

cedars about here and threw up a protective barrier of logs, rails, dirt and stones.

HIKING STOP 11: COTTON FIELD

Composed of fresh Union troops from the left wing, plus thousands from broken units driven out of the cedars, Rosecrans' strong, new position defied attack. Reported one Confederate general: "The enemy lay beyond the reach of our guns, securely sheltered by the strong defense of the railroad embankment, with wide, open fields intervening, which were swept by their superior artillery. It would have been folly to assail them in their position." But assail them they did. The Union men poured out a volume of fire so loud and ear-shattering that some Rebels paused in the field to stuff their ears with cotton.

HIKING STOP 12: AUTO TOUR STOP 6

The advance of the Confederate left had doubled back the Union line like a jackknife with its blade nearly closed. Unable to snap the blade shut from the south, General Bragg shifted his attacks to the east. If the Yankees could be driven from the Round Forest, the Confederates would win.

HIKING STOP 13: TOLL HOUSE SITE

Four white posts mark the corner of an out building to a toll keeper's house on the Nashville Pike. The house served briefly as headquarters for Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden, commander of the Union left wing. It was destroyed by cannon fire and never rebuilt.

HIKING STOP 14: THE ROUND FOREST

The new Union position had a sharp angle at a slight elevation covered by about four acres of trees. Usually it was known as the "Round Forest" but the soldiers dubbed it "Hell's Half Acre". Here Colonel William B. Hazen's reinforced brigade beat back one Confederate attack after another.

Charging from the east astride the Nashville Pike, James Chalmers' Mississippians tried first.

General Chalmers was wounded, his brigade disorganized as it passed around Cowan's burned farm house, his soldiers mowed down by a tornado of Yankee fire and thrown back. "Hazen, you'll have to fall back," cried one Union general. "I'd like to know where in hell I'll fall back to?" was the Colonel's reply. Bayonets were ordered fixed and ground held to the last man. General Rosecrans supplied welcome reinforcements. The stubborn defenders of the Round Forest repulsed four more Confederate brigades—Adams', Jackson's, Preston's, Palmer's—before night fall ended the fighting.

HIKING STOP 15: HAZEN MONUMENT AND CEMETERY

Not long after the battle, while the Army of the Cumberland wintered in the Murfreesboro area, Hazen's soldiers erected the monument and cemetery. It is the nation's oldest Civil War memorial.

HIKING STOP 16: NASHVILLE & CHATTANOOGA RAILROAD

The Civil War was a railroad war. Rail lines like the Nashville & Chattanooga (today, Louisville & Nashville) were used to transport troops, prisoners, wounded, ammunition, rations and other supplies. They became prime targets for Confederate guerillas and raiders such as Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, who frequently wrecked large sections of track behind Union lines. Block houses had to be erected for their protection, and Union repair gangs were kept busy offsetting damage.

HIKING STOP 17: GARESCHÉ MARKER

Lt. Col. Julius P. Garesché, General Rosecrans' chief of staff, had a strange feeling he was to die this day.

Rosecrans and his staff members had made a conspicuous target as they galloped about the front. They attracted the attention of a distant Rebel cannon crew beyond Stones River, which fired a shot at the group. Garesché was struck

square in the face, leaving only his bearded jaw. For a horrible moment the headless body continued on, till the horse jerked and it tumbled off. Garesché's premonition had come true.

HIKING STOP 18: STONES RIVER NATIONAL CEMETERY

At first the scattered slain were buried by their comrades near where they fell. In 1865 the Union dead from a large radius were reinterred in Stones River National Cemetery. Battlefields included Stones River, Franklin, Hoover's Gap, Tullahoma, Farmington and the Battle of the Cedars, plus many camp and hospital sites. Of the 6,124 Civil War graves, 2,307 are unknown.

Later interments include veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict and Viet Nam.

Most of the Confederate dead, approximately 2,000, are buried in Confederate Circle, a mass grave in Evergreen Cemetery, Murfreesboro. All are unknown.



Two and Five Mile Hiking Trail Guide



Stones River
National Battlefield

Tennessee

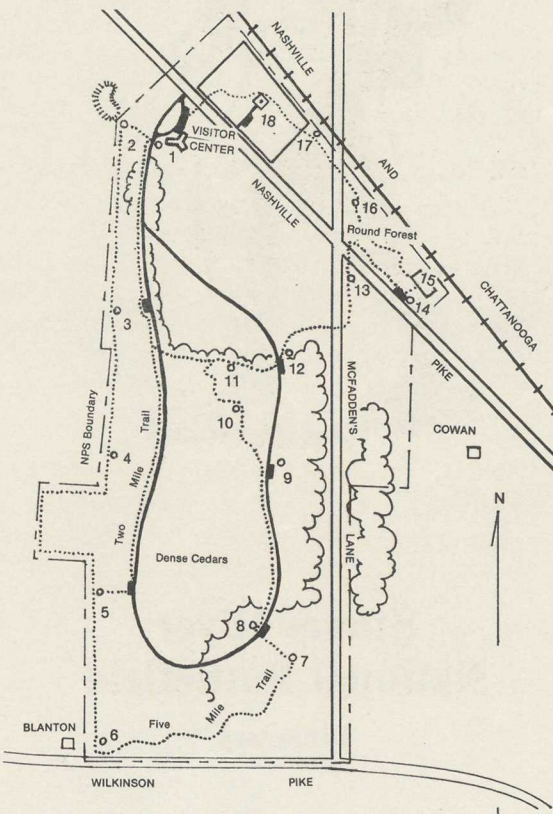
INTRODUCTION

The Battle of Stones River (or Murfreesboro, as the Southerners called it) was as desperate a battle as was ever fought. It took place on a gloomy winter day: cold, grey clouds, wet and dank. It was a battle few survivors cared to remember.

This brochure will guide you about some of the battlefield terrain. The park consists of only about a tenth of the actual battleground.

The entire trail is five miles in length, but you may turn around at Stop 5 and return, making a distance of only two miles. Though it is marked and easy to follow, sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Chiggers, ticks and mosquitoes can be a nuisance during the summer months, so you may wish to spray your ankles with insect repellent.

Be sure to stay on the trail. The park contains many rare, threatened, or endangered plant species along the trail.



HIKING STOP 1: AUTO TOUR STOP 1 AT VISITOR CENTER

At cold and sullen dawn, December 31, 1862, three miles from here the Union right wing was crushed by attacking Confederates. As the Southern brigades struck they wheeled to their right and turned north, swinging the Union line around like a gate. From beyond the cedar brakes to the south came booms of artillery, advancing rolls of musketry, then stampeded Yankees with victory-infected Rebels close behind. Captain James St. Clair Morton's Pioneer Brigade (engineer troops) with the Chicago Board of Trade Battery rushed to this low knoll and stunned one attack at point-blank range. Confederate bodies were later found within 50 paces of the guns.

HIKING STOP 2: UNION INFANTRY TRENCH

Along this low ridge is where the Union army finally managed to stave off the attacking Confederates, and with them, defeat. At night the Yankees dug in. These rifle pits (located on private property) were dug by the U.S. Regular brigade. They are the only surviving remains of the final Union position.

HIKING STOP 3: THE CEDAR SWAMP

For nearly a week before the battle it poured rain, so this low area became known as the "cedar swamp". After driving back the Union army for nearly three miles, about here Confederate progress was checked. The exhausted Southerners adjusted their battle lines within sight and shot of the Yankees, and bivouacked for the night.

HIKING STOP 4: FIGHTING IN THE CEDARS

In a dark and dripping cedar brake, near here, a Confederate infantry brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. James E. Rains, a 29 year-old Nashville attorney, after advancing nearly three miles, collided head-on with the disciplined U.S. Regulars of Lt. Col. Oliver L. Shepherd advanc-

ing from the Nashville Pike. A furious fire fight ensued.

The Regulars ducked behind trees and rocks and stubbornly contested every inch of ground. With bullets from unseen Rebels cutting the air from three directions at once, slowly, only a hundred yards at a time, the Regulars were forced back.

Rains' troops pushed ahead till they came to the edge of a cotton field, with a tempting enemy battery located in it. "Forward my brave boys," called Rains, "Forward!" Then he lurched from his saddle, killed instantly by a Minie ball through his heart. Leaderless, the attack ground to a halt.

HIKING STOP 5: WATERS' ALABAMA BATTERY

During the advance, Capt. David D. Waters' battery, from Mobile, Alabama, fired at the Yankees from an angle while the infantry struck from ahead. Deep within what had been enemy lines, here, Waters parked his guns for the night.

HIKING STOP 6: BLANTON SITE

Limestone foundations and brick and stone ruins are all that is left of Thomas Blanton's house. The cedar log structure was razed by the owners in the 1960s. Blanton, a Revolutionary War veteran and pioneer settler, died in 1846 and is buried nearby.

His home, situated on the Wilkinson Pike (today, Manson Pike), was used as an emergency field hospital. Dedicated Union medical teams remained behind, after their units fled, to treat both Union and Confederate wounded. The Confederates, as a humanitarian gesture, allowed the surgeons to return to their army after the battle.

HIKING STOP 7: ABANDONED ARTILLERY

After the Rebels smashed the Union right, they began to work on the right center, James S. Negley's division of General Thomas' corps, posted about here. Farther south, Philip S.

Sheridan's division had repulsed several assaults, but flanked and nearly out of ammunition he fell back and posted his remnants on Negley's flank and rear. Taking shelter in the rock outcroppings, for a while the two divisions stood their ground.

On came the Rebels, from the southeast, south and southwest, all at once. "The fighting at this point was terrific," remarked a Union staff officer. "All along the front the dead and wounded lay in heaps, and over their bodies came the assaulting host, seeming as strong and brave as when the first charge was made in the morning." This area became known as the "Slaughter Pens".

HIKING STOP 8: CABIN SITE

A small farm with several acres of corn, two small log cabins chinked with mud were located here. Probably the farmer and his family fled for their lives while the Northern invaders prepared to do battle in their fields. Like many of the soldiers who fought here, the identity and fate of these civilians is unknown.

HIKING STOP 9: AUTO TOUR STOP 5

Daniel S. Donaldson's brigade of Tennesseans, charging from the southeast, struck Charles Cruft's Union brigade at the edge of the woods bordering Mofadden's Lane (today, Van Cleve Lane) east of this point. After hard fighting the Unionists were driven through this area, losing eleven cannon and nearly a thousand men as prisoners in the thick cedars.

HIKING STOP 10: CONFEDERATE BREASTWORKS

By late morning General Bragg's great wheeling attack had lost much of its momentum. Confederate units became intermingled; some were out of ammunition. Casualties were severe. General Rosecrans at the same time had established a new defensive line at right angles to the old one, a position too strong for the Southerners to successfully attack. After several bloody failures, the Rebels drew back into the