

## **LEW WALLACE surveys battle of Shiloh**

**Source:** [Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana 13 April 1894 p 2](#)

How did Lew Wallace march at Shiloh? This question so warmly debated for 32 years has been settled by a complete and practical survey which was finished Saturday afternoon on the historical battlefield in Hardin County, Tennessee. Everyone familiar with history knows the contention. When the battle opened on the first day, Gen. Wallace, commanding the third division of the Army of the Tennessee, was at Crump's Landing 7 miles below Pittsburg Landing. One of his brigades was at Crump's, one at Stoney Lonesome, nearly 3 miles out and the third at Adamsville, 5 miles out. At 11:30 in the morning while Wallace was concentrating his forces at Stoney Lonesome a messenger arrived from Grant ordering him to move to Sherman's right on the Purdy Road. Sherman was on the right of the army and considerable distance out from Pittsburg landing. The nearest route to the Purdue Road was by a shunpike which Wallace's soldiers had opened 10 days before the battle when the River Road running from Crump's to Pittsburg was rendered impassable by the backwater of the Tennessee filling the Snake Creek bottoms for a mile along the road to a depth of 8'. Along this shunpike Wallace moved with his division and before 3 in the afternoon was on the Purdue Road and well on his way to the right of Sherman's position when an officer from Gen. Grant came up with the information that the union forces had been drive back and an order for Wallace to retrace his march and join the Union forces by the river road. Back Wallace turned, recrossed Snake Creek on the shunpike, struck off towards the river road by the nearest cross road and got onto the Adamsville Road, which effected a junction with the river road near the Snake Creek bottoms. The water had receded somewhat from these bottoms but their condition was still awful. Through the apparently impassable swamp, however, Wallace's command finally struggled and joined the Union forces just at sundown. At the time it was thought he had done remarkably well and it was not until the Northern papers had begun to roast Grant and Sherman for being surprised that they made a scapegoat of Wallace. It was then said he had lost his way, taken the wrong road and occupied a day in marching six miles. For years the controversy waged and Gen. Wallace finally concluded to settle it once for all by a survey. This survey resulted most happily and should forever settle the controversy. It proves conclusively that Wallace's march on the first day covered a distance of 17  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles. The measurements

were carefully made with a chain, a surveyor following with a book and compass. A Journal representative was present and can swear alike to the correctness of the distance and the damnable condition of the forsaken country, travel over it being a most difficult task. The survey disclosed the distances covered on the first day as follows; From Crumps to Stony Lonesome,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles; from Stony Lonesome to place on Purdy Road where second order was received, 7 miles; from that place to cross road, 2 miles; over cross road,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles, over Adamsville Road,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile; over River Road, 2 miles. In the survey Gen. Wallace and the surveyor were assisted by Capt. George R. Brown; Major Ross and Gen. McGinnis. Capt. Brown's services were invaluable. He had gone over the ground 10 years before and knew it like a book. The survey showed the distance to be two miles further by the River Road to Sherman's right than by the shunpike and over almost impassable ground. The survey of the distance covered by the third division in the second day's fight showed to be more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles. This ground was gained by hard fighting over rough and hilly country and against a desperate enemy. When night closed Wallace's division was nearly a mile in advance of the rest of the army. It bore the brunt of the days' fighting and won imperishable glory. In the survey of the second day's progress Gen. Wallace was ably assisted by some ex-Confederate officers who had been opposed to him in the battle. The survey was a glorious vindication for the third division of the Army of the Tennessee – *transcribed by kbz*