



# ANDERSON CAMPSITE



## CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN HERITAGE TRAIL

The Dr. Anderson House Camp Site is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Old LaFayette Road and Straight Gut Road, approximately one mile north of Rock Spring, Georgia.



GENERAL LEONIDAS POLK

A substantial community grew up around the Rock Spring Church on the LaFayette Road during the mid-nineteenth century. The 1860 Federal census for Walker County showed Dr. Peter S. Anderson, a Virginia born physician, lived with his wife and four children on the northwest corner of the intersection of the LaFayette Road and Straight Gut Road. The 1860 census listed him as owning \$2,500.00

in real estate and having a personal estate of \$4,110.00. The doctor was, therefore, one of the leading citizens of the community.

During the Chickamauga Campaign different commands of Confederate soldiers camped on the Anderson property. One of the first large bodies of Confederate troops to occupy the area was the division of Polk's Corps commanded by General Thomas Hindman, which was sent by General Braxton Bragg to attack the federal division commanded by General Negley at Davis' Crossroads. Moving south along the LaFayette Road from Lee and Gordon's Mills, Hindman's men reached the white frame house occupied by Dr. Peter S. Anderson. "Between 1 and 2 o'clock on the morning of September 10," General

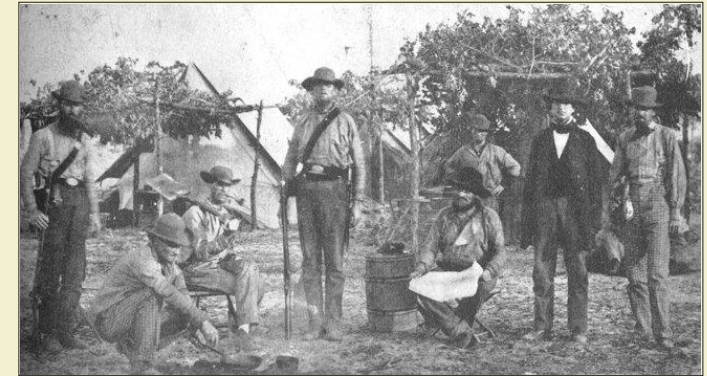


From the map of Col. William E. Merrill, Chief Engineer, Army of the Cumberland

Hindman later wrote, "I moved ... to Dr. Anderson's house, on the LaFayette road, and thence through Worthen's Gap, of Pigeon Mountain, toward Davis' Cross-Roads." At around 8 a.m. on the 10th, the corps of General Simon Buckner arrived at Dr. Anderson's with orders to follow in support of Hindman.

The poorly coordinated Confederate attack at Davis' Crossroads failed. General Bragg next felt that the best course of action would be to move against Crittenden's Corps that was gathering around Lee and Gordon's Mills. On September 12th, elements of General Polk's Corps were ordered to move back up the LaFayette Road toward this concentration of Federals. "Cheatham covered all the roads with his division," Lieutenant W. B. Richmond, aide-de-camp to General Polk, wrote on September 12, "from Dr. Anderson's on the left, to Pea Vine Church road."

There was a strong Confederate presence in the area over the next few days. General Braxton Bragg made his headquarters a short distance to the east at Leet's Tanyard. Bragg's objective was to



SOLDIERS IN CAMP

block the Federal army from retreating to Chattanooga and push them back against the rugged eastern side of Lookout Mountain where they could be destroyed. As plans were made for the upcoming battle, the area around the Anderson house remained an important camp site for the Confederate Army.

By dawn of September 18th, another Confederate corps, that of General Daniel H. Hill, moved through the area and General Hill briefly made his headquarters at the Anderson house. By late afternoon, several of his units had engaged the enemy forces in the vicinity of Lee and Gordon's Mills. At some point on September 19th, D. H. Hill's Corps moved out of the area and joined the main battle.

Please visit our website at:  
<http://www.ChickamaugaCampaign.org>