More than 4,000 acres of heavy virgin timber were consumed in making charcoal to fire the operation during its 35 years of existence. Bars of pig iron and iron products produced were hauled by ox-cart, 21 miles to Montevallo for shipment by rail to the Confederate Arsenal at Selma, Alabama.

The plant operated continuously until the final days of the Civil War, making cannon balls, ordinance, pots, pans and skillets for Southern troops.

The end for the Little Iron works, however, was in sight with the advancing of Union Forces into Alabama. On March 31, 1865, Captain James A. Sutherland was detached by Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton, commander of the First Brigade under Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson, to march on the furnaces, destroy them and head for another torch setting at the University of Alabama some 40 miles down the Huntsville Stage Coach Road at Tuscaloosa.

Three companies of the Eighth Iowa under Sutherland burned Tannehill's cast houses, tramways, trestles, and most nearby settlement houses, but left the three huge stone furnaces stacks with only light damage, parts of which still stand today.

Meanwhile, as the smoke of war hung over Tannehill, other Union Forces broke camp at Arlington in old Elyton, now Birmingham. They raced southeastward to destroy the rail head at Montevallo, thus cutting the Confederate Railroad running from Rome, Georgia, to Selma, Alabama. Valiant but greatly outnumbered Rebel Calvary from Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's "Critter Company" fought, hit and run, delaying skirmishes all along the route.

Mr. Ninian Tannehill, buried in the Bucksville Cemetery, one and one-half miles west of the park and Mr. Moses Stroup, ironmaster, buried at Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Spring Creek Road, three miles east of Montevallo are legends among the Ghosts of Tannehill. The spirit of our pioneers are characterized by folk lore and tales of Charlie Blaydow, buried in an unknown grave at Bucksville. He traded and sold the wares of Tannehill over the backwood trails of what is now Jefferson, Bibb and Tuscaloosa Counties.

You can now camp and hike over much of this Historic Trail. Listen closely and perhaps you will hear the creak of wagon wheels, the bawl of oxen, and the crack of whips as the carts of iron were laboriously hauled down the trail to Montevallo. In the cool of early morning mist see the galloping Union Calvary. Can you hear echo over wooded hills, the distant roar of musket fire and rebel yells? High adventure awaits you.

Trail hike itinerary consists of an overnight camp near Edd Farley Field (Tannehill Scout Trail Base Camp). Visit the Furnace Area by way of Slave Quarter Trail. Hike should leave park area in early morning. Rest break suggested at old slave cemetery. Schedule lunch or rest stop at Shades Creek. Rest stop suggested at pioneer cemetery on Shelby Co.-Bibb Co. line. Each unit may set its own pace. Arrive at Cahaba River in time to set up camp before dusk.

Overnight wilderness camp at Cahaba Ford Base Camp. Return hike next day to Tannehill. Check out by leader. Note hike aids and points of interest as marked on map. Distance approximately 12.6 miles one way. Average hike time 5 to 6 hours. Riders must hike to Cahaba River to earn Trail Patch, but may choose option of return to Tannehill by vehicle rather than return hike. Overnight wilderness camp on Cahaba suggested, but not required.

NOTE: HIKERS TO CAMP AT SHADES CREEK CAMPGROUND AND RETURN TO PARK AREA AT CAMPFIRE MEETING PLACE.
2. TURN OR DIRECTION OF TRAIL (Red on White)
3. WRONG WAY (Red on White)
4. NUMBERED POINTS OF INTEREST (Black on White)

TANNEMILL SCOUT TRAIL RULES AND INFORMATION

Open only to Scouts and Explorers by units.

Official tour permit required to be shown at check in.

1. Local - 250 miles or less - local tour permit #4416 issued by your local council.
2. National - over 250 miles - national tour permit #4419 issued by National Council, through your local council.

Rules:

1. Reservations to hike trail required.
   For reservation phone or write -
   Tannemill State Park
   Scout Trail
   c/o Mr. Ed Nelson
   Route 1, Box 124
   McCalla, Alabama 35111
   Phone: (205) 477-6571 or 477-6701

2. Check in time 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

3. Trail information and maps mailed to units on receipt of $2.00. Camp at no cost - hike trail free.

4. Hike only by units - one adult required to hike trail with every 10 boys.

5. No firearms or fireworks allowed in park or on trail.

6. Extreme care must be taken to prevent forest fires.

7. No cutting or blazing of green timber.

8. No trail bikes or motor driven vehicles allowed on trail.

9. Stay on marked trail at all times.

10. Swimming allowed only if eight point swim defense strictly enforced by unit leaders.

11. Practice all Scout Laws while hiking.

12. Adhere to and uphold outdoor code.
Information:

1. Boy hikers are to wear Scout uniforms and are requested to display Troop, Scout and American flags at camp sites.

2. Hikers are requested to report and/or return to Tannehill State Park all artifacts (Indian, pioneer, confederate) found or located on trail.

3. First aid kit, snake bite kit, and compass are to be carried on hikes.

4. Trash bags are to be used at all times. Please return all trash to check-in point.

5. Hikers are encouraged to report and detail any additions, changes, or improvements they feel would add to the betterment of the trail.

6. Vehicles may meet and carry equipment to hikers at overnight camp sites. (Both ends of trail)

7. Hot sandwiches, soft drinks, ice, charcoal and other food items may be purchased at check-in point.

8. Information on nearby service and/or repair for vehicles available at check-in point.

9. Family camp sites for tents or trailers available at Tannehill State Park. Cost $7 per night for primitive—$3 with water, electrical hook up and use of bath house with flush toilets and hot showers. Several nearby (3 to 12 miles) motels available. City of Bessemer, Alabama, 10 miles north of Park.

10. Local weather reports issued by phone — call (205) 670-5611.

11. Sunday — non denominational church services held at Tannehill State Park. Inquire at check-in point for time. Scouts and Leaders will be welcome at local Churches in area. Please inquire if specific information is desired.

12. Ambulance and wrecker service provided by Hank's Ambulance Service Phone: (205) 428-7333

   Note: Service will be sent to two points:
   1. Tannehill State Park (check-in point)
   2. Shady Grove Church (Marked on trail and vehicle maps)

   Ambulance or wrecker must be met by responsible person at designated point. Service will proceed with guide to any point on trail.

13. Nearest hospital — Bessemer Memorial Phone: (205) 428-0171
   Approximately 10 miles north of Tannehill State Park on Blossom Highway, U. S. Interstate 59.
   NOTE: Located at first amber flashing traffic light from Tannehill.

14. Unit Leader may get at check-in point — Tannehill State Park when signing out purchase Tannehill Scout Trail Patch for each person that has hiked the trail and observed its rules. Cost = $1 each.

15. All funds over and above the cost of administering and maintaining the trail will be turned over to Birmingham Council Boy Scouts of America Council fund after yearly audit.

16. Audit of all trail funds to be performed by Committee appointed by Bessemer-Steel District Boy Scouts of America. Audit will be conducted and reported on or before the last day of each calendar year. Audit report available on request.

17. Hikers should read this booklet to be aware of trail history and rules before hiking.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Tannehill State Park
Bucksilvile, Alabama
(205) 428-7333

Bessemer Memorial Hospital
Bessemer, Alabama
(205) 428-0171

Shelby County Sheriff Department
Columbiana, Alabama
(205) 667-2851

Shelby County Sheriff Department
Cullman, Alabama
(205) 926-1231

Bessemer-Steel District Boy Scout Service Center
Bessemer, Alabama
(205) 428-7333

Bessemer Memorial Hospital
Bessemer, Alabama
(205) 428-7333

Tannehill Scout Trail Committee:
Bessemer Steel District Boy Scouts of America

Mr. John E. Fall (205) 428-0171
Mr. Byron Wilson (205) 428-0171
Mr. Clarence Sellers (205) 428-0171
Mr. Don Keith (205) 491-4227
Mr. J. Gaston Edmondson (205) 491-3500
Mr. J. H. Sisson (205) 787-1173
Mr. Leslie E. Minton (205) 787-2444

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Mr. James Walker, Jr. - West Jefferson Historical Society

Books: The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama by Ethel Arens
First published by Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in 1910.
Reprinted by the 1972 Bookkeepers Press
2408 Canterbury Road
Birmingham, Alabama

Alabama Blast Furnaces - Published by Woodward Iron Co. in 1940
Written by Mr. Joseph H. Woodward, Jr.

Roupes Valley - Written by Mr. James Walker, Jr., McCalla, Alabama

Tannehill Scout Trail

Black 81 Trail check-in point is an old peanut house dating back into the last century. It was moved to Tannehill from South Alabama and carefully re-erected on the spot. Take your first step and you will have embarked on an adventure hike over the historical Tannehill Iron Trail. PLEASE FOLLOW THE TRAIL AND OBSERVE ITS RULES. Much of this route courses over and through private land, keeping the trail open depends on you. Visit and explore only at those points specifically noted in trail hike instructions.

Black 82 Merchant Home: The Rev. H. Merchant settled near this area to raise his family about the same time the AC Railroad was built into Roupes Valley. He migrated from London, England in hopes of finding a better life here. History credits him as being instrumental in starting the industrial giant of the South, Birmingham. This land has been sold and moved from the Coalman Community and reassembled on this site. PLEASE NOTE: Rev. Merchant's upstairs bedroom and front porch.

Black 83 Garden of Inspiration: Native and naturalized trees, shrubs and wild flowers are being cared for by numerous Garden clubs of the greater Bessemer area. NOTE the rugged and rocky terrain, typical to much of this area.

Black 84 Old Ford: PLEASE NOTE and inspect the Ford on your right. This Ford was used in crossing Roupes Creek from the road near the Furnaces to the main Charcoal Road that winds through the area in which the slaves were quartered. PLEASE NOTE how many of these roads in this area were improved and maintained by spreadingGive me the river bank from the Furnaces.

Black 85 "Old Four Corners": Approximately 700 feet east of this point is located the section corner that was called Four Corners. It was of interest in years past because at this point a person could stand in Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Shelby, and Jefferson Counties simultaneously. During a re-alignment of counties by the Alabama State Legislature the Shelby County line has been relocated 1/4 miles to the east.

Black 86 Double Dam Hill: You have now climbed to the top of the first of two Double Dam points on the trail. Due to the topography of the area, it was necessary to use double teams of oxen and/or yokes to haul the carts of iron over steep inclines. There exists a road at the foot of the bluff that拐s back into this road further on. It was used at times, but this was the main route. Observe the rock work accomplished by hand labor of numerous slimes.

Black 87 Ford, Force and Tannery: To your right approximately 300 yards beyond this old Ford site at the base of Sand Mountain was located a force and tannery. During the Civil War it was operated by M. Thomas B. Owens and W. Thomas Lightfoot Williams. The force used iron from Tannehill Furnaces. At the tannery, hides were used to make saddles and leather roads for Confederate soldiers. The raiding Union Calvary failed to locate this operation, but a large flood destroyed it in 1866.
Black #8 Oglesby's Orchard: The Oglesby plantation orchard was located on your right. Although abandoned after the raid on Tannenhill and left to revert to the wild state, blossoms on ancient trees may still be seen in the spring. (PLEASE STAY ON TRAIL)

Black #9 Oglesby House Site: About 1 mile north of this point, "Mr. Oglesby settled in this area in the early 1800's. He established a very large and prosperous plantation and held slaves. Most of the plantation fields were located along the rich, flat bottom and en Rouge Creek.

Black #10 Slave Cemetery: You may visit the Cemetery 30 yards to your left. PLEASE RESPECT THE GRAVES! The Cemetery is thought to have been established by slaves from the Oglesby Plantation. During the Civil War, when numerous laborers were brought to Tannenhill, it was enlarged and used by these people also. Approximately 350 to 400 graves are located upon this quiet wooded hillside. Abandoned, lost and long forgotten, most of the graves have been obliterated by the forces of nature. Only simple sandstone markers were used. PLEASE NOTE that all the graves lay facing East.

Black #11 Bucksville-Montevallo Road: Established in the early 1800's and at one time used as a private Stage Coach Route from Bucksville to Montevallo. Union forces were thought to have raced wildly down this road during the Tannenhill raid.

Black #12 Iron Trail Ford: This Ford was used by the ox carts hauling iron. To the right, a short distance is a Ford used in logging operations of the early 1900's. It is thought that at this point, one of the numerous Calvary skirmishes occurred. NOTE Ford Terrain ideally suited for ambush operations.

Black #13 Stage Ford: The shallow water, marshy bank, Ford used from 1830 to 1860 by stage coaches from Old Jonesboro (Bessemer) to Montevallo. Pioneer families migrating South from Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Northern Georgia also used this Ford on their way to settle the rich farmlands of Central Alabama.

Cove: East of this point, across Shades Creek, on the northern brow of the main spur of Shades Mountain, is located the Cove where Mr. Hall (of Hall's Mill) hid when the Union Calvary raided Tannenhill. It is rumored that this lad of 18 years was trusted by many of the local people to run there with their valuables and hide to hide from the Union raiders. (PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE TRAIL)

Black #14 Roger's Place: Three hundred yards to the west are the ruins of the old home which was once part of a very large plantation. Farmlands in this area were used from the early 1820's until the depression days of the 1930's.

Second Double Team Hill: Over the main spur of the fast declining Shades Mountain double teams of oxen and/or mules were again required to laboriously haul the carts of iron toward Montevallo.

Black #15 Shades Creek: Shades Creek originates approximately 60 miles upstream in an area of numerous cold water springs. Trioneia and the old Crown Iron Works were also located on this creek many miles upstream. (Good fishing has been enjoyed by local inhabitants for years).
Black 23 Ferry: A short distance down the road on your left is the location of the ferry used to cross the Cahaba River in the early 1900's, now abandoned.

Black 24 Cahaba River Scout Base Camp Area: Your overnight camp is located to your left on the banks of Alabama's most scenic and wild river. Turkey, deer and other numerous wild life still abound in this area. Fishing is often at its best along your river front camp site.

Black 27 Bothe Ford: DO NOT CROSS IF WATER IS HIGH AND SWIFT. Wade as the Indians and your forefathers did. Remove your boots and enjoy the cool, clear water on your tired feet. This crossing was used by Indians long before the white man ventured into Alabama. Early white traders made much use of it. This shallow area of the Cahaba River was the main crossing area from the early 1800's to the 1920's. Several years ago during logging operations south of this area, a paper mill poured an underrter concrete slab over the original rock bed. This enabled better access and safety to the crossing during adverse weather.

Black 28 The Old Camp Ground: The area on your left is a local camp ground that pioneers, travelers and church groups gathering for baptisms used in the years past. Local people still enjoy picnics and fishing in this remote area.

Black 29 End of Mine Trail: Due to progress and growth of the local area ahead most of the old original iron trail (from this point 10 miles on to Montevallo) is under black top pavement. For the most part, the trail goes as straight as an arrow down Fearrider to the historic town and rail-head of Montevallo, Alabama. Until a safe side trail is blazed, you must at this point return to your overnight camp site on the Cahaba River. Camp safe and enjoy your night in this historic area. Listen to the sounds of this wild river valley. Smell the fresh night air of the deep woods. Sleep well in the knowledge that on this very spot, Indians, Traders, Pioneers and Civil War Soldiers also camped as you are now doing.

Wishing good scouting to you and your comrades,

TANNENHILL SCOUT TRAIL COMMITTEE

THE TANNENHILL SCOUT TRAIL

Established and Administered by Bessemer-Steel District of Birmingham, Alabama Council Boy Scouts of America

Experience high adventure while hiking and exploring woodland trails rich in early pioneer and Confederate history. Enjoy camping, fishing and nature on the banks of Alabama's most scenic and wild river, the Cahaba. Visit the site of the beginnings of the now vast Birmingham steelmaking district.

As startling as some instant replay from history, the old Tannenhill Iron Furnaces stand today as mute evidence to the fiery raid which destroyed them in the closing days of the Civil War.

Although the old iron works reached its senile of production during the war between the States, it began some 35 years earlier as a small forge producing agricultural implements and cookware for the pioneer population.

Daniel Billman, who started the operation along the rippling waters of Roupes Creek southwest of modern day Birmingham and Bessemer, found the site contained more than needed reserves of all the necessities of early iron making, close by from ore deposits, a bluff of sandstone to furnish materials for furnace construction, water power and plenty of timber for plank structures and charcoal.

Slaves dug brown hematite ore from open pits on the Geothite deposit and hauled it two and one-half miles to the furnace. This is the first evidence of strip mining in Alabama.