

**Main Confederate Battle Line
June 1 - 17, 1864**

About a hundred yards southeast of this marker is the remnant of a 15 mile line of Confederate fortifications. These infantry trenches were occupied until June 17th by the Army of Mississippi, a unit within the Confederate Army of Tennessee, Gen. Leonidas Polk commanding. An additional trace of these entrenchments may also be seen close to this marker, on the west side of the nearby road. On June 15th, Polk's left flank linked with Hardee's Confederate corps at today's junction of Hickory View Court and Kennesaw-Due West Road. By June 17th the Army of Mississippi had shifted east connecting with Hood's corps near New Salem Road.

Text written by Dr. Phil Secrist

References and footnotes provided by Barbara Flack, April 30, 2007

Additional wording provided by John Cissell, June 11, 2007

Sources – Main Confederate Battle Line

Bearss, Edwin C. Troup Movement Map, Sheet III-B for June 15-18, 1864, overlay plus base map. Drawn in approximately 1964. (On file at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Research Library. All other information obtained from this research library will be designated with the letters “KMNBP”.)

EDAW, Inc., Consultant. *Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Lost Mountain to Brushy Mountain Earthworks Preservation Plan*, January 1998. (KMNBP)

Scaife, William R. *Order of Battle: Federal and Confederate Forces Engaged in The Atlanta Campaign*. Saline, MI: McNaughton & Gunn Inc., 1992. (KMNBP)

Secrist, Philip L., Dr. *Sherman's 1864 Trail of Battle to Atlanta*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2006.

Temple, Sarah Blackwell Gober. *The First Hundred Years: A Short History of Cobb County, in Georgia*. Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Company, 1935; reprint, Atlanta, GA: Cherokee Publishing Company, 1980.

U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A compilation of the official records of the union and Confederate armies*. Series I, Volume XXXVIII. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891. (Information obtained from this source will have the designation of “OR”.)

Willie Johnson (Historian at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park), conversation with Barbara Flack at the research library, April 11, 2007.

Main Confederate Battle Line
June 1 – 17, 1864

About a hundred yards southeast of this marker¹ is the remnant of a 15 mile² line of Confederate fortifications. These infantry trenches were occupied until June 17th by the Army of Mississippi, a unit within the Confederate Army of Tennessee³, Gen. Leonidas Polk commanding⁴. An additional trace of these entrenchments may also be seen close to this marker, on the west side of the nearby road.⁵ On June 15th, Polk's left flank linked with Hardee's Confederate corps at today's junction of Hickory View Court and Kennesaw-Due West Road.⁶ By June 17th the Army of Mississippi had shifted east connecting with Hood's corps near New Salem Road.⁷

¹ According to the list of sites to be commemorated by this project, the general location for the placement of this marker was stated as being on Frank Kirk Road (no cross street). According to my 2004 ADC Metro Atlanta map, the Battle Park West subdivision mentioned in this text is west of the intersection where Frank Kirk Road dead-ends into Kennesaw-Due West Road. EDAW, Background History, 4 places a section of earthworks between Kennesaw-Due West Road and Frank Kirk Road, implying that they run at an angle SW and/or SE of that intersection.

² The documentation differs regarding the length of this line, so additional clarification may be needed. Secrist, 105 stated this line was 12 miles long. EDAW, Executive Summary page defined it as being 10 miles long. Johnson (KMNBP) was not sure of the exact length, but felt that 15 miles was too long.

³ Scaife, 29-38; Temple, 275.

⁴ Scaife, 37; Temple, 275. Polk was in command until his death on June 14th, after which Maj. Gen. William Loring took over.

⁵ See footnote #1.

⁶ Technically on June 15th this statement would refer to Loring's left flank since Polk was killed the previous day. For the sake of consistency within the text, and since Polk was in command for a majority of the time period described in the text, it makes sense to state it the way Dr. Secrist did. The Bearss map (KMNBP) supports the activity and location mentioned in this statement.

⁷ Temple, 275; also the positions and directionality indicated on the Bearss map support this statement.