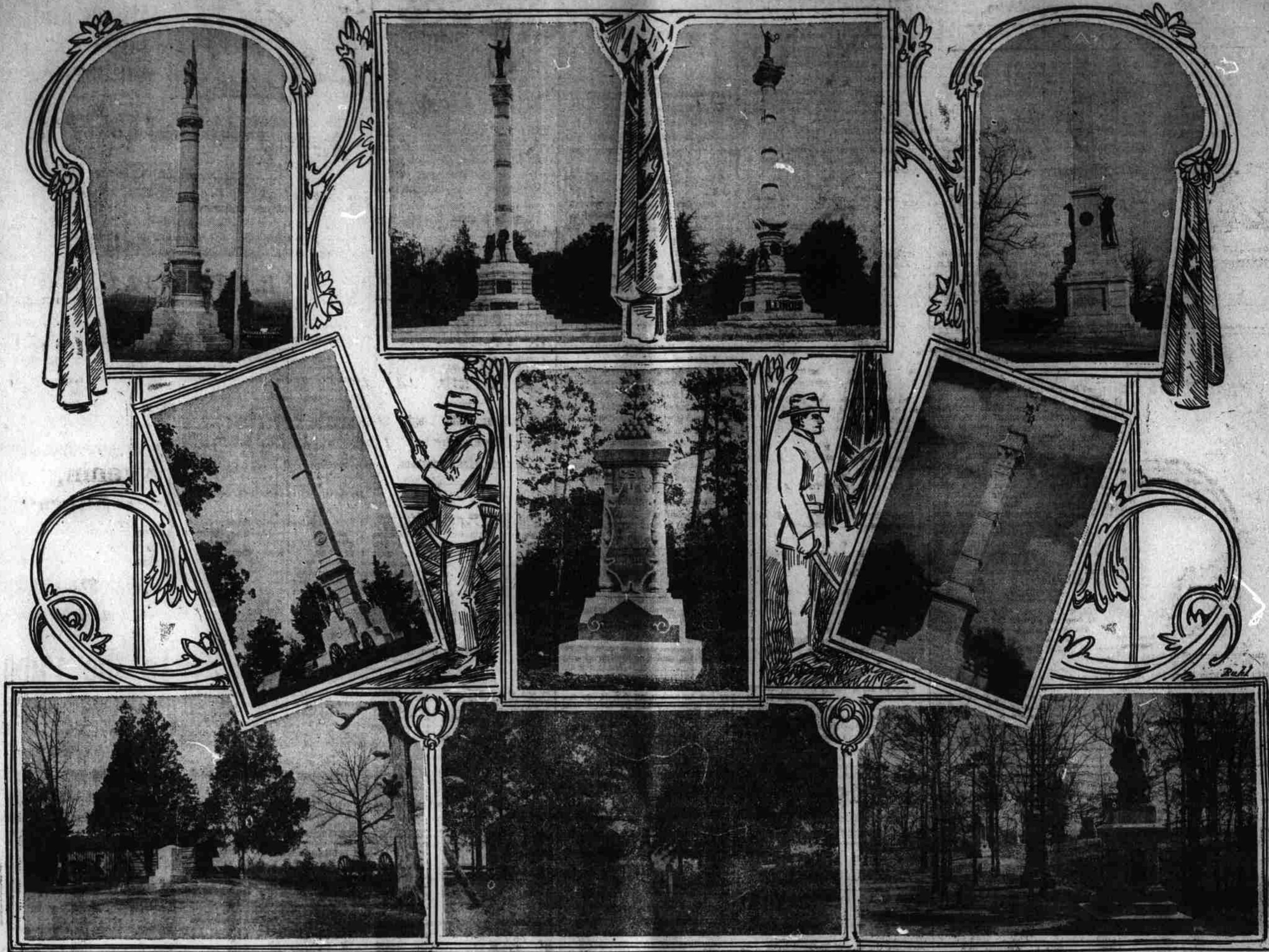


Monuments on Chattanooga Battlefields



Reading From Left to Right—Top Row: Maryland Monument on Orchard Knob; Georgia Monument in Chickamauga Park; Illinois Monument on Missionary Ridge; South Carolina Monument in Chickamauga Park. Second Row—Ohio Monument on Missionary Ridge; Carnes' Battery in Chickamauga Park; Iowa Monument on the Side of Lookout Mountain near the Cravens House. Third Row—Snodgrass Place in Chickamauga Park; Brotherton House on Chickamauga Battlefield; View of Snodgrass Hill, Chickamauga Park.

Chickamauga and Gettysburg Compared

OFFICIAL FIGURES GIVE HONOR TO CHICKAMAUGA

Group of Monuments and Historic Points of Interest on Chattanooga's Battlefields Made Glorious by the World's Greatest War—Here Are Erected Lasting Tributes in Marble and Bronze by a Nation to Its Heroic Soldiers.

(By J. G. Rice, for Publicity Committee, Chattanooga Reunion Association.)

Of comparatively recent years more or less friendly rivalry has existed between the various writers who have turned their attention to the battlefields of Chickamauga and Gettysburg, the rivalry being as to the relative importance of each battle, the percentage of loss of each and the number of memorials erected on those fields of glory. It is not surprising, therefore, that this rivalry has shown itself, fifty years after the battles, clothed in new garments of speech, but containing the same arguments.

July 4 there is to be a reunion on the field of Gettysburg of both blue and gray, the government bearing the expense of all veterans engaged in the battle and desiring to attend the reunion. The Confederate veterans hold their reunion at Chattanooga May 27-29, inclusive, this being the semi-centennial year of the great battles fought in and around the Mountain City.

Champions of Gettysburg, are busy with their pens, arguing that high tide of battle was reached on that historic field and claiming more monuments and markers for Gettysburg than any other battlefield in the world.

All of this is good, because it creates interest in fields of glory and immortalizes American valor. Chattanooga is not less deserving of the best of its day. There has always been for it a reputation, but Chattanooga does not

The roar of battle at Gettysburg was heard around the world. The roar at Chickamauga shook the earth. Daring and bravery reached high tide at Gettysburg with Pickett's immortal charge, but high mark for dogged fighting and casualties in war was set at Chickamauga. War historians agree that, for one day's fighting, the per cent. of casualties at Sharpsburg or Antietam is the largest in the history of wars, and that for two days' fighting Chickamauga has that distinction. The late Gen. John B. Gordon, beloved Georgian, distinguished in peace and in war, wrote as follows of Chickamauga:

"An American battle that surpassed in its ratio of carnage the bloodiest conflicts in history outside of this country ought to be better understood by the American people. Sharpsburg, or Antietam, I believe, had a larger proportion of killed and wounded than any other single day's battle of our war, and that means larger than any in the world's wars. Chickamauga, however, in its two days of heavy fighting brought the ratio of losses to the high-water mark. Judged by percentage in killed and wounded, Chickamauga nearly doubled the sanguinary records of Marengo and Austerlitz; was two and one-half times heavier than sustained by the Duke of Marlborough at Malplaquet; more than double that suffered by the army under Henry of Navarre in the terrific slaughter at Coutras; nearly three times as heavy as the percentage of loss at Solferino and Magenta; five times greater than that of Napoleon at Wagram; and about ten times as heavy as that of Marshal Saxe at Bloody Rocoux. Or, if we take the average percentage of loss in a number of the world's great battles—Waterloo, Wagram, Valmy, Magenta, Solferino, Zurich and Lodi—we shall find by comparison that Chickamauga's record of blood surpassed them nearly three for one."

Gen. Gordon is dead and gone; his eloquent lips no longer sing the praises of the Confederate soldier; his pen has ceased to combat prejudice, but his eloquent description of the great battle of Chickamauga on the roll of his own beloved state will live as long as people take an interest in good literature and

State Monuments, Markers, Tablets and Batteries.

(Compiled by Col. Baxter Smith, Assistant Secretary Chattanooga-Chickamauga National Park Commission.)

The following table shows the number of memorial monuments and markers of marble, granite and bronze, erected in the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park.

Guns mounted on carriages in battery in Chickamauga park:	
44 Union batteries	109 guns
20 Confederate batteries	86 guns
Guns mounted on Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Orchard Knob:	
10 Union batteries	20 guns
10 Confederate batteries	20 guns
Total	245 guns
Bronze historical tablets, Chattanooga	61
Army and corps headquarters shell monuments	16
Memorial shell monuments, heroic commanders killed:	
5 Union, 3 Confederate, total	8
Historical tablets	67
Distance and locality tablets	360

State	Chickamauga Park		Chattanooga and vicinity	
	Monuments	Markers	Monuments	Markers
Alabama	1			
Connecticut			1	
Illinois	1	55		
Indiana	37	23	18	19
Iowa	39	75		
Missouri	1		2	
New York	1	23		
North Carolina			1	
Ohio	10	11	2	1
Pennsylvania	4		1	
Tennessee	1	4	2	34
Virginia	1		1	
West Virginia			7	
Wisconsin	55	58	11	70
South Carolina	7	1	2	6
Texas	3	5	1	2
South Carolina	1	10		
Total	172	318	60	112

United States, 8 granite to U. S. regular troops. Twenty-three shell monuments. Landrum, one. Carnes battery, one. Iron observation towers, 70 feet high to observatory, five. Wilder's memorial observation tower, 85 feet high, one. Roundheads and averages, 103 miles completed. Number of acres in park, 6,265. *Erected by Ladies' Memorial Association, Montgomery, Ala., to be dedicated during Confederate reunion, May, 1913. **In course of erection; to be dedicated during Confederate reunion, May, 1913.

entertain respect for American valor. It tended somewhat by early associations in it possible that Gen. Gordon was told his estimate of Chickamauga. His fa-

ther's home was not far from this field, and as a boy he fished in Chickamauga river, hunted in the woods that covered the plain, and passed back and forth with his father through the now historic community. However, no contemporary writer on war topics during Gen. Gordon's lifetime successfully disputed any statement he made concerning that great battle. He passed to his reward firm in the belief that among the great battles of history Chickamauga was entitled to first place in point of deadly carnage, percentage of loss and heroic courage on the part of the forces engaged in it.

The Field Today.

Chickamauga today has that quiet which belongs to all great battlefields. The visitor to the historic field or the casual passerby is impressed with the improvements that have been made. Hundreds of memorials dot the field and engage the attention of the thoughtful. Snodgrass hill, where Gen. George H. Thomas checked in the federal army what at one time was a disgraceful rout and made himself "the Rock of Chickamauga" in history, is covered with monuments and other memorials. One feels that he treads upon hallowed ground at this spot. If the visitor be a dreamer he hears the roar of battle and witnesses the clash of the contending legions as they cheerfully pay the last measure of heroic devotion with their lives. It is a melancholy thing to contemplate brave men giving freely their lives that valor may be clothed into marble years later.

These monuments, historical tablets, markers and observation towers on the battlefields of Chattanooga, and especially on the field of Chickamauga, outnumber the memorials on any battlefield in the world, if the decision of men who have made the topic a special study is based on fact. They agree that the United States leads all countries in the matter of memorializing battlefields. That is to say, in erecting monuments, tablets and markers on its battlefields the American republic spends more money than any other nation on earth. And if the data secured through official channels concerning Gettysburg and Chattanooga is to be relied on as ending the argument, then Chattanooga

leads the world in this homage to valor and courage.

Col. John F. Nicholson, chairman of the Gettysburg National Park commission, has furnished some newspaper writers recently with data covering the memorials at Gettysburg. Various totals are deducted from these data, but none are higher than 1,700 and none lower than 1,500. The same kind of data supplied to newspaper writers during the present month by the secretary of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Park commission and by Capt. J. F. Smart, historian of the park, place the total number of memorials on the Chattanooga fields at about 2,000. This estimate of the number of memorials at Chattanooga includes nothing in the National cemetery.

The Coming Reunion.

The visitor to the Confederate reunion here on May 27-29 will have a splendid opportunity to view these fields and enjoy the associations that surround the great battlefields. These fields have been reclaimed and beautified against odds that at times seemed insurmountable. But Confederate and Federal united in the work and the results are written in the hundreds of handsome monuments, historical tablets, markers and observation towers that beautify mountain, ridges and valleys and stir patriotism in every soul.

The south has a greater interest in Chattanooga's battlefields than in all others combined. If the section of the United States that lies south of the Ohio river ever has a field where coming generations may study American valor with object lessons before them, it must be at Chattanooga. The heroic exploits of federal and Confederate are being preserved here in imperishable marble and bronze, and the record must always be elevating to generations yet unborn. The national government and the governments of the states of the Union, now that sectionalism has run its course and disappeared forever, are uniting their wealth and brain to beautify these fields. As the years pass, as generations come and go, these fields with their monuments and historical tablets will contribute much to the pride and the glory of the American nation.