ZOLLICOFFER TRAIL CREDENTIAL

SPONSORED BY
CHESTER KAISER TROOP 79

Founded 1924

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SOMERSET, KENTUCKY
LAKE CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

We appreciate everything that Pat, Robert, Duke, Albert, and all the Scouts have done to improve the park. James P. Wilson III, great-great-great-grandson of General Felix Zollicoffer.
CAMPGROUNDS ALL ON LAKE CUMBERLAND

A. Fishing Creek U.S. Corps of Engineers (606-679-5174) is located on the Lake and has water and bath houses available. Camping is seasonal thru Sept. 15th. B. Pulaski County Park is located 1 1/2 miles from the start of the trail and has water and bath houses available. (606-636-6450) Seasonal Camping thru Oct. 15th. C. Cumberland Point is nine miles from Zollicoffer Park and is operated thru the Corps of Engineers. Water and bath houses are available and campground is closed to the public Sept. 15th.

The Corps of Engineers has an excellent working relationship with local Scouting units and may be reached at 606-679-6337. They will most likely accommodate camping by Scouts groups during the off season as will Pulaski County Park but water may not be available during the winter months. If you are granted special permission to use these facilities during the off season PLEASE leave them in better shape than you found them, Thanks.

TRAIL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Each Hiker must be a member of a unit/group with an adult in charge.
2. Full Scout uniform on this trail is requested.
3. The Troop will hike together at all times.
4. Do not stop at houses along the way. All hiking must be done during daylight hours.
5. All hikers should be involved in answering questions for this to be informative and of interest to them.
6. Parents permission should be obtained by group leader before hiking this trail. Troop 79 is not responsible for injuries or lost personal items!!!
7. A self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany requests for trail information. PLEASE WRITE Pat Green, Starview Drive, Somerset, Ky 42501; Dr. Harry Kennedy 340 Bogle Street, Somerset, Ky. 42501 (678-4155) or Dr. Robert Drake, Jr., 121 Rebel Drive, Somerset, Ky. 42501 (679-1449).

8. Each hiker should carry their water on the trail.
9. Trail leader is responsible for hikers at all times. Be very cautious crossing Hwy 80. Training in hiking and safety should be given to all before hiking the trail.
10. Please be courteous on this trail and considerate of others at all times.
11. Do not climb on any monuments or breastworks.
12. During the annual hike transportation will be furnished to a driver to return to the starting point and reenactors will be available at the Zollicoffer Park and the Rifle Pits and breastworks.
13. CUB SCOUTS MAY BEGIN THERE TREK AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND END AT ZOLLICOFFER PARK.

***** A SPECIAL THANKS TO *****
PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY AND KNOLL PHARMACEUTICAL AND TO THE MEMBERS OF CHESTER KAISER TROOP 79 THAT MADE THE REOPENING OF THIS HISTORICAL TRAIL A REALITY.
Applications for awards: Zollicoffer Historical Trail TRAIL MEDALS #
REQUESTED at cost of $3.00 each =
TRAIL PATCHES #
REQUESTED at cost of $3.00 each =
SHIPPING AND HANDLING REQUESTED at a cost of $1.00 each =

TOTAL

MAKES CHECKS TO: TROOP 79 BSA LEADERS NAME AND ADDRESS, TROOP NUMBER AND SPONSOR

GENERAL FELIX KIRK ZOLLICOFFER

Felix K. Zollicoffer was a native Tennessean and descendent of Swiss nobility. Zollicoffer worked as an editor for various newspapers and was appointed State Printer of Tennessee and became heavily involved in the Whig party in Tennessee. He previously served in the Seminole War in Florida as a lieutenant. He was elected Comptroller of the Treasury of Tennessee and served until 1849. At that time he became editor of the Nashville Banner. In 1852 he was elected to the U.S. Congress from the Nashville district and served three terms. Zollicoffer was an outspoken advocate of saving the Union and served as commissioner to the National Peace Conference in Washington on February 1861. Tennessee seceded from the Union in June and Zollicoffer was commissioned a brigadier general in the Army of Tennessee. The Confederacy formed a line of defense from Columbus on the Miss. River to Cumberland Gap. In November 1861 Zollicoffer set
up winter quarters at Mill Springs and began fortifications there. Across the Cumberland River at Beech Grove defensive positions and breastworks were established. Four thousand men were under his command but most were poorly equipped with old flintlock rifles and shotguns.

Union General George Thomas approached from Lebanon and was to be joined by General Schoepf from Somerset. At midnight on January 18, 1862 General Zollicoffer led his brigade out of Beech Grove entrenchments to spearhead the attack as a gentle rain fell. Due to poor road conditions and bad weather by dawn they had only advanced 10 miles when they met the enemy. The Union reinforcements had arrived and repulsed all rebel charges and the ground was soon covered with dead and wounded from both sides. Artillery swept the field and a fierce storm raged in fury. The conflict lasted about three hours.

During the heavy rain and artillery fights General Zollicoffer approached a line of soldiers on his white horse. A long green raincoat concealed his uniform. His calm manner and near approach to the Union line convinced the soldiers he was a federal officer. He said “We must not shoot our own men” Colonel Speed Fry (4th KY Infantry USA) responded “Of course not, I would not do so intentionally”. A Confederate officer realizing the danger the General was in came from behind a tree and fired on Col. Fry. Fry then pulled his pistol and fired on Zollicoffer who fell from his horse. Three bullets had mortally wounded the General. Dr. D.B. Cliffe of Franklin, Tenn. was Zollicoffers Brigade Surgeon and had been taken prisoner. He was permitted by General Thomas to embalm the body. Along with his horse, saddle, pistols, sword and spyglass the body was sent to Munfordville, Ky. and placed in a metallic coffin and eventually arrived in Nashville by train. The body lay in state in the Hall of Representatives at the capitol. The military procession to the cemetery was led by the large white horse from which Zollicoffer had fallen. His six daughters mourned their fathers death. The Generals sword and other personal artifacts are on display in Nashville at the Tennessee Museum of Natural History near the state capitol.

For additional reading please consider; THE ZOLLIE TREE by Raymond Myers, 1964., CIVIL WAR SKETCH BOOK by O’Leary M. Meece and other historical accounts of the Battle of Mill Springs; The Rock Riseth: George H. Thomas at Logans Crossroads by Richard J. Reid.

by ROBERT DRAKE, JR., M.D.

Troop 79 was organized in 1924 and is sponsored by the First Christian Church in Somerset and is known as the Chester Kaiser Troop. Over 160 Eagle Scouts have obtained Scoutings highest rank thru the Troop. The annual Toys for Tots Campaign has received national recognition and serves over 1500 children each Christmas.

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old girl in 1902. What type of tree is this?

A tall obelisk was dedicated in 1910 by the United Confederate Veterans to honor General Zollicoffer. On what date did he die?

To your right is a stone marker where over 100 Confederate soldiers were buried in a common grave. From what states did these men come?

Take a short break in the park and enjoy the peace that now fills this former battlefield.

Hike on the left side of the road and be courteous to landowners property. You will pass the Oakalona Church in about two miles then the Delmer Nazarene Church the same distance further. Follow Hwy 235 to the right as it becomes the Old Mill Springs Road.

5. Rifle Pits are difficult to find but are located on the right side of the road behind a galvanized gate on the left side of the path. Prior to arriving at this line of fortification a small cemetery is on the left side but is also partially hidden. Over 500 winter cabins were used by the Confederates and Zollicoffers Headquarters was in this area. This is currently pastureland.

6. You will soon leave Pulaski County and enter a county named for a famous Revolutionary War General who was the hero of Fallen Timbers. What county is this? Immediately to your right is a view of White Oak Creek that empties into Lake Cumberland in a short distance.

Along the road you are now walking, the retreating Confederate Army made a last effort stand at this defensive position behind the rifle pits and breastworks. The fighting stopped at darkness and the following morning the Union Army found an empty camp as the Rebels had crossed the Cumberland River during the night. Along the road broken wagons, guns, swords, cartridge boxes, hats, boots, blankets and hundreds of haversacks filled with corn poke and bacon were found. All mules, wagons and eleven pieces of artillery were abandoned along with many calvary horses. The steamer Noble Ellis and attached flatboats had carried the rebels across. It has been reported that two bronze cannon fell into the river and have been sited by local fishermen in the old river bed in over 200 feet of water. As you reach the final intersection in the road proceed straight for 100 feet to reach Lake Cumberland. As you look to your left you can see the old road along which the retreat was carried out as it approaches Mill Springs State Park.

Scouts are to start Zollicoffer Trail at the Pulaski County Park Road sign. Parking is available at the Calvary Baptist Church.

1. Pulaski County Park is located 1 1/2 miles from this sign. On the sign you will note that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assists in the management of this park. What District is this maintained by? Please cross Hwy 80 with great caution and hike on the left side of the road. You will soon pass Haney's Appledale Farm with orchards on both sides of the road. DO NOT PICK FRUIT WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION.

2. After coming to the top of the hill please cross Hwy 80 and enter the National Cemetery. Over 2100 servicemen are buried here, including many from the Battle. What is the name of the cemetery? Land was donated from the Logan family to bury the Union dead. Gen. George Thomas directed the planning of the Cemetery. As you enter to your left is a listing of all soldiers buried and dates of internment. A marker in honor of a Pulaski County native who received the Congressional Medal of Honor while fighting Apaches in New Mexico is nearby. What was this Sergeant's name?

Proceed to the flag pole in the center. A large stone honors a Major General who fought in the Mexican Border War, WWI and WWII and served under Gen. George Patton as an artillery officer. What is his name? Rest rooms are located in the left rear of the cemetery.

3. A bronze plaque describing the Battle of Mill Springs is located in the front of the bank parking lot. At the time of the battle this community was called Logans Crossroads but is now Nancy, Ky. It is also called the Battle of Fishing Creek or Logans Crossroads. What Union General approached from Lebanon and later won fame as the "Rock of Chickamauga"?

How many wagons of supplies were captured after the battle? The right side of the Confederate Defensive Line was broken by future U.S. President James Garfield at the Battle of Big Sandy in Eastern Kentucky. Please carefully recross Hwy 80 and proceed along the left side of the road on Hwy 235.

4. Zollicoffer Park is surrounded by a stone fence. As you enter the park a large tree to the left is encircled by flowers and marks the spot where General Zollicoffer was killed. Dorothy Burton began the tradition of placing flowers on the tree as a ten year
Battle of Mill Springs  JANUARY 19, 1862

MILES TO GO
1. Pulaski Co. Park.....11.5
2. National Cemetery.....10.5
3. 1st & Farmers Bank.....10.0
4. Zollicoffer Park...... 9.0
5. Old Mill Springs Road..3.7
6. Pulaski Co. Line...... 2.2

To Russley Springs

Cumberland Parkway

To Pulaski County Park

Fishing Creek

To Somerset

To Someret

To Burkeside

To Monticello

To Monticello

To Burkeside

To Someret

To Somerset

To Someret

To Burkeside

To Monticello

To Monticello

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