

Henderson's Mill

**tennessee
civil war
preservation
association**

NARRATIVE

After skirmishing with Confederate forces at Blue Springs, a brigade of Union cavalry with the Department of the Ohio attacked the advance column of Brig. Gen. Alfred Jackson's brigade on October 10, 1863 near Henderson's Mill. A counter attack by Jackson's forces forced the Federal cavalry back towards Kingsport.

HISTORICAL THEMES

Controlling Resources, Guerilla Warfare

EXPLANATION OF ATTACHMENTS/VIDEO:

Map and reports from Official Records

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

N/A

COUNTY:

Greene

DATE:

10/10/1863

GEO COORDINATES:

36.187433° N,
82.736317° W

PRESERVATION

OPPORTUNITY INDEX:

MEDIUM

CONFEDERATE UNITS:

Thomas' Legion
1st Regiment
Tennessee Cavalry
(Carter)

UNION UNITS:

Department of the
Ohio (Maj.Gen.
Ambrose Burnside)



Report of Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., October 17, 1863-10 p. m.

On Saturday, the 10th, advanced a cavalry brigade to Blue Springs, where they found the enemy strongly posted and offering a stubborn resistance. Skirmishing continued till the arrival of the infantry, about 5 p. m., when I sent in a division of infantry, who charged and cleared the woods gallantly, and drove the enemy in confusion till dark. During the night the enemy retreated precipitately, leaving their dead on the field and most of their wounded in our hands. We pursued in the morning with infantry with infantry and cavalry. The intercepting force met them at

Henderson's [Mill] but, owing to some misunderstanding, withdrew and allowed them to pass with only a slight check. The pursuit was continued until evening. . .

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A. E. BURNSIDE, Maj.-Gen.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 30, pt. II, p. 547.

A Confederate staff officer's account of the skirmish at Henderson's Mill

When several miles beyond Greenville on the road to Jonesboro' Genl Jackson's advance (Genl. Jackson Brigade of 500) constituted our advance Guard, was fired upon just at daylight. It was within two miles of Hendersons mill-where we were going to Camp, and I was going to the front by order of Genl. Williams to halt the column there. The beautiful morning star, harbinger of coming day, was shining like a diadem on the brow of night-& we were peacefully, tho' regretfully pursuing our way-when all at once a volley of musketry into the head of the column woke up to the feast of death. One of Genl. Jackson's Staff was captured & perhaps a few of his men killed. It was too dark to see more than 100 yards in the heavy timber in which the Enemy were concealed.

I had just reached Genl. Jackson who was again advancing his column of infantry to drive them from the woods-supposing they were East Tennessee Bushwhackers-when a furious volley was against poured into us from behind the trees not 75 yards in front. To prevent being shot from my horse, as Yankees generally shoot too high, I dismounted in an instant, but soon found myself left alone in the road under a heavy fire all the others having sought the generous protection of the neighboring trees. My horse was wild with excitement-so that I could not mount him until Rufus Todd held him for me As soon as our men got shelter they opened briskly upon the Enemy, & soon our artillery came up & shelled the woods. It was not yet good light. Genl. Williams immediately coming up ordered Jackson forward with Thomas LegionNote 1-(Infantry) and Carter to charge with his brigade of Cavalry—The boys went in with a shout charging gallantly, driving the Yankees from one position to another. The General was in the front cheering the men onward-as he appreciated the critical position in which we were placed. The Enemy confidently expecting us to remain at Blue Springs, had thrown a heavy cavalry force under Col Carter (4 reg'ts of 2500 men-the same who went to Bristol and burnt Blountville,) in our rear to hold us in check until the forces on the other side could come up; therefore we must fight out or be captured: "horse, foot & dragoon," artillery & transportation, & all. Our men I say went in gallantly-drove the Enemy back, & only once gave up any ground & then a batt'n of Mounted men were driven from the woods, but were soon rallied-(the Genl. assisting) & returned to the

fight. The Enemy used their artillery at first, but when we once got them started they never got time to unlimber again. The fight lasted until about 7 1/2 A. M. -& ended by the flight of the Enemy before the impetuous charges of our boys, who never stopped but kept on, never giving the Yankees time to rally & form. We drove them some three miles when they left the main road at double quicktaking a road to the left towards Kingsport, leaving our way open to pursue our falling back. So we were delivered from a Yankee trap. Thank God for the gallantry of our troops! The losses we sustained I cannot determine. . .

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Our boys were very much elated with their success, & the way the Yankees "skedaddled." Thus ended the battle of Henderson's Mill-fought between Greenville & Rheatown, Tenn., on the morning of Sunday the 11th.

Diary of Edward O. Guerrant, October 10, 1863. Note 2

Note 1: Colonel W. C. Walker commanded the Thomas Legion of North Carolina. It was originally commanded by William H. Thomas and called "Thomas' Legion of Indians and Highlanders." See: OR, Ser. I, Vol. 20, pt. II, p. 396

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