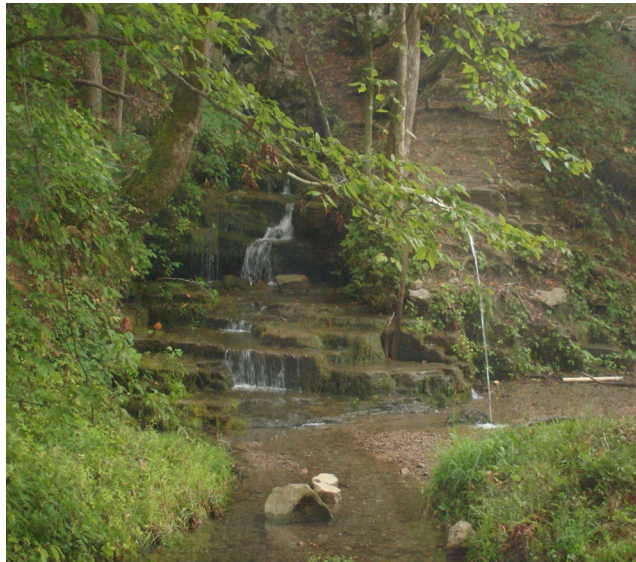
Tour Stops Section #1

The Union XIV Corps crosses Sand and Lookout Mountains.

Directions:

From Chattanooga, Tennessee take Interstate 24 East to the split with Interstate 59. Interstate 59 will take you south into Dade county. Take the first exit (Exit 17) and turn right on Hales Gap Road. After one mile turn right on Murphy Hollow Road. Follow Murphy Hollow Road to the wayside on your right for Murphy's Hollow Spring. The Third and Fourth Divisions of the XIV corps followed this route over Sand Mountain and the waters of this spring offered a cool respite from the late summer heat. Returning to Hales Gap Road, continue on Interstate 59 to the next exit for the city of Trenton. Turn right on Georgia Highway 136 and begin to ascend Sand Mountain. Hwy 136 crosses Sand Mountain at White Oak Gap, crossing point for the XIV Corps First and Second Divisions. Turn left on Back Valley Drive. Two miles south of the intersection with Hwy 136 is Brown's Spring, site of General Thomas' headquarters during the occupation of Dade County. Returning to Hwy 136, turn right and enter the city of Trenton. Turn right at the intersection of Hwy 136 and U.S. Hwy 11 and go south on U.S. Hwy 11. To your left is Lookout Mountain, the XIV Corps' next obstacle in its advance to Lafayette. Three miles south of Trenton, turn left on Newsome Gap Road. Newsome Gap Road follows the main route of the XIV Corps over Lookout Mountain. This twisting route, known locally as Johnson's Crook follows Hurricane Creek as it flows off of Lookout Mountain. Newsome Gap Road reconnects with Hwy 136 on the crest line of Lookout Mountain. At the junction with Hwy 136, turn right. At the site of the 4 Mile Marker you will be crossing through Coopers Gap, an alternate route over the mountain utilized by the XIV Corps' Fourth Division.

Murphy's Hollow Spring



The Battle of Davis Crossroads.

The XIV Corps' Second Division, commanded by Major General James Negley, crossed Lookout Mountain and entered the valley of West Chickamauga Creek via Stevens's (or Stephens's) Gap on September 8. As the first full unit of the XIV Corps to cross the mountain, Negley's division made their camp around the hamlet of Davis Crossroads situated at the mouth of McLemores Cove. From this site Negley's Division could push east through Dug Gap in Pigeon Mountain, the last physical barrier before Lafayette. This isolated command became the focus of Braxton Bragg's effort to destroy the XIV Corps piecemeal. From his headquarters at Lafayette, Bragg ordered Lieutenant General Daniel Hill and Major General Thomas Hindman to coordinate an attack with the goal of crushing Negley's Division between them. Hill, with Major General Patrick Cleburne's Division in the lead would advance west from Lafayette, block Negley's advance and hold him in place while Hindman's Division, moving south from Lee and Gordon's Mills would strike Negley's left flank and rear. Negley's Division skirmished with Cleburne's entrenched forces in Dug Gap on September 10, unaware of the threat looming behind them. Disaster was avoided by Hindman's hesitancy and delay in executing Bragg's orders. Finally situated in a favorable position to attack on the morning of September 11, Hindman's assault failed to properly coordinate with Hill's advance from Dug Gap. Negley, now fully aware of the precariousness of his position fell back in good order past Davis Crossroad to Baileys Crossroads where he reunited on September 12 with additional units of the XIV Corps coming through Stevens's Gap.

Tour Stops Section #2

The Battle of Davis Crossroads

Directions:

After descending the western slope of Lookout Mountain on Hwy 136 you will come to the Cooper Heights community at the intersection of Hwy 136 and Georgia State Hwy 193. Turn right and go south .05 miles on Hwy 193 and turn right on Mack Coulter Road. At the intersection of Mack Coulter Road and Harold Stevens Road is a commemorative marker explaining the significance of

Stevens's Gap which is before you. Follow Harold Stevens Road back to Hwy 193 and turn right. A short drive brings you to Baileys Crossroads , where Negley's division fell back to reunite with the XIV Corps. Continuing on 1.5 miles brings you to Davis Crossroads. GA Hwy 341 which comes in on your left was the route of Hindman's division in its failed assault on Negley's isolated division. One mile further on Hwy 193 is a wayside on the right at the site where the highway passes through Dug Gap. Three commemorative markers detail Bragg's failed opportunity to deal a crushing blow to the XIV Corps. This engagement is also known as the Battle of McLemores Cove. Return to the intersection of Highways 193 and 341 and turn right on Hwy 341. This route will take you to the town of Chickamauga and the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Stevens's Gap



Overview

Chickamauga – The First Day

After avoiding near disaster at Davis Crossroads, Rosecrans concentrated his scattered commands closer to Chattanooga. Major General Alexander McCook's XX Corps, far to the south and approaching Summerville, Georgia hurried north to join Thomas's XIV Corps near Baileys Crossroads and together these forces would move up the west side of West Chickamauga Creek to unite with Major General Thomas Crittenden's XXI Corps south of Chattanooga. While this consolidation was taking place, Bragg devised a new plan to crush a Rosecrans's army before it could fully

unite. Shifting his headquarters north from Lafayette to Leet's Mill, Bragg would move the Army of Tennessee south of Chattanooga, blocking the Army of the Cumberland from its main supply depot. With reinforcements from Virginia due to arrive at any time, Bragg would then use his numerical superiority to force Rosecrans back south along Chickamauga Creek with the intent of trapping his foe in the valley of McLemores Cove.

On September 18, Bragg began his move by crossing Chickamauga Creek at Reed's and Alexander's bridges north of Lee and Gordon's Mills. In the gathering darkness, Bragg's forward units could only make short progress against the scattered Union Cavalry brigades guarding the bridges. But these small mounted units delayed the Rebel advance long enough for Rosecrans to learn of the growing threat to his left flank and sped his plans to consolidate his army.

By early morning on September 19, the bulk of Bragg's army had crossed to the west bank of Chickamauga Creek and prepared to attack what he believed to be the isolated units of Crittenden's XXI Corps concentrated around Lee and Gordon's Mills, three miles upstream from Alexander's Bridge. But as his men advanced through the rough and tangled countryside they encountered unexpected resistance from Union infantry. During the night of September 18, three divisions from Thomas's XIV Corps had arrived and were in position around the Kelly Farm to the north of Crittenden's command in order to block the rebel drive to get between Chattanooga and the Army of the Cumberland.

Unaware he was facing the majority of the Rebel army, Thomas pushed forward more men to brush away what he believed to be only Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry. As the conflict between the forces grew in intensity, Rosecrans continued to reinforce Thomas with additional troops sent north from the main army's positions around Lee and Gordon's Mill. As the battle grew the opposing lines extended southward roughly paralleling the Lafayette Road (U.S. Highway 27). Rosecrans main goal of the day was to retain control of this road, his primary link to Chattanooga. His initial plan of envelopment thwarted, Bragg wanted to stabilize his own front, hold the Federals in place and inflict whatever damage he could.

By midday on September 19, the Army of the Cumberland appeared to hold the advantage. In the north central sector of the battlefield, they had checked the Confederate advance at the Winfrey and Brock Fields. As the battle spread southward both sides seemed locked in a standstill as fresh units continued to join their compatriots. At the southern extreme of the

lines, especially savage fighting raged in the Viniard Field and the surrounding woods. Here, each side attempted to turn the others southern flank. Divisions from both the Union XX and XXI Corps, led by Major General

General Crittenden collided with the brigades of Major General John B. Hood's Division. These men, veteran's of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia were the spearhead of Lieutenant General James Longstreet's Corps, dispatched from Virginia to reinforce Bragg's army. Hood's men had arrived by train at Ringgold station on the afternoon of September 17. Each side charged repeatedly across the Viniard Field and the Lafayette Road only to be pushed back in turn. The final Confederate push, coming around 5:00 pm , successfully drove the Union troops back across the road and seemed on the verge of rolling up the line. Only the intervention of Colonel John T. Wilder's mounted infantry brigade, armed with 7 shot Spencer repeating rifles and supported by batteries of the 18th, 19th, and 21st Indiana Light Artillery prevented the Union line from collapsing. Reinforced in the evening by Major General Phillip Sheridan's Third Division of the XX Corps, the Union right flank was battered but intact.

The greatest crisis for the Federal forces occurred late in the afternoon, north of the fighting at the Viniard field. A gap in the Union line developed between the units of Crittenden's command at the Viniard field and the remainder of his forces around the Brotherton field. Surging out of the woods east of the Lafayette Road, Confederate Major General Alexander P. Stewart's division struck this gap and threatened to split the Union line. As the Rebel brigade of Brigadier General Henry Clayton crossed the Lafayette Road and drove the Union division of Brigadier General Horatio Van Cleve back through the Brotherton Field, Confederate Brigadier General William Bate's brigade turned north, paralleling the Lafayette road and widened the gap between the Union positions. Neither Clayton's nor Bate's gains were supported in time to allow them to fully exploit split the created in the Union line. Rallying in the woods west of the Brotherton field and supported by reinforcements from Major General John Palmer's Second division of the XXI Corps, Van Cleve's division regained their former position and Clayton's division fell back across the Lafayette Road. Meanwhile, Bate's division, having advanced unsupported as far as the Poe field was stopped by the concentrated fire of 20 guns from the 4th U.S. and 1st Ohio Artillery.

After dark Bragg called a meeting of his top generals at his headquarters at Thedford's Ford, two miles down stream from Lee and Gordon's Mills, to plan the attack for the next day. During the night more of

Longstreet's brigades arrived and Bragg reorganized his army to give Longstreet a more vital role. Longstreet, with five divisions would command the Left wing of the Rebel army while Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, also with five divisions, would direct the Right wing. Under Bragg's plan for September 20, Polk would begin the attack at first light with the forces on the farthest right (north) of his line. The rest of the army would take up the attack thereafter, each division launching its assault as its neighbor to the right became engaged. Bragg's plan maintained his original goal of placing his army between Rosecrans and Chattanooga while pushing the Army of the Cumberland south to McLemore's Cove. Meanwhile from his headquarters at the Widow Glenn house, located at the site of the present day Wilder Brigade Monument, Rosecrans and his corps commanders agreed to hold the field for another days fighting. Thomas's position on the left (north) was strengthened and the right flank of the army was pulled in and back, in effect the army was contracting and sliding to the left (north). The Union right would now rest on the Widow Glenn Hill and Rosecrans moved his headquarters several hundred yards north to an open rise overlooking Dyer field.

Tour Stops #3

The Arrival of the Armies and the First Day's Battle

Directions:

From the intersection of GA Hwys 193 and 341 at Davis Crossroads , go north on Hwy 341 to the town of Chickamauga.

Along this road, in the opposite direction, Hindman's Division advanced towards their failed attempt to trap Negley's isolated division at Davis Crossroads.

Two miles north of the intersection of Hwys 341 and 136 you will come to the first of three important crossings of West Chickamauga Creek. These three crossing points, Gower's Ford, Bird's Mill, and Owing's Ford saw constant skirmishing between September 12 and September 18 as the XIV and XX Corps of the Army of the Cumberland moved north to link up with the XXI Corps south of Chattanooga. The first of these, Gowers Ford, is just south of the Cove Methodist Church on your left. In the cemetery adjacent to the church you can view the gravesite if Eliza Glenn, known as the Widow Glenn. Her house on the Chickamauga battlefield was the site of General Rosecrans's headquarters on the evening of September 19. One mile north of Cove Church, turn right on Baker and Hearn Circle to Bird's Mill. This mill was used as a landmark for Union forces moving through the area on their way north. Returning to Hwy 341, continue north for .05 miles and turn right on to Old Bethel Road. From the wayside on the right side of

the road you have an excellent view of the waters of West Chickamauga Creek . As you cross over the creek, the white house on your left marks the site of the Childress Plantation, home to one of the more prominent families of the area. It is believed that the existing house contains many elements of the original plantation building. Returning to Hwy 341, turn right and proceed in to the town of Chickamauga.

Across the street from the Gordon Lee House in the center of Chickamauga is a small community park which contains the site of Crawfish Springs. This large natural spring became the main hospital site for the Army of the Cumberland during the battle. Also contained within the park are markers which explain the role of Camp George Thomas as a staging area for American troops being deployed for Cuba in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

From the park continue north on 341 (Cove Road), turn right on 10th Street and the left on Crittenden Street.. Just past the Chickamauga City Hall turn right on Lee and Gordon Mill Rd. Cross over U.S. Hwy 27 to Lee and Gordon's Mills. Here on the banks of Chickamauga Creek, Major General Crittenden's XXI Corps waited while the XIV and XX Corps raced north to consolidate their forces. This location became the main staging area from which General Rosecrans fed his divisions into the growing battle.

Return to U.S. Hwy 27 and turn right. Turn right on to Lafayette Rd (Old Hwy 27) opposite the Food Lion shopping center. After entering the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park continue on the Lafayette Road 3.5 miles to the Visitor Center at the north entrance to the park. At the Visitor Center you can view a film which explains the movements of the armies, the flow of the battle, and the aftermath. Maps and guides are available as well as a firearms museum. Leaving the Visitor Center, turn left and proceed to the traffic light at Reed's Bridge Road. Turn right on Reed's Bridge Road. In the woods and fields to your right, the men of Thomas's XIV Corps first encountered the Rebel forces searching for the left flank of the Union army which they believed was still concentrated around Lee and Gordon's Mills.

Crawfish Springs Lee and Gordon's Mills



From this area the battle line grew and extended south as more and more Union and Confederate units were ordered in to the growing fight.. Continue on Reed's Bridge Road

to its crossing point on West Chickamauga Creek. This site , along with Alexander's Bridge three miles upstream were the main crossing places for Bragg's army. Tracing your route back from Reed's Bridge, turn left at Jay's Mill Road. After a short distance turn right at the Brotherton Road. Stop at the intersection of Brotherton Road and Alexander's Bridge Road. In the Winfrey Field to your rear and the Brock Field just ahead, the men of the Union XIV Corps and Confederate Lieutenant General Daniel Hill fought each other to a standstill during the late morning and early afternoon of September 19 with the men of the Union holding possession of their original positions.

The Brotherton Road intersects with the Lafayette Hwy at the location of the Brotherton Cabin, just south of the Dyer Road. It was in this area that the Federal army faced disaster on the first day of battle. From this intersection, Bate's brigade pushed north, widening the gap in the Union line. A short distance north from the intersection the Poe Road veers left to the west of the Poe Field. On the northern edge of the Poe field were the batteries of the 4th U.S. and 1st Ohio artillery. Their massed rounds of canister fire stopped the advancing Rebels and forced them back into the woods south of the Brotherton Road. Turning south from the Poe Road, past the Dyer and Brotherton Roads you will see the Brotherton Cabin and Field on your right.. It was here that the Union troops faced a second crisis. Clayton's Brigade crossed the Lafayette Road from the woods on your left and pushed the Union troops through the field and off the ridgeline. Clayton's men did not receive sufficient support to fully exploit the break in the Union line and were subsequently pushed back across the Brotherton Field and Lafayette Road by Union reinforcement sent to plug the hole in the line.

From the Brotherton House, go south one mile to the intersection with the Viniard-Alexander Road. In the Viniard Field to your left, the newly arrived troops of Hood's Division encountered the mixed units of the XX and XXI Federal Corps as each side endeavored to turn the other's flank. Continue south on the Lafayette road and turn right on to Glenn-Viniard Road. A short drive leads to the Wilder Brigade Monument.. This 85 foot tower honors Colonel John T. Wilder and his brigade of mounted infantry. Armed with seven shot Spencer repeating rifles Wilder's men , with artillery support, stopped Hood's men in their late afternoon assault which almost succeeded in turning the Federal southern flank. This monument also marks the site of the Widow Glenn house, where General Rosecrans made his headquarters on September 19.

Wilder Brigade Monument



Chickamauga-The Second Day

Bragg's plan for September 20 called for Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk's Corps to attack the northern flank of Thomas's XIV at first light. Due to a mix up in communications between Polk and his subordinate Lieutenant General Daniel Hill, the assault did not begin until 9:30 am. By this time Thomas's divisions had fortified their positions with log breastworks which extended eastward in an arc from the Lafayette Road. As the battle progressed, the division of Major General John C. Breckinridge found Thomas's extreme left and passed beyond it and into his rear. As they turned south to roll up the exposed Federal flank they were stopped at the northern edge of the Kelly Field by the timely arrival of Colonel Ferdinand Van Dever's Brigade of Brigadier General John M. Brannan's Third Division. Throughout the morning of September 20 the rebel divisions launched repeated attacks against Thomas's well protected lines and were repulsed with great loss.

As Confederate advances faltered on the northern end of the fight, their fortunes were about to take a dramatic turn in the center of the line. All through the morning Thomas had repeatedly asked for more reinforcements to strengthen his line which faced the brunt of the Confederate offensive. Rosecrans responded to the requests by shifting units from the Federal center and right. Mistakenly believing that a gap existed in the line south of Thomas's position, Rosecrans ordered Brigadier General Thomas J. Wood to shift north from his position at the Brotherton House and plug the gap. Rather than filling a gap in the line Wood's movement actually created a 600 yard gap in the center of the Federal battleline. At 11:30 am Longstreet, with three divisions stacked one behind the other, launched his grand assault from the woods east of the Lafayette Road through the Brotherton Field and split the Union line. As Longstreet's men surged through the Brotherton field the Union center and right collapsed in a rout that carried them, along with Generals Rosecrans, McCook, and Crittenden all the way back to Chattanooga. Confused and disorganized units of the Union force fell back in panic, offering only token resistance as they fled west from their lines along the Lafayette Road. South of the breakthrough, Major General Phillip Sheridan's Third Division of the XX Corps made a stand near the Widow Glenn house and a small knoll soon to be christened Lytle Hill. Sheridan's defense slowed the Confederate advance here at the southernmost point of the breakthrough and allowed his men to withdraw to Chattanooga in good order.

As Longstreet's troops crossed the Glenn-Kelly Road they turned north to both exploit the breakthrough and protect their right flank from growing Union resistance beginning to stabilize on the slopes of the ridges and hills north of the Dyer Field. Responding to the sights and sounds of the Union line collapsing to his right, Major General George H. Thomas began collecting stray units of the XX and XXI Corps along with brigades of Major General Gordon Granger's Reserve Division just arriving on the field from Chattanooga. Thomas, displaying the calm demeanor and solid strength that would earn him the sobriquet "The Rock of Chickamauga" placed his men on the heights of Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill. Following their breakthrough and subsequent rout of the Federal right wing, Longstreet's men were as disorganized and scattered as their opponents. While Thomas sought to bring order and stability to the Union troops gathering around him, Longstreet had a similar task. By 1:00 pm Longstreet's men were finally gathered into a cohesive force and attacked with the goal of pushing the Union lines off the heights above them. The successive Rebel assaults over the next six hours saw some of the fiercest fighting of the entire war. At 5:00 pm Thomas received orders from Rosecrans, now safely back in Chattanooga, to withdraw the remnants of the army and abandon the field. The situation Thomas faced is one of the most difficult any commander must deal with. He had to conduct a fighting withdrawal, maintaining some semblance of order while preventing his opponent from overwhelming his command while on the move.

Compounding Thomas's problem, Polk's Right wing of the Army of Tennessee renewed its attacks against his original position east of the Lafayette Road after continued prodding from General Bragg, but Polk's men were no more successful in breaking through the strong Union breastworks now as they were earlier in the day. Aided by the exhaustion of the Confederate attackers and the growing late afternoon darkness, Thomas skillfully pulled his men from their lines and fell and wearily marched to Chattanooga via the McFarland Gap Road.

As the dispirited Army of the Cumberland retired to Chattanooga, Bragg's army followed them and occupied the heights of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain which dominated the city. The campaign, which began with such promise at Tullahoma in July, brought an end to Rosecrans's career as an army commander. Now his increasingly desperate army would sit besieged in Chattanooga until relieved in November by the arrival of Ulysses S. Grant from Mississippi.

Tour Stops #4

Chickamauga-The Second Day

Directions:

From the Wilder Tower Monument return to the Visitor Center. In the field south of the Visitor Center, Breckinridge's division passed beyond the northern end of Thomas's line on the morning of September 20. From here they could have easily turned south and rolled up the Union line if not for the timely arrival of Van Derveer's brigade at the northern edge of the Kelly Field. Leaving the Visitor Center, turn right and then turn left on to Alexander Bridge Road.. From Alexander Bridge Road turn right on to Battle Line Road. This road, not present at the time of the battle, traces the arc of Thomas's line as it stretched south encompassing the Kelly Field. In the woods to your right, Thomas's divisions manned the breastworks that allowed them to repulse Polk's continued assaults during the morning of September 20. Continuing south, Battle Line Road joins the Lafayette Hwy just north of the Poe Field, site of Bate's unsupported break in the Federal line on September 19. Turn left on to Lafayette Hwy. Just south of the Poe field is the Brotherton Cabin. From the trees across the Lafayette Hwy, Longstreet's massed columns smashed through the hole in the Federal line caused by the shift of Wood's Division from this area. The Federal troops were driven from the field into the woods west of this position. From the Brotherton Cabin return north and turn left on Dyer Road. Turn left once more on Glenn Kelly Road. One half mile south of the junction of Dyer Road and Glenn-Kelly Road and just north of the Wilder Monument Tower is a small hill on your right. This hill, now known as Lytle Hill was the site of Sheridan's delaying action after the Confederate breakthrough. Sheridan's stubborn defense slowed the Rebel advance south of the Brotherton Cabin and allowed his men to retire safely to Chattanooga. Reversing your direction, return north on Glenn-Kelly Road past the junction with the Dyer Road. Continuing north on the Glenn-Kelly Road the field to your left is the Dyer Field. It was through this open area that the shattered units of Rosecrans' army fled in disarray for the safety of Chattanooga, dragging Generals Rosecrans, McCook, and Crittenden along in their wake. At the top of the ridge before you, turn left on to the road to the Snodgrass House. At the end of the road you will be on the crest of Horseshoe Ridge, where the fragments of the Union left wing were reorganized by Thomas into a cohesive fighting force. Reinforced by units from Thomas's divisions already engaged with Polk off to the east and Granger's newly arrived Reserve Corps, this hastily assembled mixture of units successfully held the high ground throughout the day. Their stubborn resistance allowed Thomas to preserve the shattered remains of the army and withdraw safely to Chattanooga. After leaving Snodgrass Hill, turn left on Genn-Kelly Road and return to Lafayette Road. Turn left on Lafayette road and go past the Visitor Center. At the first traffic light turn left on McFarland Gap Road. This road follows the path of the Army of the Cumberland's retreat from the battlefield through McFarland Gap in Missionary Ridge.



Brotherton Cabin



Horseshoe Ridge