



August 2017

## *Battlefield Plate Visits the “Gettysburg of the West”*

### *Glorieta Pass - Turning Point in the New Mexico Territory*



Another battlefield preservation supporter slipped away from Tennessee to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, to visit the **Glorieta Pass Battlefield**. Often dubbed the “Gettysburg of the West” the March 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 1862 battle halted Confederate incursions into the southwest, becoming one of the most decisive of the Civil War’s westernmost theater.



*Roy Andersen’s painting depicts the Confederate attack near Pigeon Ranch, a major way station on the Santa Fe Trail. During the Glorieta Pass battle an estimated 102 Federals and 96 Confederates became casualties.*

Two weeks before the Battle of Shiloh, 1,300 Union troops consisting primarily of Colorado volunteers, under Colonel John Slough, and 1100 Confederate troops from Texas fought at the strategically located Glorieta Pass in the New Mexico Territory. The Confederates hoped to break the Union’s possession of the sparsely populated but mineral rich region of the west along the base of the Rocky Mountains. Skirmishing occurred on March 26 between advance elements from each

army, with the main battle occurring on March 28. Confederate General Henry H. Sibley’s troops pushed Federal forces back through the pass but nightfall halted their advance. In a flanking

maneuver, the Federals were able to reach the Confederate supply train destroying the heavily loaded wagons along with all the animals. With their supplies gone, the Confederates withdrew not to return for the rest the war.

While no Tennessee troops fought further west than the Mississippi River, many Tennesseans have traveled the historic Santa Fe Trail through Glorieta Pass and later, Route 66. Today the Pecos National Historical Park preserves and interprets the Glorieta Pass battlefield site. For more information about the battlefield, [click here](#).

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### ***Send Us a Photo of Your Plate***

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### ***Complimentary Membership***

Not a member of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association? After purchasing a Civil War Battlefield specialty plate, you are eligible to receive a complimentary 1-year membership. Visit [tcwpa.org/license-plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate) for more details.



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](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate)

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

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