

12-Mile Al Scheller Hiking Trail
Vicksburg National Military Park
A Hike Through History



Updated October 2018

Vicksburg Trails Commission

A Service Organization to the Youth of America

Hiking – Dos and Don'ts

Hiking Rules



- ❖ Hikers must maintain a high standard of conduct at all times, are expected to be good stewards of Vicksburg National Military Park, and to be courteous to other visitors while in the park.
- ❖ Group leaders are responsible for directly supervising each hiker in the group. At least one adult leader is required to accompany each separate group of hikers so all receive proper supervision.
- ❖ When hiking on the tour road, use the white striped walking lane. Stay to the right edge of the roadway when no white stripe exists. Hike single file and safely cross roadways as a group.
- ❖ Carry the proper equipment, including trail guide, rain gear, adequate water, trash bags (everything packed in, must be packed out), first aid kit, cell phones, sunscreen, etc. **Please note** – the only restroom facilities are located at the Visitor Center on Clay Street and *USS Cairo* Museum halfway through the park.
- ❖ Except during medical emergencies (situations requiring immediate emergency medical care), park staff cannot transport private citizens in government vehicles. Assess both the hikers' physical conditions and the weather before starting! Be realistic in choosing the appropriate hike. It is advised that at least one driver stay with the vehicle(s) should there be a need to pick up and transport the scouts.
- ❖ Be aware of hazards while hiking – weather, trail conditions, fire ants, snakes, ticks, poison ivy, etc., and take the necessary precautions. Although the wooded hiking trail has been widened where possible, there are still areas where passage must be single-file. Be **extremely** careful when the trail is wet – the slopes are very slippery!

Park Regulations



- ❖ Climbing on monuments, memorials, cannon, and headstones is strictly prohibited.
- ❖ Climbing and running at the *USS Cairo* exhibit, *USS Cairo* museum, and Visitor Center are prohibited.
- ❖ Picnicking is permitted only at the areas located near the *USS Cairo* exhibit and at Tour Stop 12. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ❖ All vehicles must comply with all regulatory signs and posted speed limits.
- ❖ Littering, vandalism, fires, fireworks, weapons, and metal detectors are prohibited on Park property.
- ❖ All Park resources (i.e., plants, animals, etc.) are protected by law from molestation, injury, or damage. All historic and prehistoric artifacts discovered in the Park are property of the U.S. Government. Found artifacts should be left undisturbed and their location reported to a park ranger. **DO NOT REMOVE ANYTHING FROM PARK PROPERTY!**
- ❖ **Please be aware of park hours (times change on a seasonal basis). All hikers must be back at their vehicles no later than ½-hour prior to closing.**

Al Scheller Hiking Trail

Welcome

The Vicksburg Trails Commission and National Park Service welcome you to one of the nation's outstanding historic resources in America – Vicksburg National Military Park. This guide will help make your visit an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Location

Established in 1899, Vicksburg National Military Park is a memorial to a major turning point of the American Civil War. The Mississippi River was vital to the North as a supply line and route of commerce to the Gulf of Mexico. Union control would split the Confederacy in two, isolating the states west of the Mississippi River from the war's eastern theater. By mid-1862 Northern forces held the entire river with the exception of a 200-mile span from the bluffs of Vicksburg – the 'Gibraltar of the South' – to the Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson, Louisiana.

After attempts to take Vicksburg from the north and west failed, General Ulysses S. Grant developed a plan to maneuver his forces south along the west side of the Mississippi River. Crossing at Bruinsburg, Mississippi, Grant successfully fought his way through Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, and Big Black River to finally surround Vicksburg. When two furious assaults against the city's defenses failed, the Federals laid siege to Vicksburg in an effort to isolate and starve the Southern defenders into submission. 72,000 Union soldiers surrounded 30,000 Confederates, stopping any attempt to get food or ammunition into the city. After 47 days of siege, Vicksburg surrendered on July 4, 1863.

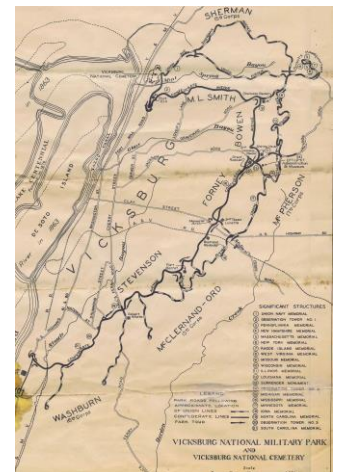
The Plan of The Park

The Confederate Army occupied a strong line of fortifications atop a series of ridges encircling the city. Anchored on the Mississippi River to the south and Fort Hill to the north, this line is now called Confederate Avenue. To the east of the Confederate line is a lower series of ridges occupied by Union forces, now known as Union Avenue. Monuments, markers, tablets, and cannon are placed in the same positions occupied by these armies in 1863.

As you hike and learn about the park, remember the thousands of Americans, both young and old, who gallantly fought and died on this ground. Every one of them fought for a cause he felt to be right.

About Al Scheller [1912-2009]

Over the years, New Jersey native Al Scheller developed a deep fascination for American history, traveling throughout his life to historical sites around the country. Retiring in the 1960s after a full career with the New York City Fire Department, Al began serving as a seasonal interpreter with the National Park Service, initially at Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. From 1971-88, he worked as a seasonal ranger at Vicksburg NMP, becoming a leading expert on the Vicksburg campaign and promoting the park to visitors of all ages. He was very interested in working with youth organizations, and Boy Scouts in particular. In 1979, at age 67, Al provided Scouts with a unique experience and better understanding of the siege of Vicksburg by blazing the trail which now bears his name. Since then, thousands of Scouts and hikers have trekked through the hills and hollows of Vicksburg NMP on the Al Scheller Hiking Trail. May those of you who follow in Al Scheller's footsteps develop his same zest for life and passion for the nation's history.

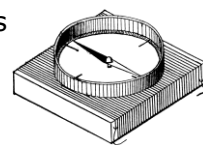


General Hike Instructions

Upon arrival at Vicksburg NMP, register at the Visitor Center. The Al Scheller Hiking Trail is physically demanding, and only those in good condition should attempt the hike. All groups or individual hikers should be carrying at least one cell phone for emergencies. Insure that adequate provision has been made to carry sufficient water, particularly in hot weather. It is not unusual for an individual to consume a gallon of water when hiking the trail. Water fountains are only available at the Visitor Center (trail start) and the *U.S.S. Cairo* museum (trail mid-point). In the event of problems, notify a park ranger or contact staff at the Visitor Center (601-636-0583) or *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum (601-636-2199). It is important that you check out with the Visitor Center after your hike.

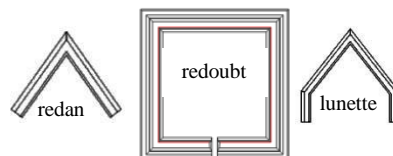


This guidebook is necessary to complete the trail! A compass and/or GPS unit is also recommended. Be sure that each individual is properly trained in the use of equipment before beginning. Hiking time on the Al Scheller Hiking Trail varies per individual(s); however, most finish in about 8 hours (add an additional hour for lunch). The trail is a 12-mile loop beginning and ending at the Visitor Center. Plan your hike to arrive back at the Visitor Center **at least one-half hour before the park's closing time. (NOTE – Park hours change seasonally. Check facility/gate times before starting.)**



Terrain – You will see many earthen fortifications on your hike. There are three principal types:

REDAN: has a triangular shape with one point facing the enemy
REDOUBT: square shaped and generally larger than a Redan
LUNETTE: earthworks with three or more angles, and the rear open to the interior lines



Experience taught Confederate defenders that the earth must be at least 16 feet thick at the top of a fortification to withstand artillery fire, while earthwork bases were usually about 26 feet thick.

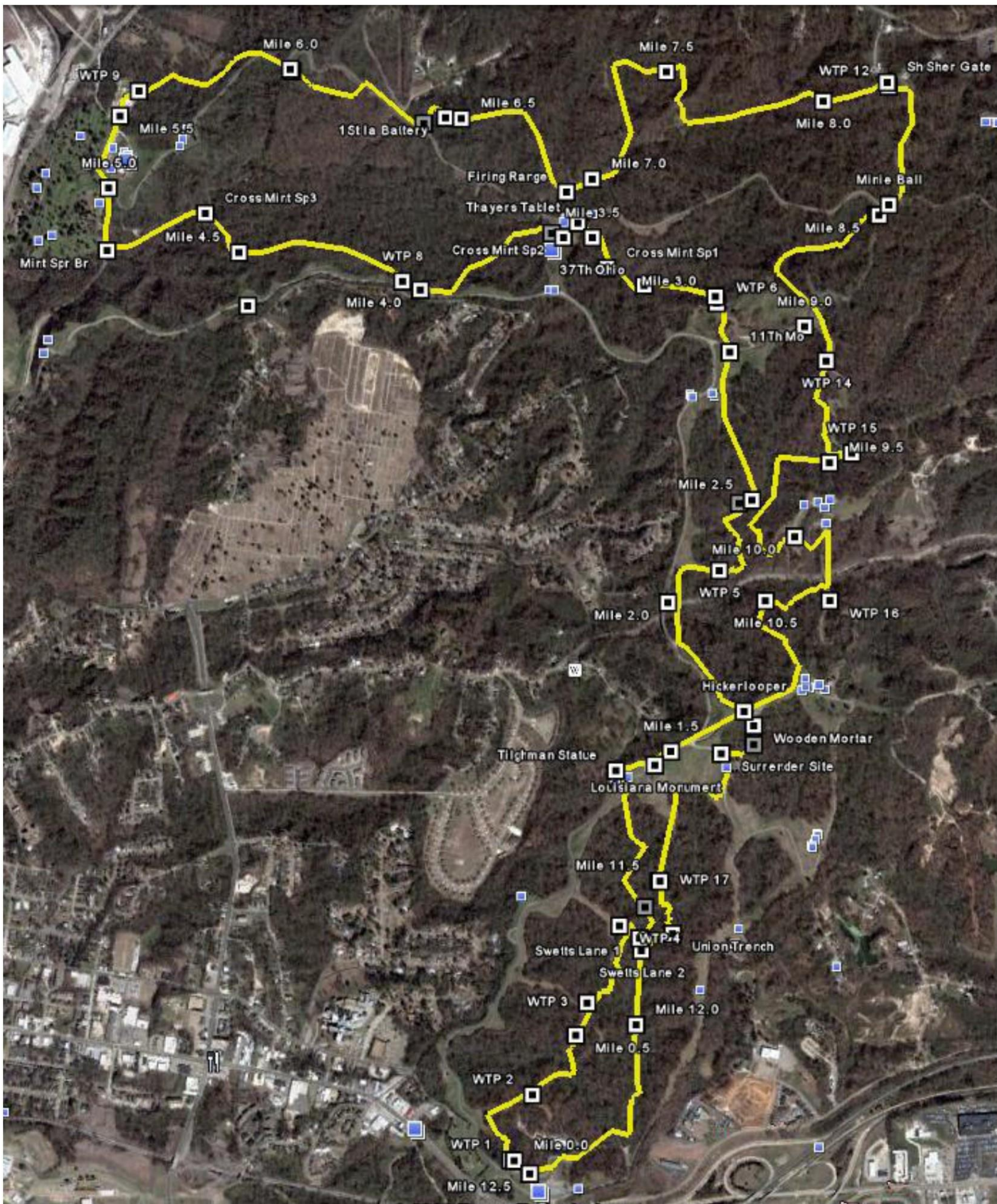
Trail Route – The route is marked on the map included in this booklet. Important monuments, mileposts, and geographical features are shown on the map for orientation purposes only. You may wish to keep track of your progress/time by marking the map as you pass each feature.



You are now ready to hike the Al Scheller Trail. A **white-topped post (WTP)** marks each trail entrance into the woods, and **orange paint blazes** on the trees will help you locate the path through the woods. The trail, however, is not entirely self-guiding. Without this guidebook, you will not be able to complete the hike.



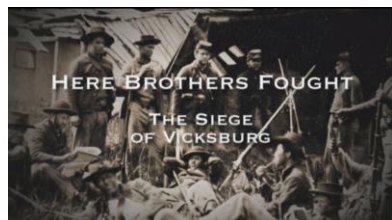
Awards – As you arrive at the hike's designated stations, read the information from the booklet to all hikers, being sure that each one understands the questions. Answers to the questions can be found on the plaque or monument at that station. Each hiker should determine the answer. Before moving on, write the answer on the supplied answer sheet. Comments and suggestions to improve the Al Scheller Hiking Trail are always welcome. If you find any problems along the trail, please report them to the Park Staff when you check out.



Detailed Hike Instructions

The Visitor Center

Start your hike at the Visitor Center. View the 20-minute movie, "*Here Brothers Fought*," and the center's exhibits. All members must view the movie shown in the Visitor's Center prior to starting the hike. Purchase the booklet "Vicksburg – A Self-Guiding Tour of the Battlefield" available at the Information Desk.



7th Missouri Regiment

1. **Who were General Grant's three Corps commanders?**
2. **Where was one of the first battles that involved United States Colored Troops (USCT)?**
3. **How many casualties (both North and South) were suffered at the siege of Vicksburg?**

After exploring the Visitor Center, go to the northwest corner of the building. On a compass heading of 340 degrees you will see the first **WTP** and **Milepost 0.0** marking the entrance into the woods. From the **WTP**, descend the hill going in a northwesterly direction. At the bottom of the hill, you will find a tablet marking **A.J. Smith's Approach**. Head northwest; the trail will be rising out of the woods into a clearing. Continue northwest, keeping the wood line on your right, until you come to the **59th Indiana Infantry** stone monument. Notice the private cemetery to your left across the park road. During the siege, the **Confederate 2nd Texas Infantry** held a small earthwork on the hill now occupied by the cemetery. **Burbridge's Union Brigade** attacked the fort on May 22, 1863, crossing the ground you are now on. The attack failed, but the regimental position markers on the cemetery slope show how far the Federals advanced.

Head back toward the woods on a compass heading of 60 degrees and follow the mowed ridgeline marked with blue tablets of the Union trench of **A.J. Smith's Division**. Just past the fourth tablet, you will see the second **WTP** marking the entrance back into the woods. Follow the trail down the ridge at a compass heading of 80 degrees.

At the bottom of the ridge there is a large sycamore tree on the edge of the creek bank. From the sycamore tree, continue along a compass heading of approximately 40 degrees. As soon as you clear the thicket across the creek, follow the creek to the northwest, staying in the flat for about 150 feet. Go up the hill. You will clear the woods at **Milepost 0.5**, just past another iron tablet marking **A.J. Smith's Division**. Head up the open ridge at a compass heading of approximately 30 degrees until you come to the **Illinois 97th Infantry** stone monument. Follow the ridgeline to the northwest, staying in the cleared area. About 30 feet past the **77th Illinois Infantry** granite marker on your right side, you will see the third **WTP** marking the entrance back into the woods. Enter the woods, following down the ridge heading slightly to the northeast. Descend the ridge, cross the creek bed, and then ascend the ridge to the north. You will come out of the woods near an iron tablet marking **Quinby's and J.E. Smith's Division**.



Follow the open ridgeline and iron tablets to the north-northwest. Follow the markers until you come to the **56th Illinois Infantry**, and you will see the fourth **WTP** marking the entrance into the woods. Enter the woods and descend the ridge to the east. Cross the creek over an old concrete bridge and turn left, following the abandoned road known as **Swett's Lane**. (Do not make the mistake of going to the right!)

Continue along the trail keeping the creek bed on your left. Follow **Swett's Lane** past **Milepost 1.0** until it plays out into the creek bed. Follow the trail along the creek bed northward and up the hill until you come out of the woods across the road from a large bronze statue of **General Tilghman** with his horse.



Head across the mowed area up to Confederate Avenue and cross over to the **General Tilghman** statue. Turn right and walk northeast along the open ridgeline toward the tall **Louisiana Monument**, keeping the wood line to your left. You are walking on the partially restored Confederate fortification called the **Great Redoubt**. It was the largest fort in the Confederate defenses of Vicksburg. The fort was defended by elements of the **21st** and **22nd** **Louisiana Infantries**. Union troops attacked the fort, crossing the open ground to your

right. In the field below, you can see small stone monuments locating the farthest advance of the Union regiments. A short distance to the north of the **Louisiana Monument** you will see an iron tablet entitled **Stevenson's Brigade**, and a bronze marker for the **7th Missouri Regiment**. This regiment advanced all the way to the Confederate ditch in front of the **Great Redoubt** before being repulsed. These signs represent **Milepost 1.5** of the trail.

4. Who commanded the 7th Missouri?
5. On what day did the attack take place?

Hickenlooper Statue

From **Stevenson's** tablet, cross Confederate Avenue northeastward to the brown sign, *Service Road – Official Use Only*. Head up the gravel trace ('trace' is another word for trail or path) at a compass heading of 60 degrees. Continue on the trace until you come to the **Hickenlooper Statue** near the paved parking area. This is **Old Jackson Road**, a major artery into town during the Civil War and was defended by the **Confederate 3rd Louisiana Redan** which is the earthwork to your left as you walk along the trace.



6. What was Andrew Hickenlooper's rank and position?

Ransom's Approach

From the **Hickenlooper Statue** you will see two cannon to the west. Go to the cannon and follow the red Confederate markers northwest along the ridge at the edge of the woods. Look to the northwest, above the trees, and you will see the tall, pointed **Navy Monument** in the distance. Follow the wood line until you drop down the slope to the road, then cross the bridge. As you cross the bridge, stay in single file on the right side and watch for oncoming traffic. The north end of the bridge represents **Milepost 2.0** of the trail. Follow the right edge of the road until you can follow the wood line on your right, back to the east.



As you crest the ridge, you will see the Confederate marker identifying the position of the **38th** and **37th Mississippi Infantries**, and to the east, the blue Union markers showing **Ransom's Approach**. Just to the left of the easternmost marker labeled **Ransom's Approach**, on the line of that approach, you will see the fifth **WTP** marking the path leading back into the woods and down a hill. Two 12-pounder guns were served in this position, close to the Confederate lines, by **Battery F, 2nd Illinois Artillery Regiment**, and commanded by **Captain John Wesley Powell**. The two guns were disassembled on the other side of the

ravine to the east. With the help of infantrymen of **General Thomas E. Ransom's Brigade**, the cannon were dragged up the hill, placed in position on 25 June 1863, and fired at the Confederates at very close range. (**John Wesley Powell**, who lost an arm at **Shiloh**, was to become famous after the war, when in 1869 he led the first expedition to explore the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.) Follow the trail to the bottom of the hill. Just before you reach the bottom, you will see an iron tablet.

7. On what date did work on Ransom's Approach commence?

Missouri Monument

From this tablet the trail goes northwest, down to the bottom of the ravine at the level of **Glass Bayou** ('bayou' is another name for a slow-moving creek). Continue northwest, walking along the bank, keeping **Glass Bayou** on your right, until it branches off to the east. The trail winds to the west a short distance around a tributary feeding **Glass Bayou** and heads back up a hill. Follow the trail as it winds to the top of the hill past **Milepost 2.5**, then along the ridge passing a Union iron tablet marking the location of **G.A. Smith's Brigade**. Shortly afterward, you will pass the **Illinois 113th**



Infantry stone monument. Follow the trail northwest. As you pass the stone monument for the **116th Illinois Infantry**, you will come into a clearing and walk up behind the **Missouri Monument**. Read the bronze plaque on the rear of the monument.

8. To whom is the Missouri Monument dedicated?

Stockade Redan I

From the rear of the **Missouri Monument**, proceed across the clearing at a compass heading of 10 degrees, keeping Confederate Avenue on your left. You will arrive at two large iron markers facing **Stockade Redan**. This Confederate fort protected the entrance to Vicksburg along **Graveyard Road**. Note the **Ewing's Brigade** tablet in the ditch of the fort.

9. Who led the volunteer storming party of 150 men along the road?



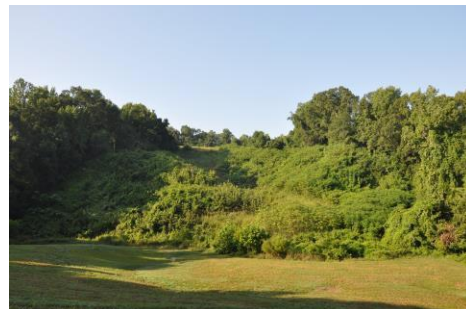
Ohio Monument

From the granite monument of the **11th Missouri Infantry** at the foot of **Stockade Redan**, look at a compass heading of approximately 340 degrees. Walk in that direction down to the valley at the foot of the hill. You will find the sixth **WTP** on your left where the valley enters the wood line. The trail heads in a westerly direction from there, following along the left side of the drainage. Keeping the drainage to your right past **Milepost 3.0**, you will come to a fallen **Ohio** monument.

10. Which Ohio regiment does this monument commemorate?

Thayer's Approach

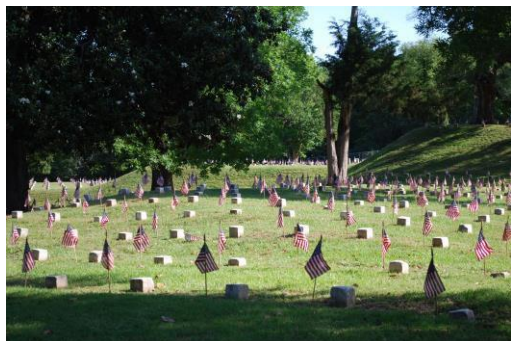
Follow the trail as it winds to the south. Continue southward until you reach the end of the wash. Wind around the wash and back to the north. When you come to the creek, cross it and continue as the trail goes up a hill and out of the woods at **Milepost 3.5**. As you emerge from the woods, bear to the right through the mowed area and walk uphill to the iron tablet at the curb alongside north Union Avenue. Read the inscription on the tablet.



11. What was placed atop the trenches at this place?

National Cemetery and U.S.S. Cairo Museum

From the iron tablet, walk southwest down the grassy slope to the ditch at the base of the big hill. Cross the ditch near the west wood line. You will find the seventh **WTP** on the south side of the ditch where it enters the wood line. Follow the trail, which goes generally west, then southwest, and uphill, until you exit the woods at Confederate Avenue. Turn right (west) and follow Confederate Avenue, walking on the grass shoulder, for about 150 yards to the second cannon on your right. The cannon is next to a granite monument for the **Mississippi 4th Infantry**, which also represents **Milepost 4.0** of the trail. The iron tablets at both cannon read in part, **1st Mississippi Light Artillery, Company D, Captain J.L. Wofford**. Proceed ahead another 50 yards to the eighth **WTP** on your right. At this **WTP** walk down a short hill, turn to the left, and hike in a westward direction until you pass **Milepost 4.5**. In this area, the Union line is 300 to 400 yards to your right and the Confederate line is 100 to 200 yards to your left. The broken terrain here discouraged infantry attacks.



Soon you will turn to the right and start down a hill to the northwest. As the trail descends, you will walk in a generally westerly direction along the bank of **Mint Spring Bayou**. Soon you will come to a crossing of the bayou. Go down the bank, cross the bayou, follow the bayou to the west for a short distance, then ascend the opposite bank, and turn left. Follow the trail, keeping **Mint Spring Bayou** to your left, until you exit the woods near **Vicksburg National Cemetery**.

Approximately 17,000 Union dead are buried here, plus another 1,200 dead from later American wars. Only 4,000 of these Union soldiers have been identified; the rest are unknown.

Approximately 5,000 Confederate dead are buried in **Soldiers' Rest** in the **Vicksburg City Cemetery** outside the park, only 1,600 of whom are identified.

Cross the road and follow the brick wall uphill to the entrance gate of the cemetery. This represents **Milepost 5.0** of the trail. Enter the cemetery. To the right you will find an iron tablet with **General Order Number 80**, dated September 1, 1875.

12. What activities are prohibited in a National Cemetery?

After reading the tablet, re-cross the road to view the ironclad **U.S.S. Cairo** and visit the museum. Be sure to see the short video presentation inside the museum.

13. What sank the ironclad **U.S.S. Cairo**?

14. What is the name of the 400-ton derrick that raised the **U.S.S. Cairo** from the Yazoo River?



U.S. Navy Monument

As you leave the museum, look above the bluff to your right to see the **U.S. Navy Monument**. This 202-foot-high obelisk was patterned after the **Washington Monument** in Washington, D.C. The role of the Union Navy in the Vicksburg Campaign was crucial, for without the gunboats to protect his transports, **General Grant** could never have crossed his army to the east side of the Mississippi River to attack Vicksburg. Grant's supply line from Memphis was protected by the Navy throughout the siege.

The Union Navy mortar fleet, anchored in the Mississippi River near Vicksburg, was also instrumental in capturing the city. Throughout the 47-day siege, Navy mortar boats fired 200-pound shells into Vicksburg from 13-inch seacoast mortars, inflicting damage to the city and its population. The mortar bombardment, which continued both day and night, wore down the residents and Confederate defenders by placing them in constant danger. The **U.S. Navy Monument** is a fitting tribute to the Union Navy's contribution to the victory at Vicksburg.



To the west of the **U.S.S. Cairo Museum**, you will see the brick wall separating the parking area from **Vicksburg National Cemetery**. Follow the wall north until it ends. Walk 100 feet at a compass heading of 60 degrees to the left (north) side of a fenced compound. The corner of the fence represents **Milepost 5.5** of the trail. Follow the fence, keeping it to your right, to the rear of the compound where you will re-enter the woods at the ninth **WTP** above a small grassy hill to the northeast. Walk along the winding trail, heading generally northeast. Once you reach a fenced pasture, follow the fence line to the pasture's southeast corner. *[The fence and pasture are private property. DO NOT climb on the fence or enter the pasture.]* At the corner, turn and continue to follow the fence line to the pasture's northeast corner. Along the way there are signs posted on the trees, and there is one on a tree at the northeast corner.

15. What does the sign on the tree say?

Illinois Infantry

From the northeast corner of the pasture, turn on a compass heading of approximately 80 degrees and start hiking up the hill. You will soon exit the woods on north Union Avenue near a pink granite monument. Continue another 200 feet east, along the left side of the road until you come to an **Illinois 54th Infantry** monument.

16. Who was the commander of the 54th Illinois Infantry?

1st Iowa Battery



From the **54th Illinois Infantry** monument, across the road at a compass heading of 120 degrees, you will see the blue tablet marking the **4th Ohio Light Artillery**. The next entrance into the woods is at the tenth **WTP** just in front of the cannon. The trail enters the woods at **Milepost 6.0**, heading east, then southeast as you descend a ridge. At the bottom of the ridge, continue southeast at a compass heading of approximately 110 degrees. When the trail comes to an old roadbed on the far side, turn left (north) and follow the roadbed out of the woods to Union Avenue. Turn right and head southeast along the shoulder of Union Avenue. After about 225 yards look to your

left for the eleventh **WTP** marking the entrance back into the woods. The post is located just beyond the **46th Ohio Infantry** monument. Enter the woods heading northeast. The trail then winds to the southeast and steeply up onto **Bell Smith Ridge**. The top of the ridge is a place for a well-deserved rest. On the crest you will see an iron tablet locating the position of the **1st Iowa Battery**.

17. How many casualties did the 1st Iowa Artillery suffer during the siege?

Minié Ball Monument

The trail follows **Bell Smith Ridge** generally to the east to **Milepost 6.5**. The trail continues to the east past a Union trench marker. Stay atop the ridge as the trail starts heading to the southeast. Continue following the trail southeast until you go down the ridge into an open area. When you get to the mowed area, start heading eastward along a grassy roadbed. To your immediate left will be a firing range with a picnic table. This range is used by park rangers to maintain their shooting skills. Continue generally eastward along the roadbed past **Milepost 7.0**. After passing **Milepost 7.5** you will enter a large clearing with a road junction. Go to your left and follow the roadbed heading eastward, which soon begins ascending a steep grade. At the top of the grade, you will pass **Milepost 8.0**. Continue another 250 yards to the brown gate. To the right of the gate is the twelfth **WTP** marking your re-entry into the woods. Follow the trail southeast until you come upon another well-worn trail. Turn right onto the trail and quickly emerge from the woods onto **Sherman Circle** near the **26th Illinois Infantry** monument. This was the site of **General Sherman's Headquarters**. Follow the road to the south-southwest until you come to the intersection with **Grant Avenue**. Turn right and follow the road to the bullet-shaped minié ball monument at the next intersection.



18. What regiment is commemorated by this monument?

Stockade Redan II

From the minié ball monument, shoot a compass heading of 210 degrees. Cross the road and you will find the thirteenth **WTP** and **Milepost 8.5** marking the entrance to the woods. Go into the woods to the southwest until you get to the bottom of the ravine. Follow the ravine to the south-southwest. The trail will go up a little on the slopes, but continue to follow the ravine until you see a valley going off to the left (east) when the trail starts up a hill to the southwest. As the trail rises on the ridge, it starts turning more toward the south. As you clear the woods at a 30-pounder Parrott cannon, follow the ridge at a compass heading of approximately 140 degrees until you reach **Graveyard Road**. Cross the road, look to the south, and proceed to the cannon and marker at **Tour Stop 5**, which represents **Milepost 9.0** of the trail. It was the failure of the Union attacks on **Graveyard Road** which convinced **General Grant** that Vicksburg could only be taken by siege.



19. Who was the Battery E commander at this site?

1st Minnesota Light Artillery Battery

From **Tour Stop 5**, turn to the east to Union Avenue. Follow the grass shoulder to the south. When you reach the monument for the **Ohio 47th Infantry**, leave the road and go to the edge of the wood line to your right. Follow the wood line about 100 yards south to the fourteenth **WTP** marking the entrance to the woods. Near the wood line, you might see some remnants of a red brick walkway laid by workers in the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** during the **Great Depression** of the 1930s. The **CCC** program was an effort to give employment to young men and direct their efforts to worthwhile, lasting projects. Four **CCC** camps were located in Vicksburg National Military Park, one of which was in this area. The young men helped in erosion control and in restoring the Civil War entrenchments. They also planted much of the present-day forest through which our trail passes. Scattered throughout the park are concrete drainage ditches, some of which were **CCC** projects. Without the contribution of these young men, significant segments of terrain in the park would have been adversely altered by erosion.

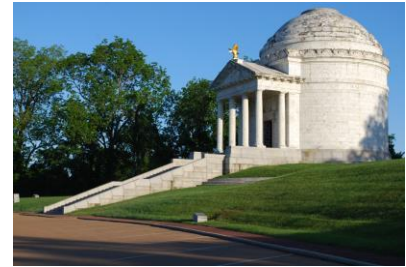


Enter the woods on the trail to the south-southwest and follow it along the top of the ridge. Soon the trail will start to turn back to the south. As the trail rounds the bend and starts heading to the southeast, watch carefully for the trail to enter deeper into the woods to the east. The trail then turns and winds, heading to the south-southeast. As you follow the old roadbed, watch for the trail to go down a small ridge and continue in a southerly direction. At the bottom of the ridge the trail turns back to the east and comes out on Union Avenue. As soon as you come out on the road, head southeast about 50 feet where you will see the fifteenth **WTP** showing the way back into the woods. As you re-enter the woods with the trail heading to the west and southwest along the bank of **Glass Bayou**, you will follow an abandoned roadbed called **Rigby Lane**. The trail basically heads west, but stays along the bank of the bayou until you pass **Milepost 9.5**. The trail soon turns south, still following the bank of the bayou. Follow the trail southward until you come to a well-marked tree on the left side of the trail. Here the trail turns sharply to the left and starts up a ridge in a generally southward direction. As you near the top of the ridge, the trail winds to the east and clears the woods near a tablet for the **1st Minnesota Light Artillery Battery**.

20. How many artillery pieces were located at this gun position?

Illinois Memorial

After you clear the woods, head northeast until you come to Union Avenue. This represents **Milepost 10.0** of the trail. Follow Union Avenue to the south across the bridge. Be careful and stay on the right shoulder of the road – this is a blind curve area. Then cross the bridge in single file, staying well to the right side and watching for oncoming traffic. After crossing the bridge, you will see the sixteenth **WTP** on the right marking the entrance back into the woods. Follow the old roadbed to the bottom of the hill and stay basically in the bottom headed west. Shortly after you pass **Milepost 10.5**, the trail starts off to the south up the ridge. The trail levels off and even goes downhill along a flat, heading west. The trail then starts winding up a ridge which initially heads south, then turns back to the east. When you clear the woods, follow the mowed area to the southeast until you come out behind the **Illinois Memorial**. Walk around the west side of the **Illinois Memorial** back to **Old Jackson Road**. Visit the **Illinois Memorial** and count the number of steps leading up to the memorial entrance.



Now, turn west and go down the road to the **Hickenlooper Statue** you passed earlier in the hike. From the statue, look off to the southeast. On the south side of the parking area there is a set of steps going down an embankment. Go down the steps and follow the trail to the **Wooden Mortar** monument. Wooden mortars were made from sweetgum trees.

21. On what dates were these mortars served?

Surrender Interview Site

Continue down the ridge. The trail turns off to the southwest at **Milepost 11.0**, crosses a small drainage ditch, and comes out behind the park's ranger station (also known as the **Old Administration Building** or **Superintendent's Quarters**). As you reach the mowed area, turn to the west and follow the wood line up to the road. When you reach the road, look across and you will see an upright cannon tube under an oak tree. This marks the **Surrender Interview Site**.



22. On what day did the Vicksburg Garrison surrender?

Illinois 81st Infantry

Walk down the shoulder of the road to the south about 100 yards to the **81st Illinois Infantry** position marker. From there, walk due west (compass heading 270 degrees) down the hill to the wood line. Keeping the wood line to your left, look for the **32nd Ohio Infantry** position marker designating the farthest advance of the regiment during the assault of May 22, 1863. Re-ascend the rise until you come to another position marker for the **81st Illinois Infantry**. This marker lists the name of a colonel who was killed at that location.

23. What was the colonel's name?

Completing Your Hike

From the **81st Illinois Infantry** marker, the tall **Louisiana Monument** with the flame on top is to the north-northeast. From the **81st Illinois Infantry** marker, follow the wood line back to the south through the open field. At the southern edge of this clearing is a position marker for the **18th Wisconsin Infantry**. Continue down the cleared area, passing the **26th Missouri Infantry** and **5th Iowa Infantry** markers. Continue along the cleared area past the **48th Indiana Infantry** and **59th Indiana Infantry** sharpshooters' line position markers.

At the far end of the mowed area, you will find the seventeenth **WTP** and **Milepost 11.5** marking your re-entry to the woods. Right next to the **WTP** you will see a position marker for the **93rd Illinois Infantry**. Enter the woods and follow the trail to the south-southeast. After passing the **Minnesota 4th Infantry** and **10th Iowa Infantry** sharpshooters' line markers, the trail goes down a steep ridge to the south, then ascends another ridge to a Union trench marker. Turn right (east) and follow the Union trench about 50 yards, then turn back left (south). Follow the trail south down a hill, around a ridge, and across a stream onto **Swett's Lane**. You walked on another portion of **Swett's Lane** earlier in your hike. Be sure and turn left (south) onto **Swett's Lane** and follow it south to **Milepost 12.0**. Continue south on **Swett's Lane** another 175 yards to a point where the trail turns sharply right and begins following a ridgeline to the south. At the end of the ridge the trail descends, winds around to the west, and comes out of the woods at the parking area for the park maintenance compound. Follow alongside the road up the hill to the southwest. Your hike ends at the Visitor Center, which represents **Milepost 12.5** of the trail.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just completed the Al Scheller Hiking Trail!



Awards and Fees

There is no charge for hiking the Trail. There is a fee for entry to the Vicksburg National Military Park. If your Unit would like to do two or more hours of conservation work, the entrance fee would be waived, and you would be admitted as volunteers. This must be arranged in advance of your trip with the Park Staff.

An attractive, 7-color, full embroidered patch, hat pin and/or a medal can be purchased for those completing the requirements of the Trail. For those hikers who have previously hiked the Trail, a sterling silver star is available to be worn on the medal. The star should be placed on the ribbon, centered, with one point aiming up. For those who cannot fulfil the hiking requirement but who watched the movie and read the information, there is a participation patch available.

To order these awards, fill in the answer sheet in this guide and complete the Award Order Form found on www.vicksburgtrails.org.

Other historical hikes in the Vicksburg National Military Park include a 16-Mile Bike Trail, 7-mile Trek and a 14-mile Hike. Information on these can be found on the Vicksburg Trails Commission website at www.vicksburgtrails.org.

Vicksburg National Military Park AL SCHELLER SCOUT TRAIL Answer Sheet for Required Stations

1. Who were General Grant's three Corps Commanders?

2. Where was one of the first battles that involved United States Colored Troops (USCT)?

3. How many casualties (both North and South) were suffered at the siege of Vicksburg?

4. Who commanded the 7th Missouri?

5. On what day did the attack take place?

6. What was Andrew Hickenlooper's rank and position?

7. On what date did work on Ransom's Approach commence?

8. To whom was the Missouri Monument dedicated?

9. Who led the volunteer storming party of 150 men along the road?

10. Which Ohio regiment does this Monument commemorate?

11. What was placed atop the trenches at this place?

12. What activities are prohibited in a National Cemetery?

13. What sank the Ironclad *U.S.S. Cairo*?

14. What is the name of the 400-ton derrick that raised the *U.S.S. Cairo* from the Yazoo River.

15. What does the sign on the tree say?

16. Who was the Commander of the 54th Illinois Infantry?

17. How many casualties did the 1st Iowa Artillery suffer during the siege?

18. What regiment is commemorated by this Monument?

19. Who was the Battery E Commander at this site?

20. How many artillery pieces were located at this gun position?

21. On what dates were these mortars served?

22. On what day did the Vicksburg Garrison surrender?

23. What was the Colonel's name?
