

Britton's Lane

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

On September 1, 1862, Confederate Col. William H. Jackson's Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, Forrest's brigade, attacked the Twentieth and Thirtieth U.S. Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery under the command of Colonel Dennis, near Jackson, Tennessee. The Battle of Britton's Lane resulted in the capture of a large Union wagon train, two pieces of artillery, and 213 prisoners. Monuments mark the site, along with a mass grave of Confederates killed in the action. An extant cabin on the site was used as a Federal and Confederate hospital. After the battle, eighty-seven Union soldiers were imprisoned in the Denmark Presbyterian Church near Britton Lane Battlefield. The structure still contains graffiti left by the Union prisoners. Source: American Battlefield Trust

HISTORICAL THEMES

Controlling Resources, Crucible for Leadership, Guerilla Warfare, Transformation in Warfare, Influence on Campaign

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

Maps; photos; reports from Official Records

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

N/A

COUNTY:

Madison

DATE:

9/1/1862

GEO COORDINATES:

35.489969° N,
88.960144° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

MEDIUM

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

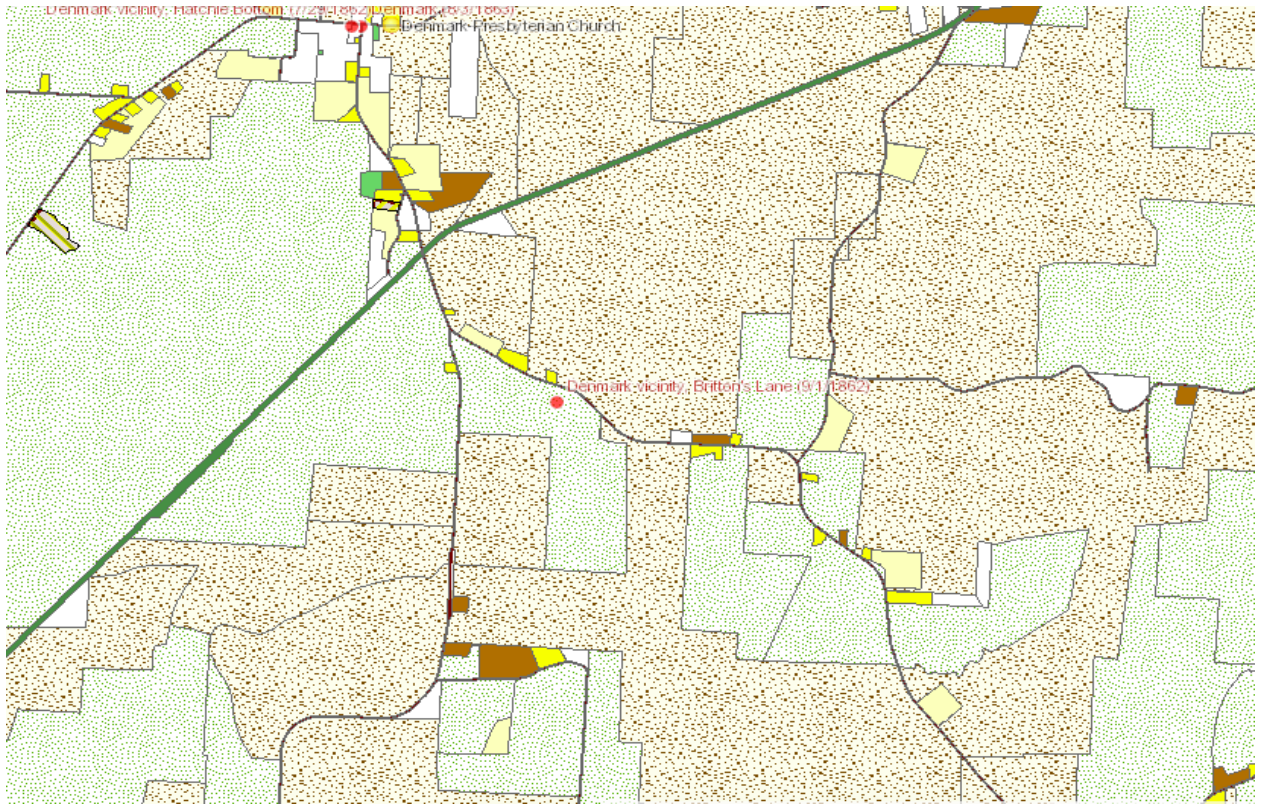
7th Tennessee

Cavalry

UNION UNITS:

20th Infantry USA

30th Infantry USA



Markers commemorating Battle of Britton's Lane

September 7, 1862 - Status report on Confederate guerrilla activities in Haywood, Dyer and Lauderdale counties, and between the Forked Deer rivers
HDQRS. CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, Trenton, Tenn.,
September 7, 1862.

Capt. M. ROCHESTER, Assistant Adjutant-Gen., Columbus, Ky.:

CAPT.: The larger part of the rebel force that has been between the Forked Deer Rivers has fallen back to the Hatchie, leaving bands of marauders in Haywood County to do what mischief they can. Their camps extend from Brownsville Landing to Estenaula, and they are reported by our spies and Union men as being from 3,000 to 5,000 strong. They are recruiting a large number of men south of the Hatchie and in the counties bordering it on the north.

Where Col. McCullough [Confederate] is I know not, but judge by their falling back that he must be scouting in Haywood County. If we could have a force at Brownsville to occasionally dash across the Hatchie we could make it too hot even there for them; all their prisoners and our scouts say that they desire to get north of me. The punishment that I have given them in Dyer, Lauderdale, and Haywood Counties makes them bitter. They take all the property of any Union man or anyone who even leans that way, negroes and all, and those men who bought the confiscated property at the sales here they punished terribly. A fight occurred in the streets of Denmark Thursday^{Note 1} [4th]; what it amounted to I know not. The secesh report that their side lost 30 and that the cavalry cut them up terribly and dispersed them in the fourth charge. I trust it is so.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. M. DODGE, Brig.-Gen.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 17, pt. II, pp. 206-207.

Note 1: He probably meant at Denmark Lane, September 1, 1862 There is nothing further in the OR indicating that there was any kind of "fight in the streets of Denmark" for this date. Perhaps General Dodge made a mistake in his dates and was referring to the September 1, 1862, Skirmish at Britton's Lane, near Denmark (see above). Dyer's Battle Index for Tennessee lists a skirmish at Big Creek Gap for September 4, 1862, but Big Creek Gap is in East Tennessee. Moreover, the OR has no mention of a fight of any kind at Big Creek Gap on September 4, 1862.

LEGEND OF TERMS:

Historical themes: Topics and subject matter that characterize the battlefield including Control of Tennessee's Resources, Crucible for Leadership, Guerilla Warfare, Transformation in Warfare, Enslaved People, and Influence on Campaign. Sites are identified that exhibit themes at moderate to high levels, and some sites may contain one or more Historical Themes.

Preservation Opportunity Index (POI): A rating assigned for each battlefield to indicate relative opportunity and potential for successful site preservation. The Index is generated by a model that evaluates ratings assigned for site significance, condition, risk of loss, protection potential, and opportunities for interpretation. Based upon the POI values for each region in Tennessee (West, Middle, East), sites are indicated as having High, Medium, or Low opportunity.

Geo Coordinates: General/central location of the battlefield area per latitude and longitude coordinates utilized in Google Earth

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON A BATTLE SITE?

Please email us at info@tcwpa.org and we will reach out to you soon. If you have copies of documents or photos to share, you can include those. If you want to discuss by phone, we will schedule that too.

HELP US COLLECT INFORMATION TO PRESERVE THESE BATTLEFIELDS

TCWPA's Statewide Preservation Plan team captains are recruiting volunteers to help gather information about many of the lesser-known sites with hopes of verifying the condition of each site and identifying opportunities for preservation and interpretation.

If you are interested in helping, please contact TCWPA at info@tcwpa.org.

TCWPA will not publish nor release any confidential information, or the name of the contributor, unless you request to be recognized.

Thank you!

The logo for the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) is displayed in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the lower-left corner of a dark blue banner that features a background image of a Civil War-era cannon.

tcwpa

Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

Contact our team at info@tcwpa.org