

Wauhatchie

NARRATIVE

After losing Brown's Ferry the day before, Confederate Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet ordered Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins' division to mount a nighttime attack on Union forces under Brig. Gen. John W. Geary near Wauhatchie Station on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. While Jenkins attacked Wauhatchie, Brig. Gen. Evander M. Law and Brig. Gen. Jerome B. Robertson's brigades were assigned to block reinforcements from reaching the scene of the battle. The attack, scheduled for 10 pm on October 28th, was delayed until 12:30 am on October 29th. Even though Union forces were aware that an attack might occur, they were still surprised by the attack. After hearing shots being fired at Wauhatchie, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker ordered Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz's division to march toward the area to reinforce Geary's division. However, due to miscommunication, Brig. Gen. Adolph von Steinwehr's division left instead. As they were marching toward Wauhatchie, Law's division fired upon Steinwehr's division and diverted their attention before they could reach the battle. They were occupied there until Law retreated. Meanwhile, the Union forces were successful in holding off Confederate attacks at Wauhatchie but were running low on ammunition. Confederate forces seemed poised to win until they were called to retreat after reports that Union reinforcements were arriving from the rear. After three hours of intense combat in the dead of night, the Battle of Wauhatchie was over. (Account from American Battlefield Trust website)

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

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
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COUNTY:

Hamilton

DATE:

10/28-29/1863

GEO COORDINATES:

35.003131° N,
85.379403° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia (Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet)
Hood's Division (Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins)

UNION UNITS:

XI Corps (Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard)
Second Division

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://npshistory.com/publications/battlefield/cwsac/updates/tn.pdf>

(Brig. Gen. Adolph
von Steinwehr
Third Division (Maj.
Gen. Carl Schurz
XII Corps, Second
Division (Brig. Gen.
John Geary)

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.

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Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

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