Horace Mewborn: Beestack Raid

1. Born on March 28, 1818, in Charleston, South Carolina, Wade Hampton was reputedly the richest man in the antebellum South. Immediately following South Carolina’s secession from the Union, he financed and recruited the Hampton Legion, consisting of a battery of artillery, four companies of cavalry and six companies of infantry. Wounded during the fighting at First Manassas, his gallantry led to promotion to brigadier general on May 23, 1862. He commanded a brigade of infantry during the Peninsula Campaign and in July 1862, was transferred to Stuart’s cavalry division to command a brigade. He served conspicuously at Brandy Station and during the Gettysburg Campaign. While at home recuperating from a severe wound received on July 3, Hampton was promoted to major general on August 3, 1863, to command one of the two divisions in the newly organized cavalry corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Major Joseph Mills Hanson, “Wade Hampton,” The Cavalry Journal, XLIII, 185 (September-October, 1934), p. 30; Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders (Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University Press, 1959, 1986 printing) pp. 122-123. (Cited hereafter as Generals in Gray.)

2. Fitzhugh “ Fitz” Lee was born on November 19, 1835, in Fairfax County, Virginia, and was a nephew of Robert E. Lee. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1856 and, while serving in the 2nd U. S. Cavalry in the West, was wounded during a skirmish with Indians. He was a first lieutenant teaching cavalry tactics at West Point when Virginia seceded from the Union. Resigning from the United States Army, Lee was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Confederate States Army, and at the first battle of Manassas served as captain on the staff of General Richard S. Ewell. In August 1861, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the 1st Virginia Cavalry. Fitz was elected colonel of that regiment on April 23, 1862, and promoted to brigadier general for his service during the Peninsula Campaign on July 24, 1862. Like Hampton, Lee was promoted to major general on August 3, 1863, to command the other division in Stuart’s new corps. Generals in Gray, p. 178; Robert J. Driver, Jr., 1st Virginia Cavalry (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1991), p. 198; United States War Department, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 128 volumes (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901, reprint edition, Harrisburg, Pa.: The National Historical Society, 1971), series 1, volume 2, p. 538. (Referred to hereafter as O.R. In addition, all further references will be to series 1, unless otherwise noted.)

3. Rooney Lee, a son of Robert E. Lee, was born on May 31, 1837, at Arlington, the home of his mother’s parents, and later attended Harvard. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the 6th United States Infantry on his 20th birthday, he resigned the commission two years later to return to Virginia. In June 1861, he was commissioned captain in the 9th Virginia Cavalry, and was selected colonel of that regiment on April 29, 1862. Rooney was promoted to brigadier general on September 15, 1862, to command a cavalry brigade and to major general on April 23, 1864, commanding a newly created third cavalry division. Generals in Gray, p. 184; Robert K. Knick, 9th Virginia Cavalry (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1982) p. 85; Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, From Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903, 2 volumes (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, reprint edition, Gaithersburg, Md.: Olde Soldier Books, Inc., 1998), vol. 1, p. 626. Referred to hereafter as Heitman.


8. David McM. Gregg was born on April 10, 1833, in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, and graduated from West Point in 1855. Commissioned a lieutenant in the 1st Draagons, he served on the Western front, where he was involved in several Indian fights. Gregg was commissioned a captain in the 6th U. S. Cavalry in May 1861, and in January 1862 he was appointed colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He saw active service on the Peninsula and in the campaigns that followed. In November 1862 he was promoted to brigadier general, commanding a brigade of cavalry and then a division. He fought gallantly in almost all the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac. Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1986), pp. 187-188

9. William Steedman was captain of a three-month company in the 7th Ohio Infantry, before being commissioned major of the 6th Ohio Cavalry on October 1, 1861, at age 47. He served gallantly throughout the war, rising to the rank of colonel of that regiment. Staats, Richard J. The Life and Times of Colonel William Steedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc. 2003), pp. vii, 73.

10. Charles H. Smith was born in Hollis, Maine, and resided in Eastport when he enlisted Co. D, 1st Maine Cavalry. He was commissioned captain of that company on October 19, 1861. Commissioned major of the regiment in January 1863, he was promoted to colonel on June 17, 1863, to replace Calvin Douty who was killed that day during the Battle of Aldie. Smith served gallantly as commander of the 1st Maine through Grant’s Overland Campaign. Tobie, Edward P., History of the First Maine Cavalry 1861-1865 (Boston: Press of Emery & Hughes, 1887, reprint, Gaithersburg, Md.: Ron R. Van Sickle Military Books, 1987), pp. 452-453, 513.

11. Davies was born on July 2, 1836, in New York City, and graduated from Columbia College in 1857. After studying law, Davies was admitted to the New York bar and was a practicing attorney in 1861. At the outbreak of the war, he was appointed a captain in the 5th New York Infantry, seeing action at Big Bethel, June 10, 1861. He was commissioned a major in the 2nd New York Cavalry in August 1861, and saw his first mounted service in the Second Manassas Campaign. Davies was involved in the fighting at Brandy Station, June 9, and Aldie, June 17, but was not engaged at Gettysburg as his regiment was positioned at Westminster, Maryland. He was promoted to brigadier general in August 1863. Davies participated in the Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid on Richmond, and served through the Overland Campaign. Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1986), pp. 187-188. Further references will be to Generals in Blue. Thopolius F. Rodenbough, From Everglade to Canyon with the Second United States Cavalry (New York: D. Van Nostrand, Publisher, 1875; reprint edition, Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000), p. 495; O.R. 42(2):182; and 42(2):618. 12. Generals in Blue, p. 113.

13. August Kautz was born in Baden, Germany, on January 5, 1828. Not long after his birth his parents migrated to Brown County, Ohio. He volunteered for service as a private in the 1st Ohio Infantry during the Mexican War, and shortly after his discharge, Kautz was appointed to the United States Military Academy. He graduated in 1852, and was commissioned a lieutenant in the 4th U. S. Infantry. Kautz saw service in the Pacific Northwest, where he was wounded twice during skirmishes with Indians. In May 1861, he was appointed captain in the regular cavalry, and served with the 6th U. S. Cavalry in the Peninsula Campaign. In September 1862, he was commissioned colonel of the 2nd Ohio Cavalry, and served in the West. In 1863, Kautz participated in the pursuit and capture of Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan. Promoted to brigadier general on May 7, 1864, he took command of a cavalry division in Benjamin Butler’s Army of the James. Ibid., pp. 257-258. Heitman, vol. 1, p. 586; O.R. 42(2):622.


15. “Cavalry Scouts-Shadburne [sic],” Land We Love, Vol. 3, (August 1867), p. 349. Although the author of this article is unidentified, it was possibly written by Wade Hampton.

16. O.R. 42:2:1233-1234. The report that Lee read has not been located, therefore the contents are unknown. In Lee’s message, his opening remark, “From the reports of your scouts….. makes it difficult to determine whether Hampton submitted a number of raw intelligence reports or one synthesized communication containing information from a number of scouts."

17. Ibid., pp. 1235-1236.
18. Ibid., p. 1242.
19. Thomas Shore purchased 144 acres on the north bank of the Appomattox River in 1725, and built his home, which he named Violet Bank, on a hill that overlooked Petersburg, in what would become
Colonial Heights, Va. The original house burned in 1810, and a new home was built. The house eventually passed to Shore’s three granddaughters, who lived there during the Civil War. In June 1864, Lee established his headquarters in the yard of this house. (“The History of Violet Bank,” found at http://www.colonialheights.com/HistoryVB.htm.)

There was some confusion about the timing of Rossiter identifying his command as the Laurel Brigade. Some members of the brigade believed that he gave them the name for its actions in the Shenandoah Valley in early 1864, but others believed it was the result of the fierce fighting around Todd’s Tavern. Jefferson County Museum, Charles Town, W.Va., David Caldwell: “A Brilliant Cavalry Coup.” The Sunday News and Courier [Charleston, S.C.], October 7, 1894. Caldwell’s newspaper article was reprinted in the Southern Historical Society Papers 52 volumes and 2 volume index (Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1998) vol. 22, p. 166 (Referred to hereafter as Confederate Veteran); O.R. 42:2:1219-1220, 1243.


23. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of South Carolina, Microcopy 267, Roll 367, National Archives, Washington, D.C.: Letter of Thomas E. Mullen, Dean of Wake Forest University, dated July 29, 1972, to Lieutenant Colonel T.N. Courvoisie, The Citadel, in the John F. Lanneau File, Archives, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C. This letter indicates that Lanneau received his Masters of Arts from Baylor University in 1869, and he “was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by Furman University in 1915.” From 1886 to 1888 he was a professor of mathematics and astronomy at Furman University before moving to William Jewell College, where he was professor of mathematics. In 1890 he transferred to Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N.C., as a professor of Physics and Applied Mathematics. He remained at Wake Forest until his death in 1921. The author is indebted to Ms. Jane Yates, The Citadel Archives; Mr. Frederick Young, The Daniel Library, The Citadel; and Ms. Carolyn Gorman, Alumni Office, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., for help in identifying John F. Lanneau.


25. Caldwell: “A Brilliant Cavalry Coup”; Reverend L.H. Davis, “Famous Cattle Raid,” Confederate Veteran, vol. 26, p. 440; Brug, Brig., 4:47-48, Beale: History of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry (Richmond, Va.: B.F. Johnson Publishing Company, 1899, reprint edition, Amissville, Va.: American Fundamentalist, 1981), p. 145; John W. Gordon, (private 2nd North Carolina Cavalry) Diary, entry for September 13 and 14, 1864, Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Va. Most recent accounts of the raid indicated that Hampton’s expedition went to Dinwiddie Court House before turning east toward the Shenandoah Valley. This is due to two articles written by Joseph Mills Hanson, the Superintendent of the Petersburg National Park, about the raid that appeared in the Richmond Times Dispatch, on August 1 and 8, 1943. A sketch map that accompanied the first article indicated that the route of the raiders went to Dinwiddie Court House, then to Todd’s Tavern, after which time it was not identified as going east. At the same time that Hansen wrote those articles the United States was involved in World War II and experiencing severe gas rationing. In addition, many of the secondary roads were dirt and during bad weather were very rough and difficult to travel. As nothing significant occurred during the first part of the raid, probably, Hansen was more interested in getting anyone interested in the raid through the first part of the route as quickly and safely as possible, so they could see the locations of greater interest. Therefore, the route of the raiders is not determined. But the route to Dinwiddie Court House was followed by the Boydton Plank Road to Dinwiddie Court House, where they turned east toward Wilkinson’s Bridge. Wade Hampton was the only Confederate officer to submit a report that has been located. In his report, written 11 days after the event, Hampton did not mention going to Dinwiddie Court House, but stated that they moved “down the west side of Rowanty Creek to Wilkinson’s Bridge, on that stream....” In a letter, written by an unidentified participant in the raid, that appeared in The Sentinel [Richmond, Va.], on September 20, 1942, the author states “On Wednesday last, the 14th instant, a portion of this gallant officer’s [Hampton’s] command received marching orders, which, as usual, were promptly responded to, and at an early hour in the afternoon we found ourselves on the banks of the Rowanty Creek, where we camped for the night.” A second letter written by an unidentified member of Rossiter’s brigade appeared in the same issue of The Sentinel. This cavalryman simply stated that “We left our camp near Reams’s Station on the 14th, and reached the Blackwater on the evening of the 15th.” A letter from a member of the 3rd North Carolina Cavalry, identified only as “Nemine,” appeared in the Fayetteville Observer, on September 29, 1864. Although the published edition of this letter has incorrect dates, which may be transcription errors, the writer said, “The monotony of camp life was broken on the 16th [sic] inst. by a dozen bugses soundings ‘boots and saddles,’ four days rations of ‘hard tack’ having already been issued to the men....” “The night of the 16th [sic] found us on the Norfolk Rail Road [sic], 20 miles below Petersburg.” Private John W. Gordon, Company C, 2nd North Carolina Cavalry, wrote in his diary, “September 14: About ten o’clock we take our line of march; General Heth is in command of our division and Butler’s brigade. After a march of 15 miles we halted just beyond the railroad.” (John W. Gordon diary, Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Va.) In all the memoirs, reminiscences and articles, written by participants that were reviewed for this article, none mentioned going to Dinwiddie Court House.


27. Born on April 16, 1817, Benjamin Belsches was a member of the Sussex Light Dragoons when the unit was mustered into Confederate service in 1861. The Sussex Light Dragoons became Co. F, 13th Virginia Cavalry. Belsches was promoted to major of the 16th Battalion Virginia Cavalry on June 26, 1862, and probably due to his age and the hardship of the war, he resigned his position on February 20, 1863. On April 16, 1864, he was elected captain of Co. A, 4th Battalion Virginia Reserves. George W. Coles, History of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, Together With A Complete Roster of the Regiment and Regimental Officers (Philadelphia: Franklin Printing Press, 1902), p. 119. Referred to hereafter as Coles, Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry.


31. O.R. 42:1:945. Frequently in the Union accounts Cocke’s Mill is spelled Coxe’s Mill, but in avoid any confusion the mill will be referred to as Cocke’s Mill in this article.

32. Caldwell, “A Brilliant Cavalry Coup.”


34. “Great Cattle Raid of 1864 in Virginia,” Confederate Veteran, vol. 22, p. 166. A typescript copy of this article is in the Julian Shakespeare Harris Papers, in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. Although the author of this article and the typescript is unknown, possibly either Shadrumbor or Harris wrote it. During the war Harris was a member of the 5th North Carolina Cavalry and he was detailed as one of Shadrumbor’s scouts. He and Shadrumbor were very close, and Harris participated in this expedition. L.H. Davis, a member of the 7th Virginia Cavalry, indicated in his account of the raid that on September 15 it was rumored among the men of Rossiter’s brigade that he had asked Hampton for permission to lead the assault on the Federal camp at Sycamore Church, (L.H. Davis, “Famous Cattle Raid,” Confederate Veteran, vol. 26, p. 440). Rossiter remembered that, although his “men were ordered to ride in silence, ...the road was hard and in the profound stillness of the night the tramp of the horses could be heard a long distance, and [he] knew it would be impossible to surprise the enemy.” Thomas L. Rosser, “Rossiter L. S. Rossiter L. S. Rossiter
and His Men." Philadelphia Weekly Times, Volume VIII, No. 9, April 19, 1864.)

36. A.C.L. Gatewood, “History of the Baton Rouge or Recollections of Thirty Years Ago,” p. 22, Confederate Papers File, Box 1, Folder 3, Southern Historical Collection, Louis Round Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. (From Weather as Gatewood.) This item is a series of articles from an unidentified newspaper and covers the history of the Baton Rouge. Interestingly, Rossier wrote in a newspaper article in the Philadelphia Weekly Times, April 19, 1864, Volume VIII, Number 9, that he "brought up the Twelve Virginia Regiment and gave orders to the old church site. (Handwritten notes in Ranger Chris A. to Hopewell and Prince George County (n.p., 1939), p. 60. “The Army of the Potomac,” Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/19/64; Chris Calkin’s file concerning Hampton’s raid, Petersburg National Battlefield Park, Petersburg, Va. 40. Merrill, First District of Columbia Cavalry p. 273.


42. Gatewood, p. 22.

43. Tobie, First Maine Cavalry, 349.

44. Merrill, First District of Columbia Cavalry, p. 280-281; McDonald, Laurel Brigade, p. 287.

45. Merrill, First District of Columbia Cavalry, pp. 281-282; Tobie, First Maine Cavalry, pp. 251-252.


55. Ibid. 56. O.R. 42:1:822, 829-830, 945.


65. Ibid. Entry for September 15, 1864.

66. Ibid, Entry for September 11, 1864. The two deserters were Privates Charles H. Langford and Larkin C. Roy, both of Company D, 10th Virginia Cavalry. (Robert J. Driver, 10th Virginia Cavalry (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E.Howard, Inc., 1992), pp. 135 and 156.)

69. Ibid. p. 875.

70. Report of Meade to Grant, 9/19/64, in the hands of a collector who wishes to remain unidentified, also O.R. 42:1:33 and 35.


(or Ebenezer as it sometimes appears) Church. George Carrington Mason placed the church on the west side of Jerusalem Plank Road, a half-mile south of Belsches’ Mill. The confusion over the location arises from Civil War maps of Sussex County, which place the church on the same side of the road as Mason, but opposite the intersection of what is today known as the ‘Cabin Point’ Road. This places the church immediately east of Belsches’ Mill, and about a half mile north of Mason’s location. George Carrington Mason, Tidewater Churches of Colonial Virginia (Richmond, Va.: Whittet and Shepperson, 1945), pp. 43-44; Major General George B. Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph W. Kirkley, Capt. Calvin D. Cowles, W. D. Crowninshield, Compiler, The Official Atlas of the Civil War (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891-1895, reprint edition, New York: Arno Press, 1978), plate XXIII, number 1; Jeremy F. Gilmer map of Sussex and Surry counties, Gilmer Map Collection, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va. Mason noted that the church, known as the Nottoway Church, was in use in the early 1700s, and after falling into disuse was abandoned about 1787. In the early nineteenth century Hugh Clark Belsches, the father of Benjamin Belsches, rebuilt the Scotch Presbyterian church on his property, directly across from the Jerusalem Plank Road from the entrance to his plantation, Greenyard. Services at the church ended with the Civil War and the church was abandoned. After the war the empty building was sold and the timbers were used to erect a house. Unfortunately, the home burned a few years later. By 1945 “Only a few fragments of colonial brick now remain to mark the site of the old church and its surrounding graveyard, although it is said that the last two gravestones were placed eighteen inches under ground for preservation, in their original location, at the orders of Major Benjamin Belsches’ widow, when the land was put under cultivation. The site was once covered with large trees, but now lies in a plowed field on Greenyard plantation, directly opposite the entrance lane to the first Hugh Belsches’ colonial mansion house, which is still standing.”


87. Ibid.


89. Joseph Mills Hanson, “Rusting Yankee Beefsteaks,” part II, Richmond Times Dispatch, August 8, 1943.

90. Diary of John H. Claiborne, Senior Surgeon, Army of Northern Virginia, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.


96. Davies’s Report, O.R. 42:1614; Crowninshield, First Massachusetts Cavalry, p. 239.


Chris Calkins: Apple Jack Raid


2. For a detailed battle narrative on the various engagements known collectively as Peebles’ Farm, see Richard I. Wildlife, The Story of Stony Creek at Petersburg, (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1981). Stony Creek Depot not only served as a supply base for Lee’s army after August 1864, but was also visited by a couple of Union cavalry raids. On June 28-29, General James H. Wilson’s troopers, riding with those of General August Kautz, encountered Confederate General Wade Hampton’s cavalry at nearby Sappony Church. Located a few miles west of the depot, a spirited engagement took place before the Federal cavalry withdrew and headed north to Reams Station. On December 1, General David M.M. Gregg’s cavalry attacked Stony Creek. An unknown Southerner wrote, “Sunday, December 4th: The demonstration of the Yankees only resulted in a raid on Stony Creek Depot on Thursday in which they were successful—capturing the Garrison—some 200 men—spiking 2 ps artillery—destroying a small lot of Government supplies, one train of cars and burning every building on the premises—after which they beat a hasty retreat before the ‘reb’ arrived on the ground.” Benjamin W. Crowninshield, A History of the First Regiment of Massachusetts Cavalry Volunteers (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1891) p. 445 confirms this by stating “Stoney Creek Station was protected by a fort mounting five guns, and there was a garrison of dismounted cavalry. Besides this force, Hampton’s division of cavalry was camped only a mile away. Near the station were a mall and large storehouses...” On December 1, 1864 The 2d [Brig. Gen. J. Irvin Gregg] and 3rd brigade [Colonel Charles Smith] at once attacked the station. The garrison was surprised and at first made slight resistance, and soon threw down their arms; but retook their weapons and continued the fight on small assailing force. The fort was attacked by our cavalry mounted, and the enemy was surrounded, and surrendered. Two brass guns were thrown into the well, and the three others—32-pounders [sic]—were brought off. The mills, factories, shops, and storehouses were destroyed, besides destroying 300 bales of cotton, 500 hays, 300 axes, 50 shovels, and 50 barrels of whiskey. While the fire was raging, Hampton’s cavalry came up, but was repulsed after a lively fight. General Davies, who had a fatality for getting hit in the foot, was again struck in the same by a spent ball. All the force retreated after their work was fully accomplished, and arrived in camp at ten p.m., after a most successful expedition and a march of fifty miles.” Official reports show between 170-190 prisoners, 8 wagons and 30 mules taken. At Duval Station, south of Stony Creek, railroad property was destroyed. Indeed, it appears the 30-pounder guns were not taken back, but rather thrown into Stony Creek where the fort guarded the bridge. In the early part of this century, one was extricated from its watery grave and now is proudly displayed in the village. The tube was made of iron at Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond and has “C.S.” stamped between the trunnions. Casualties for this sortie were 4 killed, 38 wounded, and 16 missing Union soldiers, Confederates unknown. According to Henry S. Boozer, Company H, Holcombe Legion Infantry Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, Confederates of States of America (Sumpter, S.C.: Sumpter Printer Company, n.d.). The Holcombe Legion had four companies stationed at Stony Creek, four at the Nottoway River bridge and two at Rowanty Creek bridge. This expedition preceded the Hicksford Raid by six days and locked out the section of the Weldon Railroad from Stony Creek to the Nottoway River Bridge, which was five miles south of the depot and protected by a redoubt on the north side. United States War Department, War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (124 volumes, with Index and Atlas, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1891; Series I, Vol. XLI, Part 1, p.25, General Warren states in a report to General Meade dated December 11, Sussex Court House, “Time did not allow me to go in between Nottoway and Stony Creek, but that can be done any time.” Hereafter cited as O.R. Salmon, Virginia’s Historical Markers, Sussex County is made up of 515 square miles and was formed from Surry County in 1753; it was named for the English county of Sussex.

3. O.R., 42, Part 1, p. 442. While examining General Governor M.M. Gregg’s papers in the New York State Archives on a trip to Albany, I found a map with no title but with the notation “survey from Hd Qrs A of P.” Sussex C.H. immediately caught my eye and I realized that at some point, the Federal army surveyed the entire route of the Hicksford Expedition showing landscape features (tree outlines) and every house with it’s occupant’s name. It was this map that we superimposed upon modern county and topographical maps to study this raid. O.R. 42, Part 1, p. 447, dated: January 28, 1865, Warren mentions a map of the expedition having been “prepared with great care on a scale of five miles.” This might possibly be the one. See also page 449, O.R., 42, Part 1, for a smaller version of the route map.
Edwin B. Houghton, The Campaigns of the Seventeenth Maine, Portland: Short & Loring, 1866, p. 247-8. On their return march a few days later, the regiment remarked that “Hawkinsville was in flames, as we passed on it our march, and not a vestige, save the chimneys, remained to show where it once stood.”

William Henry Locke, The Story of the Regiment, (J.B. Lippincott Co., 1868), p.366. Ruth L. Siliker (ed.), The Rebel Yell & the Yankee Hurrah, (Camden, Maine: Down East Books, 1985), p. 225; 227. Haley writes in his diary “we set fire to the Court House [December 11th], which held many valuable records. General Warren now issued an order to burn all the houses along the road within two miles of it on either side.” Charles S. Wainwright, A Diary of Battle, New York: Harcourt, Brace & World Inc., 1962), p. 488, states that the courthouse was “a rather pretentious stucco Court House.” Joseph Murphy enlisted at age 18 years that the courthouse was “a rather pretentious stucco Court House.”

The Greensville County Historical Society, History of the First Virginia Volunteers through 1862. (J.B. MacCrellish & Quigley, 1884, p. 26. C.G. Chamberlayne, Ham Chamberlayne—Virginia, Richmond, Va: Press of the Dietz Printing Co., 1932, p. 297. J.F.I. Caldwell, The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians Known First as Gregg’s and Subsequently as McGowan’s Brigade, Philadelphia: King and Baird, Printers, Philadelphia, 1866, pp. 188-189. William Miller Owen, In Camp and Battle with the Washington Artillery of New Orleans, Boston: Ticknor and Co., 1885, pp. 358-9. James I. Robertson, Jr. (ed.), Letters of General Robert McAllister, p.557-8. Walter Clark, Vol. III, pp.633-4. Colonel W.P. Roberts and with the 2nd (19th) North Carolina Cavalry,icketed and guarded the Meherrin above Hicksford. From the current residents of Leaville, I found that the present-day plantation house is postwar, built on the site of the earlier one. The smokehouse still stands, though, quite possibly the one McAllister described. One of the ladies of the house, nearing 100 years old at the time of our visit, and the oldest resident of Sussex County, listened intently as I read to her General McAllister’s account of his visit in 1864. Upon hearing it she retorted by saying she remembered Mrs. Leaville, not Mr. McAllister’s account of his visit in 1864. Upon hearing it she retorted by saying she remembered Mrs. Leaville, and no indeed, she was not ugly and cross-eyed! Richmond-Times Dispatch, “Sussex’s oldest resident Sarah A.F. Robinson died,” September 23, 1990. Mrs. Robinson was 104 when she died, having been born in 1886.

Philip Cheek and Mair Pointon, Sauk County Riflemen, Co. F, 6th Wisconsin, 1899, p. 187. O.R, 42, p. 445-498; 516; 520; 526; 528; 531; 965. Another report said seven Confederates were killed and wounded, along with three horses killed. D.B.R., “Barringer’s N.C. Brigade of Cavalry,” The Daily Confederate, Raleigh, N.C., February 23, 1865. Walter Clark (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-65, Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 1901, Vol. III, pp.633-36. 5th (63rd) North Carolina Cavalry—“At Morris’ Mill we drove him [the enemy’s rear guard] from the bridge and pushing on soon met some cavalry, charging and dispersing them. The leading squadron of the Third Cavalry (41st N.C.) dashed into the main body of the enemy, who were found preparing to go into camp. Finding their force there I withdrew to Morris’ Mill, two miles back to bivouac.” “About 9 o’clock at night, Captain Harding of Company K, got the enemy’s rear guard fairly started and charging them over two miles, forced them back precipitately into their camps. His zeal led him too far and into a furious fire from the enemy’s interior guards . . . [the captain] succeeded in extricating his command with a loss of only about a dozen men . . . That ‘interior guard’ formed an ambuscade for Captain Harding’s troopers.” The pursuit of the Federal column ended on December 11 when “General Barringer followed the enemy until they crossed the Nottoway River.”


Henry Murray, CWTI, p.16.