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By
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About the Author

Chris Calkins has served as a National Park Service historian since 1971 at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, and Petersburg National Battlefield. He has served in various positions there since 1981.

He is the nation's leading student of the Appomattox campaign and is the father of *Lee's Retreat* heritage trail. This singular accomplishment has been featured in *Life* and *Southern Living* magazines. The trail has been modeled at other historically significant sites.

Chris was a founding member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, and has been an aggressive and effective community advocate for preservation. His leadership has resulted in the acquisition and incorporation of 930 acres at Five Forks into the National Park. Other preservation efforts have earned him national recognition.

Calkins is a popular and engaging speaker. He is also a collector of artifacts, many of which are on display in the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. He is also the author of numerous books and articles on the Petersburg Siege and Appomattox Campaign.

Calkins and his wife, Sarah, live in a historic home which they have restored in Petersburg.

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Still Work to Be Done

The pursuit, confrontation, and surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia eliminated the Confederacy's primary combat force; however, there were still small, dangerous collections of Confederate resistance left. General Joseph E. Johnston's remnant of the Army of Tennessee was pinned down in the vicinity of Greensboro and Durham, North Carolina. Confederate President Jefferson Davis instructed his commanding generals to continue the resistance as he attempted to reconstitute his fleeing government. It was for this reason that Federal General-in-chief Ulysses S. Grant ordered two Union corps from his army to move towards North Carolina just in case Major General William T. Sherman needed any help in subduing General Johnston's army.

With the surrender and disbandment of Lee's army at Appomattox, most of Grant's soldiers probably felt their military service would soon be coming to an end. The Federals quickly moved back to staging areas near Burkeville railroad junction in anticipation of their discharges. This site was chosen because it was where the Richmond & Danville and South Side Railroads intersected and was an important logistics and supply base for the Federal authorities. A minimal number of soldiers were detailed to police the area around Appomattox for abandoned Confederate ordnance.

Major General Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry had performed valuable service in the final stages of the siege of Petersburg and in the pursuit of Lee's fleeing force. Grant may have been rewarding them for their service when he permitted them to leave Appomattox on April 10th prior to the formal surrender ceremony. Regardless of the reason, Sheridan's hard ridden troopers were delighted to be going home.

The pace was leisurely and the route unthreatening. They rode by way of Walker's Church (present day Hixburg) to Prospect Station where they camped for the night. The next day they proceeded through Prince Edward Court House (Worsham) en route to Rice's Station. After passing Burkeville early the next morning, they reached Nottoway Court House by the early afternoon. Here the troopers dismounted and camped for a few days.

While at Nottoway Court House, the horses were groomed and grazed on the lush new spring growth. On April 17th they continued their journey, reaching the western edge of Petersburg where they again went into bivouac along the Cox Road.

With the arrest of Lee's retreat, supporting Federal infantry arrived in the vicinity of Appomattox and took positions to ensure Lee's surrounded army didn't escape. One such force was Major General Horatio G. Wright's Sixth Army Corps. They had marched behind Major General Andrew A. Humphreys' Second Army Corps as it pursued Lee's rearguard during April 8th-9th. A member of the Sixth Corps commented on their present situation, *"I do not know what is going on at the front, as no one is allowed to visit the Rebel camps, but I am satisfied I have seen all the Rebels I want to see for my life time."* 1

With the surrender, the Second and Sixth Corps simply reversed their order of march. They were ordered to depart the area of Appomattox on April 11th. Wright's Corps would now lead the column back to Burkeville. They elected to march via New Store, Curdsville, and finally through Farmville before going into bivouac five miles east of that town. The next day they reached Burkeville. 2

The failure of Johnston to immediately follow Lee's lead, the Lincoln assassination, and the problems with surrender negotiations created consternation in Washington D. C. In response, on April 22nd, General Grant ordered Major General Henry W. Halleck to "Move Sheridan with his cavalry toward Greensborough as soon as possible. I think it will be well to send one corps of infantry with the cavalry. The infantry need not go farther than Danville unless they receive orders hereafter." Halleck immediately ordered Army of the Potomac commander, Major General George G. Meade to "put a corps of infantry at the disposition of General Sheridan." Since the Sixth Corps had worked well with the cavalry commander the previous year in the Shenandoah valley operations and they were on the line of march, Wright was assigned the task. 3

A little over a week after reaching Burkeville and setting up camp General Wright and his corps received a directive to be ready to march. One can only imagine the disbelief in the camps as they outfitted with

batteries of artillery, four days' subsistence on the person, and eight days' rations and forage in the supply trains. This was not an insignificant move as the 1st Division alone packed 226 wagons and ambulances.

The Sixth Corps began their march toward Danville on Sunday, April 23rd at 2 a.m., generally following the line of the Richmond & Danville Railroad. Soldiers in the column recalled "the railroad itself is pronounced the very worst we have seen, just old strap iron laid on longitudinal sleepers. It was a primitive form of railroad. Long sleepers were mortised into the ties and on the top of the sleeper heavy straps of iron were spiked, on which the cars ran...." By that evening they arrived at Keysville Station, a march of 22 miles.

Sheridan did not move as quickly, his column departed Petersburg on the morning of the 24th. He sent orders ahead to Wright instructing him to meet with him at "some point on the railroad north of Danville." The cavalry would follow the Boydton Plank Road as they headed toward North Carolina.

Sheridan's three divisions were commanded by proven and trusted subordinates Major General George Crook (Army of the Potomac), Brigadier General Thomas Devin and Brevet Major General George A. Custer. The latter two had been designated the Army of the Shenandoah. They were commanded by Brevet Major General Wesley Merritt.

On this day the cavalry would pass through Dinwiddie Court House at 11:30 a.m., cross over Stony Creek using a "narrow dangerous bridge," and move beyond San Marino Post Office (present day McKenney) to the Nottoway River. Crook was in the vanguard and his division, after passing over a "large iron bridge," camped on the south side. Merritt's men remained north of the river and passed to the south side the next morning. In all, the cavalrymen had ridden a leisurely 24 miles.

Wright's infantry continued its march on the 24th. They did not encounter any problems until they came to the Staunton River Bridge crossing of the Richmond & Danville Railroad. It was here, nearly a year before, on June 25, 1864 that Federal cavalry under Brigadier Generals James H. Wilson and August V. Kautz had made an effort to destroy the

bridge. They were beaten back by a small group of local militia and reserves.

The bridge was still an item of contention. Three days after Lee's surrender, members of the 18th Virginia Cavalry were ordered by a Southern officer to burn the bridge. One of the party, D.M. Grabill remembered that *"we were sent back to burn the Staunton River bridge. We set out to obey these orders, which we did not understand, as General Lee had surrendered and we thought it unnecessary to further destroy property"* Finally, about sunset, a captain from Rosser's [cavalry] brigade rode up and asked why we had not burned the bridge. We explained to him, but he said, 'burn it at once, and just as the sun was sinking in the west we applied the torch. It made a great fire, and many were the [Confederate] soldiers who came that way and found their progress blocked by the river.'" Two weeks later, the Federal Sixth Corps was stopped in its tracks. The delay was temporary as a pontoon bridge was rapidly constructed. However, the delay led Wright to order the corps to encamp for the evening.⁴

At dawn on Tuesday the 25th, the Federals resumed their movement. Sheridan's cavalry made it across the Nottoway River at Burchett's Bridge. They rode in a southwesterly direction toward the Meherrin River. It was not an easy ride as they had to ford three creeks the Wataqua, Great and Red (the latter at Dr. Price's mill) before reaching the Meherrin River at about 3 p.m. Finding the banks of the ford at the Meherrin River unsuitable (between Geis and Harper's Bridges), pioneers were called in to grade the crossing. After several hours of work, some of the cavalry were able to cross the river and bivouac on the south side. The movement was once again casual as another 25 miles passed--the majority before 3 p.m. ⁵

Wright's men began the day crossing the Staunton River at Clarks Ford. His line of march this day would lead his troops through Mount Laurel, also known as Laurel Mountain or Laurel Hill, before arriving at their bivouac site in the vicinity of Halifax Court House. Some camp Banister across the Banister River from Halifax; others marched through the county seat village and spent the night on the large plantation of Dr. Coleman. A soldier of the 2nd Rhode Island remembered *"Halifax Court*

House is a quiet little settlement on a hill. The people received us very coolly and seem to be bitter against the Yankees. We took possession of the town and planted the Stars and Stripes upon the Court House. This is probably the first U.S. flag seen in this part of Virginia for several years. Yesterday the citizens held a meeting here and denounced the Union, but we did not find any of the parties when we arrived." 6

The forces slowly began to converge on their destination. Sheridan's men were awakened at 4 a.m. and, after a leisurely breakfast, in the saddle by 6 o'clock. A soldier noted the weather was delightful, the road cool and shady, and all of nature was dressed in the garb of early spring. Some of the battle-hardened and war-weary soldiers gathered bouquets of wild flowers. With Devin's division in the lead the column reached Boydton, the county seat of Mecklenburg County, the southern terminus of the infamous Petersburg plank road. As the cavalry rode through the village about 5 p.m., one trooper remembered that "the column enters the pretty little village of Boydton. All the bands were playing Hail Columbia! The entire population of the village repaired to the main street to view the cavalcade." After passing through Boydton, the horsemen rode in the direction of Danville for a few miles before entering into camp near the original Randolph-Macon College (1832-68). General Merritt placed his headquarters at Doctor Jordon's. This ride was no more than 24 miles.

The Sixth Corps march on Wednesday, April 26th, was relatively uneventful after leaving Halifax Court House. The Union soldiers halted for dinner at Birch Creek, then shortly reached Brooklyn, which one described as "Brookline, a village of one house [built 1853], a store, tobacco factory and three or four negro huts."

That evening, the men camped at Brookline. Before going to bed, General Wright issued orders for the following day. "The Third Brigade, Second Division, will move at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning to Danville, reaching that place at as early an hour as practicable, taking possession of the city and establishing the guard necessary for the preservation of order and protection of property of all descriptions." 7

The cavalry was within 60 miles of Danville. As the familiar call "boots and saddles" came, General Custer's division took the lead. They were followed by Crook's and Devin's troopers. At 11 a.m. the cavalry arrived at the Staunton River opposite Clarksville. Finding it unfordable, they were forced to ride about six miles upriver to Abbyville, near the Staunton River's confluence with the Dan River. Here they found a hastily built, 200 yard long bridge of ferry boats across the river. The improvised structure had been built that day by Major Henry Young's scouts. At this point the river was estimated to be $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile across. The delay in crossing the Staunton River forced Devin and the others to camp some 50 miles from Danville. Wesley Merritt bedded down at a Mr. Russell's home. It was approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile from the crossing. The balance of his command was spread out over an area about seven miles from the river! It was not a particularly productive day as the cavalry rode just 19 miles.

April 27 1865

Danville Surrenders

Colonel Thomas W. Hyde's brigade was given the honor of "capturing" Danville. Hyde wrote "I sent a party over the Dan River by fords to the right, and while the mayor was surrendering at the bridge, had the place surrounded, and five hundred prisoners with some millions of property secured." Mayor James M. Walker, along with members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council meet the Federal troops as they arrived and offered the formal surrender of the city at 9:45 a.m. The site of this meeting was on the eastern outskirts of the town, along the main road between the Richmond & Danville Railroad and the bridge across Fall Creek. Hyde received the surrender. He was accompanied by Colonel Walter S. Franklin, inspector general of the Sixth Corps, and Major Arthur McClellan, Aide-de-camp to General Wright.



T. .

*Colonel Hyde accepted the surrender of Danville and was its military governor
photograph courtesy of Christopher Calkins*

There were local defense troops in the city. They were surrendered by their commanders, Provost Marshal Colonel Robert Enoch Withers and Major Edward Sixtus Hutter, officer-in-charge of the Danville arsenal. These soldiers were residents of Danville who for various reasons had not been conscripted into the Confederate army. They were between sixteen and fifty years of age and had been mustered into the 5th Battalion Virginia Reserves. Some regular army and cavalry troops had found refuge in the city and were surrendered with the Reserves. They may have included North Carolina cavalry from General Rufus Barringer's brigade, brought there by General Thomas L. Rosser. Hutter belonged to Captain Walter Otey's Company of Light Artillery. They were made up of the employees of the Danville arsenal. The arriving Federals showed little interest in these remaining soldiers. After the formality of surrender most were told to return to their quarters. Withers returned to his office.

Around noon, General Wright arrived at Withers' office. He brought with him a "very handsome New Foundland dog." Withers advised Wright about an incident in which some advance elements of the Union army, called "bummers," took a railroad handcar into the city to presumably plunder. As the Provost Marshall, Withers was charged with maintaining order in the city. Withers explained to Wright that the "bummers" had been taken into custody. The Confederates were unsure as to the discipline which the Federal main body would maintain once they entered this southern town. They were anxious to avoid being surrendered while holding Federals prisoners. Consequently, the prisoners (bummers) were told, that if they remained quiet, they would be released the next day. They were subsequently released. Wright appreciated Withers' position but "was greatly disappointed as he wished to make an example of the rascals."

As Federal troops began crossing the Dan River to occupy Danville, one soldier noted that an attempt had been made by some of the residents to burn the [covered] bridge. The soldier claimed that "the mayor and the more sensible citizens protested so vigorously that the purpose was abandoned." The same soldier observed the town's silent sentinel--a fort with six gun emplacements commanding the bridge. He noted that it had no garrison.

Upon passing over the river, the Union column marched up Main Street and through the town to the southern outskirts at "Right Shoulder Shift Arms." As they did, an infantryman recorded that "the people looked at us with disgust in their faces as we marched through the streets with drums beating and colors flying. I did not see a smiling face except among the slaves, who of course were glad to see us. 'We have been waiting for you!' was shouted to us many times."

After leaving the settlement, the Sixth Corps went into camp two miles out along the Yanceyville Road. Before they did, a 300 man picket line from each division was thrown out in advance, some even extending into Caswell County, North Carolina. The picket posts had each flank resting on the banks of the Dan River. They particularly watched the roadway which led to Greensboro as Johnston's army was currently stationed there. That night, the men received word of the death of President Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

It was noteworthy that the Sixth Corps had efficiently marched the 110 miles to Danville in just four days and four hours. General Wright commemorated the occasion in his General Orders No.9, stating "The major-general commanding desires to express his great gratification at the accomplishment of the late march of the corps from Burkeville Junction...."

Of course many of the soldiers, who did not see the march from the comfort of the general's horse, had a different perception. One of them recorded a common complaint, "In the four days the march was made; the sun was very warm, and the men suffered very much. General Wright, wishing to win more glory, was anxious to fall on Johnston's rear. He marched the men very fast until he was bitterly cursed by them, and with blistered feet and weary limbs the men plodded on in dust and sun, and were loud in their complaints against Wright for marching so fast...It was quite warm - we feel stiff & old & sore. I don't see the use of marching us so hard now the war is over. It is very wrong."

Of course there was a military necessity for the entire operation. The Sixth Corps would occupy Danville with a primary combat mission of supporting Sherman, if ongoing negotiations failed. A secondary mission included the control of the Richmond & Danville Railroad and the

Piedmont Railroad. Finally, because Danville was a major supply depot, it was a natural assembly point for paroled soldiers. The Federals would fulfill the role of Provost Guard until the spoils of war were disposed of and the town returned to a sense of order.⁸

Johnston Surrenders at Durham and Sheridan is Recalled

At 10 p.m. on the 26th, General Grant sent a message (not received until 9:30 a.m., 28th.) to General Halleck from Raleigh. He stated that "General Johnston surrendered the forces under his command...to General Sherman, on the basis agreed upon between General Lee and myself for the Army of Virginia. Please order Sheridan back to Petersburg at once." Although he would not hear about this order until later that evening, the Federal cavalry commander continued his march to rendezvous with Wright's corps. Crook was in the lead, followed by Custer and Devin. Heading now *in* a westward direction, they would soon cross the Richmond & Danville Railroad at Scottsburg, about twenty five miles northeast of Danville. Crossing the Banister River around noon at John Clark's farm over a covered bridge, they eventually rode as far as South Boston in Halifax County. Here the news came in that Sherman and Johnston had agreed to the terms of surrender on April 26th, and that the cavalry was ordered to return to Petersburg.

Because the hostilities were officially over, a directive was issued that all foraging cease, except for such articles of food for men and horses, as were indispensable. Foraging was to be done only under special orders.

The command went into camp about 5 p.m. north of South Boston, General Merritt's headquarters being at a Mr. A. Bruce's. It was noted that the "feeling of the people about the county for the Union [is] good."

Sheridan's men would return to Petersburg via a different route than the one they came. They would rise on Saturday the 29th and ride toward Moseley's Bridge on the Staunton River. Sheridan decided to go on to Danville to confer with Wright.

The cavalry's initial ride took them over familiar ground. They recrossed the Banister River over the same bridge, passed Scottsburg and Clover Stations, before reaching the Staunton River around 2 p.m. Since the engineers and pioneers were still rebuilding the railroad bridge over the river, the cavalry had to use the pontoon bridges. The trip back to

Petersburg required extensive provisioning before it was undertaken. The cavalry stopped at Roanoke Station and were issued 50,000 rations and 100,000 pounds of forage. The day having been rather mundane, it was recorded that "all the houses passed on this return march displayed a white flag in token of surrender. The natives also intended the flag to represent that the days of foraging were over, and that no more chickens were for sale." The majority of the troopers camped four miles southeast of the station. They had been called upon to ride just 20 miles. The only discomfort they experienced was when they were drenched by a severe thunderstorm while trying to set up camp.

On Sunday, the last day of April, the cavalry did not move out until 11 a.m. The three divisions rode along the Keysville road through Wylliesburg, until they reached a fork in the road. Crook, in the lead, moved to the right via Lewiston (Lunenburg Court House), crossed the North Meherrin River at Cox's bridge. Merritt, took the direct road to Blacks & Whites (Blackstone), passed Pleasant Grove before crossing the North Meherrin at Double Bridges. Two miles beyond the river, his men encamped near Mr. Arvin's, a distance of 23 miles from Roanoke Station.

On May 1st, the two columns continued their ride toward Blacks & Whites Station on the South Side Railroad. Merritt passed through Hungarytown then over the Little Nottoway River before calling it a day at 2:45 p.m. His men went into camp at the depot where forage, probably sent from City Point, awaited the command. This days' journey amounted to just 23 miles.

Crook's men had a slightly longer day having ridden about 30 miles. They fell into line and followed Merritt's troopers into Black's & Whites. They reached the Little Nottoway River and went into camp 3 miles from the railroad.

On Tuesday May 2nd, some of the cavalry troopers reported that they witnessed Sheridan leaving by train from the station. Sheridan was en route to City Point where he would take a steamer to Washington. This was the last they would see of him as he was soon to receive orders to proceed to Texas.

After the men saddled up, they began following the railroad line towards Petersburg. A cavalryman recorded that they made a stop at a small church [probably Corinth United Methodist] near Ford Station. It stood on the east side of the main road & about half a mile southeast of the railroad crossing. Here they had their first mail call since departing Petersburg. That was sufficient cause to call it a day and at 2 p.m., some of the men went into camp in an orchard on Mr. Osborn's plantation.

As the cavalymen groomed their horses and prepared dinner, many undoubtedly reflected upon their change of fortunes. Near this spot just a month before they had cut the last lifeline of the Confederacy during the Battle of Five Forks. One combatant accurately portrayed the stakes, "[Five Forks]...is a point of much strategic importance. To secure a position here was the prime object of the marching and fighting of the last days of March. Lee lost it, and in losing it he lost all...."

Although the Federal troops were probably not aware of it, Ford's Depot also played a small role in one of the war's final acts. It was during the Battle of Five Forks that Confederate Colonel William R.J. "Willie" Pegram, commanding the artillery, was mortally wounded and taken by wagon to Ford's. After being transported to a house occupied by a Mr. Pegram, he died the next day at 8 a.m. During his final hours he was attended to by his adjutant, William Gordon McCabe, who buried him nearby. During December 1865, Pegram's body was exhumed and reburied at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

On May 3rd the cavalry made its final ride. They reached Petersburg at 11 a.m. Some crossed to the north side of the Appomattox River and into the village of Ettrick; others passed over "by the old bridge just above the R.R. Bridge (burnt)" and rode about one mile north of the river along the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike. Here they proceeded to set up camp. With the completion of this ride, the war was over.

Since there was nothing to do, some of the troopers rode to the old Five Forks battle ground. One described his feelings as he looked "among strong earth works, trees scarred and torn by solid shot, and shells, and bullets innumerable, and over ground strewn with fragments of demolished carriages, and torn equipments, and broken muskets, and dotted with graves,

was sad when considered in relation to the frightful sacrifice of life....

Once back in Petersburg, a trooper reflected on this final bloodless military expedition to South Boston and back: "On the whole line of march, but one feeling seemed to prevail among the people, whether paroled officers, or private soldiers, or civilians, a feeling of relief that the war was over. No fault was found with General Lee, and little complaint was made of the Union soldiers, but curses deep and bitter were heaped upon Johnston for holding out, and thus bringing the Union army down on them." 9

The Last Capitol of the Confederacy

At the outbreak of the war Danville was an important Southside cotton and tobacco center, with a population of 3,510. There were two colleges, Danville Female College (1854) and Union Female College (1859; for understandable reasons the name of the later was changed to Roanoke Female College early in the war). Danville provided the Confederacy three infantry companies, one cavalry troop, and two artillery batteries. One battalion of reserves was organized for local defense.



FEMALE COLLEGE.

Roanoke Female College was one of two ladies colleges in this tobacco community.

Roanoke Female College is now in its 149th year and is called Averett College.

Woodcut is from 1885 Sketchbook of Danville, Courtesy of Danville Historical Society.

As the war entered its fourth year, Danville and cities like Salisbury, North Carolina represented the new heartland of the dying Confederacy. The limited stores and munitions were moved along railroads to and through Danville. The successful prosecution of Grant's 1864 strategy would involve cutting the supplies which were coming along the railroads feeding Richmond through Petersburg. The subsequent siege of Petersburg resulted in a cavalry raid to destroy portions of the South Side and Richmond & Danville Railroads. Known as the "Wilson - Kautz Raid," it

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would carry out the destruction as far west as Burkeville when the column turned south and headed toward Danville.

The Federal raiders moved unchecked destroying the Richmond & Danville Railroad as far as the Staunton River Bridge. Here, on June 25th 1864, they were stopped by a scratch force of local militia and reserves. Among these were Colonel Withers, prison guards and convalescing soldiers from the Danville hospitals, along with W.H. Otey's Local Defense force of arsenal workers. Unable to proceed further, the raiders returned to the Petersburg siege lines.

Since Danville was a transportation node, the population increased to nearly 5,000. The majority being refugees and governmental workers for the operations which were being conducted there.

From a strategic point of view, the town was the terminus of the Richmond & Danville Railroad (near the present Amtrak Station, 120 Craghead Street), and the Piedmont Railroad, which carried supplies from Danville to Greensboro. The Danville depot would primarily serve Lee's army but as other supply depots were consumed by Federal successes it took on increased value for the Army of Tennessee in North Carolina. In fact, Confederate Commissary General Isaac M. St. John stockpiled 500,000 rations of bread and 1,500,000 rations of meat there in April 1865. A like amount was stored just 35 miles away at Greensboro. These were available to Lee should he succeed in reaching Danville. The final march of Lee's army was slowed by the inaccessibility of these rations.

An arsenal, actually an ordnance depot, intended for the production of small arms, ammunition, and cannon for the Confederacy was located along the Dan River (near Monument and Fitzgerald Streets). The factory was equipped with machinery which had been moved from Richmond in February and March of 1865.

Sometime in 1862 a General Hospital was established at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Loyal Street. This facility treated diseased and wounded soldiers on both sides. Two other auxiliary hospitals were later opened. One was devoted entirely to smallpox. It was



This picture of Prison #6, located at the corner of Lynn and Loyal Streets, was taken in 1986. Photograph is courtesy F. Laurence McFall, Danville, Virginia.

the primary treatment facility when an epidemic raged through Danville in late 1863 and early 1864.

The success of Confederate arms in the early part of the war led General Robert E. Lee to recommend to Secretary of War James A. Seddon that a prison be established in Danville. He recommended that a large number of Northern prisoners being held in Richmond be sent there. The suggestion was adopted and by November 1863 some 4,000 unfortunate Federals were transported to the relatively isolated and secure site.

With the collapse of the exchange cartel, prisons on both sides would strain under the burden of numbers. Eventually six prison sites would be established in Danville using either three story brick buildings or wooden tobacco warehouses. As fighting continued throughout the summer and autumn around Petersburg, Union prisoners from legendary battles like the "Crater" would be sent there. By the end of the 1864 the prisons were "filled to utmost capacity," with well over 4,500 incarcerated.

As elsewhere the mortality rate in Danville was appalling. As the war drew to a close, prisoners were exchanged or released. Of the more than 7,500 Union soldiers imprisoned in Danville during the war as many as 3,500 may have died of exposure, dysentery and smallpox. This figure is certainly open to dispute as the numbers would suggest that 5 or 6 prisoners died every single day from November of 1863 until the final surrender in April of 1865. Many of these unfortunates are buried in the Danville National Cemetery.

As southern fortunes sunk, local authorities sensed that war might eventually find Danville. Consequently, they began to construct a series of fortifications in and around the town. Colonel Robert Withers, assisted by quartermaster Major Mason Morfit and Professor Charles Chaky de Nordendorf (who had been trained at a German military school), began the project in the fall of 1864. An observant Yankee prisoner wrote in his diary on September 12th, "Rebs throwing up rifle-pits across the river near bridge." A few days later he recorded "our men and Negroes are working on fortifications." The Confederates quickly ended this practice when 75 men escaped on October 10th. Sixteen of these men eventually reached Union lines.

The earthworks were placed at four commanding positions. The southern approaches to the town were covered by positions at the junction of Yancyville and Salisbury roads, and on the crest of the hill at Main Floyd streets. Northern approaches were covered by positions on heights north of the Dan River. The approach which might of been tested had Wright's march been contested was covered by works east of town on the bluffs overlooking the Halifax Road and guarding the river bridges. Only the latter earthworks, located on the grounds of the modern prison farm, remain.

On the morning of April 3rd, 1865, Danville became the center of the Confederacy. President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet set up shop there. Davis set up his "White House" in the mansion owned by Major William T. Sutherlin, a wealthy tobacco manufacturer. Major Sutherlin was the Chief Quartermaster of the Danville supply depot and lived at southern edge of town. Joining Davis in the house were two of his cabinet members, Treasury Secretary Trenholm and Navy



Secretary Trenholm brought Confederate gold to Danville in this chest. Legend has it that the gold is buried in Danville. This strongbox is on display in the UDC Chapter Room at the Sutherlin Mansion. Photograph courtesy of Lawrence McFall.

Secretary Mallory. They stayed there until April 10th when word was received of Lee's surrender. Davis recalled being advised that a Federal cavalry force was moving toward the south and west of Danville. On the basis of that intelligence Davis moved his government to Greensboro.

At some point during his stay, Davis inspected the town's defense. He later wrote, "The town was surrounded by an entrenchment as faulty in location as in construction. I promptly proceeded to correct the one and improve the other, while energetic efforts were being made to collect supplies of various kinds for General Lee's army."

General Lee was, if compelled to evacuate Petersburg, to proceed to Danville and make a new defensive line on the Dan and Roanoke river. From here he would unite his army with the troops in North Carolina, and make a combined attack upon Sherman. The logistical difficulties I experienced and the aggressive pursuit of the Federals quickly disabused Lee of any expectation that he could reach Danville. He subsequently set his eyes upon the railroad structure at Lynchburg and

moved away into immortality and his date with Grant at Appomattox Court House.

One of President Davis's final acts took place in Danville. On April 4th he issued a proclamation, which was published the next day. In it, he offered encouragement to his citizens. This remarkable document claimed that the loss of Richmond did not mean the war was over. Davis assured all that the government and army would soon return. He closed in heroic fashion saying, "Let us not then despond, my countrymen; but relying on the never-failing mercies and protecting care of our God, let us meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts."

As it was in Richmond, the day after President Davis and his party moved to Greensboro chaos became king. Mobs roamed the streets and looted the warehouses. One citizen later wrote, "The whole social structure of the town was thrown into a state of almost helpless disorganization....Recognized authority--there was none, and all attempts at preserving any semblance of methodical government were disregarded." Another recalled, "The dense crowd was gathered, dividing the spoil, struggling and ravening, like wolves, over the dying carcass of the Confederate States."

The ghoulish scene was fueled on the morning of April 11th when the windows and buildings of Danville were shaken by a large explosion in the direction of the arsenal. The city's provost guard had failed to keep citizens, children, blacks, and other scavengers out of the ordinance warehouse. The disorganization and chaos quickly overwhelmed the guard. The building was filled with ordnance, weapons and explosives. Most tragically, the floors and cellar were covered in an inch or more of highly explosive black powder. No one knows for sure but the story is that some boy snapped a gun to see if it was loaded. The resulting spark set off a series of cataclysmic explosions. Artillery shells fired off, adding to the carnage. The building was demolished and all those nearby were killed.

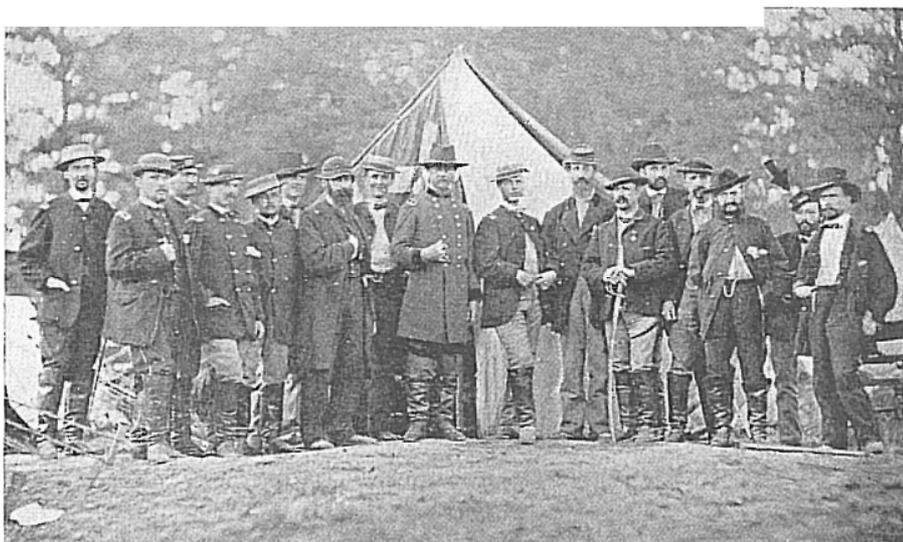
A witness recalled that "Suddenly a deafening sound was heard, shells flew through the air, the bodies of men and boys, and fragments of limbs were scattered in all directions." The wreck of the building caught fire which heated the remaining shells, causing the explosions to continue

for the next six hours. Later it was determined that approximately fourteen lives (one source says as many as fifty) were lost in the tragedy. Unfortunately two women, who happened to be walking by at the time of the initial explosion, were set on fire. They ran to the Dan River and jumped in, only to drown. 10

Under Old Glory■

It wouldn't be until 16 days later that Wright's Sixth Corps would arrive in town to restore complete order. During that time, Danville was placed in a state of martial law under the charge of its provost marshal, Colonel Withers. He was able to restore relative calm to the populace, thanks to the help of Virginia Governor William (Extra Billy) Smith, who moved the state capital from Lynchburg to Danville.

Ironically, General Wright located his headquarters on Main Street at the southwestern edge of town. The site he chose for his tent was directly across from Major Sutherlin's residence. A paroled prisoner, who was a guest of the Sutherlins, went to see the Union general. He later remarked, "his headquarters, which were on pleasant grounds just across the street....[and consisted of] an elegant tent with floors, folding chairs, and other luxurious fittings in marked contrast to the accommodations I had been used to."



Capt. Hayden Capt. Holmes Major Whittier Col. Tompkins Col. Franklin Capt. Russell
Capt. Whittlesey; Capt. McClellan Major Farrar Major Tompkins Col. Manning
Dr. Bland Cul. Hyde Dr. Holman Gen. H. G. Wright Capt. Halsted Col. Kent

SIXTH CORPS HEADQUARTERS AT COLD HARBOR

*General Horatio Wright and his Sixth Corps Staff in June of 186.1. Photograph
courtesy of Christopher Calkins.*



The Sutherlin Mansion, built in 1857, was the last Confederate White House. This is now the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. Photograph courtesy of the same

It seems likely that the Sutherlins and General Wright had relatively good relations during his stay. One day Wright sent an orderly to Sutherlin with a pitcher and his compliments with hopes "that you may find this lemonade refreshing...be pleased to accept this white cut sugar, as the drink may not be sweet enough for your taste." Another day he sent over a "large, juicy steak" for the family. Major Sutherlin was pragmatic about their situation *"we had as well be polite.... There's no use quarreling with them because they have whipped us."*

A reporter from the New York Tribune wrote "Danville is represented by the Sixth Corps officers as being a very fine place, about the size of Petersburg....Many of the F.F.V.'s [First Families of Virginia] reside there, and no little Southern aristocracy is met with, but it yields as gracefully as may be to the Federal power." Another reporter noted that "the poorer classes were very friendly in their greetings, and often stood at their gates with pails and cups, to offer water to our thirsty men. The wealthy are very prompt in asking protection, and having their property guarded....The people had felt the terrible evils of war, though the contests

had not been upon their territory, and they denounced Jeff Davis as the author of all their troubles. Although they spoke in denunciation of the rebel President, they were always respectful in mentioning General Lee."

Colonel Thomas Hyde was made the military governor of Danville and three adjacent counties. He wrote "my power was absolute; executive, legislative, and judicial, all were combined." He placed his headquarters at Mr. Walker's house on Main Street. Lieutenant Colonel Stephen C. Fletcher of the 1st Maine Infantry was appointed provost marshal. His office was the Virginia Bank building on Main Street. The 1st Maine, 49th New York and 122nd New York were detailed for guard duty in the town.

One of the responsibilities of the provost was paroling Confederate soldiers who came through Danville and had not been surrendered or paroled by any other action. Hyde noted that most had been captured during the city occupation, "I remember taking account of 45 of them and 43 made their x mark" on the pre-printed parole passes.

A sensitive problem was the issue of Confederate military uniforms. Unlike private soldiers, many of the rebel officers still had the insignias of authority and rank displayed. Colonel Hyde resolved the issue, later writing, "The town was filled with Confederate officers, and we had no proper chance till I ordered all of them wearing uniform to report to the provost marshal. Their uniforms were seen no more....Orders were issued prohibiting the wearing of Confederate uniforms, which was subsequently modified to the requirement that the buttons should be cut off or covered."

While carrying out daily occupation duties in the town, some of the Sixth Corps members received passes to look around. Very few symbols of rebellion inflamed private soldiers more than the prison pens. Many visited the six sites and the nearby cemetery that held the fresh turned dirt of recently deceased comrades. A member of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery, John S. Hall of Company A, took on the personal task of painting upon the wooden tombstones the identities of more than 1,300 men. He noted that it would be "a source of comfort to many a parents heart."

As might be expected, government contractors appeared in the town looking to make money performing some of the more distasteful tasks of occupation. Undertaker John J. Hill, located a few doors above the Provost Marshal, said that he had a list of all the Federal soldiers who died in Danville during the war. Realizing an opportunity where few existed, he wrote to the Federal authorities that "I am also prepared to disinter bodies and pack them in hermetically sealed cases, so that they can be transported to any part of the United States." No doubt some grieving parents afforded themselves of the opportunity, but, the population of National Cemetery indicates that this was an unsolicited bid which Colonel Hyde did not accept.

Undoubtedly the most confusing issue facing the Federal authorities was how to handle the former slave population. With their immediate emancipation, no plans had been formulated on exactly how to transition them into their new social status. It demanded immediate and decisive action.

An officer from Rhode Island wrote, "On our march to Danville we saw many Negroes...Of course we told them that they were free, but their masters would not believe it. At one place the overseer ordered the Negroes to go to work, and they refused. Some of them came over to my camp for advice. When they returned they offered to work if paid for their labor. I do not know how the matter ended."

Colonel Withers recalled an incident between Provost Marshall Fletcher and some newly freed slaves. One, who had served as the foreman to a local wealthy planter, was asking for his land to be taken from the former master. He had a wife and seven children and needed it for the spring plowing. Colonel Fletcher told him the Federal government had no land to give him. To this, the man replied, "*Didn't you set all Master's niggers free? Yes,*" said the colonel, "*but we had no right to take his land*" The foreman then said, "*If you had the right to take Master's niggers you had the right to take Master's land too. And what good will freedom do the niggers if they get no land to work to make their bread?*"

Many of the former slaves came to the Federal encampment for help. "The colored people were badly off. Confederate soldiers had

stripped them of food to supply themselves. Their masters had little to give, and showed little pity for them, as our advance brought them freedom. Colored men and boys crowded our camps, asking for employment, and saying nothing of wages if they were only fed." 11 There were no easy answers to this dilemma and the process of assimilation was one of the vexing problems of the next century.

One event that all the men of Wright's corps remembered was when the word reached them that General Joe Johnston's army had surrendered. This relieved any anxiety that they would have to move into North Carolina for more fighting. In fact, on April 27th, orders had been issued for another advance, to commence on the 29th. In celebration, a 100 gun salute was fired.

Old habits died hard, and from time to time unofficial foraging parties were sent out from the camps. One such dispatch, on the 29th, brought in cornmeal and young (spring) onions. On another excursion the soldiers found "butter, canteens of milk and a large quantity of applejack, which has the customary effects on its imbibers." Others remained within the discipline of the camp and merely went to the Dan River to fish. An infantryman remembered, "I fished until nine this evening, but had no luck."

During their stay in Danville, the Union soldiers made comments about the area. "The country was similar to that lying west of Petersburg -- hilly and broken, but not mountainous. The land seemed to be miserably cultivated, and only with the view to get the most from it from the present crop, regardless of the future." Perhaps four years of war caused this perception. Another, less cynical, wrote "The season was beautiful, with the trees putting out their leaves, and the woods filled with spring flowers and singing birds."

Other duties which had to be completed while in Danville included the disposal of war related material and personnel. The Union army claimed they found 500 prisoners, 4 locomotives, 67 box and platform cars, 2 dismantled cannon, 3,000 artillery shells, ironwork for 10,000 stand of arms, and the actual infrastructure for manufacturing muskets and other weaponry. Another confirmed, "there were quite a number of cars and an engine at the depot, in good running order....there was an arsenal in

Danville where the confederates made small arms and cannon. One hundred thirty two invalid soldiers were found in the hospital. From the former Southern prisons, 763 men were released."

All of this property was shipped by rail to City Point where it was logged into the into the quartermaster department records. Among the items sent were "all books, records, papers, & c. belonging to the late Confederate Government." These were directed to the keeper of public archives in Richmond.

Interestingly, it appears that the "two cannon" captured in Danville were actually somewhat unique Confederate inventions. One was called the 1.56 caliber (1 pounder) Williams' Smooth Bore Machine Gun. It could fire 65 combustible cartridges per minute with its four foot barrel and had an extreme range of 2,000 yards. This gun was designed by Captain D.R. Williams of Covington, Kentucky, and either was produced in Lynchburg or Richmond before being sent to Danville. Upon its capture, it was sent to the Ordnance Laboratory at the United States Military Academy.

The other Confederate cannon was a 2-inch bore 5-shot machine gun. The gun was described as "cast-and-wrought iron five-chamber 2-inch revolver cannon....mounted on cast-iron wheels resembling the frame of a plow or harrow, this hand-crank percussion cap fired repeater was not particularly successful; it did little for the South." It was supposedly used in the siege of Petersburg, where it was made, before being sent to Danville. It too was sent to the West Point Museum as a war trophy.

Some of the soldiers decided to print their own newspaper. They approached the Danville Register's local editor Abner Anderson and made the arrangements. The Federal cash had to be welcomed as Anderson had not been doing well financially. A visitor to Danville on April 4th noted "I visited a newspaper office, where the paper was being printed on the blank side of wall paper, and with very little news in it." The deal with the Yankees was a real twist of fate, since in a February 17, 1865 editorial, he warned the local citizens that under the subjugation "of a cowardly and fanatical race like the Yankees, every man, woman and child in Danville

would be little more than day laborers, at the service of Yankee task masters."

Now that the deal was set, Moses Owen under the pen name "Owensisko," set about publishing the paper. Ironically in order to start, he removed from the galleys the type set of Jefferson Davis' last proclamation. The newspaper was called "*The Sixth Corps.*" Seventeen issues of this 11x16 tabloid were eventually published at 25 cents a copy. Owen even took Anderson into partnership. Anderson later commented that he "*never made so much money in his life.*"

The newspaper was light hearted and included such memorable phrases as "We have the Wright men in the Wright place" and "Treason can not Hyde itself." As a parody Owens printed fake Northern dispatches and original poetry. Articles included *The Washington Conspiracy*, *Our Late President's Favorite Poem*, *Death of J. Wilkes Booth*, along with General Orders and a military directory for the soldiers and civilians.

Interestingly enough and most likely as a mockery of the defeated Confederacy, some of the early issues still had ads for runaway slaves. In one a reward of \$150 was offered by A.C. Anglea for the return of his mulatto named William; (Danville Mayor) James M. Walker offered to pay \$250 for the return of his slave, Ned.

Not all items were a farce. An obituary in the May 16th's paper lamented that Georgie M. Harrington, 13 years old, died on April 29th of "injuries received at the blowing up of the C.S. Arsenal...". A personal ad announced the sad intelligence from Mary E. Turbiville that "C.P. Tubiville [Sic], Private, Co. D, 10th Va. Cavalry, Beale's Brigade, W.H.F. Lee's Division, was killed wounded or captured, on 1st of April, near Petersburg."

In the later case there was a happy ending. Charles R. Turbiville was captured at Dinwiddie Court House on April 1st, then sent to the prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. Mary Turbiville's anxiety was alleviated when he returned home after being released on June 21st. Turbiville would become a fanner and eventually reside in Mt. Carmel Township, Halifax, County.

As it turned out, May 16th's paper would be the last. On the back page was merely half a column fondly entitled "Farewell."

Actually the market for a paper was rapidly diminishing. Starting on May 1st, members of the Sixth Corps began reducing the military post at Danville and under orders departed for Burkeville. Colonel Hyde recalled that upon leaving, *"many urged me to burn the old rebel prisons as we went. I should have winked at it, but the wind was toward town, which forbade, as well as the attitude of the Danville people during our stay."* He added, *"I think no citizen of Danville regretted our stay there...."*

Departure of the Sixth Corps

The surrender of Johnston's force alleviated the last military threat to Union forces in the theater. There would be no need for a military confrontation. General Wright determined to send his troops back for demobilization as soon as practical. General Wright soon issued an order assigning Brevet Major General Frank Wheaton's First Division the responsibility of guarding the railroad from Danville to Burkeville. Before Wheaton could comply he was ordered to relieve the Fifth Corps guarding the South Side Railroad between Sutherland Station and Burkeville. Major General James B. Ricketts' Third Division was substituted for Wheaton's and ordered into place along the Richmond & Danville Railroad.

As the Federals began withdrawing from the town, many local civilians recorded their impressions of the occupation and its occupiers. "I will do the Yankees the justice to say that they generally were well behaved, and conducted themselves properly.... I neither heard of, nor saw, any disorderly conduct on their part nor any indulgence in excess of any kind, which was certainly most remarkable and creditable."

A Northern officer wrote, "One lady made the remark that she could look at our troops, but the sight of the Stars and Stripes made her angry. But she afterwards stated that the Yankees behaved better in the streets of Danville than the Confederate troops had done. In speaking to some ladies they said that they had been in the habit of carrying revolvers when the Confederates occupied the town, but now felt safe with the Yankees." 12

The departing soldiers, with little to distract them, moved to their assigned posts. Their final weeks in the army were spent at county railroad junctions and in pastoral villages. Some were lucky enough to take the train to Burkeville, the others had to march back. Both the pedestrians and the train passengers had to cross the Staunton River on the pontoon bridge at Clark's Ferry. Once across, the riders awaited the completion of the railroad bridge. The marchers continued; however, the train passengers maintained a casual status. Many soldiers used the opportunity to fish. "The Railroad Bridge across the river is destroyed, but our men are putting

up a new one which is nearly finished (May 2)...went fishing in a small stream emptying into the Staunton River...caught about twenty-five catfish and eels."

The bridge was reopened on May 3rd and the riders were able to proceed on to Burkeville. "Ran to within two miles of Berkville Junction, where the train ran off the track...the coupling broke and left three cars behind, one badly shattered. Several men were slightly hurt. We threw the car over the embankment."

On May 5th one of the train's engines gave out near Drake's Branch about five miles from Charlotte Court House. The soldiers dismounted and prepared to spend the night. Some of the soldiers in the 15th New Jersey were invited to the country retreat of Colonel Larkin Smith, Chief Commissary of the late Confederate army. One remembered that "he entertained us hospitably. We had a supper that we relished, and spent a pleasant evening with cultivated people." A new engine came the next day from Burkeville and the men resumed their journey.

After a stay at Clover Station, a member of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery made a revealing comment about a few Southern women he saw. *"In this service, many of us saw for the first time instances of snuff-dipping. The practice seemed well-nigh general among women, black and white. A line of femininity seated on a depot platform with a pine stick projecting at a common angle from each one's mouth was not calculated to inspire much admiration of the fair sex in a Northern man's mind"*

Wheaton's assignment astride the South Side Railroad was in a region previously marched over during the Appomattox Campaign. Colonel Rhodes wrote, "I spend my time listening to statements of disputes between whites and blacks and trying to settle their affairs. I am Judge, Jury, and almost Executioner. Most of the people have taken the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. and are trying to be loyal. But with some of them it is evidently hard work, and the old spirit of rebellion shows itself quite often. I try to be patient with them and help them in their troubles."

Rhodes was stationed at Wellville, which he described as "only a little cluster of houses with a railroad depot. The country here is fine -- the best that I have seen in Virginia. Many planters who have been wealthy are living here. This life reminds me of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Many of the ex-slaves are at work, and this gives us a chance to watch plantation life. I cannot say that I admire it very much, for it seems to be a lazy sort of living. The ladies dress in old styles but seemed to be educated." He added, "this country is not safe for Union soldiers away from camp, as many Rebel soldiers are loafing about."

In an effort to reestablish friendly relations with the locals, the colonel gave a dinner for a party of citizens. The party seemed to enjoy a Yankee dinner, and we did our best to give a fine spread and make them welcome. They were very curious about our troops and paid attention to all that they saw.

While stationed along this rail line, some of Wheaton's men saw General Sherman's army (XIV and XX Army Corps) march past on May 5th and 6th. In fact, on the night of the 6th the headquarters of the Second Division, XX Corps, was between Blacks & Whites and Wellville. These troops were on their way to Washington by way of Richmond.

The passing of Sherman's army intensified the remaining soldiers' desire to demobilize. One soldier concisely crystallized a universal thought that "since the war is over I feel that I should like to become a citizen again...."

It would not be until the 16th that all the Federal forces of the Sixth Corps would be gone from Danville. They would be replaced by a single unit of the XXIV Corps, the 12th New Hampshire Infantry, to act as provost guard. Before leaving, General Wright issued orders allowing all justices of the peace to resume their duties after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Civic leaders, like Mayor Walker, could do likewise. The general suggested they begin the "cultivation of growing crops" and that the Negroes "remain at the homes and plantations to which they belong, attending to their work as usual." He ended by saying, "The civil authorities...are expected, in connection with the military, to do all in their power for the preservation of order and the reestablishment of industry,

and all military commanders are enjoined to aid them in their endeavors with such force as may be necessary."

At the same time that Wright's one remaining division, Brevet Major General George W. Getty's, left Danville, the others in the vicinity of Burkeville departed their railroad posts and headed for Manchester, a village across the river from Richmond.

On their way, the men of the Sixth Corps had a chance to march through Petersburg. A member recorded, "Petersburg is a fine little city and it was hard to realize as we tramped its peaceful streets that we had been nearly a year getting into it. The city shows the effect of Yankee shot and shell. The stores are open and mostly kept by men from the North. The buildings near the railroad are badly damaged by the fire from the union batteries. The people came out to see us pass but did not make any audible comment. Well, I was glad to see the place that had caused us much bloodshed."

Another soldier reflected, "We have been taught lessons which we shall not easily forget - although they seem severe - yet they are for own good - This nation will be an example for the whole world."

The corps remained encamped near Manchester until May 24th. During their time in the area, "one fourth of our men are allowed to visit Richmond daily, and in this way all of the soldiers will have a chance to see the late Rebel Capitol. I think this is right for the boys have earned the right to see the city captured by their valor." The men passed through Richmond in review by General Halleck and Major General E.O.C. Ord, then headed northward via Hanover Court House, Fredericksburg, Fairfax Court House, and finally went into their final bivouac at Hall's Hill, opposite Washington.

On June 8th, the corps received their Washington review. Since they could not participate in the official "Grand Review" at Washington D.C. by Meade's and Sherman's armies on May 23rd-24th, theirs had to be delayed. It would take place in front of President Johnson, his cabinet, accompanied by Generals Grant and Meade in front of the White House. It would not be as dramatic as the other had been. *"They received us very*

kindly, but the people with the exception of the ladies who waver their handkerchiefs were very quiet. We expected to meet with a warm reception, as the 6th Corps saved Washington in 1864, but evidently reviews are played out with Washington people. The city was fearfully hot, and the men suffered much."

Another member of the corps remembered of this event, "The separate review of the corps in the streets of Washington under the scorching rays of one of the hottest days ever known ever at the capitol, when hundreds of our men fell down from sunstroke and exhaustion, fainting and reeling before the stand of reviewers, the return to camp after a day's work more severe and trying than the ordeal of battle, the disbanding of the regiments and their return to their respective States, finish the story of the grandest corps that ever faced a foe." 13

The war for the veterans of Sedgwick's and Wright's Sixth Corps, who fought under the "Greek Cross," was over. These brave men who had seen fighting from the Wilderness to the Monocacy and Fort Stevens, Winchester, Cedar Creek and Petersburg were finally going home.

End notes

1. Rhodes, Robert Hunt, Ed. All for the Union, A History of the Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Great Rebellion as told by the diary and letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes. Andrew Mowbray Incorporated, Lincoln, RI, 1985, p. 230. Hereinafter cited as All for the Union.

2. Calkins, Chris M. The Final Bivouac: The Surrender Parade at Appomattox and the Disbanding of the Armies. April 10 - May 20, 1865 H.E. Howard, Inc., Lynchburg, Va, 1988. Hereinafter cited as Final Bivouac .

3. Official Records of the War of the Rebellion. Volume XLVI, Series I, Part 3, Pp. 888-89. Hereinafter cited as O.R.

4. Hannaford, Diary, 2nd Ohio Cavalry. Confederate Veteran, XXXII (1924), p.86. The Staunton River Bridge was about 600 feet long, covered, and 30 feet high. Hoyt, 2nd Conn. H.A., 5/6. Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p. 243; Best, 121st N.Y., p.222; Merrill, 1st Mc/1st D.C., p 357. Sutton, 2nd W. Va., p. 235, said they crossed the Nottoway River on an "old & very rickety bridge." Dinwiddie County, named in honor of Robert Dinwiddie, governor of Virginia from 1751 to 1758, was formed out of Prince George County in 1752. General Winfield Scott was born here on July 13, 1786. He retired from the army in 1861 and died in 1866. Work Projects Administration, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion, Oxford University Press, N.Y., 1940, pp. 359-60. Hereinafter cited as Virginia, A Guide.

5. Final Bivouac, p. 106; Ressler, I.H. Diary, 16th Penna. Cavalry,4/25. Big Bethel Baptist Church was organized in 1865 and moved in 1928. Buckskin Methodist Church (now Asbury Church) was a log cabin. Moved from Buckskin Creek to McKenney in 1909. Was one mile north of town. Hannaford, Diary, 2nd Ohio Cavalry, said on the 26th "We came to a ford on the river just below a dam with a good mill...the water nearly 3 (feet) deep...the trains crossed on pontoons."

6. All for the Union, p. 233; Virginia, A Guide, p. 596. Halifax was later referred to by another as "This charming town typifies the rural centers of romantic fiction, with a green and shady courthouse square, quaint-looking stores, and white-pillared homes set far back from the street among old oaks, magnolias, and evergreens. The only business is trade and county legal affairs...." in 1890 new railroad facilities caused it to change its name from Banister to Houston. In 1920 it went back to being the county town of Halifax County (organized 1752). Banister was described as "a small village, it has the same dirty appearance as all Virginia towns the marks of slavery upon it." Shaw, 37 Mass. Diary. A "frame bridge" connected Banister with Halifax C.H. Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p. 243 .

7. O.R. Vol. XLVI, Series I, Part 3, p.1316; O.R. Vol. XLVI, Series I, Part 1, p 960; Stevenson, 1st New York Cavalry; Shaw, Diary, 37 Mass. 4/26; Sutton, 2nd W. Va. p. 235; Westbrook, 49th Penna. p. 243; Virainia: A Guide, p. 475. Boydton was named after Alexander Boyd, a county judge who died in 1801 while holding court. The Mecklenburg County Courthouse was built about 1842, although the county was derived from Lunenburg County in 1764. It was named in honor of Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, queen of George III. Randolph-Macon College was moved in 1868 to Ashland. It was the first Methodist/Episcopal college in the United States, being chartered in 1830, and was named for John Randolph of Roanoke and Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina. From 1879 to 1916 the buildings were occupied by the Boydton Academic and Bible Institute for Negroes. According to Hutcheson, Sterling, A Brief History of Boydton, Mecklenburg Historical Society, 1962, the Federal military governor ordered the removal of Randolph-Macon College to Ashland.

8. O.R. Vol. XLVI, Series I, Part 1, p.1316; O.R. Vol. XLVI, Series I, Part 3, pp. 984-85; Sharrah, Diary, 21st Penna. Ca^v., 4/27; Hyde, T.W., Following the Greek Cross, p. 266; Final Bivouac, pp. 111 & 115; Hannaford, Diary 2nd Ohio Ca^v., 4/27. "The flat boats were gathered up and down the river for ten miles. Most were about 12 to 15 feet wide and from 20 to 30 feet long." Withers, Robert E., Autobiography of an Octogenarian, pp. 220-33. The covered bridge into Danville was finally replaced in 1887 with an iron structure which was destroyed in 1927;

today's concrete bridge is known as Main Street Bridge. McFall, Letter to Author, dated December 16, 1996; Haw, Joseph R., Confederate Veteran, (XXXIV, (1926) pp. 450-51; Terrill, 14th N.J. Inf, p. 126; The Sixth Corps, Vol I, No. 1; Weaver, Virginia Home Guards, p. 94; All for the Union, 234; Bowen, 37th Mass. Inf, 423-4; Howell, H.A., 151st N.Y. Inf., p. 109; Hoyt, Diary, 2nd Conn. H.A., 5/7; Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p 244; Keiser, Diary, 95th Penna. Inf., 4/27; Haines, 15th N.J. Inf , p. 3 Robertson, James I., "Danville Under Military Occupation, 1865," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, p. 334.

9. O.R. XLVI, Part 3, p. 954; 1059 O.R. XLVI, Part 1, p. 1317; Barnitz, Diary 2nd Ohio Cav., 4/29; Sutton, 2nd W.Va. Cav., p. 235; Ressler, Diary, 16th Penna. Cav., 4/30 - 5/1; Hannaford, Diary, 2nd C Cav., 5/1; Merrill, 1st Me./1st D.C. Cav, pp.365-68; Gordon, Armistead Churchill, Memories and Memorials of William Gordon McCabe, Vol One, Old Dominion Press, Richmond, 1925, p. 165-66; Carmichael, Peter S., Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram, University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1995, p. 168.

10. One member of W.H. Otey's force was killed in the battle, Private Thomas M. Wilkinson. The Town of Danville gave the plot to the family for his burial at its new cemetery (Greenhill) in recognition of his efforts in defending Danville. McFall, Lawrence, Letter to Author, dated December 16, 1996; Robertson, James I. Houses of Horror, pp. 329-32, 344-45 Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., pp. 310 - 13 & 344; Southern Historical Society Papers, III, p. 97-111; Thomas, James E. and Dean S, A Handbook Civil War Bullets & Cartridges, Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, Pa. 1996, p. 64. The Danville Arsenal had molds and gauges sent to it for the following small arms ammunition: .54 Mississippi, .577 Enfield, .69 musket, and the .69 rifle musket. Pollock, Edward, Illustrated Sketch Book of Danville, Virginia; it Manufactures and Commerce, Petersburg, Va., 1886, pp. 60-66; Fountain, Clara G., Danville: A Pictorial History, Donning Company, Virginia Beach, Va., 1979, pp.21 & 26; McFall, Lawrence, Letter to Author, dated December 16, 1996. Local historian McFall feels the 3,500 deaths figure too high. There are 1,323 burials in the National Cemetery at Danville of which 148 are unknown. Even though some bodies were disinterred and returned home that would still leave about 2000 men unaccounted for. Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., pp. 312-13 &

344; Danville Register & Bee, 125th Anniversary supplement; Davis, Jefferson, The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, Garrett and Massie, Incorporated, Richmond, Volume II, pp. 573 & 575; Brubaker, John H. III. The Last Capital: Danville, Virginia, And the Final Days of the Confederacy, Womack Press, Danville, 1979 (revised 1996); McFall, Lawrence. The Fortification of Danville, Virginia During the War Between the States, 1861 - 1865, 1984, privately printed, p. 6; Southern Historical Society Papers, Colonel J.H. Averill, "Richmond, Virginia. The Evacuation of the City and the Days Preceding it. How the News was Received in Danville, Some of the Closing Scenes of the Confederacy Vividly Recalled," Vol. XXV, pp.270-1; Confederate Veteran, 29, 1921, Bradwell, p. 102; Confederate Veteran, 23, 1915, Bradwell, p. 23; W.P.A., Virginia: A Guide, p. 597-599. Danville began as an inspection warehouse for the tobacco-market in 1793. The town grew in the 1820's when the Roanoke Navigation Company built a canal around the falls and opened the way for bateaux to carry tobacco down to the Albemarle Sound. In 1852 an organized tobacco auction warehouse system was devised, which accelerated the town's growth.

11. Robertson, James I. "Danville Under Military Occupation," pp.333-4; Confederate Veteran, Vol. XIII, 1905, Col. J. Stoddard Johnston, p. 363; Haines, 15th New Jersey, pp.310-12; Hyde, Thomas, Following the Greek Cross, p.267; The Third Brigade, May 19, 1865. One source says that Colonel Fletcher's office was in Colonel Withers' old office, which was one of the front rooms of his dwelling. The Commercial Bulletin, May 8, 1865; Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p. 248; Rhodes, All for the Union, p. 234; Withers, Autobiography. O.R. Series II, Vol. VI, p. 1126, shows the following rations (and their amounts) given to Federal prisoners in the months of February through March, 1864: salt pork and bacon, fresh and salt beef, flour, cornmeal, peas, salt, rice, soap, and cabbage. Series II, Vol. 6, pp. 888-89, shows petition by then Mayor T.P. Atkinson to Honorable James A Seddon, C.S. Secretary of War, dated January 28, 1864, to remove the "Yankee" prisons because "the hospitals of the prisoners and sick are located in the very heart of the town, and are not all in one place, but scattered in the most public and business places, so as to infect the whole atmosphere of the town with smallpox and fever now raging within the limits of the corporation." O.R. XLVI, 2, pp. 1150-52, shows an inspection report of the Danville post by A.S. Cunningham, Lieutenant

Colonel of Artillery and Inspecting Officer, January 27, 1865. He gives the names of all officers in charge of the post, an inspection of Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Miller Henry's 5th Battalion Virginia Reserves, and the circumstances of the prisons which he describes as, "very bad condition, dirty, filled with vermin, little or no ventilation, and there is an insufficiency of fireplaces for the proper warmth of the Federal prisoners therein confined. This could be easily remedied by a proper attention on the part of the officers in charge and dictated by a sense of common humanity." See also O.R. Series II, Vol. VIII, pp. 478-81, for the use of Danville prisons just prior to Lee's surrender.

12 . Shaw, 37 Mass. pp.65-66. "The rebels tried to blow it up [the arsenal] but did not succeed very well, there was about 100 lives lost, they had much better success blowing up their own citizens than they did blowing up the arsenal." Apparently some of the Federal soldiers were not aware of the circumstances which caused the explosion. Keiser, Diary, 95th Penna. Inf., 4/28 & 4/30; Haynes, E.M., 10th Vermont, pp. 380-1; Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p. 247; Westbrook, R.S. 49th Penna., pp. 243-44; Haines, 15th New Jersey, pp. 310-12; Avary, Myrta Lockett, Dixie after the War, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1937, pp.52-3; Calkins, Final Bivouac, p. 129; O.R. 46, Part 3, p. 1093; Chinn, George M., The Machine Gun, Vol. 1, Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1951, pp. 42-3 & 46; Edwards, William B., Civil War Guns, Castle Books, NJ., 1962, pp. 231-33. Albaugh, William A. III and Edward N. Simmons. Confederate Arms, Bonanza Books, N.Y., 1957, pp. 202 & 214 states "Danville Arsenal was an official Confederate Ordnance Depot, Captain E.S. Hutter commanding as of July 21, 1863." While it appears that no small arms were ever produced here, a local company from Pittsylvania Court House (present day Chatham) by the name of Bilharz, Hall & Company did supply .58 muzzle-loading carbines and .54 breech-loading "rising breech" carbines. They also produced stocks for the Richmond Carbine Armory for both the Richmond rifle-carbine and Richmond Sharps. This business was run by C. Bilharz, George W. Hall and L.D. Bennett. Another company also operated here known as Keen, Walker & Company. They supplied a .54 "tilting breech" carbine, sometimes known as the "Confederate Perry." Elijah Ford Keen, former colonel of the 57th Virginia, formed a partnership with James M. Walker and supplied a total of 282 of these carbines in 1862. Keen was the grandfather of Nancy Langhorne,

later known as "Lady Astor" in Danville's history. A third weapons manufacturer in Danville, Read & Watson, made guns for the State of Virginia in 1862 and the Virginia State Line in 1863 from .52 Hall rifles and carbines. The owners were N.T. Read and John T. Watson. Murphy, John M., Confederate Carbines & Musketoons, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1986. McFall, L., Letter to Author, dated December 16, 1996, feels that either Keen-Walker or Read-Watson weapons manufacturer were located at Spring and Market Streets in the town. Haw, P. 450, Confederate Veteran, might be referring to one of the other local papers in the town like the Appeal. Robertson, Danville, p. 334; The Sixth Corps, Vol. I, No's. 1,6,7,8,10,17. Another tabloid was started on May 19 called The Third Brigade. Advertised as a "specimen of a live newspaper . . . We intend to know no party, no sects; nothing but the Union and the Constitution...." Driver, Robert. 10th Virginia Cavalry, H.E. Howard, Inc.; 1992, p.169. Robertson, J.I., "Danville Under Military Occupation," p.342; Hyde, Thomas, Following the Greek Cross, p. 268; Rhodes, All for the Union, p.235.

13 . O.R. XLVI, Part 3, pp. 1107- 8 & 1155; Keiser, Diary, 95th Penna. Inf., 5/2 & 5/5; Westbrook, 49th Penna. Inf., pp. 243-4; Haines, 15th N.J. Inf., pp.311-12; Roe, 9th N.Y.H.A., p. 248; Rhodes, All for the Union, pp. 235-243. Bartlett, A.W., 12th New Hampshire, pp. 301-12; O.R. Atlas, plate LXXXVI, No's. 10-12. O.R. 47, 1, p.701; Hoyt, H., 2nd Conn. H.A., 5/7; Stevens, George T. Three Years in the Sixth Corps, D. Van Nostrand, Publisher, New York, 1870, p.445. General John Sedgwick commanded the Sixth Corps until the Battle of Spotsylvania. On May 9, 1864, he was killed by a sniper; General Horatio G. Wright took charge of the corps until the end of the war. The Greek Cross refers to the corps badge worn by the men on their coats or hats. The cross, "+", was red for first division, white for second, and blue for third .

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