



October 2017

License Plate Searches for Forrest's Forgotten Battle Battle of the Cedars (Wilkinson Pike) in Murfreesboro

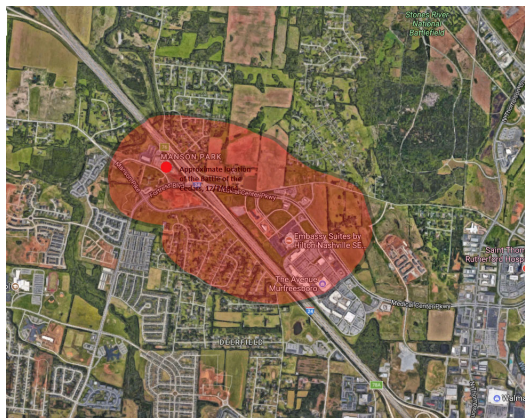


Searching for Forrest's forgotten battle, this battlefield preservation supporter parks at the site of the Battle of the Cedars in a parking lot just south of Medical Center Parkway. At the time of the battle, a mix of open fields and cedar forests dominated the landscape.

Following his bloody defeat at Franklin, General John Bell Hood moved his tattered Army of Tennessee towards Nashville and sent Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest with two cavalry divisions and Maj. General W.B. Bate's infantry division to Murfreesboro to destroy the railroad. On December 7, 1864 Gen. Robert Milroy led a Federal force composed of two brigades beyond the safety of Fortress Rosecrans and engaged Forrest's men along the Wilkinson Pike. The Union attack shattered Bate's lines and the retreat turned to a rout as Forrest's troopers got caught in the wave of fleeing infantry. While the battle resulted in barely more than 600 casualties, it made the potential threat from Murfreesboro loom large in Hood's mind leading him to send Forrest back to the area to

keep an eye on the Federals there. It also deprived the Confederates of much needed manpower and Forrest's leadership during the Battle of Nashville.

The area shaded over a modern map of development represents the 1864 battlefield. Parking lots, businesses, and subdivisions cover most of the battlefield along Medical Center Parkway and Wilkinson Pike.



Visit the Tennessee State Library and Archives online Civil War GIS program, <http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/> for detailed mapping and data about Civil War military, African American, and Reconstruction era sites in Tennessee.



While the Battle of the Cedars site is mostly lost to development, today you can visit nearby Stones River National Battlefield and Fortress Rosecrans. For more information about both areas, visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/stri>

Photo courtesy of National Park Service

Send Us a Photo of Your Plate

Share a photo of your Civil War license plate at a Tennessee battlefield or Civil War site. Email your photo and name of the battlefield or site to info@tcwpa.org. We'll do the rest. Help tell the stories of Tennessee's Civil War history.

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 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

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)



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