



# Hiking Through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail

By Leanna Joyner

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**Hiking Through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail** By Leanna Joyner

2015 Book of the Year (Adventure & Recreation), *Foreword Reviews*

A walk through a substantial slice of the history embedded in the Appalachian Trail corridor from Underground Railroad sites and W.E.B. Du Bois birthplace in New England to the Union occupation of present-day Hot Springs, N.C. Each site has a full-color map for a quick hike, and most have current and contemporary photographs. Extensively researched on foot and in library by a thru-hiker and now Appalachian Trail Conservancy trail-management staff member.

In the mid-19th century, the route that became the Appalachian Trail was closer to the gates of Hell than the legendary birds-chirping, leaves-rustling footpath to relaxation, inner calm, and contemplation it is now known for.

From northwestern North Carolina to the roads to Antietam and Gettysburg, it was a place for skirmishes with Confederate guerrilla forces and all-out battles between North and South.

Two future presidents fought together in two of those battles. One of those Union officers was assassinated 39 years to the day after a pre-Antietam battle at Fox Gap in Maryland. Hundreds died on these lands, and hundreds more were wounded or sickened.

In the decades before the war, the route clearly was one path north toward freedom for escaped slaves and a route south toward their destiny at Harpers Ferry for John Brown's band of 1859 revolutionaries. In the decades to follow the Civil War, some of those emancipated slaves took over the lands of their former owners and developed their own, free communities adjacent to what became the A.T. by 1937.

Those stories and more are included in *Hiking through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail*, published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, lead private guardian today of the 2,189-mile national scenic trail.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

She takes readers to many Civil War sites, where she explains the history in colorful, understandable language. She also tells you how to walk to the sites with clear instructions and color maps.... And I can t forget the photographs. The book is peppered with modern and historic pictures, many taken by Joyner.... If you want an excuse to dayhike the A.T. and learn some history, you can t do much better than to pick up this book. --Danny Bernstein --HikerToHiker.com

#### **About the Author**

Leanna Joyner, who hiked the length of the Appalachian Trail in 2003, brought experience in publications and marketing to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, where today she manages volunteer-based crew and other trail programs in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. As a consultant, she developed community-based programs for the conservancy and researched this guide to Civil War sites along a footpath perhaps more legendary for hiking exploits than history. She lives in the Asheville, North Carolina, area.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Katie Martinez:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled Hiking Through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The Hiking Through History: Civil War Sites on the Appalachian Trail giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life within this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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