

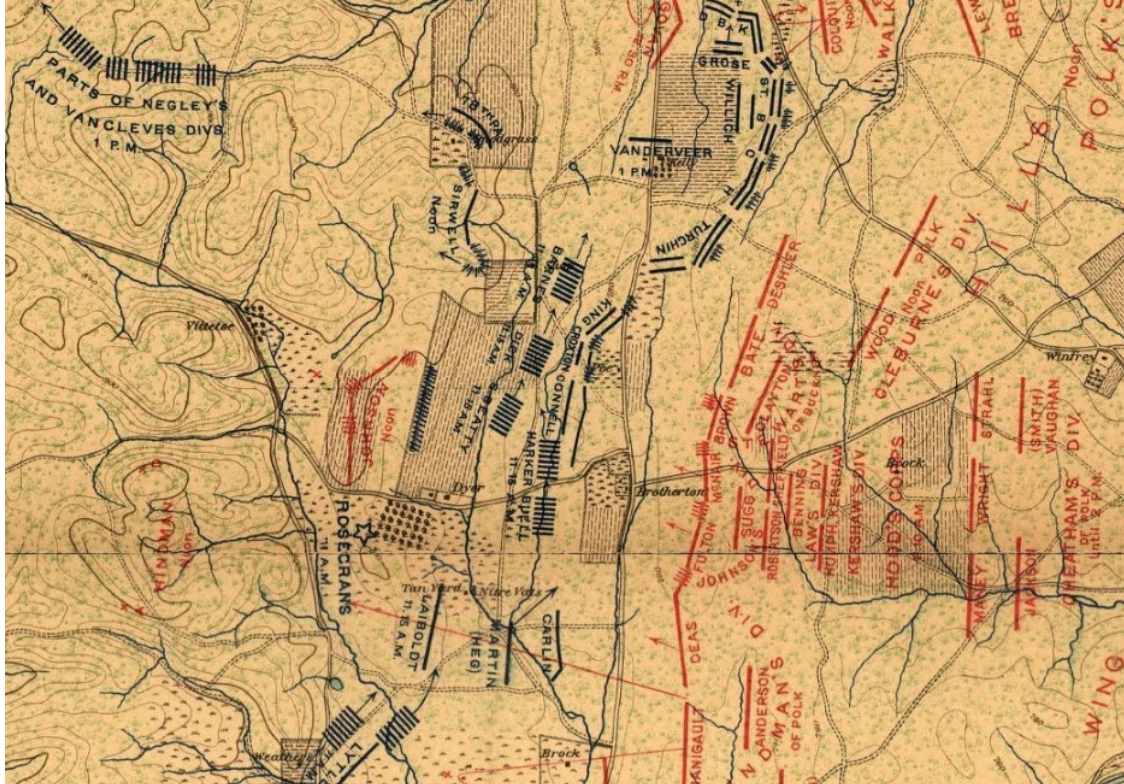


September 2020

Tennesseans Lead Charge at Chickamauga License Plate to Georgia



*This battlefield preservation supporter, following the path of Confederate **Bushrod Johnson's Tennessee Brigade**, stopped at the **Dyer House and farm site** along Dyer Road on the Chickamauga Battlefield. The shell pyramid marks the location where Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet and his staff had lunch and were temporarily headquartered following the Confederate breakthrough and collapse of the Union right on **September 20, 1863 during the Battle of Chickamauga**. The repast of Nassau bacon and sweet potatoes was interrupted when a fragment of an exploding Federal artillery projectile passed through the book being read by a courier and struck Longstreet's Chief of Ordnance, Lt. Col. Peyton T. Manning, who gasped, choking on a large bite of sweet potato. Unable to breath, other members of the staff were able to free him of the potato chunk and convey him to the hospital for the treatment of the shell fragment wound.*



The 1901 Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission map depicts troop positions in late morning of September 20 just as Johnson's Brigade, then under Colonel John S. Fulton of the 44th Tennessee, moved forward in an attack. Finding a gap in the Union line on the Brotherton farm, the Brigade poured through the gap and swept across the large **open fields of the Dyer farm and farmstead**, toward where Union Army of the Cumberland commander William Rosecrans was then headquartered. These Tennesseans and the other four attacking Confederate divisions collapsed the Union right and sent thousands of Union troops and their commander fleeing back to Chattanooga. While there still would be hours of fighting, the tide of Chickamauga had seemingly turned, and the Army of Tennessee had achieved a tactical victory. While defeated at Chickamauga, the Union Army of the Cumberland was able to retreat to Chattanooga and prepare for a continuation of the struggle for the Gateway to the Deep South.



The Dyer House, ca. 1895. Confederate Veteran magazine, Vol 21, 1913, recounts the story of a "Romance of Chickamauga" involving a Dyer family member: Prior to the battle, while encamped in the Chattanooga area Confederate Capt. S.H. Hargis met Parlana Dyer who lived at this home. They pledged to reunite and marry after the War. During the battle, Hargis came within yards of the house while fighting. Later, during the fighting on Snodgrass Hill, Parlana Dyer was seen breaking from the Union line and running toward the Confederate line. Hargis saw her and together they ran to a safer place. Parlana then left the field. After the War Hargis wrote

letters and got no replies. He inquired about her at the 50th Confederate Reunion at Chattanooga only to learn that Parlana had died shortly after the War. The Dyer House stood on the site until the late 1950s when the then Superintendent said it was too expensive to maintain. The house was then razed.

EVERY COUNTY HAS A STORY

If you have a “Save our Battlefields” license plate, please consider stopping by and taking a photo of your plate at a battlefield or other battle-related Civil War site in your area... we’re especially interested in sites that don’t always get the historians’ spotlight! If you’re looking for a site in your area, we can help find one nearby – just email us - or if you’ve already got that special photo please send to info@tcwpa.org.

AN ANNIVERSARY

It was 7 years ago (2013) - the year many of us purchased the new ***Save Our Battlefields*** License plate – and we have been renewing every October and November since then. Many of you will renew this month and we thank you for your continued support! Today there are more than 1200 folks who proudly display the license plate and their support for preserving and interpreting our battlefields.



You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk’s office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee.

For more information, visit: tcwpa.org/license-plate

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.

Become a member: tcwpa.org/join **Make a donation:** tcwpa.org/donate [Purchase a license plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate)

