SAFETY AND YOUR VISIT

To make the most of a visit to the park, plan to stay a minimum of two hours. Your first stop should be the visitor center. An audio-visual program on the battle, a map of the battlefield, and other exhibits are available to orient you to the various stages of the battle. A recorded guide for use along the self-guided auto tour is available upon request. Historical and natural history tours as well as several living history programs are offered from mid-June through August. Organized groups desiring special programs should make arrangements with the superintendent at least two weeks in advance. Picnicking is permitted but limited to a designated area. Camping facilities are available outside the park. Pets are welcome but must remain on a leash.

As in any situation, conditions exist that can spoil your time in the park. Watch for exposed rocks, uneven trails, poison ivy and sumac, slippery rocks, occasional snakes, and rocky outcroppings that can cause a fall, injury, or unpleasantness. The river is unsafe for wading or swimming. Have a safe and enjoyable visit.

A Note For The Handicapped

The visitor center information facilities are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Trails and many of our nationally owned public lands and resources and works to assure that their development of life through outdoor recreation. The Park administration is in the best interests of all our people. The resources and works to assure that their development of life through outdoor recreation. The Department has responsibility for our fish and wildlife, preserving the environment and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Indian Territories under U.S. administration.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nation's forests, parks, wildlife, and other natural resources. This includes the forests of this nation's parks and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environment and cultural values of our national parks, and a wide variety of other natural resources.

STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD AND CEMETERY

The park is in the northwest corner of Murfreesboro, Tenn., 29 miles southeast of Nashville and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The park telephone number is 615-869-0601. There is no admission or special-use fees.

For Middle Tennessee

In February 1862 the Union army under Gen. Rosecrans, with 45,000 men, moved out of Nashville, intending to sweep Bragg and his force of 38,000 aside and drive on to Chattanooga. Four days later Federal forces near Murfreesboro. Bragg's army had been found.

Within sight of each other the two armies camped, readying for battle. As the fiendish Stetson and the sentries tramped, the mood was tense but there was no firing. Tonight was the time to snatch a few hours sleep and, if possible, a few moments of pleasure. Somewhere along the line an army band struck up a patriotic air. From the opposing side came the chords of a rejoinder, and soon the hills resounded with "Hail Columbia." The next morning, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee. In April Grant won Donelson on the Cumberland River and nearby Fort Henry on the Tennessee in April. Grant again at Shiloh and during the summer of 1862 he moved into Nashville, without a shot being fired. In October 1862 Gen. Braxton Bagg re- treated from Perryville, Ky., and concentrated his Confederate army at Murfreesboro, Tenn., for the winter. Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, leading another Union army, followed Bragg from KY. as far as Nashville. The two large armies were fighting for control of Middle Tennessee's railroads and rich farms.

On December 26, 1862, Rosecrans, with 45,000 men, moved out of Nashville, intending to sweep Bragg and his force of 38,000 aside and drive on to Chattanooga. Four days later Federal forces near Murfreesboro. Bragg's army had been found.

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The day's fighting sputtered to a close. 

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