

Battle of Nashville

(Dec. 15 & 16, 1864)

Tennessee Historical Commission Markers See Accompanying Map

NOTE: All markers in this series are titled as above, with appropriate subtitles. Subtitles only are given below. Markers are listed as they occur on streets and highways leading out of Nashville, from west to east.

*(Charlotte Ave., between 33rd & 35th Avenues,
near Immanuel Church of the Nazarene)*

N 1 2

Cavalry Action—Dec. 15, 1864

The right of the main Federal defense line crossed Charlotte Pike here. In the opening phase of the battle, mounted and dismounted cavalry of Wilson's Corps moved out of the Federal works, supporting the advance of Smith's XVI Corps in a turning movement against the extreme left flank of the Confederate positions.

(Charlotte Pike, west of Richland Creek)

N 1 1

Cavalry Action—Dec. 15, 1864

Forming the outer arc of the Federal main attack, R. W. Johnson's 6th Cavalry Division, Wilson's Corps, here hit Rucker's Confederate Cavalry Brigade, west of Richland Creek. Withdrawing southward to Harding Road, Rucker held his ground there until bypassing Federal infantry forced further withdrawal to Hillsboro Pike late in the afternoon.

(In Centennial Park, in a grass plot near parking space at Parthenon.)

N 1 3

Federal Defenses

The hill to the west was a strong point in the system of permanent Federal defenses, started in 1862, which extended to the river on both sides of the town. Artillery was emplaced here from time to time.

(West End Avenue, at its intersection with Orleans Drive)

N 1 5

XVI Corps Line of Departure—Dec. 15, 1864

Supported by a division of Wilson's cavalry, A. J. Smith's Corps moved westward astride Harding Road, displacing Ector's Confederate Brigade from positions across the pike northward to the west of Richland Creek. This brigade outposted the Confederate left flank; the main line was along the Hillsboro Pike.

(Harding Road (U S 70) at junction with White Bridge Road.)

N 1 4

Defense by Ector's Brigade—Dec. 15, 1864

In position from here northward along high ground, Ector's Brigade of French's Confederate Division, commanded by Col. Daniel Coleman, outposted the left of Hood's line. Attacked by the Federal XVI Corps, supported by artillery and part of the Cavalry Corps, it was overwhelmed. It withdrew southeast to Hillsboro Pike.

(21st Ave. S., at entrance to Vanderbilt Campus, just north of Vanderbilt Hospital.)

N 1 13

Federal Defenses—Dec. 2-15, 1864

Near here, the interior defensive lines ran southwest to cross Harding Pike; the total length of these works was about 7 miles. First garrisoned by Wood's IV Corps, it was occupied Dec. 15 by Donaldson's Division of Quartermaster employees. Part of the breastworks can be seen on Vanderbilt campus, 300 yards west.

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Bernard Avenue.)

N 1 12

Outer Federal Defenses—Dec. 2, 1864

Here the outer Federal defensive line, which stretched 7 miles around the city, crossed Hillsboro Pike. It was used at the commencement of the battle on Dec. 15 by Wood's IV Corps as a line of a departure for the main attack. Faint traces of the old entrenchments are visible a few yards west.

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Linden Avenue.)

N 1 11

IV Corps Jump-Off Line—Dec. 15, 1864

Using the defensive salient 500 yards east, Wood's Corps, with the XVI Corps on its right, swung southwest to envelop the left of the Confederate line, 1½ miles south, and pushed it back in spite of determined resistance. The XXIII Corps (Schofield) followed in support.

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Cedar Lane.)

N 1 10

Assault on Montgomery Hill—Dec. 15, 1864

500 yards east of here, Maj. Gen. T. J. Wood led an assault by his IV Corps against the Confederate skirmish line on the hill, eventu-

ally carrying it. Attacking the main line about 600 yards south, Wood was unable to take it by direct assault, the divisions of Loring and Walthall holding fast until the XVI Corps, moving past their left, forced withdrawal.

(State Route 106, near intersection with Hampton Avenue.)

N 1 9

Redoubt No. 1—Dec. 15, 1864

Stewart's Confederate Corps held this salient of the left of Hood's defenses. A thin infantry line ran south behind a stone wall on the east side of the pike. After the routing of Ector's Brigade on Harding Pike and successive overrunning of Redoubts 3, 4 & 5 to the south, Stewart's position was flanked; he withdrew southeast toward Granny White Pike.

(State Route 106, about 100 yards south of intersection with Woodmont Boulevard.)

N 1 8

Confederate Outpost—Dec. 15, 1864

100 yards west was Redoubt No. 3 in the Confederate system of detached works beyond the main line. It was overrun by the enveloping attack of Wood's IV Corps from the northwest.

(State Route 106, at intersection with Hobbs Road.)

N 1 7

Lumsden's Defense—Dec. 15, 1864

0.3 mile west was Redoubt No. 4 in Hood's detached supporting works. Garrisoned by Lumsden's Battery of smoothbore Napoleons, supported by 100 men of the 29th Alabama Infantry under Capt. Foster, it was finally overrun by the assault of 12 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry regiments, supported by four Federal batteries.

(State Route 106, about .8 mile south of N 17)

N 1 6

Taking of Redoubt No. 5—Dec. 15, 1864

Hood's Redoubt No. 5 was on this hill. Coach's division of the XXIII Corps, sweeping to the south of the route of Smith's XVI, captured it and the hills to the east late in the afternoon. Wilson's cavalry, crossing the highway about 2 miles south, advanced rapidly eastward, flanking the Confederate defenses.

(12th Avenue, South, south of intersection with Acklen Avenue, about opposite # 2016.)

N 1 16

Schofield's Jump-Off Line—Dec. 15, 1864

The Federal defensive line ran northeast and southwest through here. It was garrisoned by Schofield's Corps on arrival here after the Battle of Franklin, Dec. 2, and later became a line of departure for the advance into support positions: Cruft's Provisional Division then occupied this line in reserve.

(12th Avenue, South, about 75 yards south of its intersection with Woodmont Boulevard.)

N 1 15

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 15, 1864

Stewart's Corps, Army of Tennessee, held this part of Hood's original line, extending east about 1500 yards, and west and south about 1 mile to Hillsboro Pike. After the turning of his left, about 4:00 p.m., Stewart established a new position extending southward, to the west of Granny White Pike.

(Granny White Pike, near intersection with Shackelford Road.)

N 1 14

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 15, 1864

After being outflanked by the advance of the Federal XVI Corps (Smith), Loring and Walthall put their divisions in a defensive line west of this road, facing westward. Here, their determined defense brought Federal advances against the Confederate left to a close for the day.

(Granny White Pike, opposite southeast corner of Burton's School grounds)

N 2 3

Schofield's Assault—Dec. 16, 1864

The Federal XXIII Corps attacked southeastward from positions about ¾ mile west. Coordinating with the attack of Smith's XVI Corps, and assisted by pressure by Wilson's encircling cavalry from the south, its action brought about the final collapse of Hood's defenses.

(Granny White Pike, about 150 yards south of Burton School.)

N 2 2

Smith's Assault—Dec. 16, 1864

The Federal XVI Corps attacked southward along this road. After violent artillery bombardment, McArthur's Division took the hill to the west about 4:00 p.m., precipitating the rout of Hood's Army. This hill is named for Col. W. M. Shy, 20th Tenn. Inf., killed in the desperate defense which he commanded.

(Granny White Pike, at intersection with
Sewanee Road.)

N 2 1

Confederate Position—Dec. 16, 1864

Stewart's Corps, badly mauled during the first day, withdrew at night to a line extending eastward. Lee's Corps, forming the right wing, extended the line across the Franklin Pike. Cheatham's Corps, on Stewart's left, extended the line westward, and following the hills, curved south. Chalmers' Cavalry Division covered the left flank.

(8th Avenue, South, on the south slope of hill on which
sits the City Reservoir.)

N 1 18

Federal Defensive Line—Dec. 15, 1864

The Federal defensive line ran NE and SW through here. Ft. Casino was on the hill to the west, Fort Negley to the northeast. Garrisoned on Dec. 2 by Schofield's XXIII Corps, it was occupied by Cruft's Provisional Division when the battle began. The XXIII Corps moved out in support of the main effort, 5 miles southwest.

(State Route 6, near battle monument at intersection with
Thompson Lane.)

N 1 17

Lee's Position—Dec. 15, 1864

Here Stephen D. Lee's Corps, Army of Tennessee, bestrode the highway and railroad. Cheatham's Corps held the right of the line, which ran northeast about 2 miles to Rains' Hill. After the Confederate left was broken in the afternoon's fighting, Lee's Corps fell back to high ground about 1½ miles south.

(State Route 6, north of intersection with Elysian
Fields Road.)

N 2 4

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 16, 1864

Lee's Corps held the right flank of the line in the final stages of

the battle, linking with Stewart to the west. Here it extended east, then south around Peach Orchard Hill. Violent attacks by Steedman's brigades were repulsed bloodily; Lee did not withdraw until the left and center of the Confederate line had collapsed.

(4th Avenue, South, at Peachtree Street.)

N 1 19

Cheatham's Line—Dec. 15, 1864

Holding a line running N.E. and S.W. and with its right on the N. C. & St. L. R. R. at Rains' Cut, Cheatham's Confederate Corps stood off the attacks of Steedman's brigades. Part of Cheatham's Corps was moved to the support of Stewart's left late in the afternoon; collapse of the left wing forced Cheatham's withdrawal southward during the night.

(Hermitage Avenue, near entrance to City Hospital)

N 1 21

Steedman's Line of Departure—Dec. 15, 1864

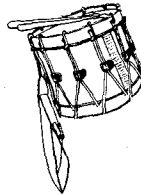
The left of the Federal main defensive line rested on the Cumberland River north of here, extending southeast to the Murfreesboro Pike. From this line, Steedman's Provisional Detachment of six brigades made the secondary attack against the Confederate right. Thomas' main attack was delivered against the Confederate left.

(Lafayette Street, at intersection with Claiborne Street.)

N 1 20

Steedman's Position—Dec. 15, 1864

From a line of departure running N.E.-S.W. through here, Maj. Gen. Steedman's Provisional Detachment of 6 brigades at 6:00 a.m. launched a holding attack southwestward against the Confederate right, on high ground about 2 miles south. The main attack, about 5 miles west, enveloped the Confederate left after an all-day fight.



Program

CIVIL WAR CONCERT

Municipal Auditorium Admission .50 cents

James Robertson Parkway

8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. Friday, December 11, 1964

Sponsored by the Davidson County Civil War Centennial Committee. Program chairman Jack DeWitt, assistant Robert Evans Cooper.

1. Invocation
2. Advance of National Colors Reactivated Memorial unit
3. The National Anthem
4. Advance of the Confederate Colors Reactivated Memorial unit
5. Dixie
6. Musical program by the United States Continental Air Command Band, Commanded by Captain Loren Johnson. Also featuring Win Stracke, nationally known television and recording folk singer. The program will be composed of patriotic songs, marching tunes and campfire songs of the 1860-1865 period.
7. Dramatic monologue—speeches of Lincoln.
8. Dramatic monologue—words of Lee.
9. Retreat of the Colors.