

DUG GAP

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Dug Gap is located on Pigeon Mountain a short distance to the northeast of LaFayette, Georgia. The area appears on the LaFayette, Georgia quadrangle of the U. S. Geological Survey maps.



Dug Gap looking East

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Dug Gap in Pigeon Mountain provided access to LaFayette from Stevens' Gap coming off Lookout Mountain. During the Confederate withdrawal from Chattanooga it became apparent that Pigeon Mountain would have strategic value by providing a second barrier to Federal forces coming over Lookout Mountain. This being the case, provisions were made to block and defend the gaps. On September 8, Confederate cavalry from General William T. Martin's command started the job of blocking the gaps, using large rocks and cutting down trees across the road. The next day, General Patrick Cleburne's infantrymen strengthened the positions by digging rifle pits and building breastworks. The infantry remained in the gap until September 17 when they were relieved by cavalrymen from Joseph Wheeler's command.

General James Negley's Federal division was stopped at Dug Gap on September 10. While the Confederates were unsuccessful in their plan to destroy Negley's Division, they did successfully hold the gap. After the battle at Davis' Crossroads, there were a number of Federal probes against the gaps, but in each case they were turned back "I have the honor to send you the following information," Negley wrote on September 15, "received from a small squad of men sent out to-day for the purpose of observing the movements of the enemy: Straight through Dug Gap there is a low hill covered with trees. The top appears to be cleared; along the top are four large trees, equidistant apart; on the left end is a large pine 100 yards to the left of which appears to be an embankment, running east and west. On the right of the same tree is an embankment with a wagon road at the foot of it. On the brow of the hill to the right of the road are numerous objects resembling wagons. To the right about 400 yards is another tree. Between the second and third trees is an embankment running north and south, about 300 yards long; from the third to the fourth tree, the same bank extends. The top appears to be open and guns, or what resembles them, are plainly visible through glass. There are a great many of them. Behind the hill an immense cloud of dust rises; it is in the direction of LaFayette."

References: Official Records of the War of the Rebellion
Archive and files, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
Raymond Evans, *The Civil War in Walker County*

Significant Views: Modern Georgia Highway 193 passes through Dug Gap, and the site can also be seen from several places in the valley.

Setting: The site is in a highly a rural setting and much of it is a part of a wildlife area managed by the state of Georgia.

Documented Structures, Sites and Features: There are no known wartime features remaining on the site.

Presumed Wartime Features: The Gap was occupied September 8 to 17, 1863. There could be numerous Confederate and Federal campsites and other features in the area.

Original Terrain: The general terrain in the vicinity of this site still retains much of its wartime condition.

Related Sites: Blue Bird Gap, Catlett's Gap, and Worthens' Gap.

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