



November 2020

***Skirmish at Henderson Station
License Plate Follows the West Tennessee Raids***



*This Battlefield preservation supporter visited **Henderson Station** near the site of the Civil War era depot on Front Street along the Mobile and Ohio Railroad line in what is now Henderson. On November 25, 1862, Major Nicholas N. Cox, and his battalion of partisan rangers, operating along the east side of the Tennessee River, crossed the river capturing an Illinois Company at Henderson Station. The raid began at dawn; the skirmish resulted in the capture of 3 federal officers and 38 enlisted men. They burned the railroad depot and destroyed a portion of the railroad track. Following the raid, Cox and his men withdrew across the river.*



Drawing of the Civil War era wooden bridge over the railroad tracks at Henderson Station. Cox's battalion set the bridge afire but the ladies in town put the fire out. They were likely Union sympathizers and claimed to need the bridge. General Grant's headquarters recognized their "patriotic conduct" and asked that their names be recorded so that their property could be protected and they could be issued rations. Today a modern bridge crosses the railroad at the site of Cox's raid.

After Cox's raid, Gen. N.B. Forrest conducted a major raid on the rail line in December 1862. Cox joined in this raid; his troops' familiarity with the area helped in achieving their success. They destroyed the rail supply line and combined with Gen. Earl Van Dorn's raid on Holly Springs, MS, General Grant withdrew from his advance into Mississippi.

The West Tennessee raids in late 1862 revealed the vulnerability of the Union railroad supply line to Grant's army operating in Mississippi. With this delay Grant changed plans, moving to the Mississippi River to advance on Vicksburg. Grant captured Vicksburg in July 1863.

FEATURE BATTLEFIELDS IN EVERY COUNTY

If you have a "Save our Battlefields" license plate, please consider stopping by and taking a photo of your plate at a battlefield or other battle-related Civil War site in your area... we're especially interested in sites that don't always get the historians' spotlight! If you're looking for a site in your area, we can help find one nearby – just email us - or if you've already got that special photo please send to info@tcwpa.org.



You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk's office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee.

For more information, visit: tcwpa.org/license-plate

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

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