



First RV Trip - Fall 2018



The Chickamauga & Chattanooga Visitor Center

Hello to Family

Got a real late start today but I was able to plan most of my sightseeing til Houston. I also had GPS problems. I also had to call Verizon to fix some problems with my phone. I won't say it is as bad as HP tech support, but their running a distant second.

First stop is the Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Battlefield in, you guessed it, Chickamauga, Georgia. Now I am not a Civil War aficionado like some people, but I do find it interesting....to a point. As I drove in I noticed a lot, and I mean a lot, of monuments.

My question to that topic was answered at the visitor center, over 14,000. That's monuments. Then there are plaques and storyboards. A person could spend a week here and not see everything.

So I looked around the visitor center, watched a short film and received instructions to listen to an auto tour as I drove through the battlefield. Eight stops so not too bad. I focused on the groups representing Wisconsin, and a few other unique ones.

Not much to say about the following photos, they are pretty much self-explanatory.

Day 7

Sunday

September 30th

Chickamauga

&

Chattanooga

National Battlefield

To

Jasper - Not

Sure if I am in Georgia,

Tennessee or Alabama

Weather

80's

Sunny

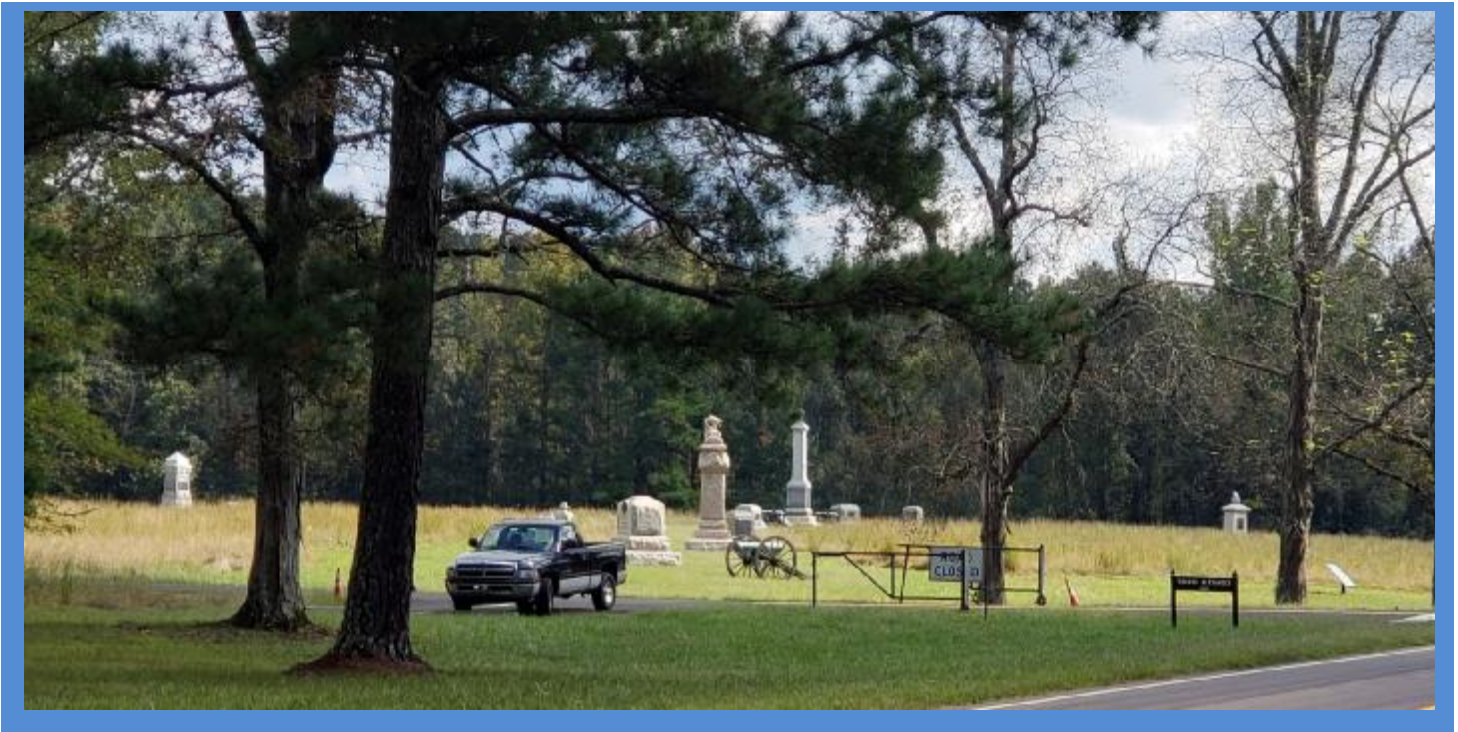
There are actually 3 battlefields in the area: Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga. So the 14,000 monuments are spread amongst the three.







The tallest monument in the park.
Not sure who it's for.



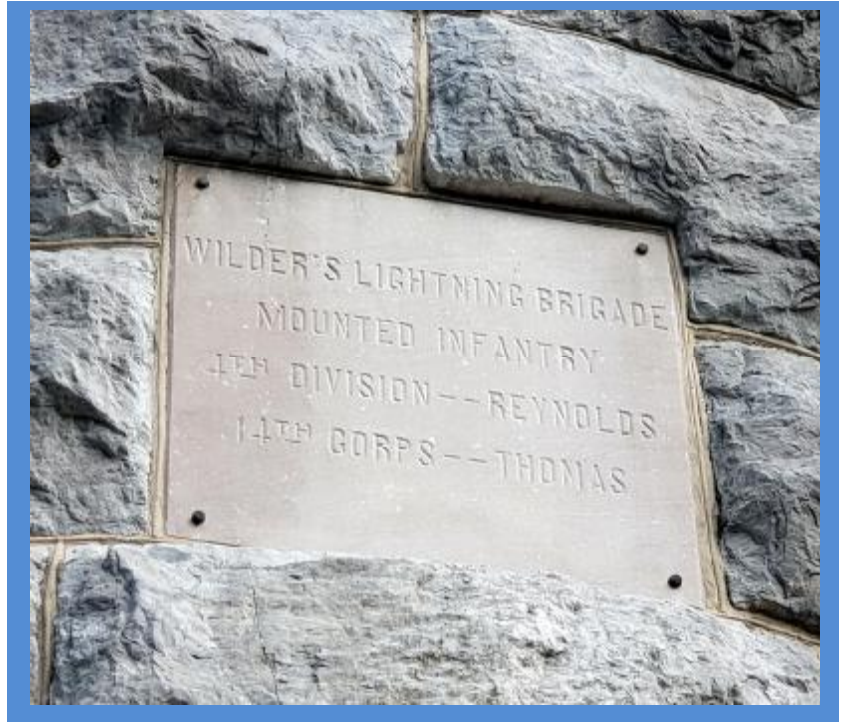


HANS C. HED
COLONEL PROSPER
COMMANDING 56 BRIGADE
SAVED FROM
MORTALITY WOUNDED HERE
AND FARM REST' 1862



Monuments in the fields where fighting took place





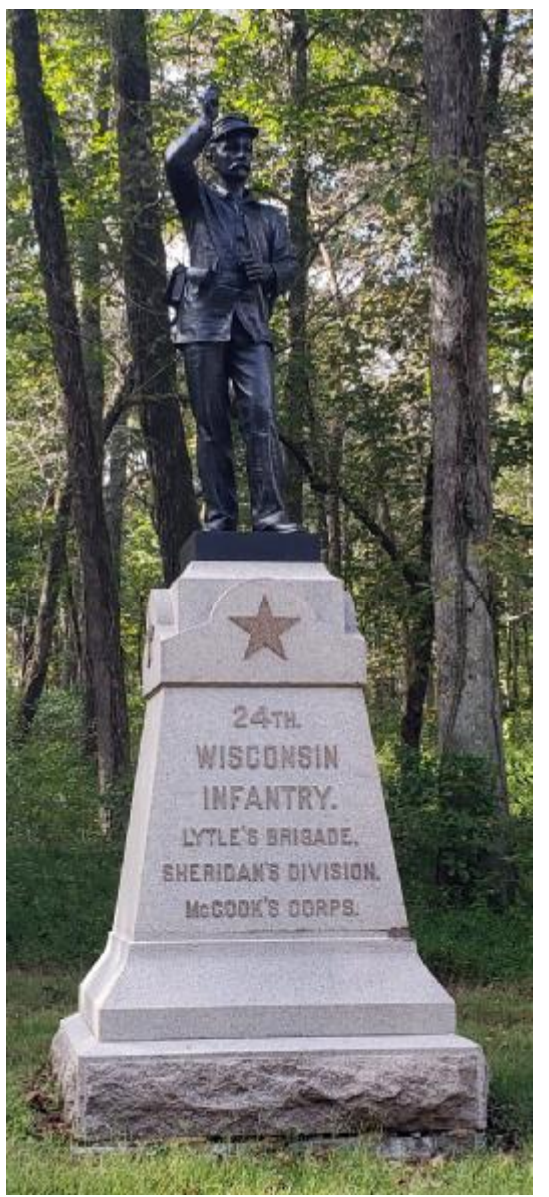
Below is an almost 360 degree panoramic from the top of the tower





These are a couple more of those daunting photos. As you look down on these fields from the top of the tower, it is hard to imagine how many men died on those fields, how much blood was spilled, the agony of the wounded. As I said, daunting.





Route of the Union Right



Panic-stricken Union soldiers ran from the battlefield

At 11:30 a.m. on September 20, Confederate forces under Gen. James Longstreet broke through the right side of the Union line about 1.4 miles inland from the Brother-in-Arms Cabin. Union soldiers behind the shattered line broke ranks and ran, as Gen. Bushrod Johnson's Confederates burst out of the woods behind you.

On the hill in front of you stood the headquarters of Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, the Union commander. A pyramid of cannonballs marks the spot today. Not long after that disaster had struck, Rosecrans told his staff to save themselves. They fled with several of his top officers. It was one of the most disastrous routs of the war.

The highest-ranking Union officer left on the field was Maj. Gen. George S. Thomas. The task fell to him to save the Union army from annihilation.



Union commander Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans (center) with his staff fled from the scene of the battle at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. Rosecrans was wounded and Union soldiers were scattered across the field.

A wooden structure at the center of the battle was used by Rosecrans as a field hospital. It was destroyed by the Confederates on September 21, 1863.



Agony of the Wounded



The Snodgrass Cabin served as a field hospital

In 1863 George Snodgrass and his family of nine lived in a log house here. On the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga, Union forces made a desperate stand in the woods and fields surrounding the cabin, forcing the Snodgrass family to take cover in a nearby ravine with other refugees.

Thousands fell as Confederates attacked Union positions on Snodgrass Hill that afternoon. It was one of the war's bloodiest fighting and the Snodgrass Cabin soon filled with wounded. That evening the Federals evacuated, leaving behind many wounded who could not be moved. For several days injured soldiers from both sides were treated here.

Army doctors found it difficult to cope with the great numbers of casualties and the ghastly wounds. Amputation was the standard treatment for arms or legs smashed by bullets or shells. Anesthetics such as chloroform and ether were in use during this period, but were in short supply at Chickamauga.



A Confederate surgeon (right) examines a soldier's arm in an effort to save his life. Amputations needed to be performed quickly - in fifteen minutes or less under battlefield conditions.

Because of its proximity to the heavy fighting on Snodgrass Hill, the Snodgrass cabin was used by both sides as a hospital. The building has been restored by the National Park Service.



Selected supplies and supplies used by army surgeons as field hospitals. Some of the original instruments are nearly identical to those used today.

Casualties at Chickamauga

UNION	
Of 58,000 engaged	
Killed	1,656
Wounded	9,740
Missing	4,711
TOTAL	16,107

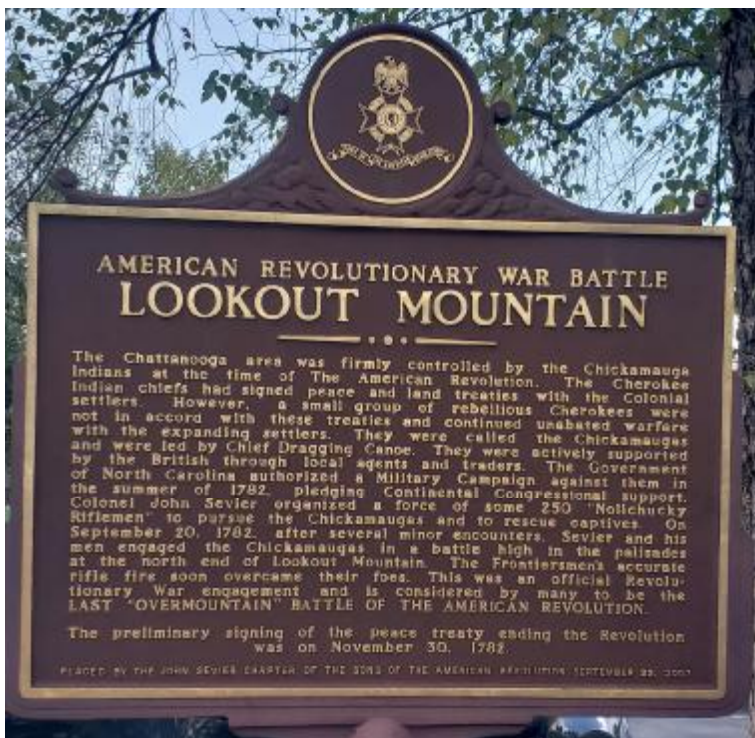
CONFEDERATE	
Of 60,000 engaged	
Killed	1,673
Wounded	16,274
Missing	2,600
TOTAL	20,547



I guess my long vision is still pretty good. I spotted this herd of deer. There must have been 20-30 of them. The pic is telephoto on my phone. The one below was a little closer.



I knew my next choice, Russell Cavern National Monument, would be closed by the time I arrived. We had already seen Lookout Mountain, if you remember, so I decided on Ruby Falls.



We took an elevator down 260 feet into Lookout Mountain. There were only 15 or so in my group and I was the last one. So Autumn, our tour guide, designated me as in charge of the rear. When she stopped up ahead she would call my name and I would answer that we were all there. Some people actually thought I was one of the guides because of the comical responses I made when my name was called. "All here" "we're good" "Never trust anything a tour guide ever says" – to another group letting us pass by. "We're down to 97.5%" Autumn told me at the beginning that I was responsible for making sure at least 80% of us made it through. "Now I know what Tom Sawyer felt like" and so on.

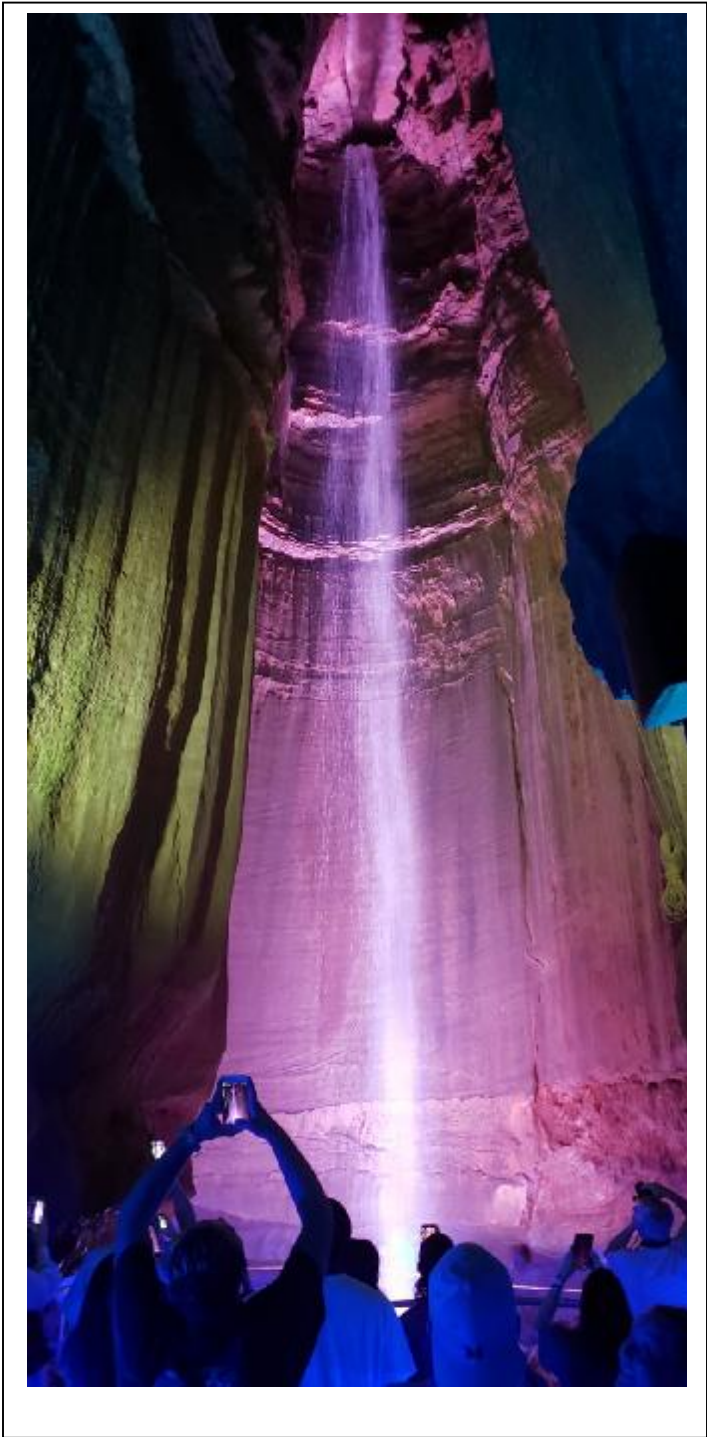


I took a lot of photos in the cave. Some you can see, others did not turn out too well. There are a lot of the Ruby Falls which had about a 7 minute light show with music during our viewing. It has been awhile since I was in a cave, so it was pretty neat. I enjoyed it and was glad I went.





Ruby Falls 145' high









Look, the water is falling on my head





WESTERN SUNSET



It was dusk when I left Ruby Falls. Found a Cracker Barrel that might allow overnight parking. But while I was waiting for my meal I found this campground in Jasper, Alabama.

Tomorrow is another cave, this one a national monument, then several more National sites as I make my way to Houston.

Go Brewers!!! The Pack is Back!!!!

Goodnight