

# Insane Asylum, Cox's Hill

**tennessee  
civil war  
preservation  
association**

## **NARRATIVE**

On January 3, 1863 Union forces consisting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Tennessee Cavalry and the 6<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry were in a line of march on the Murfreesboro Pike where they engaged Confederate cavalry in a small skirmish at Cox's Hill (Insane Asylum). After repulsing a Confederate attack the Union column advanced to La Vergne in support of a supply wagon train.

## **COUNTY:**

Davidson

## **DATE:**

1/3/1863

## **GEO COORDINATES:**

36.104258° N,  
86.682089° W

## **HISTORICAL THEMES**

## **PRESERVATION**

## **OPPORTUNITY INDEX:**

LOW

## **EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:**

Maps/photos and reports from the Official Records

## **CONFEDERATE UNITS:**

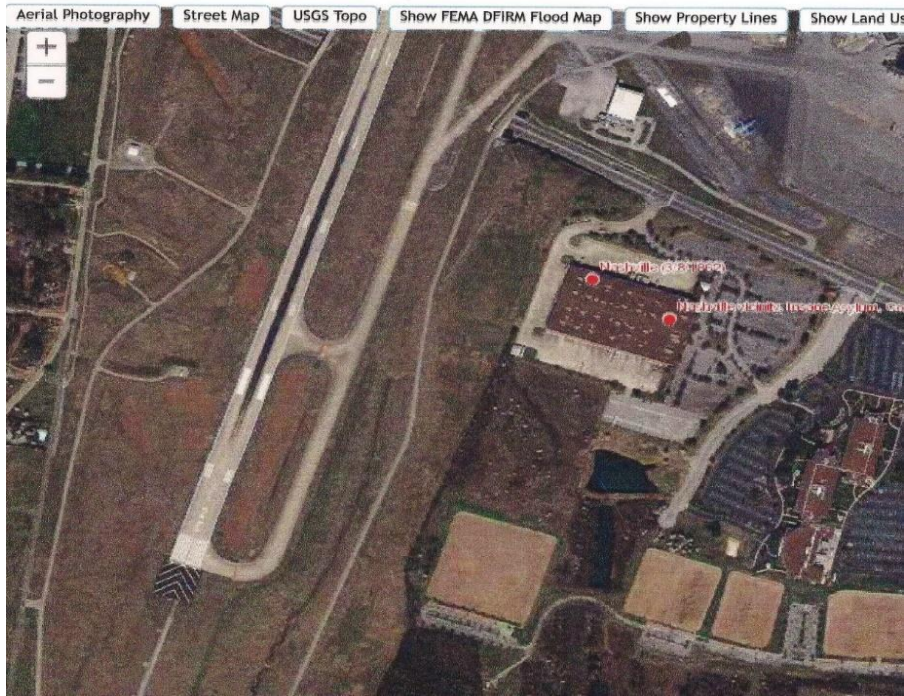
N/A

## **LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

N/A

## **UNION UNITS:**

2<sup>nd</sup> East Tennessee  
Cavalry  
6<sup>th</sup> Tennessee  
Infantry



Site looking north



Site looking south

Report of Col. Joseph A. Cooper, Sixth Tennessee Infantry, of skirmish at Cox's Hill, January 3, 1863.

HDQRS, SIXTH EAST TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS, Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 9, 1863

SIR: Permit me to submit this my Official report of the march of my regiment from Nashville to Murfreesborough, in obedience to Special Orders. No. 8, as follows:

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 8. HDQRS, FIRST BRIGADE, TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS, Nashville, Tenn., January 3, 1863.

Col Cooper, with his entire command for duty, will at once take up the line of march upon the Murfreesbrough pike. They will take two days' rations. They will report on said road to Col. Daniel McCook.

By command of Gen Spears:

D. C. TREWHITT,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

Complying with the above order, we took up the line of march at 8 o'clock. We marched out to the junction of the pike, where we lay in the rain about three hours, waiting for the commanding officer, Col. Daniel McCook. He arrived about 12 o'clock, and gave the following order:

The two regiments in advance of you will march in front with the regiment of regular cavalry, all except 50; the remaining 50 will act as near guard for the whole. Your regiment, the Sixth East Tennessee, will march immediately in rear of the train.

We then took up the line of march to Murfreesborough. We marched, without halting, about 6 miles, arriving this side of the lunatic asylum.

There we, together with a part of the Second East Tennessee Cavalry, which had come up with us, met a body of the enemy. The cavalry, filling to the right, engaged the enemy, who consisted of two or three regiments of cavalry, supported by a small piece of artillery. The cavalry fired one or two rounds and fled in confusion, running through the trains.

Just previous to this occurrence, I received order from Col. McCook to move my regiment forward, on the left, to the loss of the rise. I moved forward in double-quick, gaining the point designated just in time to arrest the charge of the enemy. I engaged the enemy in a smart skirmish for some ten or fifteen minutes, killing some 6 or 8,

wounding several, and capturing 10 prisoners. I met the enemy and repulsed them without assistance from the front. Immediately after the skirmish a battalion of infantry came up on the left, and assisted us in holding the position. We met the enemy and whipped them without the loss of a man, either in killed, wounded, or missing. My men acted with great coolness and bravery.

The train was soon reorganized, and we were again on the march. We arrived at La Vergne without interruption. At that point the two regiments in advance and the battalion, which came up during the skirmish, were mounted on the train, leaving my command on foot in rear of the train. I rode forward and asked Col. McCook what I should do. He first said I had better encamp there with my command. I then told him it was "most too far from shore for me to cast anchor." He then ordered me to march on as fast as I could on foot, so that if they were attacked we could come up to their assistance, and said "he was ordered to go through the night." I obeyed said order, keeping in my rear the 100 cavalry first mentioned and a portion of the Second East Tennessee Cavalry until we arrived inside the lines. I then halted, let the cavalry pass, and went into camp for the night.

Next morning at daylight I took the line of march and marched to headquarters of Maj.-Gen. Rosecrans, where I reported to Brig. Gen. James G. Spears.

I had in all when I went to the skirmish, and also when it ended, present, 12 commissioned officers and 213 enlisted men.

All of the above I respectfully submit.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH A. COOPER, Col. Sixth East Tennessee Infantry

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 20, pt. I, pp 419-420, **Note 1**

**Note 1:** See also: *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Tennessee of the Military Forces of the State, From 1861 to 1866*, (Nashville: 1866) pp. 133. [Hereinafter: *Report of the Adjutant General.*]

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@tcwpa.org)