

Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp #443
Jasper, Alabama

Published Monthly **November 2026**

The Major John C. Hutto Camp's November Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on
Sunday, 15 November 2026 at 2:00 pm

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The speaker is Bob Sorrell of the Alabama Civil War Roundtable, speaking on Burying the Hatchet, the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion of the Blue and Grey.

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Tunnel Hill Heritage Center & Museum



The Clisby Austin House is a historic 1848 farmhouse located at the Tunnel Hill Heritage Center in Tunnel Hill, Georgia.



Tunnel Hill Entrance as seen from guide's golf cart

The Clisby Austin House (often misspelled as "Clitus") is a historic 1848 farmhouse located at the Tunnel Hill Heritage Center in Tunnel Hill, Georgia. Originally built by Reverend Clisby Austin, the property served as a Confederate field hospital during the Civil War and later as the headquarters for Union General William T. Sherman in May 1864 during the Atlanta Campaign.

Visitors can view the house as part of the guided tour, which also includes the Western & Atlantic Railroad Tunnel and a replica General Store. The site is highly rated for its detailed historical artifacts and knowledgeable guides, offering a comprehensive look at Civil War history and railroad engineering.

Overview
The Tunnel Hill Heritage Center & Museum is a historical site in Tunnel Hill, Georgia that preserves the Western & Atlantic Railroad Tunnel, completed in 1850 as the first major railroad tunnel in the South and through the Appalachian Mountains. The site features a museum with Civil War and railroad artifacts, a replica General Store, and the Clisby Austin House, which served as a field hospital and later as General William T. Sherman's headquarters.

Key Features and Tours
Visitors can take guided tours via electric cart or golf cart to ride through the 1,477-foot tunnel, view original drill marks, and learn about the 1862 Great Locomotive Chase. The ~90-minute tour typically includes the tunnel, the museum, the General Store, and the historic house. Admission is approximately $15 per adult.

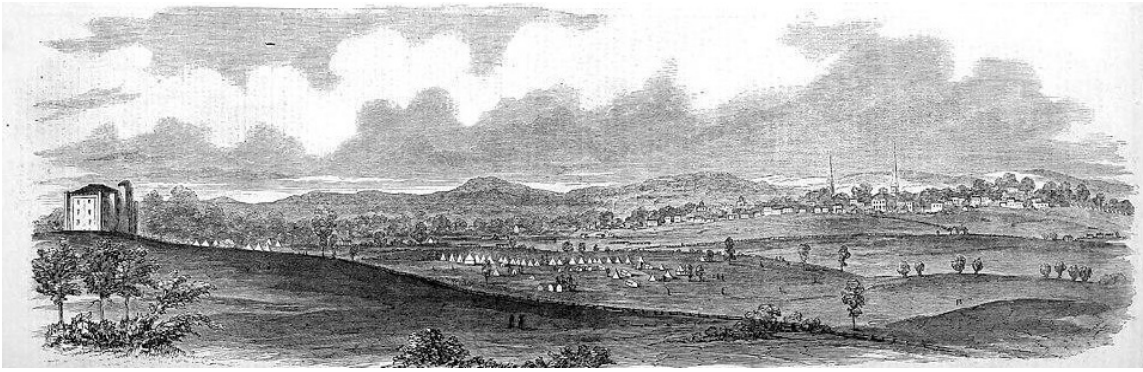
Visitor Information
Location: 215 Clisby Austin Rd, Tunnel Hill, GA 30755
Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Closed Sundays)



John Bell Hood (June 1, 1831 – August 31, 1879) was a Confederate general during the American Civil War. At the Battle of Gettysburg, he was severely wounded, rendering his left arm mostly useless for the rest of his life. Transferred with many of Longstreet's troops to the Western Theater, Hood led a massive assault into a gap in the Union line at the Battle of Chickamauga but was wounded again, requiring the amputation of his right leg. General John Bell Hood recuperates at the Clisby Austin house at Tunnel Hill, Georgia, a distance of about 24 miles from Chickamauga. Tunnel Hill is situated in northwest Georgia, part of the Dalton Metropolitan Area, located between Chattanooga, TN, and Dalton, GA.

Tunnel Hill Heritage Center

The Woman with a Basket
Lilly Jakups
November 2, 2026



A Union officer of General Mitchel's army sketched Huntsville during the 1862 occupation| public domain

On April 11, 1862, Federal troops under General Ormsby Mitchel occupied Huntsville. Among the Confederate soldiers caught there were men of the 9th Louisiana Infantry, who were returning from furlough with a number of recruits. They were taken prisoner and held at the railroad depot.

The sudden occupation brought fear and uncertainty to Huntsville. Mary Jane Chadick, whose husband, Lieutenant Colonel William D. Chadick, was serving with the 26th Alabama Infantry, began recording the events in her diary, Incidents of the War. On April 12, she wrote, “Truly our town is full of the enemy,” adding, “Everybody keeps the front door locked, and I make it a point to answer the bell myself, not permitting children or servants to open it.” The following day she visited the prisoners at the depot and recorded, “They have no food.”

The prisoners soon became the concern of some Huntsville women. An account published in Old Huntsville No. 32 in 1993, titled "Daring Heroines of the Confederacy," describes two women going to General Mitchel and asking permission to feed the Confederate soldiers.

Mitchel replied, “Yes, you may feed the prisoners, but you must feed my soldiers, too.”

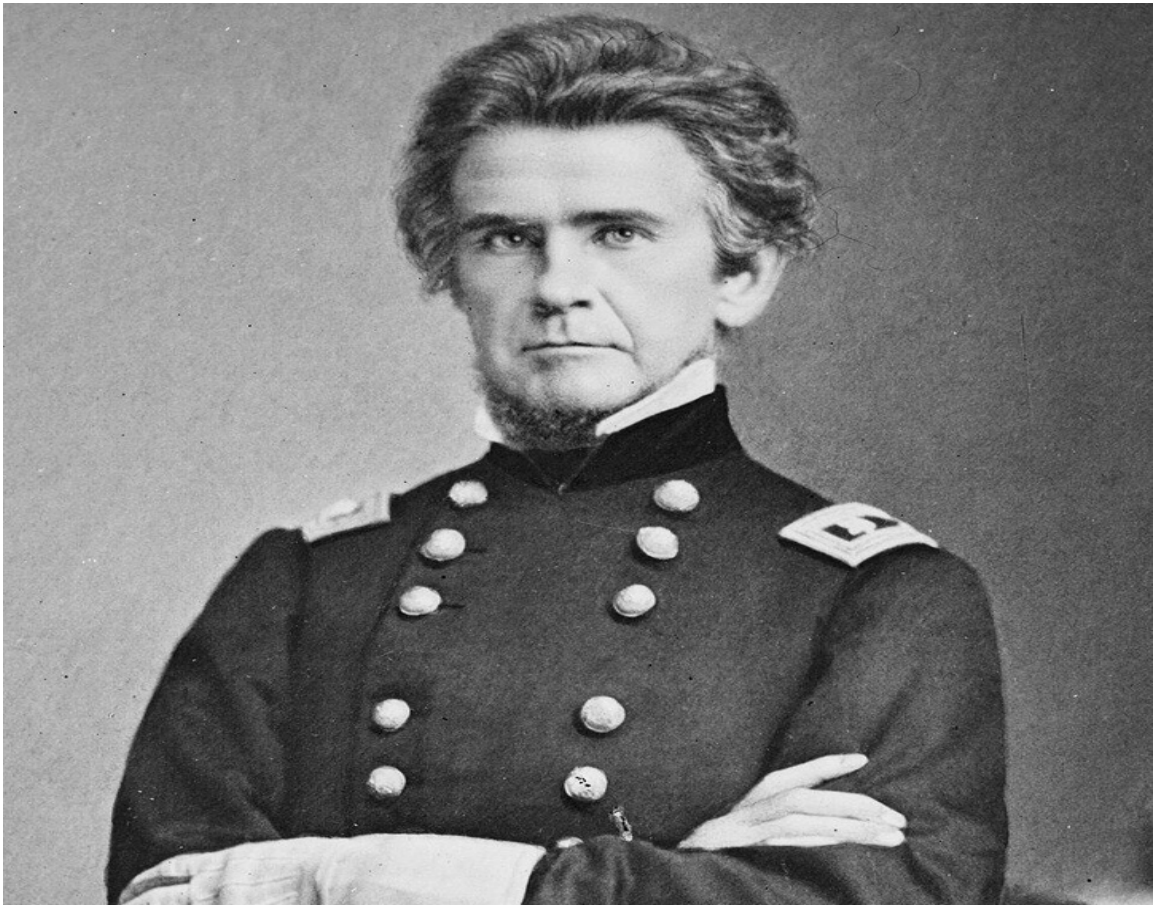
When the women explained that the prisoners were starving, Mitchel reminded them that “they have been fighting the Union army in the east.”

One of the women answered, “Yes, for that we want to feed them. But, General, all brave soldiers feed their prisoners.”

Mitchel then ordered an officer to write “a pass for female bearer to deliver provisions.”

As the women left Mitchel's headquarters, they encountered Joe, a household servant, wearing a Federal blue coat. When they asked where he had gotten it, Joe explained that a Federal soldier had given it to him for “cleaning up his horse and rubbing up his saddle, and shining up his boots and his spurs.”

One of the women told him, “I don’t want you to wear that coat on the street. I want you to take it right home and give it to Aunt Susan.”



That evening, the 1993 account says, “an irregular procession of ladies, beginning at the eastern side of the town and adding to its number as it passed the different houses, proceeded to the depot.” Some had servants carrying baskets, while others carried their own. The baskets were “loaded with provisions covered with napkins or papers to screen their contents.” The women presented Mitchel's pass at the depot and were admitted.General Ormsby Mitchel | public domain

The following evening, the prisoners were again expecting the women with food. A violinist was among the captives, and he began to play. The soldiers began dancing. The Federals and others gathered to watch. During the distraction, the food-bearers arrived. A published account entitled, A Daring Escape, in Old Huntsville No. 122 published in 2002 but derived from a 1902 story, further describes the scene.

The officer at the door allowed “one old colored woman with a large basket” to enter. He lifted the covering and saw “loaves of bread and buttered sandwiches.” Inside, however, “well wrapped in a newspaper, was a large blue overcoat and cap.”

As the Federals were otherwise engaged with the prisoners' entertainment, one of the Confederates put on the Federal clothing and waited for his opportunity. While the guards and spectators watched the dancing, he “quietly stepped out of the little room” and joined the Federal soldiers near the door. When the dancing ended, the guards and spectators exited the building, “and with them the sheep in wolf’s clothing.”

Once outside, the disguised Confederate headed toward the courthouse. A boy met him and “piloted him to a large house near the outside of the town.” There he surrendered the coat and cap, received food and was directed to a safe house for shelter.

The next afternoon the basket returned to the depot, and “the same scene was enacted.” The 1902 account says the practice continued for several weeks until the prisoners were transferred north.

The woman who carried the basket is never named. The account remembers only “one old colored woman with a large basket,” bringing bread and sandwiches into the depot.

For some Confederate prisoners, that basket provided the disguise that carried them to safety.

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HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant	John McGraw
Chaplain	Thomas Foster
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Tony Pennington
Facebook	Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster	Billy Kinchelow
Flag Committee Chairman	Trent Harris
Newsletter Editor	James Blackston

Website: www.huttocamp.com

Facebook - Hutto Camp

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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.