

Marvin, first off, enjoy your trip to Gettysburg. If you are planning to follow in the footsteps of the 24th Ga (and are physically able), I'd like to suggest that you do it on foot. Set aside a nice early morning and cover thier route from West Confederate Avenue just south of the Millerstown Rd intersection and walk that mile or so over to the base of Little Round Top. You can make this easy on yourself by following the path of the Wheatfield Rd and taking whatever detours you desire from there. You are likely going to want to spend a little time on the Stoney Hill and since you are following the 24th, most of your actions would be to the south of that roadway within the Wheatfield proper and points east.

Woffords charge was by all accounts a grand one and in many ways it served as the straw that broke the camels back for Union forces east of Little Round Top. It was very much like a gate swinging closed behind any Union forces south of the Millerstown (Wheatfield Rd), forcing the evacuation of Brooke and Sweitzer, and played a great part in shredding the two small brigades of US Regulars that were sent into assist these hard-pressed units. In good weather, it can be a comfortable walk that is fascinating besides. Just by means of orientation, you may want to pick up Jay Jorgensons Wheatfield walking tour book so as to see exactly how Woffords attack was so critical for units in these positions.

Have a great trip!

The 24th Georgia, part of BGen Wofford's Brigade, was among the last Confederate units to go into action late on the afternoon of 2 July. If you have time, you can trace their circuitous route into position with McLaws' Division, but as for their battle action, Wofford's Brigade followed roughly the Warfield road, past the Peach Orchard where all of the Federals had already been cleared out a little earlier by Barksdale's Mississippians, and maintained their line intact into the woods bordering the west side of the Wheatfield, the soldiers marching at right shoulder shift. When they emerged from the woods (the time was about 6 p.m.) they surprised Sweitzer's Union Brigade at close quarters, which was caught in the open facing the wrong way (south), and there erupted a fierce and brief hand-to-hand conflict with liberal use of the bayonet and clubbed muskets on both sides, a rare thing indeed (far less than one percent of all casualties at Gettysburg were caused by the bayonet). If you visit the 4th Michigan's monument in the Wheatfield, you will be in the vicinity of this encounter. Sweitzer's brigade had to withdraw in confusion, as well as Caldwell's Division of the Federal Second Corps, including Brooke's Brigade whose monuments mark their furthest advance that day. Ayre's Regular Division of the Federal Fifth Corps, part of which was facing south on the eastern side of the Wheatfield, was also caught off guard by Wofford's advance and was mauled as a result. The new Visitor Center has some of Lt. Fisher's effects on display; I recall that he was a member of the 10th U.S. Regulars and was killed in the Wheatfield that day by Wofford's men. So although part of Wofford's Brigade had been engaged in close combat, they still had plenty of fight after having cleared out several Union brigades. The Georgians continued to advance with remnants of other Confederate brigades to the northwest foot of Little Round Top and the Weikert buildings on the north side of the Wheatfield (Warfield) road. At that moment the Union Sixth Corps was arriving opposite them, joining the Pennsylvania Reserves waiting then on the north slope of Little Round Top for their retreating soldiers to get out of the way. But it was also clear to the Confederates that with the close of day, Wofford's fresh force alone could not whip the remainder of the Union Army in the vicinity. So when the Pennsylvania Regulars and part of the Sixth Corps began to advance, Wofford's men were preparing to, or in the process of, withdrawing themselves to the woods on the west side of the Wheatfield where they spent the night. That's a brief synopsis of Wofford's Brigade and the 24th. The position of the regiments in the brigade is still not clearly defined, at least to me, so it is hard to be more specific as to the 24th's actual route, but this should get you close.