

The Civil War in our National Park System – the Parks

By David Kroese

Session #3: A Nation Awash in Blood

Slide #2: Arkansas Post National Memorial, Southeast Arkansas, Fort Hindman on Arkansas River capitulates on January 9-11, 1863

Slide #3: Boston National Historical Park, Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site, Colonel Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, across from the Massachusetts State Capitol

Slide #4: Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Battery De Golyer, Across 8 miles of siege lines over 33 days, 220 Union cannon disbursed among 89 batteries fired 131,966 rounds, gunboats added 4,500 shells and six mortar boats added 7,000, 200-lb shells from their 13-inch mortars. Confederates defended with 172 cannon (103-field pieces, 69 heavy), of which 50 were designated for three miles of river batteries, leaving 122 pieces for the nine major earthworks (redans, redoubts and lunettes) on the eight—mile front.

Slide #5: Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Battle of Chancellorsville, Eastern Virginia, May 1-4, 1863

Slide #6: Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument, South of Lexington, Kentucky, Kentucky River, 500-foot bluffs, Camp Nelson named June 12, 1863, sector commanded by Ambrose Burnside

Slide #7: Camp Nelson, Fort McKee one of eight earthen forts that protected the only bridge south through central Kentucky

Slide #8: Gettysburg National Military Park, southeastern, PA, 20th Maine’s left flank on Little Round Top

Slide #9: 1st Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, Outnumbered 5:1 , regiment filled a gap near the center of Union line, 215/262 men fell in five minutes for an 82% casualty rate though later disputed by historians due to a discrepancy of 36 whose whereabouts after the day’s action cannot be confirmed. The highest loss by a single unit on a single day’s combat is shared by the 1st Minnesota and the 1st Texas Infantry who lost 186/226 engaged at Antietam.

Slide #10: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Chattanooga, TN, Battle Above the Clouds, November 23-25, 1863

Slide #11: Andersonville National Historic Site, Southwestern Georgia, post accepted prisoners February 27, 1864, ~13,000 Union prisoners would die, held up to 32,000 prisoners in a space intended for 10,000

Slide #12: Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Eastern Virginia, Ellwood (Lacy) House served as HQ for Generals Gouverneur Warren and Ambrose Burnside during the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864

Slide #13: Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Dead Angle, Battle of Spotsylvania May 8, 1864 ten-foot trench filled with bodies of the dead and wounded

Slide #14: Richmond NBP, Confederate line at Cold Harbor, May 31, - June 12, 1864, dubbed by many the “Slaughter at Cold Harbor”

Slide #15: Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield, Northeast Mississippi, June 10, 1864 Nathan Bedford Forrest commanding

Slide #16: Petersburg National Battlefield, Eastern Virginia, June 15, 1864 – April 2, 1865 Battle of Crater July 30, 1864 8,000-pounds of powder were detonated under Confederate lines in a cavity dug by Pennsylvania miners accessed by a 511-foot tunnel

Slide #17: First brigade into the breach led by Brig. General James Ledlie, later court-martialed for gross dereliction of duty

Slide #18: Petersburg NB, Grant's cabin door at the Eppes Plantation, City Point

Slide #19: Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD, Monocacy Rail Junction July 9, 1864, delaying action against Lt. General Jubal Early

Slide #20: Battle of Fort Stevens, Washington, DC, July 11, 1864, part of Rock Creek Park

Slide #21: Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, north of Atlanta, Georgia, June 27, 1864 – July 2, 1864 twenty miles from downtown Atlanta

Slide #22: Kennesaw Mountain, Close contact over five days

Slide #23: Kennesaw Mountain, Dead Angle Union tunnel

Slide #24: Kennesaw Mountain, Confederate view from the Dead Angle

Slide #25: Tupelo National Battlefield, Northeast Mississippi, Battle of Tupelo, July 14-15, 1864 Maj. General Stephen D. Lee v. Maj. General Andrew Smith

Slide #26: Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, Central Georgia, Battle of Walnut Creek November 20, 1864

Slide #27: Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, October 19, 1864 Sheridan's horse Winchester

Slide #28: Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, Eastern Colorado, November 29, 1864 Colonel John Chivington led 675 armed troopers against 750 Cheyenne and Arapaho, killing over 230 and mutilating their corpses.

Slide #29: Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Southwest Virginia, McLean House, April 9, 1865

Slide #30: Fords Theatre National Historic Site, Washington, DC, April 14, 1865

Slide #31: Fort Monroe National Monument, Virginia Tidewater Region on Coast, guarding Hampton Roads and serving as a Union base. Lee helped construct fort and Jefferson Davis was later imprisoned here after the war.

Slide #32: Andrew Johnson National Historical Park, Eastern Tennessee, Second home in Johnston City, TN, early war service exemplary, presidency above his capacity and character

Slide #33: Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, Washington, DC, Grand Review May 23-24, 1865