



**ca. August 31, 1863 - Travel itineraries for the Army of the Cumberland's march to Chattanooga, prepared at the headquarters of Major-General George H. Thomas**

Itinerary from McMinnville to Chattanooga, 60 miles.

McMinnville to Etter's Cross-Roads, 9 1/2 miles.

Etter's to Martin's Ford of Collins River, one-half mile.

Collins River to Hill's Creek, 1 1/4 miles.

Hill's Creek to foot of mountain, 1 mile.

Hill's Creek to top of mountain, 1 1/2 miles.

Top of mountain to forks of road, 6 miles.

Right fork to Carlton's, 13 miles.

Carlton's to Dunlap, 6 miles.

Dunlap to Henson's, 4 miles.

Dunlap to top of mountain, 2 miles.

Top of Walden's Ridge to Card's, 9 miles.

Card's to Cunningham's, 4 miles.

Cunningham's to Poe's, foot of ridge, 2 miles.

Poe's to Chattanooga, 16 miles.

On leaving McMinnville northeast the road soon descends to and crosses the Barren Fork of Collins River, a bold stream with good approaches and always an abundance of water and good camping grounds on southeast side. On leaving the river the road, over undulating country and well settled, passes along the base of Ben Lomond Mountain, crossing in 3 miles the road from Rock Island to Winchester by Shell's Ford across Collins River, and in 9 1/2 miles reaches Etter's Cross-Roads, near Martin's, and the Irving College. From Etter's the left-hand [road] in one-half mile crosses the Collins River by a good ford, and in 1 1/2 miles crosses Hill's Creek; from thence to top of mountain by a good road 1 1/2 miles. The road in 6 miles forks-the left to Pikeville, the right-hand to Dunlap by Carlton's at the foot of the mountain-a graded road but rough and rocky, till in the valley, and thence to Dunlap the road is good. In 1 mile from Dunlap take the valley road for one-half mile and then turn east and soon cross the Sequatchie River, where the ford is good. The road is now called Poe's turnpike, and in 4 miles from Dunlap is Henson's at the foot of Walden's Ridge. The gap is called Henson's and the road Poe's trace. It is 2 miles up the mountain, but a fair mountain road and not steep. The road on the mountain crosses the North Chickamauga Creek with a good wooden bridge, then crosses the Little Chickamauga with a bad ford. Mr. Cunningham lives at top of mountain. Before descending and from thence down the ridge to Poe's at its foot is 2 miles.





This road here intersects the main road from Washington to Chattanooga—here the left-hand goes to Harrison, 8 miles; the right-hand, by the Washington road, crossing the North Chickamauga, and in 16 miles reaches Chattanooga, crossing the Tennessee River near that place. The road from Poe's is good, keeping near the ridge for some distance; rolling, but no heavy hills.

In 9 1/2 miles from McMinnville is Etter's Cross-Roads, as will be seen by reference to opposite page.

At Etter's the right-hand is called the Chattanooga Stage road; from thence in 3 miles it crosses the Collins River, with good ford and banks, and then the road forks again, the right going to Beersheba Spa, 2 miles distant. Our road is the left, which in 2 1/2 miles reaches the foot of the mountain. The road ascends very gradually till within 200 yards of the top, where it is steep and a hard pull. From top of mountain it is 6 miles to Tate's, and farther on 2 miles to Esquire Barker's, and farther on the toll-gate and Widow Hicks' is passed. In 6 miles the road descends the mountain to M. Therman's at its foot. From Therman's take up the valley and in three-fourths of a mile turn to the right, and here the Sequatchie River is passed near Bennett's. The valley here is about 3 miles wide, and the approaches to the river and ford good. Leaving the river, and one-half mile you run into the Valley road on east side of the river; keep down the road and in one-half mile turn to the left, going to Col. Anderson's at the foot of Walden's Ridge. It is 2 miles up the mountain, and the road a fair one; from thence in 5 miles cross the Chickamauga Creek on the mountain. On leaving the Chickamauga Creek it is 5 miles to J. C. Connor's on the ridge, and from thence to descent of the ridge it is 4 miles. The descent is in places steep, rocky, and rough. At the foot of the ridge the road forks, both going to Chattanooga. The right-hand is the most level, and regarded as the best. The road now runs along the base of the mountain for three-fourths of a mile, and then turns east to Chattanooga and reaches it in 5 miles from the foot of the ridge.

NOTE, In ordinary seasons there is an abundance of water on either of the two last-described roads, except on the mountains, where in almost every season water is scarce. The roads by both routes are equally good, except the ascent and descent of the mountains. The Hill's and Poe's traces is thought the best route, as the mountain roads are the best.

Itinerary from Tullahoma to Chattanooga, 75 miles.

Tullahoma to Manchester, 12 miles.

Manchester to Hillsborough, 8 miles.

Hillsborough to Pelham, 9 miles.

Pelham to top of mountain, 5 miles.

Top of mountain to Clipper's Station at foot of other side the headwaters of Battle Creek, 8 miles.

Clipper's to Jasper, 11 miles.





Jasper to bridge over Sequatchie, 3 miles.

Bridge to Kelley's Ferry over Tennessee River, 8 miles.

Kelley's Ferry to Chattanooga, 11 miles.

Leaving Tullahoma the road runs northeast and in 5 miles crosses the McMinnville and Manchester Railroad, and there runs into the road from Manchester to Winchester, which from this point is 20 miles; thence over a level, barren country, in 7 miles reaches Manchester.

On leaving Manchester the course of the road is east of south, and in 2 1/2 miles, at Mr. Ham's house, by a good ford crosses Little Duck River, a small stream. On approaching Hillsborough there is a small stream crossed by the road within one-half mile of the town and near the residence of James Sheed, a prominent rebel. At Hillsborough this road crosses the road from Winchester to McMinnville. On leaving Hillsborough in 5 miles Elk river is crossed on a good bridge. The ford across Elk River is nearly a mile below the bridge at and below a mill. From the ford the road returns to main rout. From Elk River Bridge to Pelham is 4 miles. Pelham is at the mouth of a large cove, and from Pelham there is a firm, good road to Decherd, on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which is 18 miles distant, this road passing over a good country and near the foot of the mountain.

From Pelham to foot of mountain at Gillam's is 3 miles. The road now begins to ascend the mountain. This road was graded and easy of ascent, but is now rocky and rough.

To the top of the mountain it is 2 miles, and from thence to where the road begins to descend it is 5 miles. The road on the mountain level and firm. The descent is made in 1 mile by steep declivities, rock and rough to Terry Ladd's at the foot. Here heads Battle Creek and the road running down the stream crossing it three times, when it reaches Jasper, over a good road in 12 miles.

From Jasper the road is good to the Sequatchie River bridge, reaching it in 3 miles. There is no ford near the bridge; the banks of the stream are sandy and brittle; the water always deep. The backwater of the Tennessee River deposits alluvial, and the bottom of the stream rotten. The Tennessee River is about 2 miles from the bridge in a direct line.

From the Sequatchie bridge the road in 3 miles reaches the Tennessee River, and then passes up its banks and under the bluffs of Walden's Ridge to Kelley's Ferry. From Kelley's Ferry by water it is 25 miles to Chattanooga, and by land and road 11 miles.

On leaving the Tennessee River the road immediately begins to ascend a spur of the Raccoon Mountain, estimated to be 200 feet high. In three-quarters of a mile the ascent is reached. The road was graded, and a good one. The descent from the top of the spur is gradual, and terminates near to Lookout Creek, which is reached in 7 miles. Along this distance of 7 miles is a good farming country.





There is a good bridge over the Lookout Creek one-half mile from the Tennessee River. The ford of this stream is 1 1/2 miles above, and has high banks and rough crossing, and returns back to main road.

From the Lookout bridge to Chattanooga is 3 1/2 miles, and in 200 yards the road crosses the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The road here gradually ascends and passes over at an elevation above the river of 700 feet-the end of the Lookout Mountain, which is projected toward and its foot washed by the river. Around this point or when the greatest elevation is had, the road is level for 1 mile. The ascent is gradual, and at the bottom enters the Will's Valley, crosses the Will's Valley road, running up that valley, and soon crosses the Little Chattanooga Creek on a good bridge. The ford of this stream is 2 miles above. The road now passes near the railroad and river, and in 2 miles reaches Chattanooga.

NOTE, The road just described was formerly the great stock and traveling route from Middle Tennessee to Chattanooga and south. The mountain passes were originally graded, and the roads called pikes, as gates were by law authorized to be kept on them, the toll from which reimbursed the parties making the improvements. In ordinary seasons this is a well-watered route, crossing in reasonable distances the Duck and Elk Rivers on west side, Sequatchie and Tennessee on southeast.

