

Point Park

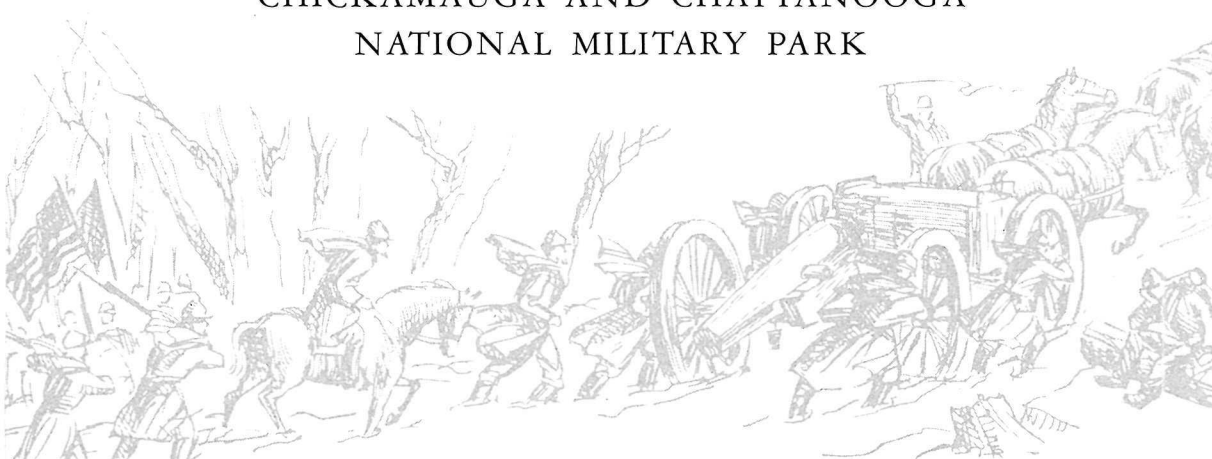
Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga Battlefields



CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA
National Military Park GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE

Point Park, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga Battlefields

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



The Battle of Chattanooga—a Union victory in November 1863 which secured that important railroad center and opened the way for the Atlanta Campaign

CHICKAMAUGA and Chattanooga National Military Park, oldest and largest of the national military park areas, was established in commemoration of two battles fought by the gallant soldiers of the North and of the South for control of Chattanooga, Tenn., great strategic center between the eastern and western sections of the Confederate States. Here, on both sides of the struggle, by the action of the thousands of men in the two armies, were exemplified the typical American qualities of independence, courage, and self-sacrifice, which

Cover: View of Chattanooga and the winding Tennessee River from Point Park, Lookout Mountain.

constitute the enduring strength of our democracy. In speaking at the dedication of the park, a veteran of the battle said: "Here . . . we and they, the living and the dead, Confederate and Federal, fought for the right as each understood it, for the Constitution as each construed it, and for the liberty as each interpreted it."

The Struggle for Chattanooga

Located at a gap in the mountains through which flows the navigable Tennessee River, Chattanooga was an important railroad junction at the time of the Civil War and a key to the communications system of the Southern Confederacy. The capture of this city by Union forces would be a severe blow to the South. It would check the east and west passage of men

and supplies and would open the way to an invasion of Georgia.

Maneuvering the Confederates out of middle Tennessee in the summer of 1863, Federal troops crossed the Tennessee River south of Chattanooga, and, on September 19–20, engaged the Confederate Army in a 2-day battle at Chickamauga Creek, in Georgia. While this battle ended in a Confederate victory, the Federal Army succeeded in retreating northward into the city of Chattanooga, which previously had been abandoned by the Southern forces.

The Confederates now settled down to siege tactics, surrounded the Federal Army, and attempted to force its surrender through starvation. By occupying Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and by establishing a line between the two heights, they cut off all but the most difficult route by which supplies could be brought into the city. Within a month the Federal Army in Chattanooga was in a desperate situation and was reduced to half rations. Ten thousand horses and mules died and surrender seemed inevitable, but Federal reinforcements, marching up the valley of the Tennessee River from Bridgeport, Ala., arrived in time to help save the army. A new supply route from the north was opened and was successfully defended.

As a result of this timely aid, the siege of Chattanooga failed. Nevertheless, the Confederates still clung to their positions. Then, in November, after additional Federal troops had arrived, the Northern Army assumed the offensive.

The Battle of Chattanooga was a 3-day engagement, lasting from November 23 to 25. As planned by Federal officers, victory was to be won by a flanking movement against the Confederate right wing located on the north end of Missionary Ridge. If this position were carried, the Federal troops in the center were to join in an effort to sweep the Confederates from their base of supplies and communications and to defeat them. The engagement, however, developed much differently. While the main Federal Army was maneuvering into position, a demonstration attack was made on a Confederate outpost at Orchard Knob, about a mile in front of Missionary Ridge. This advance movement was successfully carried out on November 23, but it warned the Confederates of danger on their right flank and prompted them to strengthen their positions.

On the next day, while their maneuvering force was still getting into position, the Federals tried another demonstration, this time to divert

the Confederates on their left. Moving along the slopes of Lookout Mountain from the western side, a Federal force gradually drove back the few Confederate defenders. At Cravens' Farm, however, they met stubborn resistance from an entrenched line of troops. Here the fighting was most serious, the Confederates finally being dislodged and forced to retreat to a new line 400 yards beyond. At this point the fighting ended, and, although the Confederates had not yet been driven from the mountain, their position was endangered by the fact that a large number of Federal troops had reached the eastern side. Rather than risk being cut off from the main line of forces on Missionary Ridge, the Confederates evacuated all troops from Lookout Mountain and the valley below. When Federal soldiers scaled the palisades the next morning, they found the mountain deserted.

On the third day, the Federals resumed the attempt to gain a foothold on the north end of Missionary Ridge, which they had previously failed to take, but all attacks were repulsed by

the Confederates. The Federal forces on Lookout Mountain were ordered to advance across Chattanooga Valley to attack the Confederate left flank, but this movement advanced slowly. Meanwhile, however, in order to relieve the pressure on both flanks, other troops were thrown against the Confederate rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. In a rush these Federal soldiers carried the rifle pits, and then in their enthusiasm, without waiting for further orders, they charged up the mountain slopes, broke the Confederate positions, and precipitated a general retreat of the Confederate Army into Georgia. Complete control of Chattanooga and its approaches had at last been won by the Federal Government.

The Park

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is composed of separate areas, the more important of which are: Chickamauga Battlefield, in Georgia; Point Park and the Battlefield of Lookout Mountain, and Orchard Knob, in Chattanooga; a chain of small reservations located on Missionary Ridge; and Signal Point on Signal Mountain. The park contains approximately 8,190 acres of federally owned land.

Missionary Ridge from DeLong Reservation.



Tennessee River from Point Park, Lookout Mountain.



Point Park and Lookout Mountain Battlefield

Visitors are urged to go first to Point Park on Lookout Mountain, where from the terrace of the Adolph S. Ochs Observatory and Museum, high above the winding Tennessee River, a comprehensive view of the Battlefield of Chattanooga may be obtained. On the parapet are markers to identify the more important troop positions, and maps are available to indicate the natural and historic features of interest. Further assistance to the visitor is rendered by a National Park Service attendant.

The observatory and museum bears the name of one of the park's major benefactors, the late Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the Chattanooga Times and the New York Times. Mr. Ochs was a leader in the movement that resulted in establishing Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, in 1890, and was responsible for the acquisition of considerable land on Lookout Mountain for inclusion in the park.

From Lookout Point interesting foot trails, extending along eastern and western flanks of the mountain, reveal unusual rock formations typical of the area and provide ever-changing and beautiful vistas of the countryside below.

HOW TO REACH POINT PARK.—Point Park is reached from Chattanooga by United States Highways Nos. 41, 64, and 11, which combine as they leave the city and skirt the base of Lookout Mountain, turning off on the Scenic Highway, which leads up the mountain to the park entrance. One may also visit the park by means of the St. Elmo busses from Chattanooga, which connect with the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway at the foot of the mountain. The top of the incline is within short walking distance of the Point Park entrance.

Missionary Ridge

To commemorate the engagement on Mis-

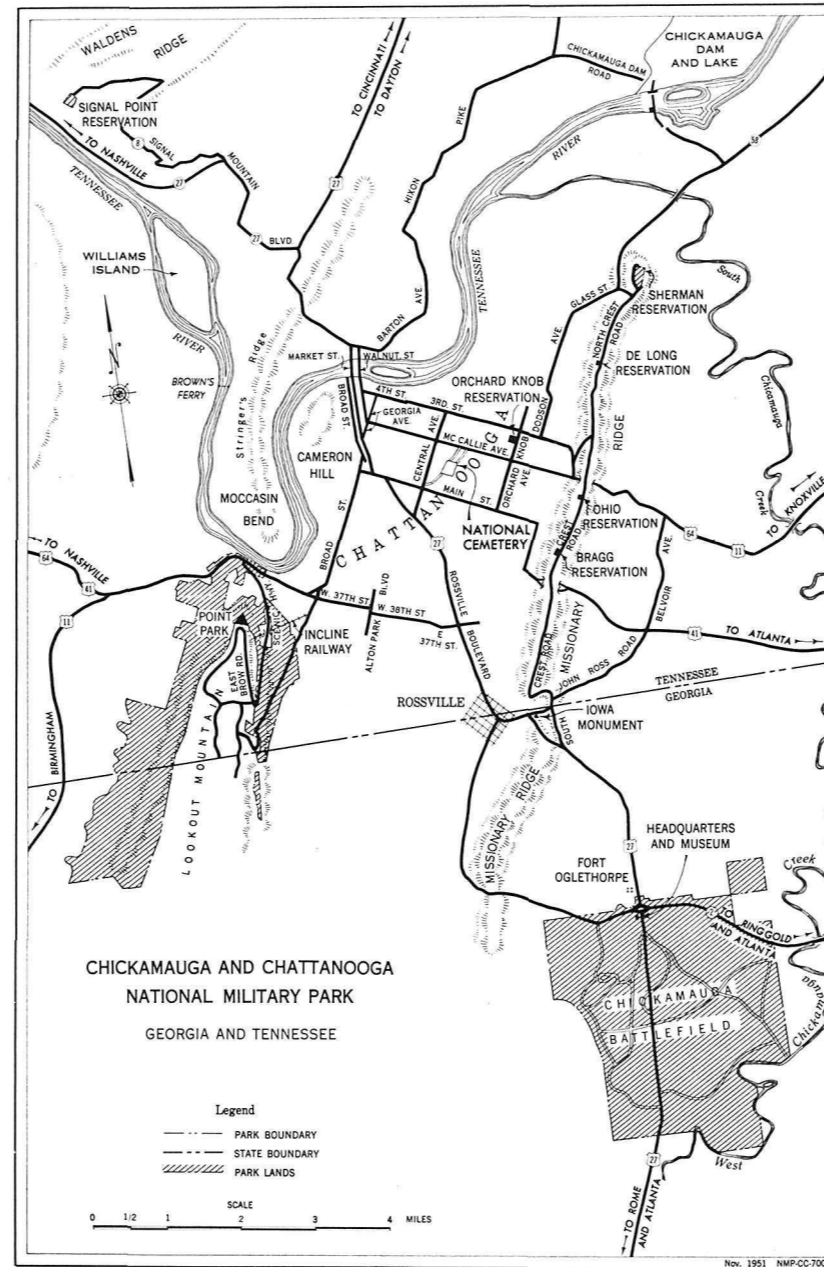
sionary Ridge, there are a series of park areas located at important points on the ridge. Access to these areas is provided by the Crest Road which runs the entire length of the line occupied by the Confederates during the battle. Markers, monuments, tablets, and gun positions provide information for the visitor, and excellent views of Chattanooga may be obtained along this drive. The more important units of the park on Missionary Ridge are: The Sherman Reservation, where Sherman's forces unsuccessfully attacked the north end of the Confederate line; the DeLong Reservation, site of one of the breaks in the Confederate line; the Ohio Reservation, an area set aside to commemorate the participation of Ohio troops in the battles; and the Bragg Reservation, where the Confederate commander had his headquarters.

Orchard Knob

This unit of the park is located near McCallie Avenue (U. S. Nos. 11 and 64), in Chattanooga, and marks the site where the first action of the Battle of Chattanooga took place. Orchard Knob became General Grant's headquarters during the remainder of the battle.

Administration

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is a part of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. At park headquarters on the Chickamauga Battlefield a museum, reference library, and free information are provided. Organizations and groups are given special service if arrangements are made in advance with the superintendent. All communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.



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Douglas McKay, Secretary
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