

LULA LAKE AND FALLS



CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN HERITAGE TRAIL

Lula Lake and Falls is one of the many natural attractions that Civil War soldiers discovered while they were on Lookout Mountain. While they were

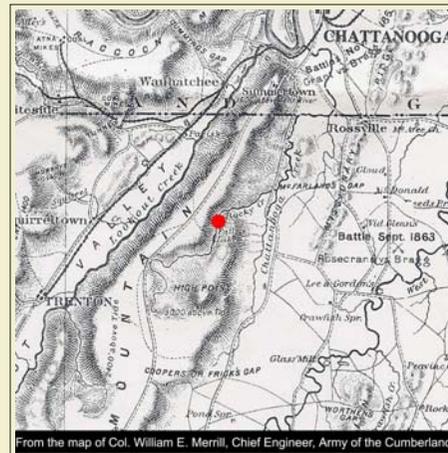


SOLDIERS AT LULA LAKE

on the mountain, many of the soldiers from both armies found time to explore their surroundings. Most of the men were from the flat areas of the deep south or mid-west and were constantly thrilled and amazed at the view when looking off the top of the rugged mountain. All of them who found Lula Lake enjoyed the swimming and

relaxation at the site, and it became a favorite recreation area for the men.

Lieutenant Chesley A. Mosman, a member of Company D of the 59th Illinois Infantry Regiment, left descriptions of some of his leisure activities in his journal. "I went with Company H for beeves," he wrote on September 10, "and we stopped at the cataract. It is a cataract or cascade sure enough. The streams leap down 20 feet onto a bench of rock and then take a further plunge of 60 feet into a basin 100 feet wide by 150 feet long. The stream above the first fall had cut a deep channel. It must be a 100 feet



From the map of Col. William E. Merrill, Chief Engineer, Army of the Cumberland

from the water above to the water in the basin. Basin is said to be 60 feet deep.

"I went swimming with Lieutenant Van Osdel and we couldn't find bottom anywhere except at the edges. Swam across and got under the waterfall which gave us a pretty heavy shower bath. The bluff of rock was arched and there was a great space in behind the waterfall but it was too dark to see how far it went. Drift wood and pine bark was piled up back of the falls. The sides of the channel canyon it might properly be called continued at about the same height for one half mile below the basin and is filled with rock weighing from five pounds to 50 tons, all as black as can be from the action of the water when it is at flood tide. About one quarter of a mile below the water all disappears under the rocks but reappears lower down, coming out from under a rock 20 feet square.

"The water is clear as crystal and the lower edge of the basin is a fine white sand bank. Pine logs 40 feet long and slabs from the sawmill above have come over the falls. I would like to see the stream full to flood tide pitching over the falls. The slabs and logs would



SOLDIERS AT THE LARGE FALLS

pretty near fill the basin and such a tumbling end over end be worth seeing, and one would know how 'the water comes down at Lodone.'

"Built a raft out of slabs and went out into the basin. But it would be a villainous state for one to be in if surprised by bushwhackers while taking his bath. Our own men took a throw at me with a rock from the bank above."

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