



"Battle of Shiloh" - Courtesy Library of Congress



Union and Confederate gunboat battle on the Mississippi River near Fort Wright, May 10, 1862 - Courtesy Library of Congress

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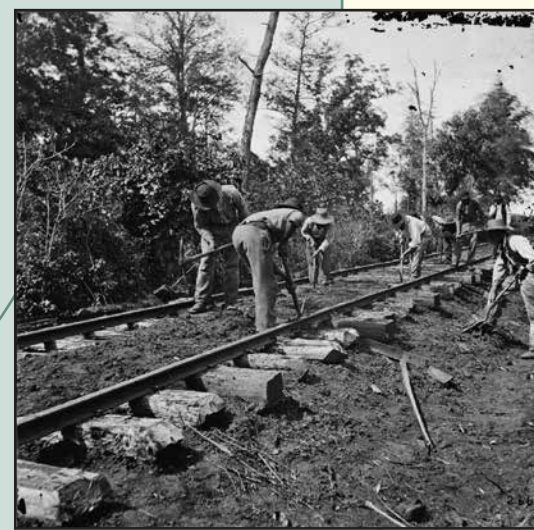
Tennessee Capitol, Nashville, 1864
Courtesy Library of Congress



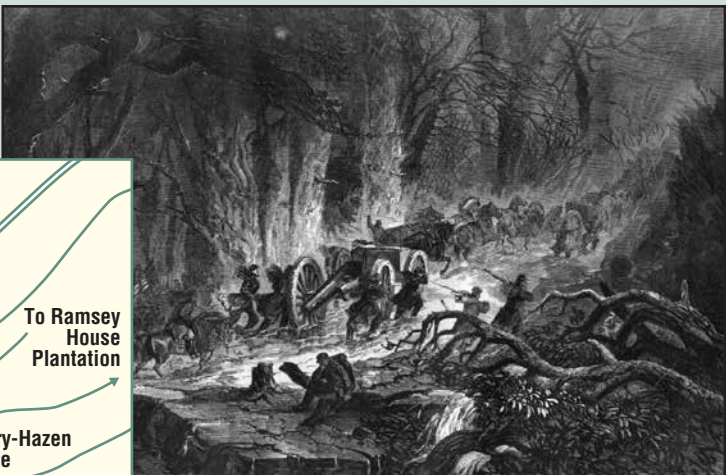
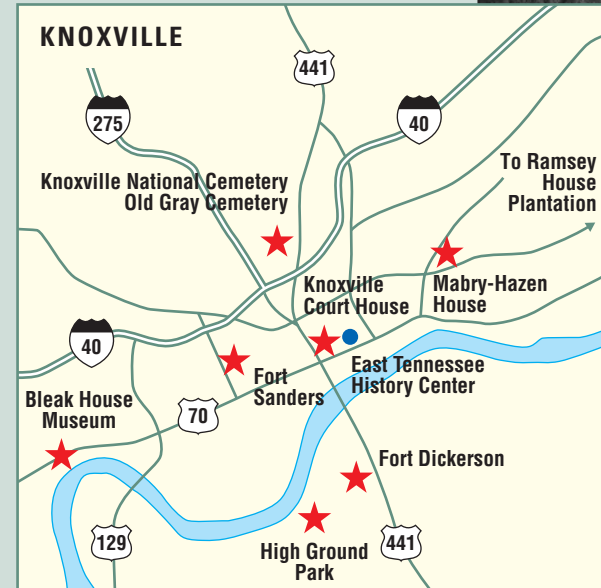
Gen. George H. Thomas
Courtesy Library of Congress



Scroll flask and .36 caliber
Navy Colt bullet mold
found at Camp Trowdale
site in Sumner County.
Courtesy Pat Megar



Crew repairing railroad
track near Murfreesboro
after Battle of Stones River,
1863 - Courtesy Library of Congress



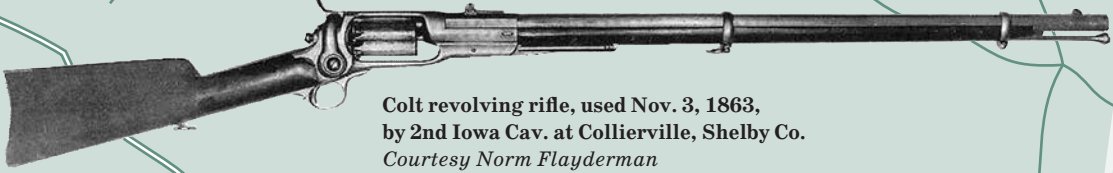
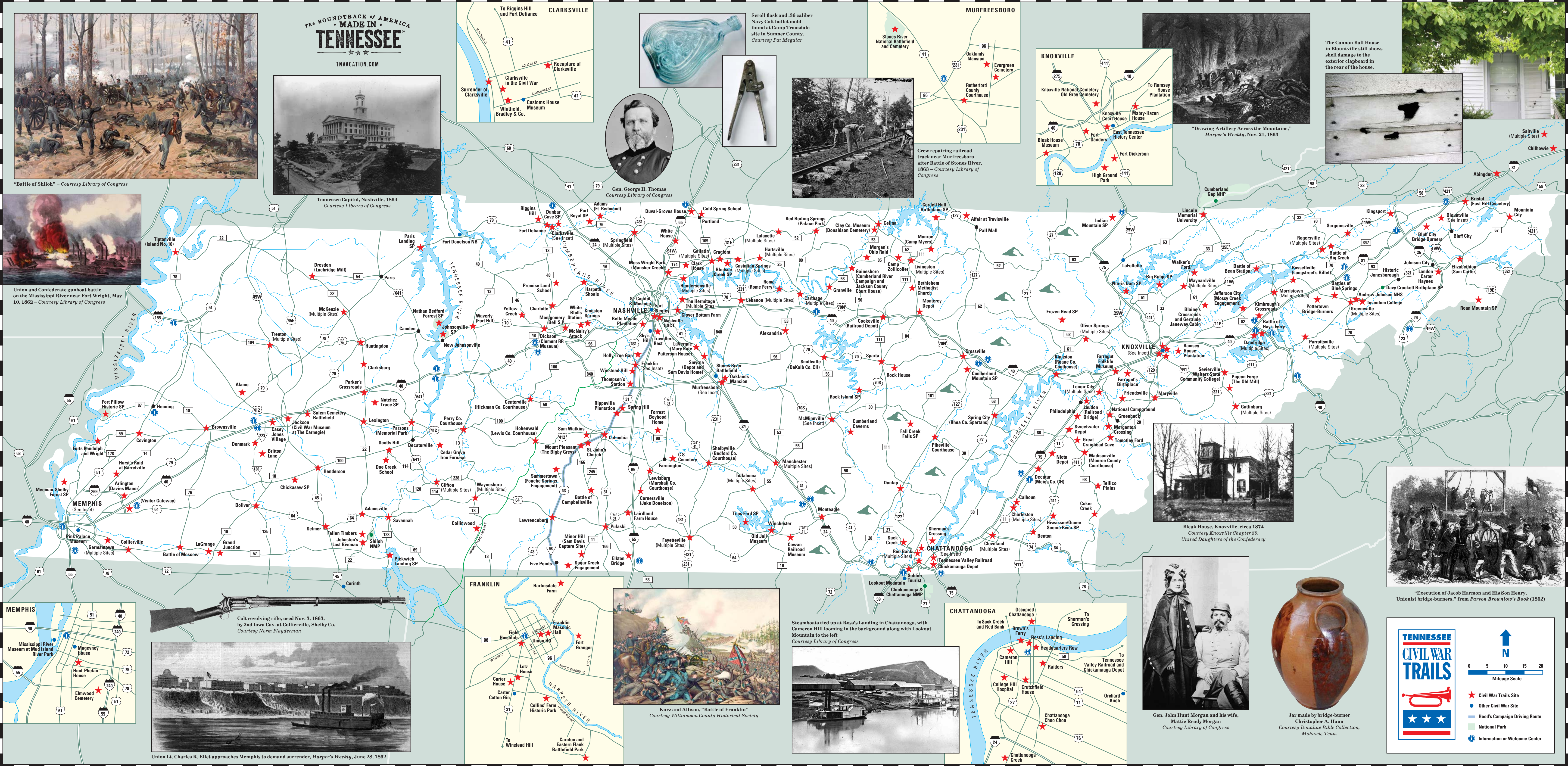
"Drawing Artillery Across the Mountains,"
Harper's Weekly, Nov. 21, 1863



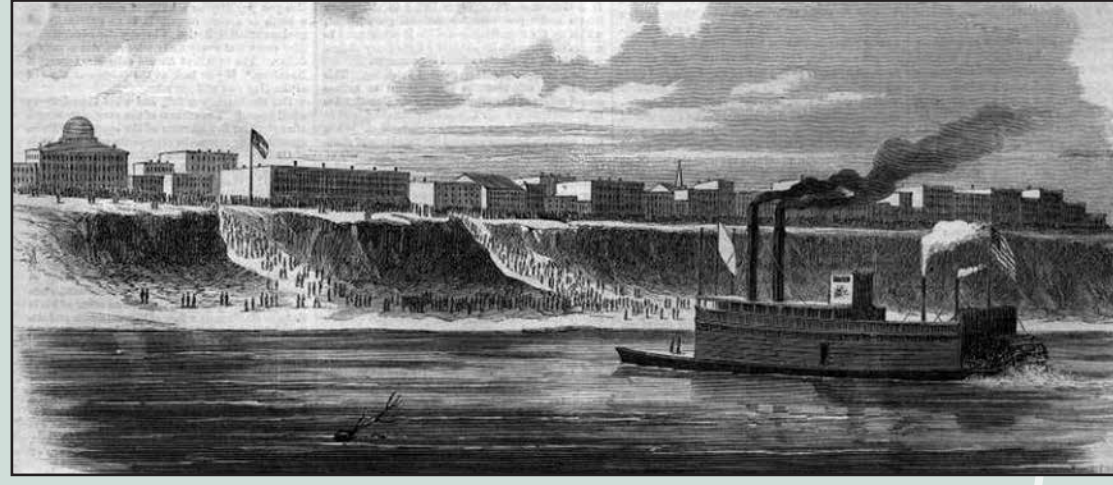
The Cannon Ball House in
Blountville still shows
shell damage to the
exterior clashboard in the
rear of the house.



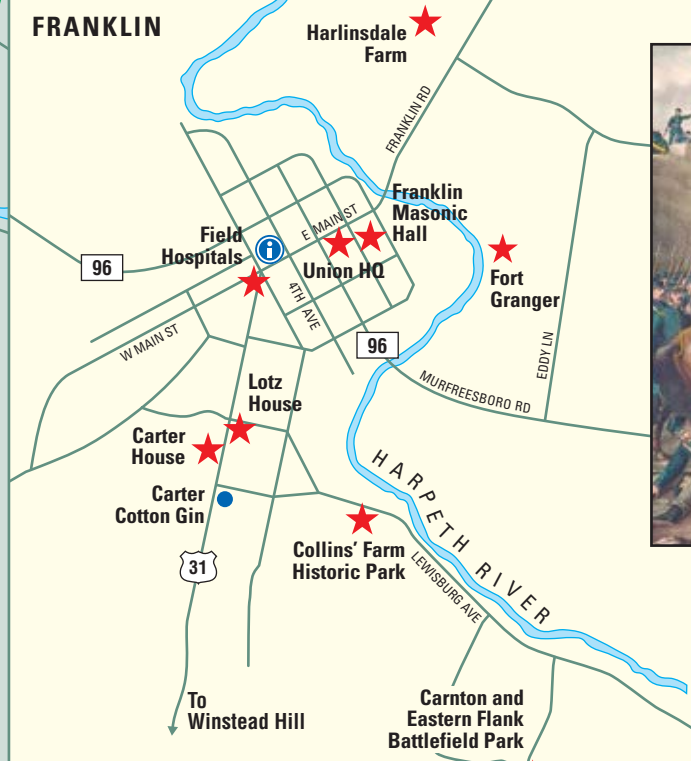
Saltville
(Multiple Sites)



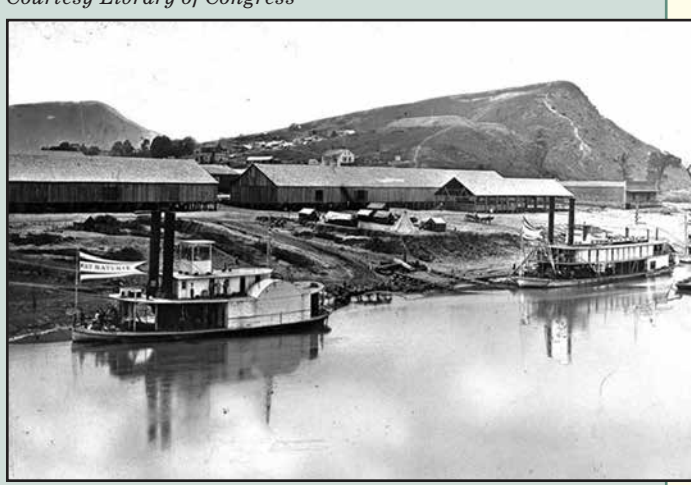
Colt revolving rifle, used Nov. 3, 1863,
by 2nd Iowa Cav. at Collierville, Shelby Co.
Courtesy Norm Flayderman



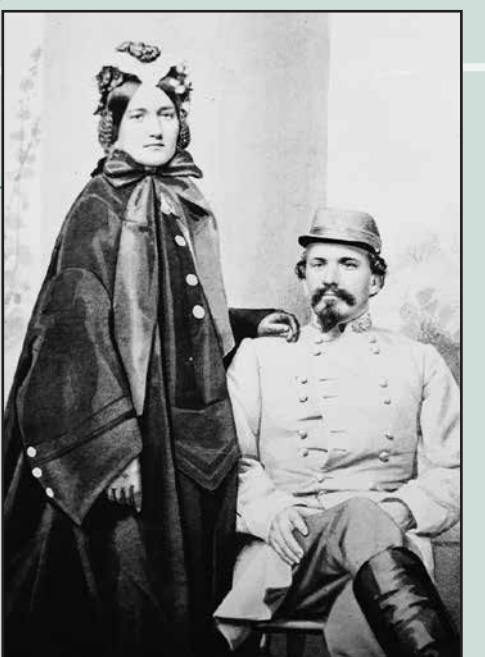
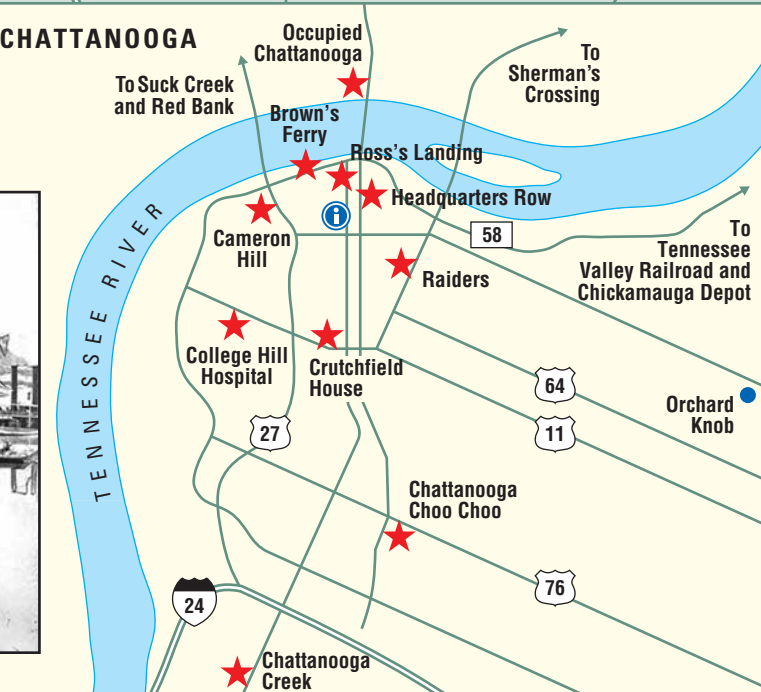
Union Lt. Charles R. Ellet approaches Memphis to demand surrender, Harper's Weekly, June 28, 1862



Kurz and Allison, "Battle of Franklin"
Courtesy Williamson County Historical Society



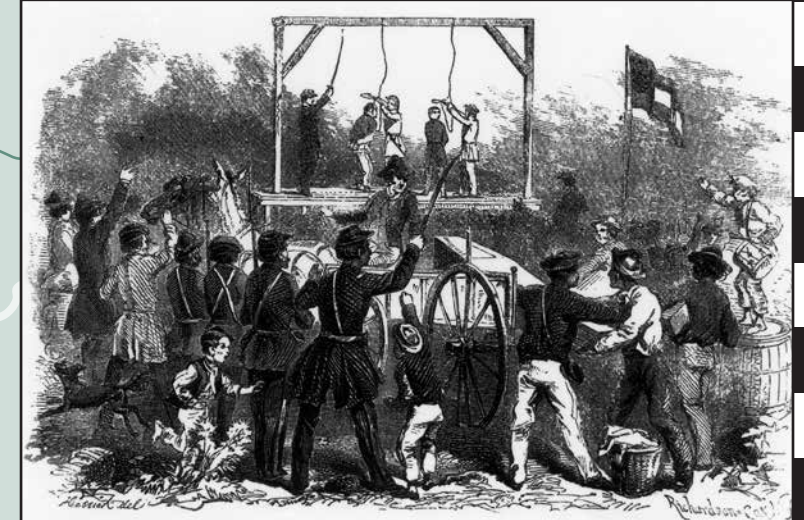
Steamboats tied up at Ross's Landing in Chattanooga,
with Cameron Hill looming in the background along with Lookout
Mountain to the left
Courtesy Library of Congress



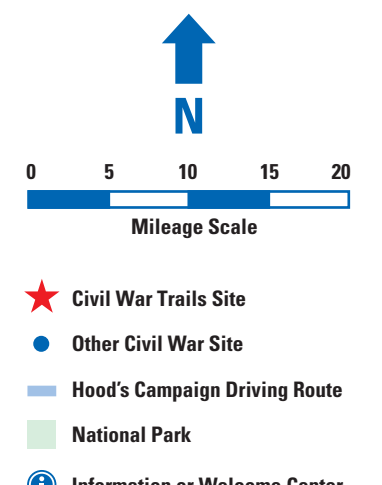
Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his wife,
Mattie Ready Morgan
Courtesy Library of Congress

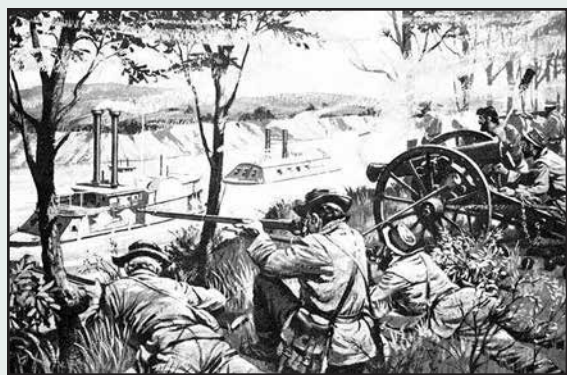


Jar made by bridge-burner
Christopher A. Haun
Courtesy Donahue Bible Collection,
Mohawk, Tenn.



"Execution of Jacob Harmon and His Son Henry,
Unionist bridge-burners," from Parson Brownlow's Book (1862)

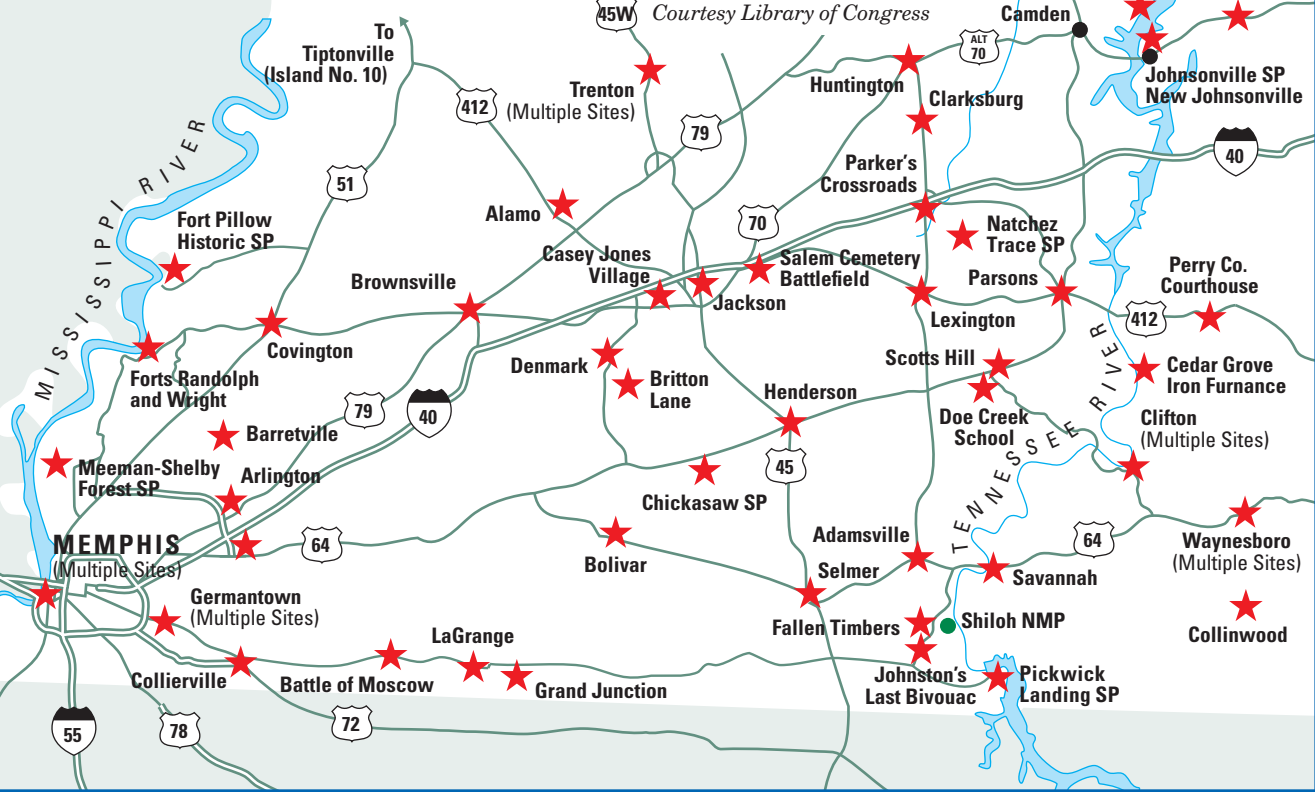




Confederate infantry and artillery firing on Union gunboats
Courtesy U.S. Naval Historical Center



Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, killed at Battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862
Courtesy Library of Congress



Much of the fighting in Middle and West Tennessee was focused not only on the railroads but also on the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. They were watery avenues of invasion for Federal forces, the keys to splitting the Confederacy.

The first significant Union victories in West Tennessee occurred on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers in February 1862, when a Federal army-navy expedition under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured Forts Henry and Donelson. Henry, on the Tennessee, was the first to fall on February 6. Donelson, on the Cumberland, surrendered on February 16. Several Confederate units escaped, including Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his cavalry.

The first large-scale battle in West Tennessee occurred near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. Better known as the Battle of Shiloh, the two-day fight on April 6–7, 1862, was almost a Confederate victory on the first day. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston marched north from Corinth, Mississippi, and struck Grant's army, overrunning the camp and pushing the Federals almost into the river. Johnston, wounded while encouraging his troops, bled to death from a severed artery. The next day, Grant counterattacked, forcing the Confederates back to Corinth.

Federal forces captured New Orleans at the end of April 1862 and occupied Memphis in June, securing the lower and upper reaches of the Mississippi River. In October, Grant began an overland campaign to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. He marched from La Grange in West Tennessee, down the Mississippi Central Railroad toward Vicksburg with trainloads

WAR IN MIDDLE AND WEST TENNESSEE



Battle of Stones River – Courtesy Library of Congress

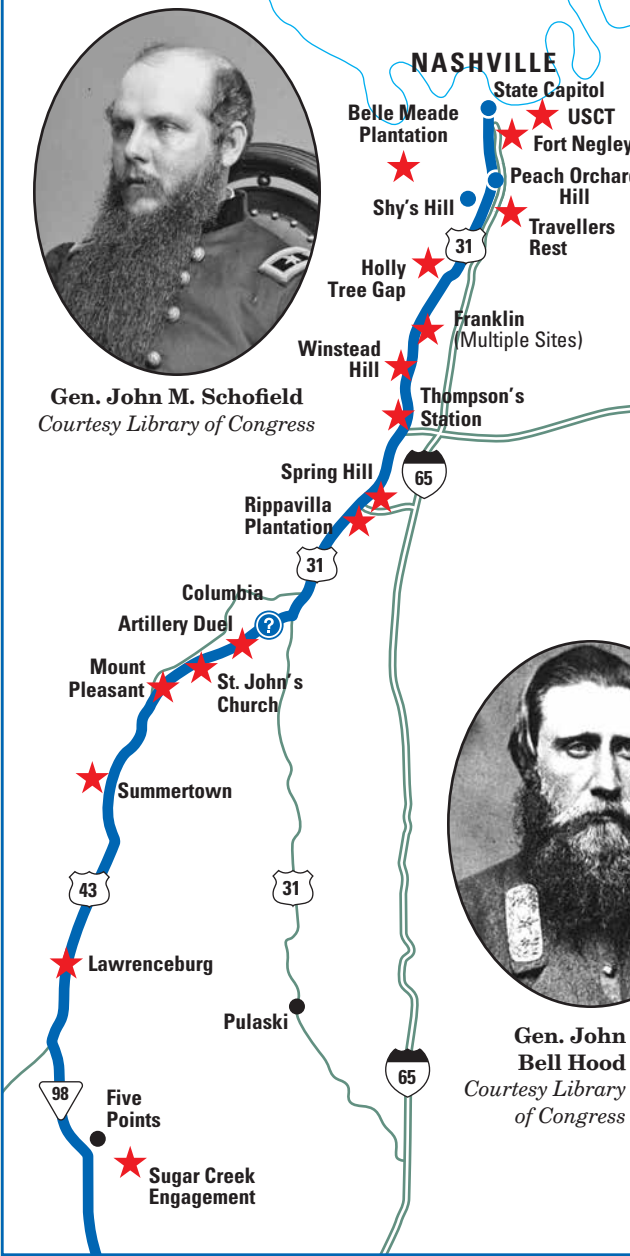
of supplies following. In December, however, Forrest launched a raid into West Tennessee, destroying railroads and severing Grant's supply line. Forrest fought victoriously at Lexington, Kentucky. He raided back through Tennessee, then evaded defeat at Parker's Crossroads. Grant changed his supply base to Memphis; he finally captured Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

An especially bloody battle occurred in Middle Tennessee at Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862–January 2, 1863. Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee occupied the country around Murfreesboro after his invasion of Kentucky and the Battle of Perryville. Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland advanced from Nashville. During the first day's fighting, a surprise Confederate flank attack nearly swept the Federals from the field.

Rosecrans held on and over the next two days seriously bloodied Bragg's army. Federal cannon fire decimated the final Confederate attack on the afternoon of January 2. The Battle of Stones River resulted in more than 23,000 casualties out of about 81,000 soldiers engaged. A few days later Bragg retreated south to Tullahoma, and Rosecrans occupied Murfreesboro. U.S. forces built the massive Fortress Rosecrans to guard the railroad and to serve as a supply station.

Middle and West Tennessee experienced U.S. military occupation, foraging expeditions by both sides, and Confederate cavalry raids on railroads and Union garrisons. Forrest and John Hunt Morgan, usually serving with the Army of Tennessee, attacked Federal supply lines and intimidated Tennessee Unionists. Forrest guarded the Confederate left flank early in 1863 while Morgan covered the right flank. Forrest fought in Mississippi and West Tennessee after a disagreement with Bragg during the Chickamauga Campaign.

Because of the frequent and successful Confederate raids, the Federals correctly suspected collusion with the local population. Civilian spies and Confederate scouts—such as Confederate Sam Davis, who was captured and executed—provided valuable information. In addition, bushwhackers and guerrilla units on each side attacked military units and civilians, sometimes as a military tactic and sometimes to settle personal scores. Confederate Champ Ferguson was the most notorious of these raiders. The resulting resentments lingered for generations.

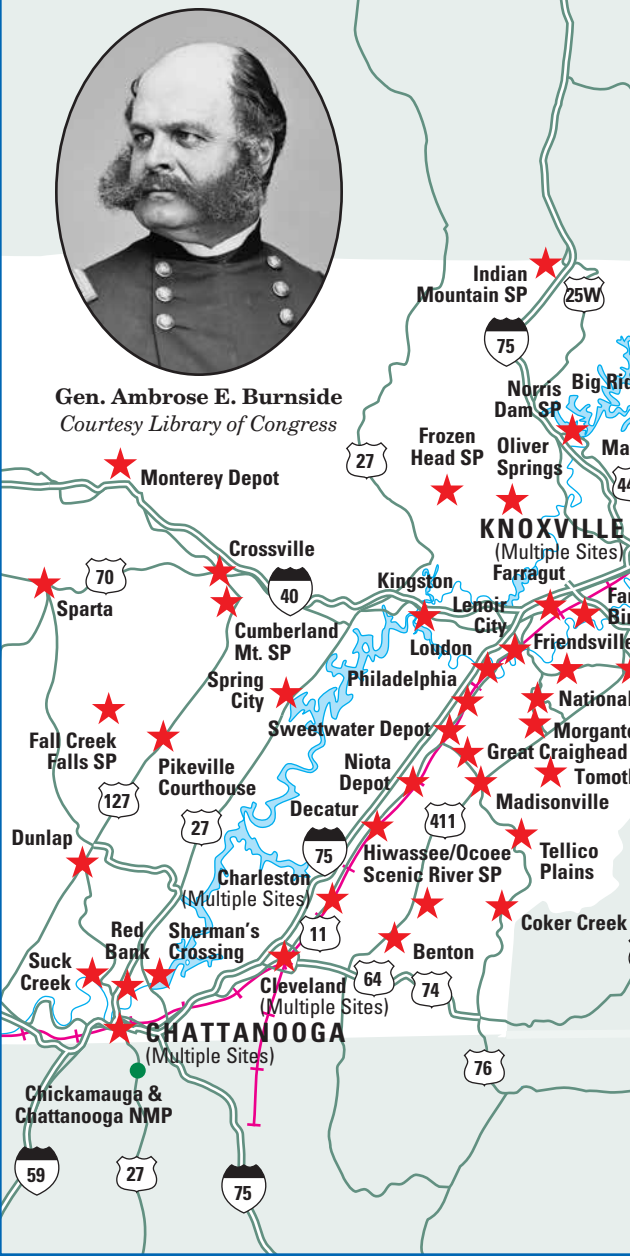


Gen. John M. Schofield
Courtesy Library of Congress



Gen. John Bell Hood
Courtesy Library of Congress

Union Gen. William T. Sherman and his army occupied Atlanta, Georgia, on September 2, 1864, after defeating Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood and the Army of Tennessee. Sherman rested his army for several weeks and planned his next moves. When Hood began ranging northwest against Sherman's supply lines, Sherman dispatched troops to Nashville under Gen. George H. Thomas. The lines became less critical to Sherman on November 15, when he began the "March to the Sea" to open more secure lines and destroy Confederate resources. Rather than pursue Sherman, on November 22 Hood moved north from Alabama to Tennessee, hoping to draw Federal attention from the Deep South and perhaps to invade Kentucky. The two largest armies in the region thus marched away from each other instead of fighting. In Tennessee, however, Thomas sent Union Gen. John M. Schofield's division to delay Hood's advance at Columbia and Spring Hill. Schofield then fell back to Franklin. The bloodbath there on November 30 crippled Hood's force, but the Confederates followed Schofield to the outskirts of Nashville and Thomas's strong defenses. Hood besieged the city for the next two weeks. On December 15–16, the Federals sallied forth from their defenses and crushed Hood's army, effectively ending his campaign as the remnants of the Army of Tennessee fled to Tupelo, Mississippi. Some of the army then joined Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina.



Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside
Courtesy Library of Congress

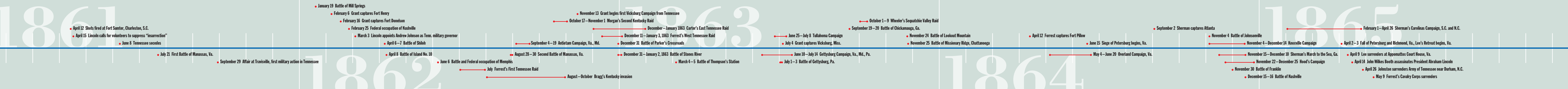


Gen. James Longstreet
Courtesy Library of Congress

WAR IN EAST TENNESSEE

Largely Unionist East Tennessee was strategically important for Cumberland Gap (the gateway to Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee) and the rail lines that connected Bristol, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Atlanta, as well as Memphis and Richmond. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Andrew Johnson, a native of the region, Tennessee's military governor. Gen. Samuel P. Carter, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, gained fame in East Tennessee as a cavalry raider. Ironically, the Federals held most of the secessionist areas, while the Confederates dominated the Unionist parts. Many Unionists who burned railroad bridges in 1861 were quickly seized and executed.

Union Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside occupied Knoxville in September 1863, while Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg occupied Chattanooga. Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans forced Bragg out. After the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, the Federals occupied Chattanooga, which Bragg then besieged, dispatching Gen. James Longstreet to attack Knoxville. The Federals broke Bragg's siege at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, compelling him to retreat, and Longstreet likewise suffered defeat at Knoxville. By the end of the year, East Tennessee was firmly in Union hands, and the rail line to Georgia was open. In May 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman used Chattanooga as the platform for his Atlanta campaign. No other large-scale battles occurred in the region for the rest of the war. Late in 1864, the Federals launched cavalry raids against the railroads from East Tennessee into Virginia and North Carolina.



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