

# HAZEL GROVE - FAIRVIEW

## A Walking Tour

Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's wounding on May 2, 1863, ended a day of stirring military events at Chancellorsville. Earlier, Jackson had led 30,000 men on a twelve-mile march through the dense thickets of the Wilderness and struck the Union army a surprise blow. 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 by no means marked the end of the fighting at Chancellorsville; the May 3 combat was just as deadly. In five hours of fighting, more than 17,500 soldiers became casualties in an area of just a few square miles. This one-mile, 45-minute walking tour will lead you to many important points in that struggle. The map inside the folder will help you follow the marked route.

**Begin your tour at the wooden post located beside the row of cannon.**

### 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 Union commander Joseph Hooker evacuated the position, enabling Jackson's troops, located to your left as you face the post, to reunite with General Robert E. Lee's portion of the army, located one mile to your right. Once in possession of the hill, Jackson's successor, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, massed more than 30 guns here, which he used to support Confederate attacks against "Fairview," one-half mile ahead.

**Carefully cross the road and stand in front of the large battle painting.**

### Stop 2: Battle Painting

From their elevated position here, Confederate gunners pummeled the center of Hooker's line. Southern guns located on the Plank Road and Orange Turnpike joined the bombardment, catching the Union soldiers at Fairview in a punishing crossfire. Col. E. P. Alexander directed the fire of the Confederate guns at Hazel Grove. In the painting, Alexander appears to be directing a gun into position. Ordnance officer Frederick M. Colston recalled seeing Maj. William J. "Willie" Pegram, standing hatless in the right foreground, "with the fire of battle shining from his eyes through his spectacles," saying to Col. Alexander: "A glorious day, Colonel, a glorious day!" Farther to the left, Lt. "Ham" Chamberlayne kneels beside the body of Capt. Greenlee Davidson. Chamberlayne sadly reported, "I was on my horse beside Davidson when he was killed by a minie [ball] fired 800 yards off."

**Follow the trail to Stop 3.**

### Stop 3: Struggle in the Woods

While opposing gunners duelled in the clearing, Union and Confederate infantry grappled in the adjacent thickets. Gen. Charles K. Graham's Pennsylvania brigade drove the Confederates from a log breastwork located in the woods to your left but relinquished the ground when Southern reinforcements outflanked them on the right. Graham's brigade lost 756 men in the fight. Its principal opponent, General Stephen D. Ramseur's North Carolina brigade, suffered even greater casualties. It lost 788 men, more than half its strength.

Follow the trail to Stop 4.

### Stop 4: The Twelfth New Hampshire Covers the Union Retreat

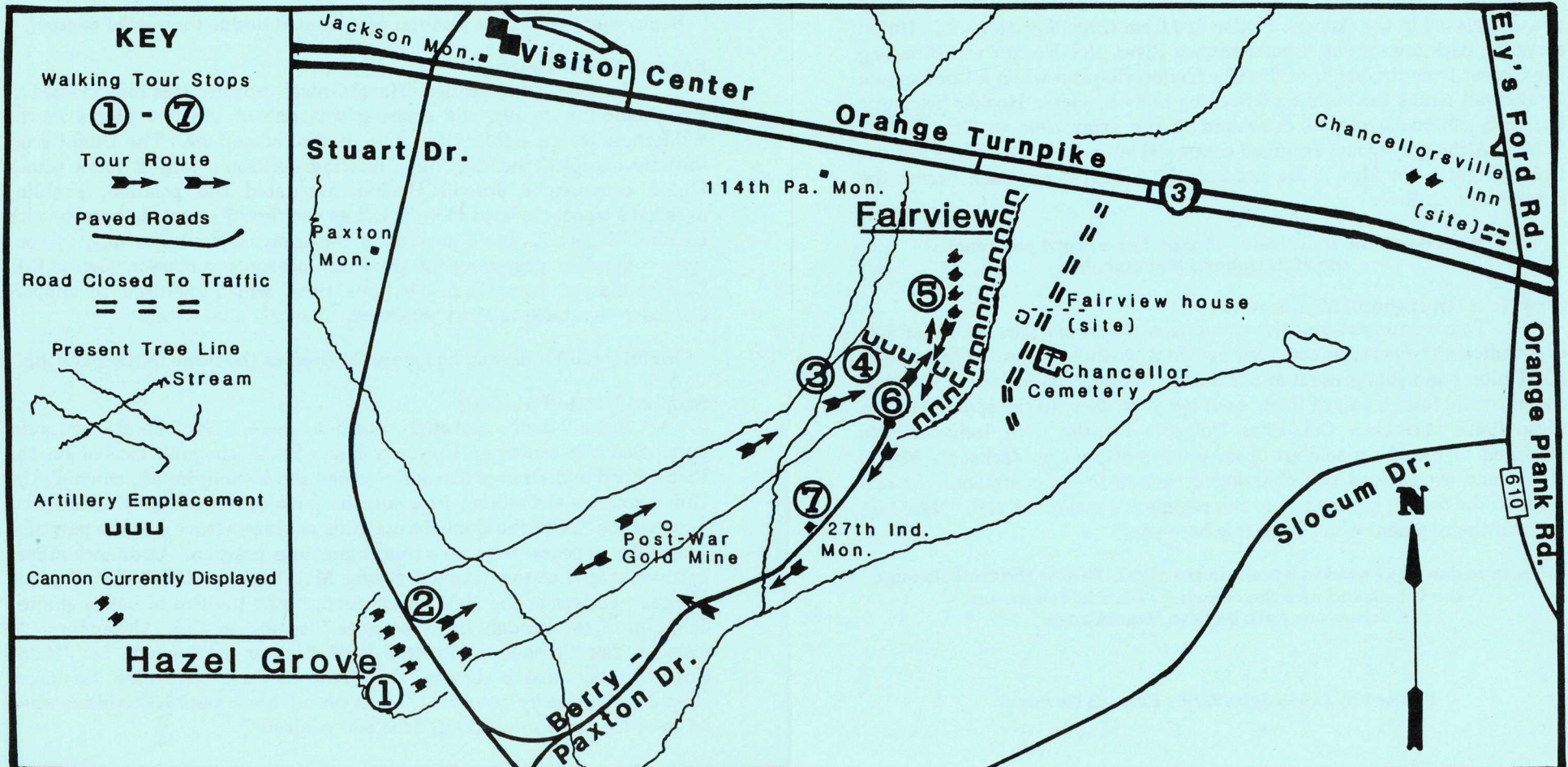
The action of the 12th New Hampshire typifies the brutal fighting along the mile-long battlefield. About 9:15 a.m., the regiment entered the woods to your left-front. Graham's brigade had been driven from the field, and the 12th was called on to fill the gap in the Union line. Ordered to hold the enemy back "until the last man falls," the regiment charged into the smoky woods, where it encountered Confederates screaming the Rebel Yell.

The 12th New Hampshire stemmed the Southern tide long enough for the army to form a new line near the Chancellorsville Inn, one-half mile to your right, but it did so at a heavy price: 317 of the regiment's 558 men fell dead or wounded in the fight.

Continue along the trail, turning left toward the cannon.  
Please help the National Park Service preserve the fragile gun emplacements by not walking on them.

### Stop 5: Fairview

Capt. Clermont Best commanded the 34 Union guns here at Fairview. His original position faced south, protected by the crescent-shaped gun pits a few yards behind you, but on the evening of May 2 Best turned his batteries 90 degrees to the right to meet Jackson's attack. He had his men fortify the ridge with the earthworks visible along the tree line to your right. (The tree line did not exist in 1863.) Best bravely defended this position for three hours on May 3. At 9 a.m., with both flanks threatened and his ammunition nearly gone, the captain ordered a retreat.



Rice Bull, a Union soldier, noted scores of dead Confederates, their bodies riddled by canister, lying in front of Best's position. Turning, another gruesome sight met his eyes. "It was the bodies of nearly a hundred horses scattered around the field in the rear of where the artillery had been engaged," he wrote, "all were laying on their backs with their feet in the air, their bodies swollen enormously. Not alone had men suffered and died."

**Turn around and follow the path to the map and sign bordering the Fairview parking area.**

### **Stop 6: Battle Map**

Minutes after Best's batteries departed, Confederate gunners advanced to Fairview and began shelling the Chancellorsville Inn, one-quarter mile away. Some wounded soldiers who were being treated in the house perished in the flames. Under fire from three directions, the Union army fell back toward the Rappahannock River. Joe Hooker was directing the retreat from the porch of the Chancellorsville Inn when a Confederate cannonball struck the building, knocking him senseless. Hooker headed to the rear, where he turned command of the army over to Gen. Darius Couch. Although Hooker resumed command later that day, he had lost the will to fight. On May 5, he ordered the Union army back across the Rappahannock River.

**Walk down the road, Berry-Paxton Drive, until you reach the 27th Indiana Monument.**

### **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. An average regiment, 430 men strong, could form a pair of lines, each two men deep, in the space between these flank markers. Col. Silas Colgrove led the 27th Indiana. He managed to round up soldiers from units scattered by Jackson's May 2 attack and even added two abandoned cannon to his command. At one point in the battle, he shouted to the regiment's major, his son, "Here boy, you run the regiment while I run this here gun."

**Continue down the road to a trail on the right. Follow the trail through the woods and into the clearing. Turn left there and follow the path back to Hazel Grove.**