**Battle of Chickamauga**

During the late summer and autumn of 1863, Union and Confederate forces were struggling over control of the key railroad center located in Chattanooga, [Tennessee](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/tennessee). By mid-September, Union General Rosecrans had pushed Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee out of Chattanooga. The Union army of some 60,000 gathered at Chickamauga, [Georgia](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/georgia), located 12 miles southwest of Chattanooga. Though Confederate morale in the region was at a low point, knowing that reinforcements led by [James Longstreet](http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/james-longstreet) were on the way encouraged Bragg’s forces, and the general decided to go on the offensive.

On September 19-20, 1863, Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee with the help of Longstreet and his men defeated the Union forces in the Battle of Chickamauga. After Rosecrans’ troops pushed the Confederates out of Chattanooga early that month, Bragg called for reinforcements and launched a counterattack on the banks of nearby Chickamauga Creek. Over two days of battle, the rebels forced Rosecrans to give way, with heavy losses on both sides. Unfortunately for the Confederate cause, Bragg failed to press his advantage after the victory, allowing the Union army to safely reach Chattanooga. Ulysses S. Grant soon arrived with reinforcements, allowing the Union to reverse the results of Chickamauga and score a lasting victory in the region late that November.