



June 2023

## License Plate Travels to Battle of Fair Garden



*This battlefield supporter traveled to the site of the Battle of Fair Garden in Sevier County, Sevierville, Tennessee.*

Since the Battle of Dandridge in East Tennessee in mid-January, 1864, Union cavalry had moved to the south side of the French Broad River to claim rich foraging lands there, disrupting Confederate foraging efforts and capturing numerous wagons.

On January 25, 1864, Confederate Gen. James Longstreet ordered Gen. William T. Martin to eject Union cavalry from an area south of the French Broad River stretching from Dandridge to the Little Pigeon River. The next day, Union Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis directed his cavalymen to watch area fords. Two Confederate cavalry brigades and artillery advanced from Fair Garden in the afternoon, only to be stopped about four miles from Sevierville. Other Confederate forces attacked Union troopers at Fowler's on Flat Creek, driving them back about two miles before fighting ended the day.

The morning of January 27, 1864, Col. Archibald Campbell (First Cavalry Division) attacked Martin's Crossroads. Following a charge that scattered the Confederates, Campbell bivouacked for the night. Sturgis pursued the Confederates on January 28, 1864, to the French Broad River near Dandridge before three of Longstreet's infantry brigades offered serious resistance. Sturgis retreated after launching an unsuccessful attack against Confederate Gen. Frank C. Armstrong's isolated cavalry division. Withdrawing, Sturgis lost the foraging grounds. The Federal casualties were 65, and the Confederates lost about 100 men.



*The Battle of Fair Garden site is located on Old Newport Highway in Sevierville, Tennessee. Rose Glen Plantation, home of Dr. Robert Hatton Hodsen, can be seen in the photo above. Dr. Hodsen served as the attending physician for the Cherokee Removal (Trail of Tears). The Battle of Fair Garden took place right next to his home while he lay very ill and bedridden. He died five months later in June 1864.*

The Battle of Fair Garden engagement is included in TCWPA's Statewide Preservation Plan as one of the 38 sites evaluated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission  
<http://npshistory.com/publications/battlefield/cwsac/updates/tn.pdf>.

TCWPA's Preservation Plan and interactive map featuring 122 battlefield sites are now available at <https://www.tcwpa.org/preservation-plan/>.

*Special thanks to Gregory Fernatt for visiting the Battle of Fair Garden site and providing the license plate photo for this story.*



*The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.*

Become a member: [tcwpa.org/join](http://tcwpa.org/join) Make a donation: [tcwpa.org/donate](http://tcwpa.org/donate) Purchase a license plate

---

---

---

*Copyright © 2023 Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, All rights reserved.*