

Lookout Mountain

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

In September 1863, a Confederate army led by Gen. Braxton Bragg won a great victory at Chickamauga. The Union line broke and a complete rout was prevented only by the quick thinking of Gen. George Thomas who blocked the Confederate advance, thereby enabling the Union army to reach Chattanooga and take up a strong defensive position. The Confederates promptly established a siege line south of the city on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and effectively cut the major Union supply lines, leaving only a torturous, 60-mile route over Walden Ridge to the north. Union plans for an easy and rapid advance into Georgia were dashed.

But a large Federal force of about 42,000 battle-ready men was encamped in Chattanooga, and reinforcements were on the way. Additional troops had begun moving toward southeastern Tennessee even before the Battle of Chickamauga, and the news of the siege hastened them. By late October, Gen. Joe Hooker had arrived from Virginia with 20,000 men; a month later, Gen. William T. Sherman brought 16,000 more. During this time, changes in the command also took place; Thomas replaced the defeated William S. Rosecrans and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant became overall commander of Federal armies in the West.

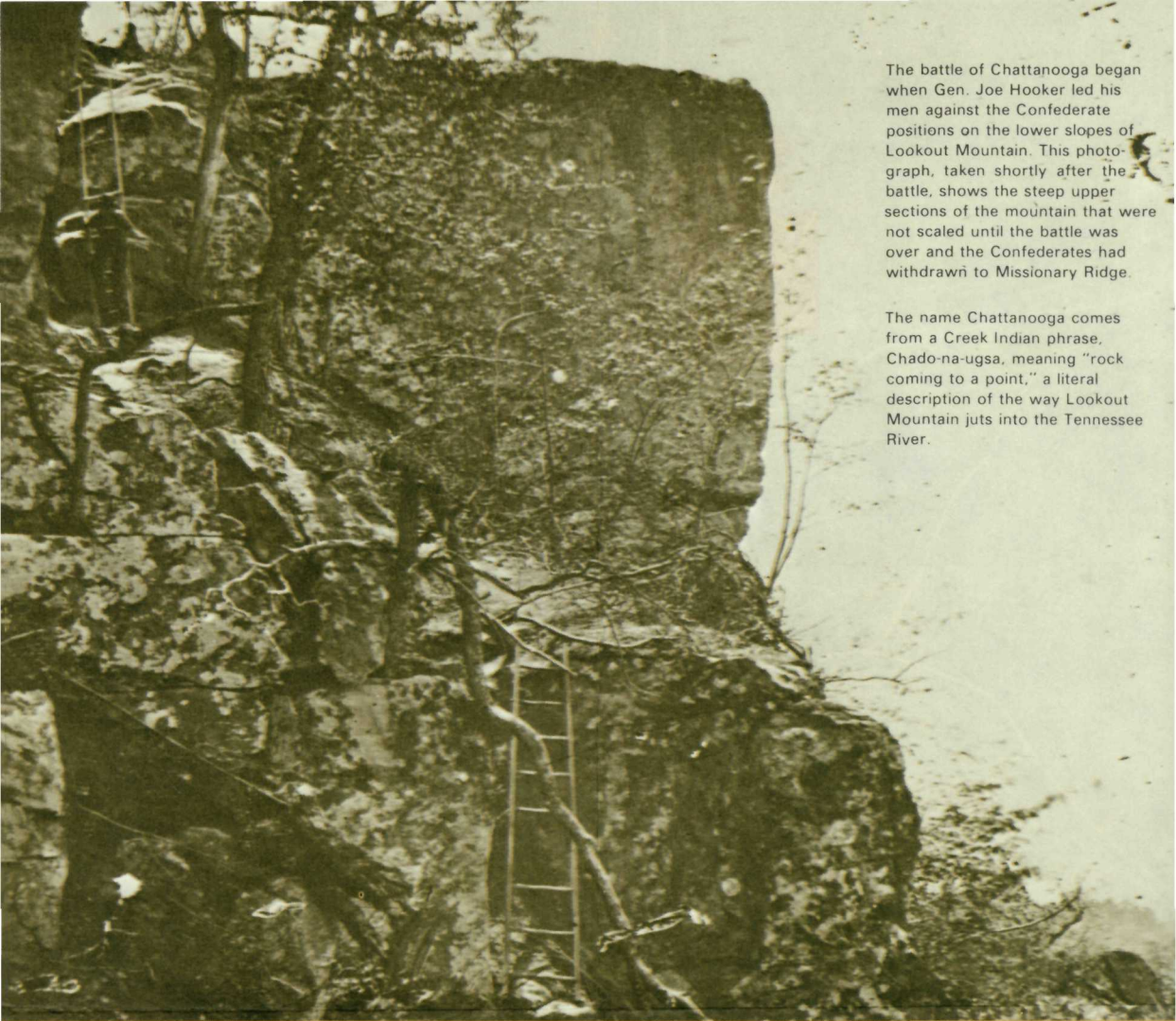
One of the first things Grant had to do was to open up a short, easy supply line to replace the longer route over Walden Ridge. This was done by establishing, on the night of October 26-27, 1863, a more direct land and water route out of

range of the Confederate guns on Lookout Mountain. The route led west from Chattanooga to Browns Ferry, then southwestward through Cummings Gap to Kellys Ferry on the Tennessee. Supplies and reinforcements quickly began to flow into Chattanooga.

While Grant was strengthening his army with supplies and reinforcements, Bragg split his force, for he sent Gen. James Longstreet and 15,000 men to east Tennessee to oppose the Union army occupying Knoxville. Nevertheless, Bragg still held a formidable position.

From Lookout Mountain on the south, the Confederate line crossed Chattanooga Valley to Missionary Ridge and ran for seven miles to its northern extremity. On November 23, two months after the siege began, Grant began his break-out. To gain more maneuvering room and to test the Confederate strength, Grant sent three of Thomas' divisions to attack a small outpost at Orchard Knob, a comparatively low hill a mile in front of Missionary Ridge. Sherman's troops crossed the river north of the city and occupied a hill facing the Confederate right on Missionary Ridge.

The next morning, November 24, Hooker, with three divisions, assaulted Lookout Mountain. Greatly outnumbered but with a number of cannon on the mountain, the Confederates still felt secure. This morning, however, the gunners on top could not see through the clouds to support



The battle of Chattanooga began when Gen. Joe Hooker led his men against the Confederate positions on the lower slopes of Lookout Mountain. This photograph, taken shortly after the battle, shows the steep upper sections of the mountain that were not scaled until the battle was over and the Confederates had withdrawn to Missionary Ridge.

The name Chattanooga comes from a Creek Indian phrase, Chado-na-ugsa, meaning "rock coming to a point," a literal description of the way Lookout Mountain juts into the Tennessee River.

their comrades on the slopes below. The Confederates wavered, but held until darkness and then withdrew to Missionary Ridge.

On the 25th Grant launched Sherman against the Confederate right and sent Hooker from Lookout Mountain to attack the left. Thomas, in the center



Looking towards Browns Ferry from Point Park.

of Orchard Knob, was held in reserve. Sherman's initial attack was stopped, and Hooker lost three hours in crossing Chattanooga Creek. To relieve the pressure on Sherman, Grant ordered Thomas' Army of the Cumberland forward to attack the rifle pits at the base of the ridge. This objective was quickly taken. Next, a few soldiers, then more, and finally the whole army, without further orders, scaled the heights. Upward they surged into the face of the enemy in one of the great charges of the war. Against such momentum the Confederate line collapsed, and Bragg's men fled to the rear. It was not until the next day that the Confederate rearguard halted the Union pursuit.

Union armies now had control of Chattanooga and nearly all of Tennessee. The following spring Sherman used Chattanooga for his base as he started his march to Atlanta and to the sea.

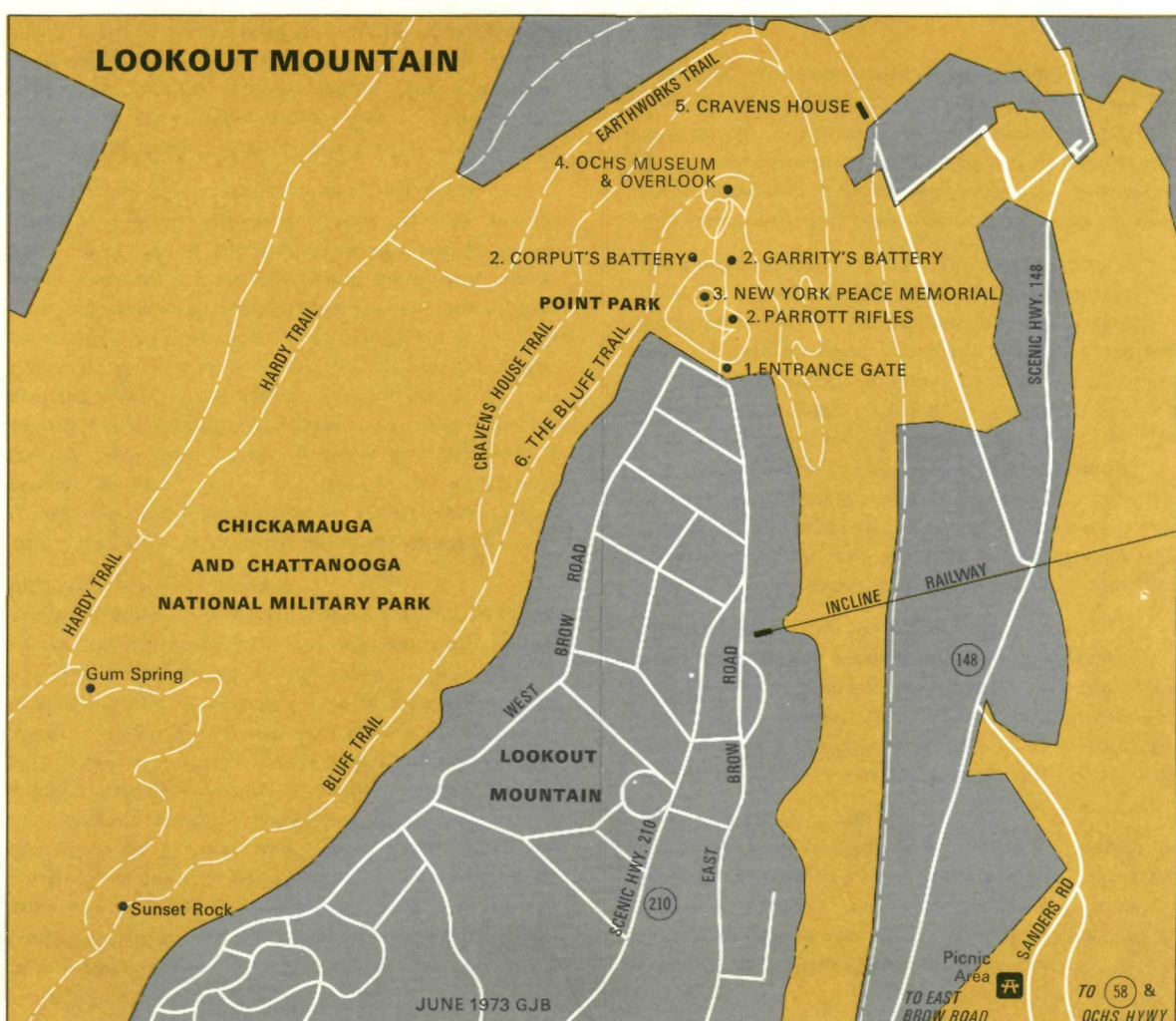
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA

A National Environmental Study Area of 230 acres has been established at Point Park. The NESA provides opportunities for individuals and educational groups to study man's relationship with nature. The NESA also helps teachers introduce environmental education at all grade levels.

ADMINISTRATION

Point Park is a part of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park which is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30741, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



A TOUR OF POINT PARK

The assault on Lookout Mountain was one of the key engagements in the battle of Chattanooga. This walking tour will direct you to the most important points in the park. From the upper level to the Ochs Museum and Overlook is a descent of 500 feet. There are several series of steps along the way so your physical condition will be tested.

1. The *Entrance Gate* was constructed in 1905 by the Army Corps of Engineers. The gate is the largest replica of the Corps of Engineers insignia in this country.

2. Inside the park are three *Gun Batteries* which form a very small segment of the siege line which once encircled Chattanooga. The first battery consists of two Parrott rifles. The barrels of the guns are rifled and are named for the designer, Robert Parrott, a New Yorker. These cannon are 20-pounders, weighing 1,750 pounds. The maximum range is two miles at a five degree elevation. This artillery piece is easily recognized by the heavy metal band placed on the breech for reinforcement against cracking from extreme heat.

The second, known as Garrity's Battery, overlooks the valley below. These 12-pound howitzers were the standard cannon used by both armies during the Civil War. Commonly called "Napoleons" because Emperor Napoleon III of France sponsored their development, the gun could fire a 12-pound charge 1,700 yards. The guns were effective for close range fighting but could not be tilted, for the charge would roll out before it was fired.

The third, Corput's Battery, is near the western overlook from which Sunset Rock may be seen. Gen. James Longstreet used this rock as an observation point while watching a nighttime attack in Wauhatchie Valley.

3. The large monument in the center of the park is the *New York Peace Memorial*. On top of the shaft, a Union and a Confederate soldier shake hands under one flag signifying peace and brotherly love. The monument is 95 feet high, 50 feet in diameter at the base, and constructed of Tennessee marble and pink Massachusetts granite.

4. The *Ochs Museum and Overlook* was dedicated November 12, 1940. The museum was named in honor of the late Adolph Ochs, a resident of Lookout Mountain and the owner and publisher of the *New York Times*. The exhibits and pictures inside the museum illustrate the entire story of the battle of Chattanooga and its importance in determining the outcome of the Civil War.

To the front and left of the museum is *Umbrella Rock*, a large balanced rock. It is unsafe to climb upon.

5. At the *Cravens House* the fiercest fighting on the mountain took place. Confederate officers used the building for headquarters, and Union gunfire badly damaged it.

6. *The Bluff Trail*, the main hiking trail in the park, is reached by way of the metal steps to the left of the museum. At this exact spot the Kentucky volunteers climbed the mountain to reach the point and plant their flag. Many trails lead away from the main one, and all are well marked.

Related Areas

Besides Point Park and Lookout Mountain Battlefield the Park Service maintains several other areas which played a part in the Battle of Chattanooga.

Orchard Knob Reservation marks the site of Gen. Ulysses Grant's headquarters. Here he directed the Army of the Cumberland as it advanced against Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863. On the afternoon of the 25th, six cannon opened the attack, and by dusk, the battle was over.

Missionary Ridge is the low-lying mountain barrier east of Chattanooga. It is approximately 20 miles in length and is about 400 feet above the city. Fortified by the Confederates, the Ridge was almost an impregnable position but it fell to the hard-charging veterans of the Army of the Cumberland. The Ridge is accessible by auto via Crest Road. Along the road are Bragg, Ohio, De Long and Sherman Reservations with monuments, plaques, and cannon which identify scenes of heavy action. The northern end of the Ridge is where Sherman's attack was repeatedly repulsed by Confederate forces led by Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne.

North and directly opposite Lookout Mountain is *Signal Point Reservation*. These two acres protect one of the many sites used by the Signal Corps during the Civil War. Exhibits, displayed along the terrace overlooking the Tennessee River, will help you to understand the influence the Tennessee River and the Cumberland Mountains had on the soldiers as they moved through this region.

Seven miles south of Chattanooga on U.S. 27 is *Chickamauga Battlefield*. A marked automobile tour will direct you to the main features of the battlefield. A 20-minute audiovisual program at the visitor center gives the history of the battle. The center also contains exhibits relating to the battle and the Claud E. and Zenada O. Fuller gun collection.

