The Battlefield Dispatch

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park Celebrates National Park Centennial

On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) celebrates its 100th birthday! At parks throughout the country, special programs and events will take place to celebrate the past 100 years of preservation and protection the NPS has provided to the nation’s most important and breathtaking cultural and natural treasures.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will be taking up this torch as well. YOUR local national park has scheduled six events at six park units through 2016 in order to better connect with our surrounding communities and celebrate this special time in our nation’s history.

All of the centennial programs are free and open to the public and are supported by the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and/or the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park. In addition to the park’s Friends, a host of other partners have signed on to help with these events, and the park is excited to have them on board as we connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, advocates.

Park Centennial Programs for 2016

**June**

Title: Climb, Bike, Hike Lookout Mountain
Date: Saturday, June 11
Time: 9 am – 4 pm
Place: Lookout Mountain Battlefield (Cravens House)
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park)

Title: A Signal to the Next Generation: Family Fun Day in Your Local National Park
Date: Saturday, June 18
Time: 9 am – 4 pm
Place: Signal Point Reservation, Signal Mountain, TN
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park)

**July**

Title: Bike, Paddle, Play on Moccasin Bend
Date: Saturday, July 30
Time: Throughout the day
Place: Moccasin Bend National Archeological District
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park and Friends of Moccasin Bend)

**August**

Title: Take Me Out to the Park: Community Picnic and Civil War Baseball Game
Date: Saturday, August 27
Time: 11 am – 4 pm; Baseball game at 12 pm
Place: Chickamauga Battlefield
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park)

**September**

Title: Blues on the Knob
Date: Saturday, September 10
Time: 6 – 10 pm
Place: Orchard Knob Reservation
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park)

Title: Creating a Neighborhood Link: Glass Street and Sherman Reservation
Date: Saturday, September 24
Time: Throughout the day
Place: Sherman Reservation on Missionary Ridge
Fee: Free (Supported by Friends of the Park)
**Superintendent’s Sidebar**

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

On behalf of all of the employees, volunteers, and partners who work together to protect, preserve, maintain, and interpret this special place, welcome to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. As you learn about history, enjoy scenic views, and perhaps take a short walk on a trail, you represent a long tradition of public support for your national park system. Last year, in 2015, more than a million visitors demonstrated their interest in this national park. They also spent more than $63 million in surrounding communities, supporting 979 private sector jobs and contributing to a cumulative benefit of almost $78 million to the local economy. This year, as the National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary, we invite you to partake in one or more of our six Centennial events.

After all, this park belongs to you. Its value to our society—in terms of understanding the events that shaped our culture, offering a natural sanctuary in an increasingly urban environment, and its legacy for future generations—is dependent upon your continued interest and support.

Thank you for visiting. We hope that you have a meaningful, memorable experience. We look forward to seeing you again in your national park.

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**Bringing History to Life**

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

Even before the Civil War ended, soldiers sometimes demonstrated combat maneuvers and weapons systems for civilians in surrounding communities. In 1898, soldiers stationed at Camp Thomas on Chickamauga Battlefield even reenacted the fighting on Snodgrass Hill before a crowd of spectators! Today, the National Park Service does not conduct large scale battle reenactments like that. However, throughout the year, the park conducts living history programs to help visitors understand the experiences of soldiers and civilians during the Campaign for Chattanooga.

Some of the most popular programs are conducted with artillery, which take place at both Chickamauga Battlefield and Point Park on Lookout Mountain. During the Battle of Chickamauga, residents of Rome, Georgia, could hear the roar of cannon from nearly sixty miles away.

In our park’s artillery programs, visitors can once again hear the roar of cannon, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteer artillery crew. For a more personal experience, you can also “meet” a soldier or civilian at Chickamauga Battlefield or at Point Park. These programs, called “We Were Soldiers,” allow visitors the opportunity to interact and connect with individuals who shaped the history of the Chattanooga area.

Artillery Programs will take place at Chickamauga Battlefield on June 4, September 3, and September 17-18 and at Point Park on Lookout Mountain on May 28, July 2, and October 8-9. “We Were Soldiers” programs take place on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer at Chickamauga Battlefield and at Point Park. Programs are subject to staff availability and weather conditions. For more information about times and specific locations in the park, be sure to check in at the visitor center front desk.

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*Left: Living historians fire reproduction cannon inside Point Park on Lookout Mountain during a historic weapons demonstration. (NPS Image)*  
*Right: Park Ranger Chris Barr presents a special program about a Confederate soldier who left behind a vivid recollection of the fighting on Horseshoe Ridge during the Battle of Chickamauga. (NPS Image)*
New Mobile Web Tour Available for Visitors this Summer

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

In the past, visitors touring Chickamauga Battlefield without a park ranger as their guide could call 585-672-2619 and listen to a recorded narration of the battle at eight tour stops. Starting this summer, visitors will have another option to explore the battlefield at their own pace. In addition to the phone number, the park has developed a mobile web version of the park’s cellphone tour. Each tour stop has a webpage with information about that area of the battlefield, including photographs, maps, videos, and interesting stories about key figures. To access the mobile web tour from your smart phone or internet connected device, visit chch.toursphere.com or scan the QR code located on the tour stop signs.

The new mobile tour website is user friendly and easy to navigate. (NPS Image)

Audio tour signs, with QR codes, are located at all eight tour stops within Chickamauga Battlefield. (NPS Image)

Otis Howard and the Battles for Chattanooga

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

Some recognize Union Major General Oliver Otis Howard as the head of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen’s Bureau), as at least the namesake of Howard University in Washington, D.C., and what is now The Howard School in Chattanooga. However, others might recognize him for his controversial roles in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. The events of the nearly all consuming Civil Warera transformed not only the nation but also individuals, like Howard. His role in the Battles for Chattanooga in November 1863 was part of the personal transformation that by the end of the war made him the commander of the Army of the Tennessee and soon thereafter the first Commissioner of the Freedmen’s Bureau.

Born in Maine in 1830, Howard was already a graduate of Bowdoin College when he received an appointment to West Point, graduating fourth in a class of 46 in 1854 (a class that included other Campaign for Chattanooga participants – James Deshler, John Pegram, and Archibald Gracie).

Most of Howard’s prewar service was as a mathematics instructor at West Point.

Major General Oliver Otis Howard (Library of Congress Image)
Howard
(Continued from page 3)

When the Civil War began, he took command of a regiment from his native state and led a brigade at the First Battle of Bull Run. A severe wound the following spring at Fair Oaks, outside Richmond, necessitated the amputation of his right arm, but he returned to service in the field in less than three months. By spring 1863, he was a major general and commander of the XI Corps. The driving and route of his corps at Chancellorsville on May 2 and at Gettysburg on July 1 caused many then, and many even today, to question Howard’s ability as a leader.

Sent west under Joseph Hooker to reinforce the Army of the Cumberland after the Battle of Chickamauga, Howard and most of the XI Corps began a redemptive transformation in the final struggles for the control of the “Gateway to the Deep South.”

Ordered from Lookout Valley on November 22, Howard’s corps was initially intended by General Grant as a mobile reserve or force of exploitiation to be held on the north side of the Tennessee River, opposite Chattanooga, ready to either move upstream to support General Sherman’s cross-river assault against the Confederate right or into Chattanooga to be part of the moves from the fortified enclave around the city. On the same day, when Sherman’s final approach forced Grant to postpone his offensive yet again, Howard was ordered to cross the river into Chattanooga and mass his corps on the southern slopes of the hill crowned by Fort Wood. In the “demonstration” on November 23 that captured Orchard Knob, Howard’s men were moved into the Citzic Creek valley (Chattanooga’s Bushtown neighborhood) driving back the Confederate picket line in that area and covering a new Union left flank toward the Tennessee. The next day, the drizzly, heavily overcast day of what turned out to be the “Battle Above the Clouds” on Lookout Mountain, Howard took a portion of his force and moved upstream on the south side of the river and opened communications with Sherman’s men crossing at the mouth of South Chickamauga Creek. Still envisioning Sherman’s attack as his main effort, Grant, on November 25, sent Howard and his corps to Sherman, his most trusted but then dilatory subordinate. Arriving while the initial assaults on Tunnel Hill were being made, Sherman ordered Howard’s corps to his own left, the area between Billy Goat Hill and South Chickamauga Creek (the area of the Sterchi Farm Trailhead on the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway). Howard’s skirmishers engaged their Confederate counterparts covering Southern positions on the knolls east of Tunnel Hill (where the Gaylan Heights subdivision is today), but Sherman did not send them forward in an assault or maneuver that might have brought Grant victory the way he originally intended.

The assignment to Sherman initiated a connection that would be another step in Howard’s transformation. The XI Corps accompanied Sherman in Grant’s brief pursuit of the Confederates after Missionary Ridge and then in the march to relieve Knoxville over the next three weeks. In the reorganizations of the following spring, Howard was assigned command of the Army of the Cumberland’s IV Corps and led it in the Atlanta Campaign until elevated by Sherman to lead the Army of the Tennessee in July. He held that command, Sherman’s right wing, in the March to the Sea and the Carolinas Campaign. Viewed mostly through the lens of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, many find it hard to see the Howard who comes out of the West. Like Howard’s own increased concern in the fate of African Americans freed from slavery, and hence his appointment as Commissioner of the Freedmen’s Bureau, Howard as a leader changed, mostly for the better, during the course of the Civil War. Part of that change can be seen progressing in the campaign preserved and commemorated by this national military park by following Howard across the ground of the Battles for Chattanooga.

Howard’s Headquarters Camp in Lookout Valley, January 1864 (from Autobiography of Oliver Otis Howard)