

# LOCAL HISTORY.

## TROOPS OCCUPYING CARLISLE, JULY, 1863.

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From all sources obtainable it is generally conceded that Lees' objective point when he attempted the invasion of Pennsylvania was Philadelphia, though he expected to give battle before reaching this point.

To his second corps under Genl. Ewell was assigned the advance and it is to a sub-division of this corps which occupied Carlisle your attention is invited. This corps on leaving Fredericksburg comprised the following troops:

First division, Major Genl. Jubal A. Early containing the brigades of Brig. Genl's H. T. Hays (Louisiana troops); Jno. B. Gordon (Georgia troops); Wm. Smith (Virginia troops), and O. E. Hoke (North Carolina troops), temporarily commanded by Col. J. E. Avery of the 6th North Carolina. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. H. P. Jones' battalion of light artillery.

Second division Major Genl. Edward Johnston, containing the brigades of Genl's Geo. H. Stuart (Virginia and North Carolina troops); James A. Walker (Stonewall, Virginia troops); John M. Jones (Virginia troops), and F. T. Nichols (Louisiana troops), temporarily commanded by Col. J. M. Williams of the 2d Louisiana Regiment. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. R. Snowden Andrews' battalion of light artillery.



Third division Genl. Robert E. Rhodes containing the brigades of Genl's James Daniel (North Carolina troops); George Dole (Georgia troops); A. Iverson and S. D. Ramseur (North Carolina troops), and Rhodes (Alabama troops), commanded by Col. Edward A. O'Neal of the 26th Alabama regiment. To this division was attached Lieut. Col. Thomas H. Carter's battallion of light artillery.

Lieut. Col. Nelson's battallion and five batteries of the 1st Virginia artillery under Col. J. Thompson Brown acting as chief of artillery formed the artillery reserve of the corps.

This corps reached Culpepper on the 7th of June and on the 9th moved to the support of Stuart at Brandy Station, who was engaged in a stubborn fight with the Federal cavalry. On the 10th it marched by way of Gains' cross-roads and reached Cederville on the 12th. On the 13th it attacked Milroy at Winchester, continued the fight on the 14th, and on the morning of the 15th routed Milroy and sent him in the direction of Harper's Ferry with a loss of 2,500 men. On the 15th Road's division crossed the Potomac near Williamsport and on the 19th reached Hagerstown. On the 18th Johnston crossed Boteler's ford to Sharpsburg and encamped on the battlefield of Sharpsburg. Early moved to Shepherdstown. In these positions they remained until the 21st when Genl. Ewell received orders from Genl. Lee to take Harrisburg. On the morning of the 22d Rhodes and Johnston marched towards Greencastle, Jenkins occupied Chambersburg and Early crossed the river at Shepherdstown and moved by Boonsborough to Cavetown. A halt was made at Chambersburg to secure supplies and afford the troops some rest, when the march was



taken up for Carlisle. Before leaving Chambersburg, however, Early's division was detached and sent through Adams County by way of Gettysburg to Wrightsville and York. On reaching Shippensburg, Johnston's division was sent down the Harrisburg pike, whilst Ewell with Roades' division took the Walnut Bottom road preceded by Jenkins' cavalry which reached Carlisle on the morning of the 27th. This brigade consisted of the 14th, 16th and 18th Virginia regiments and the 34th and 36th Virginia battallions. On entering the town Jenkins made a requisition for 1500 rations which were supplied.

Johnstons' division reached Alexanders Spring (where it crosses the pike at Rawlston's) where it bivouaced and picketed in the direction of the Walnut Bottom road. Ewell with Roads' division arrived at Carlisle at five o'clock in the evening and made the following disposition of his troops:—Doles' brigade was camped in the college campus, the brigades of Daniel, Iverson and Ramseur with Carters artillery was located at the Carlisle barracks and Roads' brigade was sent out the Baltimore pike to picket in the direction of Mount Holly. *June 27*

Roads' division consisted of the following troops:

Daniels' brigade—32d, 43d, 45th and 53d North Carolina regiments.

Doles' brigade—4th, 12th, 21st and 44th Georgia regiments.

Iversons' brigade—5th, 12th, 20th and 23d North Carolina regiments.

Ramsieur's brigade—2d, 4th, 14th and 30th North Carolina regiments.

Roads' brigade, 3d, 5th, 6th, 12th and 26th Alabama regiments.

Carter's battalion of artillery (16 pieces )



Capt. Reese' Alabama battery.

Capt. Carter's Virginia battery.

Capt. Page's Virginia battery.

Capt. Frys' Virginia battery.

From Carlisle Genl. Ewell sent forward by way of the Harrisburg pike his chief engineer, H. B. Richardson, accompanied by Jenkin's cavalry to reconnoiter the position at Harrisburg, the farthest point reached, however, was Eyster's Point, Ewel in the meantime having received orders to join the main army at Cashtown.

Roads' division left Carlisle during the night of the 29th, marched by way of Mount Holly and camped on the night of the 30th at Heidlersburg. On the morning of the 1st of July it moved forward, attached itself to the left of Hills' corps (the 3d) and engaged the 11th corps of the Union army.

On the 29th Johnston's division countermarched to Greenvillage and bivouaced between that town and Scotland, arriving at Gettysburg, July 1st. On the morning of July 1st Genl. W. F. (Baldy) Smith left the defences of Harrisburg by way of the Harrisburg pike for Carlisle. His command consisted of the following:

Col. Brisbane's brigade, 28th and 30th Pennsylvania Gray Reserve Regiments and Blue Reserves, 2500 men. General Knipes brigade, 8th, 71st, 5th, 6th, and 23rd New York Regiments, and General Ewen's brigade, 11th, 22nd and 37th New York Regiments, and Capt. Boyd's New York Cavalry, 120 men, with Landis' Philadelphia Battery of six pieces, and Miller's Philadelphia Howitzer Battery of four pieces.

Brisbane's Brigade, preceded by Boyd's New York Cavalry, was the first to reach Carlisle, July 1st, and was followed by Ewen's brigade which arrived about dusk.

*4120 men*  
*had given their supper on the 30th*

*(1,608 men)*



Knipe's Brigade did not leave the defences until the afternoon. Reaching Silver's Spring they went into camp where they remained until July 4th. Shortly after dusk Gen'l J. E. B. Stuart with Fitzhugh Lee's command consisting of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Virginia Cavalry and Brethed's Battery arrived over the York road at the east end of town. Finding the town occupied, he directed Fitzhugh Lee to send in a flag of truce demanding unconditional surrender or bombardment. Gen'l Smith refused to surrender, when a second demand was made and refused. Stuart now shelled the town, but about 12 o'clock ceased firing and sent a third demand for surrender which was also refused. A few more shots were then delivered, making in all about 134. Landis' Battery was stationed on the public square but was only allowed by Gen'l Smith to fire three shots. About 3 o'clock on the morning of the 2nd, Stewart having received word to join Lee at Gettysburg, fired three shots and retired by way of Mount Holly and Idaville, reaching Gettysburg during the afternoon. During his stay at Carlisle, Delaney's board yard, the gas works and the Carlisle barracks were fired by his order. On the 2nd of July Smith's troops were moved to the barracks where they remained until the 4th. The whole command on the 4th moved to Mount Holly, Laurel and Pine Grove; the 37th New York halted at Mount Holly, Ewen's Brigade at Laurel, the other two brigades reached Pine Grove. On the morning of the 5th the whole command moved towards Gettysburg. Smith's casualties at Carlisle were 12 wounded.

NOTE.—There appears to be a conflicting statement between Stuart's report dated August 20, 1863, and a letter of Gen'l

(321 to be required)

Can I get it, (241)  
Shortly after dusk

retired with Gettysburg  
on his destination.

—He did not go through  
Carlisle, but took the  
Patuxent Road until  
he reached the Mt.  
Holly, Boring & Co. Rd.  
(State Highway Route)  
which crosses the Patuxent  
River below City Road  
and Hutton. This road  
enters the Carlisle - Boring  
Junction at the mouth of  
of Mt Holly. From the  
point his troops moved  
through the Holly Gap, and  
took the Idaville - Boring  
Road, now known as the  
Gettysburg Road, crossing  
reached Gettysburg during

92 miles, 4 pieces

Gen'l M. F. (Bull)  
Smith



Fitzhugh Lee, dated August 25, 1882, written to J. T. Zug with reference to Stuart being at Carlisle, July 1, 1863, but Stuart's report made at the time must be accepted as official.

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Extract from the American Volunteer read in connection with the above paper:

#### CAME NEAR BEING HUNG.

WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO CUMBERLAND COUNTIANS IN THE REBEL INVASION.

In the latter part of June, 1863, it became reasonably certain that Lee's army was coming down the Cumberland Valley. To save their stock from being captured, farmers either hid it in the mountains to the north and south of the valley, or sent it east across the Susquehanna River. Some of the farmers in upper Dickinson township hid their horses in the low bushy places in the mountains, south from the Stone House, and watched and fed them until the danger was over. On Saturday morning, June 27, William A. Coffey and Samuel McKinny, the latter then post-master at White House, now Mooredale, rode out to the mountains to see whether all was well with this lot of secluded horses. After they had seen the horses, and found them all right, they concluded to reconnoiter with a view of ascertaining the whereabouts of the rebels, and so rode up the Pine Road toward Jacksonville. On coming to a lime kiln, which was then at the side of the road just before reaching the Walnut Bottom Road at the Three Springs, they met Mrs. Seavers, a neighbor, who was in that part of the country visiting her brother, David Caldwell. They stopped to inquire of her whether she knew anything of the rebels, and while they were yet talking to her, some strange



men came riding down the Bottom Road. Coffey and McKinny at first doubted whether the strangers were rebels, but had grave suspicions that they were. When the strangers saw them, they turned into the Pine Road, and came to where they were. By the time they came up to them, the two men were fully convinced that they had found what they were looking for—rebels.

With an air of authority, the rebels asked Coffey and McKinny where they were going. They answered that they were going to Jacksonville, the little town which was a short distance up the road. The rebels replied that they could go on their way and turned to go back towards the Bottom Road, but Coffey and McKinny had seen as much of the Confederate army as they cared to see, and when the strangers were gone, they turned and rode off down the Pine Road at a gallop, the rebels seeing this, wheeled and came after them as fast as their horses could lay their feet to the ground, shooting after them and calling halt at the top of their voices. As it was evident, to them that they would be overtaken, the two men stopped, and facing their pursurers asked them what was wanted of them. The rebels said that they could not allow them to go down the road ahead of them to give information of their coming; that they should go on the road as they had said they intended to. Coffey and McKinny obeyed because under the circumstances, it was the safest thing to do. They rode out to the Bottom Road, then on up that road towards Jacksonville, and the farther they went, the more numerous the rebels came. The curiosity they had felt in the morning was more than satisfied. They aimed to escape out towards South Mountain by the first road



that turned to the left. But as it led over open ground for a considerable distance, the rebels could easily have seen them on it and would certainly have followed them. They, therefore, kept going on up the Bottom Road until they came to the lane which goes in to the Eyster farm. An orchard and some buildings obscured the view of this road to persons coming down the Bottom Road, and Coffey proposed to McKinny that they try and escape out this lane. But hardly had they turned into it when their flight was discovered, for five rebels came galloping after them calling halt. This time they intended that they would not be halted and urged on their horses all they could, but when they got out to the Eyster buildings, two rebels, that had been foraging in the barn, ran out into the lane and with raised carbines, ordered them to halt. With rebels with drawn carbines in front of them, and rebels with drawn sabres behind them, escape was impossible so they again obeyed and halted. The following colloquy then took place:

"You fellows seem to be in a h—l of a hurry."

"So we are. We wanted to get away from you."

"Well, General Ewell, is back here and wants to see you."

"Is General Ewell back there?"

"Yes, and he wants to see you, d—n bad."

And so they went with their captors back to the Bottom Road. By this time the road was swarming with rebels, cavalry, artillery and infantry. The two captives were compelled to ride along with this Confederate column just as if they properly belonged to it. When they got to Centerville, the column was halted for



dinner and the soldiers gathered in groups up and down the road to prepare and eat their noon meal.

Coffey and McKinny were halted in front of the hotel, which was then in Centerville. A little while after the column halted, orders reached them that General Ewell wanted to see the two "spies" that had been captured. The general was traveling in a carriage and had stopped for his dinner at the buildings of Daniel Keller on the hill just west of Centerville, and so they were escorted back to meet General Ewell. A Colonel Jennings, who was from South Carolina, met them and charged them with trying to obtain information concerning the movements of the Confederates to bear to the Northern army. He subjected them to a thorough examination and threatened them with hanging if they answered falsely, or refused to answer at all. He wanted to know how many troops were at Harrisburg and who commanded there, and much other information relating to the whereabouts of Federal troops and their movements, and many of his questions it was impossible to answer definitely. Coffey did nearly all the answering and some of his answers not being satisfactory, Jennings threatened to hang him up by the thumbs, to compel him to answer satisfactorily. Jennings asked Coffey if he had ever seen the man who had hung John Brown. Coffey answered that he had not. Then calling up a red faced, heavily built rebel soldier, he pointed to him and said he was the man who had put the rope around John Brown's neck, and that he would hang them if they didn't answer his questions.

This inquisition was held by the side of the road under a large cherry tree. Rebel



soldiers were grouped all around them. General Ewel had been in at the barn, but when the two men were brought up, he came out to the road on his crutches, and quietly listened to the examination. He was quiet and polite to them, but Jennings was gruff and insulting. He ordered the man, who he said had hung John Brown, to get a rope. The rope was brought and then pointing to a limb of a cherry tree, ordered the rope to be thrown over it and that Coffey be hung up by the thumbs until he told all he knew. The order was about to be executed, and would have been, but General Ewell spoke up and remarked that he thought the man had told him all he knew, and ordered the two men released.

Before leaving them go, General Ewell said to Coffey: "You may leave us your horse. When your Northern troops came down South, they took our horses to supply their artillery needs, and I guess we'll have to have that horse of yours."

"Well, General, I guess you won't take a man's property without paying for it," Coffey asks.

"On, no," replied Ewell, "we'll pay you," and calling up a paymaster, he ordered that Coffey be paid for his horse, which was promptly and politely done--in Confederate notes. Coffey remonstrated that Confederate money was no good in Pennsylvania. Then Cononel Jennings answered: "Before we leave Pennsylvania, Confederate money will be worth dollar for dollar what Federal money is worth." Coffey accepted the money for it was all he could get in exchange for his horse. He has had that money now for thirty seven years, and at no time in all that period has it been worth any more than when it was paid down to him. Jen-



nings' boastful prediction was never fulfilled.

Many of the horses taken from Pennsylvania farmers in the invasion were recaptured from the rebels at and around Gettysburg. After the battle, these were returned to the owners, in cases where informal claim with proof of property was promptly made. Coffey went to Gettysburg and hunted among these captured horses but did not succeed in finding the particular animal, which was "bought" from him on that memorable Saturday in June, 1863, when he and Sam McKinny indiscreetly went hunting for rebels. It was the only horse he lost through the invasion and many years afterward he was heard to remark that he wouldn't have lost that one, if he had stayed at home. Human curiosity must be gratified but some times comes pretty high.