



## Chickamauga Battlefield

# SAM WATKINS HIKE

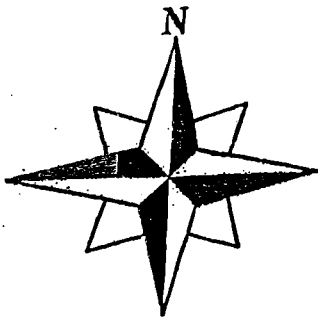
Short Hike Distance: 5 Miles  
Long Hike Distance: 9.5 Miles

This hike commemorates Sam Watkins, author of the book *Company Aytch, or, A Side show of the Big Show*. This book is widely recognized as one of the finest first person accounts of an ordinary Southern foot soldier. Mr. Watkins was present at the battle of Chickamauga, and this hike retraces his movements on the battlefield. The map shows both the approximate locations of Maney's Brigade, of which Company "H" of the 1st / 27th Tennessee Consolidated Regiment was a part, as well as the closest existing trails and roads on which this hike is based. A copy of *Company Aytch* (available at the Visitor's Center Book Store) is required for this hike. Read the chapters "Presentiment, or the Wing of the Angel of Death" through "A Night Among the Dead" prior to starting, and refer back to them throughout the hike. Place the answers to the following questions in the space provided.

1. Prior to beginning the hike, watch the multimedia presentation in the Visitor's Center on the battle of Chickamauga. During the presentation there is a quotation from a soldier who has a premonition that he will not survive the upcoming battle. He has two personal items that he wishes returned to his father after he dies. What are they?
2. To begin the long hike, drive south on US-27, turn left on the Viniard-Alexander Road and park at the designated area on the right. To begin the short hike, drive south on US-27, turn left on Brotherton Road, cross Alexander's Bridge Road and Park in the designated area on the right (the short hike omits the initial movement onto the battlefield). For the long hike, proceed south on the path, turning right onto a gravel road. Where the road ends, proceed straight along the tree line a short distance to Dalton's Ford. During the morning of September 19, 1863, Maney's Brigade crossed West Chickamauga Creek (likely at Dalton's Ford) to enter the battlefield and reinforce General Forrest who had opened the engagement near Jay's Mill. Proceed north on the trail, crossing the Viniard-Alexander Road and following the path until it intersects Alexander's Bridge Road. Turn left, and follow the road until it intersects the Brotherton Road (and the parking area for the short hike) and turn left. Maney's Brigade tablet is on the right. What was the name and rank of the commanding officer of the 1st / 27th Tennessee?
3. Take the path north into the woods until you come to the 1st / 27th Tennessee monument on the right hand side of the trail. This represents the furthest advance of Maney's Brigade on September 19, 1863. For how long did Company "H" maintain this position?
4. The 1st / 27th Tennessee was eventually forced to fall back. Backtrack on the trail to the Brotherton Road, cross over to the trail which lead to General Preston Smith's monument. What did General Smith ask Sam Watkins near this spot?
5. Continue on this path to where it dead ends. Near this spot the soldier from question 1 is killed. What was his name?
6. Backtrack up the trail, turn right to Alexander's Bridge Road (instead of returning to Brotherton Road). Just before the road there is a marker to the right of the trail which marks the spot where Sgt. Campbell, the color bearer for the 1st Tennessee, was killed. Turn right on the road and then right at the first trail intersection. Head west until you intersect a north-south trail. Maney's Brigade waited in reserve near this point until approximately 2 PM on September 20th, 1863. Head north on the trail to the Brotherton Road, turn right, and then left onto Alexander's Bridge Road. Head north on the road to where it comes close to Battleline Road on the left. Cross over to Maney's Brigade tablet on Battleline Road. At what time did the 1st / 27th Tennessee occupy this position?
7. Sam Watkins refers to the enemy "pouring their deadly missiles into our advancing ranks from under their head-logs" at this point. Which monument in this area shows a Union soldier firing from under a "head-log"?
8. Retrace your steps down Alexander's Bridge Road to the Confederate grave on the right. After the battle is over on September 20, 1863, Sam Watkins describes a rather unusual situation in which civilians are present on the battlefield looking for a particular soldier. Based on the proximity of grave site to the monument for the 1st / 27th Tennessee, do you think that the soldier buried here could hold the remains of the soldier mentioned in the chapter "A Night Among the Dead?" The next day Maney's Brigade headed north to Chattanooga. For the short hike, head east on Alexander's Bridge Road to the parking area. For the long hike, head south along the indicated trails to the parking area.

1.	4.	7.
2.	5.	8.
3.	6.	

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Ranger's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated Cancellation Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_



Visitor Center

①

Mullis Rd.

US-27

Alexander's Bridge Rd.

Reeds Bridge Rd.

Snodgrass Rd.

Battleline Rd.

5 PM  
Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

Vittetoe Rd.

Glenn-Kelly Rd.

⑧

2 PM  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Parking  
Short Hike

Dyer Rd.

Brotherton Rd.

④

Noon  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Jays Mill Rd.

Reserve until  
2 PM, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

Viniard-Alexander Rd.

Parking  
Long Hike

Morning  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Theford Ford

Dalton Ford

