

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April 27-May 1, 1983

33rd Annual Battlefield Tour: Chattanooga-Chickamauga

"In no campaign of the war did the fortunes of battle shift so dramatically from one side to the other, nor were the qualities of generalship more surely tested."

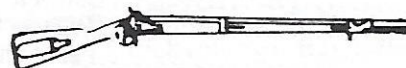
Storming of the Gateway—Fairfax Downey

Surely by anyone's standards, the Chattanooga-Chickamauga theater in the fall and early winter of 1863 provided a spectacular setting for a critical testing of men. The great Union generals of the war—Grant, Sherman, and Thomas—would gather on the same battlefield for the only time during the conflict. The Confederacy would answer with a complete range of generalship, from the superior Forrest, Hill, Longstreet, and Cleburne to the incompetent Bragg. Many of the finest regiments of the entire war would clash. We will be there April 27-May 1, 1983, and you are cordially invited to participate in what will be the most in-depth tour of the area ever offered by The Civil War Round Table.

Our tour guides will be three premier Civil War authorities, Ed Bearss, Gordon Whitney, and Ed Tinney. Ed Bearss is the Chief Research Historian for the National Park Service, and an author, lecturer, and expert on all phases of the war. Gordon is Past President of The Round Table and a Union General Jefferson C. Davis expert. Ed Tinney is the National Military Park Historian for Chickamauga/Chattanooga, and is thoroughly familiar with both parks, the military actions, and monuments. We will bivouac at the Read House in Chattanooga on all four nights of the tour. As usual, our transportation on the battlefields will be by air-conditioned Greyhound Scenic Cruisers fully equipped with appropriate liquid refreshment.

For those flying, the tour will begin with a rendezvous at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 27, 1983 at the Delta Airline ticket counter in Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at the counter to help with check-ins and the boarding of flight #1657, which will depart at 7:10 p.m. Limousines will meet us at Chattanooga's airport and depart immediately for the Read House. Those making their own transportation arrangements should inform the registrar of their expected arrival time at the Read House so that any necessary special arrangements can be made.

On Thursday, April 28, the Chickamauga tour will begin with a study of the important McLemore's Cove site. Later that morning we will visit Lee and Gordon's Mill. Following a catered lunch at the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park Visitor's Center, we will tour



Cost of tour

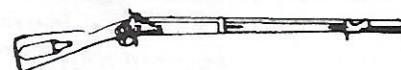
If you provide your own transportation to and from Chattanooga: \$275, or \$335 single accommodation. (Please indicate person with whom you wish to share room.)

Includes: motel room, all lunches and dinners (breakfasts are on your own), bus transportation in the field, group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour kits, literature, badges, and a non-refundable \$10 registration fee per person.

If round-trip air fare with group is included, cost is \$500, or \$560 single accommodation.

For variations: portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, write or phone Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone (312) 787-1860.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through the registrar so that caterers can be notified of number to be prepared for, and so payment can be made.



the rest of Chickamauga Battlefield Park up to the deadly struggle on Snodgrass Hill. We will return to the Read House for Command Post, dinner, and the evening's speaker, Ed Bearss, who will preview the next day's tour, "From Buzzard's Roost to New Hope Church with General Sherman."

Friday, April 29, at 8:00 a.m., we will board the buses to tour Buzzard's Roost Gap, and the sites of the campaign from the Etowah River to New Hope Church, following the route of Sherman's advance after Chattanooga. Lunch will be at the Ramada Inn in Cartersville, Georgia, near where Confederate General Joe Wheeler made a daring dash, carrying off some 80 Union supply wagons. The afternoon will be spent touring various sites in northern Georgia selected by Ed for special interest.

An optional tour will also be made available Friday for those not wishing to tour battlefields. If enough interest is shown, we will arrange for a tour to depart

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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Book List	Marshall Krolick
Itinerary	Edwin C. Bearss



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the Read House at 9:00 a.m. for a ride to the top of Lookout Mountain on the Incline Railway, the world's steepest and safest railroad ride. Atop Lookout Mountain, time will be provided to visit Rock City Gardens and enjoy the panoramic views. After returning to Chattanooga on the Incline Railway, participants will proceed to the Hilton Chattanooga Choo-Choo for lunch and shopping in the complex's many speciality stores. At 2:30 p.m. the tour will leave for the magnificent 145-foot Ruby Falls, actually located inside Lookout Mountain. At 4:30 the bus will return to the Read House.

Again, Command Post and dinner will be at the Read House with the evening's speaker, Gordon Whitney, preparing us for Saturday's full schedule.

On Saturday, April 30, we will again board the buses at 8:00 a.m. First stop will find us reviewing Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga, the completion of the battle and

the Union retreat into Chattanooga. We will then visit the city's famed Confederama Electric Map exhibit. Following Confederama, we will leave for a tour of Brown's Ferry and Fort Wood. Lunch will be at the Read House. In the afternoon, we will tour Orchard Knob, the Union nerve center during the battle of Chattanooga. Also included will be the actions of the lower portions of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. We will then return to our hotel and prepare for Fun Night, which will include a beautiful dinner and boat trip on the Tennessee River.

On Sunday morning, May 1, we will complete our tour covering the upper portions of the Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain sites. We will also visit Point Park at the top of Lookout Mountain and visit the Park Service's offices—which, incidentally, have an excellent Civil War bookshop. We will then return to the Read House for brunch and to pack and prepare to board the buses for Delta Flight #816, which will arrive in Chicago at 7:40 p.m.

Chickamauga—Bloody Creek in the West

September 18, 1863. Night has fallen. Both Union General Rosecrans and Confederate General Bragg are busily shifting troops. The undergrowth is so thick around Chickamauga Creek that no one knows exactly where they are—let alone the enemy locations. But both armies are very close, as the next morning will prove. Morning, September 19. General George Thomas orders Brannan's division to find the enemy near the creek. Brannan finds and drives back Nathan Forrest's dismounted cavalry. Forrest calls for help to the infantry close by. The battle has begun. Every Union division of the 14th, 20th, and 21st Corps are committed. Only two Confederate divisions are withheld. The Union is outnumbered. Rosecrans has 64,500 under arms and 170 pieces of artillery; Bragg has 71,500 men and 200 pieces of artillery. Following a bloody day-long engagement, both sides pull back. Neither is in control of the field. That evening, both sides again frantically move troops. Rosecrans prepares a defense; Bragg, an attack. Longstreet and his troops arrive from Virginia to aid Bragg.

It is September 20. Bragg's units are to attack successively from north to south. Breckenridge attacks the Union at 9:00 a.m. For two hours the Federal left, under Thomas, holds. But Rosecrans does not understand the true locations of his Union troops, and he commits a fatal—and still widely-debated—error. Rosecrans must strengthen his right while Thomas continues to hold the left. "Old Rosey" orders General Wood to "close up and support Reynolds." Wood literally follows orders, and proceeds to pull out of line, creating a gaping hole in the center of the Union line. Why did Wood pull out of the line? He certainly must have realized Longstreet's Confederates were in front of him. A few days prior, at Wauhatchie, as the Union troops were marching east, he failed to occupy a position there, protesting "it would have been blind obedience to orders." Rosecrans had dressed him down about it and when he got the fateful order to pull over to his right and support the right flank of Reynolds it must have flashed into his mind that "as fast as possible" meant just that.

At 11:30 Confederate General Longstreet attacks—and strikes the very spot Wood has abandoned. Union Generals Sheridan and Davis, rushing to close the gap,

arrive moments too late and are shattered by Longstreet's superior force. The Federal right is driven almost totally back on its own left flank. Generals Rosecrans, McCook, and Crittenden, unable to rally panic-ridden and fleeing troops, escape to Chattanooga, thinking their entire army has been destroyed. General Thomas, to be known forevermore as The Rock of Chickamauga, stays and turns Wood and Brannan to block Longstreet's advance from the south. General Granger arrives to aid Thomas at Snodgrass Hill with two critically needed brigades. This saves the Union army from total rout; they retreat into Chattanooga and Bragg follows to Missionary Ridge. It was a Confederate victory, yet a missed opportunity for total victory. The size of the miss will be measured in two months by Grant at Chattanooga.

Chattanooga

In Chattanooga, the Federal forces endured an almost catastrophic period of starvation as the Confederates began to close in on them. Troops were placed on quarter rations, the mules and horses simply died from lack of food. Summoned to command by the administration in Washington, D.C., an injured (by a fall from a horse) Major General U. S. Grant traveled from Bridgeport, Alabama, to the demoralized army in Chattanooga, arriving on October 23. There he met with George H. Thomas, his choice to replace Rosecrans, and together they commenced a plan of operations to supply the army, the opening of what became "Baldy" Smith's "Cracker Line." On November 23, when Sherman's army had arrived and had been put into position on the left with Thomas in the center and Hooker on the right, the signal to advance was given. From Fort Wood Thomas' men pushed ahead to Orchard Knob and Hooker attacked Lookout Mountain. Sherman, moving toward Tunnel Hill, the anchor of the north end of Missionary Ridge, ran headlong into stubborn Pat Cleburne's troops. Cleburne had been reinforced by troops shifted from the center. Further Confederate support included the Orphan Brigade transferred from Lookout at the other end of the line.

A misty fog developed atop Lookout Mountain and, from the Union lines facing Missionary Ridge, Hooker's troops could be seen scurrying upward only to be obscured from view by the fog, giving the battle its unique name, "Above the Clouds." In a stirring, exhilarating moment the next morning the Federal flags could be seen flying from the eminence, signifying Federal victory.

When Sherman's attack faltered on the 25th, Thomas' troops were given the assignment to take the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. The men went forward, running, driving the enemy. When they stopped to catch their breath, the Confederates shelled them. Without specific order, but as though under orders, with renewed spirit the men pushed ahead and up the steep slope of Missionary Ridge with many regiments vying to be the first on top. General Gordon Granger rested that evening in Braxton Bragg's abandoned headquarters. Grant directed the pursuit in person. The all-important railway center of Chattanooga had come into Union control, denying the Confederates the rails and setting the stage for Sherman's 1864 Atlanta campaign. Grant was hailed in the North and the victory led to his being given command of all the Union armies with the rank of

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Tour schedule

Though the schedule does not exactly follow the events chronologically, the tour has been logistically arranged to allow for the maximum time to be spent on the most sites.

Variations in schedule will be announced at lunch or dinner. All times are dependent upon variable factors.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1983

- 6:00 p.m.—Check in with Registrar Margaret April at Delta desk, O'Hare Field
- 7:10 p.m.—Depart on Delta flight #1657. A snack will be served on board.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1983

Breakfast on your own, as on each day of tour.

- 8:00 a.m.—Board bus. Tour McLemore's Cove.
- 10:00 a.m.—Lee and Gordon's Mill
- Noon—Lunch at Chickamauga Visitor's Center
- 1:30 p.m.—Tour Chickamauga Battlefield Park to Snodgrass Hill
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Ed Bearss

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1983

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for Buzzard's Roost and tour of the campaign from the Etowah River to New Hope Church
- Noon—Lunch, Ramada Inn, Cartersville, Georgia
- 1:15 p.m.—Tour northern Georgia campaign and battle sites
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Gordon Whitney

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1983

Alternate tour

- 9:00 a.m.—Board bus, leave for tour on Incline Railway and Rock City Gardens
- Noon—Lunch at Chattanooga Choo Choo
- Afternoon—Shopping at the Choo Choo complex
- 2:30 p.m.—Board bus and proceed to Ruby Falls
- 4:30 p.m.—Return to motel

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1983

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses to complete Chickamauga tour from Snodgrass Hill to the retreat into Chattanooga
- 10:30 a.m.—Visit Confederama
- 11:00 a.m.—Brown's Ferry, Fort Wood
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch at the Read House
- 1:30 p.m.—Board bus for Orchard Knob
- 3:00 p.m.—Lower Missionary Ridge and Base of Lookout Mountain to the Carter House
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel
- 6:30 p.m.—Board buses for Fun Night cruise and dinner on the Tennessee River

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1983

- 9:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of top of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and the line of Bragg's retreat
- Noon—Return to Read House, brunch and prepare (approx.) for departure to airport
- 7:40 p.m.—Arrive in Chicago on Delta flight #816.

ORDERS AND AMMUNITION

by Marshall D. Krolick



The literature of these campaigns is so vast that any bibliography must, of necessity, be very selective. Emphasis has been placed on more recent books and those more readily available, as well as on the "classics" of the subject.

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Horn, Stanley, *The Army of Tennessee*.

Johnston, Joseph E., *Narrative of Military Operations*.

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Lamers, William, *The Edge of Glory*, biography of Rosecrans.

Lewis, Lloyd, *Sherman, Fighting Prophet*.

Longstreet, James, *From Manassas to Appomattox*.

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McWhiney, Grady, *Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat*, Vol. I. *Field Command*.

O'Connor, Richard, *Thomas, Rock of Chickamauga*.

Parks, Joseph H., *General Leonidas Polk, C.S.A.*

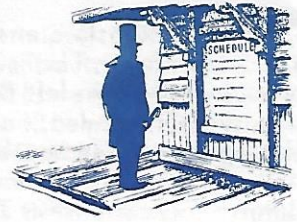
Purdue, Howell and Elizabeth, *Pat Cleburne, Confederate General*.

Seltz, Don C., *Braxton Bragg*.

Sherman, William T., *Memoirs*.

Smith, William F., *Military Operations Around Chattanooga*.

BULLETIN BOARD



Check-in Time: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 27, 1983 at Delta Terminal, O'Hare Field. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special Delta airline desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour Kits will be distributed. Do not check your luggage before registering with Margaret April.

Departure: 7:10 p.m. on Delta flight #1657 to Chattanooga. Arrival in Chattanooga will be at 10:15 p.m.

On the Tour: Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the appropriate time each morning to allow maximum time for touring. A bus marshal will be on each bus to help you. If you plan a side excursion, join a car group, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that buses are not detained waiting for you.

Return: Sunday, May 1, 1983 depart from the Read House for the Chattanooga airport. Depart Chattanooga on Delta flight #816 for O'Hare. Arrival at 7:40 p.m.

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Lieutenant-General, the first to hold that rank since George Washington.

Buzzard's Roost/New Hope Church

These areas, along with others selected by Ed Bearss for the tour in northern Georgia, provide an important look at the often ignored, yet critical, lines of advance by Sherman against Joe Johnston. Here were the early stages of Sherman's advance on Atlanta in May, 1864, and then the March to the Sea. We will follow the initial moves in this campaign, which are essential to Sherman's later successes. Here the dominoes began to fall—all the way to Charleston. Buzzard's Roost presented the strong Confederate defenses for Dalton, Georgia. New Hope Church—which took place from May 25-June 4—was a battle so furious it was called "Hell Hole" by Union troops. In addition to the battle itself, the action around New Hope Church provides a perfect study of Sherman's offensive and Johnston's defensive troop movements which have been closely studied as classics ever since.

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