

# Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP

## *The Acorn - Thomas' Fourteenth Corps*

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



As you toured the Chickamauga Battlefield, you probably noticed that many of the park's monuments have acorns sculpted on them. The acorn was the corps symbol for the Fourteenth United States Army Corps. During the Battles for Chickamauga and Chattanooga, the Union Army of the Cumberland, like most troops fighting in the Western Theatre of the Civil War, did not have designated corps insignias. However, when the Army of the Potomac sent reinforcements from Virginia to Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, their uniforms were trimmed with sharp-looking badges indicating the corps in which they served. The crescent moon represented the Eleventh Army Corps, while the star represented the Twelfth Army Corps.

General George Henry Thomas asked General Daniel Butterfield, who traveled west with the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps, to suggest an appropriate badge to represent the Union Army of the Cumberland's Fourteenth Army Corps. Butterfield said, "If I had command of the Fourteenth Corps, which stood firm as an oak at Chickamauga, I would give it the acorn for a badge in honor of its bravery." General Thomas replied, "That is what we will do, let it be the acorn."<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-five years after the Civil War, veterans from both the North and the South met to create the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. These veterans were instrumental in placing the monuments and markers throughout the battlefield. As the regiments belonging to the Fourteenth Army Corps began placing their monuments, the acorn also began to appear, identifying specific units as part of Thomas' Corps.

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<sup>1</sup> Floyd, David B. *History of the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers: Its Organization, Campaigns, and Battles (1862-1865)*. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society, 1893.