

FIRST BATTLE FOR KENTUCKY!

JANUARY 19, 1862

Welcome to Mill Springs Battlefield NHL

On January 19, 1862, the fields and farms where you are now standing were being rocked by artillery and musket fire, as Confederate and Union forces clashed in the Battle of Mill Springs. When the smoke cleared, 150 Confederates and 50 Federal soldiers lay dead on the field and the Union had its first significant victory of the Civil War. The battle was at first a sensation in the newspapers, both North and South. However, later in the spring of 1862, the horrendous and bloody Battle of Shiloh occurred and the Battle of Mill Springs was forgotten, overshadowed by the atrocities to come in America's Civil War.

Years later, through the actions of young Dorothea Burton, who decorated the Confederate graves on Decoration Day, the battle was again remembered and a monument was placed over the Confederate graves. Once again, however, time dimmed people's memories and the battle and monuments were forgotten by all but the local people and a few scholars.

The battle remained forgotten and the graves unkempt until the 1970s, when efforts were made to preserve the battlefield. Due to lack of funds, these efforts were unsuccessful. However, in 1992, the National Park Service placed Mill Springs Battlefield on the 25 most endangered battlefields list. In June of that year, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association (MSBA) was formed with the purpose of preserving and interpreting the original battlefield.

In 1993, Mill Springs Battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark. In 1997, the Zollicoffer Monument and the Confederate Mass Grave Monument were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Your visit is appreciated, and we hope you enjoy the driving tour. What you'll see on this tour is the result of a strong effort to preserve this battlefield and to educate future generations about this dark portion of our nation's history and the part of it that belongs to Kentucky.



Driving Tour



Mill Springs Battlefield

National Historic Landmark

The Battle of Mill Springs

Early in 1862, the hills and ravines of southwestern Pulaski County, Kentucky, were the scenes of the first decisive Federal victory of the Civil War and the beginning of a long line of Confederate setbacks in the West. Both North and South recognized the importance of holding Kentucky. Both sides moved into the state in the late summer and fall of 1861.

The western part of the Confederate defense line across Kentucky was anchored in Bowling Green.

In October, Brigadier General Felix K. Zollicoffer left Knoxville, Tennessee, and moved up through Cumberland Gap, Barbourville, and London. His advance was stopped north of London at Camp Wildcat in the Rockcastle hills,



F. K. Zollicoffer

where Federals under Brigadier General Albin Schoepf repulsed the attack. Zollicoffer moved his forces back into Tennessee and tried a new route into Kentucky, moving up through Monticello to reach Mill Springs on the south bank of the Cumberland River in late November. Here, he set up camp and fortified his position.

Having decided that the north bank of the river was a better position, Zollicoffer moved his forces across the river to Beech Grove in early December, putting his regiments into winter camp and digging a line of entrenchments to guard the camp from the north.

In early January of 1862, Major General George Bibb Crittenden arrived to take command of the forces at Beech Grove. The Confederate strength in the area was about 6,500 men, including cavalry and artillery.

Meanwhile, the Federals were concentrating under General Schoepf at Somerset and Brigadier General George H. Thomas at Lebanon, Kentucky.

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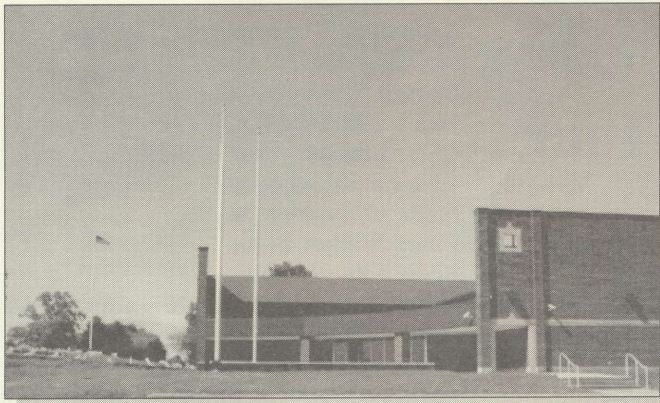
Mill Springs Battlefield Driving Tour Guide

What's in a Name?

The Battle of Mill Springs has the distinction of being called by more names than any other Civil War battle. The most common name used by the Federals is Mill Springs (a small village nine miles south of the battlefield), while the most common Confederate name for the battle is Fishing Creek (a creek about five miles east of the battlefield now a part of Lake Cumberland). The battle is also referred to as: The Battle of Logan's Crossroads, Somerset, Clifty Creek, and Old Fields. The Battle of Mill Springs is the most commonly used and well-known of these names.

Driving Tour Tips and Instructions

Let us help you get the most from your tour of the Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark. We recommend you start your tour at the Visitors Center and Museum located at 9020 West Hwy 80 in Nancy, Kentucky, eight miles west of Somerset. Here you will receive the most current information about the driving tour as well as an overview of the Battlefield. The Visitors Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Restrooms, interpretive exhibits, a 20-minute film about the Battle of Mill Springs, and a gift shop are available to the visitor.

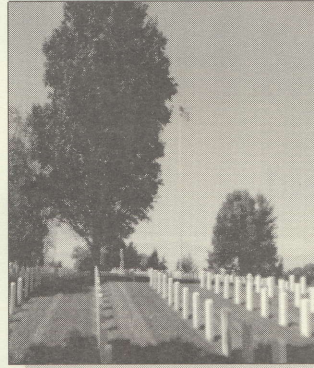


Most of the Mill Springs Battlefield can be viewed from the public roadways or pull-off areas provided. (Please refer to the driving tour map.) While various land acquisitions in recent years have placed a large proportion of the battleground under the ownership of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, many areas still remain private property. If you want a closer look at specific areas along the way, we urge you to ask landowners' permission before venturing on private property.

This driving tour takes you along various rural Kentucky roads. At some stops, parking is limited. Please be careful on the narrow roads and park safely on the shoulder or in the pull-off areas. All stops on this tour are marked with tour stop signs. Follow the tour map and watch for these signs as well as directional ones all along the route. Travel directions from one tour stop to the next are given in **bold italicized print**. Interpretive signs throughout the battlefield will help you gain a more in-depth understanding of the details of the battle and events before and after the conflict. Drive carefully and enjoy the learning experience.

Tour Stop 1: Battlefield Visitors Center & Mill Springs National Cemetery

One of the original 12 national cemeteries created by Congress, the



Mill Springs National Cemetery officially opened in 1867. The cemetery encompasses approximately 7 acres (one of the smallest active national cemeteries in the country) and holds the graves of many of the Union soldiers killed in the Battle of Mill Springs and other soldiers from the time of the Civil War through today.

In the southwest corner of the cemetery is the grave of William and Nancy Logan. The Logans owned most of the land where the battle occurred and they donated the land

for Mill Springs Cemetery.

One particularly notable person resting in this cemetery is Sgt. Brent Woods, an African-American Congressional Medal of Honor winner for his service in the Indian Wars. Woods' grave is located beside the flagpole near the center of the cemetery.

Standing at a rock wall, the original cemetery wall built in 1867, and looking south across KY 80, one can view the battle area from the Federal vantage point. In the orchard directly across the road was the camp of the 1st Ohio artillery, with the camp of the 10th Indiana located a few hundred yards to the front.

The dirt road next to the brick church and passing through the orchard generally follows the course of the old road used by many of the Federal troops to reach the front lines. Please be sure to read the interpretive signs in this area.

From the cemetery, proceed west on KY 80 to its intersection with KY 235. This intersection along with the KY 196 junction one-half mile further west (where most of the Federal forces camped before the battle) was called Logan's Crossroads and is now called Nancy. The town was named for William Logan's wife, Nancy Logan, the first post-mistress of the area. The Logan house was 200 yards south of the intersection (no trace remains of the home). **Turn left onto KY 235.** As KY 235 bears left about 200 yards further, the 1st Kentucky Cavalry camped on the high ground to the right (where the large barn now stands).

Tour Stop 2: Confederate Cemetery

After proceeding one mile down KY 235, you will arrive at Tour Stop 2.



This stop features a number of interesting items, including the monument to Confederate General Felix K. Zollicoffer and his men and the Confederate mass grave and marker. Both of these were placed here in 1910 by Confederate veterans. Also at this stop are the Confederate soldiers' memorial stones as well as the earth-print of the large white oak tree where it was said General Zollicoffer's body was placed after his death during the battle.

The white oak tree was known

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as the “Zollie Tree” and was decorated faithfully each Memorial Day beginning in the early 1900’s by a little girl named Dorotha Burton Hudson, whose family has carried on the tradition through three generations. In a tragic twist of fate, the tree was struck by lightning in the spring of 1995 and destroyed, leaving only the stump. However, a seedling salvaged from the white oak is planted in the park and the remains of the old tree are now being crafted into commemorative souvenirs.

In 1997, after over a decade of painstaking research for a complete list of Confederate soldiers who died during the Battle of Mill Springs, 148 headstones with the names of each soldier were placed in the area just to the right of the Confederate mass grave.



The latest addition to this tour stop is the Memorial Flame located across the road from Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. This monument of stone and flame was built in 1998 and dedicated at the Mill Springs Battlefield annual ceremony on January 17, 1998.

The flame is lit for special occasions and memorial dates.

This cemetery and the surrounding area was the scene of the heaviest fighting during the battle. The Confederates attacked up the road from the southeast and out of the deep wooded ravine behind and east of the cemetery. The Federals made their main stand along a fence rail just north of the Cemetery.

The battle lines in this area were quite fluid, and it was here that General Felix K. Zollicoffer rode forward to speak with what he mistakenly thought were his own troops. As a result of this mistake, Zollicoffer was shot and killed. The fighting here continued for over two hours, until Federal reinforcements came up on both flanks of the Confederates. The southern soldiers, demoralized by the death of General Zollicoffer and the failure of their outdated flintlock muskets to fire in the rain, retreated in disorder from the field. Please note the interpretive signs in this area and the walking trail that takes you down to the ravine and behind the Confederate line. The walking trail is approximately 3/4 of a mile and is moderately difficult - walking shoes are recommended.

Tour Stop 3: Last Stand Hill

Proceed one-quarter mile south on KY 235 to Tour Stop 3. At this stop, drive past the tour stop sign and park in the pull-off area at the top of the hill in front of the Fairview Cemetery.

This hilltop was the area where the 17th, 28th, and 29th Tennessee and the 16th Alabama Infantry regiments attempted to hold back the advancing Federal army in a last stand to allow the other retreating Confederate units to escape destruction. This vantage point allows a good view of the field from the Confederate side, including the ravine (east of the road) used by the 15th Mississippi and 20th Tennessee regiments to attack the Federal line. Rutledge’s Confederate artillery was stationed across the road on the forward slope of the hill. These guns were only able to fire a few shots because of the wooded terrain and fear of hitting their own men.

Buried in Fairview Cemetery is Dorotha Burton Hudson, who began the tradition of decorating the “Zollie Tree” and the Confederate mass grave.

Tour Stop 4: Confederate Field Hospital

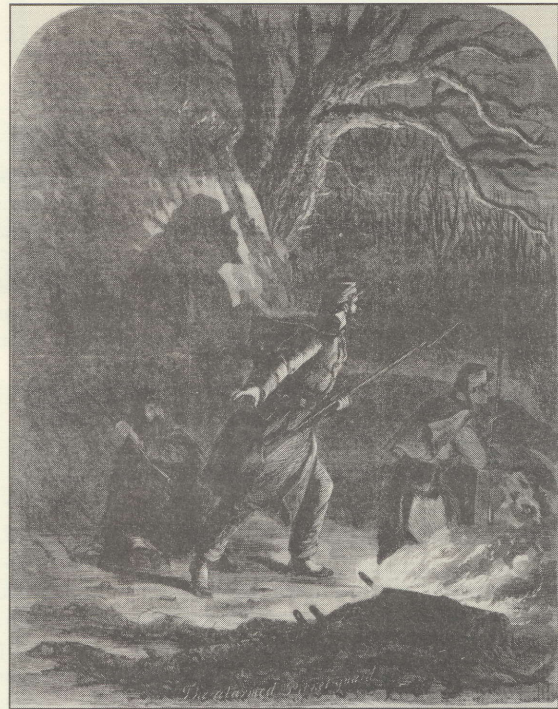
Proceed one-quarter mile south on KY 235 to Tour Stop 4. Turn into the gravel drive and park to view this area.

During the battle a small log cabin located here served as the main Confederate field hospital. A few of the foundation stones are still visible. This hospital was in operation throughout the battle until its capture by Federal forces after the Confederate retreat from the battlefield.

Tour Stop 5: Timmy’s Branch

Travel three-quarters of a mile south on KY 235 to Tour Stop 5.

In the predawn of January 19, 1862, the Confederate forces collided with the Federal pickets near this small creek. This area is the site of the first shots fired in the Battle of Mill Springs.



Tour Stop 6: Moulden’s Hill

Proceed south on KY 235 about 4 miles. Watch for directional signs and turn right onto Old Mill Springs Road. Travel two miles to Tour Stop 6.

The Federal forces pursuing the beaten Confederates halted here on the night of January 19, 1862, to rest and prepare for an assault on the

Mill Springs Battlefield Driving Tour Guide

Confederate fortifications in the morning. The Federals deployed artillery on the high ground around this area and shelled the Confederate works all night. When the Federals made their attack on the morning of January 20th, they found the Confederates had retreated across the river during the night. Please note the interpretive sign at this stop.

Tour Stop 7: Confederate Fortified Camp at Beech Grove

Proceed approximately three-quarters of a mile south to Tour Stop 7.



Fortified Camp, Beech Grove

This area was the site of the Zollicoffer headquarters at the Beech Grove encampment. The Confederate camp covered all of this area, a narrow neck of land between the Cumberland River and White Oak Creek. The southern soldiers had built comfortable cabins for their stay in Beech Grove. The camp was protected by a formidable line of earthworks. The earthworks protecting the camp followed a slight rise perpendicular to the road about 20 yards north of here. After the camp was abandoned by the Confederates, the Federal forces burned the cabins.

Tour Stop 8: Ferry Landing

Proceed south to the end of the road and Tour Stop 8.

You may park here and walk down to the old ferry road (on your left) to the edge of the lake. On the night of January 19th and the early morning of the 20th, the Confederates abandoned their camps and passed down this road to the ferry boat which would carry them across the river to Mill Springs. The original road (now covered by Lake Cumberland) curved sharply to the left from this point and followed the bluff about 500 yards to the ferry landing.

This concludes the Battlefield Tour north of the Cumberland River (Lake Cumberland). Other sites important to the Mill Springs campaign are at Tour Stop 9 and Tour Stop 10 across the lake at Mill Springs.

If you wish to visit Tour Stops 9 and 10, you must retrace your route to Nancy and from there take KY 80 east to Somerset, then US 27 south about seven miles to KY 90 west. Follow KY 90 west for about nine miles and turn right onto KY 1275. Proceed one mile to Mill Springs Mill and Tour Stops 9 and 10.

Tour Stop 9: Mill Springs

This area was occupied by the Confederate Army from mid-November, 1861, until January 20, 1862. Mill Springs served as General Zollicoffer's headquarters before moving across the river to Beech Grove. Mill Springs features the historic Brown-Lanier House and a restored working grist mill. There are five interpretive signs within walking distance of each other.



The Brown-Lanier House is a two-story farmhouse built prior to the Civil War and the traditional home of the families operating the mill. The house is open for guided tours which begin at the Battlefield Information Center and Bookstore. The house was headquarters for three of the Generals associated with the Battle of Mill Springs. Tradition holds that the Battle received its name from the report written to Washington by the victorious Union General George H. Thomas while he occupied the Brown-Lanier House "at Mill Springs, Kentucky." A cannonball hole through the parlor wall has been faithfully preserved.

A working grist mill has been on this site since the early 1800s. Thirteen continuous springs provided power to grind meal for the armies and to saw logs for boats used to cross the river. The present mill was built around 1877 on the site of the original 1840 mill, which burned in 1876. During the summer, the mill is open on the weekends for guided tours. On holidays and at special events, visitors may experience the mill in operation.



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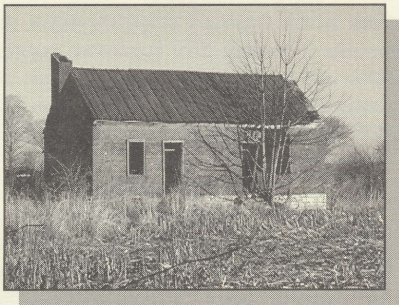
The stone pathway heading to the left of the parking lot in the park leads down to the ferry landing on the south bank of the river. This was the main road to the mill and wheel ruts worn into the rock from the passage of numerous wagons through the years can be seen all along this road. Please note the interpretive sign on this path which tells the story of the Noble Ellis, the ferry boat which transported the defeated Confederates to safety after the battle.

The road was also used by the Confederate army before the battle and in retreat from Beech Grove Camp after the battle. An overlook on Lake Cumberland is one of the artillery positions the Confederates built here to protect the river (a small cannon is on display here) and also provides a good view of the Beech Grove position (to your left) across the river.

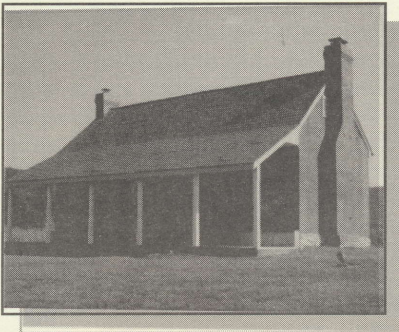
Tour Stop 10: West-Metcalf House

Departing from Mill Springs drive south on the Old Mill Springs Road approximately one mile. On your left you will see the West-Metcalf House (also known as the Confederate Hospital). There is an interpretive sign at this location.

The house was built in 1799 and is the first brick house in this part of Kentucky. The house served as Zollicoffer's first headquarters in this area. When the Confederates moved their headquarters to the Brown-Lanier House, the West-Metcalf house was converted into a hospital. The original structure consisted of two rooms with fireplaces, a second level under the roof, and a cellar equipped with a fireplace and long stone shelf where surgeries were performed on the wounded and sick soldiers. After the Battle, journalists traveling with the Union Army reported seeing many injured and dying soldiers lying outside the West-Metcalf house.

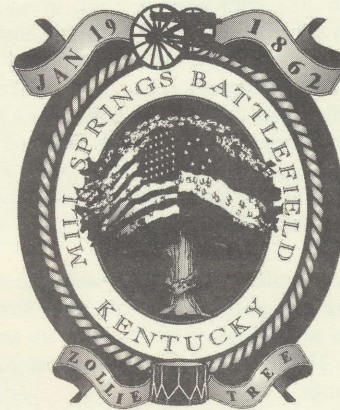


The West family cemetery, which is located on a small rise in the field to your right, has several gravestones without names. Tradition holds that these gravesites are the final resting place for the bodies of the Confederate soldiers.



In 2010, Mill Springs Battlefield Association completed restoration of the home.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Support the Battlefield Preservation Effort.
Become a member of the Association.
Simply complete this application and mail with your annual dues to:

Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 282
Nancy, KY 42544

Single Membership	\$ 25.00
Family Membership	\$ 45.00
Business/Sustaining Membership	\$ 140.00
Corporate Membership	\$ 500.00
Life Membership	\$1,000.00

Memberships are due on the one-year anniversary of the date last paid.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Members receive the Association's newsletter "The Zollie Tree," a 15% discount on merchandise, and free admission to the museum and special events.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
606-636-4045,
www.millsprings.net

The Battle of Mills Springs

Continued from Front Page

Thomas' superiors feared that Crittenden's forces would attack and overwhelm Schoepf, so they ordered the Federals to concentrate west of Somerset near Fishing Creek. Poor weather and bad roads kept Thomas from reaching the area until January 17th, at which time his forces camped at Logan's Crossroads, now called Nancy, Kentucky. The crossroads was a key intersection nine miles west of Somerset and about nine miles north of the Confederate camp at Beech Grove.

Although Confederates thought that heavy rains would make Fishing Creek impassable, keeping Schoepf from joining Thomas at Logan's Crossroads, Schoepf was able to send three regiments of infantry and an artillery battery to Thomas, giving the Federals a force of some 4,500 men.

Unaware of this reinforcement and wishing to attack the Federals before they could concentrate their strength, Crittenden ordered an advance of the Confederate army at midnight January 18, 1862. The stage was set for the Battle of Mill Springs.

Battle on a Sabbath Morn

After marching for six hours through a cold rain that turned the road into a sea of mud, the vanguard of the Confederate forces arrived near Logan's Crossroads about 6:30 a.m. on January 19, 1862. Near a small creek called Timmy's Branch, two-and-a-half miles from Logan's Crossroads, the advance Confederate cavalry met a strong Federal picket force made up of Wolford's 1st Kentucky Cavalry and the 10th Indiana Infantry regiments. Far from being surprised, the Federals were on watch and this picket force stubbornly resisted the Confederate advance toward Logan's Crossroads and the Federal camps.

After being slowly pushed back, the Federal pickets were reinforced by the rest of the 10th Indiana about a mile south of the Federal Camps, near present-day Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. The Federal force stood its ground against the advancing Confederates.

Crittenden advanced with Zollicoffer's own brigade in front. Zollicoffer placed the 15th Mississippi in line of battle advancing up the road, with the 19th and 20th Tennessee regiments on either side of the road a little behind the Mississippi soldiers. Zollicoffer's other regiments followed in support of the line and his force was sufficient to drive the 1st Kentucky Cavalry and the 10th Indiana back to a ridge just north and west of Zollicoffer Cemetery. However, the dawn was dark and misty, and the Confederates advanced slowly.

After fighting for almost an hour on their own, the 10th Indiana and 1st Kentucky Cavalry were running low on ammunition and in danger of being flanked by the advancing Confederates. Just as the Federal line was wavering and about to give way, it was reinforced by the 4th Kentucky Infantry. These fresh troops stabilized the Federal line and halted the Confederate advance.

Unable to push this force back, the Confederates moved to the right, under a cover of deep, wooded ravine. From here, the Confederates could approach the Federal line before engaging them at close range. This infuriated the commander of the 4th Kentucky, Colonel Speed S. Fry. Fry climbed up on a fence rail his regiment had taken cover behind and demanded that the enemy come out and fight like men.

The Confederates made little headway into the woods west of the road. Most of the soldiers had never been in a battle before, and the dark and rainy morning coupled with the smoke and the din of the battle produced quite a bit of confusion.

General Zollicoffer, unaware of the arrival of the Federal reinforcements, became convinced that his men were firing on another Confederate regiment. He ordered his troops to cease fire and rode forward down

the road to correct the error. On the road, he met Colonel Fry, who had ridden down the road to get a better look at the Confederate position. In the smoke and confusion neither man recognized the other, and Zollicoffer ordered Fry to cease fire, telling Fry he was firing on friendly troops.

Thinking Zollicoffer was a superior Federal officer, Fry began to ride back to his regiment and give the order, but as he turned to ride back, a Confederate staff officer rode out of the woods shouting "General, it is the enemy!" and fired his pistol at Fry. Colonel Fry and the Federal soldiers nearby opened fire on Zollicoffer and his aide, and both fell dead in the road.



Gen. G.H. Thomas



Col. Speed Fry



Gen. G. B. Crittenden

Zollicoffer's death demoralized his troops on that part of the field and the Confederates made no more efforts to advance. However, the 15th Mississippi and the 20th Tennessee launched a series of furious attacks on Fry's position, some of them even reaching the rail fence where they fought the Federal soldiers hand-to-hand. The Confederate regiments moved ever toward their right, threatening to turn the Federal left flank. Then a section of Federal artillery appeared and threw shells into the advancing Confederates and the 2nd Minnesota and 9th Ohio regiments arrived to bolster the Federal line.

For over an hour, the 15th Mississippi and 20th Tennessee battled the Federals almost alone. Rutledge's Confederate battery fired a few rounds, but Crittenden was never able to bring up the rest of his infantry and bring all his forces to bear. The Confederates were further demoralized by the failure of many of their weapons. Most were obsolete flintlocks and were not firing in the pouring rain. As the 1st and 2nd Tennessee and the 12th Kentucky U.S. regiments arrived on the Federal left, outflanking the hard-fighting 15th Mississippi and 20th Tennessee, the 9th Ohio made a bayonet charge on the west side of the road and the Confederate line crumbled. Most of the men simply turned and ran.

The entire Federal line advanced, forcing what was left of the Confederate army back to the top of the hill from which they had attacked. Here, the 16th Alabama and the 17th and 29th Tennessee regiments made a last stand and held the advancing Federals until the shattered Confederate units could retreat down the road toward their camp. These units retreated in disorder and the battle was over.

Aftermath

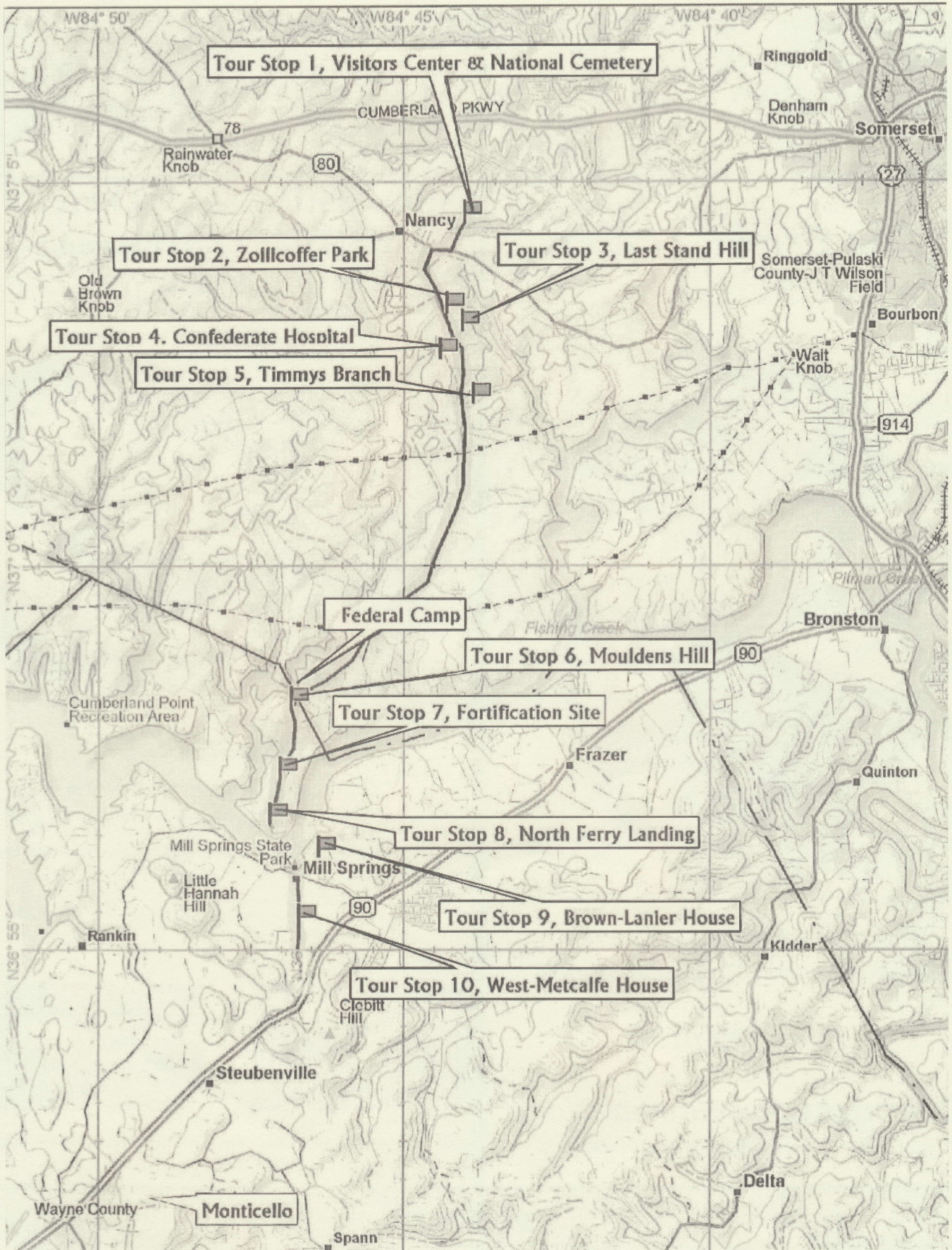
The beaten Confederates fled back down the road, many of them discarding their weapons and accouterments along the way. They rallied at their Beech Grove entrenchments, but General Thomas arrived with his forces in the afternoon and promptly opened a bombardment on the Confederate camp and the steamboat at the ferry landing.

Recognizing that his men were badly beaten and his position was untenable, Crittenden ordered a withdrawal across the river that night. Throughout the night, the steamboat *Noble Ellis* ferried the Confederate soldiers across the river. The last Confederates reached the safety of the south bank at daylight on January 20th.

In order to get the soldiers across the river, everything else had to be left behind: all artillery, horses, wagons, and most of the camp equipment. When the Federals assaulted the Confederate camps on the morning of January 20th, they found the camps abandoned and the Confederate army safely across the river.

The Federals suffered 246 casualties in the battle; of these, 55 were killed or mortally wounded. The Confederates suffered 533 casualties, including 150 killed or mortally wounded. These were left on the field to be buried in a mass grave near the site of Zollicoffer's death.

This Federal victory broke the Confederate defense line across Kentucky and placed pro-Union eastern Kentucky into Federal hands and also opened pro-Union eastern Tennessee for Federal invasion. The Confederate defeat, coupled with the subsequent loss of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, ultimately led to the Battle of Shiloh in April of 1862.



STAY ON TRACK
 Watch for signs like this one to direct you as you take the driving tour.



Mill Springs National Cemetery
 Battle of Mill Springs

VISIT

The Brown-Lanier House



Tours ~ Special Events

Open Memorial Day ~ Labor Day

Event Rentals

Overnight Accommodations

Memorial Day ~ October

MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD VISITORS CENTER and MUSEUM



Exhibits ~ Gift Shop

“Battle of Mill Springs” Video

Special Events ~ Community Room Rental

Guided tours are available with advance notice.

Monday - Saturday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

9020 W. Hwy 80

Nancy, KY

*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and
New Years Day*

For more information

Phone: (606) 636-4045

Email: info@millsprings.net

Visit: www.millsprings.net