

Bulls Gap

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

In November 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge mounted an expedition into East Tennessee from Virginia to secure food and forage and drive the Federals from the area. A Union force commanded by Brig. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem had advanced beyond Greeneville but retired in front of the larger Confederate army moving out of Jonesborough towards Greeneville. To protect the rail lines to Knoxville, the Gillem fell back to Bull's Gap near Whitesburg on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad. On November 11, the Confederate forces attacked but were repulsed by 11:00 a.m. Both sides launched attacks the morning of November 12, but the Confederates gained little ground. Following skirmishing throughout the day on November 13, Gillem withdrew from Bull's Gap toward Russellville late in the evening. After pursuing the retreating Federals as far as Strawberry Plain Breckinridge ultimately withdrew his army back into Virginia. The Confederate victory at the Battle of Bull's Gap was a setback in the Federal plans to rid East Tennessee of Confederate military presence.

HISTORICAL THEMES

This engagement is one of 38 sites evaluated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and not subject to a TCWPA Battlefield Assessment

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://npshistory.com/publications/battlefield/cwsac/update>

COUNTY: Hamblen
and Greene

DATE: 11/11-13/1864

GEO COORDINATES:

36.2570° N,
83.0860° W

PRESERVATION OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

UNION UNITS:

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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!



tcwpa

Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

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