

Murfreesboro- The Cedars

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

In an effort to cover his right flank during the Franklin/Nashville campaign, Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood dispatched the cavalry of Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and the infantry division of Maj. Gen. William Bate to Murfreesboro to cover his line of supplies and potential route of retreat. Advancing to Murfreesboro along two roads on December 5, 1864, Forrest drove the Union forces into Fortress Rosecrans and then encamped on the outskirts of the city. On December 6 Forrest was joined by the infantry brigades of Brig. Gen. Claudius Sears and Brig. Gen. Joseph Palmer. The following day, December 7, Union Maj. Gen. Lovell Rousseau sent two brigades under Brig. Gen. Robert H. Milroy on the Salem Pike to reconnoiter Forrest's position. In the engagement that followed, Forrest was forced to retreat but not before he had destroyed railroad track, blockhouses, and disrupted Union operations in the area. Notably, Forrest succeeded in keeping Rousseau confined to Murfreesboro and kept the important supply line and retreat route open.

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/updates/tn.pdf>

COUNTY:

Rutherford

DATE:

12/5-7/1864

GEO COORDINATES:

35.8689° N

86.4593° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry

Maj. Gen. William

Bate's Division

Brig. Gen. Claudius

Sears' Brigade

Brig. Gen. Joseph

Palmer's Brigade

UNION UNITS:

Brig. Gen. Robert

Milroy's Brigade

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. The banner also contains contact information for reporting battle sites.

Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

Contact our team at info@tcwpa.org