

Philadelphia

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

Confederate cavalry brigades of Colonels J. J. Morrison and George Gibbs Dibrell routed a Union cavalry brigade under Colonel Frank Wolford capturing over 400 prisoners as part of the Knoxville campaign

COUNTY:

Loudon

DATE:

10/20/1863

GEO COORDINATES:

35.6795° N,
84.4038° W

HISTORICAL THEMES

Controlling Resources, Crucible for Leadership, Guerilla Warfare, Influence on Campaign

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

MEDIUM

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

Photos of Trials Marker
Accounts of Engagement per Col. J.J. Morrison

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

Col. J.J. Morrison
Col. George Dibrell

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

N/A

UNION UNITS:

Col. Frank Woford



Civil War Trails Marker in Philadelphia, TN

Accounts of Engagement at Philadelphia:

War of the Rebellion: Serial 054 Page 0013 Chapter XLIII. ACTION AT PHILADELPHIA, Tennessee

(Colonel Wolford's brigade) in line of battle. Sent one regiment to Loudon to make a demonstration at that place to prevent Colonel Wolford's force being augmented by the forces at Loudon. I attacked him at once with the remainder of my force, numbering 1,200. After a very severe fight, with twice my number pitted against me, supported by six pieces of artillery, I succeeded in completely routing him, capturing all of his artillery (six pieces), entire wagon train, with many fire-arms and ammunition. Captured 400 prisoners.

My loss will foot up 10 killed, 68 wounded, and 70 missing.

The whole command acted very gallantly. I will report in full at the earliest opportunity.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

J. J. MORRISON,

Colonel, Commanding Second Cavalry Brigade.

P. S.-Colonel Wolford fell back in great confusion upon four regiments of infantry at Loudon. Night prevents me from pursuing him.

HEADQUARTERS MORRISON'S BRIGADE,

Ballard's, October 21, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your dispatch. Have ordered the wagons, artillery, &c., back as directed. I have been skirmishing with the enemy's advance this morning. They have advanced their infantry, about 3,000 strong, this side of Loudon. The last I have heard of them, their cavalry have been trying to execute a flank movement. I think it very probable that we will have to fall back nearly to Sweet Water, where there are fine natural advantages, as it would not be prudent-so Colonel Dibrell, General Vaughn, and myself have concluded-if the enemy advances, to remain here, as he was re-enforced last night by the Ninth Army Corps, of Burnside's command; so I have learned from a very reliable Southern man from Loudon this morning. I consider the information reliable. I do not think it possible to move them from Loudon without a stronger force than I have. When Mr. Ballard left Loudon the Ninth Corps was on the opposite side, but preparing to come to this side of the river. General White is in command. Loudon is not fortified yet by the enemy. I have thorough scouting parties in the neighborhood of Loudon and will push the enemy as far that way as possible. Will keep you constantly advised of their movements.

I am, colonel, your obedient servant,

J. J. MORRISON,

Commanding Second Cavalry Brigade.

LEGEND OF TERMS:

Historical themes: Topics and subject matter that characterize the battlefield including Control of Tennessee's Resources, Crucible for Leadership, Guerilla Warfare, Transformation in Warfare, Enslaved People, and Influence on Campaign. Sites are identified that exhibit themes at moderate to high levels, and some sites may contain one or more Historical Themes.

Preservation Opportunity Index (POI): A rating assigned for each battlefield to indicate relative opportunity and potential for successful site preservation. The Index is generated by a model that evaluates ratings assigned for site significance, condition, risk of loss, protection potential, and opportunities for interpretation. Based upon the POI values for each region in Tennessee (West, Middle, East), sites are indicated as having High, Medium, or Low opportunity.

Geo Coordinates: General/central location of the battlefield area per latitude and longitude coordinates utilized in Google Earth

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON A BATTLE SITE?

Please email us at info@tcwpa.org and we will reach out to you soon. If you have copies of documents or photos to share, you can include those. If you want to discuss by phone, we will schedule that too.

HELP US COLLECT INFORMATION TO PRESERVE THESE BATTLEFIELDS

TCWPA's Statewide Preservation Plan team captains are recruiting volunteers to help gather information about many of the lesser-known sites with hopes of verifying the condition of each site and identifying opportunities for preservation and interpretation.

If you are interested in helping, please contact TCWPA at info@tcwpa.org .

TCWPA will not publish nor release any confidential information, or the name of the contributor, unless you request to be recognized.

Thank you!

The logo for the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) is displayed in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the lower-left corner of a dark blue banner that features a background image of a Civil War-era cannon.

Have Information on a Civil
War Battlesite?

Contact our team at info@tcwpa.org