

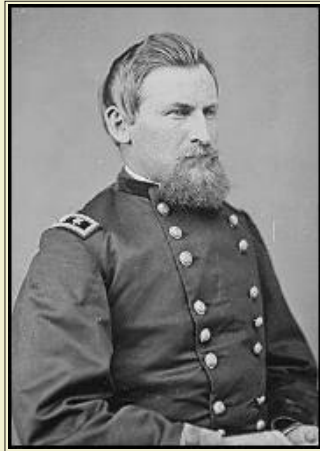


VALLEY STORE, BROOMTOWN RD.

CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN HERITAGE TRAIL



In late August 1863, the Federal Army of the Cumberland began moving toward Georgia. On the extreme right of the Federal lines, the XX Army Corps, commanded by Major General Alexander M. McCook began



BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE CROOK

advancing across Lookout Mountain with Alpine, Summerville, and Rome, Georgia as the objective line of march.

Federal cavalry regiments reconnoitering far in front of the main body of the XX Army Corps skirmished at Tap's Gap (present-day Cloudland) and at Neal's Gap with Confederate cavalry commanded by Major General Joseph Wheeler on September 1, 1863. Cavalry skirmishes continued almost daily near Summerville, Melville (present-day Lyerly), Trion Factory, and Alpine for the

next fifteen days.

September 10, 1863--Federal XX Army Corps Headquarters in Alpine orders scouting forays toward Lafayette, Rome, and Summerville. Brigadier General George Crook leads the Second Brigade, Second Cavalry Division up the Broomtown Valley road and established his headquarters at this site, Valley Store.

**HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE,
SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Valley Store, September 12, 1863-10 p.m.**

Colonel McCook:

Sir: I have a battalion just returned from Trion Factory, which last met with no enemy in that direction. If your horses are not too tired. I would like to have you move toward Lafayette at daylight in the morning. I will move in that direction at that time on this road.

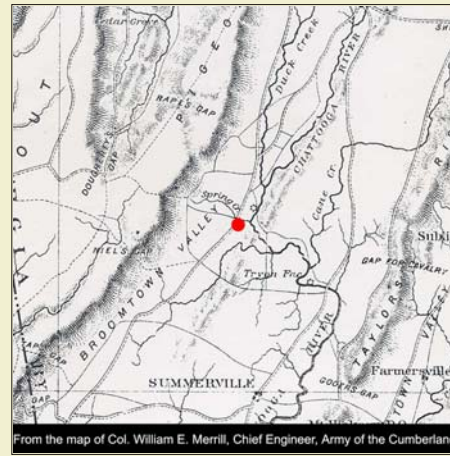
**Very respectfully,
GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General**

Brigadier General Crook wrote on September 29, 1863 his official report of his command here at Valley Store. "On the 13th of September, General Stanley being sick, I was ordered with all the cavalry force to make a reconnaissance to Lafayette, to ascertain what force the enemy had in that place. I sent Colonel McCook with two brigades to march on Lafayette by the Summerville road, when I would march on the direct (Broomtown) road, intending the

two commands to march abreast. Colonel McCook, meeting too heavy a force, swung around on my road in my rear.

With my columns I struck their pickets some 10 miles from Lafayette driving them steadily without firing, until within some 3 ½ miles of town, when I saw by their actions I was near their force, and I ordered a regiment to charge and pick up their pickets, when Colonel Campbell, at the lead of the North Pennsylvania, made most a gallant charge and picked up all the pickets in front of their line of battle. They fired several volleys into him, but the dust was so thick that there were only 3 wounded and 2 missing."

After this action near Lafayette, Crook's command returned to Valley Store, and then



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



GENERAL JOE WHEELER

moved through Neal's Gap to the top of Lookout Mountain where it secured the Dougherty's Gap road into McLemore Cove until September 19th.

September 19-20, 1863--The Battle of Chickamauga.

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