

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

The Battle of Brice's Crossroads

By **Stewart Bennett**, Blue Mountain College

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Bennett, Stewart	<i>The Battle of Brice's Crossroads</i> . Charlestown, South Carolina: The History Press, 2012.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. "Title," in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Bearss, Edwin C.	<i>Forrest at Brice's Crossroads and in North Mississippi in 1864</i> , Dayton, OH: Morningside Bookshop, 1979.
Dinges, Bruce J. and Shirley A. Leckie, eds.	<i>A Just and Righteous Cause: Benjamin H. Grierson's Civil War Memoir</i> , Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2008.
Hills, Parker	<i>A Study in Warfighting: Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Brice's Crossroads</i> Danville, Virginia: The Papers of the Blue and Gray Education Society, Number 2, 1995, http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org/publications/monographs/a-study-in-warfighting/ accessed April 28, 2015.
Hughes, Jr. Nathaniel Cheairs	<i>Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A.: Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant</i> , Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2004.
Jordan, Thomas and J.P. Pryor	<i>The Campaigns of Lieut- Gen. N.B. Forrest</i> , New Orleans: Blelock, 1868.

Lee, Stephen D.	"Battle of Brice's Crossroads, or Tishomingo Creek, June 2 nd to 12 th , 1864." <i>Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society</i> Vol. VI. Franklin L. Riley, Ed. Oxford: Mississippi Historical Society, 1902.
MacDonald, Colin F.	"The Battle of Brice's Cross Roads," in <i>Glimpses of the Nation's Struggle. A Series of Papers Read Before the Minnesota Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States</i> 1903-1908. vol. 6. Minneapolis, MN: August Davis, Publisher, 1909.
Mathes, James Harvey	<i>General Forrest</i> , New York: D. Appleton, 1902.
Morton, John Watson	<i>The Artillery of Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry, The Wizard of the Saddle.</i> Nashville, TN; Dallas, TX: Publishing House of the M.E. Church South, Smith & Lamar Agents, 1909.
United States War Department	<i>War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies</i> , 128 vols. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series I, volume 39.
Wills, Brian Steel	<i>A Battle from the Start</i> , New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
Wyeth, John Allen	<i>Life of Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i> . New York; Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1908.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site	This is the NPS Brices Cross Roads one-acre commemorative site administered by the Natchez Trace Parkway. The site is located 15 miles north of Tupelo Mississippi on Mississippi Highway 370 six miles from Baldwin Mississippi.
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Dr. Gustavus A. Gessner - LH-93 Collection	Gessner fought with the 72 nd Ohio at Brice's Crossroads. Part of the collection contains letters, from mainly Union Civil War veterans who participated in the battle of Brice's Crossroads, also known as the fight at Guntown, Mississippi. These men wrote of

	<p>their recollections of the battle and General Sturgis's behavior during the fighting. The collection is summarized at http://www.rbhayes.org/hayes/mssfind/285/gessner.htm</p> <p>To obtain permission to access the collection contact Curator of Manuscripts Nan Card, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio 43420. 1/800-998-7737, ext. 239, ncard@rbhayes.org</p>
Mississippi's Final Stands	<p>Mississippi's Final Stands is an Interpretive Center covering the Battle of Brice's Crossroads and the Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg. The Interpretive Center is located at 607 Grisham St. Baldwin MS 38824, 662 365 3969. The Interpretive Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and closed on most major holidays. Their website is: http://www.finalstands.com/battlegrounds/</p>

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brice-s-cross-roads.html	This is the Civil War Trust's home page for the Battle of Brice's Crossroads which contains basic information concerning the battle and includes maps and pictures.

Other Sources

Scholars

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Google Keywords

<p>While Grant led the war effort from the eastern theater, he put his trust in his close friend Major General William Tecumseh Sherman to command and oversee the work of the Union armies in the Western Theater. According to Grant, Sherman's ultimate goals</p>
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included the destruction of the Army of Tennessee, if possible, and the capture of Atlanta. Atlanta was a major railroad hub for the South and specifically the Western Theater. By taking Atlanta, Sherman would sever Confederate rail lines between the two theaters of war thus continuing to divide the Confederacy. In order to make these goals obtainable, Sherman needed a strong army and a protected supply line. Sherman focused on how to supply his armies throughout the campaign toward Atlanta. Damage to Sherman's supply line would have caused lengthy delays in the Union army's movements and ultimately would have meant disaster for Sherman. One of Sherman's problems and, quite possibly his most vexing, was the fear of a Confederate attack upon his long vulnerable supply line by Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his cavalry forces. In May 1864 Sherman sent Brigadier General Samuel Davis Sturgis with this small army out of Memphis to find and fight Forrest. On June 10 Forrest fought Sturgis' cavalry at Brice's Crossroads, both sides fighting dismounted. The Confederates were victorious driving the Federals back to Memphis suffering 492 casualties to the Federal 1,623 casualties, but Sherman achieved his objective of keeping Forrest engaged and away from his supply lines.
