Catoosa County Civil War Driving Tour

Sponsored by Catoosa County, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

1960's Tour Updated June 2011 by:

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DOWNTOWN RINGGOLD

1. RINGGOLD DEPOT (Marker)

Built about 1850. Gen. Hooker’s Union Headquarters during the “Battle of Ringgold Gap.” South end possibly destroyed by Confederate cannons during the battle. Roof was blown off in an attempt to destroy the building after the battle. Across the street (now Benton Supply) was the Whitsett House, an early two story inn for people arriving via the trains.

2. WHITMAN HOUSE (Marker)

(On Tennessee Street across from City Hall) Built by Whitman in late 1850’s. Family watched “Battle of Ringgold Gap” from the 2nd floor. Only house in Georgia in which General Grant of the Union Army spent the night.

3. WHITMAN’S STORES (No Marker)

(Corner of Nashville and Tennessee Streets) Two brick stores built by Whitman and Whitsett in 1850. Second store had a hand operated grain elevator. Stores were looted and the interiors burned by Wilder’s Cavalry in September 1863. Nearby buildings with a high roof line are pre-Civil War. Hitching posts and the town pump were located in the park across the street.

4. CATOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE (Marker)

Originally built on this spot in 1854, it was spared by Sherman because of the Masonic Hall on the 3rd floor. Served as the Buckner Hospital. Ringgold hospitals received patients from as far away as Kentucky. Present structure constructed in 1939.

5. NORTHWEST GEORGIA BANK (No Marker)

(Previously located at 896 Lafayette Street) Two story with columns all around. Owned by the Inman Family. Printed their own pre-Civil War paper money. Served as the Bragg Hospital.

6. PRE-CIVIL WAR CHURCHES (No Marker)

Methodist Church was located next to the cemetery on Lafayette Street. Baptist Church located just west of present structure. (Marker) Presbyterian (Old Stone Church) still standing and located on Hwy 41.

7. ANDERSON CEMETERY (Marker)

(Located on Lafayette Street) Anderson family cemetery and later used by the community. Resting place of many Civil War Veterans. Burial site of 137 Confederate Soldiers who died in the Ringgold hospitals and later were moved to the Confederate Cemetery in Marietta. Marker inside Cemetery.

8. EVANS HOME (Marker located on Tennessee St.)

(Destroyed by Tornadoes April 2011; previously on SW corner of Nashville and Guyler Streets) A dog-trot log cabin, served as a boarding house for two Confederate Nurses, Kate Cummings and Fannie Beers. Both left vivid descriptions of their experiences in the Ringgold hospitals.

9. NEW YORK MONUMENT (Monument - Located at the south end of Depot Street near Chickamauga Creek)

Commemorates five New York Regiments engaged in the “Battle of Ringgold Gap.”

41 HWY/KEITH & CHEROKEE VALLEY RD. AREA

10. RINGGOLD GAP ROADSIDE PARK (Marker - On Hwy. 41, ½ mi. south of Ringgold) Civil War map and statue of Gen. Patrick Cleburne, Commander of the Confederate forces during the “Battle of Ringgold Gap.” Here 4,000 Confederates held the Union Army long enough for the Confederate Army to get reorganized at Tunnel Hill.

(PHOTO BY GRAPHIC ADVERTISING)
11. **CHEROKEE SPRINGS** (Marker - Off Hwy 41 and ½ mile north on Cherokee Valley Rd.) Summer resort and site of [500 bed Confederate convalescent hospital](http://www.example.com). Patients included Gen. Bragg and his wife. Present houses were part of the resort. Hospital moved to Newnan, GA prior to the “Battle of Chickamauga.”

12. **CATOOSA STATION** (No Marker - Located off Hwy 41 on right just past Cherokee Valley Rd) A platform half covered with a shed used as a train stop for tourist visiting the summer resorts of Cherokee and Catoosa Springs. Longstreet’s Corps of 12,000 disembarked here prior to the “Battle of Chickamauga”, because the railroad bridges to Ringgold had been burned.

13. **OLD STONE CHURCH** (Marker - Located on Hwy 41 at Catoosa Parkway) Presbyterian Church built in 1850. Used as a [Confederate surgical hospital](http://www.example.com) and as a stable by the Union. Blood stains still on the floor. It is now the Catoosa County Old Stone Church Museum open from 1 to 5 Thursday through Sunday.

14. **OLD FEDERAL ROAD** (Marker near entrance to Tiger Creek School, a few yards on the right past Old Stone Church on Catoosa Parkway) Road was built through the Cherokee Territory sometime after 1805. It went from Athens, GA to Nashville, TN. It was the Interstate of its day and is still visible in several places in the county. It was used as a major transportation route by both armies during the Civil War.

15. **CATOOSA SPRINGS** (Marker - Turn off Hwy 41 onto Catoosa Pkwy, go 1.2 mi. turn left on Keith, go 0.7 mi.; turn onto circle driving lane - Glenn Hefner Lane to view marker) Was a large summer resort known as the “Sarasota of the South.” A three story hotel and cottages that could accommodate over 3,000 guests each summer. Used as a [500-bed Confederate convalescent hospital](http://www.example.com) and Headquarters for Union Gen. Oliver O. Howard’s 4th Corps. According to the historical marker, drinking or bathing in the mineral waters of the springs enabled many soldiers to return to duty.

16. **LEE’S CHAPEL** (Marker - Turn off Hwy 41 onto GA 2/ Catoosa Pkwy - 3253 Catoosa Pkwy) Methodist Church built in 1860 on land donated by Dr. James Lee. Assembly point for the Army of the Cumberland and Army of the Ohio and starting point for Sherman’s advance on Atlanta.

17. **YATES SPRINGS** (No Marker) House built in the late 1830’s and is one of the oldest in the county. Built by Presley Yates who was an early settler and owned several thousand acres of local land. The first house on the property was burned by the Indians the day before he was to move in. Yates was one of the two delegates from Catoosa to the secession convention in Milledgeville. Today the spring is a major supply of water for the county.


19. **LEET’S SPRINGS & TANYARD** (Marker – Hwy 151, turn on Mt. Pisgah, 0.1 mi past Nick-A-Jack Rd, just before Beaumont Rd) Rev. A.I. Leet was a farmer, tanner and Methodist minister. Col. Wilder’s Cavalry was surrounded here but, after dark, managed to slip through the lines, leaving his dead on the front porch of the house. Bragg’s orders for the “Battle of Chickamauga” were issued here. During the winter of 1864, the Union lines extended from Catoosa Springs, to Ringgold to Leet’s Springs.

20. **WOOD STATION** (No Marker – Hwy. 151) John Wood built a station on the stage line from Knoxville to Birmingham located just south of Temperance Hall Road. Served as the first post office on the Ringgold-Trion route. Across Hwy.

21. **OVER 14 HISTORICAL MARKERS, INTERPRETIVE TABLETS AND MONUMENTS LOCATED ON OLD LAFAYETTE ROAD IN FORT OGLETHORPE** (turn off Lafayette Rd at White Street) The town of Ft. Oglethorpe did not exist during the Battle of Chickamauga; however, many families’ homes were scattered on Lafayette Road and throughout the county and on the fringes of the historic Chickamauga Battlefield. Discover the historic markers inside the City of Ft. Oglethorpe.

- **1ST SHOT OF CHICKAMAUGA BATTLE ON SEPT. 11TH** At 1 A.M. on September 11, Gen. Crittenden left Chattanooga enroute to Ringgold via Lafayette Rd. Capt. McCook being informed of the route, became concerned for his commander’s safety and at 2 a.m. hurried to overtake him. In the darkness and mist two of McCook’s escorts were fired upon by Forrest’s Cavalry and captured on Lafayette Road.

- **UNION FIELD HOSPITAL AT CLOUD SPRINGS UNION ARMY HOSPITAL** Left Wing located in this vicinity because of a good spring, a church and several houses.

- **NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST, PEGRAM & ARMSTRONG BATTLES/SKIRMISHES IN AREA OF OLD LAFAYETTE RD.** (Several interpretative markers)

- **CLOUD’S HOME AND CHURCH & FARM USED AS HOSPITALS** Col. Cloud listed in the Catoosa County 1860 Census as a planter, from Savannah, had served as an officer in the Georgia Militia. In 1854 Cloud began purchasing land in the area now known as Ft. Oglethorpe and at
Visitor Center & Museum

22. CHICKAMAUGA - CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
(Entrance on Lafayette Road/Hwy 27
Fort Oglethorpe)

“In north Georgia and south Tennessee, Union and Confederate armies clashed during the fall of 1863 in some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War. The prize was Chattanooga, a key rail center and the gateway to the heart of the Confederacy.

“Fighting began shortly after dawn on September 19. The armies fought desperately all day, but the Confederates eventually pushed the Federals back to the LaFayette Road. On September 20, Bragg again tried to drive between the Union force and Chattanooga, but failed to dislodge Rosecrans’ line. Suddenly, a gap opened in the Federal ranks and Confederates smashed through, routing Rosecrans and half his army. General George H. Thomas took command of the remaining Federals and formed a new battleline on Snodgrass Hill. Here his men held their ground against repeated assaults. After dark, Thomas’ forces withdrew from the field to the defenses of Chattanooga. The Confederates pursued and besieged the city. By placing artillery on the heights overlooking the river and blocking the roads and rail lines, the Southerners prevented Federal supplies from entering the city.” (excerpts from: http://www.nps.gov/chch/historyculture/index.htm)
Stop by the Catoosa Visitors Information Center located in the Chamber office or visit us on the web-site at www.catoosachamberofcommerce.com

We hope you enjoy your time in Catoosa County and visit us again soon.

Catoosa Chamber of Commerce
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