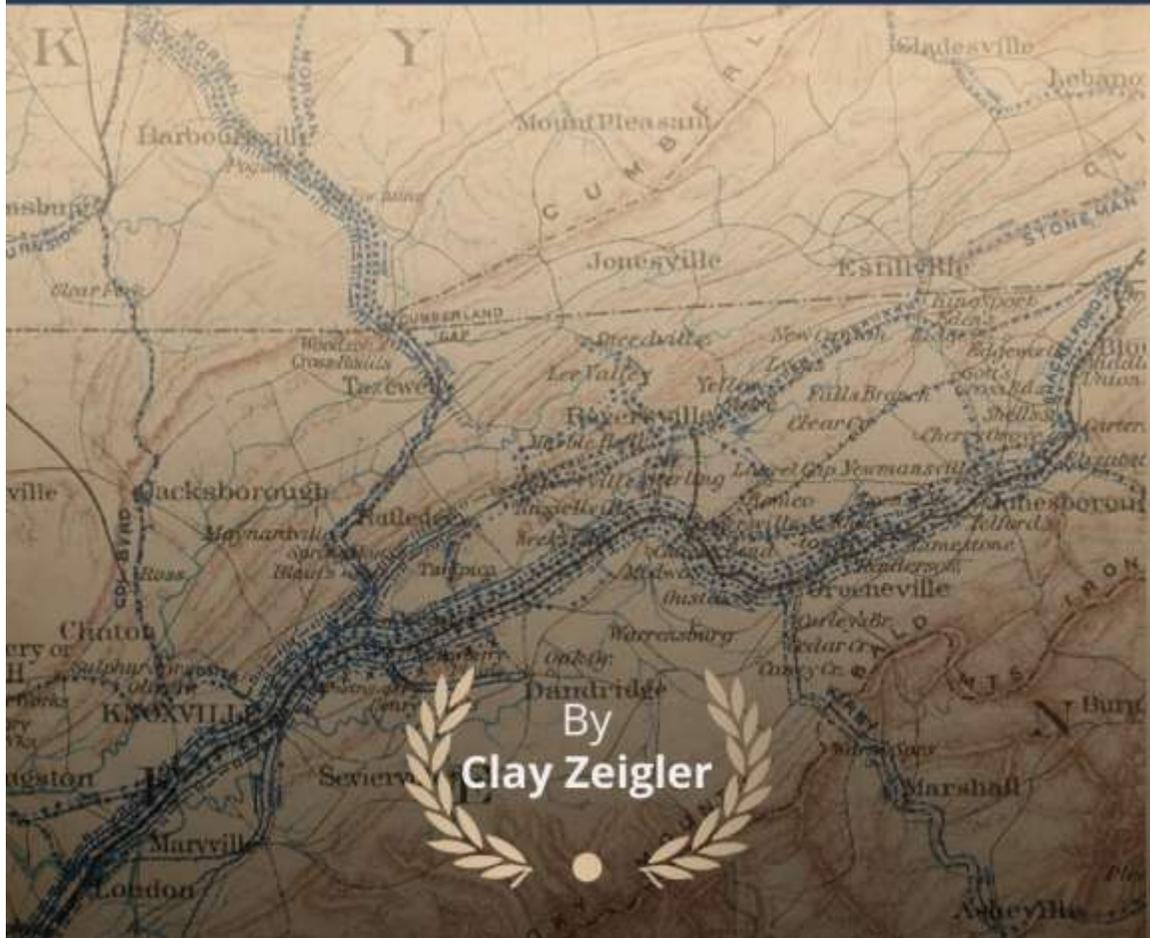


PRIVATE, COMPANY E

The Civil War Records of William Hickle Mynatt
and the U.S. Ninth Tennessee Cavalry
1863 to 1865



‘PRIVATE, COMPANY E’

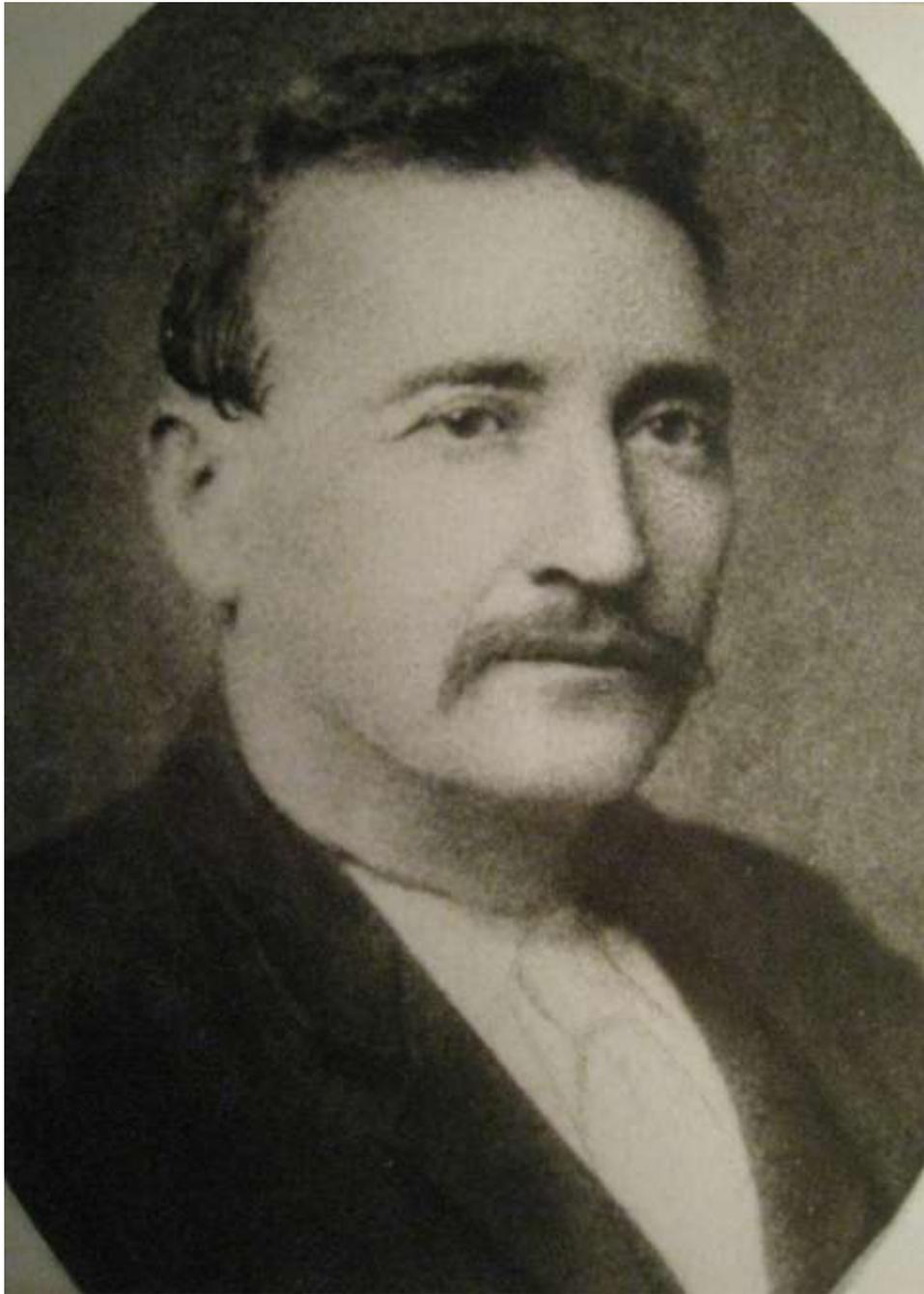
The Civil War Records of William Hickle Mynatt

and

the U.S. Ninth Tennessee Cavalry,

1863 to 1865

By Clay Zeigler



William Hickle Mynatt after the war.

Special Order No. 32, dated December 28, 1863, was issued by Major General Ulysses S. Grant:

“Brigadier General Alvan C. Gillem, US Volunteers, Adjutant-General of Tennessee, is hereby authorized to proceed to Camp Nelson, Ky., for the purpose of organizing troops under the orders of Governor Johnson, the Tennessee recruits now at that place and to order any of said recruits, together with their officers, if it is his judgment the public service will be benefited thereby, to Nashville or such other place in Tennessee as may be deemed most expedient and proper.” (1)

From this order thousands of men from east Tennessee would be recruited into the Union’s Army of the Cumberland to fight and die in the Civil War. One of those men was a 26-year-old farmer’s son, William Hickle Mynatt.

Mynatt was a respected lawyer after the war and served in the Tennessee Legislature. He was my great-great grandfather. (2)

PRIVATE, COMPANY E

William Hickle Mynatt had been born in 1837 in east Tennessee’s Grainger County, where his father’s family had settled more than 40 years earlier. His grandfather had been granted land in 1793 in what was then North Carolina. For 100 shillings, George Cummings Mynatt had purchased “200 acres lying in our County of Hawkins on the north side of the Holston River below the end of Clinch Mountain on the waters of Flat Creek”

William Hickle Mynatt was named for his father, William Mynatt, who was 50 when he was born. His mother, born Margaret Wilson, died when her son William was 14. He wouldn’t marry until he was 31. (3)

William Hickle Mynatt was 26 years old when he enlisted in the United States Army in Knoxville on September 23, 1863. Gen. Ambrose Burnside’s troops had occupied Knoxville on the third of that month. (4) Mynatt signed on for three years, and would remain a private for the nearly two years he served with the 9th Tennessee Cavalry. (5)

It’s unclear whether Mynatt was with the 9th during all of its movements in east Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia that took place during his 23-month enlistment. (6) The goal of this story is to detail the activities of his unit during the period of his enlistment and describe the Union cavalryman’s life in an attempt to shed some light on what Mynatt may have experienced.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Like the nation, Tennessee entered the Civil War divided.

Most of its residents had favored preservation of the Union, but the perpetuation of slavery often was a condition. Only in eastern Tennessee were there large numbers of people who favored the Union unconditionally.

At the center of the debate was U.S. Senator Andrew Johnson, who later would become the nation's seventeenth president. His December 18, 1860, speech in Congress forcefully defended the Union. Afterward, he was burned in effigy in Memphis, but people in Knoxville prevented a similar protest.



Andrew Johnson refused to give up his U.S. Senate seat when Tennessee seceded.

Despite his efforts, the Tennessee Legislature voted in May 1861 to join the Confederacy and set a referendum on the move for June 8. (7) On May 30-31, 1861, the East Tennessee Convention was held in Knoxville, and came out against secession. Six delegates from Knox County had the last name Mynatt. (8) Balloting in east Tennessee the next month ran two-to-one against secession, but it passed statewide. Tennessee seceded.

Johnson vainly tried to persuade the generals in Washington to invade east Tennessee, a move endorsed by President Abraham Lincoln. As the only Southern senator from a seceded state to remain loyal, Johnson was appealing to Lincoln, who installed him as military governor of Tennessee in March 1862.

The job's primary objective, of course, was the restoration of Tennessee to the Union. Key to this was east Tennessee. Not only was it Johnson's home, but the Unionists there would be needed in any election

staged to get Tennessee out of the Confederacy.

The Union victory at Shiloh in April 1862 was encouraging for Johnson, but it and other military engagements left the capital at Nashville nearly defenseless. Both Nathan Bedford Forrest and John Hunt Morgan staged raids within a few miles of the city. Johnson railed against the Union generals and their inattention, but it wasn't until November that the danger was ended with the arrival of troops under the command of Gen. William S. Rosencrans. (9)

As for east Tennessee, its liberation was still months away. A retired Confederate officer summed up its strategic importance:

“Between the two great Confederate armies in Virginia and Tennessee lay a long stretch of country, principally covered by the Allegheny and Cumberland Mountains. The only means of direct communication and transportation between these armies was the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad. Near this road were the great King's salt-works, in Smyth County, and the lead mines of Wythe County, Virginia, and along this route lay many very fertile valleys and rich uplands, which furnished the Confederate

armies a large part of their provisions. For these and other reasons the defense of this line was a matter of the first importance to the Confederate Government, and its control of equal importance to the Federal armies.

As the mountainous nature of the country rendered its occupation by a large army impracticable, numerous invasions by smaller forces, principally of cavalry, were made in order to destroy the salt-works and the railroad communications. The very extent of the frontier and its broken surface made it difficult of defense, and rendered necessary a larger force of occupation than was generally available.” (10)



Johnson’s concerns about the security of Nashville had led him to raise troops in Tennessee. He pronounced two regiments ready in April 1862. The following March, seeking to reclaim east Tennessee, U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton authorized Johnson to raise 10 regiments each

of infantry, cavalry and artillery. He even was able to detach troops from Rosencrans' command to organize his own "Governor's Guard." (11)

By April 1864, Brigadier Gen. Andrew Johnson was nominally in command of the Governor's Guard, which was made up of the 10th Tennessee (infantry), the 8th, 9th and 13th Tennessee Cavalry, and Batteries E and G of the 1st Tennessee Light Artillery. (12)

But in fact the Governor's Guard was commanded by Johnson's friend and protege, Brig. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem. A Johnson biographer calls Gillem "a Tennessee Unionist (who) enjoyed his special confidence." He explains that Johnson "saw to it that Gillem was promoted and obtained a suitable command, and generally furthered his career." (13)

GENERAL GILLEM

Alvan Cullem Gillem was born in Gainesboro in middle Tennessee in 1830. Following a log-cabin schoolhouse education, he was sent to Nashville, then, in 1847, entered West Point.

Gillem graduated 11th out of 42 in the Class of 1851, in which five Southerners reached the rank of general. He began his career in the artillery, serving in Florida against the Seminoles and on the frontier in Texas. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Gillem was in Florida, serving as a captain and assistant quartermaster.

Late 1861 found Gillem in Kentucky, where, after a January 1862 battle at Logan's Field, he was credited in a dispatch with organizing and moving an ammunition train to the fighting. From February to June he served as the chief quartermaster for the Army of the Ohio. After Shiloh, a report said Gillem "is entitled to great credit for his energy and industry in providing transportation for the troops from Savannah." The commander of the department, Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, mentioned in a dispatch Gillem's performance as quartermaster during operations at Corinth, Mississippi, "until he was called to other duties."

In a May skirmish at Widow Serratt's, near Corinth, Gillem commanded artillery that shelled rebels in the woods trying to turn the Federals' flank. A month later, he was a colonel in command of a regiment of Tennessee infantry. And in July he was sent with his regiment to link up with the 74th Ohio and prevent an enemy unit's escape from Kentucky.

In August, Johnson recommended him as provost marshal of Nashville, and by the fall Gillem held that position as well as command of the 10th Tennessee. That month, Rosencrans ordered Tennessee troops concentrated at Alexandria, then sent to east Tennessee to support Burnside. Gillem was recommended for command.

By the end of the month, Gillem was in command of more than 1,000 men. Joining the 10th Tennessee were the 4th Tennessee, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry and 1st Alabama Cavalry. The 1,022 men, 55 officers and their 480 horses were at Camp Spears, near Nashville.

That fall, Johnson was writing to Lincoln, advocating Gillem's promotion to brigadier general. Johnson followed up the recommendation during a trip to Washington in early 1863, but was subsequently told there were no vacancies.

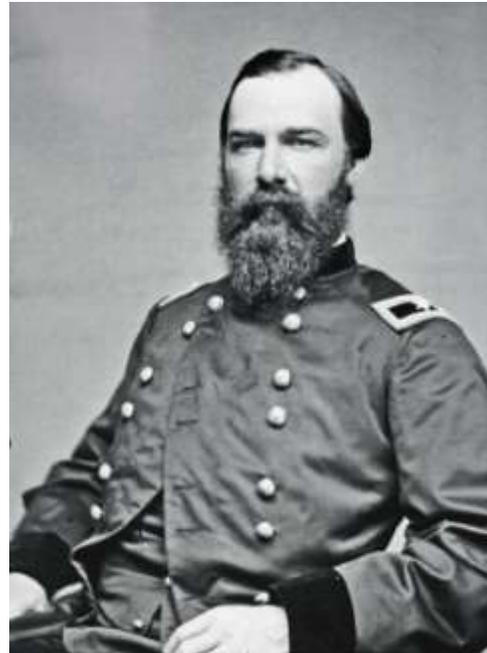
In August, Johnson wired Lincoln claiming success in raising troops. He said he had two brigades of Tennesseans in Nashville and Carthage. He used the opportunity to again ask for Gillem's appointment as a brigadier general.

The next day, August 17, 1863, Gillem was promoted. A day later Rosencrans wired Gillem: "I congratulate heartily on your promotion, and will remember you in my libations."

The new general's first assignment was to oversee construction of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, a project in which Johnson had been placed in charge, that was to ensure the continued provisioning of Nashville. Gillem was put in command of the 10th Tennessee, the 8th Iowa Cavalry, the 12th and 13th U.S. Colored Troops and the 1st Kansas Battery.

So many black troops needed protection, and in October Gillem wired a Rosencrans aide inquiring about promised regiments: "By tomorrow night there will be near 1,000 negroes on the road, a strong temptation for the rebels to attack." He said he was waiting to lay track from Waverly toward Nashville. Then he proclaimed, "I shall organize and arm the negroes. If the rebels object to being killed by them, they can stay out of the way. The road shall be built. Only give me half a chance. One stampede would ruin all. Please answer." (14)

It was one of the few memorable passages from his dispatches, which seem unusually matter of fact to a reader today. (In fairness to the general, a May 1864 dispatch instructed a colonel to find a rebel commander "and if you learn he is advancing on the railroad, fight him if he has a million.")



Gen. Alvan Gillem was provost marshal of Nashville before being appointed adjutant general of Tennessee.

THE CAVALRY

The cavalry, which had comprised a fifth of Napoleon's army, was a low priority for the federal government at the start of the Civil War. There had been just five regiments of regular cavalry in early 1861 – about 5,000 men.

Cavalry was expensive. A single horse cost at least \$110 – ten months' salary for a private and five times the cost of a rifled musket. Add to that the cost of saddle, sabre, boots, pistols, horseshoes and tack. Cavalry required months more training than did infantry.

Finally, cavalry went against American military doctrine, which held that infantry would make cavalry obsolete. In the course of the war, Union soldiers would be organized into the equivalent of 1,696 regiments of infantry, compared to 272 regiments of cavalry and 78 artillery regiments.

The Federals initially used their limited cavalry in small groups. Employed even as escorts, the cavalry lacked training and confidence. Infantrymen griped, “Who ever saw a dead cavalryman?”

The Confederates, meanwhile, being more adept horsemen in general and having a greater sense of urgency and military commitment, were quicker to embrace the concept, and rebel cavalry raids became legend.

There were flaws in the initially successful Confederate system. There were problems with discipline and absenteeism. And its cavalymen were asked to provide their own mounts; so as the war progressed, they became increasingly difficult to replace.

Just as the Confederate cavalry declined, that of the Federals improved. It followed the enemy’s example and organized mounted troops into larger units, eventually allowing them to play a major role in the defeat of Gen. Robert E. Lee.



Men of the Eighth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry

For a time, cavalry acted as a reconnaissance force, and screened from the enemy the movements of the infantry. It also guarded the army’s flanks and was a mobile striking force against enemy lines of supply and communications. But as the federal cavalry grew and improved, it came to be used increasingly for raiding.

Men fought mounted and on foot, with the saber, revolver and the carbine, a repeating rifle. It was rare for the cavalry to charge a line of infantry, that is, straight into musket fire.

On the march, cavalry could cover about 35 miles in an eight-hour day without difficulty. At a walk, they traveled about 4 miles in an hour; at a full gallop, 16. The lines of men and horses, marching in ranks of four across, were long. A company, or troop, of about 100 men took up 100 yards of road.

Two companies made up a squadron; two squadrons were a battalion, and three battalions made a regiment of nearly 1,000 officers and

enlisted men.

By 1864, the cavalry employed mobility, a willingness to take cover and fight on foot when needed, and the new repeating carbines. Among them were the seven-shot Spencer and the sixteen-shot Henry. Carbines – shorter, lighter and easier to handle than rifles – were well suited for cavalry use.

The cavalry often kept a reserve on horseback, sometimes a quarter of the total force, ready to make a charge with sabres or pistols at the right moment. The pistol of choice was the Colt six-shooter, though products by Remington and Savage were also used.

In camp, cavalry units were known to be less disciplined than their colleagues in the infantry. The worst discipline was to be found in mounted units operating in remote areas on loosely defined missions. Among the factors affecting unit discipline were the quality of leadership, duties performed, state of equipment, prospect of active service and the backgrounds of the soldiers. (15)

WAR MEETINGS IN SCHOOLHOUSES

The task of finding volunteers to fill these regiments fell to the officers, who themselves had just been recruited. An Ohio cavalry officer wrote, "The method of obtaining enlistments was to hold war meetings in schoolhouses. The recruiting officer, accompanied by a good speaker, would attend an evening meeting which had been duly advertised. The latter did the talking, the former was ready with blanks to obtain signatures and administer the oath."

Those taking the oath tended to be in their early 20s, American born, and from rural backgrounds. A key inducement was the enlistment bounty. It was paid in part up front, with the rest held by the state to keep recruits from enlisting over and over again in different places.

A company of Federal cavalry, on paper at least, was commanded by a captain, a first lieutenant and a second lieutenant. There was a first sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, commissary sergeant, five sergeants, eight corporals, two teamsters, two farriers, two musicians, one saddler and one waggoner. That left about 75 privates.

The enlisted men elected their company-grade officers, generally local civic leaders. Colonels, usually appointed by the governor, were often professional soldiers on leave from their units so they could serve with volunteers. (16)

BOOTS AND SADDLES

When complete, the newly formed companies moved by rail to "camps of instruction," where, eventually, the recruits received their uniforms, weapons and equipment.

According to Army regulations:

HEAD-QUARTERS 9TH ARMY CORPS,
CAMP NEAR KNOXVILLE, TENN., OCT. 19, 1863.

RECRUITS WANTED.

The men of East Tennessee and North Carolina are invited to enlist in the Regiments and Batteries of the 9th Army Corps—General Burnside's old Command.

This celebrated Corps, composed of men from every loyal portion of the Union!—Having served in Virginia, in Maryland, in North and South Carolina, in Mississippi and Kentucky!—Having covered its banners with the motto of Victory!—Has now brought its arms to the...

DEFENSE OF TENNESSEE.

By enlisting in old Regiments, recruits at once gain all the comforts and conveniences possible to a soldier, and are saved from the discomforts, delays, sickness and dangers, arising from ignorance and inexperience, to which all new organizations are subject.

Men enlisting in these Regiments and Batteries, receive the same pay and bounty as all other recruits; are of one clothed, armed, accoutred, comfortably quartered and fed, and placed on the same footing with the old soldiers, and are sure, when it is needed, to win honorable distinction.

They become, almost at once, useful and accomplished soldiers, and save all the inconveniences and loss of time incurred by waiting for the organization of new Regiments, and are sure that their officers are brave, skillful and deserving.

Recruiting parties are established at Knoxville, Morristown, Greeneville and various other points, and all persons desiring to join the army, are requested to enlist at once.

By Command of

BRIG. GEN. ROBT. B. POTTER.
NICOLAS BOWEN,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

Apply next door north of Main street Capt. J. B. Smith Suit S. A. Goodspeed

36th Mass Vols

H. BARRY, PRINTER—KNOXVILLE, TENN.

“The recruit commences his instruction on foot. The first week after his arrival at the regiment is employed exclusively in instructing him in all the details of discipline, police, and interior service, and in those relating to his dress and the grooming of his horse.

He is taught to mount without saddle on both sides of the horse. He is taught the name and use of the principal parts of the arms and equipments, and the manner of keeping them clean; the rolling of the cloak, of folding the effects, and of placing them in the valise. These different instructions are given by the corporal of the squad, under the superintendence of the sergeant and officer of the platoon. At the end of this week, the recruit commences the first lesson on foot; he continues to be instructed in the above-mentioned details. The recruits are drilled on foot twice a day, when possible, an hour each time. Their instruction on horseback is commenced at the same time with the sabre exercise.”

Then there was learning more than two-dozen different bugle calls. There was one for breakfast and another for dinner. There were bugle calls for drill, sick call, watering the horses, and for turning out the lights at night. Others had names such as Boots and Saddles, and Tattoo.

The U.S. Army was one of the first to have a fatigue dress and a full dress. The fatigue blouse was dark blue wool, reached the hip and was fastened with four brass buttons. The wool trousers were sky blue and the boots laced, though many men bought their own knee-length boots. The fatigue hat was dark blue, a floppy version of the pre-war shako. It was to bear the regimental number, to which many men added the crossed-sabre badge of the cavalry. Riding gloves were not issued, and had to be purchased by the men.

“Has any old soldier of the army ever forgotten the clothing that he drew from the quartermaster?” groused a Wisconsin volunteer. “These inverted pots for hats, the same size all the way up, and the shoes that seemed to be made of sole leather, and which scraped the skin off the ankles. O, if this government ever goes go to Gehenna (Hell), as some people content it will sometime, it will be as a penalty for issuing such ill-fitting shoddy clothing to its brave soldiers.”

With the uniform came a sword belt; the brass buckle featuring a spread-winged eagle framed by a silver wreath. Also from the belt hung a black pistol holder and a small leather pouch for percussion caps. There was a canteen, a knapsack for food, ammunition and personal items, and spurs.

The sabres issued were based on French designs. Six-shot Colt revolvers were the most common pistols. But the most useful weapon remained the carbine, of which several dozen designs were issued. (17)

‘RAW, UNDRILLED TROOPS’ – August 1863 to August 1864

On August 24, 1863, the soldiers of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry and two other regiments were “principally comprised of raw, undrilled troops” who were poorly supplied, wrote Col. Jonathan F. De Courcy. He reported from Crab Orchard, Kentucky, from which he planned to leave the next day for London, Kentucky, 32 miles to the southeast.

“Ninth and Eleventh Tennessee Cavalry joined to-day. The Eighth Tennessee will probably be here to-night,” he wrote.

He said, “The supply of ammunition is only 40 rounds in pouches, two of the cavalry regiments not even having that amount, and no revolvers. ... I have about four days’ rations and a still smaller supply of grain and forage for horses.” De Courcy asked that he be supplied with “all my wants immediately, otherwise I shall find it difficult to advance beyond London.” (18)

September found the 9th still at Camp Nelson, a large Union Army base located south of Lexington in central Kentucky. The base, which was in operation from 1863 to 1865, served as a recruit training camp for newly mustered-in regiments. (19)

It was also a major depot for supplies, something with which the 9th was having trouble. Secretary of War Stanton was sent a plea: “Colonel Parsons’ Ninth Tennessee, 800 strong at Camp Nelson, has neither guns nor horses, and is ordered forward. General Burnside gave them order for horses and arms, but they are not here. Can you send them carbines?”

It was on September 23, 1863 that William Hickle Mynatt joined the Army for a three-year enlistment. He was mustered in on October 13, assigned to Company E, 9th Tennessee Cavalry.

Detachments of the 9th spent the fall guarding the Sevierville railroad (from Knoxville), and patrolling with parts of other units. It wasn’t until December 28 that Grant ordered Gillem to Camp Nelson to organize the troops under Johnson. But on January 31, 1864, there were still some 2,700 men working on the railroad.

The 8th, 9th and 13th Tennessee Cavalry comprised the Third Brigade, commanded by Col. John K. Miller. Gillem was in charge of the Fourth Division, and reported to Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, commander of the Department of the Cumberland.

The cavalry contingent under Gillem’s command totaled 208 officers and 1,375 men on May 2, 1864. By the end of May the number of men swelled to 5,244, and 238 officers. Col. Samuel K. N. Patton was in charge of the 8th Tennessee; and the 13th was under Lt. Col. William H. Ingerton.

Command of the 9th was passed around. Col. Joseph H. Parson a former state legislator from Blount County was in charge from August to December 1863, when he was captured. Maj. Ethelred W. Armstrong ran things from

December 1863 until August 1864, when he was replaced by Lt. Col. John Bell Brownlow, son of a Knoxville newspaper editor. Parsons was back in command from December 1864 until the end of the war. (19a)

In June, 1864, Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman called for Gillem to get moving. Commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, Sherman wired Gen. William S. Smith, chief of cavalry in Nashville:

“If Gillem has 4,000 men mounted, he should be south of the Tennessee River, in the direction of Columbus, Miss., with Decatur to fall back on. He can better protect Tennessee from there than from Nashville. At all events he should be between Columbia



Lt. Col. John Brownlow led the 9th Tennessee Cavalry in late 1864.

and Florence in motion. Cavalry should not occupy the same camp two successive days, and should habituate their horses to grass and green food. There are enough men now in Kentucky to dispose of John Morgan.”

Gen. Morgan was called by Grant the “most noted” of the rebel guerrillas active in Kentucky. Sherman’s mention of him in a dispatch concerning Gillem is fascinating given the events coming less than three months later.

But in August 1864, the forces under Gillem were still spread across Tennessee. While the 9th and 13th were at Bull’s Gap in east Tennessee along with the light artillery, the two other Governor’s Guard units were still in the Nashville area. The 10th Tennessee was in Nashville itself and the 8th Tennessee Cavalry was nearby, at Gallatin.

So on August 4, those two units began a 14-day march that would take them the 218 miles to Strawberry Plains, near Knoxville. (20)



ON THE MARCH

Cavalry marches could take most of the day, and while the men weren’t on foot like those in the infantry, there was plenty for them to do.

A member of the 1st Ohio wrote:

“The trooper has his carbine to care for and keep in order, which evens him up with the infantryman in care of arms and equipments, and in addition to this he has his revolver, sabre, and horse equipments to keep in order and his horse to water, feed and groom every day, and the soldier who enlists in the cavalry service expecting a ‘soft snap’ will soon learn, to his sorrow, that he has been laboring under a grievous mistake. On a campaign or march in good weather, when it is not necessary to pitch tents at night, the infantry stack arms, get supper and soon are at rest or asleep; but not so with the cavalryman – the company must first put up the picket rope and then the horses must be watered, fed and groomed. If there is no forage in the wagon train, he must then hunt forage for his horse, and perhaps go a mile or two for that. Then he unsaddles, gets his coffee, grooms his horse, and is ready to lie down an hour after the infantryman is asleep. In the morning, if the cavalry are to move at the same hour as the infantry are to march, they must have reveille an hour earlier than the infantry, to have time to feed, groom and water their horses; and while he has the advantage on the march, it would not be

considered by the average citizen a very easy task to march forty, fifty or even sixty miles a day mounted, which was a usual occurrence on our scouts and raids.” (21)

BLUE SPRINGS – August 19 to September 1, 1864

On August 19, Gillem led the now-collected Governor’s Guard on a march from Strawberry Plains to Mossy Creek, arriving late in the afternoon. There he learned of 400 rebels in Morristown and resolved to surround and capture them. The 9th, under Brownlow, was ordered to proceed on the road toward Bend of Chucky, and, using a crossroad, come up in the enemy’s rear. The next morning at 2, Gillem led the rest of his men toward Morristown. Both forces arrived just after daylight, but found no rebels. They camped there the rest of the day.

On August 21, Gillem marched to Lick Creek, and late that night received a report that Confederate Gen. Joseph Wheeler was marching to Dandridge by way of Maryville. He decided to turn back and attack Wheeler. He marched to Russellville on August 22, and sent out scouts, but again, found no enemy. Then he decided to turn around again and attack a force he knew was between him and Greeneville.



Col. John K. Miller was lauded along with Lt. Col. Brownlow following the success at Blue Springs.

Breaking camp at 6:30 a.m. on August 23, Gillem met a small enemy force at Bull’s Gap, and they fled. But at Blue Springs, they encountered enemy pickets, and 2 miles onward found Confederates occupying a strong position on a ridge to the south of the Greeneville Road. They were the 4th Kentucky Cavalry, the 10th Kentucky Mounted Infantry. They were to be reinforced later by the 39th Tennessee Mounted Infantry.

Two pieces of Union artillery were deployed, and a rebel charge on one of them was repulsed. Gillem ordered Col. John Miller to take two companies of the 9th and turn the enemy’s flank. Miller was successful, in part due to the help of a small boy, William Brown, who pointed out a necessary road and stayed with Miller throughout the fight.

As Miller’s two companies flanked the approximately 800 Confederates, they began retreating. Lt. Col. Brownlow, with the 9th’s five other companies, was ordered to charge the enemy’s front. Gillem later reported: “Then began a running fight, which was closed by night 2 miles beyond Greeneville, the enemy halting and endeavoring several times to reform. ... I afterward understood that the enemy did not halt until they arrived at

Jonesborough.”

Gillem’s report mentioned that the enemy’s horses were fresh, “while ours had been moving constantly for 20 days, and had marched 18 miles that day before the fight began.”

The report to Johnson also praised the 9th:

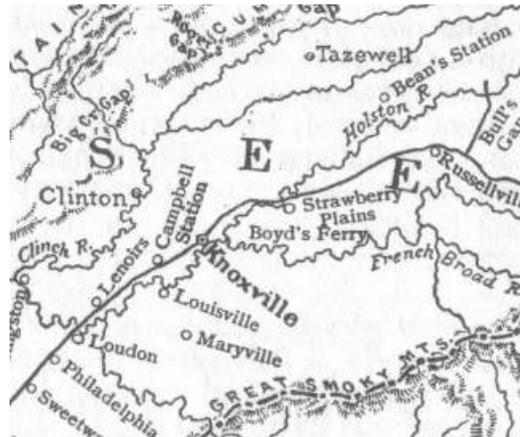
“The seven companies of the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, under Lt. Col. John Brownlow, charged the enemy gallantly,” he wrote. “After turning the enemy’s position Col. John K.

Miller led the pursuit, and drove the enemy from every position they attempted to hold, from where they were first engaged to Greeneville. His gallant conduct merits your particular attention.”

He closed his report by saying, “The Ninth and Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry are improving rapidly, and require but little more experience to make them excellent soldiers. Colonels Brownlow and Ingerton use every endeavor to instruct their men.”

The Confederates lost 57 men in the skirmish at Blue Springs. No Union soldiers died there, though two of the 28 wounded died later.

Gillem decided on August 25 to try and attack Wheeler’s forces as they crossed the French Broad above and below the Holston River, but heavy rains prevented him from crossing the Holston until the next day. On August 28, Gillem entered Rutledge and learned that the enemy had left in the direction of Kingston. He decided he could overtake them before they crossed the mountains into middle Tennessee. The next day he marched from Bean’s Station to Cobb’s Ford on the Holston River. He crossed the river and camped near Russellville.



There he reported: “The reduced condition of the horses, and their being unshod, rendered it necessary for me to move slowly, as I had already marched more than 300 miles, and the destruction of the railroad in my rear by Wheeler rendered it impossible for me to obtain supplies from Knoxville.”

A reconnoitering party was sent out on August 30 to find rebels thought to be in Bull’s Gap. They entered the gap at 10 p.m. on August 31, and were met by about 100 Confederates, also reconnoitering. The Union soldiers charged them and drove them back. The rest of Gillem’s force arrived in Bull’s Gap at daylight on September 1. Staff officers were sent to Knoxville for supplies. (22)

STRATEGY AND TACTICS

The firearms of the Civil War had rendered the cavalry charge obsolete, a lesson the Union generals were slow to learn. But by this point in the war, cavalry usually fought on foot. One of every four men was left behind the line to hold the horses.

Carbines could be fired at a range of 500 yards, but their effective range was about a fifth of that. Rifle bullets caused more than 90 percent of the wounds suffered by Civil War soldiers. Their often large caliber and slow velocities meant that hits to the limbs ripped apart the flesh and severed arteries. Wounds to the chest and abdomen were fatal. (23)

After mid-1863, the Union forces in Tennessee fought principally over the railroad, on which both sides depended for transportation and communication. Blockhouses capable of holding more than 20 men overlooked bridges and other military objectives. (23a)

PARK'S GAP – September 4, 1864

On the evening of September 3, Gillem learned that Morgan was going to attack him. The Confederate advance guard was to be Vaughn's Brigade, camped at Park's Gap, two miles from Greeneville. Gillem knew another rebel force, Smith's Brigade, was on the way as well.

He decided to attack before the Confederates could mass. He ordered the 13th Tennessee Cavalry to leave at 10 p.m. and get behind the enemy. At midnight he led the 9th Tennessee Cavalry, the 10th Michigan Cavalry and part of an artillery battery on a march.

"The night was one of the darkest and stormiest I ever witnessed," he reported later. "The rain poured down in torrents, and had it not been for the vivid and almost constant lightning, it would have been impossible to continue our march."

At 6 a.m. on September 4, enemy vedettes were found and shot. A second set was found asleep. Then the whole of the Confederate force was located. They "stubbornly resisted" a charge by the 10th Michigan Cavalry, according to Gillem's account, but "after a few rounds of artillery they gave way and retreated toward Greeneville, closely pressed by the Tenth Michigan and the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry."



An Ohio native, Lt. Col. William H. Ingerton, began his military career as a 15-year-old drummer for the Second U.S. Infantry stationed in New Mexico.

Ingerton's 13th Tennessee Cavalry cut off the retreat, Gillem said, "and most of them would have been captured had it not been for the inconsiderate conduct of a lieutenant in ordering them to be fired upon before they were completely surrounded." The rebels were retreating 7 miles past Greeneville. At least 75 had been killed and another 106 taken prisoner against losses for the Union of only nine wounded, one of whom died later.

But that's not why Park's Gap was memorable. A detachment of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry learned the whereabouts of Gen. Morgan. As he tried to escape the house he was using as a headquarters, he was shot by a private in the 13th. His staff, with one exception, was captured, along with all their papers.

A Confederate captain soon thereafter wrote a member of Gillem's staff, asking what he knew of Morgan's death. He replied: "It has been stated that General John H. Morgan, late of the Confederate Army, was killed by our forces in Greeneville, Tenn., after he had surrendered, and in direct

violation of the rules of war."

Gillem reported the details of the fight to the governor, giving credit to Col. Miller, his field commander; the 13th's Lt. Col. Ingerton; and the 9th's Lt. Col. Brownlow. Brownlow, along with the commander of the Michigan unit, "executed all my orders with great promptness and efficiency, and aided much in carrying out my plans."(24)

CLINCH VALLEY AND MOSSY CREEK – September 27 to October 27, 1864

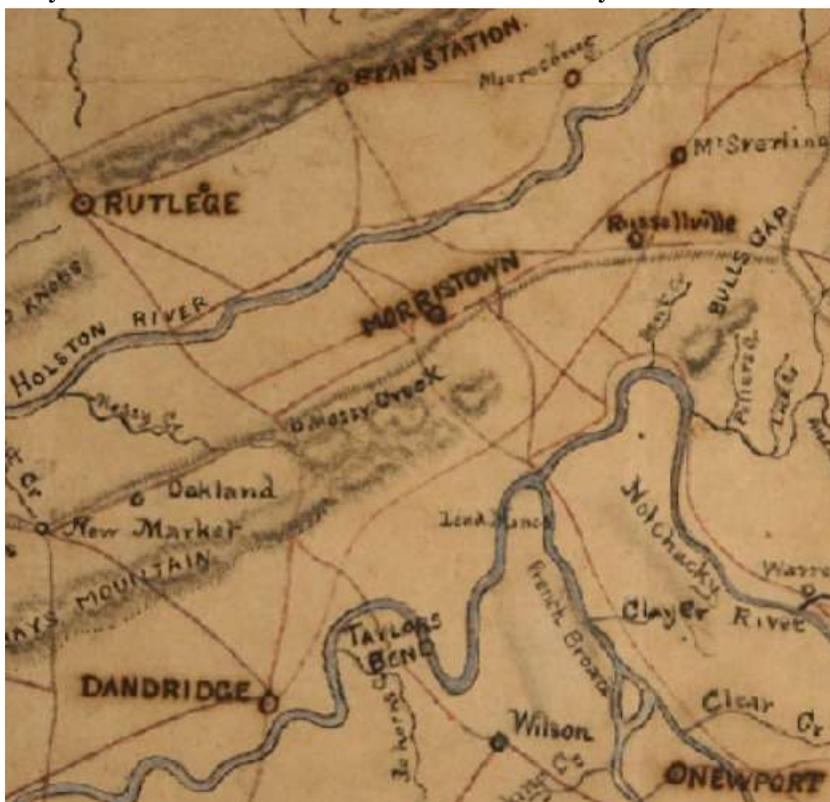
What followed was a month of marching through the countryside and several skirmishes leading up to a decisive victory near Morristown. Gillem had been ordered to take the 9th and 10th Tennessee Cavalry, along with the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 16th Kentucky Cavalry – 1,650 men – as well as six pieces of artillery and attack Jonesborough. Another 800 men arriving to hold Bull’s Gap would be under the command of Brig. Gen. Jacob Ammen, commander of the District of East Tennessee from April 1864 to January 1865.

Gillem’s force and most of Ammen’s left Bull’s Gap on September 27 and marched to Greeneville. The next day the advance party met a small group of Confederates near Rheatown, and wounded three. On September 29, the advance party met a small force at Jonesborough and drove it from the town. More enemy soldiers were encountered and the Pennsylvanians drove them across the Watauga River. Some rebels were pursued on the Carter’s Station Road by the 13th Tennessee Cavalry. Carter’s Station itself was reached on September 30, and most of the enemy was driven across the river. Night fell before the artillery could be moved into place, but the barrage that began the next morning, October 1, had the enemy retreating soon after noon.

Back at Bull’s Gap in mid-October, Gillem became aware that he was to be attacked by a force of 2,500 rebel cavalry and three pieces of artillery under Gen. John Stuart Williams and another force under Gen. John C. Vaughn. Learning that Williams was at Newport and Vaughn at Greeneville, Gillem led his force to the north side of the Holston at Anderson’s Ford. He planned to attack two Confederate regiments under a Major Day, but Day crossed Clinch Mountain. Gillem then marched down the Holston Valley, and at Mooresburg, detached the 9th under Col. Parsons to march across the mountain using Flat Gap and get in the enemy rear.

Gillem’s main force reached Bean’s Station late in the evening of October 20. He found the enemy in the gap, but “night came before I could dislodge him.” A 4 a.m. attack sent the rebels retreating, and another at 7 led to a rout as the Confederates were driven through Sneedville. “This little affair reflects much credit upon Colonels Parsons and Brownlow,” Gillem wrote later of the engagement in which 15 rebels were killed.

The next day, Gillem decided to attack Vaughn at New Market. He halted there, apparently finding no enemy, for four days to gather supplies and ammunition. Departing New Market on



October 27, the Federals skirmished with the enemy at Mossy Creek and Panther Springs. It was at Panther Springs that a battalion of the 13th charged 250 rebels, killing three and capturing five.

“That night the troops lay upon their arms ready for action at a moment’s warning,” Gillem wrote. (25)

MORRISTOWN – October 28, 1864

Gillem’s report of the Morristown engagement may be his most descriptive:

“On the 28th we left camp at 7:30 a.m., Colonel Parsons, commanding the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, in the advance. The remainder of the troops marched in the following order: Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, Battery E, First Tennessee Light Artillery, Eighth Tennessee Cavalry, the train I left at Panther Springs under guard of two companies of the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry. The enemy’s pickets were met soon after leaving camp, and rapidly driven in. About 9 a.m. we came upon the enemy’s skirmish line about one mile and a half from Morristown. Colonel Parsons immediately charged and drove them back upon their main body, which was discovered drawn up in two lines, one just west, the other east of the village of Morristown. The lines extended entirely across the open fields, with the flanks resting on the woods, their artillery on the flanks of the second line. The distance between their lines was about 800 yards. I brought forward Patterson’s battery, and placing it on an eminence on our right flank shelled their front line for a short time, whilst Lieutenant-Colonel Ingerton was forming his regiment in a column of fours by companies. Everything being ready I ordered Colonel Ingerton to charge the center and right of their front line. The distance separating our line from that of the enemy was about 1,000 yards. The first 600 yards of this distance was passed over at a walk, and with an utter disregard for the shower of shells hurled at them by the enemy’s artillery, and which could not be replied to by our artillery without endangering our own troops when about 400 yards from the enemy’s line our cavalry took a trot. Soon after the enemy opened a musketry fire from his entire line, and Ingerton charged. For a moment both parties were engulfed in smoke; the next rebels were seen fleeing, hotly pursued by Ingerton’s regiment. Just at this time the enemy endeavored to turn our right flank. Colonel Parsons was ordered to meet this movement and turn the enemy’s left flank. It was intention not to charge their left flank and second line until Parsons had obtained a position from which he could cut off their retreat, but before Parsons could complete his move I perceived the enemy preparing to charge our battery. I immediately ordered Colonel Patton, commanding Eighth Tennessee Cavalry, to charge their left and center, whilst Ingerton, who had reformed his regiment, should charge their right. Both charges were gallantly made and the enemy routed and fled. The entire command were then ordered to pursue, and the order was promptly obeyed and the enemy followed beyond Russellville. Their loss was 85 left dead on the field, including 6 officers; 224 captured, including 19 officers; 5 pieces of artillery with caissons complete, all their ammunition for small-arms; also 6 wagons were captured. Our loss was 8 killed and 18 wounded.”

After giving credit to Ingerton, Patton and a Col. Brown, Gillem reported that “Colonels Parsons and Brownlow, of the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, led their regiments with gallantry.” (26)

BULL’S GAP – November 11 to 13, 1864

November brought elections, and Gillem dispatched the 9th to Greeneville to “insure quiet and give confidence to the people to attend the presidential election.” But on the evening of November 8, Gillem learned that Breckenridge was moving against him with a larger force. His plan was to enlist the help of Confederate sympathizers to drive the Yankees from the area.

Gillem, with 2,400 men, fell back to Greeneville, then to Bull’s Gap, along the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. He telegraphed Ammen for help, but was told the rebel force was only 1,200 men “and that I should be able to whip them.” The expected attack came at 11 a.m. on the November 11. It was repulsed, though artillery fire continued all day.



Breckenridge’s assault was renewed at dawn on the 12th, but was pushed back by the 8th and 13th Tennessee Cavalry. At the same time, Gillem would report later, “... Our rear was attacked by General Vaughn, who was repulsed by the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry and driven off.”

On November 13, Gillem reported to Johnson:

“... the enemy renewed attack, but not with such vigor. From our positions we could see their infantry arriving, and, as my command had been living four days without bread, horses starving, and ammunition exhausted, I determined to evacuate the gap on the night of the 13th, and was not interfered with until the greater part of my command, artillery, and trains passed Russellville, when the rear was attacked and men became panic-stricken. All efforts of myself and their officers to rally them was fruitless. They ran over everything. The enemy, who had not attacked vigorously at first, then charged and broke through our lines, capturing artillery and trains. Do not think we had 20 killed. I passed over the grounds in the enemy’s rear. Did not see a dead Federal soldier; but, in horses, arms and equipments, have lost heavily. Two hundred men will cover our loss. This command has heretofore fought gallantly. Had it not become panic-stricken could have easily repulsed the enemy and kept them back. I remained in our rear. Did not reach here (Knoxville) until last night. Will reorganize command and await your orders; and, if you are willing to trust me, try them again. Had assistance been extended when asked for from the commander at Knoxville this disaster would not have occurred. But

my men were allowed to starve while storehouses were full and a railroad running to Russellville.”

The 9th's involvement in the fight was detailed later by Gillem. There was the 9th's defense of Vaughn's rear-guard advance. “This attack was handsomely repulsed by Colonel Parsons with Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, the enemy leaving 1 captain and 8 privates dead on the field.”

With the retreat on, two companies of the 9th led the way, followed by the wagon train, then the rest of the regiment. At a place called Judge Bartow's, the 9th was being employed to guard an intersection when the end of the wagon train was attacked. The train made it past the crossing, but, “The enemy soon after attacked and were met with great gallantry by Colonel Parsons with the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, who held them in check for upward of an hour, until his ammunition was entirely exhausted.”

With that the 9th “commenced falling back in disorder, but were rallied and formed in a line with the infantry.”

“Many of the Eighth were also rallied. The enemy then advanced. As they were compelled to pass over an open field displaying their entire force, which was formed in two lines from a half to three-quarters of a mile in length, numbering probably from 2,500 to 3,000 men. When within about sixty yards of our lines they received a deadly fire from our artillery, double-shotted with canister, and from our infantry and dismounted cavalry lying behind the fences, and they fell back several hundred yards. At this time the command became panic-stricken and all efforts to rally those who were falling back, or to retain those already in line, were fruitless.” (27)

AFTERMATH

“My loss in this retreat,” Gillem reported, “was 6 pieces of artillery with caissons complete, 61 wagons, 71 ambulances, about 300 horses, and probably about 150 men. Over 200 are now absent, but are daily coming in.”

Predictably, there was plenty of blame and gloating in the days following what Gillem called his “terrible reverse.”

Ammen reported on November 14 that “General Gillem was routed last night near Morristown, his cavalry running over the infantry I sent to support him, which, I fear, is captured.”

Two days later Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas said, “I attribute disaster to want of co-operation, and in Gillem not considering himself subject to General Ammen's orders, Gillem's command being the Governor's Guard.”

For his part, Gillem said, “With the knowledge which I now have, I see no other means by which I could possibly have saved my command than by retreating at the time and in the manner I did.”

On the Confederate side, there was celebration in the tone of Breckenridge's report to Lee:

“Brigadier-General Vaughn reports that a force of the enemy came to Greeneville yesterday, and that he defeated it, killing and wounding many, capturing some prisoners, 2 regimental colors, and many horses and arms. Our loss slight.”

He followed this up on November 17 with a report saying, “We still gather in prisoners from the late engagement, and I have more flags, wagons, mules, etc., than I first reported.”

A staff officer wrote Vaughn triumphantly:

“The 2 flags captured from the Eighth and Ninth Federal Tennessee Cavalry have been received, together with the communication accompanying them. The major-general commanding desires you to convey to your command his thanks for the gallantry in the action in which they were captured ...”

Breckenridge reported the taking of about 300 prisoners at Bull’s Gap. He blamed bad weather and muddy roads for preventing him from inflicting even more damage. And he predicted, “The enemy has been driven back nearly 100 miles, and I do not think he will attempt a campaign this winter in upper East Tennessee.”

“All troops are subject to panic,” Gillem wrote to Johnson, “and this command has behaved too well on too many occasions to forfeit Your Excellency’s confidence by one single mishap.”

Johnson’s confidence may not have been forfeited, but that of Gen. Thomas, in charge of the Army of the Cumberland, apparently was. He directed Maj. Gen. George Stoneman to gather up Generals Gillem and Stephen Burbridge and their men for a raid into Virginia.(28)

Like Gillem, Burbridge had run into trouble. His administration of this home state of Kentucky had been so harsh that after the war he was forced to leave it. He had expanded a system of reprisals against civilians designed to suppress guerrilla activities, and even called for the arrest of those suspected of opposing the re-election of Abraham Lincoln. He would be relieved of his command in January 1865.

Stoneman’s failures were even greater. The West Pointer from New York had headed the cavalry in the Army of the Potomac under George McClellan and then Joseph Hooker. His raids during the Chancellorsville, Virginia, campaign, however, did little but deny Hooker his cavalry and Stoneman was relieved of that command. In 1864 he was with Sherman and was sent on a raid to free prisoners from the notorious camp at Andersonville, Georgia, but he and 700 of his men were captured. He was exchanged in October. (29)

STONEMAN’S FIRST RAID – December 12 to 29, 1864

Stoneman’s objective, Grant wrote later, was “to operate against Breckenridge and destroy or drive him into Virginia, destroy the salt-works at Saltville and railroad into Virginia as far as he could go without endangering his command.”

Of his 4,000-man mounted force, 1,500 were under Gillem, who left a camp near Knoxville on December 10. They encountered rebels in a strong position commanding a bridge over Big Creek, four miles east of Rogersville. Some maneuvering sent them into a retreat, which Gillem

pressed into the night, then resumed after only four hours' rest. They reached the bank of the North Fork, opposite Kingsport, having marched 44 miles in the previous 24 hours.

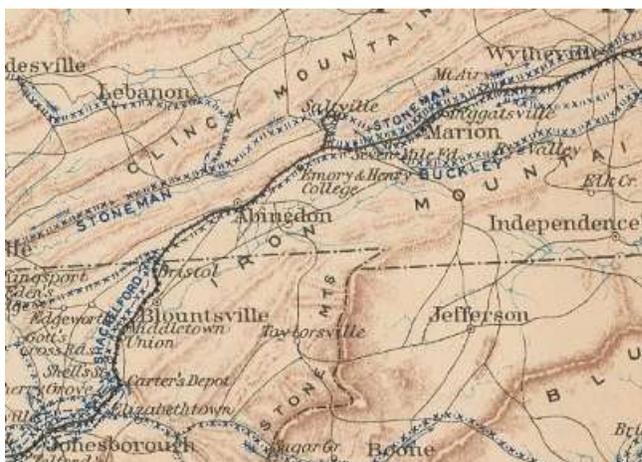
With the rebels occupying a cedar thicket on a bluff above the ford, Gillem sent the 9th and two battalions of the 13th to attack in front while the 8th tried to turn the enemy flank. The attack achieved complete surprise, according to Gillem, and the Confederates were chased for 7 miles before they scattered.

Gillem continued to Blountsville; Bristol; Abingdon, Virginia; and Marion, Virginia. There his force was attacked twice, and chased rebels for 31 miles to a place just outside Wytheville. The Federals entered the town on December 16, and destroyed 21,000 rounds of rebel ammunition, food stores, medical supplies, even Breckenridge's headquarters. A stretch of railroad at least 10 miles long was also order wrecked, as was a church used to store ordnance. Captured were eight pieces of artillery, 93 wagons and 308 prisoners.

The next few days were marked by confusion, with Stoneman and his staff officers ordering Gillem's men here then there, but they arrived on December 19 at the salt works. The 9th dismounted and occupied a hill near the road to the salt works. It was to join the 13th in a frontal assault on the salt works; two battalions of the 13th had been sent around to attack from the rear. On a rainy, foggy night, the 13th was taken for Confederates and took the rebel position. The buildings of the salt works were burned, the kettles destroyed and the wells, which were 160 feet deep, were filled with artillery shells and lengths of rail.



Gen. George Stoneman led 4,000 men on the first raid. The second was immortalized in song.



A seven-day march back to Knoxville ended a trek of 461 miles. Captured were 17 artillery pieces, two of which Gillem had had taken from him at Bull's Gap. Gillem's losses were four killed and 20 wounded.

"The conduct of the command, officers and men has been above praise," Gillem reported to Johnson. "For eleven days our horses were not unsaddled; we marched day and night, halting only when it was absolutely necessary to rest and feed; more than 300 of our command were frost-bitten; yet during the entire march not a murmur of complaint was heard from these brave men." (30)

Grant ordered Thomas on February 27, 1865, to direct Stoneman "to repeat the raid of last fall, destroying the railroad as far toward Lynchburg as he can." (31) Before departing,

Stoneman issued orders on March 17 reorganizing his forces, but leaving intact Gillem's cavalry forces, which were denoted as Cavalry Division, District of East Tennessee. The First Brigade included the 15th Pennsylvania, 12th Ohio and 10th Michigan. The Second Brigade consisted of the 11th Michigan and the 11th and 12th Kentucky. The Third Brigade, under Col. John K. Miller, included the 8th, 9th and 13th Tennessee. (32)

A significant portion of that force, however, was without horses. As a result, the Ninth was left behind when Stoneman left Knoxville on March 20, 1865, as were elements of the 8th Tennessee, 13th Tennessee, 11th Kentucky and 10th Michigan. (33)

Stoneman moved through Morristown and Bull's Gap to Boone, North Carolina, then to Wilkesboro. The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad was destroyed from Wytheville nearly to Lynchburg, Virginia.

Returning to North Carolina on April 9, 1865, Stoneman split the force, sending Miller's brigade to capture Salisbury. They entered the town on April 12, taking 14 pieces of artillery and 1,364 prisoners. Stoneman returned to Knoxville with the artillery and prisoners.

More than a century later, Stoneman's second raid would be immortalized in song by Robbie Robertson of *The Band* in "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." It begins:

"Virgil Caine is the name, and I served on the Danville train,
'Til Stoneman's cavalry came and tore up the tracks again."

NO FALSE MERCY

The 9th had one last job to do; it came in an April 26, 1865, order from Stoneman directly to Col. Parsons, who had resumed command in December:

If the Rogersville Branch Railroad is in such condition as to enable you to procure supplies at its terminus, I wish you to move with your whole regiment to the east bank of the Holston River. Arrived there, you will leave all your impediments on the east side, and with the mounted portion of your regiment you will cross the river and thoroughly scour and clear of guerrilla and other bands of outlaws all that portion of East Tennessee and Southwestern Virginia lying between the Holston River on the east and the Cumberland Mountains to the west. In the performance of this duty you are authorized and instructed to use the most vigorous and severe measures. The persons with whom you have to deal are outlaws so long as they are at liberty, and as such should be treated. When taken prisoner they must be treated as prisoners, and are entitled to trial, which takes time and entails trouble and expense. Give them to understand that no false mercy will be shown them and no prisoners taken, and that every man found in arms under whatever pretense, and acting without authority from Federal officers or the legally constituted authorities of the State of Tennessee, will be treated as a public enemy and an outlaw and killed like a mad dog by any one who meets him. See that your command does not interfere in any way, either in their persons or their property, with the peaceably disposed, and with those who stay at home and mind their own business. ... You will give all the aid and assistance in your power to all civil officers in the execution

of their functions, and urge upon the people the necessity of re-establishing civil authority and supremacy of the State laws as soon as possible, and before the U.S. forces are disbanded or withdrawn from this section of the country. ...

A second military reorganization announced July 20, 1865, placed the 9th and six other cavalry units under the command of a Brevet Major General Upton. The order is signed by Brevet Major General Gillem, who had apparently redeemed himself after his “terrible reverse” at Bull’s Gap. (35)

LEGACIES

Gen. George Stoneman was appointed to command the post-war Department of Tennessee, then to administer the military government in Petersburg, Virginia. He mustered out of volunteer service in September 1866 and reverted to his regular army rank of lieutenant colonel. He commanded the Department of Arizona until relieved of that command in 1871.

Stoneman moved to California, settled on a 400-acre estate, and became railroad commissioner and later governor. His house was destroyed by fire and he returned for medical treatment to New York state, where he died in 1894. (36)

Gen. Alvan Gillem had long been active in the re-establishment of the federal government in Tennessee. In January 1865, he had been vice president of the Tennessee convention and in April became a member of the Legislature. Though he rejoined the regular army at the rank of colonel, he served through 1866 as commander of the military District of East Tennessee, and in January 1868 took command of the Fourth Military District, covering Mississippi and Arkansas. But his moderate policies got him in trouble with Radical Republicans, and when Johnson’s presidential term ended, Gillem was sent packing to Texas.

His last active service came in California against the Modoc Indians. He went on sick leave in January 1875 and died December 2, 1875, at Soldier’s Rest, a home near Nashville. (37)

Lt. Col. William Ingerton didn’t survive the war. He was killed in November 1864 by a disgruntled former officer whom Ingerton had earlier had court-martialed. He died of his wounds in Franklin House in Knoxville. When he was shot he was with General and Mrs. Gillem, and indeed was holding the general’s young daughter. (38)

Col. John K. Miller moved after the war to Johnson City, Tennessee, where he owned a hotel and a general store. He served as a state senator from 1879 until 1881. He died in Carter County, Tennessee in 1903. (39)

Lt. Col. John Brownlow served after the war as a special agent of the U.S. Treasury Department, then worked for the U.S. Post Office. In 1904, he and his son started Knoxville’s first real estate firm. He died there in 1922. (40)

William Hickle Mynatt left the Army where he joined it, in Knoxville, when he was mustered out with the rest of the 9th on September 11, 1865. He had served for one year, 10 months and 28 days.

Records indicate he hadn't been paid since June 30, 1864. He had collected \$25 of a \$100 enlistment bounty, and was due another \$75. But there was \$38.95 owed on his Clothing Account. (41)

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

William Hickle Mynatt married Sallie Foster in 1868 and they had five sons. He was a lawyer and served for a term (1890-91) in Tennessee's state Legislature.

As part of the 1890 Census, special records were prepared of "Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows Etc." from the Civil War.

Records for Grainger County list William H. Mynatt, Private, E Company, Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, as living in Larkeyton, Tennessee, and suffering from "lung disease."

Under a heading called Remarks are the words "Taken while in Army."

His death in 1913 was reported in a Tennessee newspaper:

"When William H. Mynatt, aged 75 years died at his home near Leas Springs, Saturday, March 22, 1913, one of Grainger County's most distinguished citizens passed away. He served from 1863 to 1865 in the civil war in Co. E Ninth Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry under General Gillem. He was elected member of the County Court and held that office for twenty one years. He was also elected a member of the Tennessee Legislature in 1891 and was admitted to the bar in 1892, and was a brilliant lawyer. He was Commander of the C.M. Dyer Post (GAR) from 1892 to 1898 and remained a member of that Post until his death. He was a member of the Baptist church at Little Valley. When a young man he married Miss Sallie Foster and she and five sons survive him. The sons are Messrs B.F. Mynatt, G.R. Mynatt, William Mynatt, Charlie Mynatt and Arthur Mynatt. Sixteen Grandchildren also survive him. His remains were laid to rest in the Mynatt Cemetery. The funeral procession marched from the deceased home to the cemetery under the U.S. flag. Many honored veterans both Union and Confederate marched side by side in the procession. ..." (42)

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER

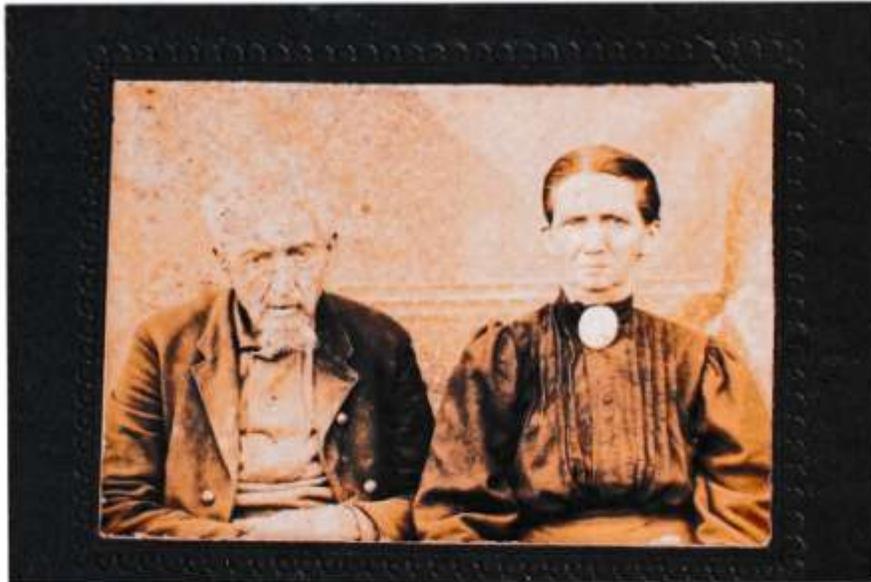
Likely among the Confederate veterans on that day was William Hickle Mynatt's older brother. George Washington Mynatt (born January 6, 1826) was 37 years old when he enlisted on February 1, 1863, in Capt. R.L. Barry's company of Tennessee Light Artillery, the Lookout Artillery.

This Private Mynatt was admitted to Loring's Division Hospital in Lauderdale, Mississippi, on June 27, 1863. (After his return to duty, it was noted that while in the hospital he had been overpaid by \$8.)

On May 4, 1865, George Washington Mynatt was at Hinkley Hospital in Demopolis, Alabama, when it was captured by Federal forces under Maj. Gen. E.R.S. Canby. The hospital's patients and attendants were listed as prisoners of war for 10 days before they were paroled at Meridian, Mississippi. (43)

The two brothers must have put the war behind them. Records from the 1900 and 1910 Census indicate they lived together.

George Washington Mynatt died in 1916 at age 90. (44)



William Hickle Mynatt and wife Sallie in their old age.



**Their gravestone on a wooded hillside in Grainger County.
His military marker, at left, reads: Wm. H. Mynatt, Co. E, 9 Tenn. Cav.**

THE MUSTER RECORDS

+ 1600	
Meynatt William A.	
Co E, 9 Tennessee Cav.	
Private	Private
CARD NUMBERS.	
1	7968791
2	7968869
3	7968953
4	7969063
5	7969049
6	7969160
7	7969293
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	1
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

16 | **9 Cav.** | **Tenn.**

William H. Minat

Co. E, 9 Reg't Tennessee Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll*

for Dated Feb 29, 1864

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept 23, 1863.

Where Knobville Tenn.

Period 3 years.

Mustered in:

When Oct 13, 1863.

Where Knobville Tenn.

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$.....100 for

Due Gov't \$.....100 for

Valuation of horse, \$.....100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$.....100

Remarks:

*First current roll. No master-in roll of this company on file.

Book mark:

(358d)

S. Merchant

Copyist.

Mo | 9 Cav. | Tenn.
William H. Minat
Int., Co. E, 9 Reg't Tennessee Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Mar & Apr, 1864

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Completed by L. T. Ballard

Book mark:

(358) J. Merchant
Copyist.

Mo | 9 Cav. | Tenn.
William H. Minat
Int., Co. E, 9 Reg't Tennessee Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for dated June 30, 1864

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Last roll on file - Not found on

New Co E Mar & Apr 1865

Book mark:

(358) J. Merchant
Copyist.

M / 9 Cav. / Tenn.

William H Myrett

Private, New Co. E, 9 Reg't Tennessee Cav.

Age _____ years.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll*

for Mar & Apr, 1865

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept, 1863.

Where Knoxville Tenn

Period 3 years.

Mustered in:

When Oct 13, 1863

Where Knoxville Tenn

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for _____

Due Gov't \$ 100 for _____

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks: _____

*First current roll. No muster-in roll of this company on file.

Book mark: _____

(356d) Mason Copyright

M / 9 Cav. / Tenn.

William H Myrett

Private, New Co. E, 9 Reg't Tennessee Cav.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for May & June, 1865

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for _____

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for _____

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks: _____

Book mark: _____

(358) Mason Copyright

NOTES

- 1) *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion*. This massive 128-volume collection of dispatches sent by both armies is the principal source cited throughout concerning the movements of Mynatt's unit and details of the previous military exploits of General Gillem. The *Official Records* is not organized by unit, or any other way for that matter. Mentions of Gillem and the Ninth Tennessee were recorded on about 150 index cards and then arranged by date to create the accounts of given here.
- 2) William Hickle Mynatt (1837-1913) married Sarah Ann "Sallie" Foster (1848-1925) in 1868. Their third child, George Randolph Mynatt (1875-1926) married Roxie Jane Hensley (1880-1962) in 1899 and had five children. The second child, William Zenna Mynatt (1901-1984), married Mildred Aileen Wheeler (1908-1983) in 1934. Their only child, Aarah Gail Mynatt Zeigler (born 1936), is my mother.
- 3) Information on the birth and ancestry of William Hickle Mynatt was supplied by George Everett Mynatt of Knoxville, Tenn., in 1979. For the 1793 land grant he cited Record Book A, Volume 1 of Knox County, Tennessee.
- 4) From "Operations in East Tennessee and South-West Virginia" as contained in Volume 4 of *Battles & Leaders of the Civil War*, edited by Thomas Yoseloff.
- 5) U.S. Army records of William Hickle Mynatt were obtained from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- 6) Muster roll records from the National Archives list William Hickle Mynatt as being present on Feb. 29, 1864; in March and April 1864; on June 30, 1864; from March through May 1865; and on Sept. 11, 1865. Unfortunately, muster rolls weren't completed on a regular basis. And it can't help that Mynatt's name was spelled at least three different ways in the records transcribed by hand after the war.
- 7) *Andrew Johnson: A Biography*, by Hans L. Trefousse, published 1989 by W.W. Norton & Company, New York.
- 8) Information on the East Tennessee Convention is from the *Official Records*.
- 9) Trefousee.
- 10) From Yoseloff. The writer is the Rev. Edward O. Guerrant, assistant adjutant-general to Gen. Humphrey Marshall, C.S.A.
- 11) Trefousee.
- 12) *Official Records*.

- 13) Trefousee.
- 14) Information on Gen. Gillem's early life and military service comes from *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders*, by Ezra J. Warner, published by the Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge; *The Civil War Dictionary*, by Mark Mayo Boatner III, published by the David McKay Co. Inc., New York; and *Who Was Who in the Union*, by Stewart Sifakis, published by Facts on File, New York. The dispatches quoted are contained in the *Official Records*.
- 15) Information on cavalry organization is from *Arms and Equipment of the Civil War*, by Jack Coggins, originally published by Doubleday, 1962.
Information on cavalry tactics is from *Battle Tactics of the Civil War*, by Paddy Griffith, first published by The Crowood Press in 1987 under the title *Rally Once Again*.
Information on unit discipline and the preferred carbines and pistols is from *The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union*, by Bell Irwin Wiley, first published in 1952 by the Louisiana State University Press.
- 16) *Union Cavalryman: 1861-1865*, by Philip Katcher, published in 1995 by Osprey Publishing Ltd., Oxford, England. I have reprinted accounts and paraphrased extensively from this excellent book, and paraphrased from the three others above.
- 17) Katcher.
- 18) *Official Records*.
- 19) www.users.kih.net/~dparker/nelson/nelson.htm.
- 19a) *Homegrown Yankees: Tennessee's Union Cavalry in the Civil War*, by James Alex Baggett, published in 2009 by the Louisiana State University Press, clarifies questions about command of the 9th and offers detail context and perspective found nowhere else.
- 20) *Official Records*, except for enlistment information for William Hickle Mynatt.
- 21) Katcher.
- 22) *Official Records*.
- 23) Katcher.
- 23a) Baggett.
- 24) *Official Records*.
- 25) *Official Records*.

- 26) *Official Records.*
- 27) *Official Records.*
- 28) *Official Records.*
- 29) Warner, Boatner, Sifakis, and the *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, edited by Patricia L. Faust, published by Harper & Row, New York.
- 30) *Official Records.*
- 31) Yoseloff.
- 32) *Official Records.*
- 33) *Stoneman's Raid 1865*, by Chris J. Hartley, published in 2010 by John F. Blair Publisher, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- 34) Yoseloff.
- 35) *Official Records.*
- 36) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Stoneman
- 37) Warner, Boatman, Sifakis and Faust.
- 38) *The Dreaded Thirteenth Tennessee Union Cavalry: Marauding Mountain Men*, by Melanie Storie, published in 2013 by The History Press, Charleston, S.C.
- 39) Storie
- 40) Special Collections Online at the University of Tennessee:
http://dlc.lib.utk.edu/spc/view?docId=ead/0012_001124_000000_0000/0012_001124_000000_0000.xml
- 41) U.S. Army records supplied by the National Archives.
- 42) Text of obituary supplied by Everett Mynatt, who cited *The Daily Journal & Tribune* newspaper of March 29, 1913.
- 43) George Washington Mynatt's military records were obtained from the National Archives.
- 44) The dates of George Washington Mynatt's birth and death, along with the Census information from 1900 and 1910 were supplied by Gail Zeigler. (Thanks, Mom.)

45) Photographs from:

- *Tennessee's Union Cavalrymen*, by Myers E. Brown II, published in 2008 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C.
- *The Dreaded Thirteenth Tennessee Union Cavalry: Marauding Mountain Men*, by Melanie Storie, published in 2013 by The History Press, Charleston, S.C.