Civil War Trail in Greene County, TN

Greeneville/Greene County is home to eight Civil War Trails sites and is participating in the state program with the Department of Tourist Development and the Civil War Trails Program.

As of March 31, 2020, four sites have been installed in historic downtown Greeneville, one on the campus of Tusculum University, two in the town of Mosheim and one in Chuckey.

- Battle of Blue Springs
- Death of General John Hunt Morgan
- Dickson-Williams Mansion
- Hangings at the Depot
- Pottertown Bridge Burners
- Tusculum College - President Andrew Johnson Museum & Library
- Unionist Stronghold
- Winter Headquarters Longstreet

“Visitors from around the global travel to Tennessee each year to explore our status’s rich history including people and places along the Civil War Trail. With more than 350 sites throughout Tennessee, our Civil War history is complex and felt in every part of the state. It’s important we continue to share the full story of the war as it happened.”

Commissioner Mark Ezell
Tennessee Department of Tourist Development

Greeneville/Greene County Tourism
115 Academy Street
Greeneville, TN 37743
(423)638-4111
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1 Pottermont Bridge Burners
Greene County, believed to be a hotbed of divided loyalties, was home to a community nicknamed “Pottermont.” In this community lived Christopher A. Haun, a potter that crafted pottery still highly valued today. Haun conspired with local residents to cripple the rail system by burning railroad bridges.

Directions: From Interstate 81, turn right off of Exit 23 and travel 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Pottermont Road and travel 1.5 miles. The marker is located on the right following a paved lane to Harmon Cemetery.

2 Battle of Blue Springs
This battle, fought on October 10, 1863, documented by both Union and Confederate troops, was a major battle by all accounts. The battle of Blue Springs was the result of a desperate effort of the Rebels to hold upper East Tennessee and the equal determination of the Union forces to drive them from the state entirely.

Directions: From Interstate 81, turn right off of Exit 23 and travel 7.36 miles to location of sign on right. Location of sign is directly in front of Food Country.

3 Hangings at the Depot
On November 9, 1861, after Union sympathizers burned several area railroad bridges, Col. Danville Leadbetter arrived to rebuild the bridges and catch the perpetrators. After being sentenced to death, Henry Fry and Jacob Hinson were marched up Depot Street and hanged for their crimes. The third, Hugh Self, was imprisoned because he was only 16.

Directions: From Exit 23 travel 12 miles to Church Street on right. Travel an additional .44 miles to Loretta Street and marker is on left at the Greeneville Train Depot.

4 The Dickson-Williams Mansion
Once known as the Showplace of East Tennessee, and built by Greeneville’s first postmaster, the mansion and her owner, Catharine Williams, hosted many U.S. Presidents as well as officers from both the Union and Confederate sides. Confederate cavalry hero Gen. John Hunt Morgan spent the last night of his life in this mansion and was later killed in the home’s garden Sept. 4, 1864. Daily tours are given of the mansion.

Directions: Located at the corner of Irish and Church Streets, this sign is located directly behind the General Morgan Inn.

5 The Death of Gen. John Hunt Morgan
During an exploration near Greeneville on September 3-4 in 1864, General Morgan (nicknamed the Thunderbolt of the Confederacy) was staying overnight at the Dickson-Williams Mansion and was surprised by the Federal Cavalry. Morgan and his staff officers ran to a nearby church. He was later shot and killed by Union Pvt. Andrew J. Campbell. Morgan’s death was a definite blow to the morale of Confederates throughout the South.

Directions: Located at the corner of Irish and Church Streets, this sign is located directly behind the General Morgan Inn.

6 Tusculum College
Located on the campus of the oldest college in Tennessee, the Old College (1841) is the only structure remaining from the earliest days of Tusculum College. Students here burned then Sen. Andrew Johnson in effigy before classes were finally suspended. The college suffered greatly during the war due to occupation by soldiers of both sides. The building is now the home of the President Andrew Johnson Collection, Tusculum College Archives, and Tusculum Museum Studies Program.

Directions: From historic downtown, travel North on 11E to Hardee’s on the right. Turn at traffic light onto Hwy 107. Tusculum College is on the right. For easy access to the Old College, turn right on Gilard Street. Old College will be on the left.

7 Unionist Stronghold
Before the war began, Greene County had a long history of abolitionist settlement. It was not surprising, then, that local residents overwhelmingly supported the Union when Tennessee seceded in 1861. Tennessee denied 30 neighboring counties’ request for creating a separate state after meeting in Greeneville. Greeneville changed hands many times during the war. The Dickson-Williams Mansion served as headquarters for both sides.

Directions: From historic downtown, head northeast toward W. Church St. Turn right onto US-11E N/US-321 N traveling for 6.6 miles then right onto Chuckey Hwy. Turn right onto Davy Crockett Park Rd then left onto Charles Johnson Rd/Davy Crockett Park Rd. Turn right onto Musket Lane.

8 Winter Headquarters, Longstreet in Greeneville
On February 28, 1864 General James Longstreet moved his command from nearby Russellville into Greeneville. He established his headquarters in the home of Judge Sanfilligan, a Unionist. The location of the home is now where Greeneville Town Hall sits. Over 16,000 Confederates were with Longstreet as they endured the coldest winter on record. Longstreet’s command departed Greeneville in late April to return to Virginia rejoining the command of Robert E. Lee in time for the Wilderness Campaign.

Directions: Located at 200 North College Street at the entrance of Greeneville Town Hall.

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