Table of Contents

Magazine of the

Jefferson County Historical Society

Volume LXXXIX
December 2023

Table of Contents

Magazine of the

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Table of Contents

CONTENTS

Officers of the Society 3
Membership Fees 3
Publications and Sale Items Available 4-5
List of Members 6
Jim L Glymph, Editor Emeritus 17
Editor's Note 18

Sheridan versus Early August 21, 1864
By John Bagladi 19

". . . but the work was done too late.": A Tribute to Local Historians Mary Taylor Wilson Miller and Carrie Beall Wilson
By P. Douglas Perks..... 68

Boyd Stutler's article, "Judge Richard Parker," Revisited Seventy Years Later
By Trish Ridgeway.....83

Summer Annual Picnic.....102

"History by apprising them [citizens] of the past will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men; it will enable them to know ambition under every disguise it may assume; and knowing it, to defeat its views."

Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia, Query 14, 1781

"It is history that teaches us to hope."

Robert E. Lee, letter to Charles Marshall, 1870

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized May 21, 1927

To identify, present, preserve and promote the history of Jefferson County

www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org

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Membership: Open to all who have interest in the history of Jefferson County. Annual dues of $20 or life membership of $400 may be sent to Membership Secretary, P. O. Box 485, Charles Town, WV 25414 or on-line: www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org. Membership relative to receiving and being listed in the magazine is as of September 30. Payment after this date will be credited to the following year.

PUBLICATIONS AND SALES ITEMS

MAGAZINES:

One copy of the *Magazine* is mailed to each person with a paid membership. Back issues, original or reprint, along with all other items listed, may be obtained by sending a check or money order to:

Jefferson County Historical Society
Post Office Box 485
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

Or through the Society website at: jeffersonhistoricalwv.org.

Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society

For the years 1935-1964	$20 each ($23 postpaid)
For the years 1965-1999	$15 each ($18 postpaid)
For the years 2000-current	$10 each ($13 postpaid)

NOTE: An index of articles which appear in the Magazine is available on the "Magazine and Guardian" tab of the Society's web page.

BOOKS:

A Bicentennial History of Jefferson County, West Virginia 1801-2001. 2001. $8 each; $12 postpaid.

Between the Shenandoah and Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia. (**Book**) Jefferson County Historical Society. 1991. $40 each; $45 postpaid.

Burials in Jefferson County West Virginia. Compiled by Hugh E. Voress. 1998. $15 each; $20 postpaid.

Calendar and Index to Recorded Plats in the Jefferson County, West Virginia (Virginia), Courthouse, 1801-1901. By Michael D. Thompson. 1984. $20 each; $24 postpaid.

Charles Town Bicentennial 1786-1986. 1986. $10 each; $13 postpaid.

Prominent Men of Shepherdstown 1762-1962. By A. D. Kenamond. 1963. $10 each; $14 postpaid.

Tombstone Inscriptions, Jefferson County, W. Va. 1687-1980. Bee Line Chapter, NSDAR. $20 each; $25 postpaid.

The Washington Homes of Jefferson County, West Virginia. Jefferson County Historical Society. 1985. $10 each; $13 postpaid.

GUEST PUBLICATIONS:

And So I Did: Stories of Shepherdstown. By James C. Price. 2012. $25 each; $30 postpaid.

The Civil War Years in Jefferson County. By P. Douglas Perks. 2022. $25 each; $30 postpaid.

Military Operations in Jefferson County Virginia (now West Virginia) 1861-1865. Edited with an Introduction by James C. Holland. 2004. $15 each; $18 postpaid.

DVDS:

Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac: A Visual History of Jefferson County. Jefferson County Historical Society. 1991. $10 each; $13 postpaid.

The Civil War in Jefferson County. Jefferson County Historical Society. 2012. $10 each; $13 postpaid.

GEAR:

Hats. Black, Navy, & White. $10 each; $13 postpaid.

NOTECARDS:

Set of 10 notecards with envelopes. Photographs from *Between the Shenandoah and the Potomac: Historic Homes of Jefferson County.* $5 each; $7 postpaid.

JAMES L GLYMPH, EDITOR EMERITUS

In the Editor's Note in the 2022 edition of the *Magazine*, Jim Glymph announced that he was stepping down as the *Magazine's* editor. Since it began publication in 1935, four men and three women have served as the editor of the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Since its launch date the *Magazine* has been published each year without a break, making it the longest tenured annual magazine published by a county historical society in West Virginia. Thirty *Magazines* were published under the direction of its first editor, A. D. Kenamond. He was followed by Dr. John A. Washington who oversaw the printing of sixteen *Magazines*. Dr. John E. Stealey, III became editor in 1981 and for the next twenty-three years he was responsible the *Magazine's* publication. Dr. Marie-Tyler McGraw was editor in 2004 and Carmen Creamer in 2005-2006. In 2007 Jim Glymph took over the job.

In his first *Magazine*, Jim decided to focus on the Washington family. He selected articles written about four members of the Washington family with Jefferson County connections, plus he reprinted Charlotte J. Fairbairn Crouch's pamphlet *George Washington's Lost Plantation* which was out of print. His 2009 *Magazine*, the John Brown Raid issue, contained eight articles which dealt with a range of topics as the county and the country commemorated the 150th anniversary of Brown's Raid. The Civil War had a greater impact on Jefferson County than any other time period. During the commemoration of the war's Sesquicentennial, 2011 – 2015, The *Magazine* had at least one article dealing with the Civil War in Jefferson County. All in all, Jim continued a tradition which started in 1935 – the publication of a *Magazine* which can be enjoyed by anyone who loves the history of the only West Virginia County where you can see both the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah River. In recognition of his good work, at its July 2023 meeting the Society's Board of Directors named James L Glymph its first Emeritus Editor. We extend our best wishes to Jim on his second retirement.

Deborah K. Piscitelli has accepted the invitation to become the seventh *Magazine* Editor and the 2023 edition will hopefully be her first of many.

P. Douglas Perks

EDITOR'S NOTE

For many years I have been a student of Jefferson County history with the articles of the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society* as my teacher. I have enjoyed reading and re-reading the endless variety of stories about our county and those who have lived here. We are so lucky to live in an area with such rich history. It is an honor to be asked to facilitate production of this publication, and I will do my best not to disappoint. My deepest appreciation goes to Jim Glymph and all of the editors who preceded me, and to all the contributors for your dedication and for creating such a fine body of work.

It is heartening to have so many members engaged in research on the many subjects of our county's history. I'm happy to report that this year's submissions overflowed our space (through no effort on my part), so some will be carried forward to our 2024 edition. I think you will find this year's articles interesting to read, as always.

Our first article reviews eyewitness reports and studies numerous records in questioning the naming of an 1864 Civil War engagement here in Jefferson County. Read the evidence; review the details. It is for the reader to decide . . .

Readers will be fascinated with the remarkable forethought and achievements of two sisters and their contributions to the creation of burial ground records and laying groundwork in the early years of the Society. There is a puzzle solved at the end of our second article!

The history of the John Brown Raid has always been a topic of interest. Just this autumn the play, *The Anvil*, was re-enacted. This author revisits an earlier *Magazine* article by Boyd Stutler about Judge Richard Parker, and adds footnotes to the original work. Missing source material is finally identified and will help future researchers study this topic.

Thank you to those of you who have helped me along this first year, to this year's authors, and to David Albin of Progressive Printing for bringing it all together.

Hopefully, some of you will be inspired to submit your own work. We accept submissions year around, with the deadline being September 1 of each year for the December publication. Please contact me with any questions you have or any ideas you wish to explore. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Debbie Piscitelli
(dkpiscitelli@gmail.com)

SHERIDAN VERSUS EARLY AUGUST 21, 1864

John Bagladi

On August 21, 1864, Union and Confederate armies fought across a large swath of southwestern Jefferson County, West Virginia. Officially, according to the National Park Service's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, the name of that battle or engagement or series of skirmishes is the "Battle of Summit Point." This discussion focuses on whether that name is correct or whether there is a more accurate designation for that clash of forces.

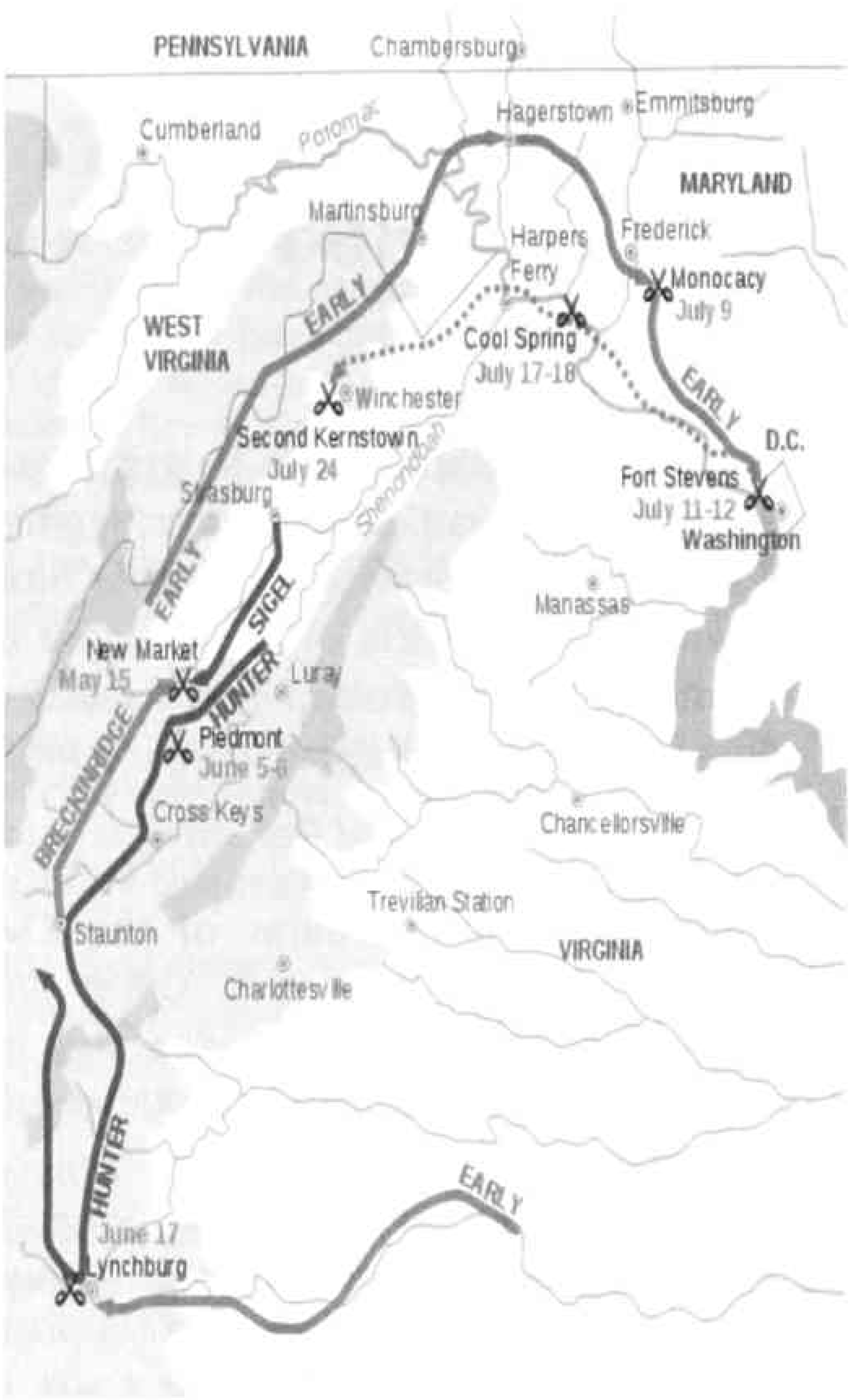
Late summer of 1864 found the eastern theater of the Civil War in a stalemate. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee had bludgeoned each other since May on a line from the Rappahannock River to the trenches of Richmond and Petersburg. In the Shenandoah Valley, Major General David Hunter had pushed south as far as Lexington, Virginia, as he destroyed crops, railroads, and supplies in the Valley.[1]

On June 13, 1864, Lee dispatched Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early on a mission to drive Union troops from the Shenandoah Valley and, if successful, cross the Potomac River into Maryland.[2] If Early could force Grant into sending a significant part of his army back north in order to protect possible thrusts towards Baltimore or Washington, it would relieve pressure on Lee's forces around the Confederate capital.

Brushing aside Hunter's forces near Lynchburg, Early marched through Winchester and Martinsburg, crossed the Potomac into Maryland bypassing Harpers Ferry, and arrived at Frederick

1 *The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* (New York: Konecky and Konecky, 1886), 521.

2 Jeffry D. Wert, *From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864* (New York, Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1987), 7.



www.thomaslegion.net
Shenandoah Valley
Campaigns in
May – August 1864

where he bested the patchwork assembly of troops under Major General Lew A. Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864.[3] Grant dispatched the VI Corps from Richmond and Petersburg and redirected the XIX Corps on its way from Louisiana into the fortifications protecting Washington troops sufficient to thwart Early.[4] After a demonstration against Washington, Early retired to the Shenandoah Valley to rest, refit, and protect the vast farmlands that were necessary to feed both his and Lee's armies.

To bring order from the chaos resulting from Early's successful invasion of the north, Grant appointed Major General Philip H. Sheridan on August 7 to command a new army comprised of

3 Ibid., 8.
4 Grant, *Memoirs*, 522.

several separate elements already in the area.[5] Sheridan's orders were to once and for all end the threat of Confederate invasion from the Shenandoah Valley. He was ordered to defeat Early's army as well as destroy the agricultural usefulness of the Valley.[6]

At Halltown, just west of Harpers Ferry, Sheridan assembled what came to be known as the Army of the Shenandoah ultimately consisting by August 21, 1864, of the VI Corps, part of the XIX Corps, the Army of West Virginia, and three divisions of cavalry—more than 30,000 infantry and 8,000 cavalry.[7]

Early, his army gathered at Bunker Hill, twelve miles west of Halltown, could count on approximately 9,000 infantry and 4,000 cavalry—between 13,000 and 14,000 troops in all. He would begin the contest with Sheridan with an almost three-to-one disadvantage.[8]

Sheridan began his move up the Valley on August 10 and by the evening of August 12 had reached Cedar Creek north of Strasburg, pushing Early's inferior force ahead of him.[9] On August 13 and 14 Sheridan halted his main force and sent out cavalry elements to determine whether reports of additional Confederate troops being sent from Lee to Early were true. When he learned that this was indeed the case, he ordered his forces to retire toward a strong defensive position until he could be sure he held a significant numerical advantage.[10] Early had indeed been reinforced by one division (Major General Joseph B. Kershaw's), under Lieutenant General Richard H. Anderson's infantry corps, and Major General Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry division, an addition of more than 3,500 soldiers and 1,500 cavalry.[11]

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5 Wert, *Winchester to Cedar Creek*, 16.

6 Edward J. Stackpole, *Sheridan In the Shenandoah* (Harrisburg, PA, Stackpole Books, 1992) 140-141; *Personal Memoirs of P.H. Sheridan* (New York, Charles L. Webster and Company, 1888) 485.

7 Wert, *Winchester to Cedar Creek*, 22; Scott C. Patchan, *The Last Battle of Winchester* (El Dorado Hills, CA, Savas Beatie LLC, 2013) 482-483.

8 Ibid., 26; Patchan, *The Last Battle of Winchester*, 484-485.

9 Ibid., 30-31.

10 Sheridan, *Personal Memoirs*, 483-484.

11 Stackpole, *Sheridan In the Shenandoah*, 153; Wert, *Winchester to Cedar Creek*, 34; Patchan, *The Last Battle of Winchester*, 484-485 and 72n.

Unsure just how large a Confederate force he was now facing, Sheridan late at night on August 15 began retreating back down the Valley. From August 16 through August 18 Sheridan maneuvered northward, constantly skirmishing with Early's cavalry. August 19 and 20 were days of comparative rest for both sides as Sheridan positioned his forces to cover the Charlestown-Berryville road, the Charlestown-Summit Point road, and the Charlestown-Smithfield road. Early assembled in and around Bunker Hill with Anderson and Fitz Lee in Winchester.[12] The scene was set for the actions of August 21, 1864.

The purpose of this study is not to fight the engagements of that day other than to use the orders, reports, and memoirs of the participants as well as the authoritative accounts of latter-day writers as they might affect the naming of the battle of August 21.

The authority for naming battlefield sites rests with the National Park Service under the historic preservation provisions of federal Laws & Regulations and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards & Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. United States Code's Title 54 is the location for many National Park Service-related laws.[13] Under the auspices of this guidance, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has, over the past two decades, identified, surveyed, and assessed significant sites associated with the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the War of 1812.[14]

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission of the ABPP had the responsibility, among other tasks, of identifying the nation's historically significant Civil War sites.[15] In its list of Civil War sites

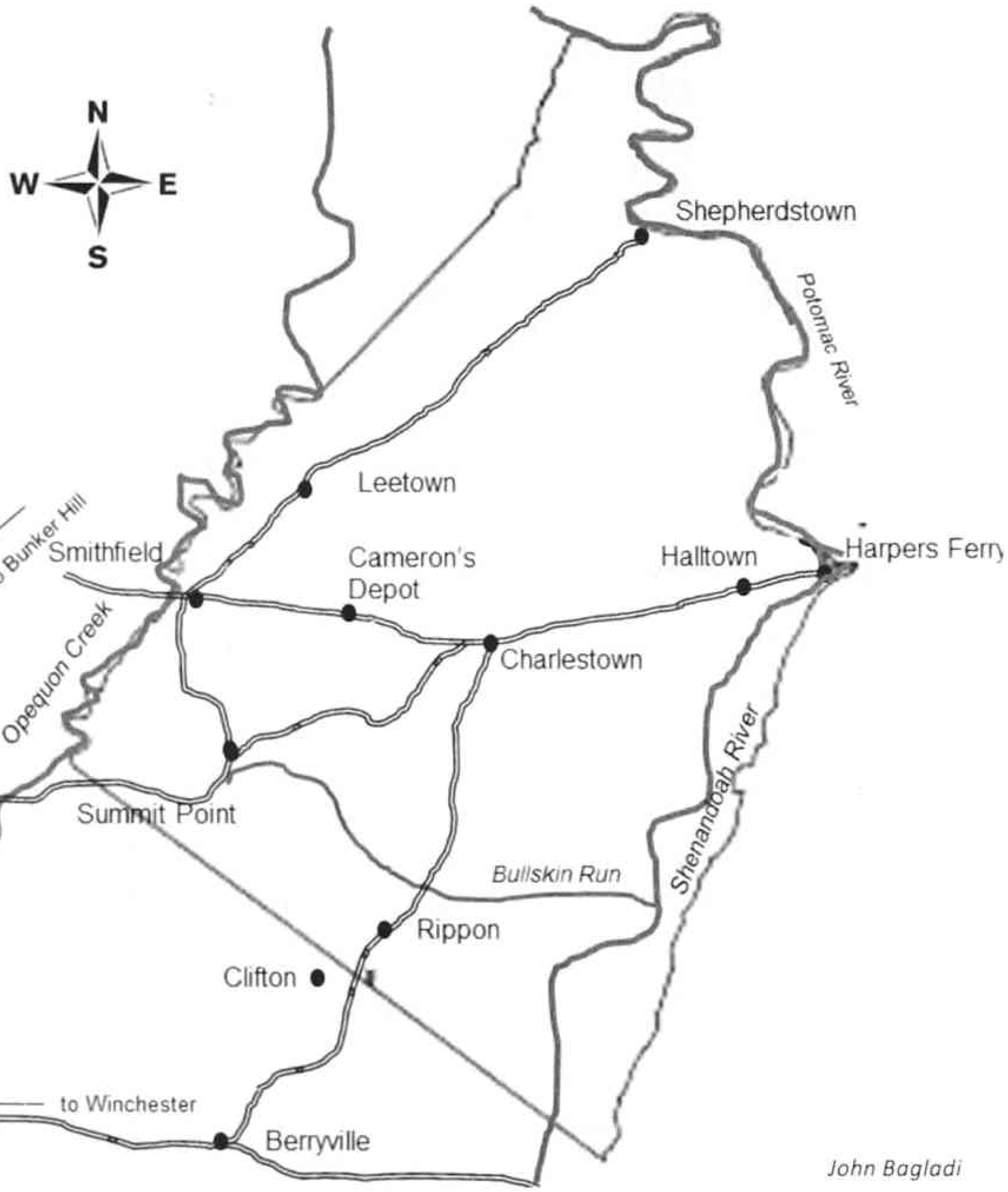
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12 U.S. War Department, *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880 – 1901), series I, vol. 43, chap. 55, 44 (hereafter cited as OR; unless indicated, all references are to series I).

13 Federal Preservation Laws: Retrieved February 1, 2017, from https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws-intro.htm

14 American Battlefield Protection Program, Battles and Wars: Retrieved February 1, 2017, from https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battleswars.htm

15 CWSAC Battlefield Summaries: Retrieved February 1, 2017, from https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/tvii.htm



John Bagladi

as part of Sheridan's Valley Campaign, August – October, 1864, we find the official name for the events of August 21, 1864: Summit Point.[16]

Summit Point

Other Names: Flowing Springs, Cameron's Depot

Location: Jefferson County

Campaign: Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign (August-December 1864)

Date(s): August 21, 1864

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan [US]; Lt. Gen. Jubal Early [CS]

Forces Engaged: Divisions

Estimated Casualties: 1,000 total

Description: As Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan concentrated his army near Charles Town, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early and Maj. Gen. Richard Anderson attacked the Federals with converging columns on August 21. Early moved east via Smithfield against the Union VI Corps. Anderson struck north against Wilson's Union cavalry at Summit Point. There was cavalry fighting near Berryville. The Federals fought effective delaying actions, withdrawing to near Halltown on the following day.

Result(s): Inconclusive

CWSAC Reference #: WV014

Preservation Priority: II.4 (Class D)

16 Civil War Battle Summaries by Campaign: Retrieved February 1, 2017, from https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/bycampgn.htm

Among the elements listed for each battle are "name" and "other names." Those elements are described as "Name [:] The historic name for the battle, based on scholarly assessment. In some cases, the generally accepted name for the battle, sanctioned by the state historic preservation office, has been used" and "Other Names [:] Secondary or commonly used names, such as Elkhorn Tavern (Pea Ridge), Bull Run (Manassas), and Sharpsburg (Antietam)."[17]

Given the National Park Service's official designation of "Summit Point," let us examine how others have referred to the events of August 21, 1864.

Government Compilations: *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* and *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion*

Union Commanders

Unit commanders at various levels have left the most accounts of the engagements of August 21 in the *Official Records.*

> Major-General HALLECK,
> Chief of Staff
> HALLTOWN, W. VA., August 22, 1864—10.30 p.m.
> (Received 2 a.m. 23d.)
> Yesterday morning the enemy crossed Opequon Creek at different crossings in the vicinity of Smithfield or Middleway, and advanced on my position at Welch's Spring, [see notes on page 65] two miles west of Charlestown. Some skirmishing took place on the front of the Sixth Corps and of General Crook's command during the day. The skirmish line of the Sixth Corps drove the enemy from the crest that they

17 CWSAC Battlefield Summaries: Retrieved February 1, 2017, from https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/tvii.htm

occupied in front of that corps. Skirmishing also took place with cavalry at Summit Point and Berryville, but of not much moment.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.[18]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF
New Orleans, February 3, 1866.

GENERAL: I [Sheridan] have the honor to make the following report of the campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah, commencing August 4,1864: On the 18th the Sixth Corps moved, via Clifton, to Flowing Spring, [see notes on page 65] two miles and a half west of Charlestown, on the Smithfield pike; Emory about two miles and a half south of Charlestown on the Berryville pike; Merritt came back to Berryville; Wilson remained at Summit Point,covering the crossing of Opequon Creek as far north as the bridge at Smithfield, Merritt covering the crossing of the Berryville pike; Crook remained near Clifton, and the next day moved to the left of Emory. This position was maintained until the 21st, when the enemy moved a heavy force across the Opequon at the bridge at Smithfield, driving in the cavalry pickets, which fell back to Summit Point, and advanced rapidly on the position of the Sixth Corps near Flowing Spring, when a very sharp and obstinate skirmish took place with the heavy picket-line of that corps, resulting very much in its favor. The enemy appeared to have thought that I had taken position near Summit Point, and that by moving around rapidly through Smithfield he would get into my rear. In this, however, he was mistaken.

18 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 19-20.

During the day Merritt, who had been attacked and held his ground, was recalled from Berryville. Wilson had also been attacked by infantry, and had also held his ground until ordered in.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General, U. S. Army.[19]

HALLTOWN, VA.,August 22,1864—10.30 p.m.
Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT:
Yesterday morning the enemy crossed Opequon Creek at different points in the vicinity of Smithfield or Middleway and advanced on my position at Welch's Spring, about two miles west of Charlestown. Skirmishing took place during the day in front of both General Crook's command and the Sixth Army Corps. The skirmishing was at one time rather sharp in front of the latter command, as the line was pressed forward and drove the enemy from a crest in our front which they occupied early in the day. The cavalry skirmished some with the enemy at Berryville and Summit Point; this, however, did not amount to much. As my position at best in front of Charlestown was a bad one, and much being dependent on this army, I withdrew my command without loss or opposition last night and took up a new line in front of Halltown. This morning the enemy followed my rear guard and we have been skirmishing with them during the day. My loss yesterday was about 275.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major. General.[20]

19 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 40 and 44.
20 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 880.

DETACHMENT NINETEENTH ARMY CORPS
August 17.—Arrived at Berryville. The march from Tennallytown to Berryville was without any unusual occurrence.
August 19.—Fell back with Sheridan's army to within two miles of Charlestown, W. Va.
August 21.—Heavy skirmishing on the right by the Sixth Corps; the Nineteenth Corps not engaged; same day fell back to Halltown Heights.[21]

CAVALRY
First Division. [Brigadier General Wesley Merritt]
August 18 to 20.—Encamped at Berryville, frequently skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry.
August 21.—Marched to Charlestown continued skirmishing.

First Brigade, First Division.
August 17.—Moved to Berryville.
August 18 to 20.—In camp
August 21.—Moved to Charlestown.

Second Brigade, First Division.
August 20.—Marched to Berryville.
August 21.—Engaged the enemy near Berryville, retiring at night to Charlestown.

Reserve Brigade. First Division.
August 18.—Marched through Berryville; camped one mile beyond on the Winchester pike, remaining until the 21st.
August 22.—Marched down Charlestown pike; skirmished with enemy as far as Rippon; camped half a mile in rear of Charlestown[22]

Third Division. [Brigadier General James H. Wilson]
August 12.—The entire division being together again, received orders
to march to the Shenandoah Valley;[. . .]

21 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 80.
22 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 89-92.

arrived at Winchester August 17, in time to cover the rear of the army, falling back toward Berryville; were attacked at Winchester by the enemy's infantry, cavalry, and artillery; hotly engaged until 9 p.m., when the division fell back through Winchester; marched to Summit Point; remained there until August 21, picketing the Opequon.
August 21.—The enemy attacked in force; retired through Charlestown, taking position on the extreme right of the army near that place.

- First Brigade, Third Division.
August 17.—Reached Winchester and covered the rear of the Sixth Corps, then falling back toward Berryville; had a hot fight, at the close of which we fell back to Summit Point; here the enemy attacked us on August 21, and we fell back to Charlestown.

- Second Brigade, Third Division.
August 18.—At 5 o'clock the brigade marched to Summit Point and bivouacked in line of battle on the right of the First Brigade. Sent Twenty-second New York to Smithfield to picket approaches.
August 19 and 20.—In position at Summit Point. Reconnoitering parties develop the enemy's pickets on west bank of Opequon.
August 21.—Enemy attacked Twenty-second New York at Smithfield at 7 a.m. and drove them back about two miles; withdrew the regiment to Summit Point; heavy force of the enemy advanced on Winchester road; the division fell slowly back to near Charlestown, and bivouacked on right of infantry lines.[23]

23 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 94-104.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY CORPS.
October 18, 1864
On the morning of the 18th [August, 1864] the corps moved to Welch's Spring, on the Charlestown and Middleway Pike, about two miles from Charlestown, arriving there at 6 p.m. It then went into camp, the First Division on the right of the pike, the Second on the left, and the Third in reserve, and remained in quiet until Sunday, the 21st. On the morning of this day information came that our cavalry at Middleway had been attacked and driven off. I immediately sent staff officers to the division commanders with directions for them to have their troops on the alert, and be ready for an attack by the enemy. Before these officers could reach the division commanders firing was heard on our picket-line. The enemy developed rapidly, mainly on the south side of the road; and kept up a sharp fire, driving in our line on that side of the pike. It was not supposed that an advance in force could be made, without notice from our cavalry in front, hence this sudden attack of the enemy was almost a surprise, but the troops were soon ready, and the Third Division (Brigadier-General Ricketts) was transferred from its position in reserve to the left of the line, where General Crook afterward connected with him. Our original position was regained, and the corps ready to repulse any further attack or make one if ordered. The First Division of the Nineteenth Corps moved about noon, and connected with my right, the loss of the corps here was about 260 killed and wounded,

a large portion being from the Second Division, whose conduct on this occasion cannot be too highly praised. At midnight, by orders from the major-general commanding Middle Military Division, the corps moved to its old position at Halltown [. . .][24]

Reports of Bvt. Gen. Alfred T. A. Torbert, HDQRs. CHIEF OF CAVALRY, MIDDLE MILITARY Division.
November, 1864
On the morning of the 18th the Third Division (Brigadier-General Wilson)arrived at Summit Point and took position on the right of the infantry, and watching the country well to his front, and connecting with Brigadier-General Averell on his right, in the vicinity of Smithfield; the First Division (Brigadier-General Merritt) was in the vicinity of Berryville, covering the country from the Opequon Creek to Snicker's Gap; the First Division West Virginia Cavalry (Brigadier-General Duffie)was ordered to Charlestown.

On the 19th and 20th the main body of the cavalry remained in the same position as that of the 18th. On the 21st the rebel army advanced in three columns—by Smithfield, Summit Point, and Berryville—our army, concentrated about Charlestown Va. The First Division West Virginia Cavalry (Brigadier-General Duffie) was ordered out across the Charlestown and Leetown road, on the right of the infantry; the First and Third Divisions of Cavalry (Brigadier-Generals Merritt and Wilson) were ordered to fall back slowly, as the enemy's infantry columns advanced, and pass to the right of the army, where they

24 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 155-156.

were massed, except the Third Brigade, First Division (Colonel Lowell) which was posted on the left and front. The army fell back to Halltown, Va., that night (the 21st), and the cavalry was ordered to fall back the next morning.[25]

Reports of Bvt. Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt, U. S. Army, commanding
First Division, HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION.
October 5, 1864.
During the 18th, 19th, and 20th of August the command remained in the vicinity of Berryville. In this interval several attacks were made by parties of guerrillas on the pickets and foraging parties of the First Brigade, in which several men were killed [. . .] On the 21st the Third Brigade was attacked and Colonel Lowell was sent orders to fall back on the command at Berryville, the division having orders to march to Charlestown. After leaving Berryville the enemy annoyed the rear guard but little, the force that followed being small.[26]

Report of Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson, U.S. Army, commanding Third Division.
GRAVELLY SPRINGS, ALA., February 18, 1865.
The command then marched [August 17, 1864] to the east side of the Opequon and bivouacked at Summit Point just before daylight. The army having halted at Charlestown my division was kept employed in picketing and patrolling the Opequon from Middleway to the Berryville and Winchester pike. On the 21st of August the rebels crossed the Opequon in force

25 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 424.
26 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 440.

> at Middleway, drove in our pickets at that place, and threatened to interpose themselves between us and Charlestown. After a sharp fight, in which both Chapman and McIntosh gave the enemy a severe check, I received orders from General Sheridan to communicate with General Merritt's division, then operating in the direction of Berryville, and, in conjunction with it, to lose no time in joining the army at Charlestown. I therefore called in everything except a light skirmish line, withdrew by the right and left flank of brigades at the same time, and marched directly for the Charlestown and Berryville pike. After hearing that General Merritt was unmolested, I retired slowly to Charlestown and went into position on the Leetown road, covering the right of the infantry. General Sheridan having determined to withdraw to the strong position at Halltown during the night, I was directed to cover the rear with my division.[27]

Union Orders

The *Official Records* contain a number of specific orders that concern the events on August 21.

> HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION,
> Brig. Gen. MERRITT, Charlestown, W.Va.,
> August 21, 1864.
> Commanding First Division:
> GENERAL: You will move your division back at once to Rippon and take up a line between this place and Bullskin Run. Dispose Colonel Lowell's brigade on the line so that the balance of your command can be used elsewhere. General Wilson is ordered to move in front of

27 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 516.

General Wright. There is an attack on Wilsons right. Lieutenant Goldsmith will give you more particulars.

Very respectfully,
M. A. RENO,
Captain and Chief of Staff.[28]

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION,
August 21, 1864.
Brigadier General MERRITT,
Commanding First Division:
GENERAL: The main body of the infantry is passing now. The infantry picket-line will be withdrawn shortly. Send for Colonel Lowell to keep himself posted as to the movements of the infantry in his rear,and have him withdraw to a point near the town, covering the roads on that side. Send a staff officer to report for further instructions.

Very respectfully,
M. A. RENO,
Captain and Chief of Staff.[29]

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
Summit Point, August 21, 1864—1.10 a. m.
Brigadier General MERRITT,
Berryville:
My outposts on the Winchester and Summit roads and at Middleway have been attacked by strong forces of cavalry. A part of the force between here and the Opequon has taken the road running toward Berryville. There seems to be a strong reconnaissance all along the line of the Opequon.

J. H. WILSON,
Brigadier General.[30]

28 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 874-875.
29 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875.
30 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION.
Cross-Roads, One mile and a half East of
Summit Point,
August 21, 1864—2.25 p. m.
General MERRITT:
Your dispatch by my messenger just received. I'll hold on on this road till you come in. Have received orders to that effect from headquarters cavalry forces. About noon, my advanced parties having been driven from the Opequon, I was attacked by a division of infantry [and] one regiment of cavalry. At the same moment orders came directing me to fall back from Summit and attack the enemy in Wright's front. My artillery fire has checked the enemy, but he is reported as moving toward Berryville. Move, therefore, as rapidly as possible till we can form a junction. Your train is all right. You had better not stop on the Bullskin, but move till we meet. The enemy may catch you on the flank by some of the cross-roads.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. WILSON,
Brigadier General.[31]

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION,
Charlestown, Va., August 21, 1864.
Brigadier General WILSON,
Commanding Third Division:
GENERAL: There is now firing in front of General Wright, who is in the rear of Welch's Spring. You will move your division at once, in front of General Wright, on the Smithfield (or Middleway) and Charlestown pike. Leave a strong force on the road from Summit Point to

31 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875.

this place. I presume the best way to come back to your position is to take the first road to your rear, going north to the pike. Communicate often. Cover all roads to your front and right.

Very respectfully,
M. A. RENO,
Captain and Chief of Staff.[32]

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Summit Point, August 21, 1864—2.05 p. m.
Captain RENO,
Chief of Staff:
CAPTAIN: Just as your orders were received the enemy advanced with infantry against my position, but was checked by skirmishers and artillery sufficiently to allow me to withdraw. I am now at the cross-roads, about one mile and a half east of Summit Point, but as the officers who came through report the direct road already occupied by the enemy, who moved in by Middleway, I have therefore thought it prudent not to leave the direct road to the Berryville and Charlestown pike till I ascertain that I am either not followed or till the direct Charlestown road is clear. I have sent scouting party to ascertain that fact and shall act as soon as I hear the result. In case the enemy is on it, I propose to move to the Berryville and Charlestown pike and form a junction with Merritt, having previously notified him of what is going on, and advised him, if not already ordered, to fall back and connect with me. Have just received a note from him saying Lowell had been attacked and he would do as indicated above.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. WILSON,
Brigadier General.[33]

32 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875.
33 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
On North Fork Bullskin, August 21,1864—3.50 p. m.
Captain RENO,
Chief of Staff, Cavalry Forces, Charlestown:
CAPTAIN: My division is now here with one regiment at cross-roads this side of Summit; the infantry are also with us. The force which moved in by Summit Point have struck off to the northward. No sign of Merritt yet; have sent to him, and will do all I can to protect his flank till he arrives. I hear artillery in the direction of Clifton. Expect news from him soon. Have sent my train into Charlestown with directions to report for the general's orders. Have parties of observation out in all directions, particularly toward Summit and Middleway. Only two of the scouts sent out last night have returned; the substance of their report has been sent in; those toward Bunker Hill have not yet been heard of.
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. H. WILSON,
Brigadier- General.[34]

Confederate Commanders and Staff

Because of the destruction of many records, the number of pertinent documents preserved in the *Official Records* from the Confederacy are obviously fewer in number.

Bunn [BUNKER] HILL, August 19,1864.
Lieut. Gen. R. H. ANDERSON:
General: There is no enemy between here and Martinsburg, and a small force of cavalry is reported to be there, variously estimated at from 800 to 2,000; I have sent to see. No force this side of the Opequon, but a cavalry force reported about Smithfield. McCausland had

34 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 875-876.

skirmishing with a cavalry picket near where the railroad bridge crosses Opequon and drove it across the stream. I wish McCausland to take position at the crossing of the road by Brucetown to Smithfield, and I think it would be well for Fitz Lee to picket the crossing of the Opequon, on the road from Winchester to Summit Point; he can communicate across by Jordan Springs. No wheat has been burned in this country, and if we can stay here we can live. I have sent Lomax to Martinsburg. I think Fitz Lee had better try and shove the enemy back on the Berryville road.

Respectfully,

J. A. EARLY

Lieut. General.[35]

HEADQUARTERS LEES CAVALRY DIVISION,
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
August 23, 1864—2.30 p. m.
Colonel SORREL:

COLONEL: Advance of enemy reported by Lomax turned out to be a small reconnoitering party, who have gone back. Lomax's scouts report no enemy this side of Shepherdstown. Will encamp on Smithfield pike near Cameron's Depot, in supporting distance of either flank. General Early has desired me to take charge of all the cavalry whilst General A[nderson] and he are together. There is no doubt most of enemy's cavalry are on their right flank.

Very respectfully,

FITZ LEE, Major General.[36]

35 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 1001.
36 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 1005.

Report of Capt. Jed. Hotchkiss,
Topographical Engineer
HDQRS. TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS, VALLEY DISTRICT.
Staunton, Va., December 31, 1864.

General Anderson, with Kershaw's Division of infantry and Fitz Lee's cavalry, advanced to the Opequon. On the 18th Rodes went a short distance on the Berryville road, Ramseur on the Martinsburg road, and Anderson encamped on the Front Royal and Millwood roads: Gordon and Wharton on Abraham's Creek; McCausland went to Stephenson's. August 19, the army moved to Bunker Hill and encamped near there, Anderson and Fitz Lee remaining at Winchester. Lomax's division of cavalry went to Martinsburg and Shepherdstown. On the 20th the cavalry had some skirmishing along the Opequon.

On the 21st we marched to the vicinity of Charlestown, driving the enemy's cavalry from the Opequon, meeting the infantry about 9 a. m. at Cameron Station and driving them toward Charlestown, in front of which we had some severe skirmishing and also shelled the enemy's sharpshooters at Packett's house. The troops were disposed as in plate. [see map page 57]
The enemy fortified their lines. Vaughn's, Johnson's, and Jackson's brigades advanced to Leetown and then crossed to the vicinity of Charlestown. Part of McCausland's brigade followed the enemy's cavalry from the Opequon to Summit Point. The rest covered the advance and formed on Rodes' left. Fitz Lee, advancing by Berryville, engaged the enemy on that road, while Anderson drove them on the Summit Point road. We encamped near Cameron. August 22, the enemy retired last night and we drove their cavalry pickets through Charlestown [. . .][37]

37 OR, vol. 43, chap. 55, 1024-1025.

> Lieut. Col. W. H. TAYLOR,
> Assistant Adjutant General, Army of Northern Virginia
> Diary of the First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.
>
> August 21. At daylight we move with Kershaw and Cutshaw, by the old Charlestown road, for Charlestown. Lomax's cavalry moves from Bunker Hill in the same direction via Leetown, Early's infantry by Smithfield, and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry by Berryville. About six miles from Summit Point we encounter the advance of Wilson's division of cavalry and drive it before us, skirmishing as far as Summit Point, where we arrive at 3.30 p. m. and camp, picketing all the roads. Fitzhugh Lee encounters Torbert's division and drives him through Berryville, and encamps one mile north of the town on the Berryville and Winchester pike. Early arrives within two miles and a half of Charlestown and halts for the night. Casualties in all the skirmishes, light.[38]

The "Chronological Summary of Engagements and Battles" compiled in *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion* lists:

Date:	Aug.21st [1864]
Locality:	Summit Point, Virginia
Union Troops Engaged:	1st Division, Merritt's and 3rd Division, Wilson's, Cavalry Corps, and Sixth Corps, Major General Wright's of the Army of the Middle Military Division, Maj. Gen. Sheridan
Union Losses:	600 killed, wounded, and missing
Confederate Losses:	400 killed, wounded, and missing[39]

38 OR, vol. 42, part I, 873-874.

39 *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion*, prepared under the direction Joseph K Barnes, Surgeon General of the United States Army (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1876), Part I, Volume II, "Surgical History," CXXI.

The "Battles, Campaigns, Etc., in West Virginia" section of *A compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, compiled by Frederick H. Dyer, lists in chart form:

Date	Nature—Location	Troops Engaged
Aug. 21 [1864]	Skirmishes near Charlestown, Flowing or Welch's Springs	[Units listed but no mention of losses]
Aug. 21-22 [1864]	Skirmish, Summit Point	[Units listed] Union loss: 600 killed, wounded and missing[40]

Memoirs

The accounts of participants as well as unit histories often provide remembered details.

Major General Philip H. Sheridan:

> That day [August 18, 1864] I moved the Sixth Corps by way Clifton to Flowing Spring, two and a half miles west of Charlestown, on the Smithfield pike; and Emory, with Dwight's and Grover's divisions (Grover's having joined that morning from Washington), to a position about the same distance south of Charlestown, on the Berryville pike. Following these movements, Merritt fell back to Berryville, covering the Berryville pike crossing of the Opequon, and Wilson was stationed at Summit Point, whence he held a line along the Opequon as far north as the bridge at Smithfield. Crook continued to hold on near Clifton until the next day, and was then moved into place on the left of Emory.

40 Frederick H. Dyer, *A compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Des Moines, Ia., The Dyer Pub. Co, 1908), 979.

This line was practically maintained till the 21st when the enemy, throwing a heavy force across the Opequon by the bridge at Smithfield, drove in my cavalry pickets to Summit Point, and followed up with a rapid advance against the position of the Sixth Corps near Flowing Spring. A sharp and obstinate skirmish with a heavy picket-line of the Sixth Corps grew out of this manoeuvre, and resulted very much in our favor, but the quick withdrawal of the Confederates left us no opportunity for a general engagement. It seems that General Early thought I had taken a position near Summit Point, and that by moving rapidly around through Smithfield he could fall upon my rear in concert with an attack in front by Anderson, but the warm reception given him disclosed his error, for he soon discovered that my line lay in front of Charlestown instead of where he supposed.

> In the manoeuvre Merritt had been attacked in front of Berryville and Wilson at Summit Point, the former by cavalry and the latter by Anderson's infantry. The exposed positions of Merritt and Wilson necessitated their withdrawal if I was to continue to act on the defensive; so, after the army moved back to Halltown the preceding night, without loss or inconvenience, I called them in and positioned them on the right of the infantry.[41]

Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early:

> On the 19th [of August, 1864] my main force moved to Bunker Hill and Lomax's cavalry made reconnaissance's to Martinsburg and Shepherdstown, while Anderson's whole force remained near Winchester.[42]

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41 Sheridan, *Personal Memoirs*, 490-492.

42 Jubal Anderson Early, *Narrative of the War Between the States* (New York, Da Capo Press, 1989); originally published as *Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States* (Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1912), 408; Early, *A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence in the Confederate States of America* (Toronto: Lovell and Gibson, 1867), 78.

> On the 20th, our cavalry had some skirmishing with the enemy's, on the Opequon, and on the 21st, by concert, there was a general movement towards Harper's Ferry—my command moving through Smithfield towards Charlestown, and Anderson's on the direct road by Summit Point. A body of the enemy's cavalry was driven from the Opequon, and was pursued by part of our cavalry towards Summit Point. I encountered Sheridan's main force near Cameron's Depot, about three miles from Charlestown, in a position which he commenced fortifying at once. Rode's and Ramseur's divisions were advanced to the front, and very heavy skirmishing ensued and was continued until night, but I waited for General Anderson to arrive before making a general attack. He encountered Wilson's division of cavalry at Summit Point, and after driving it off, went into camp at that place. At light the next morning, it was discovered that the enemy had retired during the night, and his rear guard of cavalry was driven through Charlestown towards Halltown, where Sheridan had taken a strong position under the protection of the heavy guns on Maryland Heights.[43]

Major Jedediah Hotchkiss:

> *Sunday, August 21.* We moved towards Charlestown at an early hour. Drove the enemy from the Opequon. Met their infantry skirmishers at Aldridge's about 9.30 a.m. Rodes was in front and threw out his skirmishers and drove the enemy to the vicinity of Charlestown. Ramseur was put on his right and advanced to near the Summit Point road. Anderson came by the old Winchester and Charlestown road and Fitz Lee by the Berryville road. They had some fighting near Summit Point. We advanced by Smithfield. It threatened rain some, but cleared off by noon. Lomax, with Vaughn, Johnson, and Jackson, advanced by Leetown and then towards Charlestown. McCausland came on in

43 Early, *Narrative*, 408-409; Early, *Memoir*, 78-79.

> our front and went toward Summit Point with part of his force from Smithfield. Gordon was put on the right and Wharton on the left pike in the reserve. We skirmished with the enemy during the p.m. and used some artillery. They made some advances, but were repulsed. We encamped some two and a half miles from Charlestown. A fine day. I reconnoitered positions, &ct.[44]

During the relative calm toward the end of 1864, Hotchkiss spent much of his time creating and completing his maps. In addition to those of other areas and other battles, he concentrated on the lower Shenandoah Valley area of operations. He documents working on maps on November 1 of "the battle of Berryville;" "battle of Belle Grove" November 3 through 8; "battle of Cedar Creek" November 17, 18, 19, 21 and 26; "battle of Kearneysville" November 28; "Harpers Ferry" November 28; "battle of Charlestown" December 2 and 3; "action at Kearneysville" and "battle of Harpers Ferry" December 5 and 6; "battle of Smithfield" December 7 and 8; "battle map of Kernstown" December 29 and 31.[45]

37th Massachusetts Infantry:

> Morning [August 18, 1864] saw the march continued toward Charlestown, by way of Berryville, and when the way was clear the Thirty-seventh rallied and followed. It rained most of the day, some of the time severely, and the jaunt was a hard one, more especially as the men had been practically without rations for two days. Near night a halt was reached in the vicinity of Charlestown and a four-days' supply of food obtained, after which two days of inaction ensued, the second being rainy.

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44 Jedediah Hotchkiss, *Make Me a Map Of the Valley: The Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer*, ed. Archie P. McDonald (Dallas: Southern University Press, 1973), 223.

45 Ibid., 242—250.

> The Sunday morning quiet of August 21 was rudely broken by the long roll giving notice of the enemy s presence. Early had in fact been reinforced by Kershaw s division of infantry, one of cavalry and some artillery, and when Sheridan fell back had followed sharply, taking up his former position at Bunker Hill, leaving Anderson with the fresh troops at Winchester. A combined attack was planned for the morning of the 21st, Anderson to advance by the direct route from Winchester while Early came in from the west. The former found the cavalry in his front too strong and gave up his part of the programme; but Early came on impetuously, brushed away the cavalry outposts and struck a swift and heavy blow upon the Sixth Corps skirmish line.
>
> The regiment fired during the day some 200 shots per man, and when darkness fell had the satisfaction of knowing that not an inch of ground had been yielded.
>
> But this brave resistance had not been made without loss. Five men had been killed . . . and another fifteen wounded.[46]

2nd Rhode Island Infantry:

> On the 21st a severe engagement took place near Summit Point. Our line was formed with the Sixth Corps upon the right, resting on the Martinsburg turnpike, about two miles south of Charlestown, the Eighth Corps in the centre and the Nineteenth upon the left. [The Eighth Corps did not participate in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, and is often misidentified for the Army of West Virginia which did comprise part of Sheridan's forces in the Valley] The fighting was somewhat severe, the brunt of it being borne by the Sixth, but the results were indecisive, and after repulsing the enemy's, attack and forcing him to retire, our army retired toward Halltown.[47]

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46 James Lorenzo Bowen, *History of the Thirty-Seventh Regiment, Mass. Volunteers in the Civil War* of 1861-1865: with a comprehensive sketch of the doings of Massachusetts as a state, and of the principal campaigns of the war (Holyoke, Mass.: C.W. Bryan & Co, 1884), 371-374.

47 Augustus Woodbury, *The Second Rhode Island Regiment: a narrative of military*

George T. Stevens, Surgeon of the 77th New York Infantry:

> Our Sixth corps guarded the turnpike leading from Harpers Ferry to Winchester. On the left of the pike, facing southward, was our Second division, and on the right our First division. The Eighth corps held the center of the line, and the Nineteenth corps the left, its flank resting on Berryville.
>
> On Sunday morning, the 21st of August, our cavalry was driven back upon the infantry, and we suddenly discover the enemy coming down upon the Sixth corps in three heavy columns. With scarcely any warning we found shells pitching into our camp among the standing tents, and bullets whistling among the trees that afforded us shelter from the sun.
>
> The corps was quickly in line, the tents struck and everything in fighting trim. Our boys received the onset of the rebels with cool bravery, giving them back volley for volley. The fight was kept up for several hours, the Eighth corps being but slightly engaged, and the Nineteenth corps not at all. Our Second division, Sixth corps, receiving the weight of the attack. Our men threw up breastworks along the front, and at length the Vermont brigade was ordered to charge upon the enemy. The charge was executed with the usual brilliancy and fighting joy of that brigade and the confederates were glad to leave us in undisputed possession of the ground.
>
> The rebels were repulsed; but as our position at Charlestown was one that might be easily flanked, our army fell back during the night to the strong position at Halltown[48]

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operations in which the regiment was engaged from the beginning to the end of the war for the union (Providence: Valpey, Angell and Company, 1875), 292.

48 George T. Stevens, *Three Years In the Sixth Corps*, (Albany, N. Y.: S. R. Gray Publisher, 1866), 394-395.

James E. Taylor:

On August 21, 1864, artist James Taylor of *Leslie's Illustrated Magazine* was with Wilson's cavalry at Summit Point. His commentary offers a look at the actions of that day, especially of Wilson's command. He describes Summit Point as,

> . . . an uninteresting place comprising a few scattering houses, a small depot and a stone building . . . a repository for grain destined for shipment, garnering from the adjacent plantations. The only dwelling of any pretentions was an ample one on the south side of the pike facing the depot and occupied by Mr. Snodgrass, the station master.[49] I secured a sketch . . . to embrace that building, station, and grain depot, when I continued west to where the 3rd Division line extended north and south 150 yards west from the former [Snodgrass house]. Two Parrott Batteries, Pennington's and Fitz Hugh's were planted just south of the pike with infantry support, while the dismounted cavalry prolonged to the north and south . . .[50] We were at mess [breakfast] when the silence was suddenly broken by the sound of artillery firing in the direction of Smithfield, announcing that Early's columns had struck Wright and Crook . . . [Wilson] was met by a courier from the outpost of the Summit Point Road crossing of the Opequon, with the startling information that Anderson's infantry was pouring over the stream and advancing on the road."[51]

Taylor states that it was a half hour before Union skirmishers came into view, falling back.

> My eyes now lifted to see the long line of Johnnies develop on the hill with their blood red battle flags flouting betwixt me and the pale sky, whose forms revealed advancing in solid

49 James E. Taylor, *With Sheridan Up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864: Leaves from a Special Artist's Sketchbook and Diary* (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Press,1989), 229.

50 Ibid., 229.

51 Ibid., 230.

phalanx . . .[52] [When the] stampeding cavalrymen arrived at Summit Point,[53] [Anderson's infantry was taken under fire by the Union artillery.] The storm proved too pitiless for Anderson to breast without artillery up to meet like with like, when he soon withdrew out of range and engaged in picket firing.[54]

Taylor describes no further action at Summit Point other than picket firing when ". . . having watched the artillery withdraw and Chapman's Brigade [left] to keep the enemy in check, [i]t was one o'clock by my repeater when we dismounted . . . and all set down to mess . . ."[55]

Major Aldace F. Walker:

On the morning of August 21st [1864], the [Vermont] Brigade was stationed at the edge of a wood two miles south-west from Charlestown. It happened to be quite near the picqet line, which described a grant curve around our left flank as it covered the army front perhaps a half a mile from our camp . . . The commencement of the skirmish was startling enough. While the army was making preparations for the usual Sunday morning inspection, the picquets suddenly broke out into a hasty fusillade, and then falling back in confusion were seen making rapidly across the fields . . . the Brigade files out of the woods into the fields in front of our left, in the direction of the heaviest fire; the Third, Fourth, and part of the Sixth deployed as skirmishers and dashed forward rapidly, while the other regiments followed in line of battle more deliberately . . . the enemy in turn advance firing heavily, and now a general musketry battle opened along the whole position. By this time all the Brigade had reached the front line, and, becoming deployed, covered the whole mile

52 Ibid., 232.
53 Ibid., 234.
54 Ibid., 235.
55 Ibid., 235.

> as skirmishers. [After heavy fighting at the Packet House—see following "William B. Packette"] . . . the musketry re-opened all along the line with renewed vigor, and the battled continued until the evening fell. Two mules were employed all day bringing up ammunition; the Brigade consumed 56,000 cartridges . . . The Brigade suffered: 23 killed, 98 wounded, 2 missing: Total 123.[56]

3rd Vermont Infantry Brigade:

The unofficial history of Vermont in the Civil War lists in its chronology of Civil War action: 3rd Vermont Battles List: "8/21/1864 Cameron's Depot, Charles Town, WV"[57]

George Greenville Benedict:

> In the engagement at Charlestown, Va., on the 21st of August, when the Vermont brigade held a Confederate division in check for an entire day, the regiment lost five killed and 27 wounded. It sustained an especially heavy blow in the loss of Lieut. Colonel George E. Chamberlin, who was shot through the abdomen during the first advance. He fell from his horse into the arms of Lieutenant Dodge, the adjutant of his battalion, was taken to Harper's Ferry and died there next day . . . In this fight, both battalions were engaged, and Walker's battalion suffered considerable loss. It had only a few rails hastily thrown together for shelter, while the Confederate skirmishers fired from behind a stone wall at short range.[58]

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56 Aldace F. Walker, *The Vermont Brigade in the Shenandoah Valley* (Burlington, Vt.: The Free Press Association, 1869), 60-67.

57 Reference: http://vermontcivilwar.org/units/3/battles.php; January 24, 2017; Source: VermontCivilWar.Org Database; Creator/Webmaster: Tom Ledoux.

58 George Grenville Benedict, *Vermont in the Civil War* (Burlington Vt.: Free Press Association, 1888), 373.

Historians

Several authoritative works treat of the actions on August 21, 1864.

Edward J. Stackpole:

> The vigorous Confederate pursuit, conducted more as a feeling-out process than an offensive maneuver, tested Sheridan's defenses at various points without succeeding in developing a weakness that might justify a fully-mounted attack. The withdrawal tactics, by resting the Union flanks on Opequon Creek and the Shenandoah River in the occupation of successive delaying positions, offered Early no opportunity for surprise action, his major effort to turn Sheridan's flank having been foiled by the Confederate's misinformation as to the location of the enemy main body.
>
> Believing that the Federal commander had stationed his principal force near Summit Point, Early attempted to reach the enemy rear by crossing the Opequon bridge at Smithfield, but the projected attack landed in the air because the Union line was then in front of Charlestown rather than three miles further west at Cameron's Depot, as Early had supposed.[59]

Jeffry D. Wert:

> The only significant combat occurred on the 21st [of August, 1864] when Early attacked a portion of Sheridan's lines west of Charlestown with Robert Rodes infantry division. The fighting lasted several hours, costing the Federals 250 men and Rodes 160.[60]

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59 Edward J. Stackpole, *Sheridan In the Shenandoah: Jubal Early's Nemesis* (Harrisburg P.A.: Stackpole Books, Publisher, Second Edition, 1992), 166-167.

60 Wert, *Winchester to Cedar Creek*, 35.

Millard K. Bushong:

> In August Major General Philip H. Sheridan succeeded Hunter as commander of Federal troops in the Lower Valley. Having determined to attack him, Early, on August 21, ordered Lieutenant General R. H. Anderson to advance by way of Summit Point. At the same time Early planned to proceed from Bunker Hill to Middleway and then towards Charles Town. Anderson found his advance delayed by Brigadier General Wesley Merritt's cavalry at Berryville and Brigadier General J. H. Wilson's at Summit Point. Although Anderson finally succeeded in forcing both Merritt and Wilson to fall back, he was delayed too long to take part in the fighting around Middleway.
>
> Meanwhile, Early's attack along Opequon Creek had been successful. Forcing the enemy's cavalry pickets along the creek to retire quickly, he pressed at once against the Federal Sixth Corps. This part of the army had been camping at Welch's Spring on the Charles Town-Middleway turnpike about two miles from the county seat. As soon as the Union commanders learned that their cavalry at Middleway had been attacked and driven off, they made ready for battle. Because of the sudden appearance of the Confederates, the Federals were almost taken by surprise. They found it necessary to bring up their reserves at once and in the ensuing engagement at Cameron's Depot [Aldridge's] were driven towards Charles Town. In spite of the fact that they had suffered severe losses, they remained on the field until midnight, when they retired to Halltown. Sheridan had decided to draw in Merritt and Wilson and concentrate his forces in front of Halltown, which he thought could be more easily defended.[61]

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61 Millard K. Bushong, *Historic Jefferson County* (Boyce, Virginia, Carr Publishing Company, Inc., 1972), 234-235.

Scott C. Patchan:
Patchan's well-documented chapter covering the events of August 21, 1864, is entitled "Confederate Charlestown Offensive."[62] He writes:

> Jubal Early envisioned a grand offensive against Sheridan's army at Charlestown commencing on August 21. Like an angry thunderstorm blowing in from the west, the Confederate forces would roll eastward on a front nearly 17 miles wide along Opequon Creek. He informed Anderson of his intentions and suggested the senior general act in concert . . . Under this plan, Confederate forces would advance across the wide front upon several roads that converge on Charlestown . . . Anderson's column would follow the Old Charlestown Road which ran east from the Valley Pike at a point three miles north of Winchester. Early's main force would march from Bunker Hill at sunrise headed for the Opequon crossing near the village of Smithfield. Sheridan's army . . . occupied a defensive position to the west and south of Charlestown. The Sixth Corps occupied a position near Flowing Spring two miles west of the town, covering the Smithfield Road . . .Torbert's cavalry held advanced positions to screen enemy approaches. Merritt's division remained at Berryville on the army's left, and Wilson was at Summit Point on the right. Both cavalry commands sent pickets out to Opequon Creek . . .
>
> At 8:00 a.m., Lt Col. James H. Allen's 5th Virginia Cavalry . . . [drove Union] pickets . . . away from the Opequon . . . back towards Summit Point . . . located about three miles west of Sheridan's main lines outside of Charlestown . . . By 10:00 a.m., Kershaw's infantry arrived in front of [the Union forces west of Summit Point], opened fire and attempted to force [the union position], but the U.S. horse soldiers held firm .

62 Patchan, *The Last Battle of Winchester*, 109.

> . . Kershaw redeployed his infantry and struck [Brig. Gen. John B.] McIntosh's [cavalry brigade] simultaneously on both flanks . . . Overwhelmed by Kershaw's foot soldiers, McIntosh's brigade fell back rapidly in confusion to Summit Point. There [Union] batteries held their position and fired canister into the approaching Confederate, compelling Kershaw's infantry to halt and consolidate its position. [Confederate cavalry, sent by Early, assisted Kershaw in forcing Wilson's command from Summit Point] and remained at Summit Point for two hours until certain that Wilson's cavalry would not return . . . The time was only 3:30 p.m., and several hours of daylight remained . . .
>
> [Along the Smithfield—Charlestown Pike] By 9:30 a. m. [Confederate cavalry] attacked the Sixth Corps' picket line at Cameron Depot . . . As the Confederate divisions arrived at Cameron Depot, Jubal Early promptly positioned them along his developing line. Ramseur's division arrived and went into position on Rodes' right flank. His sharpshooters suddenly found themselves involved in a substantial encounter after they advanced and extended the line nearly to the Summit Point Road to the south. When Breckenridge reached the battlefield, Early massed his divisions along the Smithfield Pike behind Rodes. Gordon's division deployed to the right and Wharton to the left of that road . . . Wright responded quickly to Ramseur's deployment by moving Brig. Gen. James B. Rickett's Sixth Corps division from the reserve into position on Getty's left. As the skirmishing intensified, Getty reinforced Grant's Vermont troops with several regiments . . . Although no formal battle was fought on August 21 at Charlestown, the severe skirmishing and artillery fire exacted significant losses.[63]

63 Ibid., 110-125.

Estimated Enlisted Present for Duty August 21, 1864[64]

Location	Union		Confederate		Notes
Cameron Depot	6th Corps 19th Corps Army of West Virginia	11,100 5,800 6,500	Rodes Ramseur Gordon Wharton	3,400 2,000 2,800 2,000	Rodes and Ramseur engaged, Gordon and Wharton in reserve with Gordon partially engaged; 6th Corps engaged, one division of the 19th Corps minimally engaged, Army of West Virginia not engaged
Summit Point	Wilson	3,000	Kershaw Cutshaw	3,500 220	Cutshaw's artillery not engaged
Berryville	Merritt	3,500	Fitzhugh Lee	1,500	

NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP):
The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's tabulation of Battlefield Sites for Sheridan's Valley campaign on August 21, 1964, lists only "The Battle of Summit Point." However, in the ABPP's more detailed section on the Shenandoah Valley's battlefield sites, we find: "On August 21, Early and Anderson launched a converging attack against Sheridan. As Early struck the main body of Union infantry at Cameron's Depot, Anderson moved north from Berryville against Sheridan's cavalry at Summit Point. Results of the fighting were inconclusive, but Sheridan continued to withdraw."

Also, ABPP's "Chronology of Armed Conflict in the Shenandoah Valley" shows:

August 21, 1864, Skirmish, near Berryville, Clarke
August 21, 1864, Engagement, Summit Point, Jefferson
August 21, 1864, Skirmish, Middleway, Jefferson
August 21, 1864, Engagement, Cameron's Depot, Jefferson[65]

64 Patchan, *The Last Battle of Winchester*, 482-485; (Patchan's estimates are drawn from reports in the OR closest in date to August 21, 1864.

65 NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP); "STUDY OF CIVIL WAR SITES IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY OF VIRGINIA, PART TWO: CIVIL WAR IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY, THE HISTORIC CONTEXT, 4. Valley Campaigns 1861-1865, Sheridan's Valley Campaign (August 1864-March 1865)," https://www.nps.gov/abpp/aboutus.htm; January 27, 2017.

William B. Packette:
Packette was eleven years of age when he witnessed the battle that raged around his Locust Hill home. In his memoirs, he "... undertake[s] to recall my recollections of the Battle of Cameron Depot, which occurred on August 21st, 1864." He also attests to the severity of the fighting at Locust Hill:

> There were at least forty Federal soldiers who were killed in this battle on and about our place who were buried at the foot of our yard at Locust Hill, and after the war was over they were disinterred and their remains taken to the Federal Cemetery at Winchester. . . There were seven shells passed through and exploded in the house which marks show. One unexploded shell is still lodged in the wall under the eve of the roof; two knocked off the chimneys and five went through the shingle roof which set the house on fire making in all fourteen that struck the house. There are also thousands of minnie [sic] balls show their marks in the hard brick. Thousands of marked bullets, pieces of shells, broken swords and guns also army cups and canteens gotten off the battlefield are shown at Locust Hill today.[66]

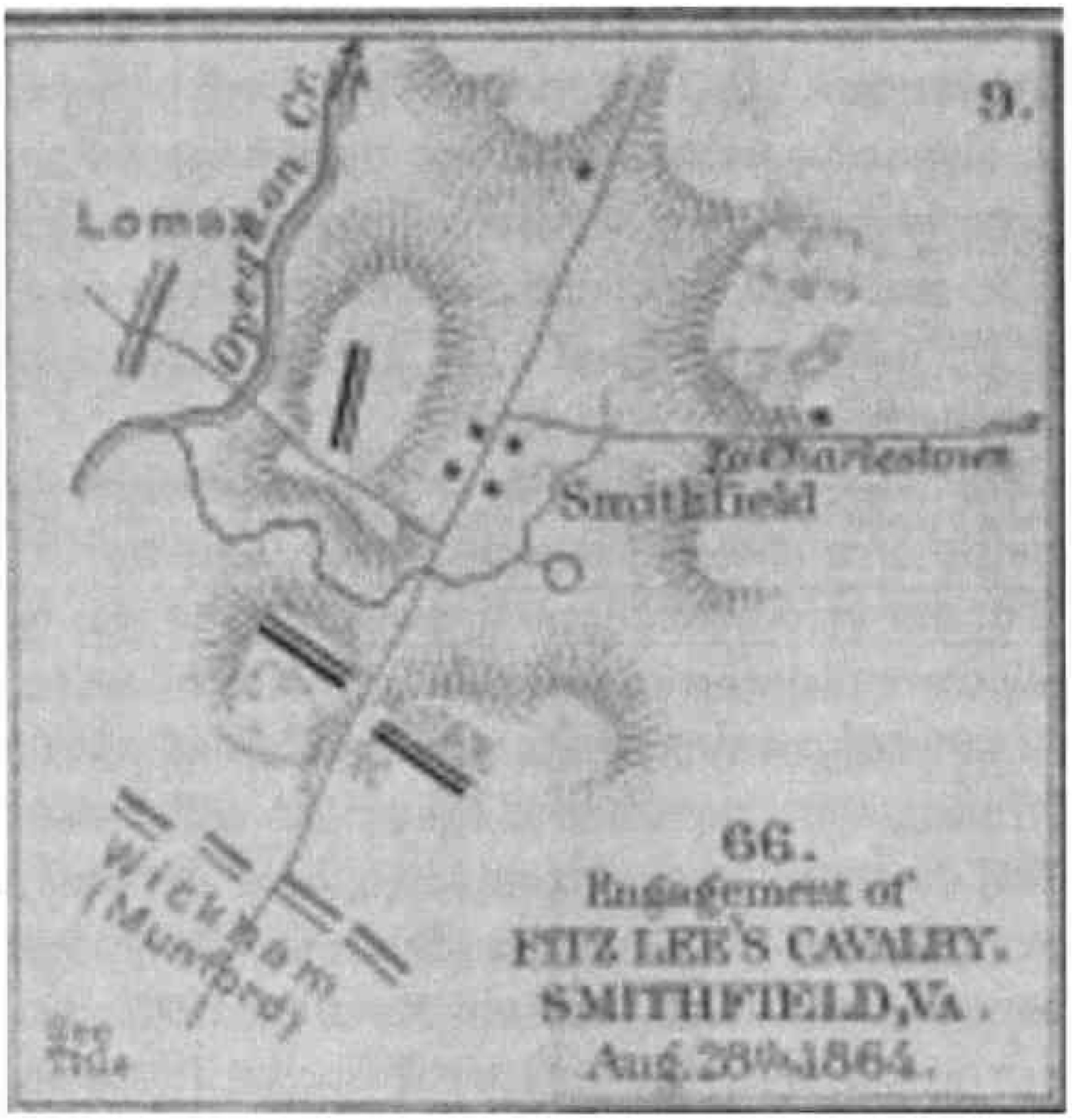
Maps

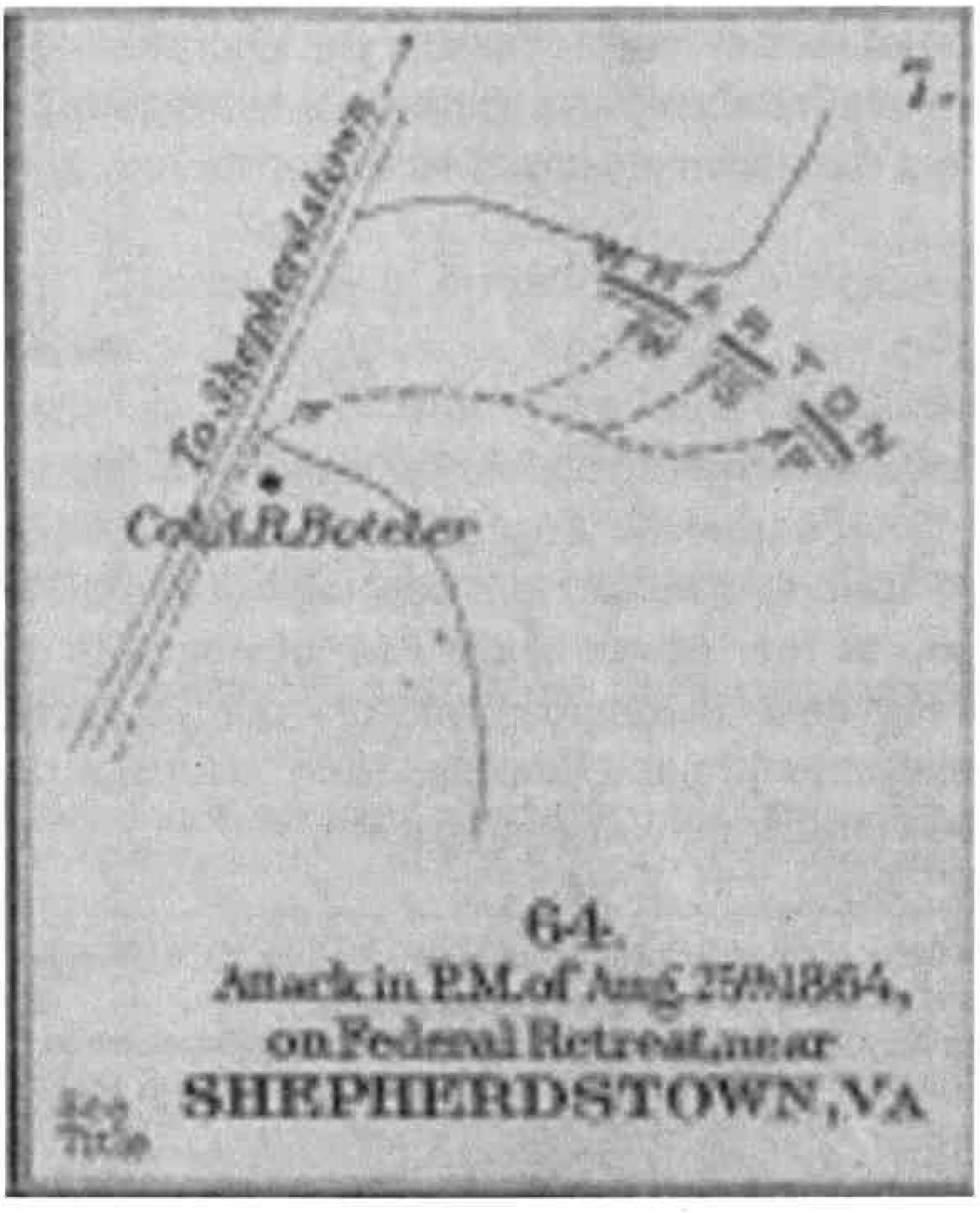
Jedediah Hotchkiss was responsible for creating a large number of maps of the battles and engagements in the Valley. These maps vary in scale and detail from coverage of the small scope of such a map as the "Attack in the P.M. of Aug 25th 1864, on Federal Retreat, near Shepherdstown" or the "Engagement of Fitz Lee's Cavalry, Smithfield, Va. Aug. 28th, 1864," to the much more detailed "Engagement at Charlestown."[67]

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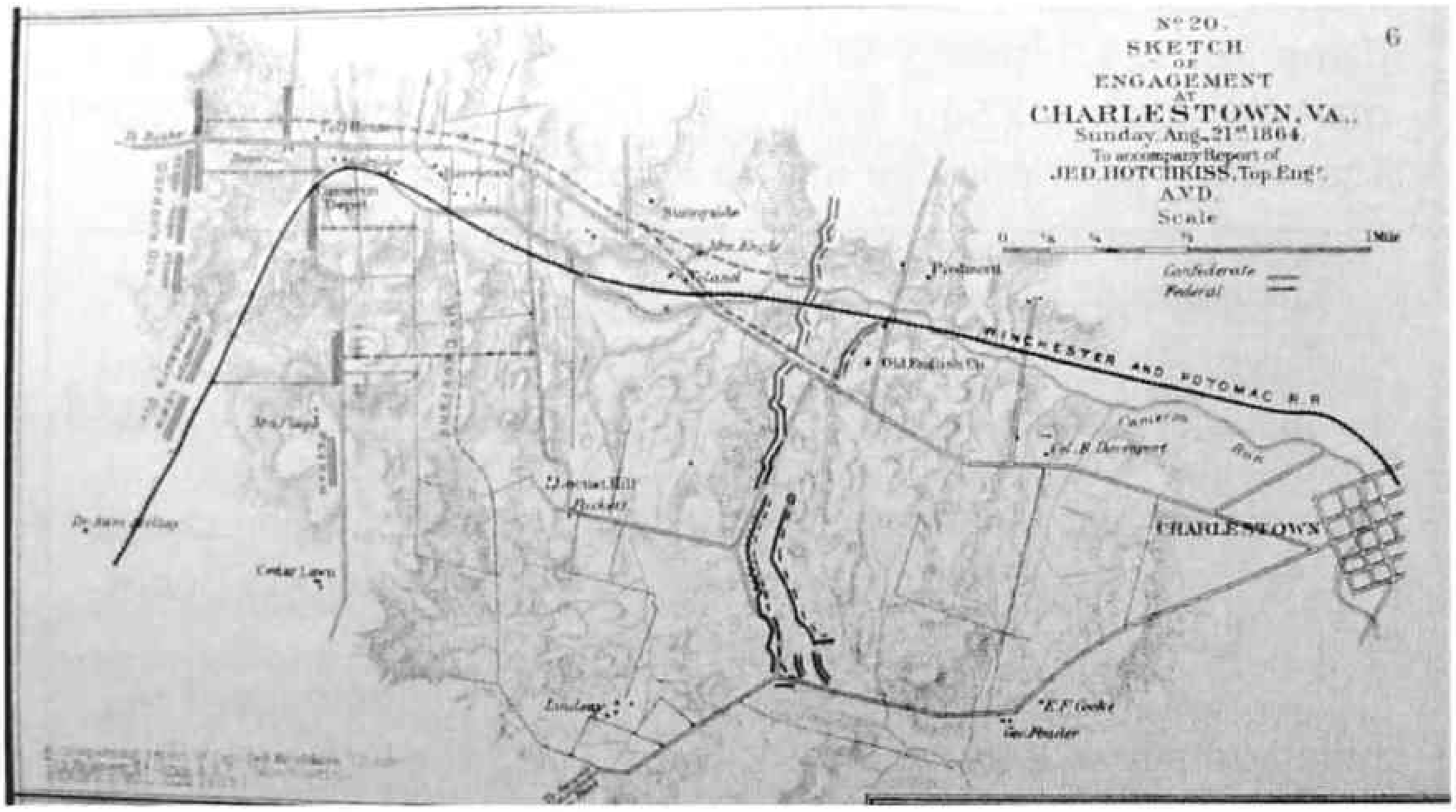
66 William B Packette, handwritten manuscript in the collection of the Jefferson County (West Virginia) Museum, 1928; cosigned by Ann Gibson.

67 *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, compiled by Capt. Calvin D. Cowles (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1891-1895), Plates 81-85.





Library of Congress



Library of Congress

Despite drawing more than 80 maps of the Valley, neither during his period of concentrated mapmaking in late 1864 nor at any other point—including in his memoirs, does Hotchkiss mention drafting a map of Summit Point or of the action there.

Local Lore

One more criterion to consider: what have the people of Jefferson County and of West Virginia called the events of August 21, 1864? Those people who have had an ancestral, historical, or even personal interest or connection to those events deserve a say in the naming of the battle. They are the ones who fought in the Civil War, whose family members were soldiers of the Civil War, whose ancestors owned and farmed those fields. They are also those dedicated to preserving the history of local events through writings, monuments, and landmarks.

In 1910, the local United Confederate Veterans, Jefferson County Camp No. 123, installed 25 obelisk monuments in the county to mark the upcoming 50th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.[68] The written description for marker number 20 states:[69]

"Engagement Between Early and Sheridan at Packett's Farm"

On August 21st, 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early began moving his troops from near Bunker Hill towards Charles Town. Upon crossing into Jefferson County he encountered Union cavalry. Driving them east he struck Union infantry near Cameron's Depot on the Winchester and Potomac Railroad.

At this point both sides drew up a line of defense. The confederate line centered on "Richwood Hall," the home of John Flagg. Early was supported on his left flank by cavalry brigades commanded by Generals Bradley T. Johnson and H. B. Davidson. Early's right was held by Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry including Gen John McCausland. The Union line, commanded by Gen. Philip Sheridan, was centered on "Locust Hill" the home of John Packette.

"Severe skirmishing and cannonading took place at this point, and quite a number of Federals were killed and wounded in and around Mr. Packett's House. The house of Mr. Packett to this day bears the evidence of the cannonading and musketry firing, a number of shells being lodged in the walls."

A marker at the remains of Packette's house, Locust Hill, erected in conjunction with the "Civil War Traveler" and the "West Virginia Civil War Trails" organizations states:[70]

68 Reference: http://articles.herald-mail.com/2011-07-19/news/29792799_1_rusty-morgan-monuments-united-confederate-veterans; August 18, 2017; Source: "Monuments mark Confederate historic sites in Jefferson County," July 19, 2011, Richard F. Belisle.

69 Reference: http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org/index.php/about-us-3/heritage-tourism/military-options-in-jefferson-county-virginia-now-west-viriginia-1861-1865/military-operations-in-jefferson-county-virignia-now-west-virignia-1861-1865-digital-tour/; August 18, 2017; Source: "Military Operations in Jefferson County, Virginia (Now West Virginia) 1861-1865 – Digital Map"; Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission 2016.

70 Reference: https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=58472; August 18, 2017; Source: "Cameron's Depot Engagement"; West Virginia Civil War Trails, August 16, 2012, by Don Morfe, last revised June 16, 2016.SHENANDOAH VALLEY, THE HISTORIC CONTEXT, 4. Valley Campaigns 1861-1865, Sheridan's Valley Campaign (August 1864-March 1865)," https://www.nps.gov/abpp/aboutus.htm; January 27, 2017.

Cameron's Depot Engagement
"What news now?"
—1864 Valley Campaign —

The Federal offensive in the Shenandoah Valley begun in May 1864 faltered in the summer with Confederate victories and Gen. Jubal A. Early's Washington Raid in July. Union Gen. Philip H. Sheridan took command in August, defeated Early at Winchester in September and Cedar Creek in October, burned mills and bars, and crushed the remnants of Early's force at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865. Sheridan's victories contributed to President Abraham Lincoln's reelection in November 1864 and denied Gen. Robert E. Lee's army much-needed provisions from the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy."

Union Gen. Philip H. Sheridan and Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early jockeyed for position in the Shenandoah Valley for several weeks in July 1864. With Gen. Robert E. Lee reinforcing Early, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered Sheridan to remain on the defensive and protect his army. Sheridan moved his army north from Berryville to prepared works at Halltown, a movement that convinced Early, erroneously, that Sheridan was "timid."

On Sunday, August 21, 1864, as Sheridan marched to Halltown, Early attacked Sheridan's mile-and-a half long position on the hills here with Gen Robert E. Rodes's infantry division. The fight lasted from about 9 A.M. until dusk, and the hottest action took place here. In Washington at 3 P.M., an anxious Lincoln telegraphed an officer in Harpers Ferry "What news now?"

The fight here resulted in 260 Union casualties and 160 for the Confederates. The victories that Lincoln needed for reelection came first in September at Atlanta, Georgia, and then in the Valley, thanks to the "timid" Sheridan.

This ruin is the northwestern corner of Locust Hill, the home of John B. and Lucy W. Packett. They and their slaves sheltered inside until Lt. Henry J. Nichols, 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery, led them to safety at Henry B. Davenport's House. Nine Confederate artillery shells struck Locust Hill and set it on fire twice as Federal sharpshooters occupied the second floor. The house burned in 1973, killing six people.

In 1974, the West Virginia Department of Archives and History erected an official roadside historical marker at Richwood Hall:[71]

Richwood Hall

The original brick house was built on land owned by Lawrence Augustine Washington, the son of Samuel Washington, George's brother. The present mansion-house, in an excellent state of preservation, was built about 1825. During the battle of Cameron's Depot, Aug. 21, 1864, Confederate General Jubal A. Early placed his cannon near the house and formed his battle lines north and south of this point.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History in its "West Virginia Memory Project - Highway Markers" shows the following information for a marker located at the site of Cameron's Depot:[72]

Cameron's Depot

Here, August 21, 1864, General Philip H. Sheridan's Federal forces were defeated by General Jubal A. Early. The fighting swept over such fine old estates as Harewood, Sulgrave, Tuscawillow, Cedar Lawn, and Locust Hill, still marked by shot and shell.

71 Reference: https://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=1885; August 18, 2917; Source: West Virginia Department of Archives and History, July 28, 2007, by Tom Fuchs, last revised on June 16, 2016.

72 Reference: http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/hmresults.aspx?County=Jefferson&Title=&Words=&Op=AND; August 18, 2017; Source: "West Virginia Memory Project - Highway Markers," West Virginia Division of Culture and History, 2015.

Summation

Rather than merely relying on a "he said, she said" spat, there are a number of criteria we can use to arrive at a conclusive name for the engagements of August 21, 1864: what places and names are used by participants and historians; what types of units were involved at the several locations; where did the most intense fighting of the longest duration take place; and, especially, where did the commanders consider the major fighting to have taken place?

Several place names concerning the engagements of August 21, 1864, were found in the course of this study:

Aldridge's	Charlestown	Smithfield
Berryville	Flowing Spring	Summit Point
Cameron's Depot	Middleway	Welch's Spring
Cameron's Station	Packett's	

Welch's Spring, Flowing Spring, and Cameron's Station are all synonymous with or in close proximity to Cameron's Depot. Smithfield and Middleway are names for the same place; and all accounts point to only initial contacts or a cavalry skirmish between Early's and Sheridan's forces there. Aldridge's and Packett's designate landowners, whose residences are directly in the center of the heaviest fighting between Gordon's and Ramseur's divisions of Early's force and the Union Sixth Corps: Aldridge being the landowner of Cameron's Depot and Packett's (Locust Hill) being the site of intense artillery and infantry fighting as attested by the eyewitness memoirs of William Packette.

That whittles down our possible name list to Charlestown, Summit Point, Berryville and Cameron's Depot. While Charlestown is mentioned in many accounts, it is evident that the town's name as the largest population center in proximity to the engagement is used as a locational reference rather than as the site of the battle in as much as no one states that any fighting on August 21 took place

there. In fact, since other actions actually took place in Charlestown during the Civil War, it is best to leave the name of Charlestown to those engagements.

Of the three remaining names, Berryville and its surrounding area in all accounts was never more than a sidelight on August 21 with Fitz Lee's and Merritt's cavalry forces sparring along the roads between Winchester and Berryville, and Berryville and Charlestown.

Down to Summit Point and Cameron's Depot: examination of all accounts shows a number of trends:

- Numerically greater forces were present and engaged at Cameron's Depot rather than at Summit Point. At Cameron's Depot, Early's four divisions—Ramseur's, Rodes', Gordon's, and Wharton's—were on the field, with two and a part of one other division engaged. Sheridan's force at Cameron's Depot consisted of the Sixth Corps—Russell's, Getty's, and Rickett's divisions; the Army of West Virginia, and part of the Nineteenth Corps, with the Sixth Corps principally engaged, the Nineteenth Corps minimally, and the Army of West Virginia not engaged. At Summit Point, Anderson had a single infantry division—that of Kershaw. The Union force at Summit Point consisted of Wilson's cavalry division. Elements of Confederate cavalry were engaged at both locations. Significant Confederate artillery was used at Cameron's Depot while there is no mention in any of the records or accounts of the use of Cutshaw's artillery at Summit Point even though Union use of artillery there was significant.

- The distances from the initial points of contact at the Opequon crossings to Cameron Depot and to Summit Point are significant in determining the duration and thereby the intensity of the engagements. The main Confederate attack from the direction of the Smithfield

crossings of the Opequon against the Union Sixth Corps posted along the Charlestown-Smithfield pike took place about 8:00 a.m. Anderson crossed the Opequon about the same time. Early had about three-and one-half miles to get to the area of Cameron's Depot while Anderson had between five and six miles. Wright's Sixth Corps responded rapidly with infantry and slowed Early's attack by Rodes' and Ramseur's divisions and gradually fell back to and through Cameron's Depot. All accounts state the fighting lasted throughout the day. Anderson's initial contacts were with part of Fitz Lee's cavalry which Wilson countered with cavalry skirmishers during the early morning over the six miles to Summit Point. Wilson's main body of cavalry and artillery were attacked not earlier than 10:00 a.m. and probably about noon according to Wilson in his 2:25 p.m. dispatch to Merritt. Wilson also states in a 2:05 p.m. dispatch to Reno [cavalry Chief of Staff] that the enemy advance "was checked by skirmishers and artillery sufficiently to allow me to withdraw." Anderson easily pushed Wilson out of Summit Point not later than 2:00 p.m., and—since James Taylor states that he was at lunch by 1:00 p.m. with Wilson and his staff who had left a single brigade to keep the enemy in check—probably closer to 1:00 p.m. The Confederate cavalry and infantry then broke off the engagement and went into camp at Summit Point by 3:30 p.m.

- Almost all accounts—even those of cavalry units—refer only to "skirmishes" at Summit Point and refer to much heavier fighting to the north in the vicinity of Wright's and Early's forces.

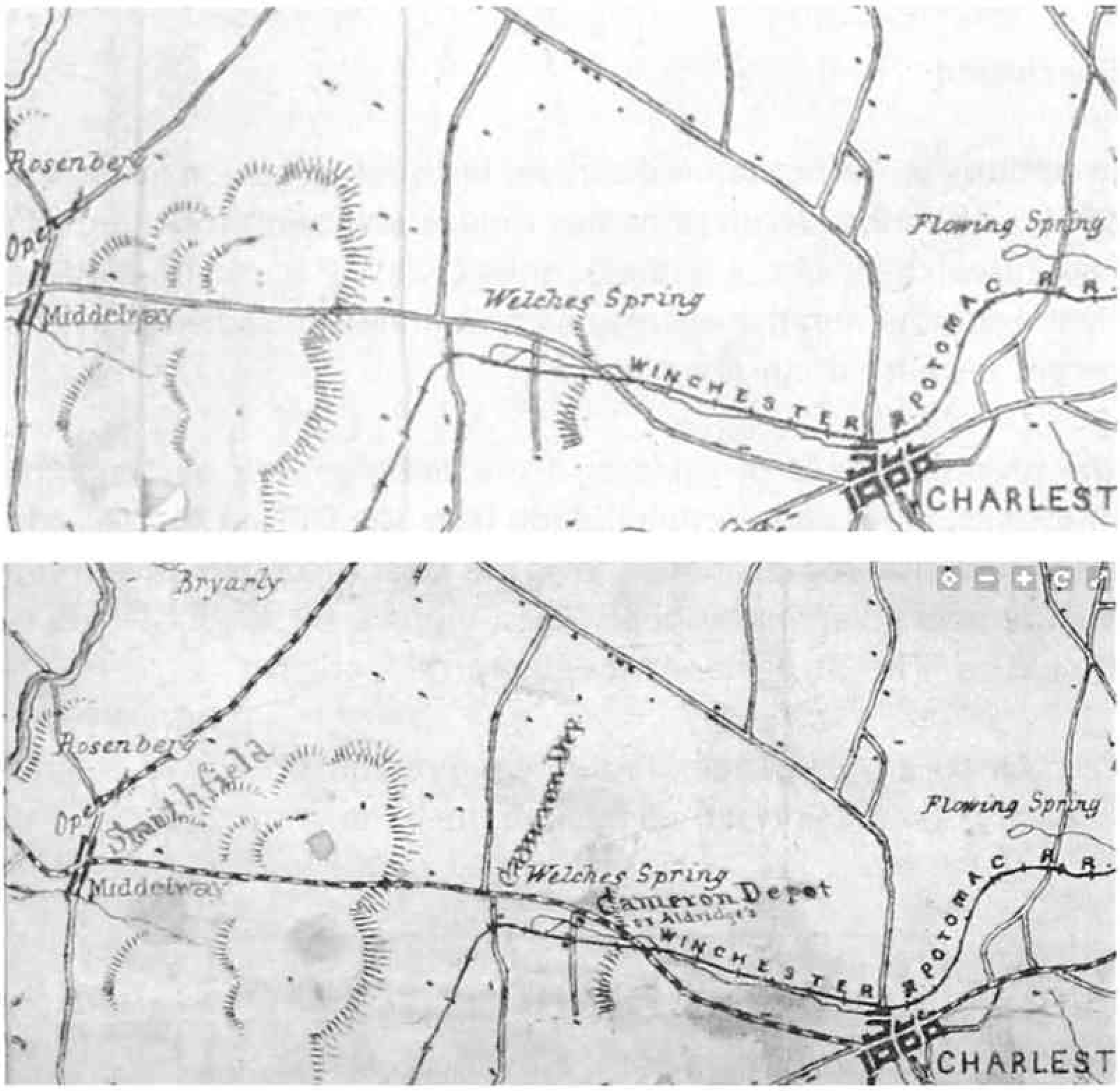
- Jedediah Hotchkiss concentrates on the action near Aldridge's—i.e., Cameron's Depot—pointing out that Anderson and Fitz Lee ". . . had some fighting near Summit Point." In his map of the engagement, Hotchkiss' only

reference to Summit Point is a small arrow at the edge of the map labeled "To Summit Point," while "Cameron Depot" is prominent in the middle of the action. None of Hotchkiss' nearly 100 maps of all types of Civil War engagements depicts Summit Point.

- Local lore and all markers and monuments refer to the events of August 21 as "Cameron's Depot." All markers are at or in the close vicinity of Cameron's Depot. There are no markers in or near Summit Point. William Packette, who witnessed the battle firsthand, in his memoir calls the events that took place at his home on August 21 ". . . the Battle of Cameron's Depot . . .

- General Sheridan: "The enemy . . . advanced on my position at Welch's Spring, two miles west of Charlestown. Some skirmishing took place on the front of the Sixth Corps and of General Crooks command during the day. The skirmish line of the Sixth Corps drove the enemy from the crest that they occupied in front of that corps. Skirmishing also took place with cavalry at Summit Point and Berryville, but of not much moment."

- General Early: ". . . my command mov[ed] through Smithfield towards Charlestown, and Anderson's on the direct road by Summit Point. A body of the enemy's cavalry was driven from the Opequon, and was pursued by part of our cavalry towards Summit Point. I encountered Sheridan's main force near Cameron's Depot, about three miles from Charlestown, in a position which he commenced fortifying at once. Rodes'and Ramseur's divisions were advanced to the front, and very heavy skirmishing ensued and was continued until night."



Library of Congress

The location of Welch's Spring—although intuitively determined to be near Cameron's Depot—was difficult to document. However, two maps[73] were located in the collection of the Library of Congress showing "Welches Spring." The first shows the spring approximately two miles west of Charles Town along the Winchester and Potomac Railroad. The second map, described by the Library of Congress as thought to be an updated edition of the first, has added information inserted showing "Cameron Depot or Aldridge's" located adjacent to "Welches Spring."

"Flowing Spring," referred to by General Sheridan in his report to General Grant on ". . . the campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah, dated February 3, 1866 is also correctly located on these maps north of Charles Town. Sheridan most likely—18 months after the battle—confused its name with that of Welch's Spring.

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73 Upper Potomac from McCoy's Ferry to Conrad's Ferry and adjacent portions of Maryland and Virginia, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Macomb, J. N and Strother, D. H. (Washn., D.C., Lith. by J. F. Gedney, 1863); Retrieved March 5, 2018, from https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3840.cw0245170/

Conclusion

In addition to the academic desire for historical precision in naming battles, the most accurate names reduce confusion for the many new researchers whose interest in the Civil War has been aroused by the commemorative events and new literature spawned by the recent sesquicentennial festivities.

The preponderance of evidence from commanders, participants, historians, maps and documentation from the Official Records and other historical compilations shows the most accurate name of the engagement in Jefferson County, West Virginia, on August 21, 1864, should be "The Engagement at Cameron's Depot."

The American Battlefield Protection Program's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission should rename the battle from:

Summit Point

Other Names: Flowing Springs, Cameron's Depot

To:

Cameron's Depot

Other Names: Welch's Spring, Flowing Spring, Summit Point

John Bagladi has been a resident of Jefferson County since 1977. He is a member of the Charles Town Library Civil War Round Table and is the Jefferson County Historical Society's curator.

"... but the work was done too late."

A Tribute to Local Historians Mary Taylor Wilson Miller and Carrie Beall Wilson

P. Douglas Perks

When the Jefferson County Historical Society was founded in May 1927, Carrie Beall Wilson and her sister Mary Taylor Wilson Miller were among those who became Charter Members.[1] Neither of the Wilson sisters was a Jefferson County native—both were born in Blair, Nebraska[2] and by the turn of the century they were living in Hampshire County, West Virginia.[3] Mary was the first of her family to call Jefferson County home. While in Hampshire County, she met the widower Dr. Joseph M. Miller. They wed in November 1900[4], and in 1901 the couple moved to Harpers Ferry.[5] By 1920 the Millers had relocated to Charles Town, where Dr. Miller continued his medical practice and operated Miller's Pharmacy, one door east of the Court House.[6] A decade later sister Carrie, brother Van, and their mother Miranda moved to Charles Town and took up residence on South George Street.[7]

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1 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*. Volume I, December 1935. Page 4.

2 West Virginia Vital Records. Death Record Detail for Berkeley County. Certificate of Death for Carrie Beall Wilson.

3 1900 United States Federal Census record for Hampshire County, West Virginia. https://www.ancestry.com/.

4 West Virginia Vital Records. Marriage Record Detail for Hampshire County. https://archive.wvculture.org/vrr/va_mcdetail.aspx?Id=10995054.

5 1910 United States Federal Census record for Jefferson County, West Virginia. https://www.ancestry.com/.

6 1920 United States Federal Census record for Jefferson County, West Virginia. https://www.ancestry.com/.

7 1930 United States Federal Census record for Jefferson County, West Virginia. https://www.ancestry.com/.

Both sisters immersed themselves in the Charles Town community, and like those who are born here in the land between the Shenandoah and Potomac, Carrie and Mary learned to love the rich history of Jefferson County. In addition to becoming a Charter Member of the Society, Carrie was chosen to be its first Treasurer and in 1935 became its Curator, a post she held for more than a decade. In May 1928 Charles Town's leading philanthropist, Elsie Bogardus Murphy, purchased a building on East Washington Street which became the town's first public library. Murphy tapped Mary Taylor Miller to join Phoebe Getzendanner and Katherine Riddle as Trustees of the library, named the "Helena Platt Murphy Memorial Library" in honor of Miss Elsie's mother. Folks in town called it the Old Charles Town Library, and Miller became one of three volunteer Librarians.[8]

As members of the Historical Society, Wilson and Miller did not subscribe to the "meet, greet, and eat" philosophy of participation. Instead, they both took an active role and spent a considerable amount of their personal time researching and recording the county's history. After months of traveling the county's back roads, their first contribution was a three-ring binder containing fifty-six type written pages. Titled "Record of old graveyards," Miller explained its contents in its Foreword:

> In making up the records of these old grave-yards, care has been taken to have them as absolutely correct as possible.
>
> This has not been easy because of the neglected condition of nearly all these family burying places.
>
> The farms on which they are situated have passed from the owner-ship of the families of those who

8 Deed of Bargain & Sale dated May 16, 1928. Deed book 130, page 420. Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town WV.

sleep here; the fences are gone; the stones are broken, discolored and weather-worn; desolate and abandoned; a few more years and all trace of them will be lost, which is the sad fate of many of them now.

No attempt has been made to record graves in the town cemeteries.

Charles Town, W. Va.

Dec. 1934

These records are made for the Old Charles Town Library [**handwritten**]
by (Mrs.) J. M. Miller

> Many of the graves in these old burying places, and probably the oldest ones, are marked with field stones with no inscriptions.[9]

Miller's notebook includes a two-page alphabetized index which noted the names and locations of ninety-seven graveyards that she and sister Carrie surveyed and recorded. As word of their project got around, the index was occasionally updated as evidenced by a number of handwritten entries which appear. The surname Bowley was added to the "Bs," Chapline to the "Cs," Davenport and Dust to the "Ds," so forth and so on as the women were made aware of or discovered additional burial grounds. On page four of the notebook there are four newspaper clippings. One dated in 1938 describes the ceremony held when the National Society Daughters of 1812 marked the grave of Nicholas Lemen who died from disease during the War of 1812. Another clip chronicled the ghostly appearance of

9 FOREWORD from the typewritten manuscript "Records of Tombstones Outside Towns" by Mrs. J. M. Miller in December 1934. Original copy in the Perry Room at the Charles Town Library, Charles Town WV.

Charlotte Norris whose tombstone inscription is recorded on page 10 which explained she was buried in the "Grave-yard on the Isbell place on the Berryville Road." The women made just one exception to the no town cemetery rule. Because both were members of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church, the sisters faithfully recorded the names of fifty-seven standing tombstones in the "Old Presbyterian Grave-yard" located in Charles Town's west end at the southwest corner of Congress and West Streets. They concluded the inventory of the Presbyterian Graveyard with the words "A number of other graves, some with unmarked stones, and some of the stones too faded to see." In the 1960s when the standing tombstones were removed, Miller's record helped to preserve the names of the men and women buried there.

In 1934 when the graveyard inventory was completed, the Old Charles Town Library was just six years old. A few steps west of the Presbyterian Church, the library building was formerly the headquarters of the Jackson-Perks American Legion Post 71 and before that was the dentist office of Dr. James M. Ranson, Jr. When the post moved three blocks west, Elsie Murphy bought the building and had it renovated to meet the library's needs. With her keen sense of research and history, I'm sure that Librarian Mary T. Miller designated a special place for local history, and that is where the three-ring binder containing the records of ninety-seven family graveyards ended up.

In its first eight years of existence the Society generated a cornucopia of local history. Several times each year local and state historians spoke to the group on a variety of topics of local interest. Old newspapers were combed for information and both books and objects which related to local history were collected. Fortunately, the Society's leadership recognized the importance of collecting all of this information in a format which would preserve it for future generations. Their solution was to produce an annual publication, and in 1935, the Jefferson County Historical Society launched the first edition of the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical*

Society. Under the leadership of an Editorial Committee comprised of Alva Dean Kenamond, the Society's President, Dr. Henry Temple McDonald, its Recording Secretary, and Director Mary Brooke Yates Wynkoop,[10] the *Magazine* was a collection of articles each of which related to Jefferson County's rich history.

Among the articles in the first issue was "Daniel Boone's Marriage to Rebecca Bryan," written by Clifford S. Musser[11] and the "Wedding of Dolly Payne Todd and James Madison," submitted by Eliza Washington Willis.[12] Note that today's Dolley was spelled Dolly in 1935. The next year in Volume II the Editorial Committee printed a speech that Dr. McDonald delivered when the Society met at Anthony Hall in Harpers Ferry on February 3, 1928. Titled "The Armory And Arsenal At Harpers Ferry,"[13] McDonald's speech joined contributions by fellow authors Marshall Woodrow McDonald, who wrote "The Roads Of Jefferson County,"[14] and Annie Darke Engle Baker's "Early Taverns In Jefferson County,"[15] each submission adding to the written record of county history.

In 1937, the forty-four-page *Magazine* included fourteen submissions with topics like "James Rumsey and His Steamboat," written by Rumsey biographer Ella May Turner[16] and Dr. Robert Lee Bate's offering titled "The Middleway Blues."[17] Nestled in between an article about fraternal organizations and letters written to Thomas Blackburn Washington was one titled "Some Old Graves and Graveyards in Jefferson County." The Editorial Committee recognized the value and importance of Miller's and Wilson's work "Record of old graveyards," and they asked Mary T. Miller to submit an article which summarized compilation. What follows is her article as it appeared in the 1937 *Magazine:*

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10 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume I, December 1935. Page 3.
11 Ibid. Page 24.
12 Ibid. Page 27.
13 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume II, December 1936. Page 4.
14 Ibid. Page 30.
15 Ibid. Page 33.
16 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume III, December 1937. Page 4.
17 Ibid. Page 34.

SOME OLD GRAVES AND GRAVEYARDS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY[18]

By Mrs. J. M. MILLER

Graveyards, not a very cheerful subject, perhaps, but a very interesting one, for they preserve the names of many of those who laid the foundation of our county. Sad to say, a number of these old buryinggrounds, like that around the Old Bullskin Church, near Summit Point, have entirely disappeared, with the names of those who sleep there. And it is only by referring to old letters and Bibles that one can find the names of any of those who are buried at St. George's Chapel.

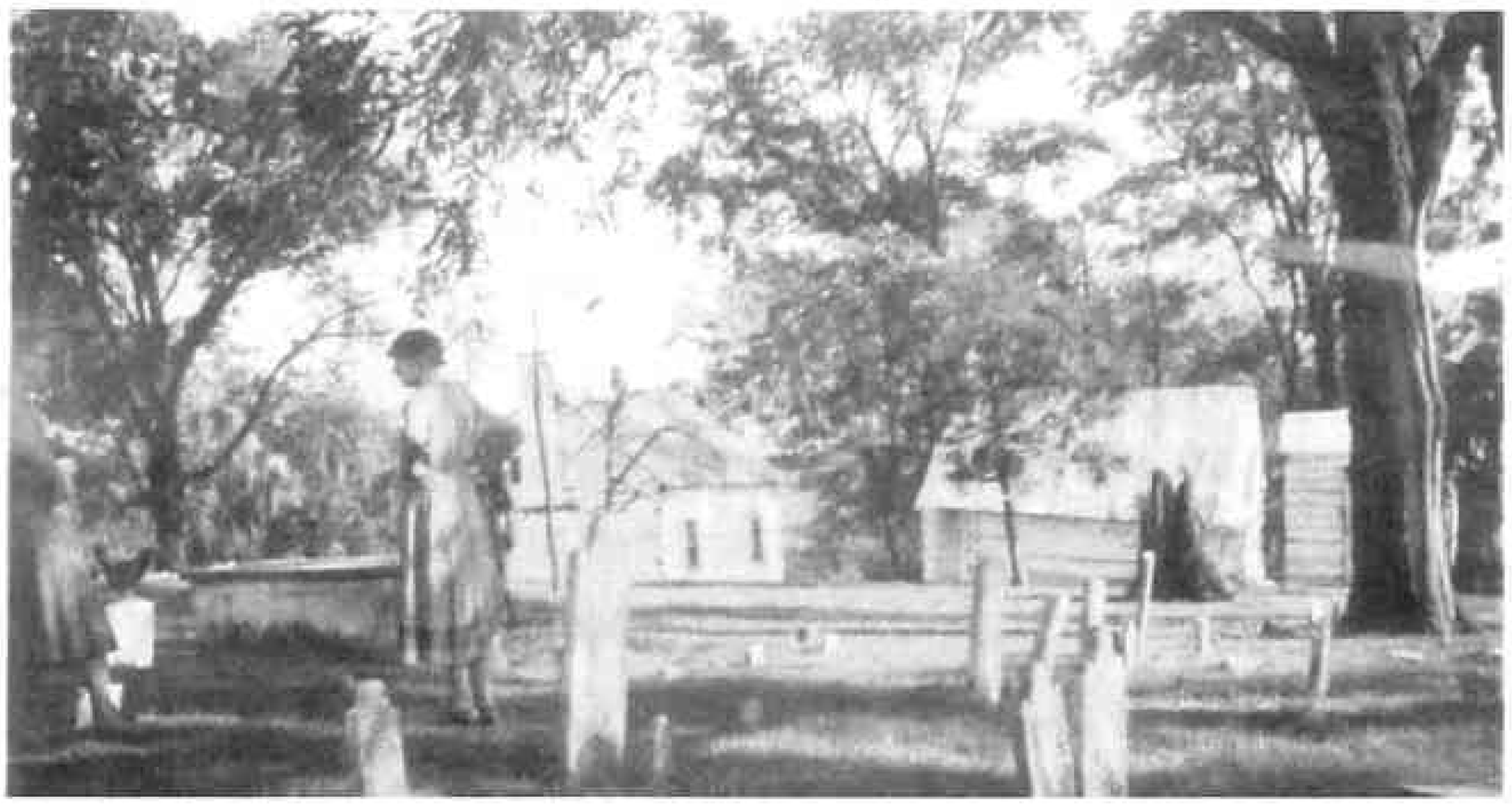
The oldest markers seem to have been field stones with no records on them, as in the McCormack graveyard, near Summit Point. However, there are still a number of old graveyards that are most interesting.

The Darke graveyard is near Duffields, where the General and members of his family are buried, and Catharina Beierlin. An old sandstone marked M. H. 1776 is also found here.

The graveyard at "Maple Shade" dates back at least to 1786, where the Swearingens, some of

18 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*. Volume III, December 1937. Pages 23-24.

them, are buried. At "Bellevue" there are many unmarked stones, and some with names such as Blackford and Hamtramck. In the Reformed Church graveyard the old stones are inscribed in German. Also, not far from here, is the grave of the pioneer, Edward Lucas, and many members of his family. All these are near Shepherdstown.



"'Elmwood' grave-yard." Page 17.
Caption and photograph from Mary Taylor Miller's
"Records of Tombstones Outside Towns"
In the collection of the Perry Room at the Charles Town Library.

In the Halltown neighborhood, on the farm of Mrs. Edmund Taylor, is the grave of John Rion, a large land owner, who departed this life 1788. At "Flowing Spring" in the garden in an unmarked grave lies Robin Rutherford, also a large land owner. Other Rutherfords were buried on the George Zinn farm in the garden, as early as the 1800's. Not far from Dust Crossing lies Robert Buckles, a Revolutionary officer, in an unmarked grave. John Freize, a Revolutionary soldier, is said to be buried on the "South Wood" farm, near Walpers Cross Roads. There are many unmarked stones here. At "The Moorings," near Wicliff, Battaile Muse is

buried. He was Washington's business manager, and departed this life in 1803. Members of his family are also buried here.

Peter Haines, the last Revolutionary soldier who died in Charles Town, is buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard; no one knows just where. There are over sixty legible stones in this old graveyard, names of those who were active in the affairs of the town. Isabella Kennedy, who died in 1799, has the oldest marked stone.



"Old Quaker Meeting House grave-yard. 'Beverly.'" Page 28.
Caption and photograph from Mary Taylor Miller's
"Records of Tombstones Outside Towns."
In the collection of the Perry Room at the Charles Town Library.

The old Quaker graveyard on the Marshall Burns place, where once stood a Quaker meeting house, a number of the land owners around here being Quakers, is forgotten history.

A record of about a hundred of these old graveyards has been made to preserve them for other generations, but the work was done too late.

Writing almost nine decades ago, Miller's words lamented that as she traveled the county's back roads in search of graveyards "a number of these old burying grounds, like that around the Old Bullskin [Presbyterian] Church, near Summit Point, have entirely disappeared." Miller's words provide little comfort to modern-day local historians in search of men and women who are interred in early graveyards.

As Miller traveled around the county, she noted that some of the earliest grave markers were "field stones with no records on them," and such was the case when she visited the "McCormack [sic] graveyard, near Summit Point." The McCormick family was among the Lower Valley's earliest settlers, and their *White House Tavern* is one of the oldest in Jefferson County[19]. Even though Miller's goal was to record the "essential data from the inscription" on standing headstones, she respectfully recorded what she could learn about graves denoted by these unmarked field stones. While in Shepherdstown, Miller observed that "at 'Bellevue' [home of the Swearingen family] there are many unmarked stones." "In the Halltown neighborhood" Miller found the "grave of John Rion, a large land owner, who died in 1788." Just north of Charles Town Miller visited *Flowing Spring*, the ancestral home of the Rutherford family where "in the garden in an unmarked grave lies Robin [Robert] Rutherford." Miller also noted what many local folks knew—two men who served in the Continental Army were buried in unmarked graves: Robert Buckles "not far from Dust Crossing" and John Frieze "is said to be buried on the 'South Wood' farm, near Walper's Cross Roads." Peter Haines, "the last Revolutionary soldier who died in Charles Town" was buried in the Old Presbyterian Grave Yard in Charles Town, but sadly "no one knows just where."

In 1960, the Jefferson County Historical Society added a new feature to its annual *Magazine*. Volume XXVI included an article titled "Tombstone Inscriptions I," which was initially intended to be

19 Allen, John C., Jr. *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835.* West Virginia University Press, Morgantown WV. 2011. Pages 70-71.

"the first of two lists of gravestone records, giving the essential data from the inscriptions – birth and death dates, and such information as the wife of, son of, or daughter of." Of course, the source of the inscriptions was none other Mary T. Miller's "Record of old graveyards." The *Magazine's* Editor, A. D. Kenamond credited both Miller and sister Carrie:

> In 1934 Mrs. J. M. Miller and Miss Carrie B. Wilson, for many years the Society's Curator, made a valuable contribution to all interested in genealogy by completing a survey of practically all the graveyards in the country, excepting the larger church and public cemeteries still in use. Their records have been supplemented somewhat, particularly by including several other graveyards, and the names of those found in each burying ground have been arranged in alphabetical order.[20]

Best laid plans! What was initially intended to be two articles in back-to-back issues of the *Magazine* took on a life of its own. Eventually, over two decades a total of ten "Tombstone Inscription" articles were printed.[21] These printed records proved to be invaluable for a number of reasons especially as over time some of the older family and church graveyards were abandoned and fell into disrepair. Inspired by the work of Miller and Wilson, additional graveyards were added to their list "of about a hundred of these old graveyards." In 1974 burials in Fairview Cemetery, an African American cemetery at Gibsontown, were recorded by Bernard Ruffin.[22] The last index, Volume X, was a record of the Union Cemetery at Middleway compiled by Dorothea W. Feigley.[23]

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20 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume XXVI, December 1960. Pages 26-43.

21 "Tombstone Inscriptions" appeared in Volume XXVI (1960), Volume XXVII (1961), Volume XXVIII (1962), Volume XXIX (1963), Volume XXX (1964) Volume XXXV (1969), Volume XXXVI (1970), Volume XXXVI (1971), Volume XXL (1974), and Volume XLIV (1978).

22 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume XL, December 1974. Pages 51-54.

23 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society.* Volume XLIV, December 19IV. Pages 69-72.

In 1981, all ten volumes of "Tombstone Inscriptions" were compiled and included in the publication *Tombstone Inscriptions, Jefferson County, W. Va. 1687-1980.*[24] *Tombstone Inscriptions* was published by Bee Line Chapter NSDAR, thus combining all of the existing cemetery records into one book. The cemeteries are entered alphabetically, and the book includes an index of surnames – a great resource for folks who are trying to track down ancestors who were buried in Jefferson County. If you are interested, the Historical Society still has several boxes of *Tombstone Inscriptions* available for purchase–copies are available for just $20. To purchase a copy, go to the Historical Society's web page (http://www.jeffersonhistoricalwv.org/index.html). Tell us if you'd like one [or two or three!!]) of these useful books, a "comprehensive listing of county tombstone inscriptions."

Not to be outdone by sister Mary, on Friday, February 3, 1939, Carrie Wilson presented the winter address to the Society which met in the Court House. Her topic was "The Friends or Quaker Element in Jefferson," in her words "principally about the early Friends in Jefferson county and the Bullskin Meeting House." Her primary resource was the book *Hopewell Friends History, 1734-1934, Frederick County, Virginia*[25] published three years before by the Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends. As the Curator, Wilson cared for the books and artifacts entrusted to the Society. At that time, the Society had a small office in the brand-new County Building on the northwest corner of South George and West Congress Street, and the archive included a copy of the *Hopewell Friends History*. Wilson's interest in the Friends was piqued when Keightley Timberlake Wilson donated a number of relics associated with a Quaker family named Janney which included a "Quaker doll."

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24 *Tombstone Inscriptions and Burial Lots compiled by Bee Line Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.* HBP, Inc. Hagerstown Maryland. 1981.

25 Wayland, John W., Editor. *Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934 Frederick County, Virginia.* Records of Hopewell Monthly Meetings and Meetings Reporting to Hopewell. Two Hundred Years of History and Genealogy. Compiled from Official Records by a Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends. Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc. Strasburg, Virginia. 1936.

Wilson's research revealed that the Friends came into the Lower Valley in the early 1730s, following a wagon road identified as the "road to the Opeckon." She opined that the "first" Friends to arrive were the Worthingtons, who settled on 1,000 acres along Evitt's Run at *Quarry Banks*, today *Piedmont*. By 1785 there was a Friends group at Bullskin with a meeting house "on the southwestern part of the farm now owned by Mr. Marshall Burns" on land deeded in 1791 by "William Grubb and wife to Adam Grubb, Jonas Chamberlain and William McPherson." The Quaker graveyard associated with the Bullskin Meeting House, which "can be seen from the Berryville Pike," is one which the two sisters documented in "Records of old graveyards" and is the final resting place for some of the members of the McPherson and Haines families. Miller also reported on the Friends' practice of disownment. John Carter was disowned for dancing and singing, John Vestal and his family were disowned when they "consented to their daughter's marriage in their home," and Jane Pugh was disowned "for singing and dancing." However, in Wilson's opinion, although "the Friends were persecuted in Virginia . . . they endured, lived and became a great religious body, at the present period, respected by all the world."

In its December 1944 edition of the *Magazine*, the Society once again introduced a new serial feature. In recognition of the many old residences found in Jefferson County, the Society decided to print a series of articles which they called the "Album of Historic Homes."[26] The first article featured eight old houses and for each house there was a "historical sketch" which described both the house and its owners. Six of the eight houses in the first article were still standing in 1944 and a photograph of each was included in the article: the Peter Burr House; the Richard Stephenson House; Dry Bridge Farm; The Rocks; Wingerd Cottage; and Lower Farm, Shepherd Grade. Two of the eight houses, Bedford and Fountain Rock, were burned by the Union Army in the summer of 1864, so instead of a photograph they were represented by copies of

26 *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*. Volume X, December 1944. Pages 4-22.

watercolors done by local women which represented what these houses must have looked like. Eventually eighteen volumes of "Albums of Historic Homes" would be published in the *Magazine*. The "albums" sometimes featured just one house, and they were not published in consecutive years. The last, "Volume XVIII," appeared in the December 1980 issue.[27]

In the preface to the first installment of the "Album of Historic Homes," I discovered the following, which I must admit gave me quite a thrill:

> This article was inspired by a beautiful pictorial scrapbook prepared by Mrs. J. M. Miller [Mary Taylor Wilson Miller] and Miss Carrie B. [Beall] Wilson, of Charles Town. The book contains 116 pages with pictures of 137 old buildings, most of them still preserved, with historical sketches. This article draws liberally on their data and amplifies considerably on a number of their sketches.

Perhaps while they traveled the county searching for, finding, and making a record of the county's graveyards, the sisters carried a Brownie camera and along the way snapped pictures of some of the old buildings which they encountered. Regardless of when the images were captured, Miller and Wilson created a scrapbook which they called "A Pictorial History of Jefferson County,"[28] which Dean Kenamond had described in the preface. The scrapbook includes photographs, postcards, and drawings of old places which the sisters felt were important to Jefferson County's history. Each

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27 The "Album of Historic Homes" appeared in Volume X (1944), Volume XI (1945), Volume XII (1946), Volume XIII (1947), Volume XV (1949), Volume XX (1954), Volume XXI (1955), Volume XXII (1956), Volume XIV (1958), Volume XXV (1959), Volume XXVII (1961), Volume XXVIII (1962), Volume XXIX (1963), Volume XXXIII (1967), Volume XXXIV (1968), Volume XXXVI (1970), Volume XLIV (1978), and Volume XLVI (1980).

28 "A Pictorial History of Jefferson County." ARC1 in the Jefferson County Museum's archive.

photograph was identified by a handwritten caption, and Miller and Wilson added several type-written pages of early history. All in all, another remarkable resource. As a side note, the Society has copies of all of the *Magazines* for sale. Our web site has an index of the articles in each edition so that you can browse the topics which have been written annually since 1935. Contact us if you would like a copy.

Several years ago, Robert S. "Bobby" Orndorff visited the Jefferson County Museum and brought with him copies of pages from an old scrapbook. Each page contained pictures of old houses from Jefferson County, and occasionally some narration. One of the things which struck me as odd was that some of the pages had photographs attached to the back of stationery from the Old Charles Town Library. Over time Bobby brought more and more pages of the scrapbook, thrilling us each time with the old photographs. Eventually, he very graciously donated the scrapbook to the museum, and my subsequent research verified that it was not only the very one referenced in the preface to "Album of Historic Homes I" but also was one of the primary sources used by Dr. Millard Kessler Bushong in his first edition of *A History of Jefferson County, West Virginia*.[29] When she assembled the scrap book, Mary Taylor Miller was the Librarian of the Old Charles Town Library, and being frugal, instead of buying a scrapbook from her husband's pharmacy, she made her own using the library's stationery as its pages. Fittingly, after many years, the scrapbook had made its way back home!

Carrie Beall Wilson died on September 10, 1956, and is buried near her mother in Rose Hill Cemetery in Cumberland, Maryland.[30] Mary

29 Bushong, Millard Kessler. *A History of Jefferson County, West Virginia*. Jefferson Publishing Company. Charles Town, West Virginia. 1941. Bibliography. Primary Sources. Manuscript Materials. "Scrap book belonging to Mrs. J. M. Miller of Charles Town, W. Va." Page 343.

30 West Virginia Vital Records. Death Record Detail for Berkeley County. Certificate of Death for Carrie Beall Wilson. https://archive.wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx.

Taylor Wilson Miller lived to be 96 years old, and when she died ten years after her sister Carrie, in November 1966, she was buried next to her husband, Dr. Joseph M. Miller, in the Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Woodstock, Virginia.[31] These two women, motivated by their love for the History of Jefferson County, compiled two of the most significant collections which help preserve the historic record of our county.

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31 West Virginia Vital Records. Death Record Detail for Jefferson County. Certificate of Death for Mary T. Miller. https://archive.wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx.

Boyd Stutler's article, "Judge Richard Parker," Revisited Seventy Years Later

Trish Ridgeway



Boyd B. Stutler
West Virginia and Regional History Center
WVU Libraries

"Judge Richard Parker—He Tried John Brown" by Boyd Blynn Stutler appeared in the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society* in December 1953. After seventy years, the article remains the main source of information on Judge Parker—authors writing on the trial of John Brown usually cite this article.

Stutler provided no specific references to his sources, which must frustrate scholars researching Parker. Stutler owned

most of the documents he used in the article. The aim of this article is to provide documentation for Stutler's article. There are a few corrections, most coming from newer information. Some editorial corrections are in brackets within the article text.

Boyd Blynn Stutler

Stutler was one of the major collectors of John Brown materials. He maintained control of the collection until his death in 1970. The West Virginia Archives acquired the collection in 1976, and in 1979 (the 150th anniversary of the John Brown Raid), the Archives mounted an online version of the John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection. The website states, "This database also contains over 100 original John Brown letters and manuscripts, a similar number of family letters, and three books of business letters from Brown's partnership with Simon Perkins in the wool trade. There are several hundred letters of Brown's associates and biographers as well."[1]

The database also contains at least twenty-six documents relating to Parker, totaling several hundred pages. It contains letters to and from Parker, some of Parker's diaries and account books, and Stutler's correspondence about Parker. These documents were Stutler's major sources for the article in the *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society* and for an article in the *Autograph Collector's Journal*.[2]

1 West Virginia Memory Project, "John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection," copyright 2021, https://archive.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/imlsintro.html

2 Stutler, Boyd B. "Judge Richard Parker of Virginia," *Autograph Collector's Journal*, 4, no. 3 (Spring, 1952): 21-23

Stutler was born in 1889 in Gilmer County, West Virginia. He was a writer, editor and publisher, and throughout his life, a passionate collector of John Brown materials. He wrote articles and books on West Virginia history, including in 1963, *West Virginia in the Civil War*. He was active in the West Virginia Historical Education Foundation and the West Virginia Historical Society. He served in World War I and was a war correspondent in the Pacific during World War II. Stutler is buried in Sunset Memorial Park in South Charleston.

The 1959 Article:

JUDGE RICHARD PARKER—HE TRIED JOHN BROWN
By Boyd B. Stutler

(Mr. Stutler, 580 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, New York, is the editor of the *American Legion Magazine;* a member of the publication committee, Autograph Collectors' Journal; vice-president, the Civil War Round Table of New York; and a contributor to the *American Philatelist.*)

For a full dozen years Richard Parker—later Judge Richard Parker of Winchester—was a resident of Jefferson County, and was active in its business, political and social affairs. As a young man, he was for ten years Military Storekeeper and Paymaster at the Harpers Ferry Armory and Arsenal, and then was for nearly two years in residence at Charles Town in the practice of law.[3]

3 In this article, Stutler mainly used the modern two-word spelling of *Charles Town*, while Parker used the one-word spelling; however, Stutler occasionally used the one-word version.

It was this same judge Richard Parker who, in a long public career spanning more than sixty years, earned a measure of immortality by a single incident—an incident, however, vitally involving the places of his former residence in Jefferson County. He is one who had a dubious fame thrust upon him—when he is mentioned in the historical records, as he frequently is, he is referred to as the judge who sentenced John Brown to death. And that one incident, it seems is the only act of this jurist that has caused his name to be remembered.

Perhaps because he was a modest man, plodding, methodical, and was so completely wrapped up in his own and his family affairs, he left scant biographical details. That, and for no other good reason, is probably why writers have confused this Judge Parker with Judge Isaac Parker, the better-known hanging Judge of Arkansas.[4] The Virginia judge probably sentenced other men to death during his nearly twenty years on the bench, but there is nothing in his record or in his scattered personal papers to indicate that he took any great pride in the act. He did not make a career out of hanging, nor did he in after years exploit his service as the presiding judge at the trial of John Brown and his associates. If we can read his manuscript diaries aright, the severe penalties of the law he was called upon to inflict upon offenders were painful to him.

4 Judge Isaac Parker, 1838-1896, served as Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas from 1875 to 1896.

Again, there is some confusion in fixing the identity of the right Richard Parker, and for a more logical reason. He came from a distinguished line of Virginia judges—he was the third of his name in line of descent to grace the Virginia bench, the years of service of this family almost spanning the years of the Republic down through the Civil War. His great-grandfather, Richard Parker, (1729-1813), of Westmoreland County, was judge of the General Court from 1788 until his death. Richard Elliott Parker, (1783-1840), grandson of the first Richard and father of the third, who established the family home at "The Retreat," near Snickersville, now Bluemont, Loudoun County,[5] served in the Virginia Legislature, commanded a regiment of Virginia troops in the War of 1812, and was appointed judge of the General Court in 1817. He served on the bench until December 12, 1836, when he was elected to the United States Senate—but his stay in the Senate was brief; he resigned his seat on March 4, 1837, to accept an appointment as judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. Judge Richard E. Parker kept his place on this bench until his death at "The Retreat" on September 9, 1840. "This day between 9 and 10 p.m., my dear Father breathed his last," the son Richard wrote in his diary.[6]

5 The Retreat is in Clarke County, east of Berryville, VA. Clarke County was formed in 1836 from Frederick County. Richard Elliott Parker moved his family to the property around 1821. There is an area in Clarke County near the Loudoun County line that is called Snickersville even though Loudoun County claims Snickersville as the former name of Bluemont.

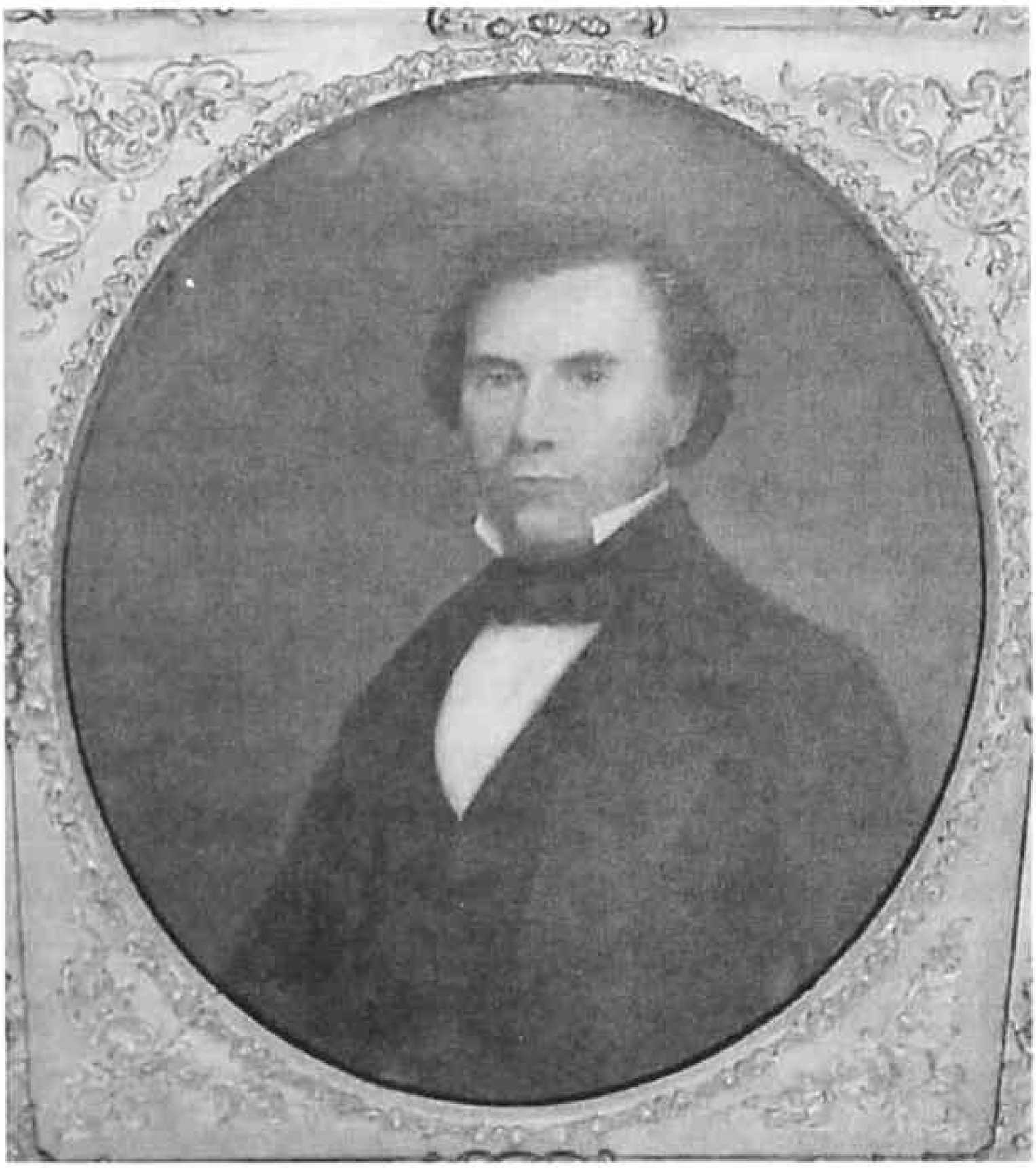
6 Parker's 1840 and 1841 diaries are not available online but are in the West Virginia State Archives Manuscript Collections, Boyd Blynn Stutler Collection. Ms78-1, Series 1: Original Source Papers, 14, Richard Parker diaries, 1840-1841.

With all this family legal tradition behind him, it was only natural that young Richard Parker should turn to the law. Born in Richmond on October 22, 1810, he entered the University of Virginia in 1827, when he gave his place of residence as Norfolk, where his father was then serving as Judge. He graduated on July 19, 1833, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws,[7] and in that same year, at the age of 23, set himself up in the practice of law at Berryville, then in Frederick County, but near the family home at "The Retreat." He was admitted to the bar at Winchester, where he plead his cases in the courts. It was not until 1836 that Clarke County was created, and Berryville became the county seat. At the first session of the court in the newly created county, a number of lawyers were admitted to practice, including Richard Parker and Charles B. Harding[8] who was the Prosecuting Attorney of Jefferson County at the time of the John Brown trial.

It was at Berryville that young Richard Parker began his apprenticeship in the law and his preparation to carry on the family tradition as jurists. But practicing law by a beginner—even one with the prestige of

7 Stutler's information on Parker's law school studies is from a letter from University of Virginia Registrar, George Ferguson, who states one of his staff located the information, "B.L. Degree conferred July 19, 1833." George Ferguson letter to Boyd E. Stutler, May 12, 1953, Brown/Stutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, item 4033, RP10-0014. http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=4033
However, the B.L. Degree in Law was not conferred upon University of Virginia Law students until the 1840s. From 1829 until the 1840s, students completed the courses, took examinations. If they passed, graduates were awarded a certificate. See Martha Trimble, "Attending the Lectures of the Law, a Perspective on the 19th-Century Law School Experience," *UVA Lawyer*, 20 (Spring 1996): 34-47.

8 Charles Harding, 1818-1883, was first elected Commonwealth's Attorney for Jefferson County in 1852.



Judge Richard Parker
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

having his father as presiding judge—was not very remunerative, and after a trial of five years he gave up the struggle—so all his years of preparation for a place on the bench were not in the practice of law. The records in the National Archives in Washington disclose that on December 26, 1838, he accepted a commission as Military Storekeeper and Paymaster of the United States Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry,[9] and that he served in that position until May 12, 1847,

9 National Archives, Letters Received by the Office of Adjutant General, Main Series, 1822-1860, File No. P261, Record Publication No. M567, Group 94. Fold 3: https://www.fold3.com/image/291652391

when his resignation became effective.[10] This is a lost interlude in his career, now reconstructed in part from brief notes found in stray volumes of his diaries. Also lost to public knowledge until recently was his period of residence at Carter's Hotel in Charles Town, where he opened a law office upon severing his connection with the Harpers Ferry Government works. And incidentally, his landlord was Isaac N. Carter,[11] great-grandfather of the currently known Hodding Carter, Pulitzer-prize winning Mississippi editor, author, and *Saturday Evening Post* contributor.

While living at Harpers Ferry, on September 3, 1844, Richard Parker was married to Evalina Moss, daughter of William and Gertrude Moss of Fairfax County, and through this marriage became allied with several of the leading families of the lower Shenandoah Valley—the Holmes, Hunters, McGuires, McCormick, Faulkners, and others.[12] The family home was established at Harpers Ferry "in a tenement of High Street, known as the Stone Kitchen adjoining the blue stone house occupied by Hiram Carney & others," according to

10 Richard Parker letter, March 31, 1847. National Archives, Letters Received by the Office of Adjutant General, Main Series, 1822-1860, File No. P184, Record Publication No. M567, Group 94. Fold 3: https://www.fold3.com/image/292771154

11 Isaac Newton Carter, 1806-1882 is buried in the Edge Hill Cemetery in Charles Town.

12 Evalina Moss, 1821-1887, was the daughter of William Moss, abt. 1778-1835, and Gertrude Holmes, 1788-1827. Both Parker and his wife were part of the ruling elite. Richard Parker's mother was Elizabeth Foushee, whose father had been the mayor of Richmond. His aunt on his mother's side married the founder of the *Richmond Enquirer*. Parker's sisters likewise married into the noteworthy families—the Milsons, McCormicks, and Crenshaws.
Evalina Moss Parker's great-uncle, Hugh Holmes, was a notable Winchester judge., Evalina's aunts on her mother's side married into the McGuire, Conrad, and Boyd families—all leaders in the community. Evalina's sisters married into the McGuire and McCormick families. Evalina was first cousin to some famous Winchester men: Dr. Hunter McGuire, Holmes Conrad, and Confederate Naval physician Daniel Burr Conrad.

the terms of a lease dated April 20, 1844, which the Paymaster paid a rental of $36 per annum.[13] Later, he no doubt moved into one of the splendid homes erected by the Government for housing the Armory and Arsenal officials, some of which are still standing.

It was Judge Parker's habit to buy a pocket diary at the beginning of each year in which he made notes from time to time, sometimes using the same diaries for special entries in later years. He was not, however, a satisfactory diarist; most of the entries are concerned with income and expenses, with goings and comings, with the trivia of family life, with an occasional observation on public and political matters. His income was never large, and his household expense book at the most active period of his life discloses a very modest scale of living. But it is from the few volumes of these diaries which have been preserved that we get a quick peep at the man himself and his habits. His entries are terse; he wastes no words, as on January 25, 1847, "Tonight resumed the wearing of flannels after an interval of 3 or 4 years;" on March 12th of the same year, "At a bridal party given to J.B. Packett and lady by young men of Charlestown;"[14] January 28 [30], 1847, "Hang up bacon today;" February 3, "Commenced smoking bacon;" June 20, 1840, "Mr. Felix Grundy[15] was received by me in the name

13 Lease, David Koonce to Richard Parker, 1844, John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, item 946, MS08-0032. http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=946

14 J Possibly John Bainbridge Packett, 1817-1872, who is buried in Charles Town, along with his wife, Lucy Elizabeth Washington Packett, 1823-1881.

15 Perhaps Felix Grundy, who was born in Berkeley County in 1777. In June 1840, he was a Democrat Senator from Tennessee and died in office Dec. 19, 1840. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/G000509

of the Democracy of Harpers Ferry—left for Bath, Martinsburg, Shepherdstown on tour with Grundy, returned to H.F. on 24th;" November 25, 1841, "Old Mrs. Fitzsimmons was found dead this morning—gave Miss Mary (Fitzsimmons) order for a cord of wood--$4.00."[16]

As Paymaster of the Government plant, Parker was required to go frequently to Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia on official business and to draw money to meet the payroll—it was a hard-money day and employees were paid in silver and gold—and notes of his affairs on these trips were equally terse. Parker was fond of the theatre—and oysters—notation of plays attended, with names of the theatres and of the leading actors and actresses, were carefully set down in the diary, but the cost of oysters is found both in the diaries and the household expense book. And he was equally laconic about his contacts with the bigwigs at Washington, and about his visits to the White House. "Saw President this evening—Secretary of War in morning," is the brief mention of his official calls upon President John Tyler and his Secretary of War[17] on December 28, 1841. And again, "Went to the Presidents at night," was his record of a call on President James K. Polk on April 29, 1847.[18]

16 Cannot identify Fitzsimmons. The 1847 Diary is in the online database: Brown/ Stutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, items 956-950, M508-0042, -0043, -0044, -0045. http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=956
Richard Parker diaries, 1840-1841.

17 John Canfield Spencer, 1788- 1855, was Tyler's Secretary of War in December 1841.

18 Brown-Stutler Collection. Richard Parker diaries, 1847.

Early in 1847, Parker decided to return to the practice of law and, after conferences with Judge Isaac R. Douglass,[19] (whom, years later, he succeeded), he began to attend the courts in Berryville, Winchester, Romney, Martinsburg, and at other nearby county seats.[20] He had determined, after his talks with Judge Douglass, to locate to Charles Town, and on February 26, he wrote in his diary: "Went to Charlestown with Eva. Selected our rooms at Carter's.[21] We are to get the room over the parlor and small room adjoining—furnishing our own rooms and light—work to be furnished by Carter—for $250 per annum." At the same time, his mother was living at Sappington's Hotel[22] at a rate of $150 per year for room and board, and extra $25 for one fire. This rate seems exceedingly low when measured by the standards of today's cost of hotel living, but was thought ample at that time. Five years earlier, in 1842, Abraham Lincoln took his bride to live at the Globe Tavern at Springfield, Illinois, for which he paid $4.00 per week, for room and board.

Parker's final week at Harpers Ferry was a busy one. On Sunday, May 9, he wrote: "Spent this day very

19 "Monday, February 1st. Went to Charlestown to see Judge Douglass in relation to my return to the bar." 1847 Diary
Isaac Richardson Douglass, 1790-1850, was judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit of Virginia from 1835 until his death in 1850.

20 Although still working for the Armory until May 12, 1847, Parker was also working on his law practice. For the first six months of 1847, Parker visited: Feb. 15, Jefferson County Court; March 15, Hampshire County Court, April 9 & 19, Charlestown Court; May 6, Morgan County Court; May 17 & 18, County & Superior Court (no location given); June 8, Supreme Court, Jefferson County; June 15, Supreme Court, probably in Winchester; June 18, Supreme Court in Charlestown; June 28, court day in Berryville. 1847 diary.

21 Carter's Hotel, now demolished, was in downtown Charles Town.

22 Sappington's Hotel was also in Charles Town. George W. Sappington, 1800-1864, was the proprietor. *Thomson's Mercantile and Professional Directory*, 1851-52. Thomson, Baltimore, 1851, p. 146. Richard Parker diaries, 1847.

unprofitably in a religious view—being neither at church nor taking time out for meditation—engaged in packing books and clothes and attending to some matters in my office." Then on the following day, he hurried away, "left in cars for Clarke getting out at Thompson's Depot"; we can only guess at the reason for this precipitate departure from his office before his resignation became effective from an entry written on May 11, 1847, at "The Retreat." "Today was to come off at or near Harpers Ferry a fight between (Bob) Caunt, an English boxer, & (Yankee) Sullivan,[23] an Irish fighter. A great concourse of bullies, blacklegs & pickpockets expected." That day Harpers Ferry was the sports capital of the world, the scene of an international bare-knuckle championship prize fight featured by the London and New York papers—but retiring Paymaster Parker wanted none of it. On the following day, May 12, he noted, "Took up residence at Carter's Hotel, Charlestown."

His practice at Charlestown was meager—the town was over-run with lawyers—and after a little more than a year he returned to Berryville where he would be nearer "The Retreat" estate, of which he had been in charge since the death of his father, including about twenty slaves which he hired out.[24] A convenient escape from law, the cares of the estate and looking

23 James "Yankee" Sullivan, aka James Ambrose, was born in Ireland in 1811. He fought Ben Caunt, 1815-1861, May 11, 1847. Sullivan won the bout in twelve minutes. Wikipedia, "Yankee Sullivan." 1847 diary.

24 A manuscript appraisal of Richard Elliott Parker's estate, which includes a valuation of the slaves, is found in the Judge Richard Parker Papers. Richard Parker, 1810-1893. Legal Papers, Slave Papers, Folder 7. Chicago History Museum, Chicago, IL.
Parker's diary for 1847 lists the hiring out of the slaves.

after the slaves came in the spring of 1849 when he became a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in his District. The convention was held at Winchester on February 22, 1849—Parker was nominated on the 16th ballot[25] and was elected on April 26, following. He had not completed his term in the lower house of Congress when, in January 1851, he was appointed judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery to succeed the lately deceased Judge Isaac R. Douglass, and was assigned to the Frederick-Jefferson circuit. He took office at the May term, 1851. He continued his residence at Berryville until after 1852, at least he was living at that place in January of that year when he sold a slave girl, Milly, to his cousin, John E.P. Daingerfield, of Harpers Ferry, for $475.[26]

When he went to live in Winchester, with which city his name is always associated, he took up residence in a quaint and comfortable mansion at the southern edge of the town. This house had been built by his wife's kinsman, Judge Hugh Holmes, at the beginning of the century on a plan furnished by President Thomas Jefferson.[27] Here Judge Parker weathered the storms of years until his death in 1893.

25 A full description of the nominations and balloting is found in the *Richmond Enquirer*, March 06, 1849, Page 4, Image 4. Library of Congress, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024735/1849-03-06/ed-1/seq-4/

26 John Elliott Parker Daingerfield, 1817-1889, was the son of Juliet Octavia Parker Daingerfield (1797-1856), Richard Parker's paternal aunt. John E. P. Daingerfield to Richard Parker, 1852 January 3, Brown/Stutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, item 943, MS08-0029. http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=943

27 A University of Virginia 2000 thesis by Sarina Forbes, *The Archibald Stuart House, Staunton, Virginia* thesis states that the design is a wonderful example of Virginia independence from England but was not designed by Jefferson. The Holmes/Parker house, which is now demolished, and the Staunton house were built by Hugh Holmes and Archibald Stewart on the same floor plan. The men were good friends at the University of Virginia and knew Jefferson.

It so happened that Judge Parker was about to convene the regular fall term of the Jefferson County circuit court in October 1859, at just about the time John Brown and his little Army of Liberation swooped down from the Maryland hills in the historic raid on Harpers Ferry. Thus, he was forced into the center of a situation of national importance by circumstances over which he had no control, which was quickly fanned by sectional hates and differences over the slavery issue. He has been roundly criticized for the unseemly haste with which the captured raiders were hurried into trial, and the trial itself is frequently referred to, even today, as a legal lynching. But the temper of the people in the affected area—which the Judge well understood from long residence there and from his intimate acquaintance with the larger bulk of the citizenry—coupled with official pressure from Richmond made a prompt trial (and conviction) imperative. Certainly, there would have been an illegal lynching had not the court acted promptly; despite the pressure [presence?] of Colonel Robert E. Lee and his contingent of United States Marines.

The raid at Harpers Ferry occurred on the night of October 16, 1859, Brown and his men were beaten down and the survivors were captured in an assault on the historic fire engine house on the morning of the 18th, and were transferred to the jail at Charles Town under a Marine guard commanded by Lieutenant Israel Green[28] on the following day. All preliminaries

28 Israel Greene, 1824-1909, under the command of Robert E. Lee, the future leader of the Confederate army, led the Marine company that assaulted the arsenal. Greene later served in the Confederate marines.

were completed before an examining court presided over by Justice Braxton Davenport,[29] an indictment was returned on the 26th, and the trial of Brown was begun before Judge Parker on the same day. It was completed on the 31st with the foreseen, inevitable verdict of guilty on all charges and on all counts—rebellion, treason, conspiring with slaves to rebel, and murder. During the course of the trial, Judge Parker presided with dignity and with due regard to all the forms of the law, though it must be said that he was dominated in many of his restrictive rulings by the stronger personality of Andrew Hunter,[30] who had been designated by Governor Henry A. Wise[31] to assist the weakling, alcoholic prosecuting attorney[32] in the presentation of the case. Hunter did not assist—he took over, much to the discomfiture of the regularly elected prosecuting attorney.

This was Judge Parker's day in the sun—the single trial in his long career that put his name in the history books. The trial, of course, attracted international attention—he was praised in one section, and damned and excoriated in others. And to this day his conduct of the trial is a subject for study and discussion by authors, lawyers and law students. Parker, himself, did

29 Col. Braxton Davenport, 1793-1862, headed the eight-member magistrates' court who appointed lawyers for the defendants, heard testimony, and ruled that there was sufficient evidence to bring the case to trial.

30 Andrew H. Hunter, 1804-1888, was born in Martinsburg, VA. He had represented Jefferson County in the Virginia House of Delegates and was the personal attorney of Gov. Wise.

31 Henry Alexander Wise, 1806-1876, served as Virginia governor from 1856-1860. Although the armory was a federal facility, Wise insisted that Brown and his men be tried in Virginia courts, and President James Buchanan did not object.

32 Charles B. Harding. See footnote 8.

not muddy the waters by defending his own actions—but few of his letters have been found which refer in any way to the trial, and so far as can be found he wrote only one piece for publication concerning it. In his diary for March 25, 1887, he wrote: "The *Globe Democrat*, published in St. Louis, to pay me $100 for article on the Trial of John Brown."[33] The article did not appear in the *Globe-Democrat* until April 8, 1888, when it was printed under the title, "John Brown's Trial." Andrew Hunter, however, beat him to the punch—his version of the raid and trial in a long and labored article was published in the New Orleans *Time-Democrat* on September 5, 1887. Both the Judge and the Prosecutor had their say in a single story. It is interesting to note that a Columbia University professor in the latest critique of the trial (*Fair Trial* by Richard B. Morris. New York: Knopf, 1942) makes no mention of either narrative, and apparently was satisfied to draw his material from secondary sources. Dr. Morris concludes that the trial was flagrantly unfair.[34]

Twice re-elected to the judgeship, Judge Parker was still holding that office when the Civil War broke up all the courts in the area. He retired to his home in Winchester and though a slave-holder and intensely pro-Southern in his views, there is no record that he took an active part civil or military in the civil strife. He did invest heavily in Confederate bonds which caused him much financial embarrassment at the close of

33 I have not located the 1887 diary.

34 A recent and comprehensive look at the trials of Brown and his associates is Brian McGinty, *John Brown's Trial* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009).

hostilities. He visited hospitals to comfort the sick and wounded; wrote letters for men who could not write, and his note books reveal that all too many times he had to write letters to parents and wives telling them of the death of their son or husband. [35]

At the close of the war Governor Francis H. Pierpont[36]—chief of the Restored Government of Virginia—called upon him to reorganize the courts and civil government in his circuit. Judge Parker carefully noted in his diary under the date of August 19, 1865: "Qualified before Jos. H. Denny J.P. to commission from Gov. Pierpont."[37] He continued to serve as judge until the early part of 1869, when he was summarily removed from office by order of the military commandant of the District. That ends his career as judge. For many years his three commissions as judge, handsomely framed, had a place of honor on the wall of the den at "Sunrise,"

35 Parker lists about 19 soldiers, their wounds, deaths, and letters he wrote to relatives in entries from July and August of 1864. Richard Parker Memorandum Book pertaining to business in other counties than Jefferson, pp. G-J. Brown/BStutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, Record Id: 954. I.D. Number: MS08-0041.
https://archive.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=954
For more information about Parker during the Civil War, see Trish Ridgeway, "Judge Richard Parker's Civil War Diary, 1862-1864, *Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Journal*, 29 (2018), 15-42. The original of the manuscript diary is in the Library of Congress, Richard Parker Diary, 1862-1864. LC Manuscripts Division, Washington, D.C.
http://hdl.loc.ogv/loc.mss/mss.home

36 Francis Harrison Pierpont, 1814-1899, became governor of Virginia. Pierpont had been an enemy of Virginia during the conflict because he was governor of the loyal (the Union) portions of Virginia and was instrumental in the formation of the state of West Virginia.

37 Joseph S. Denny, 1825-1899, was born in Stephens City and at the time of the 1870 Census, lived in Winchester.
Richard Parker Memorandum Book pertaining to business in other counties than Jefferson, p. C. Brown/ Stutler Collection Database, West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, Record 955, MS08-0041.
http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/jbdetail.aspx?Type=Text&Id=955

house of the late Governor William A. MacCorkle[38] at Charleston, and on a table before the commissions were the gavel, water pitcher and glass used by Judge Parker at the John Brown trial—now, alas, all dispersed and lost to sight.

Retirement from the bench did not end the public activities of Judge Parker. He returned to the practice of law, and to help out in those lean days, he organized a law class, boarding many of the students in his own home.[39] Active in the Masonic fraternity for many years, he served as Grand Master of Virginia Masons in 1876.[40]

The Parkers had no children. The Judge outlived his wife and all members of his immediate family. A pathetic note in his diary, date November 1, 1887, tells of the death of his wife: "Tuesday. At 11:30 of the night of this day (All Saints) my dear wife died to my great loss . . . We were married on Sept. 3, 1844 & our wedded life was one of great happiness." The Judge died at his Winchester home on December 10, 1893 and is buried in Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Soon after his death his private papers were disposed of—probably the greater bulk by burning—and the surviving pieces have been widely scattered. Letters and documents turn up in the hands of autograph

38 William Alexander MacCorkle, 1857-1930, was governor of West Virginia from 1893 to 1897.

39 Parker advertised in local newspapers, including the Sept. 11, 1865, *Wheeling Intelligencer*, that he was opening a law school on September 15, 1865.

40 See William Moseley Brown. *Freemasonry in Winchester, Virginia, 1768-1948*, (Staunton, VA: McClure, 1949).

dealers with considerable regularity, but most of them have to do with financial matters and personal affairs. And invariably the catalog listing—if the piece reaches that dignity—identifies the writer as "the judge who sentenced John Brown to death."

Trish Ridgeway served as director of the Handley Regional Library from 1993 to 2013. In 2001, with her husband Harry (and several others), she helped found the Old Court House Civil War Museum, one location where Judge Parker sat at the bench. The museum is now known as the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum. Currently, Trish serves on the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Publications Committee, volunteers at the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Library in New Market, and is working on a book about Judge Richard Parker.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The Jefferson County Historical Society's annual summer picnic was held on Wednesday, August 9 at Rosemont House in Charles Town. Carol and Marty Kable graciously hosted the event and welcomed guests to tour their house and grounds. A beautiful evening brought a robust turnout of members who enjoyed a tasty repast and visiting with one another.

In the mid-18th century, on a land grant made to Robert Worthington, the first section of Rosemont was built. This simple building, made of native limestone, provided living quarters for these earliest settlers.

In 1797 the property, then owned by Lawrence Washington, was conveyed to Michael Wysong and remained in the Wysong family for 170 years. The 225-acre farm was then bought by Mrs. Kable's father, J. Russell Fritts, who sold the house and 50 acres to Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. "Marty" Kable in 1975.

A large brick addition was built in the early 1800's and another in 1906 by Michael Wysong's grandson, John James Wysong.

Of special interest is the original wide pine board flooring and the hand-hewn beams which were used in remodeling the kitchen-family room. The mantelpiece in the living room and hallway came from the French Embassy in Washington, DC when it was dismantled in 1910.

Behind its early 1920's facade, the house, situated in a lovely setting surrounded by old trees, is attractively furnished and provides comfort and convenience for a modern-day family.

We thank our hosts for the opportunity to visit their lovely home and for their interesting talks and tours. Also, thanks go to coordinator Betsy Wells, Catering by Margarita, members for their delicious dishes, and all those who assisted in the event.



Rosemont House
Photo:
Carol Kable





Photos: Brian Christopher