



July 2019

***License Plate Follows Future Governor
and Fellow Tennesseans to the Eastern Theater***

The Battle of Fredericksburg - December 11-15, 1862



Archer's Brigade, including the 1st, 7th, and 14th Tennessee, defended the high ground here at Prospect Hill during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

The largest concentration of troops in any Civil War battle – nearly 200,000 - fought at Fredericksburg where the Army of the Potomac, under Maj. General Ambrose Burnside crossed the Rappahannock River to attack General Robert E. Lee's army, positioned on the heights behind the town of Fredericksburg. The Confederates turned back the Union army's assaults on Prospect Hill and Marye's Heights. Suffering staggering casualties, (nearly 12,600) Burnside called off the

offensive and re-crossed the river. This, Lee's most lopsided victory of the war, cost Burnside command of his army and led to Lee's greatest victory at Chancellorsville the following spring.

This battlefield preservation supporter visited the Fredericksburg battlefield where the 1st, 7th, and 14th Tennessee regiments fought in the December 1862 battle. The 1st, serving as one of the picket units at the outset of the Union attack managed to get away without being overwhelmed. The 7th and 14th weren't so lucky and suffered significant casualties. The Confederates launched a counterattack, driving the Union back to their original line – the fighting having spilled out onto the **Slaughter Pen Farm**.



Colonel Peter Turney, commander of the 1st Tennessee, had a habit of predicting his own death prior to most battles. One of his captains grew tired of Turney's chronic lament and bet his colonel a gallon of sipping whiskey that neither would be killed at Fredericksburg. Turney suffered a near-mortal wound and his captain feared he'd lost the bet. Turney survived, insisting that his captain had consoled him that he'd won the wager. Turney went on to be the **Governor of Tennessee**.

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