

Battle of Hanover

Walking Tour

10. The Confederates Take Stock

After the initial success of the Confederate charge, the center of Hanover was occupied by a large contingent of Southern calvary. In the town, Regiments were bringing in captured Union men.

11. The Square is Now Recaptured

The Scattered Debris of Battle

Major John Hammond led the charge into Center Square “with drawn sabers.” The Union “onslaught” of counterattacks was sudden and strong. The battle-worn Confederates retreated along Frederick St., side streets and into the fields.

12. The Hanover Spectator

Covers the Battle

In the July 3, 1863 edition of the Hanover Spectator, the newspaper reported two scenes during the battles that “are indelibly impressed upon our memory.”

13. The Daniel Trone House

Daniel Trone, a telegrapher at the Hanover Railroad station, resided at 233 Frederick St. He telegraphed much of the news to major northeastern cities concerning the Battle of Gettysburg.

14. The Winebrenner Tannery

The Scene of Repeated Cavalry Charges

Control of this area remained uncertain as cavalrymen fought. Upon the arrival of Union Regiments, the balance of power tipped to the Union side. They then made another charge, “driving the rebels in confusion along the road and through the fields.”

15. J.E.B. Stuart’s Jump

Escaping extreme personal peril, Stuart, whose retreat by the road was cut off, “...took the ditch at a running leap, and landed safely on the other side with several feet to spare.”

16. Custer at Hanover

Painted by Civil War artist Dale Gallon, soldiers are shown armed with Spencer rifles that were accurate at 300 yards. A well-trained soldier could fire seven aimed shots in 30 seconds.

17. Consequences on the Battle of Gettysburg

With Kilpatrick’s men firmly in control of Hanover, Stuart was forced to detour to the east. By nightfall, Stuart’s cavalry had moved away, still searching for the Confederate infantry. The next day, the great battle of Gettysburg began.

18. Pleasant Hill Hotel Becomes Hospital

Pleasant Hill Hotel was being used as a private academy when the government rented the hotel to use as a hospital for about 150 male patients from July 10 - August 15. After the Battle of Gettysburg, about 13,000 wounded men passed through Hanover by rail on their way home or to larger hospitals.

This project is a collaboration of the following:

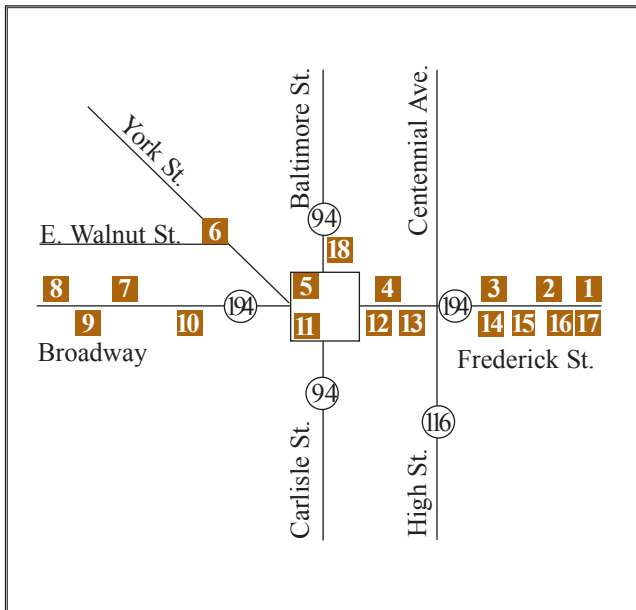


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One of the reasons why General Robert E. Lee failed to gain victory at Gettysburg might have been the unplanned encounter at Hanover. Lee was depending on Major General J.E.B. Stuart to supply him with information about the position of General George G. Meade's Union army. Meanwhile, Stuart had captured a Union wagon train and was cutting around the right of Meade's forces when he met with the troops of Major General Judson Kilpatrick and General George A. Custer of the Union cavalry at Hanover. The engagement lasted the best part of the day. In the evening, Stuart withdrew to meet Lee along the Susquehanna River. Lee, in the meantime had begun to concentrate his army in the Gettysburg and Cashtown areas. Stuart, delayed by the conflict at Hanover, was "lost" to Lee and the Confederate army, and they did not reach Lee at Gettysburg until that famous battle was almost over. In the meantime, Kilpatrick marched his troops straight to Gettysburg after the conflict in Hanover and participated in the Union victory there.



Battle Stations

1. The Confederate Invade PA

The Opening Encounter at Hanover

In early June 1863, the Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia left its camps in Virginia and marched to Pennsylvania. Lee hoped that a victory on northern soil might break the will of the Northern population and possibly lead to a negotiated peace and Southern independence.

2. The Forney Farms

Fighting Focused on Forney Lands

The initial attack, the 13th Virginia and 2nd North Carolina Cavalry Regiments charged along Frederick St. and through the Forney fields. A later Union counterattack drove the Rebels back through this same area to the high ground southwest of Hanover.

3. The Winebrenner House

Confederate Artillery Opens Fire

After the artillery shell had penetrated the second floor of the Winebrenner House, it emerged in a first floor room where the rest of the family was gathered. It then struck a brick wall, but failed to explode. Mr. Winebrenner then threw the shell outside.

4. The Jacob Wirt House

Reverend William K. Zieber, pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church, encouraged the townspeople to feed the hungry soldiers. While enjoying the people's hospitality, a Confederate artillery shell burst over the town. Major John Hammond of the 5th New York Cavalry promptly rode to the Center Square and urged citizens to take shelter in their basements.

5. Hanover's Wounded

Physicians Administer Aid

A lull in the fighting after the first charge prompted several Hanover physicians to begin caring for the wounded on the streets and sidewalks. As care for the wounded progressed, they were all transferred to a U.S. Hospital that had been opened by authority of the government.

6. Killed in Action at Hanover

Reformed Cemetery

Nineteen Union cavalymen were reported killed or mortally wounded in Hanover on June 30, 1863. They were buried in the German Reformed Cemetery; later exhumed, and reburied in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

7. Abbottstown St./Broadway

A Glimpse of Hanover's Past

The chaotic fighting at the Center Square quickly spilled over onto several side streets, alleys and fields. Along Abbottstown Street/Broadway, many surviving pre-Civil War buildings are identified with brass plaques.

8. The Turning Point

Kilpatrick and his Union staffs had reached the vicinity of Abbottstown when they heard the cannons. Kilpatrick quickly returned back to Hanover to help his comrades.

9. Conrad Moul - The Public Commons

The Public Commons was sold or rented by perpetual land leases to local industries, such as foundries, distillers, coal and lumber.