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The last battle of the War between the States

Edward J. Norfleet
THE LAST BATTLE OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

by

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Organization of the Union forces at the Last Battle of the War Between the States

Second Army Corps - Maj. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys
  First Division - Bvt. Maj. Gen Nelson A Miles
  Third Division - Brig. Gen. Regis de Trobriand

Sixth Army Corps - Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright
  First Division - Bvt. Maj. Gen. Frank Wheaton
  Third Division - Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour.

Cavalry - Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan
  First Division - Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Devin
  Third Division - Bvt. Maj. Gen. George A. Custer
  Second Division - Maj. Gen. George Crook
Organization of the Confederate forces at the Last Battle or the War Between the States.

First Army Corps - Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet

Pickett's Division - Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett
  Steuart's Brigade - Brig. Gen. George H. Steuart
  Hunton's Brigade - Brig. Gen. Eppa Hunton
  Corse's Brigade - Brig. Gen. Montgomery D. Corse
  Terry's Brigade - Brig. Gen. William R. Terry

  Du Bose's Brigade - Brig. Gen. Dudley M. Du Bose
  Humphreys' Brigade - Col. William H. Gitz Gerald
  Simms' Brigade - Brig. Gen. James P. Simms


  Early's Division - Brig. Gen. James A. Walker
  Gordon's Division - Brig. Gen. Clement A. Evans


  Grig. Gen. William H. Wallace

Wise's Brigade - Brig. Gen. Henry A. Wise
  Moody's Brigade - Brig. Gen. Young M. Moody
  Wallace's Brigade - Brig. Gen. William H. Wallace
  Ransom's Brigade - Grig. Gen. Matthew W. Ransom
The last battle of the War between the States occurred in a vicinity particularly well adapted for the military tragedy that it was. The meandering Appomattax river found its way between hills that were high and close to the stream, making the approaches to it very difficult. The country on either side was rolling and cut by many streams, some of which bogged down between the hills. Sailors Creek was the largest and most difficult of these streams to traverse. Also the crossing of this water course was much exposed. To the west was a long steep hill which made it difficult for the wagons to pull. It was a poor defensive position because the rear could be easily taken. Over the whole of this area grew dark pine woods, broken by scattered plantations and a few small farms.

Added to this the tragedy took place during the rainy season of spring. The creeks were high and overflowed their banks in many instances. At Double Bridges the water was over its banks for fifty yards on either side. Under the circumstances the Confederates did all that could be expected.

1 Douglas S. Freeman, R.E.Lee, Vol. IV, pp. 83
2 Miss Mamie Garnett's personal statement to me. She witnessed the conflict.
"Has the army been dissolved," cried General Lee as he beheld the remnants of the once precise divisions of General Ewell and General Anderson rushing in retreat out of the flooded basin or Little Sailors Creek, in as disorderly a fashion as could be conceived. This spectacle was probably the most demoralizing that Lee witnessed during the entire struggle. How was it possible for the well organized and gallant Army of Northern Virginia to have fallen to such depths? What were the immediate provocations for such a distressing sight?

At nightfall or April 2, 1865, Lee ordered the immediate evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg. The goal was Amelia where a reconcentration could be effected. There also, supplies by way of the Richmond-Danville railroad were to meet them. On reaching Amelia the morning of April 4, the army found an abundance of ammunition, but not a morsel of rood. Thus, in Amelia there were 30,000 men raced with starvation, in addition to the closely pursuing army of Grant and Sheridan. 4

General Lee remained in Amelia for twenty-four hours in an attempt to secure rood. The wagons which he had sent out roraging the day before returned the morning of the 5th, empty. There was no other alternative than to march

on south-west along the Richmond-Danville railway to Hurkeville where he ordered rations to be sent.\(^5\)

His wagon train was sent off to the right as map illustrates. This was to be protected by Gary's Brigade, with Gordon's infantry to continue to cover the rear.\(^6\) Longstreet moved southwestward behind a cavalry screen toward Jetersville and Burkeville. He was followed by Mahone and presumably by Pickett, with Anderson's troops marching behind them. Ewell with Kershaw and Custis Lee was to follow Anderson's division. Fitzhugh Lee, with the cavalry, was sent to Painville to further protect the wagon train. These troops composed Lee's entire army and by noon of the 5th they were well on the way to Jetersville.\(^7\)

On arriving in Jetersville, seven miles from Amelia, the army round the enemy in a well-chosen position in front and blocking the path to Burkeville. They were Sheridan's men. Enemy infantry was close by, moving in the general direction of Burkeville. Lee had been outmarched. The day lost in Amelia had enabled the Union forces to overtake a weakened, straggling and ill-supplied Confederate army.\(^8\)

Two courses of action lay open to the commander or

\(^5\) *ibid* Vol. IV, pp. 70-73
\(^6\) *ibid* Vol. IV, pp. 72
\(^7\) *ibid* Vol. IV, pp. 72
\(^8\) *ibid* Vol. IV, pp. 74
the southern forces at Jetersville. He could attack the Federal position, attempt to carry it, and, if successful, continue on to Burkeville — or he could turn right at Jetersville, pursue a northwestwardly route to Farmville, where his army could be red, and then turn southwestwardly toward Danville. After careful observation of the Federal position and several glances at his weakened soldiers, he decided upon the latter course.

As a result of this decision the army would be forced to march all night on April 5th and 6th in order to regain the day last in Amelia. This night march sapped the last spark of energy remaining in the men and, consequently, it turned into a slow stumble over crowded roads, where confusion reigned supreme. Meanwhile, during the afternoon of the 5th a part of the Federal calvary had crossed in front of the Confederate army and attacked the wagon train at Painville, destroying about 200 wagons and capturing 320 soldiers in addition to 310 negro teamsters. The Federals were finally driven off by Ritz Lee's division. The attack had been made on a narrow swampy road, causing the wagon train to be delayed six hours and necessitating the re-routing or some or it through Amelia Springs — thus adding more confusion to the already hopelessly bemuddled army.

ibid Vol. IV, pp. 75.
This despicable situation was made even worse by the continual harassing of the rear by advancing federal troops. While waiting at Amelia Springs for his engineers to repair the bridge over a troublesome stream known as Flat Creek, Lee received a message which General Gordon had written on two federal spies whom he had captured. It was addressed to "Federal General Ord: dated "Jetersville, April 5, 1865, 10:10 P.M." This message directed that officer to move the next morning at 8 A.M. and to take a position from which he could watch the roads between Burkeville and Farmville. "I am strongly of the opinion that Lee will leave Amelia tonight to go south. He will be pursued at 6 A.M. from here if he leaves. Otherwise an advance will be made upon him where he is." This was signed, "U.S. Grant, Lieut.-Genl."

Ord, with the Army of the James, was in Burkeville and Grant, with the Army of the Potomac, was at Jetersville, with only two miles separating him from Lee's army. Lee's immediate and most obvious dangers were that the wagon train would slow down the retreat of the army to such an extent that the rear guard might be cut off. The second danger was that Sheridan would attack and destroy the wagon train as it groaningly crept to the southwest the next day. From Deatonsville on the Confederate infantry and wagon train would be forced.

// R.E. Lee Vol IV, pp. 70-79.
// Ibid Vol. IV, pp. 78.
// Ibid Vol. IV, pp. 79
to use the same road and unfortunately another road ran parallel to this one which the redcaps could use to dash upon the wagon train. The only defence caution was in seeing that each command kept in contact with the unit ahead and, cooperating, stood ready to beat off attacks.¹³

Longstreet marched from Flat Creek with his command before daylight of the 6th through Beavonville to Sailors Creek where the road roaks, one branch going to Farmville by way of Rice, the other by High Bridge. He took the left road to Rice and, on arriving there, entrenched, prepared to meet the Union forces under General Ord. His command, consisting at that time of Field's Division of the First Army Corps, arrived in Rice at 10 A.M. to be soon followed by Beth's, Wilcox's and Mahone's divisions of the Third Army Corps. Here they awaited the arrival of the remainder of the army. General Lee had arrived nearly simultaneously with Longstreet.¹⁴

Major-General Rosser, with the main portion of the Confederate cavalry, came up soon after Mahone and was sent in pursuit of an enemy cavalry which was headed for High Bridge. Fitz Lee, major-general of cavalry, had been detained by instructions to explain to the first infantry officer which he encountered to keep a sharp lookout on his left for the enemy whom it was feared might attack from the road which was running parallel to one upon which

¹³ ibid Vol. IV, pp. 80.
¹⁴ Longstreet, from Manassas to Appomattox, pp. 612-13.
the Confederates were traveling.  

General Pickett's Division, which was supposed to be immediately behind Mahone's Division, was forced to stop and form a line of battle several times between Deatonsville and Sailors Creek in order to protect his wagons from the Second Corps, who were continually attacking him in an effort to discover a weak spot. So much time and delay resulted from this that when his division reached Sailors Creek the enemy cavalry was formed to block his route to Rice. Mahone had passed several hours ago, before the federal Cavalry had arrived.  

Pickett's Division was resting on a hill looking across Sailors Creek, when a number of ambulances and stragglers from Mahone's Division were seen rushing down the opposite hill toward the creek, hotly pursued by federal cavalry. Instantly the whole division without orders rushed down the hill to meet the cavalry, but turned back at once to report. The division then marched down the hill across the creek and up the opposite slope to a fringe of wood, there rolling off to the right and forming in a line of battle. Skirmishers were hardly thrown out when the cavalry bore down upon the division. They were greeted with such a  


withering fire that they withdrew into the opposite woods. Seeing this a charge was ordered. "It was an inspiring sight to see those nearly half-starved men move with quick step across that narrow field and into the woods beyond and drive Sheridan's cavalry back until they had forced them out of the woods, across another field and out of the road which they had captured." Here in the road the line of battle was again formed and maintained.

Johnson's Brigade of Anderson's Corps followed in the rear of Pickett and on the afternoon of the 6th, after crossing Sailors Creek, came upon Pickett's Division, at the time engaged in a heavy fire with the enemy. The division drew up a line of battle on the left or his division and perpendicular to it.

General Custis Lee's Division, after forming in line of battle at the forks of the road in order to protect the wagon train as it passed to the right, then riled off to the left behind Johnson's Division. After marching about two miles and crossing Little Sailors Creek, the division stopped for a few minutes to rest and wait for the arrival of General Kershaw. As soon as he had come

up, the enemy appeared in full force across Sailors Creek. Immediately a line of battle was drawn up, with all of Custis Lee's division being on the left side of the road. Meanwhile Anderson and Pickett were engaged in trying to clear the road in front, which was occupied in great numbers by the enemy cavalry.\(^1\)

Kershaw, however, had encountered some trouble before crossing Little Sailors Creek and joining Custis Lee. After forming in line of battle at the forks of the road to protect the wagon train as it passed on to the right toward Double Bridges, the division moved to the left behind Custis Lee. Kershaw had expected General Gordon to follow him but unknown to him, Gordon had moved to the right in order to protect the wagon train from the Second Corps of the Union Army which was continuously engaging his rear. Therefore Kershaw was much surprised upon arriving near Little Sailors Creek to find the enemy in his rear. Detailing Humphrey's Brigade under General Fitzgerald to take position near a house occupied as a hospital by Pickett to cover the crossing of the creek, he moved the division over and took position on the right of the road above Sailors Creek, across from General Custis Lee.\(^2\)

\(^1\) *ibid* Vol. 46, Part I, pp. 1283-84.
General Gordon meanwhile had followed the wagon trains on to the crossing at Double Bridges. Here he was forced to draw up a line of battle and protect the wagons, the crossing of the creek being very slow and difficult. 13

The situation on the afternoon of the 6th was this. General Gordon, with three small divisions, was on the east side of a very difficult crossing of Sailors Creek known as Double Bridges. He was opposed by the Second Corps of the Union army. Ewell's command, Anderson's troops, and Pickett's Division, were on the south side of Little Sailors Creek about five miles from Gordon. They were opposed in the rear by the Sixth Corps and part of the Second Corps, and were confronted by Sheridan's cavalry command. (Map)

The night of the 5th, the Second, Fifth, and Sixth Union corps spent the night in Jetersville. At 6 A.M. of the 6th they advanced toward Amelia in battle formation, but soon found that the enemy had eluded them and was traveling west, whereupon the Fifth Corps moved north on the right of the enemy, the Second Corps moved toward Deatonsville in the rear of the enemy, and the Sixth Corps moved back through Jetersville and took a position on...
of the Second Corps. In this manner the three infantry corps advanced upon the enemy. Generals Crook's, Custer's, and Devin's Divisions of Merritt's cavalry command moved to the left of Deatonsville at the same time. The cavalry encountered the Confederate trains near Deatonsville and Crook attacked at once. He was however repulsed. The attack was continued, nevertheless, and when the Confederates were just south of Little Sailors Creek (see Map), Crook, Devin, and Custer cooperated exceptionally well and captured sixteen pieces of artillery, about four hundred wagons, and a number of prisoners. It was here that the Confederate line or retreat was broken. The Union cavalry then took a commanding position, which it held until the battle was over and the Confederate forces completely routed.

Meanwhile the Sixth Corps under General Wright was rapidly driving the enemy toward Sailors Creek. On arriving at the east side of the creek, Wright round the Confederates formed in line of battle on the opposite side. Wright's artillery was immediately drawn up and put into action. Colonel Stagg's cavalry brigade then attacked the Confederate right flank in an attempt to flank them on that side.

Wheaton's Division attacked Kershaw's Division, which formed the extreme right of the Confederate line, and was on the federal left side of the road. At the same time Seymour's division attacked Custis Lee's division on the federal right side of the road. Simultaneously the cavalry pushed the attack in the rear upon Pickett's division and Anderson's Corps.

During this time Pickett's Division had been holding its position against repeated cavalry charges. On one of the enemy charges several Union men dashed around the brigade on the left of Hunton's brigade and charged into the rear of Hunton's line. They were instantly killed, one being knocked from his horse by a member of the ambulance corps and his head crushed with a stretcher. As the battle continued the Union forces began to threaten Pickett's right flank. General Terry's brigade then took position on the right of Hunton's brigade but was unable to maintain it. Hunton's old regiment was sent in support, its position being on the extreme right of the division under the command of General Terry. Soon after, Pickett ordered a retreat. Terry's brigade then started under protection of the dense woods to the right and rear of the line. It was necessary however to cross an open field before reaching these woods. Stuart's brigade moved out at the same time from the left of the division, leaving Hunton's and Corse's commands.

\[\text{O.R. Vol. 46, Part I, pp. 1108.}\]
holding the center of the road. They were supposed to follow at the proper time. Pickett and his staff moved out to the right and parallel to Hunton's and Corse's brigades. To the left and near the rear of these troops was a large body of cavalry preparing to charge the retreating Confederates. Hunton's and Corse's divisions were late moving out and were, as a result, cut off from the rest of the divisions. Just before they charged the Confederates broke rank and fled for the protection of the woods. However the cavalry charged before many soldiers reached the protection of the woods. Only about six hundred of the whole division escaped. Hunton's and Corse's brigades were entirely captured. General Pickett and General Terry however managed to escape. It was sundown before the escaping body of stragglers reached Big Sailors Creek, crossed to the hill beyond where General R.E. Lee sat upon Traviller. Here they found protection.

Johnson's Division, which comprised all of Anderson's corps, at this time was formed in line of battle to the left and perpendicular to Pickett's division. While the division was thus formed General Anderson rode back to General Ewell telling him that two divisions of cavalry were in front and suggesting two modes of escape - either to unite forces and break through, or to move to the right through the woods

and attempt to strike a road running to Farmville. While they were discussing the relative merits of plans, the enemy appeared in the rear of Ewell's troops. On becoming cognizant of this, Anderson abandoned the latter plan and informed Ewell he would break the cavalry divisions, if Ewell would hold the enemy in his rear.  

Meanwhile General Wise, having discovered the advantage of the enemy position in front, ordered his brigade to charge and the Union forces were gallantly driven from the hill in front. At this time General Anderson sent a note to Johnson instructing him to order a charge of the whole division. General Johnson, not having been notified of Wise's advance and believing the intense firing to be an enemy charge, and thinking that the division was only maintaining its position deferred the order and sent a messenger to General Anderson informing him of the situation. He asked a repetition of the order. General Anderson told him he should attempt a charge. Hours were given, when Johnson received the second message, to move directly to the west in battle. At the same time Pickett's division moved by the right flank, connecting with Johnson's left. General Custis Lee's division was supposed to move by the left.

31 O.R. Vol 46, Part I, pp. 1294
32 Ibid Vol 46, Part I, pp. 1294
rank and connect with Johnson's right. Three brigades of Johnson's division were placed in position when he was informed by message from Anderson to hasten the movements. Consequently Johnson moved three brigades at once, having Moody's brigade to gain its position on the right. The whole division moved by the rear rank. On entering an open field the division was stopped in order to correct the line and allow Moody to catch up. The command forward was given when Pickett asked Johnson to halt for a few moments to allow his division to connect with Johnson's left. Meanwhile the enemy artillery had opened fire upon their position. Immediately after Pickett's request the enemy appeared in the rear of Johnson's left. Whereupon Johnson's troops broke and, moving rapidly, gained the road in the rear which connected with the main portion of the army. The division then soon joined with the main portion of Lee's army.

Wise's brigade and Wallace's brigade, however, had encountered another rate. Wise's brigade, after driving the enemy from the crest of the hill, was hard pushed by the Union forces on the left. In front was a curtilage

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33 O.R. Vol. 46, Part I, pp. 1290
34 Ibid Vol. 46, Part I, pp. 1290
of houses, dwellings, kitchens, barns, stables, tobacco houses, and a stone wall graveyard rilled with enemy. Wallace meanwhile had come up on Wise's right. Colonels Perrin and Tabb then came up and were ordered to support Jordan with the twenty-sixth and fifty-ninth regiments on Wallace's left and to push the enemy until they came opposite their right flank. The moment they did so, Wise's brigade charged the stone wall and houses, while Major Perrin, Colonel Tabb, and Jordan charged the enemy's right flank. Wise's brigade broke through and drove the enemy about two miles back, when Colonel R.P. Duncan or Anderson's stair ordered it to fall back to Pickett's rear and form at right angles to his line and then to retreat to the road of Confederate march.

Wise's brigade had hardly formed when Pickett's division stampeded. It then pressed on across a branch of the west fork of Sailors Creek only to find itself nearly surrounded by the enemy. Wallace's brigade, which was with Wise's, broke and fled for the woods. Wise's brigade pressed to the top of the hill and fired three volley's after rorming in a line or battle. Next they fired three volleys in the woods where Wallace's brigade was ensconsed. Whereupon it raised a white flag and marched out sarily. The two brigades then marched to the road past the enemy and on to High Bridge, reaching there about 1 P.M. They united with General R. E. Lee in Farmville about 7 A.M. on the morning.

S.H.S.P. Vol. 25, pp. 17-19
Ibid Vol. 25, pp. 17-19
or the 7th.

Kershaw's Division, composed at that time of three small brigades, had brought up the rear and formed on the right of the road racing the enemy in the rear of Pickett's Division. Du Bose was placed in the edge of the wood, with his right resting on the road; Simms, on the left or the road a little in advance. General Lee's Division was on the left of the road occupying a line in front or Du Bose, his left on the same line or nearly so. Meanwhile Humphry's brigade, commanded by Colonel Fitzgerald, which had been detached to cover the creek crossing, was overpowered by the Union forces. They were immediately formed again on the left or the road and Simms advanced more to the right. Wheaton's Division or the Sixth Corps now attacked. They were at first repulsed, but constantly pressed on with fresh troops, extending all the while to the left. During the attack Kershaw received word from General Anderson that he was beginning his attack on the front and soon hoped to have the way cleared for retreat, if Kershaw could hold out for a while longer. Unfortunately his attack failed and the enemy made its appearance in the rear of Simms' brigade at the same time he was engaged on the front and flank. He attempted to extricate his command but was unable

to do so and surrendered. The rest of Kershaw's troops, on discovering this condition of Simms' brigade, fell back keeping up a sharp skirmish as they did so. After retreating about 400 yards it was found that the enemy cavalry were across the road and blocking the movement. Kershaw then instructed his men to escape in any way possible, giving himself up to the Union forces. Only one or two of his entire division succeeded in escaping.

The division of Custis Lee fared little better. General Custis Lee had drawn up his line of battle on the left side of the road racing across the creek toward the Union forces. The Tenth Virginia, Charfin's Bluff Battalion, and the Eighteenth Georgia, under Major Bassinger, were on the right side of the line and a little forward; next on the left was the naval brigade, under Commodore Tucker, then Barton's and finally Lieut.-Colonel James Howard's command, the Eighteenth and Twentieth Virginia. Major M. D. Hardin's and Major James E. Robertson's commands, the heavy artillery brigades, constituted the remainder and held the extreme left.

Custis Lee's command was righting back to back with Pickett's command. Soon after the battle began the enemy rire began to have a withering effect upon this division. In

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41 ibid Vol. 46, Part I, p. 1284
42 ibid Vol. 46, Part I, p. 1284
spite of the fact that nearly all or the troops of the division had not been in battle before, they acquitted themselves as well as the most experienced soldiers could have done. After shelling the Confederates, the General Seymour's division of the Sixth Union Corps, charged upon General Custis Lee's division. The stream through which Seymour's division had to charge was edged with marsh waist deep, and through this the Union forces advanced under cover of artillery. After crossing the creek the contest was very severe. The Confederate Marine Battalion fought with peculiar obstinacy and the Federal lines were repulsed in their first onslaught. However, the attack was continued. A Union brigade overlapped the enemy's line and, wheeling to the left, delivered so severe an infolding fire that resistance was made impossible. Lieut-General well sent Major Pegram or his staff with a flag to surrender his forces. This ended the last battle fought by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The Sharifin's Bluf battalion had suffered very heavily from the artillery fire. However, when the Union lines advanced across the creek, they were received with

such a heavy fire that their first lines were thrown into utter confusion. Major Stile's men (the Chafin's Buzzard battalion) jumped up and rushed upon the enemy, riving their bayonets as they advanced.

Major Stiles with difficulty checked them. The Union second line was broken in similar manner. Kershaw's division was supposed to protect Crutchfield's right. However, after Major Stiles' line had been reformed, the enemy was seen to appear in large numbers on Crutchfield's right. Instantly the Eighteenth Georgia and Chafin's Buzzard battalions changed front, fired a volley and charged. The attack was most successful. Nevertheless, hardly had the Confederate line been reassembled, when the enemy appeared for a second time in the same place. The attack was again attempted, but the two battalions were overpowered by superior numbers and were forced to surrender. Colonel Crutchfield was killed when his command jumped up and rushed upon the enemy, forcing them back into the creek.

The Naval battalion, under Admiral Tucker, that answered "Aye, Aye, Sir." to every order performed magnificently during the charge of the Union forces.

51 Ibid Vol. 25, pp. 141-142.
Meanwhile Gordon, who had gone to the right in the rear or the wagon train was hardly raring any better at the lower crossing or Sailors Creek than Ewell's command was at the upper crossing. The bridges had broken in before all or the train was able to pass and a great congestion of wagons had taken place on the road to the creek. Gordon, in order to protect these, and give the time to repair the bridge, formed a line or battle on a ridge about one and a half miles from Sailors Creek. Part of his line was across the front yard of the Lockett home. The First and Third Divisions of the Second Union Corps began the attack upon Gordon about 4 P.M. The first onslaught was successfully repulsed and while waiting for the Union forces to organize and attack again, Gordon wrote the following note to General R.E. Lee, marked 5 P.M.:

"I have been fighting heavily all day. Loss is considerable, and I am still closely pressed. I fear that a portion of the train will be lost as my force is quite reduced and insufficient for its protection. So far I have been able to protect them but, without assistance, can scarcely hope to do so much longer. The enemy's loss has been very heavy." 55

The Federals assaulted again and this time drove Gordon's troops in confusion down the hill and across the creek. 56

After crossing the creek the Confederates formed in line

54 Statement made to Times-Dispatch by Mrs. Mamie Monnat who witnessed the battle.
55 R.E. Lee Vol IV, pp. 92
of battle again, as well as the darkness and the terrain permitted them to do. They continued in retreat soon reaching General R.E. Lee and Mahone's Division on a high ridge overlooking the valley of Sailors Creek. Gordon lost by capture about 1700 men.

General Humphrey's report states the loss of a considerable number of prisoners, two hundred wagons, seventy ambulances, and mules and horses to about one-half of the wagons and ambulances. In addition, about forty wagons and battery wagon were destroyed along the road. Also one gun and two flags were captured. Added to this the road for over two miles was strewn with tents, baggage, cooking utensils, some ammunition and materials of all kinds. The wagons were in great mass across the approach to the bridge.

During the battle which raged around the Lockett house, some federal soldiers entered it in search of whiskey. Mr. Lockett with his wife and three children, one being a beautiful mature girl eighteen years of age named Lelia. The Union troops, on seeing Mr. Lockett (who was a party invalid) dragged him from the basement into the yard and toward several other Confederate prisoners. Lelia Lockett then rushed into the yard, even though bullets were constantly being fired in the direction of the house, and begged a Union officer to protect her father. Whereupon he had Mr.

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57 R.E. Lee Vol IV, pp. 93
58 Ibid Vol IV, pp. 93
Lockett returned to the house, then ordered all federal soldiers out of the house. Later he sent the whole family an excellent meal.

General Robert E. Lee while awaiting at Rice, the remainder of his army (Ewell, Anderson, and Gordon) which was long overdue, was informed late in the afternoon of the 6th by Colonel Venable of the capture of the wagon train at Sailor's Creek.

"Lee then exclaimed, 'Where is Anderson? Where is Ewell? It is strange I can't hear from them.' Then turning to me, he said, 'General Mahone, I have no other troops, will you take your division to Sailor's Creek?' and I promptly gave the order by the left flank, and we were for Sailor's creek, where the disaster had occurred. General Lee rode with me, Colonel Venable a little in the rear. On reaching the south crest of the high ground at the crossing of the river road overlooking Sailor's Creek, the disaster which had overtaken our army was in full view, and the scene beggars description, - hurrying teamsters with their teams and dangling traces (no wagons), retreating infantry without guns, many without hats, a harmless mob, with the massive columns of the enemy moving orderly on. At this spectacle General Lee straightened himself in his saddle, and looking more the soldier than ever, exclaimed, as if talking to himself, 'My God, has the army dissolved?' As quickly as I could control my own voice I replied, 'No, general, here are troops ready to do their duty;' when, in a mellowed voice, he replied, 'Yes, general, there are some true men left. Will you please keep those people back?' As I was placing my division in position to keep those people back, the retiring herd just referred to had crowded around General Lee while he sat on his horse with a Confederate battle-flag in his hand. I rode up and requested him to give me the flag, which he did." 67

66 Statement made by Mrs. Monnat (Lelia Lockett) to Times-Dispatch, May, 1934.
67 Mahone's description in Longstreet, from Manassas to Appomattox, pp. 613.
After returning to the scene of battle General Lee remained on a plateau, raised above the forest from which were emerging the unofficered troops of Ewell and Anderson clustered in groups and uttering exclamations of rage and defiance. Above all this General Lee remained immobile until Mahone's Division was between the retreating Confederates and the advancing Federals. Then immediately he rode among the stragglers and at the sight of him a tumult was raised.

"Cries resounded on all sides; and with hands clenched violently and raised aloft, the men called on him to lead them against the enemy. 'It's General Lee!' 'Uncle Robert! Where's the man who won't follow Uncle Robert?' I heard on all sides; the swarthy faces, full of dirt and courage, lit up every instant by the gleam of the burning wagons."

As it was nearly dusk, he immediately formed the stragglers in some fashion and began the march to Farmville.

Altogether Lee lost about 8,000 men, including prisoners, killed, and wounded. Along with this he lost nearly half of his wagon train and a good portion of his artillery. The Federal losses were about 2,000 killed and wounded, as estimated by General Sheridan.

Thus ended the last battle fought by General R.E. Lee in the War Between the States.

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