

Chapter 9

Fighting Along Vaughan Road

February 6, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Shortly after 1:15 p.m., February 6, Union cavalry division commander David Gregg received orders from Warren to drive all Rebels on Vaughan Road beyond the Gravelly Run crossing. Since dawn, his troopers had skirmished with Rebels along the road. Winthrop's infantry brigade, Ayres's division, had recently (about 1:00 p.m.) joined them. Their timely support enabled Gregg's cavalry to regroup and prepare to execute Warren's order.¹

The Federal Cavalry Attack

Details of what followed are confusing in several instances; however, reaching some consensus is possible. D. Gregg chose his cousin's (John Gregg) brigade to spearhead the assault. The Federals expected little difficulty in driving back what they assumed were a few dismounted Confederate cavalry troopers. They were unaware that Pegram, with two infantry brigades, had arrived on the scene.

J. Gregg positioned his cavalymen on the road with Brig. Gen. Davies's brigade supporting them on the right and Col. Knowles's brigade in reserve. The troopers rode down Vaughan Road towards the Gravelly crossing and met Rebels in out-houses and rifle pits concealed in woods. The Yankees made several attempts to dislodge the Confederates, but their positions proved too strong. The Rebels counterattacked, pushing the blue cavalymen back in disarray. Several Union memoirs captured isolated actions from this period encompassing 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.²

The 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, J. Gregg's brigade, dismounted and charged some Confederate infantry holding a group of buildings, reportedly capturing around 30 Rebels. To assist his brigade comrades, Col. Kerwin ordered a squadron from his 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry to charge. This mounted assault led by Sgt. Daniel Caldwell allegedly captured 66 Rebels. Amid the fighting, Caldwell took five prisoners and captured the flag from a Tar Heel infantry regiment. The 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry commander, Lt. Col. John K. Robinson,

¹ OR 46/1:254-55, 279.

² OR 46/1:279-80, 366; Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 191; Crowninshield, *A History of the First Regiment*, 249.

reported that one of his dismounted troopers shot the color bearer, but a 13th Pennsylvania trooper (Caldwell) rode through their lines and took the flag. Whatever the circumstances, Caldwell received a Medal of Honor and promotion to 2nd lieutenant for his deeds.

Reportedly, the captured flag hailed from the 33rd North Carolina. Unfortunately, this Rebel regiment was not present at the battle! Captain Nathaniel S. Sneyd, 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry, died leading his squadron in a second mounted charge ordered to support Caldwell's men. The 4th and 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, both with J. Gregg's brigade, advanced on the right flank as these charges occurred. During this action, J. Gregg was wounded, with brigade command passing to Col. Kerwin.³



Col. Hugh H. Janeway
Library of Congress



Lt. Col. Frederick L. Tremain
Findagrave.com

Major Benjamin W. Crowninshield, 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, Davies's brigade, recalled hearing the order "charge," and J. Gregg's horsemen galloped towards the Rebels, determined to sweep them back over Gravelly Run. J. Gregg soon received a shot to the foot and was taken to the rear. On the journey, he met Brig. Gen. Davies and J. Gregg asked him to charge the enemy. Davies duly obliged, but he too fell with severe wounds to the breast and arm. The Rebel position proved too strong, and after fierce fighting, the blue cavalrymen fled in disarray.

³ Hand, *One Good Regiment*, 191-93; *OR* 46/1:371; Beyer & Keydel, *Deeds of Valor*, 1:485; The 33rd NC belonged to Wilcox's Division. The claim of 66 captured Rebels was probably an exaggeration. The mystery of which Rebel flag Caldwell captured is explored at length in Nigel Lambert, "A Civil War Medal of Honor Mystery," *North & South Magazine* (September 2023) Series 2, Vol. 3, No. 6, 88-92. Although remnants of the flag have been tracked down, its regimental ownership remain unknown.

The engagement proved costly for the Federals in terms of senior officer casualties. Both brigade commanders, Davies and J. Gregg, received wounds. Colonel Hugh H. Janeway, the 1st New Jersey Cavalry commander, who took over Davies's brigade, was also wounded. Brigade command then fell to the next senior officer, Col. M. Henry Avery, the 10th New York Cavalry commander.⁴

Mixed accounts exist regarding Col. Avery's leadership performance. Major Walter R. Robbins, 1st New Jersey Cavalry, claimed that Avery became sick and relinquished brigade command to him. Yet other reports mentioned Avery discharging his duties. Command of Avery's regiment passed to Lt. Col. Frederick L. Tremain, who also received a wound. Lieutenant Colonel Myron H. Beaumont, who took over command of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry (from Col. Janeway), also fell wounded. Sergeant John C. Sagelhurst, 1st New Jersey Cavalry, received a Medal of Honor, partly for rescuing a severely wounded (unnamed) officer while under heavy fire.⁵

A 10th New York Cavalry, Davies's brigade, memoir described them charging the Rebels and capturing some prisoners. It stated that Davies (and presumably Janeway) became *hors de combat*, and Col. Avery took over brigade command. Avery dispatched a rider to notify Lt. Col. Tremain that regimental command had devolved to him. The messenger reached Tremain on the far left of the Union skirmish line around 2:00 p.m. as he planned to lead his dismounted men in a charge. As Tremain turned to receive the message, a Confederate ball struck him in the hip. Comrades gently carried him to an ambulance, which transported him to a field hospital. On the way, he met Col. Avery, who described Tremain as "looking pale, and having a smile on his face." Later, his cousin, Maj. Henry E. Tremain, serving on D. Gregg's staff, rode by on a courier mission. Frederick told him about his mishap and that although serious, his wound wasn't dangerous. Frederick walked into the field hospital, where he met the wounded Brig. Gen. Davies. The following day, medics transferred Tremain to the main City Point hospital, some 20 miles away. Unbeknownst to his

⁴ OR 46/1:280; Crowninshield, *A History of the First Regiment*, 249. Janeway recovered from his wound only to perish on Apr 4, at the battle of Amelia Springs, just five days before Lee surrendered; he was 22.

⁵ Crowninshield, *A History of the First Regiment*, 249; Pyne, *History of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry*, 302-305; Preston, *History of the 10th Regiment of Cavalry*, 241; Lilian Rea, ed., *War Record and Personal Experiences of Walter Raleigh Robbins* (Unknown, 1923), 105; [John Christopher Sagelhurst | U.S. Civil War | U.S. Army | Medal of Honor Recipient \(cmohs.org\)](#). Tremain was sometimes spelled Tremaine.

doctors, the wound proved more severe than initially believed, and Lt. Col. Tremain died the next day (February 8), aged 21.⁶

With his squadron held in reserve, Capt. John J. Van Tuyl, 10th New York Cavalry, watched the rest of his regiment fight along Vaughan Road. His joy at for once avoiding combat was short-lived as Col. Avery approached and told him to dismount his squadron and prepare to fight on foot. Ordered to retake some buildings on the skirmish line, his troopers charged and drove some Rebels out of a log house, a barn, and a corn house. With nine men, Capt. Van Tuyl took a position behind the corn house. The Rebels poured a heavy fire into the party, killing or wounding all but one. Van Tuyl took a bullet in the knee. Escorted back to D. Gregg's headquarters, Van Tuyl somehow mounted a horse and rode to an old barn serving as a hospital. The doctors said, "the leg must come off, but I insisted that it must not, and they finally gave up." Sent to City Point hospital for two days and then home for recuperation, the captain returned to duty six weeks later.



Col. M. Henry Avery
findagrave.com



William W. Williams
Preston, *History of the 10th Regiment of Cavalry*

A staff officer, William W. Williams, 10th New York Cavalry, recalled division commander D. Gregg sending an orderly to the rear to collect the daily newspapers, which the orderly stuffed in his coat. Dispatched to deliver a message to Warren, Williams met the

⁶ Preston, *History of the 10th Regiment of Cavalry*, 241; Lyman Tremain, *Memorial of Frederick Lyman Tremain, Late Lieut. Col. of the 10th N.Y. Cavalry* (Albany, NY, 1865), 42-46. Maj. Tremain was carrying a request for reinforcements, presumably to Maj. Gen. Griffin, which placed the meeting at just before 3:00 p.m. as discussed below.

orderly returning: “I heard a bullet pass my left ear and I saw him [the orderly] fall from his horse.... I saw where the bullet had entered and concluded ‘shot through the heart.’ I unbuttoned his jacket pulled out the newspapers and the bullet fell out . . . right over his heart was a black spot the size of a silver dollar.”⁷

The Rebel Perspective of Actions up to 2:30 p.m.

The Confederates fighting along Vaughan Road comprised two brigades from Pegram’s division and elements of Rooney Lee’s cavalry, mostly from Beale’s Brigade. Recall how Pegram had split his division in the morning. He left a brigade, commanded by Col. Lea, near Dabney’s Mill while accompanying Col. Hoffman’s Virginia Brigade and Brig. Gen. Lewis’s Tar Heel Brigade down Quaker Road. They then marched northeast up Vaughan Road and supported Rooney Lee’s cavalymen, skirmishing with D. Gregg’s Union cavalry.

Few Confederate sources describe the fighting on Vaughan Road, and those that exist summarize the entire day’s actions, making it challenging to separate the different engagements. The most detailed Rebel accounts are from historian Sherrill’s modern book of the 21st North Carolina, Lewis’s Brigade, and Capt. Samuel D. Buck’s memoir of the 13th Virginia, Hoffman’s brigade.⁸

The Confederates formed a line with Lewis’s Brigade on the left and Hoffman’s brigade to their right, with their right flank resting on Vaughan Road. Elements of Rooney Lee’s cavalry were to Hoffman’s right, south of the road. Captain Buck and the 13th Virginia went to protect Lewis’s left flank from roaming Yankee cavalry. The left half of this regiment, commanded by Capt. George Cullen, sheltered in woods, and the right half commanded by Capt. Buck occupied an open field. Buck recalled how his men quickly dug crescent-shaped rifle pits, each sufficient for three men to occupy. The Union cavalry charged them twice but could not dislodge them. Buck remembered, “I never in all the battles I was in

⁷ Preston, *History of the 10th Regiment of Cavalry*, 242.

⁸ Sherrill, *The 21st North Carolina*, 414-15; Samuel D. Buck, *With the Old Confeds: Actual Experiences of a Captain in the Line* (Gaithersburg, MD, 1983), 130-32. Among those texts notable for *not* detailing the engagement are: Richard W. Iobst, *The Bloody Sixth: the Sixth North Carolina Regiment, CSA* (Rayleigh, NC, 1965); Wooddell, *Hoffman’s Army*; Douglas, *I Rode with Stonewall*; James D. Cooke, “A History of the 31st Virginia Regiment Volunteers C. S. A.” M.A. dissertation, West Virginia University, 1955, 74-76. Regarding the four Tar Heel regiments in Lewis’s Brigade, none of their accounts in Clark, *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina* feature the engagement. Similarly, the Howard Series books covering the eight VA regiments with Hoffman and Beale don’t mention the action.



Brig. Gen. William G. Lewis
Wikipedia.org



Brig. Gen. Richard L. Beale
Library of Congress

during the war had so many shots fired directly at me.” Fifty yards behind Buck was a corn house that had attracted Rebel shirkers. With bullets hitting the house like hail, Buck grabbed the lead miscreant out of the house and forced him to the front. As he pushed him into a rifle pit, the shirker took a bullet in the shoulder. Buck had a very dim view of the soldier and “thought such cowards demoralized good soldiers.” At this moment, a lieutenant emerged from the rifle pit and approached Buck. However, Yankees shot the lieutenant through the leg, and comrades carried him away.⁹

Around 2:00 p.m., Pegram received an order from his corps commander, Gordon, to move from his current Vaughan Road position to the Dabney’s Mill area, where Lea was under increasing pressure from advancing Yankees. Gordon encouraged Pegram to attack the Federals’ left flank from the southwest. However, heavily engaged with the enemy, Pegram could not realistically fulfill the directive.¹⁰

Winthrop to the Rescue

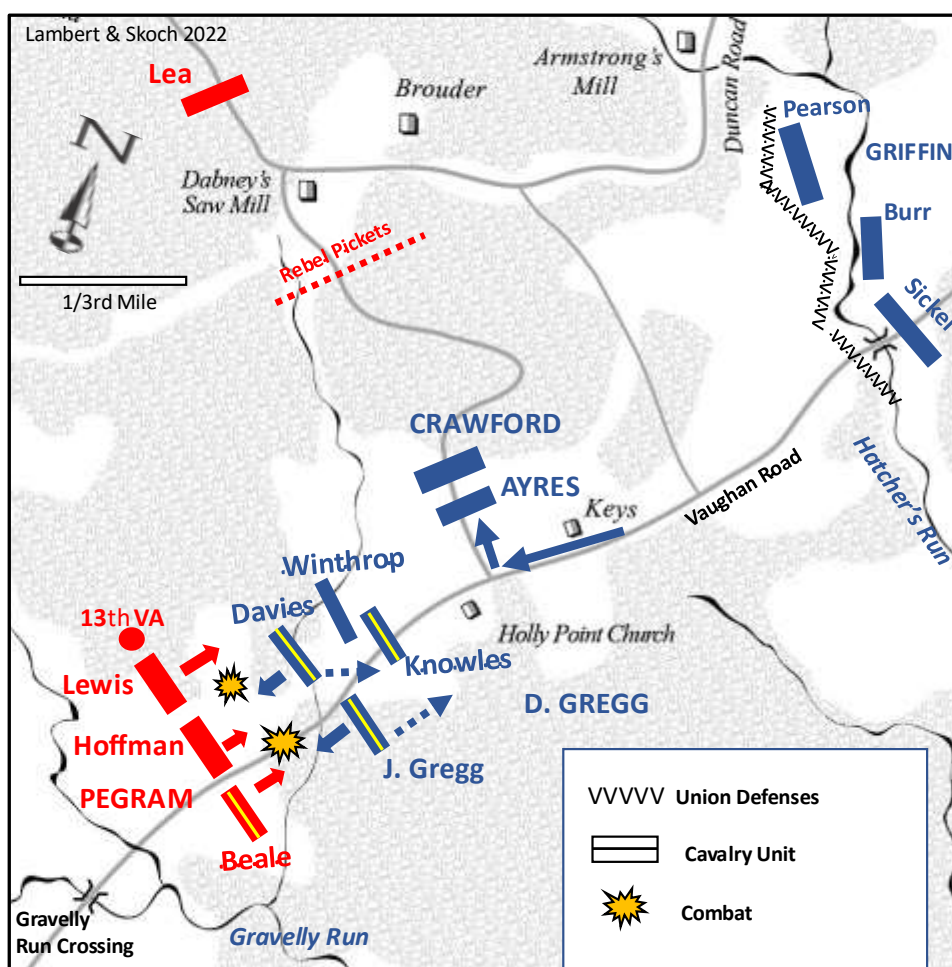
Union Brig. Gen. Winthrop’s infantry brigade, Ayres’s division, had supported the cavalry since the morning. He watched on as Gregg’s troopers charged the Rebels further down Vaughan Road. Winthrop recorded that “our cavalry advanced to the attack with two brigades and a third in support. They soon became actively engaged with the enemy’s

⁹ Buck, *With the Old Confeds*, 130-31; Sherrill, *The 21st North Carolina Infantry*, 414. Both armies possessed soldiers who would do anything to avoid military action. Loathed by most earnest soldiers, they acquired various derogatory names; shirkers, skulkers, beats. Capt. Buck used the term loafer in his memoir.

¹⁰ *ORS* 7:803-04.

infantry and, getting rather roughly handled, retired in considerable confusion, the enemy closely following.”¹¹

Winthrop ordered his men forward at the double-quick and delivered some “very fair volleys” into the advancing Confederates. During their charge, Pvt. Henry Mogler, 140th New York, raced ahead of the regiment. As a Confederate flag bearer went down, “Mogler made a dash for the colors but came up empty and showing a slight leg wound for his troubles.”



Map 9.1: The Situation Along Vaughan Road, February 6, Around 2:00 p.m.

The infantry brigade’s musketry checked the oncoming Confederates, yet the Southerners fought fiercely. The Confederates withdrew to the shelter of some woods. Once or twice they reappeared and tried to advance across the open field, “but each time were handsomely repulsed,” reported Winthrop, adding that his men fought with “great spirit.”

¹¹ OR 46/1:280.

Winthrop had “two horses shot from under him while ‘sailing in’ with the boys,” But with ammunition running critically low, Winthrop called for support.¹²

Between 2:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., the 140th New York alone suffered 20 casualties. Among them, Pvt. Myron Schemerhorn and Pvt. John Moser lay dead on the field. William Fader received a mortal wound. As Cpl. Cohler poured powder into his musket, a bullet first pierced his forearm before entering his upper arm. Shot in the groin, Cpl. Conrad Smith died that evening, allowing time to give his personal possessions to a comrade for transportation home to his mother. Elsewhere, Capt. Charles S. Montgomery, the 5th New York commander, was shot in the head. Carried to the rear, he never regained consciousness and died within minutes.

Around 2:00 p.m., Warren accompanied Crawford’s and Ayres’s divisions as they turned up Dabney’s Mill Road, fulfilling the other component of Meade’s desired reconnaissance. The plan involved collecting Winthrop’s brigade “en route.” However, reports came to Warren that a strong Confederate force had attacked Gregg and Winthrop, and they were under substantial pressure. Thus, Winthrop’s brigade could not rejoin Ayres’s forces. Warren placed Maj. Gen. Griffin in charge of operations along Vaughan Road. To compensate for the loss of Winthrop’s Yankees, Warren reserved Brig. Gen. Pearson’s brigade, “Griffin’s largest and best unit,” to be sent to Ayres if required.¹³

Sickel to the Rescue

At 3:00 p.m., an aide came rushing to Griffin, saying that on the army’s left, Winthrop’s brigade was giving way before two Rebel brigades and needed help. Within minutes, Brig. Gen. Horatio G. Sickel’s brigade began moving to reinforce the threatened position. Marching double-quick about half a mile down Vaughan Road through woods, they encountered Winthrop’s wounded traveling to the field hospitals. Soldiers remembered seeing “some hastily bandaged, some with undressed gaping wounds; some besmeared with

¹² Bennett, *Sons of Old Monroe*, 580; OR 46/1:279-80. For a month afterward, Warren’s Asst. Adj. Gen. queried Winthrop’s claim that he had exhausted his ammunition, the implication being that this was an excuse to vacate the battlefield. With support from Maj. Gen. Griffin, Winthrop eventually managed to convince the official that for a considerable length of time before being relieved, many of his men had not a single round left. Winthrop died at Five Forks, April 1, about a week before Lee surrendered; he was 25.

¹³ Bennett, *Sons of Old Monroe*, 580-81; OR 46/1:254-55. Official 140th NY losses recorded for the entire battle were 4 killed and 20 wounded (OR 46/1:66).

blood, others pallid as though in the grasp of death. It was a terrible ordeal for our men. Even the bravest pushed forward with blanched cheek.”¹⁴

Sickel reported finding Winthrop’s brigade upon some open ground to the right of Vaughan Road. An assault by a superior number of Rebels vigorously pressed Winthrop’s line. Captain Alber H. Barber, 185th New York, remembered arriving behind Winthrop’s Yankees in a field. The New Yorkers formed a battle line facing west and advanced about 200 yards to where Winthrop’s men were shooting behind a rail fence. As Sickel’s men reached the fighting, Winthrop’s troops retired, having exhausted their ammunition. Once relieved, Winthrop’s Yankees rested and refilled their cartridge boxes. Much later, at around 5:00 p.m., they deployed as pickets covering Dabney’s Mill Road.



Brig. Gen. Frederick Winthrop
wikipedia.org



Brig. Gen. Horatio G. Sickel
blogspot.com

Meanwhile, a bluecoat in Sickel’s brigade recalled:

We had scarcely moved from flank in line however before a terrific fire was opened upon us by the enemy. Our brigade commander [Sickel] was one of the first wounded and as he was carried off the field sent his staff to report to Col Jenney who was thus left in command of the brigade.

Another Yankee with Sickel remembered how they immediately engaged with the Rebels as Winthrop’s men fell back through their lines. Sickel led his men with sword held high, and

¹⁴ Clayton, *History of Onondaga County*, 129; Jeffrey L. Wood, *Under Chamberlain’s Flag: The Stories of the 198th Pennsylvania and the 185th New York Volunteers* (Bloomington, IN, 2008), 173; *OR* 46/1:265-66. The aide was probably Maj. Tremain, whom we met earlier talking to his wounded cousin.

the brigade rushed into the longer Confederate line. An 185th New Yorker stated that Sickel was wounded in the first volley, with Col. Jenney taking over command. They charged the Rebels, located behind the brow of a hill, with several farm buildings positioned on their line.¹⁵

Several Federal letters described the wounding of Sickel. Captain Barber, 185th New York, remembered their commander rising in his saddle “when a ball passed between his setting place and the saddle wounding him slightly.” Another noted how he received a painful flesh wound as a musket ball struck his left thigh. One soldier remembered that “the shot took away the entire seat of his trousers.” Curiously, Sickel’s official report failed to mention his wounding or that brigade command passed to Col. Jenney.¹⁶

Sickel’s report claimed that he ordered a charge upon the Confederate line, whose numbers were equal to, if not superior to, his own. His men executed the charge in a gallant style with great steadiness. At the first volley from Sickel’s men, the Confederates broke and left the field in disorder, leaving behind their killed and wounded, while others surrendered. Some of Sickel’s soldiers provided a more detailed version of events, recalling:

Col Jenney appreciated the danger of attempting to hold his open position against an enemy substantially covered, and instantly ordered the brigade forward. No command to charge was given. It would have probably been disastrous to do so, as the enemy were on both of our flanks and it was necessary to keep the troops well in hand. Forward went the brigade through the smoke and against the bullets. It was the work of a few minutes only. There was no wavering – constantly steadily forward. The firing slackened, ceased, the enemy was gone. We were the masters of the field.

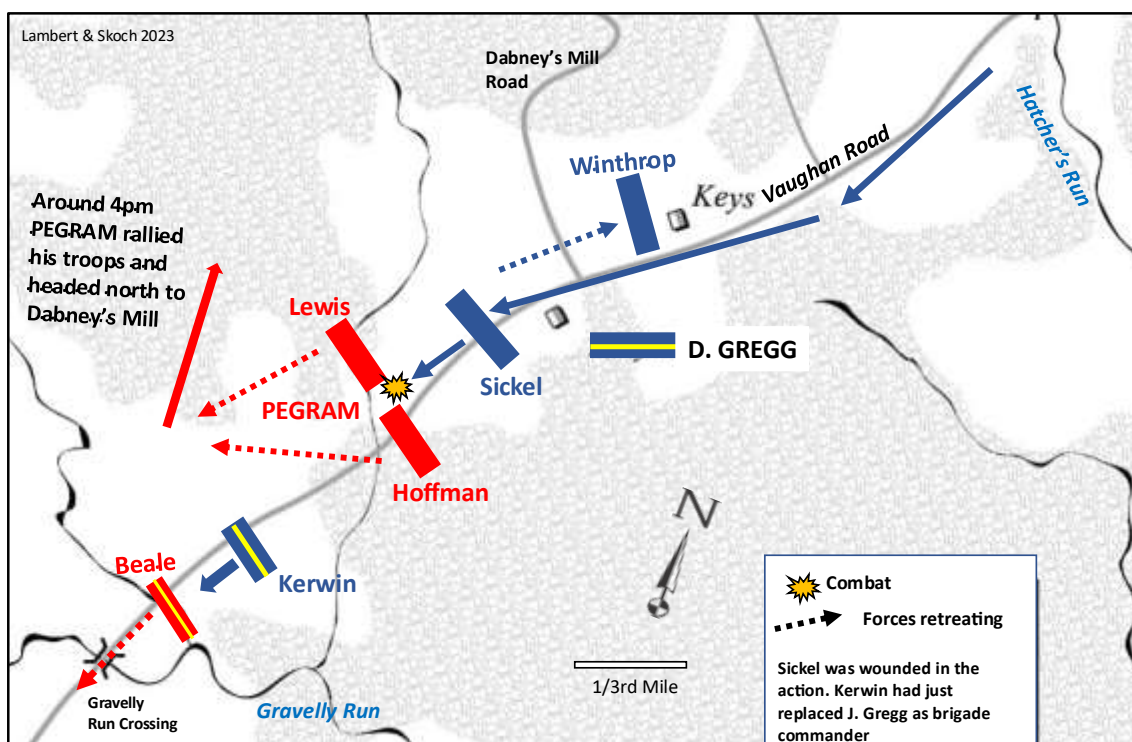
Another soldier described how “[Jenney] waived his sword and shouted ‘Forward,’ and forward we went with a yell that sent dismay into the hearts of the flying Johnnies.” The Yankees crashed into the Confederate line, splitting it in half. With their line broken, the Rebels withdrew in confusion, leaving their dead and wounded behind. Captain Barber noted, “I guess they thought the whole Yankee army was after them for they did not stand five minutes but broke and ran for the woods with me after them.” Corporal McManus added, “how far we should have followed the flying enemy there is no telling, had not Col. Jenney

¹⁵ OR 46/1:265-66, 280; Wood, *Under Chamberlain’s Flag*, 173-74; Clayton, *History of Onondaga County*, 129. Clayton confused Winthrop’s brigade with Ayres’s division.

¹⁶ OR 46/1:265-66; Wood, *Under Chamberlain’s Flag*, 174-75. As discussed in the Prelude, Jenney had tendered his resignation on February 4, as officials in Washington wouldn’t confirm his status as an “escaped” rather than “paroled” prisoner.

and Col. [Gustavus A.] Sniper thrown themselves in front of the brigade and by almost superhuman exertions halted us.”

After aggressively engaging and driving the Rebels back, Sickel’s brigade began running low on ammunition. The Federals reorganized and advanced another 200 yards. They formed in some woods before sending out pickets. Captain Barber led a company of pickets and scuffled with some Rebels, killing two or three and capturing another. The divisional ordnance officer, Maj. Joseph Ashbrook, issued Sickel’s Federals with more ammunition when Maj. Gen. Griffin arrived to thank them for their gallantry personally. It was now around 5:30 p.m.¹⁷



Map 9.2: Fighting Along Vaughan Road, February 6, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

One Federal summarized the action thus: “many brave fellows fell but the loss was slight compared to that which must have occurred if the enemy had not at once been driven from the field.” In a letter home, Capt. Barber stated that his regiment, 185th New York, only lost about 20 killed and wounded, “Capt. Listman had his leg shot off, and two of my men had

¹⁷ OR 46/1:265-66; Wood, *Under Chamberlain’s Flag*, 174-75; Clayton, *History of Onondaga County*, 129. Major Ashbrook had a distinguished war record being wounded several times. He had only returned to duty in Jan 1865. After arriving shortly after 3.00 p.m., Sickel’s men quickly (within 30 minutes) dispatched Pegram’s force. Whether Pegram was conscious of Gordon’s earlier order to return to Dabney’s Mill and conveniently withdrew, is unknown.

their guns shot to pieces in their hands.” He attributed their slight loss to the Rebels aiming too high and not remaining long.¹⁸

The Rebel Perspective of Actions After 2:30 p.m.

Confederate accounts of these events are confused with locations and battle phases entangled. Historian Sherrill described how Pegram’s infantry comfortably pushed back Gregg’s cavalry charges and how Winthrop’s infantry then checked Pegram’s Rebels. Captain Buck recalled receiving orders from Pegram to “conform to his movements” as he planned to charge the enemy (presumably Winthrop’s line). Moments later, a Union bullet struck the messenger. As Buck prepared his men to advance, the brigade to his right, Lewis’s Tar Heels, rose, fired a volley, and fell back, much to Buck’s dismay. He held his ground for a while, but finding himself isolated with Federal cavalry in his front and threatened from the rear, Buck withdrew, crossing a swamp and passing through heavy briers. Sherrill also explained how, in trying to counterattack Winthrop, Lewis’s brigade fired one volley and fled in great disorder. The isolated 13th Virginia held its ground until dangerously threatened on both flanks. The Virginians followed Lewis’s men back into the woods along with Hoffman’s other regiments. The Confederate brigades regrouped, countercharged, and regained the lost ground, presumably from Winthrop’s Unionists.

Heavy fighting continued for some time. Confederate veterans with Lewis believed that the musketry fire they endured represented the heaviest they’d experienced in the war. Neither Buck nor Sherrill mentioned the arrival of Sickel’s brigade and how these Yankees summarily routed Pegram’s Rebels. The next action these authors described involved Pegram marching his two brigades north to Dabney’s Mill in compliance with Gordon’s earlier order. It would appear that once chased off the field by Sickel’s Federals around 3.30 p.m., Pegram regrouped his men and headed over a mile across country to reunite with his other brigade commanded by Col. Lea. This movement is the subject of Chapter 11.¹⁹

Federal Mission Accomplished

By 4:30 p.m., the Federals had vanquished the Rebels along Vaughan Road. With Pegram’s Rebels heading north, elements of J. Gregg’s brigade followed the retreating Rebel cavalry, predominantly Beale’s Brigade, until they crossed back over Gravelly Run.

¹⁸ Wood, *Under Chamberlain’s Flag*, 175; Clayton, *History of Onondaga County*, 129. Official 185th NY casualties were: 2 killed, 10 wounded, and 4 missing/captured (OR 46/1:65).

¹⁹ Sherrill, *The 21st North Carolina*, 414-15; Buck, *With the Old Confeds*, 131-32.

Lieutenant Cormany, 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, remembered, “Emptying a great many saddles and firing furiously into the fleeing enemy,” Confederate artillery fire from two cannons on the opposite bank halted the pursuing Federals. Captain. William M. McGregor commanded these guns, which belonged to the 2nd Stuart (Virginia) Horse Artillery associated with Rooney Lee’s cavalry division. With night approaching, the Federals withdrew to the Keys house, content at clearing the road to the Gravelly Run crossing, as instructed three hours earlier, leaving the Rebels to collect their wounded.²⁰

Analysis

Mixtures of infantry and cavalry forces fought this bitter engagement. In the three-hour duel, the Federals suffered around 220 casualties, twice the number suffered during the Rebel attacks the previous day. Comparable data for the Confederates isn’t available. The brigades of J. Gregg and Winthrop bore the brunt of the Union casualties, suffering 60% of the Union total. Warren had assumed that D. Gregg’s cavalry would easily sweep aside the few Rebel cavalymen occupying Vaughan Road. The appearance of Pegram’s infantry made D. Gregg’s task far more challenging. Still, with the aid of two Union infantry brigades, they cleared Vaughan Road of Rebels up to the Gravelly Run crossing. What Pegram had hoped to achieve along Vaughan Road is unclear.

Table 9.1: Union Casualties Along Vaughan Road, February 6.

Division	Brigade	K	W	M	Total
Gregg	Davies	3	26	0	29
Gregg	J. Gregg	11	53	6	70
Gregg	Knowles	0	11	7	18
Ayres	Winthrop	9	58	0	67
Griffin	Sickel	5	27	5	37
Total		28	175	18	221

Losses are for the entire three-day battle. However, these brigades mostly fought in this engagement, suffering minimal, if any, losses on Feb 5 and 7. Data comes from *OR* 46/1:63-69.

In the next chapter, I reset the clock to 1:30 p.m. and reveal the fate of Crawford’s advance up Dabney’s Mill Road.

²⁰ *OR* 46/1:367-68, 371; Bearss & Suderow, *The Petersburg Campaign*, 2:211-12; Mohr, *The Cormany Diaries*, 518. Maj. Roger P. Chew commanded Rooney Lee’s Horse Artillery. How much of this force (beyond McGregor’s cannons) was present at the battle is unknown.