

The Affair at Indian Creek Ford: The Archaeology of a Small Civil War Battle

By Ben Hoksbergen and Brian Hogan

Learned this morning that there had been quite a fight near Ellick Jones' and that the enemy had brought in 49 prisoners and several wounded men of Col. Wynn's [sic] regiment with the exception of Capt. Jordan and two of his men ...The wounded men were badly cut up with saber cuts, as it was a hand-to-hand fight, and the enemy says the young rebels fought bravely...

-Diary of Mary Jane Chadick December 23, 1864

Background

It was the winter of 1864. Huntsville was being reoccupied by Union forces for the fourth time. They had left town in a panic a month earlier, fleeing northeastward up the Memphis & Charleston Railroad to avoid being outflanked by the advancing forces of

Confederate General John Bell Hood.¹ In mid-November, Hood had crossed the Tennessee River at Florence on his way to Nashville to lure Sherman away from his Atlanta Campaign, but now Hood was defeated, and the Union forces were sweeping back down the railroad to cut off his retreat.

Confederate cavalry units under Brigadier General Philip D. Rodde² had been covering and supplying Hood, but now were dispersed across northern Alabama engaging the advancing Union forces and delaying their advance.³ Roddey ordered part of a cavalry regiment under Colonel John R. B. Burtwell to advance from their camp in Mooresville toward Huntsville where they were to occupy and hold the town and await reinforcements from Colonel Josiah Patterson's Brigade.⁴ Burtwell and his Inspector General, James 8. Irvine, rode to

Huntsville on the evening of December 20 to assess the situation. As they rode into town from the west, they were met by two companies of Roddey's men who had been on picket at Paint Rock Bridge, but had been routed by advancing Union cavalry who chased them westward toward Huntsville. One of Burtwell's companies that had been on provost duty in Huntsville had retreated toward Athens. Burtwell ordered the retreating men to join his unit at Mooresville and fell back with them to regroup.

The Union force that arrived in Huntsville consisted of detachments of the 10th, 12th, and 13th Indiana Cavalry and the 2nd Tennessee Union Cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel William F. Prosser. They pushed into Huntsville from the east on December 21, and set about resupplying and ransacking stores and houses.⁵ Soon after, Union infantry under Major General James B. Steedman began arriving from Nashville to reinforce them. Upon recapturing

Huntsville, the Union troops settled down for an occupation that would last through the end of the war.

On the morning of the 22nd, Col. Burtwell advanced with at least two companies of cavalry⁶ from Lieutenant Colonel F. M. Windes 4th Alabama Regiment and detachments of the 10th Alabama Cavalry and Moreland's Cavalry Battalion to a position on Indian Creek, six miles west of Huntsville about three quarters of a mile upstream from the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge.⁷ Burtwell and his officers set up camp in a house⁸ in the bluffs west of Indian Creek, while the enlisted men camped about 200 yards away on the floodplain. Leery of the substantial Union force in Huntsville, the Confederate troops hunkered down to await reinforcements from Patterson's Brigade. In the meantime, Burtwell gave the order to pile fence rails on the railroad bridges between Huntsville and Decatur in case the Union forces

attempted to advance further westward by rail.⁹

Meanwhile, Union gunboats advanced down the Tennessee River toward Decatur, bombarding any possible Confederate positions there.¹⁰ The heavy cannonading to their rear and the large Union force to their front unnerved the Confederate soldiers at Indian Creek who were already receiving rumors of Hood's defeat. There was no word from Patterson's brigade, and the scouts and couriers they sent out never returned. On the afternoon of the 23rd, Burtwell ordered the railroad bridges burned, and the men settled in for an uneasy night leaving their clothes on and their horses saddled. Burtwell sent out extra pickets and ordered a scouting party to head toward Huntsville to warn of any Union movement.¹¹ They held their position and waited in vain for reinforcements.

The Battle

During the night of December 23rd, a slave belonging to the residents of the house occupied by Burtwell and his officers, reacted to the harsh treatment he had received from the Confederate troops and escaped to Huntsville where he warned the Union garrison of the Rebel force at Indian Creek. Irvine, Burtwell's Inspector General, noticed the slave's absence soon after nightfall and reported it to his command,¹² but by then it was too late. Col. Prosser had already received word of the Confederate position and was ordering around 200 of his men¹³ to advance on Indian Creek. The Union force made up of parts of the 10th Indiana and 2nd Tennessee left Huntsville at 3:00 a.m., setting off down the Decatur Road.¹⁴

The night was cold, and the ground frozen, but the Union cavalry rode hard and arrived at Indian Creek at dawn, driving the Confederate pickets and scouts ahead of them. Col. Prosser and Captain George

R. Mitchell led the charge with the 10th Indiana while the 2nd Tennessee held up the rear.¹⁵ Col. Burtwell and his staff had arisen just before dawn and rode to the railroad bridge across Indian Creek to make sure it was destroyed, but no sooner had they returned to camp when gunfire was heard toward Huntsville. Burtwell set up a line of defense at the narrow ford across Indian Creek with Sloss Company (4th Alabama, Co F) commanded by Lieutenant Thomas J. Williams in front, "25 to 30 steps"¹⁶ from the bank of the creek. The other company, Company I,¹⁷ began forming a line on the bluff overlooking the floodplain.¹⁸ The formation was done leisurely since they thought that the scouts and pickets would delay the Union charge, but no sooner had the company on the bluff began to dismount to advance into position with Sloss Company when they spotted a Union saber charge driving down the tight road cut east of the creek. The Union advance began to cross the narrow

ford with Prosser and Mitchell leading the charge and the 2nd Tennessee driving hard to join the fight. The Confederate company on the bluff wavered and turned, fleeing westward down the road toward Madison and Mooresville beyond. Sloss Company was only able to fire off one volley of shots from horseback before the Union charge crashed into their line, forcing them to join their fleeing comrades.¹⁹ The 2nd Tennessee cavalymen used their sabers with devastating effect while the 10th Indiana clubbed at the retreating Rebels with their carbines.²⁰ Burtwell and his officers tried in vain to turn the retreating column. The Confederate troops were pursued along the road all the way to Mooresville,²¹ many being cut down and captured along the way.

The small battle was little more than a rout of the Confederate force. It was primarily a saber charge, and one Union eyewitness stated "There was not exceeding one hundred shots fired on our side".²²

Confederate casualties included 50 to 60 captured and several wounded and killed.²³ A review of the Confederate rolls identified 51 Confederate cavalymen captured near Madison Station on the day of the battle (see list at end of article). The account of John W. Andes of the 2nd Tennessee mentions the citizens of Mooresville reporting that about 100 wounded Confederate soldiers had passed that way. In her diary, Huntsville resident Mary Jane Chadick reported hearing that the Union occupiers brought in 49 prisoners and several wounded men from the fight.²⁴ The wounded were "badly cut up with saber cuts, as it was a hand-to-hand fight".²⁵ Union casualties are listed in the Official Records as one killed, three wounded,²⁶ but first-hand accounts list one killed²⁷ and only one wounded.²⁸

The prisoners were taken back to Huntsville where they were marched to the public square and placed under guard. Some of the captured Confederate troops were released

through the intercessions of their loved ones, but the remainder was divided up and sent by rail to Union prisons. The officers were sent to Fort Delaware on the Delaware River, while the enlisted men were sent to Camp Chase in Ohio.²⁹ Captain Mitchell was later commended for leading the Union charge.³⁰

Locating the Battleground

The initial battlefield survey was conducted as part of an archaeological and historical survey of around 7,635 acres of western Huntsville and eastern Madison conducted by the Redstone Arsenal Environmental Management Division to assess impacts to historic properties from the Redstone Gateway development on the north end of Redstone Arsenal.³¹ It was known at that time that the battle had occurred somewhere in the survey area, but its exact location was up for debate. Available historic maps were digitally scanned and uploaded using the ArcGIS program to electronically georectify



Original pier of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge across Indian Creek; a pier still stands on either side of the creek, even though neither is used for support anymore.

them so that they could be overlaid on modern aerial imagery to help narrow down the location of the battle.

Based on a detailed account in James Bennington Irvine's wartime diary, the battle took place around a quarter of a mile away from the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge across "six mile branch"³² six miles west of Huntsville. All Union accounts list the creek as "Indian Creek". The drainage now known as Indian Creek is located

about six miles west of downtown Huntsville, although the creek went by many other names in the past. It is labeled Hurricane Fork on an 1837 map³³ and Price's Fork on the 1875 Madison County map which reserves the name Indian Creek for that portion of the drainage below its confluence with Huntsville Spring Branch. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that this was the creek where the battle took place.

The Memphis & Charleston Railroad

followed the same route as what is now the Norfolk Southern line through Huntsville and Madison. The modern Norfolk Southern bridge crosses at the same place the Memphis & Charleston line crossed during the Civil War. All that is left of the Memphis & Charleston railroad bridge over Indian Creek are the two end pilings which are left intact but no longer support the bridge deck. Rock from the remaining original pilings is spread out as riprap along the north side of the bridge abutments. It is likely, but uncertain that these stone pilings are the remains of the original bridge that was present during the skirmish on December 24, 1964.

Another contemporary account by Major William A. McTeer of the Union 3rd Tennessee Cavalry states that the Union force set off down "Decatur Road" from Huntsville to attack the Confederate position. The 1861 Huntsville city map³⁴ shows the main westward thoroughfare out of Huntsville as "Pulaski Road". This is

where Holmes Avenue runs now. The 1875 Madison County map³⁵ shows the same road as "Athens Pike" which follows the current route of Holmes Avenue westward to what is now Sparkman Drive where it comes to a fork. The southward branch of the fork is called the "Huntsville to Madison" road on the 1875 map. It followed what is now Sparkman Drive southward until it got to where I-565 is now and then turned westward toward Madison. The road angled across Indian Creek about 165m upstream from where Old Madison Pike currently crosses it. The crossing is indicated by a deep road cut on the east side of the creek, and there is still a narrow natural ford across the creek at that location. The 1875 road then passed southwest across the Indian Creek floodplain and up into the bluffs where it turned westward again, following the current route of Old Madison Pike until it branched again a mile west of what is now Wall

Triana Road. The south branch of this fork is labeled "To Decatur" on the 1875 map suggesting that this was the route that was considered the "Decatur Road" during the Civil War.

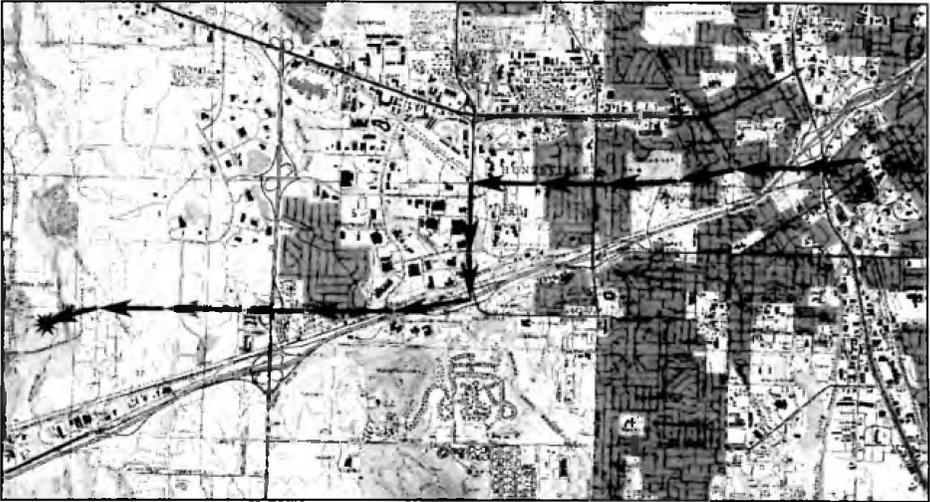
These locations were compared to the first-hand descriptions of the battle allowing the battleground to be laid out on modern aerial imagery. This was viewed in ArcGIS using a hillshade model produced using high-resolution digital elevation data generated through a Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) scan of the landscape. This imagery was used to locate areas with minimal ground disturbance for a metal detector survey to determine if any material residue of the skirmish remained.

The metal detector survey was conducted using a White MXT Tracker E-series metal detector with an Eclipse 950 coil. The initial survey was conducted by sweeping all undisturbed ground along transects laid out every five meters. Wherever Civil War era

artifacts were found, the surrounding area was swept at closer intervals in an increasing radius around each find to delineate any concentrations. Each metal detector hit was excavated. All 19th century artifacts were collected, and their find locations were electronically marked using a Trimble GeoXH hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit with sub-meter accuracy. This data was then uploaded as an ArcGIS shapefile so that it could be overlaid on maps and analyzed for any spatial patterning.

Survey Results

The metal detector survey focused on three areas (hatched areas on map below). The first area investigated was designated Survey Area I. The survey of this area was based on Irvine's account which put the Confederate soldiers' camp on the west side of Indian Creek, "about 1/4 mile" from the railroad bridge. All undisturbed ground within this radius



Probable route followed by Union cavalry from Huntsville to Indian Creek.

was surveyed. About six hours were spent on the actual survey. The vast majority of this area had been disturbed by modern construction. Four parcels (circled by a yellow line in the figure) were determined to be intact enough to be selected for the metal detector survey. All four of these parcels were on the low ridge above the Indian Creek floodplain. Each of these parcels was surveyed with the metal detector in transects spaced a maximum of 10m apart. While lots of 20th century debris (aluminum cans, oil filters, shotgun shells, modern bullets, etc.) was

recovered, only two artifacts possibly dating to the Civil War period were collected. One half of a mule shoe was recovered north of a modern electric substation, and a horseshoe was collected in the center of a turnaround in the Madison Academy driveway. Both of these artifacts could have been associated with 19th or early 20th century agriculture, but the 1937 aerial photographs indicate that both find locations were not in cultivation at that time. Nonetheless, there was no evidence that there were any Civil War camps or skirmishes at that

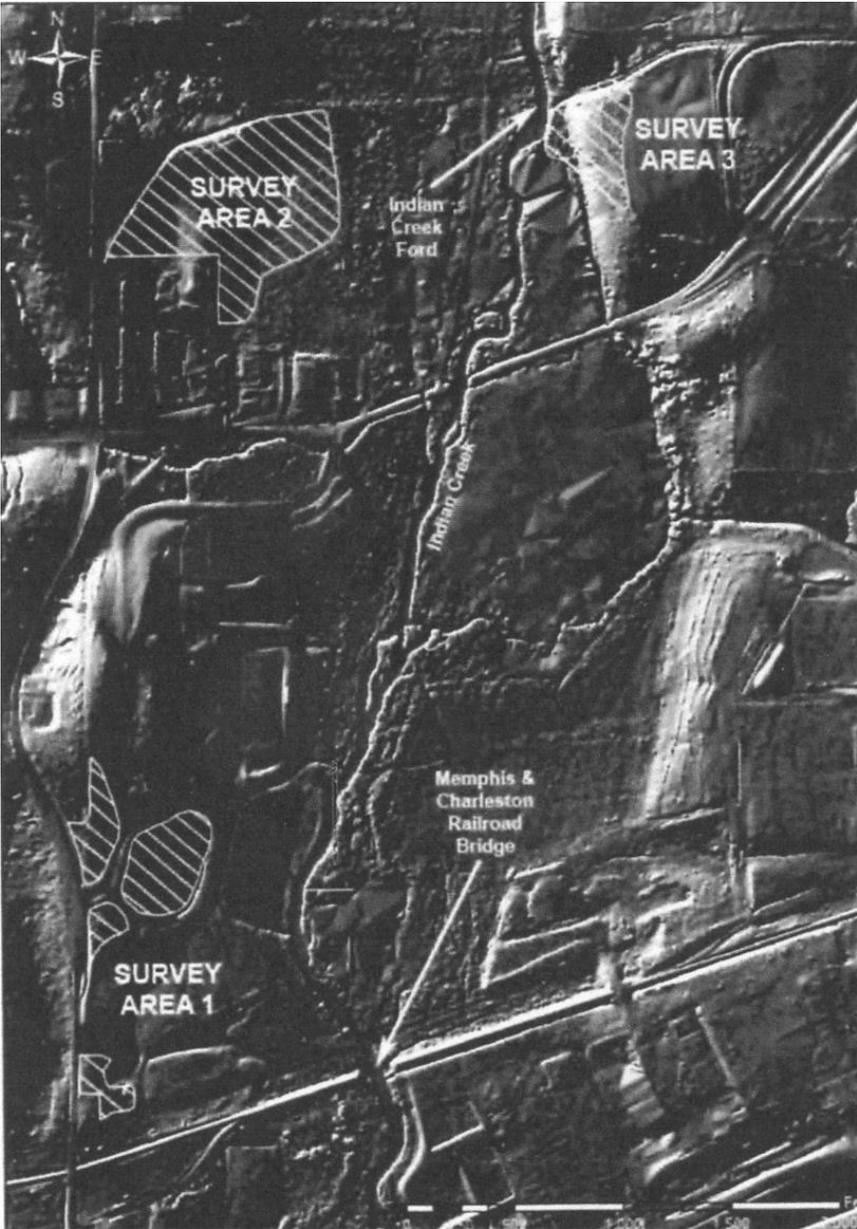
location.

The next area surveyed was the vicinity of the ford across Indian Creek which was identified through the analysis of historic maps. The west side of the creek was a parcel of mature hardwoods that was designated Survey Area 2. It was surveyed in transects spaced at 5m intervals. A total of about 30 hours were spent metal detecting this area once all the 19th century finds were delineated. The north boundary of the survey area was a deep historic road-cut which shows up as a secondary road on the 1936 quad map and may mark the original location of the historic Huntsville to Madison Road. The survey area was bound to the south by The Vintage Apartment Complex and to the east by a dense stand of Chinese privet on the Indian Creek floodplain which inhibited metal detecting. Several Civil War and possibly related 19th century artifacts were recovered in this survey area including a fired Henry repeating rifle casing, a dropped Burnside .54 caliber bullet, two dropped

.54 caliber Merrill carbine bullets, a melted Minie ball, a dropped .44 Colt pistol 32 bullet, two fired small caliber pistol balls, a fired pistol bullet, a Union issue knapsack hook, a Union uniform button, a civilian spur, two concentrations of cut nails, a trace chain, and several horse and mule shoes. All 19th century artifacts were plotted using the GPS, and all GPS points were uploaded into ArcGIS for distributional analysis.

Survey Area 3 was the east side of Indian Creek where the historic Huntsville to Madison Road cuts through the Indian Creek bluffs and leads to the natural ford across the creek. Only about three hours were spent at this location. The north side of the road was heavily disturbed by earth bowfowing around a modern house, so the metal detector survey focused on the south side of the historic road trace. Transects were spaced 5m apart. Only three Civil War era artifacts were recovered there including a carved .44 caliber Sage bullet, a cut nail, and half of a

horseshoe.



Survey areas on LIDAR hill shade imagery.

Confederate Casualties

The confederate rolls for units that were known to be operating in this area during the Affair at Indian Creek Ford were examined to identify those captured or wounded on December 23, 1864.

4th Alabama Cavalry (Roddey's)

- Armistead, George W., Pvt., Co F. - Residence in Lauderdale Co., took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
- Carroll, John E., Pvt., Co. F - Wounded, gunshot wound left shoulder, surrendered, took Oath of Allegiance December 25, admitted to post hospital (Thomas Barracks) December 26, released January 24, 1865.
- Flint, Samuel, Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co., age 19
- Hendrick, Alonzo D., Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co., age 18, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
- Ingram, Benjamin, Pvt., Co F. - Died of pneumonia March 14, 1865 in Camp Chase, buried in Grave# 1650.
- Irvine, James B., Inspector General and Adjutant to Colonel Burtwell, - Residence, Florence, Lauderdale County, Captured at Madison Station, December 23, sent to Fort Delaware POW Camp via Nashville and Louisville. Took Oath of Allegiance, released June 13, 1865.
- Irvine, Seymour, Pvt., Co F - Residence, Florence, Lauderdale Co., Sent to Camp Chase POW Camp. Took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.

James B. Irvine's brother. Actually captured a few days prior to the battle - may have been serving as a vidette or scout.

- Kirkman, J.J., Sgt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co.
- Oliver, Albert W., Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co.
- Reeder, Reuben A., Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co. Actually captured a few days prior to the battle - may have been serving as a vidette or scout.
- Stewart, Edward M., Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co., age 18, took Oath of Allegiance June 12, 1865.
- Weems, James M., 2nd Lieut., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co.
- Young, Samuel C., Pvt., Co F - Residence in Lauderdale Co., age 23, took Oath of

Allegiance June 13, 1865.

- Jordan, Thomas B., Captain, Co I - Captured at Madison Station, December 23, sent to Point Lookout (MD) POW Camp via Nashville and Louisville. Transferred to Aiken's Landing (VA) for exchange on March 17, 1865. Other information indicates that he had been arrested April 16, 1864 by Major General Logan and held by order of Major General Sherman. Released from confinement August 2, 1864 by bail bond of \$10,000. Charged with violating parole, awaiting trial. Recruited and commanded a company during the rebel army advance on Nashville.
- Leedy, W.B., Sgt, Co I - Appears on muster roll, dated

March 20, 1865, of a detachment of paroled and exchanged prisoners at Camp Lee, near Richmond. He was shown as enlisting in Huntsville December 1, 1864, by Captain Jordan. Leedy had been sent to Point Lookout POW Camp from Nashville for special exchange.

Exchanged March 17, 1865. He had been charged with being an employee of the QM Department, US Army, and deserted to the enemy. Tried February 14, 1865 at Nashville, but was released on special exchange near City Point, VA.

- Moore, Alfred, Pvt., Co I - Residence in Madison Co., age 17, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.

4th Alabama Cavalry (Russell's)

- Hancock, Henry E., Pvt., Co K - Captured at Ft. Donelson Feb.3, 1863, paroled and delivered to City Point, VA Feb 11, 1863, in General Hospital, Branch A, Petersburg, VA Feb 20, returned to duty Feb 27, 1863, then captured near Huntsville Dec 23, 1864, sent to Camp Chase via Nashville and Louisville, Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.

Enlisted at New Market, AL, age 30

Note: Do not know if he was captured at Indian Creek. May have been captured near his home. Russell's 4th not known to have been at Indian Creek but perhaps he got separated from his command and joined up with Roddey's 4th.

10th Alabama Cavalry

- Littleburgh, H. Binford, Surgeon - Sent to Ft. Delaware

- POW Camp via Nashville and Louisville, transferred to Fort Monroe (VA) for exchange. Exchanged January 22, 1865.
- Castleberry, William, Sgt., Co. B - Residence in Tishomingo Co., MS, age 35, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
 - Ganong, Cornelius, Pvt., Co B - Residence in Tishomingo Co., MS, age 20.
 - Nunley, William, Pvt., Co B - Residence in?, age 31, took Oath of Allegiance June 12, 1865.
 - Smith, Thomas R., Pvt., Co B - Residence in Tishomingo Co, MS, age 31, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
 - Landers, Josiah B., Pvt., Co E - Took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865, admitted to Branch A, Post Hospital, Louisville, KY June 21, 1865, scurvy, discharged June 25, 1865.
 - Covington, Thomas, Pvt., Co G - Residence in Lauderdale Co., age 17.
 - Wilson, William, Pvt., Co G - Residence in Lauderdale Co, age 20, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
 - Branson, David, Pvt., Co. I - Residence in Tishomingo Co., MS, age 32.
 - Nance, Washington P., Pvt., Co I - Died March 9, 1865 in Camp Chase, pneumonia, buried in Grave# 1699, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
 - Martin, William R., Pvt., Co K - Admitted to USA General Hospital# 2 at Vicksburg, MS, May 27, 1865 from Marine Barracks, acute dysentery,

returned to duty
June 3, 1865.

- Hamilton, George W., Pvt., Co. L - Residence in Limestone Co., age 19, took Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
- Nelms, James L., Pvt., Co. L - Residence in Lawrence Co., age 38, took Oath of Allegiance June 12, 1865.
- Sholar, William A., Pvt., Co. L - Died February 28, 1865 in Camp Chase, buried in Grave# 1477, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
- May, Samuel W., Pvt., Co.? - Residence in Franklin Co., deserted December 23, took Oath of Allegiance March 13, 1865.
- Owens, Marquis L., Pvt., Co.? - Residence in Giles Co., TN, deserted December 23, took Oath of Allegiance March 9, 1865, was

a conscript.

- Note: Civil War Soldiers and Sailors (CWSS) lists Branson, Castleberry, Covington, Ganong, Landers, Martin, Nance, Nelms, Nunley, Smith, and Wilson as being in the 11th Alabama Cavalry. The 11th was organized by the consolidation of Warren's and William's battalions on 14 Jan 1865.

Moreland's Alabama Cavalry

- Pierce, Thomas W., Asst. Surgeon - Sent to Ft. Delaware, then Ft. Monroe for exchange on February 22, 1865.
- Clark, Julius F., Pvt., Co. A - Died January 28, 1865 in Camp Chase, pneumonia, buried in Grave# 9340, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
- Gains, H.M., Pvt., Co. A - Residence in

Franklin Co., Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.

- Sartin, Langford, Sgt., Co A - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865, for exchange. (alternate name: Sartain).
- Cathey, Andrew D.A., Pvt., Co C - Residence in Tishomingo Co, MS, age 15.
- Kay, John, Pvt., Co C - Died June 5, 1865 in Camp Chase, pneumonia, buried in Grave# 2017, 1/3 mile south of Camp C. Enlisted at Dickson, AL.
- Davis, James H., 2 Lt., Co D - Residence in Tishomingo Co, MS, sent to Ft. Delaware, Exchanged and released Jan. 17, 1865.
- Holder, Benjamin A., Pvt., Co D - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865, for exchange, in Jackson Hospital, Richmond, VA March 10, 1865. Enlisted at Warren Mills, MS.
- Looney, Lowry B., Pvt., Co D - Residence in Tishomingo Co., MS.
- McCoy, William F., Pvt., Co D - Died March 2, 1865 in Camp Chase, buried in Grave # 1530, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
- Moore, John, Sgt., Co D - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865, for exchange, in General Hospital, Camp Winder, March 10, 1865.
- Spencer, William A., Pvt., Co D - Died February 20, 1865 in Camp Chase, buried in Grave # 1394, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
- Tackett, Enoch B., Pvt., Co D - Paroled

- at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865, for exchange Roddey's Escort Company.
- Gurley, John S., Pvt., Co G - Residence in Tishomingo Co, MS.
 - Burgess, Richard F., Pvt., Co H - Gunshot wound, right side, admitted to Granger General Hospital, December 24, then sent to prison, where he died on February 20, 1865. Buried in grave# 1353, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
 - Crowell, George W., Pvt., Co H - Residence in Franklin Co., age 24.
 - Leadbetter, Henry, Pvt., Co H - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA for exchange, in Jackson Hospital, Richmond, VA March 8, 1865. furloughed March 9.
 - Norris, William W., Pvt., Co H - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865 for exchange.
 - Patterson, A.W., Capt., Co H - Sent to Ft. Delaware January 9, 1865. Oath of Allegiance June 10, 1865.
 - Rogers, John H., Pvt., Co H - Paroled at Camp Chase and transferred to City Point, VA February 25, 1865 for exchange, in Jackson Hospital, Richmond, VA March 8, debilitas, Forloughed March 10. (alternate name: Rodgers).
 - Gable, James H., Cpl., Co I - Died May 16, 1865 in Camp Chase, buried in Grave # 1972, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
 - All the following were captured near Huntsville but were not involved in the battle at Indian Creek. They would have been sent as prisoners to

Huntsville, then transferred to Camp Chase, via Nashville and Louisville.

- Chittwood, Richard O., Pvt. - Captured December 20, 1864, Died February 20, 1865 and buried in Grave # [illegible].
- Coons, Everitt, Pvt. - Captured December 20, 1864, at Maysville. Residence in Franklin Co, Oath of Allegiance June 13, 1865.
- Dodson, Willis, Pvt. - Captured December 27, 1864, at Madison Station. Residence in Lawrence Co. (Note: one card says captured January 15, 1865).
- Doss, James M., Pvt. - Captured December 27, 1864 in Madison Co, sent to Camp Chase, then Vicksburg MS for exchange. Admitted to General Hospital # 2 from Marine Barracks May 21, 1865, remittent fever,

returned to duty May 22.

- Heflin, Alexander, Pvt. - Captured December 27, 1864 in Madison Co. Residence in Lauderdale Co, age 18, (Note: one card says captured December 25.).
- Roberts, Henry C., Pvt. - Captured December 20, 1864 at Brownsboro, died in Camp Chase, buried in Grave # 1748, 1/3 mile south of Camp C.
- Yerby, Tolbert, Pvt. - Captured December 20, 1864. Residence in Fayette Co, age 18.

Stuart's Battalion

- None found. Assumed not engaged at Indian Creek.

5th Alabama Cavalry

- None found. Assumed not engaged at Indian Creek. Believed to

have been in Decatur. (Note: Only Roll # 19 (A-L) was reviewed on the basis that if there were no captures on or about December 23 of the men on this roll that it would be unlikely to

find any on Roll # 20 (M-Y). There were a number of captures December 29, 1864 at Pond Springs (Courtland), which supports the preceding statement.



¹ John W. Andes and William A. McTeer, "McTeer", *Loyal Mountain Troopers: The Second and Third Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry in the Civil War, Reminiscences of Lieutenant John W Andes and Major Will A. McTeer* (Maryville, Tennessee: Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society, 1992), 183; James Bennington Irvine, *The Civil War Dimy of James Bennington Irvine (1829-1881)*, (Peter Bennington Irvine, 1987)42.

² The following units were commanded by Brig. Gen. Roddey: 4th Alabama Cavalry (Roddey's 4th) under Lt.Col. F.M. Windes, the 5th Alabama Cavalry (Patterson's) under Lt. Col. James M. Warren, the 10th Alabama Cavalry under Col. Richard O. Pickett, Burtwell's Alabama Cavalry under Col. John R.B. Burtwell, Stuart's Battalion under Maj. James H. Stuart, and Ferrell's Georgia Battery under Capt. Coleman B. Ferrell.

³ There were two units known as 4th Alabama Cavalry that were involved in the delaying tactics. The 4th Alabama Cavalry in this case was under Brig. Gen. Philip D. Roddey's command. Roddey commanded the District of North Alabama, in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, and cooperated with General Hood but was not commanded by him. The 4th Alabama Regiment, on the other hand, reported directly to General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee and was commanded by Colonel Alfred A. Russell (4th Alabama Cavalry, Russell's).

⁴ Irvine, *Diary*, 42.

⁵ Chadick, *Diary*,

⁶ Irvine (p. 44) states that there were about 150 men in the Confederate camp at Indian Creek; Andes (p. 180) estimated the Confederate force to be about 390 strong, while McTeer (p. 192) claimed that there were 800 rebels. If there were two companies of cavalry present, there were probably between 150 and 200 men in Burtwell's camp.

⁷ Irvine (p. 46.) says the distance was a quarter mile from the bridge, but the archaeological survey indicated the distance was more like three-quarters of a mile.

⁸ Probably the double log cabin mentioned by McTeer (p. 193) where they came upon a mortally wounded Confederate soldier after the battle.

⁹ Irvine, *Diary*, 44.

¹⁰ James S. Steedman, "Report of Maj. Gen. James B. Steedman, U.S. Army, Commanding

Provisional Detachment (District of Etowah), The Battle of Nashville", January 27, 1865; Irvine, *Diary*, 44.

¹¹ Irvine, *Diary*, 44-45.

¹² Irvine, *Diary*, 44-45.

¹³ Andes (p. 180) and McTeer (p. 192) both state that the Union force was 200 strong; *Official Records* concur.

¹⁴ Andes and McTeer, *Reminiscences*, 191.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Irvine, *Diary*, 47.

¹⁷ Company I was organized in Huntsville as Jordan's Life Guards by Captain Thomas B. Jordan. Many of these men were newly mustered after the Union forces fled Huntsville to avoid being flanked by Hood's army.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid., 48.

²⁰ Andes and McTeer, *Reminiscences*, 192.

²¹ Andes and McTeer, *Reminiscences*, 180.

²² Ibid., 192.

²³ Andes estimated 15 Confederates killed and 15 mortally wounded.

²⁴ McTeer (p.193) reported 54 prisoners, Andes reported 50 prisoners. Various accounts from the *Official Records* include 25 (I, vXLV/1, 570) and 60 (I, vXLV/2, 342).

²⁵ Chadick

²⁶ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XLV, Part 2, 342.

²⁷ Andes and McTeer, *Reminiscences*, 193.

²⁸ Andes and McTeer, *Reminiscences*, 180, 193; The wounded man was a Lieutenant named A. S. Prosser who was shot in the foot while attacking an unmounted rebel with his saber.

²⁹ Irvine, *Diary*, 50.

³⁰ *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XLV, Part 1,570.

³¹ Ben Hoksbergen and Katie Stamps, *A Section 106 Assessment of Impacts to Historic Properties Resulting from the Redstone Gateway EUL Development at Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama* (Redstone Arsenal, 2011).

³² Irvine, *Diary*, 43.

³³ John LaTourrette, "An Accurate Map of the State of Alabama and West Florida (New York: Colton & Co., 1837).

³⁴ "City of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama" (Louisville: Hartley and Drayton, 1861).

³⁵ James H. Mayhew, "Map of Madison County, Alabama" (Cincinnati: Strobridge and Co., 1875).



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