After the Battle

Commanders & Soldiers

Brigadier General William S. Rosecrans graduated from West Point in 1840, a class of 46. He left the army in 1845 to practice as a civil and military engineer. He returned to service in the Civil War and rose to command the Army of the Cumberland. He was considered to be a brilliant strategist, but a commander reluctant to make quick or critical moves in battle. Poor tactical judgement and his rapacity from the Chancellorsville battlefield made him the focus of the entire Union army's expectations.

The Army of the Cumberland (CSA) included the Army of Tennessee, divided into three major commands: the Army of the Tennessee, the Army of the Mississippi, and the Army of the Tennessee. The Army of the Tennessee was commanded by William S. Rosecrans, and included the North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama volunteers. The Army of the Mississippi was commanded by Ulysses S. Grant, and included the Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas volunteers. The Army of the Tennessee was commanded by Benjamin F. Butler, and included the Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee volunteers.

Brigadier General George H. Thomas was a Virginian who, unlike Lee, remained loyal to his state during the war. He was a veteran of the Seminole and Mexican wars. At the start of the war he fought against Kentucky and Indiana at both Perryville and Stone's River. At Chickamauga, he stubbornly held his position on Missionary Ridge, one of the few Confederate positions that held out from the fall, and allowed his side to rally. His actions earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga." After the Federal defeat at Chickamauga, he replaced Rosecrans as Commander of the Army of the Cumberland. Thomas commanded at the Battle of Nashville and marched in Tennessee after the war until 1867, when he was assigned to command the District of Columbia until his death in 1878.

How to use this brochure

This brochure was designed to give you an overview of the Chickamauga Campaign and the events that led to the Battle of Chickamauga September 19 and 20, 1863. By using it you can follow the Federal Army of the Cumberland on the Chickamauga Campaign, across the Tennessee River, and continue by various routes to the Battle. Similarly, the brochure shows the route of the Confederate Army of Tennessee as it returned from Chattanooga, north of Alabama, Georgia, and then, with reinforcements, turned north to fight the battle. Most of the sites listed here have interpretive signage to provide you with additional information. Sites with a major Federal army encampment in 1863 and Confederate sites appear in red. You can spend a few hours looking at a few of the sites, or a few weeks exploring the entire campaign.