WAR DEPARTMENT,
Chickamauga and Chattanooga
National Park Commission,
Washington, September 14, 1900.

CIRCULAR:

In announcing the completion of arrangements for the inspection by the veterans of all armies interested of the various branches of historical work thus far completed in the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, a reproduction of the body of the circular issued with the approval of the Secretary of War, when the dates of the proposed inspection were first announced, offers the best means of explaining the objects in view. This circular was as follows:

“The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park Commission, in order to secure the greatest possible accuracy in its work, embracing historical text on tablets and monuments, landmarks designating lines of battle and important localities upon the seven battlefields included in the park project, has selected Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 9, 10, and 11, 1900, for a general inspection of the work of the commission.

“As the substantial memorials erected on these fields will endure for centuries, all veterans, and the States which sent them forth, are interested in handing down a correct history of the deeds of valor which were there performed. As the history of every regiment and battery is briefly set forth either upon monuments erected by the Government or the States, or the tablets prepared by the Government, it will be seen that every soldier in the contending armies has a personal interest in correcting possible errors, to the end that only truth may be perpetuated in granite and bronze.

“For these reasons the commission desires to secure the attendance of the various parties in interest, namely, the Congress, which will be asked to appoint a committee of examination; the governors of all States which had soldiers engaged in the battles, through such officials as they may select; the State monument commissions which have cooperated with the National Commission in the establishment of the park; the vet-
ers of the regimental and battery organizations engaged on either side, and the general and staff officers of the various armies engaged.

"It is believed that the attendance of enough of each of the classes named can be relied upon to render certain the detection of any errors of moment in the monumental inscriptions or locations, or the general historical tablets, and in the designations of the lines of battle. While the ranks of the veterans of these fields have sorrowfully diminished, enough remain to inspect and intelligently correct all errors, and thus assist, before it becomes impossible to secure such general and united effort, in insuring historical accuracy in the restoration of the notable fields of Chickamauga, Wauhatchie, Brown's Ferry, Orchard Knob, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Mission Gap, all of which are embraced in the park project, and upon each of which the lines of battle have been established and monuments and markers erected.

"At the time named there will be between 1,300 and 1,400 tablets on these fields for inspection, over half of which are the large historical plates, and 328 of which are the historical plates on monuments. There will be 511 locally tablets for verification, 350 regimental markers of fighting positions besides those occupied by the regimental monuments, and 178 battery tablets, making, with 50 to be erected during the coming season, over 2,000 tablets for examination, besides several hundred battle positions of brigade lines.

"While no group of visitors can make a full inspection of the great number of tablets, monuments, and other historical markers, it is hoped that each brigade and division will have enough representatives present to insure the correction of any errors in which they may be directly interested, and by combined effort accomplish what, in the aggregate, will be a comprehensive inspection of all the work thus far accomplished in the establishment of the park.

"The Army of the Cumberland and the Society of that army, embracing many of its most prominent officers, will hold a joint reunion at Chattanooga upon the dates named, and all the regimental and battery associations of that army are requested either to appoint their next reunions at the same time and place or to send committees, in order that the assistance of the veterans of that army, which has thus far been most enthusiastically rendered during the establishment of the park, may be secured for the proposed inspection, which will at the same time probably be the last general reunion on these fields of those who fought there.

"This invitation, coupled with an urgent request to attend, is extended to the individual members of all army societies and posts interested in these battles, both Union and Confederate, and to the individuals of each of the armies engaged. There is, however, no appropriation from which expenses of visitors can be paid.

"Efforts will be made by the Park Commission to secure low fares from all points, and the unbroken record of Chattanooga in accommodating large crowds makes it certain that there will be no increase in hotel, boarding house, or restaurant rates, and no exorbitant charges of any kind. The dates fixed upon are generally those of delightful weather for Chattanooga and vicinity."

The information thus far received by the Park Commission indicates a large attendance. General Shaw, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and General Gordon, Commander of the United Confederate Veterans, have each notified their posts, and earnestly urged active participation. There have been numerous responses from the governors of States whose troops were engaged about Chattanooga, and the State Monument Commissions that have assisted in marking the fields, showing that these officials will be well represented.

The citizens of Chattanooga have appointed committees to see that all visitors are provided with accommodations. Any information needed can be obtained by addressing Major Charles B. Evans, chairman of the general executive committee, at Chattanooga.

Half-fare rates will prevail for the territory west of Buffalo and Pittsburg and South of the Ohio and Potomac. For the rest of the territory negotiations are in progress.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

H. V. Boynton,
Chairman.