

# University Depot

**tennessee  
civil war  
preservation  
association**

## **NARRATIVE**

On the July 4, 1863 the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry (US) moved toward University Place from Cowan. An advance of three companies of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky, led by Major Michael Owsley, moved down University Road for about a mile when they encountered enemy pickets, who were driven back on the main body. The dismounted 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry engaged Owsley wounding five men forcing Owsley to fall back to the main column. The 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky was formed as a reserve while the 6<sup>th</sup> advanced to the attack. A thirty minute fight finally drove the Confederates from their position. Retreating slowly the rebel troopers continued a stubborn fight all the way back to about a half mile beyond the University. The Federal troopers were ordered into camp and the rear guard melted away. The last fight of the campaign claimed seventeen casualties from the Kentucky regiments (three killed and fourteen wounded). This engagement proved to be the final fighting of the Tullahoma Campaign.

## **HISTORICAL THEMES**

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

Map; reports from Official Records

### **LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

N/A

### **COUNTY:**

Franklin

### **DATE:**

7/4/1863

### **GEO COORDINATES:**

35.193644° N,  
85.919328° W

### **PRESERVATION**

### **OPPORTUNITY INDEX:**

MEDIUM

### **CONFEDERATE UNITS:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Cavalry  
4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry

### **UNION UNITS:**

5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry  
6<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry



July 4, 1863 - Reconnaissance toward and engagement at University of the South No circumstantial reports filed.

Excerpt from the Report of A. McD. McCook on activities during the Tullahoma Campaign. HDQRS. TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS, Winchester July 10, 1863 ~ ~ ~ On the morning of the 4th of July, Col. Watkins was ordered to make a reconnaissance on the University road toward Tracy City. He encountered three regiments of rebel cavalry on the summit of the mountains. After a spirited skirmish, he gallantly drove the enemy for 3 1/2 miles. His instructions having been complied with, he returned to his camp at Cowan. Sheridan's division remained at Cowan until the 10th Instant, when he was ordered to make a reconnaissance toward Bridgeport and Jasper. He is now performing that duty, some of his troops being in the vicinity of those places to-day, the 12th. ~ ~ ~

A. McD. McCOOK, Maj.-Gen. U. S. Volunteers, Cmdg. OR, Ser. I, Vol. 23, pt. I, pp. 467-468. HDQRS. THIRD CAVALRY BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, In the Field, five miles from Winchester, Tenn., July 8, 1863. ~ ~ ~ [July] 4, made a reconnaissance toward University, 4 miles from which point met the enemy in considerable force,

composed of cavalry and mounted infantry; engaged him, and drove him one-half a mile past **University Depot**, where, having fully accomplished the object aimed at, it was thought advisable to withdraw. In this action the loss of the Sixth Kentucky was 1 lieutenant and 1 private killed and 1 lieutenant and 4 privates wounded; also 16 horses killed and wounded. The loss of the Fifth Kentucky was 1 private killed and 9 enlisted men wounded, and 10 horses killed and wounded. Twenty-two prisoners were captured from the enemy in this engagement. It has been subsequently ascertained that the loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was far greater than ours. ~ ~ ~ LOUIS D. WATKINS, Col., Cmdg. OR, Ser. I, Vol. 23, pt. I, pp. 551-552

## 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 on the left side of a dark blue banner that features a background image of a Civil War-era cannon. The banner also contains contact information on the right side.

tcwpa

Have Information on a Civil  
War Battlesite?

Contact our team at [info@tcwpa.org](mailto:info@tcwpa.org)