

Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

August 29 & 30, 1862

Introduction to the tour



This brochure consists of a Summary of the Battle of Richmond by Dean Warren Lambert and directions for taking a battlefield tour along with a map of the thirteen tour stops. The tour stops are established in the approximate order the battle took place, with few exceptions; e.g. confederate cemetery. It is recommended that the tour be taken from tour stop 1 to tour stop 10.

In addition to this brochure, the tour is on the internet at www.battleofrichmond.org. Please note that most of the tour stops are on private property and visitors are there with permission. Please use these areas accordingly. Some of the roads on the tour are narrow and heavily traveled, some stops present natural hazards: wild life, undeveloped pathways. Use caution when parking and visiting the off-the-road tour stops. The stops are identified by signs unless otherwise noted in this brochure. If a sign should be missing, please notify the Richmond Tourism and Main Street Department.

If you desire more information about the Battle of Richmond, see *Madison County: 200 Years in Retrospect* by Wm. Ellis, H. E. Everman, and Richard Sears, or *When the Ripe Pears Fell: The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky* by Dean Warren Lambert, or *Battle of Richmond, Kentucky* by Kenneth A. Hafendorfer.

Guided tours are available.



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Summary of the Battle of Richmond By Dean Warren Lambert

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In mid-summer of 1862, the Confederates developed a brilliant though rather loosely coordinated plan for a two-pronged advance into Kentucky. In the last half of August, Gen. E. Kirby Smith with 19,000 men advanced from Knoxville toward Cumberland Gap; at the end of the month, Gen. Braxton Bragg with about 30,000 men started from Chattanooga, maneuvering toward Nashville.

Bypassing a Federal garrison at the Gap, Kirby Smith left 9,000 of his men there and quickly marched north from Barbourville toward the Blue Grass. His cavalry under Col. John S. Scott routed a small Federal force at Big Hill on August 23. Smith's lead division, Gen. Patrick Cleburne's, reached Big Hill on August 29 and immediately advanced northward.

At Richmond, two untrained Federal brigades totaling about 6,500 men under Gens. Mahlon D. Manson and Charles Cruft were ordered by Gen. William Nelson to move west toward Lancaster but the message was delayed and Manson pushed his brigade forward south from Richmond



Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne

toward Rogersville. On the afternoon of the 29 he drove back Scott's cavalry and went into camp near Rogersville; Cleburne's division bivouacked at or near Bobtown, south of Kingston. At dawn on August 30, Cleburne advancing up the Old State Road came under fire from Manson's artillery. Cleburne deployed his infantry along the Irvine-Lancaster Pike (now the Crooksville Road). Just east of where he crossed the Old State

Road north of Kingston, with Col. Preston Smith's brigade in support behind Col. Benjamin J. Hill's, Gen. James Churchill's Confederate division soon came up from Big Hill. Confederate artillery was deployed on high ground above Hayes Fork Creek along the crossroads.

Kirby Smith ordered Cleburne to wait while Churchill

advanced Col. H. T. McCray's brigade up a country road west of the battlefield toward the Federal Right at Mt. Zion Church. Cleburne's veterans repulsed a determined flanking movement, which began to fall back just as McCray was getting into position, and Cruft acting without orders marched toward the sound of the guns, arrived on the field from Richmond. About this time, Cleburne was wounded and Preston Smith took over as divisional commander. An attack on Churchill's artillery west of the road failed. Manson's brigade was outflanked on the east and the whole Confederate line moved forward, with Scott's cavalry on the flanks. The Federals were driven back in considerable confusion as far as White's Farm at Rogersville, where they attempted another defense and were routed again. Kirby Smith sensing victory detached Scott's cavalry to cut off the Union retreat on the other side of Richmond.



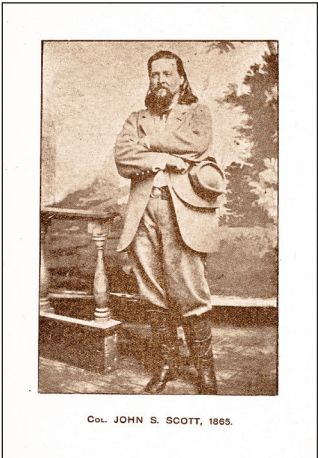
Gen. Charles Cruft

Nelson arrived on the field about 2:00 p.m., where the broken Union formations fell back to the edge of the town. Here Kirby Smith ordered a last general advance, three of his brigades in a single long line more than half a mile wide, against 2,200 men Nelson had whipped into a line from Lancaster Pike to the Old State Road at Richmond Cemetery. Three volleys broke the line, and Scott's cavalry captured virtually all of Nelson's fleeing army. The most reliable casualty figures from the Official Records show that Nelson lost 206 killed, 844 wounded and 4303 missing (most of them prisoners) for an aggregate of 5353; the Confederates had 98 killed, 492 wounded and 10 missing, for a total of 600.

Manson can hardly be faulted for not receiving Nelson's delayed order nor for his initial advance, which secured dominant terrain in front of him, but for his advance with the green troops at his disposal. If he did intend it as a flanking action against a veteran division, it was foolhardy. Cruft appears to have been a sensible, solid officer overwhelmed by events beyond his control. Nelson simply arrived on the field too late; Napoleon under these circumstances could hardly have reversed such disaster. Kirby Smith, Cleburne until was wounded, and Churchill handled their better trained units with calm skill. The inexperienced Union

Infantry fought with courage and determination the veteran Confederate foot soldiers commanded with fine order and discipline. Scott's cavalry was generally dominant during almost all of the action; half the Federal horses never got to the battle at all. One of its two regiments on the field, Metcalfe's 7th Kentucky, behaved disgracefully from the first skirmish at Big Hill to the retreat from Rogersville. The artillery on both sides was well served, Capt. James P. Douglas of the 1st Texas, particularly distinguished while temporarily commanding all three of Kirby Smith's batteries.

Tactically, the Confederate victory was one of the most complete of the entire war, but was negated by the failure of Bragg and Smith to develop a single coherent strategic plan for exploiting the advantage they had won, or to coordinate their forces effectively in the campaign that ended with their retreat from Perryville.



Col. John S. Scott

later when used as hospitals - the Court House, Mt. Zion Church, the Madison Female Institute, and other places. A number of civilians watched the fighting, some blundering in the way of the troops. Several prominent citizens were military aides, largely on the Union side; one, John Miller, being fatally wounded while serving with Cruft's staff.

The local effects of the battle were several. Madison County was bitterly divided as to its loyalties, and the outcome of the fighting resulted in a temporary ascendancy of the Southern sympathizers, who promptly raised a regiment of Confederate cavalry, Col. David W. Chenault's 11th Kentucky. Various homes in the county were damaged during the battle, or

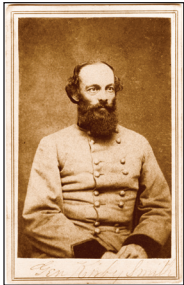


A Tour of the Civil War Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

This tour of the Battle of Richmond begins at the Battle of Richmond Visitors Center. The tour covers both Union and Confederate points of interest, and there is some back-tracking. At some tour stops, parking is very limited. Most stops have interpretative signs highlighting action at that particular stop. Please be mindful of the heavily travelled roads and park safely off the roadways.

There are optional stops that are not an integral part of the overall tour, but are mentioned for your travelling convenience. Please remember that in 1862 this region was in a horrible drought and daytime temperatures were around 98 degrees.



Gen. Kirby Smith

TOUR
1
STOP

Battle of Richmond Visitors Center

Begin your tour at the Battle of Richmond Visitors Center, located at 101 Battlefield Memorial Highway just south of Richmond proper. Housed in the ca. 1811 Rogers House, the center gives visitors a great overview of the battlefield and an excellent background into the many personalities associated with the battle. *To check current hours, please call 859-624-0013.*

TOUR
2
STOP

Bobtown (Sign at Stop 1)

Confederate Brig. General Patrick Cleburne's division arrived near Bobtown late in the day on August 29, 1862. Confederate cavalry led Union cavalry into a snare in this area. After a brief skirmish, the Union Cavalry retreated. The confederates then rested in this area, but marched to Kingston early the next day.

TOUR
3
STOP

Battle of Richmond Phase I (Battle for Mt. Zion Church)

You are now near the first Confederate artillery position. The initial Federal line is 3/4 of a mile north, mainly on the Army Depot property. Confederate artillery positions are to your right and infantry is immediately behind the artillery. From 7 until 9am on August 30th, this was not a good place to be.

TOUR
4
STOP

Blue Grass Army Depot (Tour Stop Currently Unavailable)

You are now right behind the initial Federal Line. From this vantage point, three Union regiments are in front of your position, and one is off to your right across the main road. Fighting lasted in this area from 9:30 until a little after 11am, when the Union line collapsed, the ends folding in on the middle. *Ask at the Visitors Center how to access the Army Depot.*

TOUR
5
STOP

Battle of Richmond Park

You are now behind Confederate line. Most of the fighting occurring on the Army property to your front and right. However, the Confederates are going to use a hidden ravine (Churchill's Draw) to your left to outflank the Federals. The ca. 1824 brick home you see, known as Pleasant View and home to the Kavanaugh Armstrong family, served primarily as a Confederate hospital. The smaller building in front of the main house is a surviving slave cabin. Restrooms are available at this stop; the nearly two mile walking trail is lined with interpretative signs and the Texas monument is at the end of the western trail overlooking Churchill's Draw. *Pleasant View and the Battle of Richmond Association's Book and Gift Shop have limited hours; inquire at the Battle of Richmond Visitors Center.*



Confederate artillery

TOUR
6
STOP

Mt. Zion Church

The Federal line was located just south mostly to the east of the Mt. Zion Church. The church, ca. 1850, served as a Federal hospital during and after the battle, and suffered artillery damage during the fight. The building itself has changed little since the battle. Church is open for tours on a limited and advanced appointment basis. *Ask at Battle of Richmond Visitors Center regarding tours of church.*

TOUR
7
STOP

Battle of Richmond Phase II (Battle of White's Farm)

After a disorganized retreat from their first position, Federal forces regrouped at the Rogers House and then moved north to this area. One division (Manson) was to the east and one (Cruft) was to the west of the intersection. Fighting occurred to the west of the intersection, with Federal soldiers advancing into the approaching Confederates, and the Federals were driven back with heavy losses. Just off Duncannon Road, there are four interpretative signs explaining the action in this area. *Note: Do not try to access the Army Depot at this gate. It is a heavily restricted area. Photos are not allowed.*



Gen. William "Bull" Nelson

TOUR
8
STOP

The Race to Richmond

After a 45 minute fight ending around 1:30pm in the US25/ Duncannon Lane area, Federal Forces made an even more disorganized retreat to Richmond, with the Confederates in light pursuit. Earlier in the day, Confederate cavalry, with orders to cut off any Union Retreat, have made a wide arcing movement using roads and farm lanes to the west. This step is a good example of the rolling terrain which the confederates took advantage of during the entire battle.

TOUR
9A+B
STOP

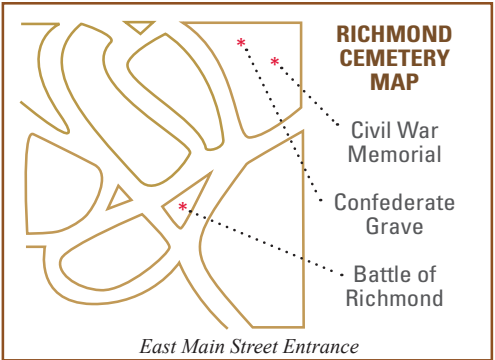
Battle of Richmond Phase III (Battle for the Richmond Cemetery)

Overall Federal commander Major General William "Bull" Nelson now arrives on the field from Lancaster and finds his "army" greatly diminished and demoralized. He decided to form a third line in the Richmond Cemetery (Tour Stop 9B). The Confederates formed a line along the Old State Road (now Big Hill Ave. Tour Stop 9A). Nelson's men stood their ground but could not hold against the attacking Confederates, resulting in the Union line collapsing from right to left (as you look east), resulting in a complete rout and Nelson being wounded. The panicked Federals streamed through the streets of Richmond. This portion of the battle lasted an hour, from 4 to 5 pm. *Note: Stop 9A is in the Madison Kindergarten Academy parking lot. Use the Richmond Cemetery Map for sites inside the cemetery, Stop 9B. Please be mindful that this an active cemetery. Proper respect and decorum are expected.*

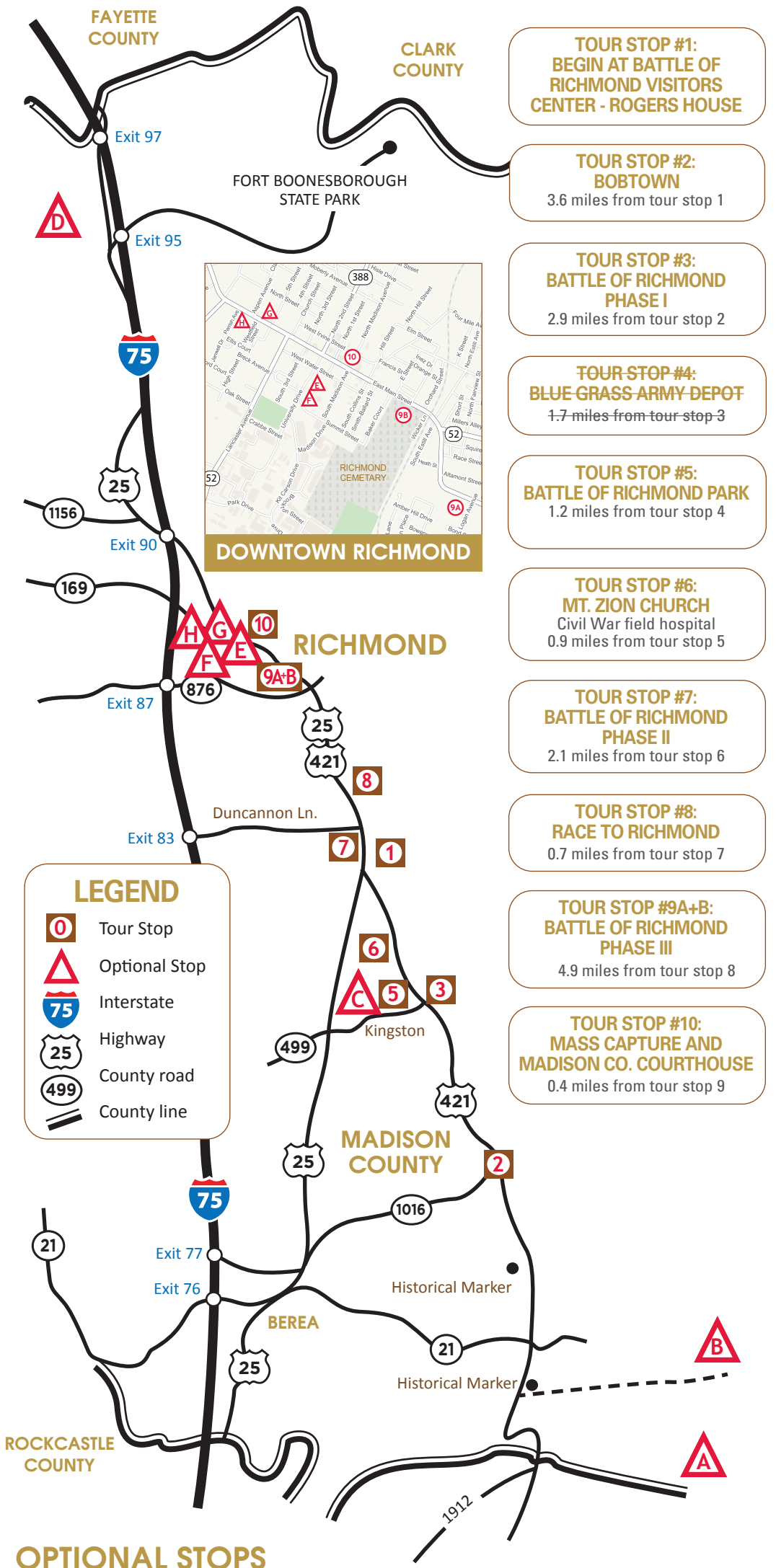
TOUR
10
STOP

Mass Capture and Madison County Courthouse

Confederate cavalry has executed its ride west and north of Richmond, and will bag over four thousand Federal soldiers around dusk on August 30th just north of Richmond. Although Nelson and General Cruft were able to escape, Manson and his staff are captured just north of I-75 on the Lexington Road (exact location unknown). Most of the Federal prisoners were marched back to Richmond and were kept around the Madison County Courthouse in Richmond awaiting their release.



East Main Street Entrance



TOUR STOP #1:
BEGIN AT BATTLE OF
RICHMOND VISITORS
CENTER - ROGERS HOUSE

TOUR STOP #2:
BOBTOWN
3.6 miles from tour stop 1

TOUR STOP #3:
BATTLE OF RICHMOND
PHASE I
2.9 miles from tour stop 2

TOUR STOP #4:
BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT
1.7 miles from tour stop 3

TOUR STOP #5:
BATTLE OF RICHMOND PARK
1.2 miles from tour stop 4

TOUR STOP #6:
MT. ZION CHURCH
Civil War field hospital
0.9 miles from tour stop 5

TOUR STOP #7:
BATTLE OF RICHMOND
PHASE II
2.1 miles from tour stop 6

TOUR STOP #8:
RACE TO RICHMOND
0.7 miles from tour stop 7

TOUR STOP #9A+B:
BATTLE OF RICHMOND
PHASE III
4.9 miles from tour stop 8

TOUR STOP #10:
MASS CAPTURE AND
MADISON CO. COURTHOUSE
0.4 miles from tour stop 9

OPTIONAL STOPS



OPTIONAL STOP A - Cox-Simpson House

This ca. 1839 home served as a hospital during both the Battle of Richmond and the Battle of Bill Hill (August 23, 1862). It now serves as the Jackson County Visitors Center. Hours are limited; please call ahead 606-965-2485.



OPTIONAL STOP B - Confederate Cemetery & Ruins of Merrick Jones Tavern

The tavern served as a Confederate hospital and several Confederate soldiers are buried here. *Note: This is a very dangerous area for traffic. During the warmer months, the area is infested with snakes, many poisonous. Tour at your own risk.*



OPTIONAL STOP C - Thomas Palmer House

In Battlefield Estates is the small home of Thomas Palmer. This home served as a hospital and witnessed the death of prominent Richmond resident John Miller, who was mortally wounded while serving as a civilian aide to Gen. Cruft. It now serves as the Battlefield Golf Course's Pro Shop.



OPTIONAL STOP D - White Hall State Historic Site

Home of the famous Kentucky abolitionist Cassius M. Clay. Located at 500 White Hall Shire Road, just off I-75 Exit 95. For current hours please call 859-623-9178.



OPTIONAL STOP E - Mt. Pleasant

This ca. 1835-40 residence overlooking Richmond witnessed nearly all the Union soldiers receive their pardons within its doors. The home has been restored and is currently privately owned. *Ask at the Visitors Center how to arrange a tour.*



OPTIONAL STOP F - Madison Female Institute (Madison Middle School)

Opened in 1858, the Madison Female Institute was commandeered by Union medical authorities and used as a hospital for wounded men of both sides for ten months after the battle. The original structure was razed and is now the site of Madison Middle School.



OPTIONAL STOP G - Retreat from Richmond (Madison Co. Library)

This interpretive marker further details the Federal retreat from Richmond following the third phase of the battle in the Richmond Cemetery.



OPTIONAL STOP H - Sisters of Charity (St. Mark's Catholic Church)

In the weeks following the battle a group of six Catholic nuns from Cincinnati, who had been trained as nurses, arrived in Richmond to care for the wounded of both sides. This interpretive marker details their service.



Gen. Mahlon Manson