

Prelude

Context is Everything

The Battle of Hatcher's Run occurred at a critical moment in the Civil War. An awareness of the military, political, and personal backdrop to early February 1865 is crucial for understanding why.

Military Context

The arrival of 1865 marked the war's fifth calendar year. Realistically, Confederate hopes of an independent nation lay in tatters. Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and his army captured Savannah, Georgia, on December 21, 1864, following his ruthless "march to the sea." On January 19, Sherman's soldiers headed north into South Carolina, destroying much of the State's ability to wage war. Further west, on January 13, Army of Tennessee commander Lt. Gen. John B. Hood resigned after suffering crushing defeats at Franklin and Nashville in the final weeks of 1864. Much of what remained of this shattered Rebel army relocated to the Carolinas to help confront Sherman's advance.

Between December 23 and 27, Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler led a botched assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Capturing this fort would cut off adjacent Wilmington, the last open Rebel Atlantic seaport, starving the Confederacy of vital external supplies. Butler's importance to President Abraham Lincoln was more political than military. His value diminished significantly once Lincoln won the November presidential election. Consequently, on January 7, much to the relief of most senior Federal commanders, Lincoln dismissed Butler. Major General George G. Meade recalled that Butler's sacking "was the great subject of discussion in the army." Fort Fisher eventually fell to the Union on January 15, following a combined army/navy amphibious operation led by Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Terry.¹

The Army of Northern Virginia (ANV), commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee, was the Confederacy's main field army. Since June 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Unionist forces had bottled up Lee's men around Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia. Two Union armies featured in the area: The Army of the James operated north of the James River, and the Army

¹ Everette B. Long & Barbara Long, *The Civil War Day by Day* (New York, 1971), 613-14, 620-21, 623-27; George G. Meade, *The Life and Letters of George Gordon Meade*, 2 vols. (New York, 1913), 2:255.

of the Potomac (AOP) operated south of the river, menacing Petersburg. Located just 20 miles south of Richmond, the Confederate capital, Petersburg served as a central hub for road and rail communication. If Grant could capture the “Cockade City,” Richmond would surely fall, effectively ending the war. The two armies faced each other across a 37-mile front from the Mechanicsville Turnpike northeast of Richmond to Hatcher’s Run southwest of Petersburg. The lines (sometimes just a few hundred yards apart) featured an elaborate network of trenches and fortifications in what became a forerunner of the World War I Western Front campaigns 50 years later. The larger, better-resourced Union Army of the Potomac had probed and menaced the Petersburg defenses for months. Despite suffering appalling casualties, the Federals gradually progressed, cutting the Rebel supply lines and communications to Petersburg. By the end of January 1865, the Union army in the Petersburg sector numbered around 120,000, about twice that of Lee’s army.²

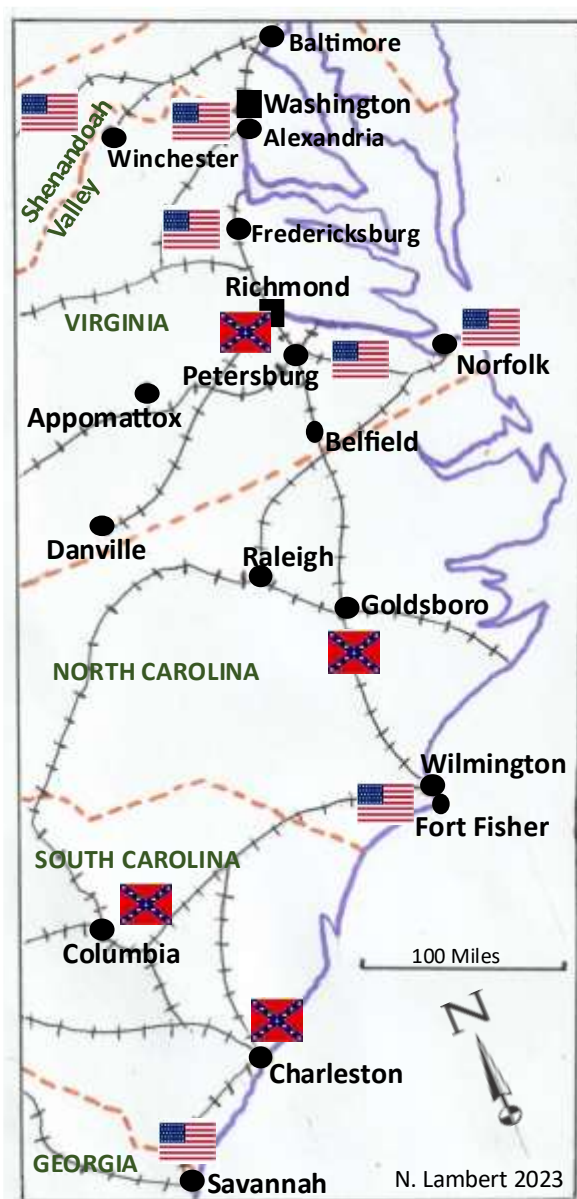


Petersburg, Around 1860
bygonely.com

In early December 1864, Federal Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren led his 5th Corps together with a 2nd Corps division and Maj. Gen. David M. Gregg’s 2nd Cavalry Division on a raid south of Petersburg. They destroyed the Weldon Railroad, an important Confederate artery, all the way to Belfield on the Meherrin River, 40 miles away. This action became known as the “Applejack Raid” because many Federal troops became intoxicated and unruly after discovering local supplies of apple brandy. By January 1865, the Confederates fully controlled just one railroad supplying Petersburg: the Southside Railroad, which ran west to

² John Horn, *The Petersburg Campaign* (Cambridge, MA, 1993), 76-77; Perry D. Jamieson, *Spring 1865: The Closing Campaigns of the Civil War* (Lincoln, NE, 2015), 83.

Lynchburg, Virginia. The Rebel's main road artery serving Petersburg was Boydton Plank Road. This communication infrastructure would play a prominent role in the forthcoming battle.³



Map P.1:
Military Situation
in the Eastern
Theater by
January 31, 1865.

The main railway network and salient towns are depicted.

The Union now also controlled the Shenandoah Valley, which had supplied the Confederacy with succor throughout the war. Major General Philip H. Sheridan's Yankees had defeated Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's army at a series of battles in the Valley, culminating on October 19, 1864, in a Rebel rout at Cedar Creek. After this disaster and the Union's

³ Noah A. Trudeau, *The Last Citadel. Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864 – April 1865* (Baton Rouge, LA, 1991), 264-85.

decision to transfer the 6th Corps from the Valley to Petersburg, Lee ordered the bulk of Early's battered army to join him in defending Petersburg. A residual force remained with Early to frustrate Sheridan's Federals as best they could.

The Rebel divisions of Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, Brig. Gen. John Pegram and Maj. Gen. Bryan Grimes arrived in Petersburg between December 1864 and early January 1865. These soldiers became the reformed Second Corps of the ANV, with Gordon commanding these 8,600 effectives. On January 28, Brig. Gen. Clement A. Evans took command of Gordon's old division. Gordon's Confederates went into the defenses on Lee's stressed right flank, around Burgess's Mill on Hatcher's Run. Given the mauling they had received over recent months in the Valley, questions existed about their morale and fighting capabilities, qualities they would soon need in the impending battle.⁴

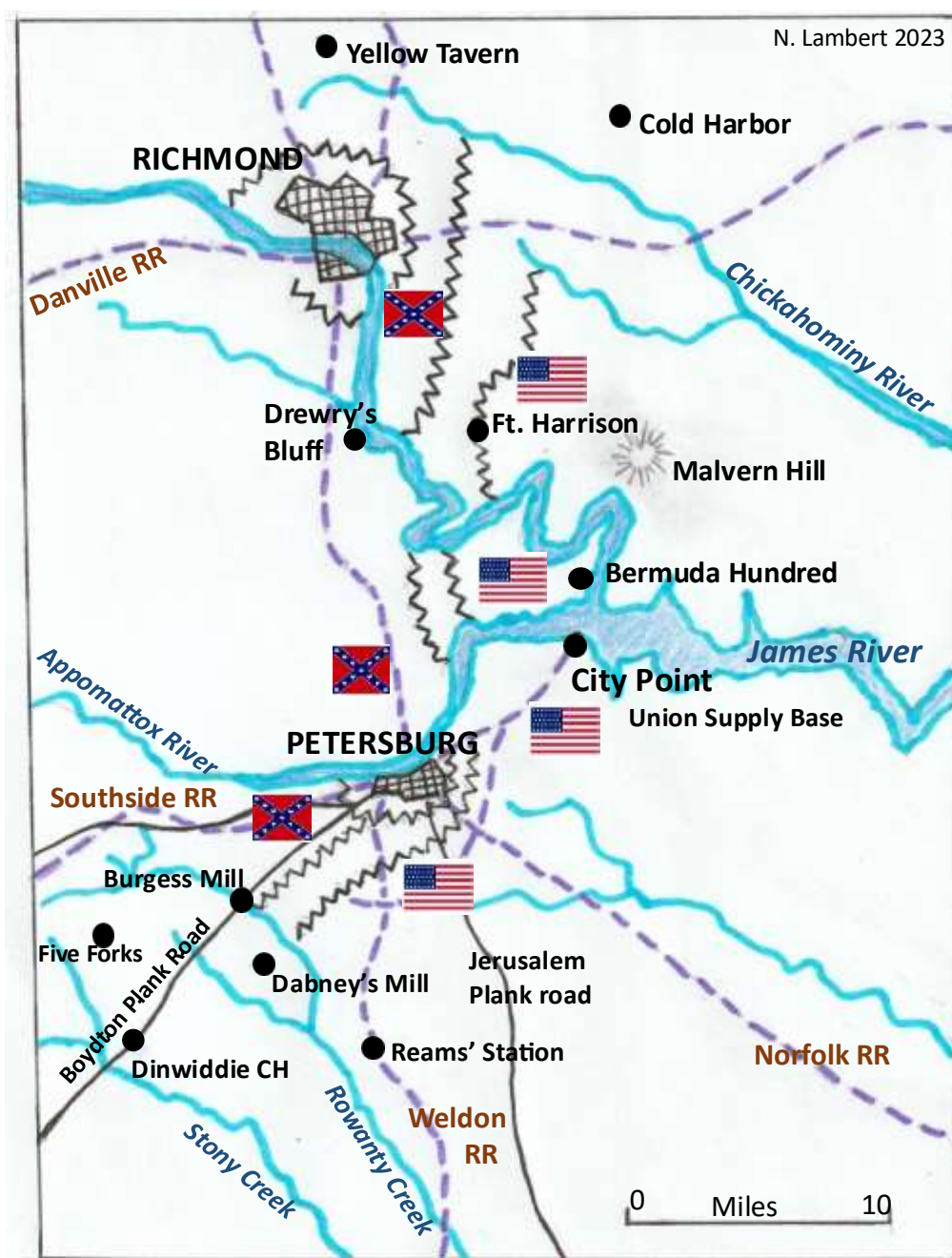
To Gordon's left, defending Boydton Plank Road, resided Lt. Gen. Ambrose P. Hill's Third Corps. This corps included the battle-hardened Mahone's Division. Their steely commander, Maj. Gen. William Mahone was absent sick, with Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan taking charge. On January 31, the division returned to their camps from an exhausting six-day operation to thwart an alleged Union raid towards Weldon, North Carolina. No contact with the enemy occurred.⁵

Outnumbered, Lee's troops were also deserting at an alarming rate. The soldiers either returned to their homes, surrendered to the Union army, or hid in the hills and woods of nearby North Carolina, forming armed gangs. During December and January, over 1,000 Confederates left the fight. Several interrelated factors contributed to this low morale. A lack of food, essential clothing, and other supplies riddled Lee's army. The bitterly cold and wet weather during the 1864-65 winter exacerbated these deficiencies. Many Confederates

⁴ Thomas A. Lewis, "The Shenandoah in Flames" in *The Time Life Civil War Series*, 28 vols. (Alexandria, VA, 1987), 24:108-25,134-58; Lee W. Sherrill, *The 21st North Carolina Infantry: A Civil War History, with a Roster of Officers* (Jefferson, NC, 2014), 405-08; ; Zack C. Waters & James C. Edmonds, *A Small but Spartan Band* (Tuscaloosa, AL, 2010), 171-72; Richard, L. Armstrong, *25th Virginia Infantry and 9th Battalion Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, VA, 1990), 85.

⁵ Horn, *The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War* (El Dorado Hills, CA, 2019), 355-57; Hilary A. Herbert, "History of the 8th Alabama Volunteer Regiment C.S.A." Maurice S. Fortin ed., *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 39 (1977), 178; Waters & Edmonds, *A Small But Spartan Band*, 175. The 6-day mission is mysterious; there is no record of any such Union raid in NC. Lee must have received significant intelligence to dispatch one of his best divisions from the Petersburg defenses to the NC border. An Irishman by birth, Joseph Finegan had moved to Florida in the 1830s and developed strong ties to that State. In January 1865, through his political connections, he had arranged a transfer back to the Sunshine State. However, duty-bound, he agreed to remain in divisional command until William Mahone returned (Mar 20) from his health-related absence.

believed they had lost the war, so why continue to risk sickness, wounds, or death? Others worried about families back home in the path of Sherman's army.



Map P2: Military Position around Richmond and Petersburg, January 1865.

Keen to encourage enemy desertions, Grant issued a “special order” on January 4, offering favorable terms to those Confederates who surrendered. As a priority, Federal soldiers sent leaflets describing the inducements into enemy lines, often at significant risk to the messengers. On January 28, an order from Lee's headquarters revealed that a Virginia private had only received hard labor rather than execution for deserting a second time. This

new leniency policy emboldened would-be absconders, the consequences of which would affect the forthcoming battle. Finally, the soldiers knew of political discussions in Richmond about recruiting Blacks to their ranks. Some Rebels didn't want to fight side by side with African Americans because they believed Blacks were not their equals. To help quell the hemorrhaging within his ranks, on January 27, Lee (not for the first time) appealed to Richmond for better provisions.⁶

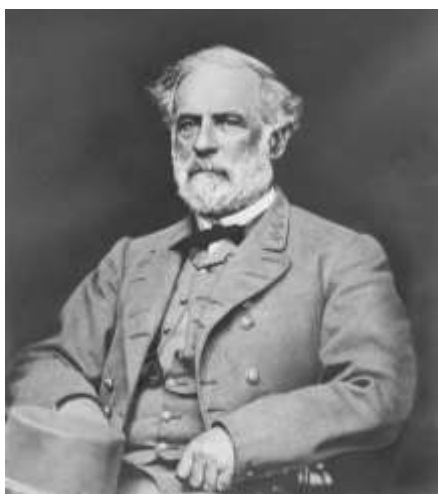
The condition of the AOP also posed challenges. After nearly four years of warfare, many regiments had been significantly reduced in manpower, with the remaining veteran soldiers physically and mentally exhausted. Although conscripting more soldiers proved easier for the Unionists than their Confederate counterparts, the fresh Yankee soldiers harbored many “bounty-jumpers” who enlisted for the money, deserted, only to enroll elsewhere. Also, the genuine recruits remained untested in battle. In one of Warren's 5th Corps divisions, for example, of the 4,707 men, 1,247 had never fired a musket. In October 1864, Warren had urged Meade against planning further operations as he needed more time to train the raw recruits. In early 1865, Maj. Gen. John Gibbon, a Union Corps commander, wrote of the wearing down of the “old soldiers and the poor performance of the draftees and substitutes.” For many Yankees, Hatcher's Run would be their first taste of combat.⁷

The experiences of the 6th Wisconsin were typical and nicely summarized in Marten's 2025 book of the regiment. Once part of the famed Iron Brigade, by late August 1864, their number had dwindled to 75 rank and file. By the year's end, the regiment had swollen to over 700, mostly from draftees and substitutes, many of whom were immigrants who spoke little English. Unlike the original 1861 recruits, these new soldiers did not have nearly a year of training before battle. Relatively inexperienced junior officers managed the swollen companies. Marten's book captures the limited training that these raw recruits received. Thus, soldiers from this fractured regiment went into the Hatcher's Run battle with

⁶ Sherrill, *21st North Carolina*, 408-10; John Horn, *The Petersburg Regiment*, 353-54; A. Wilson Greene, *The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign* (Knoxville, TN, 2008), 86-87; *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vol. (Washington, DC, 1880-1901), Series 1, vol. 46, Part 2, page 828-29. Hereafter cited as *OR* 46/2:828-29. All references are to Series 1 unless otherwise noted; *OR* 42/2:1083, 1092, 1096; Lowell Reidenbaugh, *The 27th Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, VA, 1993), 117; James P. Gannon, *Irish Rebels Confederate Tigers* (New York, 1998), 300-01; Long & Long, *The Civil War Day by Day*, 629.

⁷ Emerson G. Taylor, *Gouverneur Kemble Warren: The Life and Letters of an American Soldier, 1830-1882* (New York, 1932), 203 note 1; James Marten, *The Sixth Wisconsin and the Long Civil War* (Chapel Hill, NC, 2025), 157-58, 161; *OR* 42/3:20; John Gibbon, *Personal Recollections of the Civil War* (New York, 1928), 229-30.

limited knowledge of the men standing next to them. The regiment would pay a heavy price in the three-day battle.⁸



Gen. Robert E. Lee
Library of Congress



Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton
wikipedia.org

In January 1865, Lee reorganized his cavalry force, resulting in significant consequences for the Hatcher's Run battle. The ANV cavalry situation was dire. Many troopers were without mounts. With the army besieged around Richmond and Petersburg, forage for what animals they had proved limited. On January 19, Lee disbanded his Cavalry Corps, led by the charismatic Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton. Hampton, accompanied Maj. Gen. Matthew C. Butler's Cavalry Division to the Carolinas to help slow Sherman's advancing army. Lee also hoped that Hampton, one of the wealthiest and most influential men in South Carolina, could facilitate a recruitment drive to swell the dwindling Rebel ranks. With horses and forage relatively plentiful in the more spacious Carolinas, Butler left his mounts for Maj. Gen. William H. F. "Rooney" Lee's Cavalry Division, the remaining Confederate cavalry force operating south of Petersburg.⁹

Rooney Lee, the son of Robert E. Lee, commanded three brigades of around 3,500 troopers. He took his men to Belfield, some 40 miles south of Petersburg, to find forage for his mounts and protect the supply hub at Hicksford just across the Meherrin River. There, they stayed throughout January and early February, hoping for some respite before the spring

⁸ Marten, *The Sixth Wisconsin*, 140, 143-44, 151-52, 156-58, 160.

⁹ Samuel J. Martin, *Southern Hero: Matthew Calbraith Butler* (Mechanicsburg, PA, 2001), 132-33; Mary B. Daughtry, *Gray Cavalier* (Cambridge, MA, 2002), 239-40.

fighting season. Lee's degraded cavalry predicament severely limited his army's ability to gather the information needed to make critical decisions.¹⁰

Political Context

The winter of 1864-65 saw substantial political activity. The US presidential election in November 1864 probably represented the Rebels' last chance to achieve independence. The incumbent president, Abraham Lincoln, ran against former Union general George B. McClellan, who promised to secure peace with the Confederacy. Despite the Northerners' war weariness and especially their horror at the casualties around Petersburg, Lincoln comfortably won the election, indicating that the war would be a fight to the death.

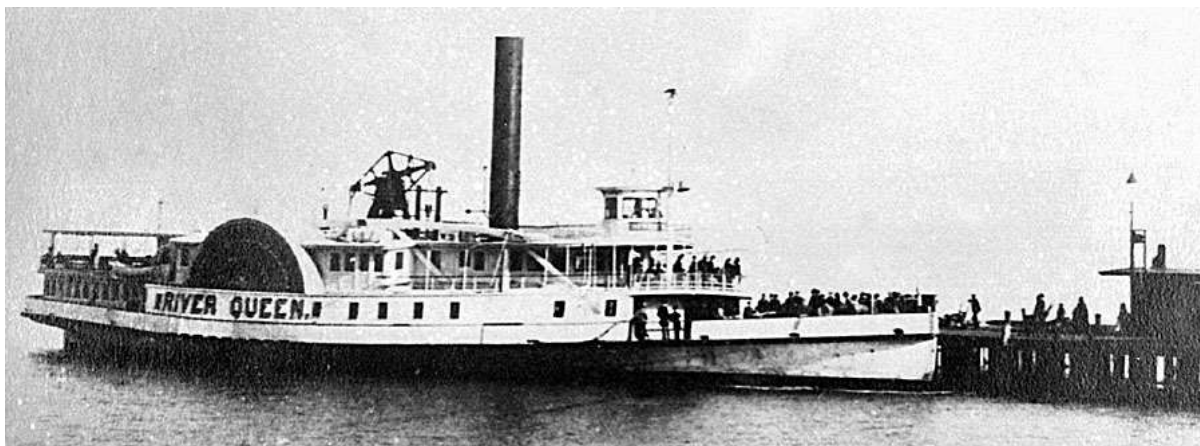
Attention in Washington turned to how the Confederate States would return to the Union. A Bill proposing the 13th Amendment banning slavery had struggled to get through the US House of Representatives. Politicians now drove the legislation with increased vigor. On January 31, the Bill gained (just!) the required two-thirds majority in the House and went to the individual States for ratification. Illinois ratified the Amendment the next day, but it would not be until December 18, 1865 (six months after the war ended) that two-thirds of the States approved the Bill, and it entered the Constitution.¹¹

Conscious of the nation's war fatigue, Lincoln allowed wily Democrat politician Francis P. Blair to visit Richmond on January 12 to sound out Confederate President Jefferson F. Davis regarding possible peace terms. Despite the conundrum of Davis wanting a peaceful settlement for an independent nation and Lincoln wanting a peaceful return of the seceded states to the Union, through delicate diplomacy, the concept of a peace conference arose. On January 28, Davis appointed three peace commissioners: Vice President Alexander A. Stephens, Assistant Secretary of War John A. Campbell, and former Confederate Secretary of State Robert M. Hunter. Speculations and rumors permeated the Petersburg trenches, both blue and gray; Yankees and Rebels swapped newspapers, most hoping and praying for the carnage to end.¹²

¹⁰ Daughtry, *Gray Cavalier*, 240-42; Robert J. Driver, *10th Virginia Cavalry* (Lynchburg, VA, 1993), 68-69; Richard L. Beale, *History of the 9th Virginia Cavalry, in the War Between the States* (Richmond, VA, 1899), 147. The strength of Rooney Lee's force is contentious as discussed in chapter 7.

¹¹ Long & Long, *The Civil War Day by Day*, 594, 630.

¹² Trudeau, *The Last Citadel*, 300-09; William S. McFeely, *Grant, a Biography* (New York, 1981), 198-205.



US Steamship *River Queen*
wikipedia

Grant ensured that the peace meeting occurred and facilitated a safe passage through Union lines for the Confederate delegation. His wife, Julia, notably voiced her desire for an end to hostilities. On February 3, the peace conference took place on the steamship *River Queen*, moored in Hampton Roads near Fortress Monroe. President Lincoln joined his Secretary of State, William H. Seward, to meet the three Confederate envoys. The five participants knew each other well, and the meeting had a convivial air. An early topic centered around the status of some four million formerly enslaved people post-war, with Lincoln open to possible compensation schemes for slave owners. The Rebel envoys, in turn, raised the idea, albeit fanciful, of the Confederate and Union armies combining to invade Mexico, then under French rule. However, it soon emerged that Lincoln would not accept the notion of an independent Confederate nation under any circumstances. This being the Confederacy's sole aim, the negotiations collapsed. The Richmond delegates received a bottle of champagne for their troubles and safe passage back to the Rebel lines; the bloodshed would continue.¹³

With Confederate military forces faring badly, President Davis and his administration endured intense pressure; many Southerners felt Davis should resign. After months of lobbying, on January 31, Davis finally relented and appointed Lee as general-in-chief of all Confederate forces. Rightly believed to be happening far too late to be meaningful, Lee himself saw little merit in the appointment. He assumed the position on February 6, during the Battle of Hatcher's Run. In another blow to Davis, on February 1, he reluctantly accepted

¹³ McFeely, *Grant*, 200-08; Jerry Korn, "Pursuit to Appomattox: The Last Battles," in *The Time Life Civil War Series*, 28 vols. (Alexandria, VA, 1987), 25:20-25. James B. Conroy, *Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865* (Guilford, CT, 2014).

the resignation of his ally and Secretary of War, James A. Seddon. John C. Breckinridge replaced the unpopular Seddon as the Battle of Hatcher's Run raged. The Richmond Congress also began to debate the divisive issue of whether to allow Black soldiers into their forces.¹⁴

Personal Context

Throughout the crumbling Confederacy, despite the jingoistic talk of victory and freedom in newspapers and elsewhere, many resigned themselves to defeat. Severe domestic shortages and crippling inflation provided little Christmas cheer or comfort. However, for Brig. Gen. John Pegram, one of Gordon's divisional commanders, January 1865 brought much joy.

On Thursday, January 19, after a three-year engagement, Pegram (who turned 33 on January 24) married the renowned 28-year-old Southern belle Hetty C. Cary, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful women in the Confederacy. Hetty had left her native (and politically neutral) Baltimore early in the war when her overt Southern sympathies became too dangerous, and she moved to Richmond. Born into a well-to-do Petersburg family, John Pegram's youthful good looks and charm, more than his mixed military exploits, made him a favorite within Richmond society. To many, John and Hetty represented the "golden couple." Their lavish wedding occurred at St Paul's Church, Richmond, dubbed the "Cathedral of the Confederacy." Attended by many prominent politicians and military commanders, it would be the last imperious celebration within the Confederacy, giving a much-needed boost to Southern morale. However, the event didn't go without a hitch. President Davis had sent his personal carriage and horses to take the happy couple to the church; however, the horses became unruly and threatened to cause mayhem. Furthermore, Hetty tore her dress entering the church, triggering superstitious murmurings throughout the congregation.¹⁵

¹⁴ Long & Long, *The Civil War Day by Day*, 630, 632; Trudeau, *The Last Citadel*, 307-08. Breckinridge was a former Confederate general and US vice president.

¹⁵ Henry K. Douglas, *I Rode with Stonewall* (St. Simon's Island, GA, 1940), 311; Sherrill, *21st North Carolina*, 410-411; Nigel Lambert & Bryce A. Suderow, "The Battle of Hatcher's Run: A Re-Appraisal," *North & South Magazine* (January 2022) Series 2, Vol. 2, No. 5, 44; Burton Harrison, *Recollections Grave and Gay* (New York, 1911), 203-05; Valgene Dunham, *Allegany to Appomattox: The Life and Letters of Private William Whitlock of the 188th New York Volunteers* (Syracuse, NY, 2013), 157; Walter S. Griggs, *General John Pegram, CSA* (Lynchburg, VA, 1993), 114-15.



Brig. Gen. John Pegram
Library of Congress



Hetty C. Cary
Image by Thomas. C. De Leon, (1839-1914)

Several leading Union actors at the impending battle of Hatcher's Run faced various challenges as 1865 dawned. Major General Meade would be the on-field Union commander at the Hatcher's Run battle. A mercurial character quick to anger, he commanded the AOP under Grant's close supervision. With his son, Sargent, dangerously ill, Meade frequently visited his family in Philadelphia; his son would die on February 21, 1865. Meade also became embroiled with political opponents on two fronts. Firstly, the Committee on the Conduct of the War, investigating the disastrous July 1864 Battle of the Crater, searched for people to blame, and Meade fell in their cross-hairs. Secondly, he was frustrated by the delay of his keenly desired promotion to major general in the Regular Army. Despite rumors of a testy relationship with Grant, the latter supported and valued Meade. With Grant's help, his promotion finally occurred on February 2, and Grant defended Meade at the Crater Inquiry, with responsibility for the debacle eventually falling upon Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.¹⁶

Elsewhere, on January 25, the highly regarded Maj. Gen. D. Gregg, commander of the Union 2nd Cavalry Division, unexpectedly handed in his resignation. What motivated this drastic decision? Army gossip spoke of the allure of his "pretty wife" at home. Some speculated that an unwillingness to serve under Sheridan, soon to arrive in the Petersburg sector, was the reason. Others linked it to emotional stress and his irrational fears of believing

¹⁶ Meade, *Life and Letters*, 2:256-62.

he was a coward. His resignation took effect on February 9; thus, he still led his cavalymen into battle at Hatcher's Run.¹⁷

Another senior Union officer, Lt. Col. Edwin S. Jenney, also tendered his resignation in January. The 185th New York commander would feature prominently at the Hatcher's Run battle before leaving the army two days later. The reasons behind Jenney's resignation centered around his military status following his capture in September 1864. Although paroled, Jenney escaped before a formal exchange occurred. He thus found himself in Rebel newspapers listed as a dishonored paroled prisoner and, if captured, faced execution. He carried a vial of poison with him for such an eventuality. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton refused to change his status from "paroled" to "escaped"; consequently, Jenney resigned.¹⁸

Major General Andrew Humphreys had only assumed command of the Federal 2nd Corps on November 26, 1864, replacing the highly regarded and charismatic Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, who took an extended leave of absence from the AOP. Hatcher's Run would be Humphreys's first test of battle at the corps level.¹⁹

Officers typically took leave to re-energize during the less active winter months before the Spring campaign season began. Officer absences played a significant part in the Battle of Hatcher's Run. From the Confederate side, those missing included the reliable divisional commander, Maj. Gen. Mahone (due to illness), and brigade commanders: Brig. Gen. William MacRae, Brig. Gen. Robert D. Johnston and possibly Brig. Gen. David Weisiger (although this is contentious). Despite being present, Third Corps commander A. P. Hill probably should not have been, as he struggled to discharge his duties due to severe

¹⁷ Hickman, Kennedy. *American Civil War: Brigadier General David McM. Gregg*. ThoughtCo, Aug. 26, 2020, [Brigadier General David McMurtrie Gregg in the Civil War \(thoughtco.com\)](https://www.thoughtco.com/brigadier-general-david-mcmurtrie-gregg-in-the-civil-war-1378111/); OR 46/2:500; Edward G. Longacre, *Lincoln's Cavalymen: A History of the Mounted Forces of The Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865* (Mechanicsburg, PA, 2000), 322-23

¹⁸ W. Woodford Clayton, *History of Onondaga County, New York* (Syracuse, NY, 1878), 129-30; [The Jenney Family – Skaneateles \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.skaneateles.com/the-jenney-family/).

¹⁹ Jamieson, *Spring 1865: The Closing Campaigns*, 84-86. The reasons underpinning Hancock's departure were complicated. Lingering effects from his Gettysburg wound were one factor; feelings of betrayal and humiliation at his crushing defeat at Reams's Station in Aug 1864 and a desire for an independent command also fed his desire to leave the AOP. He readily accepted command of a new corps of veterans. However, this concept didn't work out as planned, and he spent the rest of the war commanding a relatively quiet military department based in the Shenandoah Valley. David M. Jordan, *Winfield Scott Hancock: A Soldier's Life* (Indianapolis, 1988), 169-175.

medical problems.²⁰

Those absent on the Union side included 6th Corps commander Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright and brigade commanders: Brig. Gen. Byron R. Pierce, Brig. Gen. Edgar M. Gregory, Brig. Gen. Joseph J. Bartlett, Brig. Gen. Andrew W. Denison, Brig. Gen. William Hoffman, Brig. Gen. Ranald S. Mackenzie and Brig. Gen. Charles H. Smith. Brigadier General Henry E. Davies rejoined his cavalry brigade on the second day of the battle. Thus, both Blue and Gray forces would miss a wealth of battlefield experience at Hatcher's Run.²¹

These key military, political, and personal events formed the rich backdrop to the bloody battle that the two armies would soon fight around Hatcher's Run, Dabney's Mill, Vaughan Road, and Armstrong's Mill between February 5 and 7, 1865.

²⁰ Nigel Lambert, "Rebel Units and their Commanders at the Battle of Hatcher's Run: February 5-7, 1865," *The Siege of Petersburg Online*, 5 Parts, [Rebel Units and their Commanders at the Battle of Hatcher's Run: February 5-7, 1865 — The Siege of Petersburg Online \(beyondthecrater.com\)](#), Parts 2-3. Regarding Hill's medical state, protracted urinary and kidney infections had developed into uremia, a potentially fatal condition. Swollen kidneys, inability to urinate, and lack of sleep made Hill increasingly lethargic. It could be a struggle at times for him to maintain attention and follow conversations. James I. Robertson, *General A. P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior* (New York, 1987), 310.

²¹ OR 46/2:324-33.