This brochure is a public service project of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, a partnership unit of the National Park Service administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, in partnership with the Corinth-Shiloh Veterans Memorial Trail Committee. Special thanks to LaQuita Thomson for her active involvement and insight during the development of the driving tour.

Text by Dr. Carroll Van West
Photography by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area unless otherwise noted
Map courtesy of Cook Coggin Engineering, Inc.

A Driving Tour

1. Shiloh Park Commission Marker: Johnston’s Camp
6020 Tennessee Highway 22
Across from the Old Monterey Café parking lot on Highway 22
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3. Confederate rifle pits/Artillery site
Post Office Road on left near Monterey Hospital site
The edge of the ridge provided a natural location for placement of rifle pits and artillery. Confederate forces held these in place from mid- to late April 1862 in an effort to protect Monterey’s strategic location, its commanding heights, and its many converging roads.

4. Sanders Cemetery
South of the Michie Water Tower on Post Office Road is a dirt road to the right leading to the historic Sanders Cemetery. It was named for Benjamin Sanders, who helped found the village of Monterey around 1847 when he built a general store that also served as the meeting and polling place for McNairy County’s 9th District. Confederate soldiers were buried here after the Civil War, as well as federal soldiers who died in the Union Hospital tent that was set up in the village in May 1862. The remains of 184 Union soldiers were moved from this cemetery to the Shiloh National Cemetery by 1868.

5. Pea Ridge Overlook
About 200 yards southwest of the Sanders Cemetery is the Pea Ridge Overlook, so called because of the name used in military descriptions of this high-point divide between the watersheds of the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. From this point looking south you can see water towers of Farmington and Corinth, both sites of considerable battles. The Union Army controlled this vantage point from April 29, 1862, until they abandoned the area in 1864. John T.

The Civil War touched every part of Tennessee, nowhere more profoundly than southern McNairy County. Here in April 1862, at the crossroads of Michie (a tiny place known 150 years ago as Monterey), Confederate commanders made their final plans before the Battle of Shiloh. This town lay in the direct line between Corinth and Pittsburgh Landing on the Tennessee River. Troops that fought one of the most significant battles of the Civil War passed this way.

After that horrific bloodbath in early April 1862, almost every farmhouse and public building became a hospital for the thousands of Confederate wounded. From the spring through the summer, the Monterey area remained covered by armies of both sides as they maneuvered for the decisive Battle of Corinth in the fall of 1862.

Today, much of the roads and rural landscape that the soldiers encountered in 1862 remains in place, allowing you an unparalleled opportunity to step back in time and experience that forgotten side of the Civil War—how troops moved and constant skirmishing scarred communities and impacted families with the ceaseless demands of war and occupation.

As you explore these special places, please respect private property. Many sites welcome visitors; others ask that you view the property from the public right of way. Begin your tour at Ole Monterey Café parking lot on Highway 22.

1. Shiloh Church
940 Hamburg Road
This present-day church was built in 1872 on the site of the old church at this point. As a result, a drinking geyser got started, and later the site was called “the geyser.”

2. Monterey Hospital
Post Office Road on left
The Monterey Hospital was a converted warehouse that housed dozens of Confederate wounded after the Battle of Shiloh. Benson J. Lossing sketched the hospital in 1866 when he visited Monterey.

Benson J. Lossing, 1866

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