

## **Episode 160: The Troubles at Chattanooga**

**<http://civilwar150.longwood.edu>**

The 160<sup>th</sup> week of the American Civil War, October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863, was filled with sporadic fighting between the Union and Confederate forces from Tulip, Arkansas to Ozark, Missouri. During this week in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln also made several very important political statements about the state of the nation and the impact that the Civil War was having on the nation.

The first major event this week was that the Confederate siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee was broken. The Confederates had launched numerous campaigns to take back control of Chattanooga, which was a significant city in the Eastern Theater. Union control of Chattanooga allowed them to keep open a vital supply line, referred to as the “Cracker Line,” which supported Union forces in much of the theater. This riverine supply line allowed the Union to spread their forces to other key regions such as Wauhatchie Valley and Lookout Mountain. The cracker supply line broke the Confederate siege on Chattanooga.

The second major event that occurred during this week was the Battle of Wauhatchie on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, in Hamilton and Marion Counties, Tennessee. The battle was over the control of Brown’s Ferry on the Tennessee River. The Union had recently captured Brown’s Ferry which opened a vital supply line for their forces further south. The Confederate forces, led by General James Longstreet, attacked Union forces, under the command of Brigadier General John W. Geary, in order to take back control of this supply line. Longstreet ordered Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins’s division to mount a night attack on the Union forces. Meanwhile, Longstreet and Brigadier General Jerome B. Robertson led their brigades to block Union forces

from reinforcing Geary. Geary withstood the attacks of the Confederates throughout the night. As Geary was running low on ammunition, the Confederates were forced to retreat. The battle of Wauhatchie was one of a very few night battles that took place during the Civil War. By the end of the battle the Union had 78 killed, 327 wounded, and 15 missing. The Confederate losses were 34 killed, 305 wounded, and 69 missing.

Throughout the week Fort Sumter received several large bombardments by Confederate forces. There was fighting scattered throughout the South as the week progressed. During this week Abraham Lincoln made a political statement at a dedication ceremony for a National Cemetery in Gettysburg, discussing his concerns over the upcoming election and the potential violence that the election might bring. Union General Banks also began his campaign to establish a foothold in Texas despite failures at Sabine Pass and on the Teche River.