

Antioch Station

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

On April 10, 1863 Confederate cavalry from Gen. John Wharton's brigade attacked a train on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad near the bridge crossing Mill Creek. The Confederates killed or wounded about 20 of the 40 guards on the train. They forced the remaining soldiers and civilians from the train, confiscated mail, money and other items of a value and destroyed 7 rail cars.

HISTORICAL THEMES

Guerilla Warfare

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

Current map of battlefield site accounts of battle from 10th Michigan Infantry regimental history and Official Records War of the Rebellion

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

N/A

COUNTY:

Davidson

DATE:

4/10/1863

GEO COORDINATES:

36.1023° N,
86.7407° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

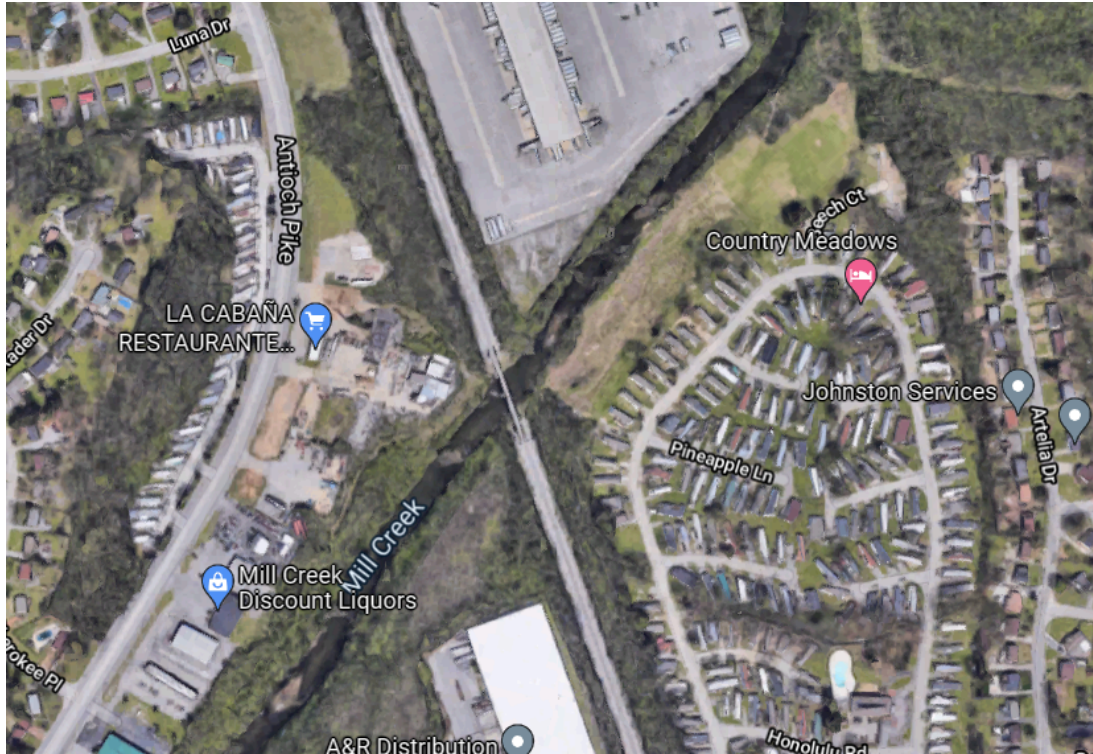
LOW

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

Wheeler's Cavalry
Brig. Gen. John
Wharton's brigade

UNION UNITS:

10th Michigan
Infantry



Description of engagement at Antioch Station, April 10, 1863 from Formation, Movement, Camps, Scouts and Battles of the Tenth Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry, written and compiled by F.W.H., John Slaters Printing Establishment, Detroit, 1864 (pp. 38-39). Note: the account erroneously references the battle as April 01.

A FIGHT.

APRIL 01—A detail of companies H and E being guard on a passenger train to Murfreesboro, met with a sad accident as it was attacked on its return. When the train had passed Lavergne some three miles on its way to Nashville, upon hearing a point of cedars which came up close to the railroad, volley after volley of musketry was poured into the train and guard, by a body of rebel cavalry in ambush. The train was

stopped on some account, and the cavalry made great slaughter with the guard. Our boys jumped from the cars and fought until the rebels were almost on to them, and with eight times their number, when they made the best of their way for safer quarters. Lieut. F. M. Vanderberg, of Company E, in command of the guard, was hit at the first volley, but he rallied his men, when he was hit a second, then a third time, when he fell. After he fell the guard fought from whatever cover they could find, until they were nearly surrounded. Our loss, compared with the number of the guard, was great. Out of forty-four guards five were killed, ten wounded, and three taken prisoners. Making a loss of eighteen men.

LOSS IN COMPANY E.

Killed—Freeman Young, shot through the head; Frank Tacy, shot in the head; Geo. W. Bartlett, shot in the abdomen; Wm. Jones, shot in the head. Wounded—Lieut. Vanderburg, mortally, in abdomen, shoulder and hip; Sergt. Chapman, mortally, head; James Murphy, mortally, abdomen; Sergt. J. M. Corrington, forehead, wrist and finger tip; Patrick Lane, hips; Robert Pigne, foot; Urias Pigne, hips and hand; John Harris, thigh, slightly. Prisoner—Peter O'Neil, paroled.

LOSS IN COMPANY H.

Killed—Benj. Wallace, shot in the head. Wounded—John Lashbrook, hip; David Henry, thigh. Prisoners—Wm. G. Harris, Miron M. Hungerford. Both escaped without being paroled.

Lieut. Vanderburg telegraphed immediately for his father, who arrived a few days before he died. His death occurred on the 18th. His remains were taken home by his father.

Sergt. Chapman, who was hit in the head (the ball penetrating the skull), was insensible until he died, on the 14th. James Murphy lived but two days, dying on the 12th.

Report of Col. George P. Este, Fourteenth Ohio Infantry, of affair at Antioch Station, Tenn., HDQRS. 2d BRIGADE, 3d DIVISION, 14TH ARMY CORPS, La Vergne, April 12, 1863. COL.: I have the honor to report the following relative to the attack upon the Nashville and Murfreesborough passenger train, upon the 10th ultimo [instant]: The train was attacked 5 1/2 miles from La Vergne, toward Nashville, about 4.30 p. m., by a force of between 200 and 300 rebels, besides a supporting force of about 200 held in reserve, and one threatening the stockade at Mill Creek, in all about 600, under the command of either Gen. Wharton or Col. [Baxter] Smith, of the Tennessee cavalry. The resistance by the train guard was of a fable character, owing, doubtless, to the suddenness of the attack and the fatal effects of the rebel fire. The guard soon fled, and the rebels took possession of the train, capturing most of the passengers, releasing some 43 prisoners, plundering the mail and express packages, and robbing the passengers of money, watches, clothing, boots and hats, and setting fire to and destroying seven cars. They accomplished all this in less than twenty minutes and retired with their prisoners and booty, reaching and crossing Williams' Ford, 10 miles from La Vergne, some time before dark. At a point some 2 miles beyond the river they paroled the prisoners, about 70 in number, excepting Col. Wood, Fifteenth Indiana Volunteers, Col. Buell, Fifty-eight Indiana Volunteers, Maj. Cupp, First Ohio Cavalry, Capt. Milburn and Capt. Bevill, Tenth Kentucky Volunteers, and 7 other officers, who refused to accept a parole.

Taking these officers with them, the rebels moved in the direction of Baird's Mills, upon the Lebanon and Murfreesborough pike, intending to reach there before daylight. The loss of the Federals was 6 killed and 13 wounded, 3 mortally. The rebels lost 6 killed, 6 wounded, and 3 prisoners. I did not hear of the attack upon the train until nearly 6 o'clock, when I immediately ordered out all the cavalry here (about 100) and ten companies of infantry. The cavalry I sent down the pike to intercept, if possible, the rebel retreat, while I placed the infantry upon a train of cars, to be immediately moved to the scene of action. Both cavalry and infantry arrived too late to do any good, the rebels having too far the start. I need not assure you of my vexation at this successful raid. Prior to its occurrence I had received, as I thought, the most satisfactory evidence from scouts, citizens, and contrabands that no rebels were in the vicinity in any considerable force. During the week I had scoured both sides of Stone's River myself, with the cavalry, without being able either to see or hear of any rebel force. The successful expeditions of Col. Wilder and Gen. Mitchell had caused me to believe that there were no rebel cavalry to the south of Lebanon or west of Liberty. Upon the day of the attack my patrols had failed to discover any signs of the rebel forces. I have since learned that they left Lebanon the morning of the day they did attack, and only reached the place of disaster ten minutes before the train arrived. From all the evidence, I am led to believe that they neither placed any obstructions upon the track nor displaced any rails prior to the attack, but that the tender and cars were thrown off the track by the too sudden reversal of the engine for the purpose of running back. I am now sending upon each day, as far as Antioch, a full regiment of infantry in the freight train in rear of the passenger train going to Nashville. I have two lines of cavalry patrols, extending from La Vergne down 7 miles, but, in order to be better able to guard against such disasters, I ought to have more cavalry or mounted men. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest the concentration of the regiment of cavalry now divided between Stewart's Creek and La Vergne at this point. Each detachment is too weak to do much by itself, whilst, if together, it might effect much good. I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant, GEO. P. ESTE, Col., Cmdg

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!



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Have Information on a Civil War Battlesite?

Contact our team at info@tcwpa.org