



FAMILY TIES

Official Newsletter of the Marks - Barnett Family Association
Founded 1985

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 1

May, 2009

**MARKS FAMILY REUNION
JUNE 7, 2009**

The Battle of
Marks' Mills

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FOUGHT HERE ON APRIL 25, 1864
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GENERAL JAMES E. RAYSON'S DIVISION OF CONFEDERATE
CAVALRY SURPRISED AND CAPTURED A UNION SUPPLY
TRAIN OF 300 MEN AND 240 WAGONS LOADED WITH SUPPLIES
GENERAL HOMER CLAYTON UNABLE TO COME AND NARROWLY
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Cleveland County Historical & Genealogical Society

Family Ties

is published quarterly Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. by the Marks-Barnett Family Association a non-profit organization devoted to research and compilation of family records and traditions.

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Marks Reunion, June 7

The 132nd consecutive reunion of the Marks-Barnett-Attwood-McGehee families will be held at the Marks Cemetery on Sunday, June 7, 2009. The Marks Cemetery is located between Kingsland and New Edinburg in Cleveland County. The weather promises to be fine, the bar-b-que and picnic lunch will be delicious, and there will be cousins galore.

We are expecting Carma and Bill Marks from Montgomery, Alabama, to be here. As far as I know, this is the first time any of the Marks' who stayed in Alabama in the 1830's have been here. Bill is descended from Nicholas Meriwether Marks who was a son of Elizabeth and James Marks, our Revolutionary ancestor. Nicholas was an uncle to Hastings and John Harvie Marks II. Also, Buster Bradley and Zsa Zsa Bradley Laws will be here. Both of them have lost their spouses in the past year.

This is the year to elect new officers for our Family Association. The slate is: President - Rufus Buie; Secretary, Celeste Hall; Treasurer, George Walker; 1st V.P., John Oliphant; 2nd V.P., Barbara Finley and Historian, Rufus Buie. The office of 3rd V.P. is open and we welcome nominations.

See you there!

Sue Colvin
Rufus Buie

I'm sure that you will join me in thanking Ken Turner of Madison, MS, for 22 years of computerizing and composing Family Ties. Ken retired from Entergy a year ago and now is retiring from this job. Best wishes and good golfing, and thanks again, Ken

Pat Brown, Editor

Picture on front Cover

1860s cannon built by Edgar Colvin.

The honor roll monument (bottom left on cover) lists some of the men who lost their lives in the Battle of Marks' Mills.

The memorial marker (bottom right on cover, General Powell Clayton was not at the Battle of Marks' Mills.

THE BATTLE OF MARKS' MILLS **The Federals Meet Disaster at Marks' Mills**

From *Steele's Retreat from Camden*

By Edwin C. Bearss

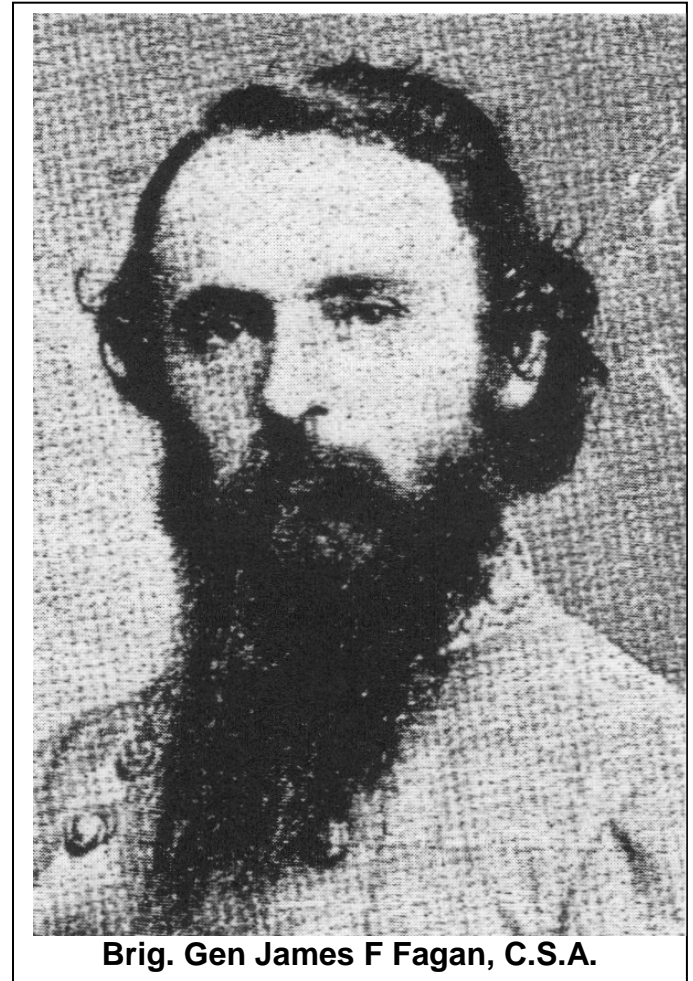
(continued)

Approaching Marks' Mills, Fagan's scouts clashed with Union pickets covering the junction of the Warren and Mount Elba roads. Fagan called for Shelby to take his division, turn to the right, and move cross-country. After detouring a considerable distance to the east, Shelby was to cut across to the Mount Elba-Camden road, and advance westward along that road. By this maneuver, Fagan proposed to cut the Federals off from the Mount Elba crossing. In addition, he would catch the Yankees between the jaws of his converging columns. Since time was of the essence, Shelby was urged to hurry.

A local man serving in Dockery's brigade, William D. Marks, was given the task of showing Shelby the way. Since Marks' father owned the mills, he knew every road in this section of Bradley County.

To keep the Federals pinned down while Shelby was getting into position, Fagan would rely on Cabell's two combat-ready brigades. As soon as Shelby's butternuts were out of the way, Cabell advanced his brigade up the road toward Marks' Mills. Fagan shouted for Cabell to form his line of battle parallel to the Mount Elba road.

Cabell planned to deploy his brigade to the right and Dockery's to the left. Since Dockery's horsesoldiers were not yet in sight, Cabell called for Colonel John F. Hill of the 7th Arkansas, and told him to take his regiment and one company of the 1st Arkansas and reconnoiter the ground west of the road. Hill was to guard the brigade's left flank pending Dockery's arrival.



Brig. Gen James F Fagan, C.S.A.

A mounted Union patrol had already opened fire on Cabell's vanguard. Moments later, General Cabell topped a ridge and caught his first glimpse of a large wagon train "moving rapidly toward Mount Elba."

Cabell reacted with his characteristic alacrity. Colonel James C. Monroe was to dismount and form his regiment, the 1st Arkansas Cavalry, into line of battle. Swinging off their mounts, the Arkansans formed on the right of the Warren road

while Cabell bellowed for Monroe to throw out two companies as skirmishers. Leaving a fifth of his men behind to hold the mounts, Monroe led his troopers forward on the double. Before the regiment had covered a hundred yards, the dismounted troopers were hotly engaged with bluecoated skirmishers. Pressing ahead, Monroe's grim Arkansans forced the Yankees to fall back on Marks' Mills.

Screened by Monroe's advance, Cabell brought up the remainder of his brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gunter's command (the colonel's own battalion and Colonel Allen T. Pettus' battalion of Arkansas State Troops) was ordered into position on Monroe's right. Colonel Thomas J. Morgan's 2nd Arkansas Cavalry was deployed west of the road. Morgan's troops were told to dress their line on Monroe's left. The cannoneers of Hughey's Arkansas Battery unlimbered their four guns so they could sweep the Mount Elba road with shot and shell. Colonel A. Gordon's 4th Arkansas was posted in support of the guns. As they moved into position, the unit commanders dismounted their men, covering their fronts with a strong force of skirmishers.

While he was busy forming his brigade, Cabell sent a member of his staff to hurry up Dockery's column. Fagan, however, halted the aide and told him to tell Cabell that he would tend to Dockery. Cabell in the meantime would be in charge of operations at the front.

'While en route to Marks' Mills, Dockery had spotted a large quantity of forage stored on a nearby farm. It has been hours since his command's jaded mounts had had anything to eat, so Dockery halted his brigade and ordered his men to forage their animals. Re-calling the incident, one of Dockery's brother officers observed, F "Neither orders nor cannon-shots seemed to disturb that equanimity which he always carried with him into bat-

tle. Jolly, energetic, yet F absolutely devoid of nervous sensibility, he appeared to have perfect immunity from both fear and anxiety.'

By this time, Cabell had completed his deployment, and his skirmishers had driven in the Union outposts. Cabell did not deem it "prudent" to close with the bluecoats' main line of resistance till he heard from Dockery. An aide was sent to inform Fagan that the brigade was astride the Warren road and facing the Mount Elba road along which wagons were moving. Replying, Fagan directed Cabell to "move rapidly forward and attack the train." Cabell communicated this order to his subordinates.

Covered by a strong line of skirmishers, Cabell's brigade swept toward the train. On the right, Major Gunter's greyclads easily brushed Union cavalymen of Major Spellman's command aside and reached the road. A number of wagons were captured by the butternuts.

The skirmishers from Colonel Morgan's 2nd Arkansas also found it very easy going. Breaking into a clearing, they sighted a number of wagons. Colonel Morgan bellowed, "Charge!" Led by their rugged colonel, the Arkansans reached the portion of the train on the road to their front. During the fight which ensued, the teamsters and a number of Union cavalymen took to their heels. Morgan had his men kill mules used to pull the wagons, because he wanted to make certain the train would be stalled long enough to allow Shelby and Dockery to bring up their troopers.

Unlike Gunter and Morgan, Monroe found the going difficult as he sought to reach the train. Monroe's skirmishers were soon in close contact with rugged infantrymen of the 43rd Indiana. At first, Monroe's Arkansans only engaged Major Norris' skirmishers, but when Colonel Drake gave the word, Norris threw forward the

remainder of his regiment. Letting go a mighty shout, the Indianians launched a counterstroke. In the savage fighting which ensued, the Federals gained the upper hand. Disputing "every foot of ground," the 1st Arkansas grudgingly recoiled.

Colonel Drake was delighted to see the way Norris' Indianians were pushing back the Confederates, consequently, he ordered Major Hamilton to take the left battalion and support Norris' counter-attack. As Hamilton started forward followed by his cheering Iowans, the greyclads who had reached the Mount Elba road to the right and left of the Union position at Marks' Mills changed front and converged on the 43rd Indiana. Drake altered his tactics. The Indianians were pulled back and took position at the junction. As he did, Major Norris formed his soldiers to the left and right of several log houses (Marks' Mills).

Lieutenant Charles Peetz had the cannoneers of the 3rd section, Battery E. 2nd Missouri Light Artillery unlimber their two guns in front of the buildings. Drake told Peetz to hold his fire until the Rebels had closed on his guns and then rake them with canister. The left battalion of the 36th Iowa was posted in support of Peetz's cannons. Major Hamilton had his men lie down. Pending the arrival of the 77th Ohio, the right battalion of the Iowa regiment would constitute Colonel Drake's reserve. Drake's main line of resistance was in an open wood along the Red Lands.

General Cabell had accompanied Gunter's command during the advance, but his elation at having gained the Mount Elba road and capturing a number of wagons was short-lived. While he was helping Major Gunter regroup his command, the general heard heavy firing to his left and rear. This could mean only one thing -- Colonel Monroe's regiment was not having an easy time of it. The woods kept Cabell from seeing what was happening on

Monroe's front, so he ordered Gunter to face his men about and hasten to his comrades' assistance. When they came into position, Gunter's Arkansans found that they were on the left of Monroe's 1st Arkansas.

Meanwhile, Colonel Morgan discovered that Monroe was in trouble. While his men were blocking the Mount Elba road by shooting mules and breaking down wagons, Morgan heard heavy volleys to his right and rear. After listening a few moments, he realized that the sounds were receding. (During the advance on the train, Morgan's troopers had lost contact with Colonel Monroe's regiment on their right.) If battle sounds were any indication of what was happening, Morgan knew that Monroe was in trouble.

Morgan shouted for his regiment to about face. Guided through the woods by the crashing volleys, Morgan's Arkansans, after going about 300 yards, sighted the Union battle line. The bluecoats were posted along the Red Lands, a section of artillery in position.

As soon as Gunter's and Morgan's units had been redeployed, Cabell ordered his brigade to press forward. With the help of Gunter and Morgan, Monroe's Arkansans compelled Norris' Indianians to fall back on the battery. Peetz's gunners waited until the Rebels had driven to within 75 yards of their pieces before they pulled the lanyards, and the guns roared and the area in front of the two pieces was swept by a deadly hail of canister. Major Hamilton of the 36th Iowa called for his left battalion, which was lying behind the battery, "to rise up and fire." This caused the Johnnies to recoil. Taking cover behind trees and in the dense underbrush, the greyclads returned the Yanks' volleys.

A savage contest "raged with unabated fury" for the better part of the next hour and one-half. To knock out the guns of

Battery E, Cabell sent for artillery. Captain V. M. Hughey's cannoneers manhandled their four pieces forward, emplaced them within 400 yards of the Federal position, and raked the Union artillerists with round after round of canister. A number of Battery E's horses were killed and several of the cannoneers cut down. Lieutenant Peetz, however, kept his men at their guns.

Cabell's Arkansans and the soldiers of the 43rd Indiana and the left battalion 36th Iowa expended thousands of rounds as they blazed away. After about one hour of this desperate fighting, a number of Colonel Monroe's officers approached him. They reported their men were running short of ammunition. Monroe passed the word for his men to hold down their fire, while he sent to the rear for his ordnance wagon. As soon as the men had been issued a fresh supply of cartridges, they were again able to fire at will.

To Monroe's left, Gunter's command-its right flank anchored on the Warren road-inched its way ahead. Gunter directed his men toward a log cabin on the Red Lands in which a number of blueclad sharpshooters had taken cover. Fighting Indian-fashion, Gunter's Arkansans dashed from tree to tree.

Morgan's 2nd Arkansas, which was deployed on Gunter's left, found itself raked by Peetz's guns. The regiment suffered a number of casualties as it closed in on the Union position.

Dockery's brigade now put in a belated appearance. When Dockery came riding up, General Fagan instructed him to dismount and deploy his troopers on Cabell's left. Now that he was on the field, Dockery moved promptly. The arrival of Dockery enabled Fagan to redeploy Colonel Hill's 7th Arkansas, which up to this hour had been guarding Cabell's left. Supported by the 7th Arkansas, Dockery led his cheering Arkansans into action.

Colonel Drake's outnumbered bluecoats had held firm in face of Cabell's attack. About the time that Dockery advanced to Cabell's assistance, several of Drake's scouts galloped up, and informed their colonel that a strong Confederate column (Shelby's division) was approaching from the east along the Mount Elba road. Since Cabell's attack had been delivered up the Warren road, Drake's main line of resistance faced south. Unless Drake could do something, and do it fast, the Rebel force sweeping forward via the Mount Elba road would strike his left and rear. Drake called up his reserve, the 36th Iowa's right battalion. The Iowans were to hold themselves ready to charge the newcomers' right.

At the same time, Colonel Drake sent an orderly to tell Major McCauley that he was to charge the oncoming Rebel horsemen with his 60 troopers who had remained in the saddle. The messenger soon returned and reported that he was unable to contact McCauley. Since Drake considered it "absolutely necessary" to get in touch with the cavalryman, he decided to go himself. Accompanied by Captain William E. Whitridge of the 43rd Indiana, Drake galloped off. While en route to McCauley's command post, the colonel was severely wounded when a minié ball struck him in the left hip. Gritting his teeth, the rugged colonel rode on.

When he reached McCauley, he told the major to have his command "charge with drawn sabres and a yell and make a letter S through that Rebel line and break it to pieces." If at all possible, the cavalry leader was to try and reopen communications with the 77th Ohio. (The Ohioans at this time were pushing forward in an effort to join their comrades at Marks' Mills.) Drake promised to support the cavalry's attack with three companies of the 36th Iowa commanded by Captain Joseph B. Gedney.

McCauley, shaking his head, answered, "We will obey orders, but there will be none of us left to report."

"You will go through them so rapidly that, in our opinion you will suffer but slight loss," Drake retorted.

Observing the blood dripping from the colonel's boot, McCauley inquired, "Are you severely wounded?"

"Yes," snapped Drake, "but we will support your charge with infantry."

Swinging his horse around, Drake prepared to return to his command post and alert Captain Gedney to have his Iowans follow up McCauley's charge. Before he saw Gedney, the colonel collapsed, but before passing out, he spotted Captain William S. Magill. Drake told the captain to turn the command over to the next ranking officer, Major Spellman. For some unexplained reason, Magill did not do this, and throughout the remainder of the engagement, the Federals operated without an overall superior. As a result of this breakdown in command, each unit commander fought his own organization as he thought best.

General Shelby's division reached the Mount Elba road about five miles east of Marks' Mills. The general was elated when his scouts, after examining the road, reported no Federal train had yet passed going toward the Saline. Before starting for Marks' Mills, Shelby detached Major Benjamin Elliott with his 1st Missouri Cavalry Battalion. Elliott's mission was to seize and hold the Mount Elba crossing. Besides preventing any wagons from escaping across the Saline, Elliott was to keep a sharp lookout for troops which the Pine Bluff commander, Colonel Clayton, might rush out to help the train.

As he approached the Mount Elba crossing, Elliott sighted a number of

mounted Federals, on the west side of the Saline. Elliott at the head of his crack battalion charged the Yanks. Taken by surprise, the Federals scattered. Since the Mount Elba raft-bridge was narrow and the Confederates were hard on their heels, not all of the Northerners were able to get away. These men grounded their arms and surrendered. Elliott's Missourians were unable to cross the river, because the 18th Illinois was posted behind breastworks on the east bank of the Saline. Throughout the remainder of the day, Elliott's Missourians and the footsoldiers sniped at each other from opposite sides of the river.

After detaching Elliott's battalion, Shelby led his division westward at a trot. Shelby had not traveled more than a mile before he began to encounter stragglers and wagons making their way rapidly toward the Mount Elba crossing. The sound of heavy firing, both artillery and small-arms, could be heard in the direction of Marks' Mills. Shelby "determined to charge them first, last, and all the time."

A brief halt was made while the general formed his division into column by fours. Colonel Wright was told to mass his brigade on the right of the Camden-Mount Elba road. Two of Colonel Shanks' Missouri regiments (the 5th and 12th) would follow Wright's brigade. The rest of the Iron Brigade would constitute a reserve and report directly to Shelby.

Having completed his dispositions, Shelby resumed the advance. Thundering ahead, the Rebel horsemen charged the stragglers and teamsters. When they saw Shelby's column bearing down on them, many of the "Summer Soldiers" panicked. Some of the teamsters tried to turn their wagons around, others, in hopes of using the animals to speed their flight, sought to cut their mules from the traces. The stragglers, who had already deserted their comrades, either threw down their arms or fled into the surrounding woods.

Riding upon this scene of hopeless confusion, Shelby paused briefly to detail a small force to secure the wagons and mop up stragglers. Shelby then pushed on. All this time the roar of battle continued to roll in from the west. As he approached Marks' Mills, Shelby sent for Captain Richard A. Collins. The artilleryist was directed to throw a section of his guns into battery and fire two blank cartridges. This was to let Fagan know that Shelby's division had reached the field and was about to charge. While the cannoneers were unlimbering their pieces, Shelby deployed his division into line of battle. Spearheaded by a detachment from the 11th Missouri, Shelby had called up from the reserve, the division swept down on the Federals' left flank and rear.

General Cabell, hearing the roar of Collins' signal shots, correctly interpreted their significance: Shelby had reached the field and was on the bluecoats' flank and rear. Cabell called, "Charge!"

Cabell's three commands (Gunter's, Monroe's, and Morgan's) which had heretofore borne the brunt of the battle also heard Shelby's signal guns. Leaping to their feet, the dismounted troopers swept forward. Monroe's and Morgan's Arkansans converged on Peetz's two James rifles, which had cut down so many of their friends. Deserting their guns, the cannoneers, along with a number of infantry, took cover in and under large log house. The house was surrounded by the Rebels. After Monroe's and Morgan's men had fired several volleys into the building, scraps of white cloth attached to ramrods appeared at the doors and windows. As soon as the Southerners ceased shooting, between 40 and 50 bluecoats emerged from the house and threw down their arms. Colonel Drake, who was still unconscious, was carried from the building on an improvised stretcher.

As soon as the bluecoats had fallen in, a guard was placed over them and they were started for the rear.

When Colonel Drake came to, he found himself in the presence of General Fagan. The Rebel leader announced, "I am General Fagan, commanding the Confederate forces, about eight thousand. I understand that you are Colonel Drake, the commanding officer of the Federal forces." After complimenting Drake on the stubborn resistance offered by his brigade. Fagan inquired, "Can you not arrange for their surrender?" Drake replied, "I am no longer in command."

A sudden and unexpected counterattack was now launched on Monroe's and Morgan's butternuts by a 100-man Union detachment. This sortie caught the Confederates at the worst possible moment, because the two regiments were "very much disorganized or scattered." Taken by surprise, the Arkansans retreated a few steps, before their colonels rallied them. Opening a galling fire on the Yanks, the Southerners compelled them to surrender. Monroe and Morgan before pressing on re-formed their commands.

Major Gunter's command in the meantime had closed in on a cabin in which a number of sharpshooters had taken cover. After they had encircled the stronghold, the Confederates called for the Federals to give up. The door opened, a white flag appeared, and 17 Yanks emerged from the building. As soon as the soldiers were disarmed, Major Gunter turned them over to one of his lieutenants.

Following the collapse of the pocket of resistance, centering on Marks' Mills, Cabell's troopers found themselves in possession of over 200 prisoners, two James rifles, and a large number of wagons. Victory was not yet complete, however. Only one infantry regiment, the 43rd Indiana, and the left battalion of the 36th Iowa had been accounted for by

Cabell's greyclads At this very moment, however, disaster overtook the Iowa regiment's right battalion. Shelby's division swept down on the Iowans and McCauley's cavalry detachment as they sought to reopen communications with the 77th Ohio. The greatly outnumbered Federals gave way before the charging Confederate horsemen.

The only organized Union command left on the field was the 77th Ohio. As a result of a confusion in orders, the Ohio regiment did not attempt to effect a junction with the main column until it was too late. By the time the Ohioans, who had been serving as the rear guard, reached the Marks' Mills area, the two other infantry units had been overwhelmed. Even so, the arrival of the 77th Ohio on the field caused the Confederates some embarrassment.

Sighting the Rebels, Captain McCormick deployed his regiment. Reinforced by a number of soldiers who had survived the disaster which had engulfed the 43rd Indiana and the 36th Iowa, McCormick prepared to attack, drive off the Southerners, and recapture the train. Supported by the fire of the section of Battery E which had accompanied them, the Ohioans moved forward on the double, their bayonets flashing. The Mount Elba road served as the line of advance.

This thrust came at the worst possible moment for Cabell's command. The units (Gunter's, Monroe's, and Morgan's) which had done most of the fighting had not been re-formed, but fortunately for the Confederates, Shelby's division was on the field. While Cabell was regrouping his Arkansans and deploying them into line of battle, Shelby's mounted troopers engaged the Ohio infantrymen.

As soon as he had completed his dispositions, Cabell rushed his brigade to Shelby's support. With two of Shelby's mounted regiments (the 6th and 12th Missouri) on their right and Dockery's

dismounted troopers on the left, Cabell's butternuts advanced against the 77th Ohio.

Major J. H. Harrell's battalion of Arkansas State Troops had been on outpost duty. Just before the engagement reached its climax, General Fagan recalled the battalion and sent it to support Captain Hughey's battery. When Cabell's brigade carried the Union position centering on Marks' Mills, Fagan had Harrell deploy his men as skirmishers and post them on the extreme right. Entering the woods north of the Mount Elba road, Harrell's greyclads discovered many sutlers' wagons hastily parked and abandoned. A short distance beyond the wagons, Harrell sighted a strong Union infantry column (the 77th Ohio) marching eastward toward Marks' Mills. Harrell's battalion drove forward, striking the Union column in the rear, while Cabell's dismounted troopers and Shelby's horsemen assailed the bluecoats from the flank and front.

Realizing that their position was hopeless, the Ohio regiment put up an indifferent fight. Engulfed by a tide of cheering Confederates, most of the Ohioans surrendered. Shelby's Missourians reached the two James rifles first, claiming them as prizes. One of the participants recalled, "Only ten of its [the battery's] heroic defenders escaped—one of them an old French driver, unable to speak a word of English, sat upon the rear gun composed, indifferent, only giving a quiet shrug of the shoulders when the battery changed hands."

As soon as the soldiers of the 77th Ohio had grounded their arms, Cabell halted his dismounted men. After seeing that the prisoners were rounded up, the unit commanders put their troopers to work policing the battlefield. One of Shelby's mounted regiments raced ahead; its mission was to run down and make-prisoners of the large number of Federals who had escaped the debacle and were

fleeing toward Camden. A large number of stragglers were overtaken and brought in by this regiment.

During mopping up operations, a dispute broke out between Cabell's and Dockery's commands. The bone of contention was the two James rifles captured by Monroe's and Morgan's regiments near the "large double house." When these two units moved against the 77th Ohio, several men from Monroe's 1st Arkansas and a detachment belonging to Colonel Gordon's 4th Arkansas were left to guard the guns. Before their parent units could return, General Dockery rode up at the head of his brigade. The general claimed the guns. When the guards protested, Dockery placed them under arrest. Unfortunately, the Official Records fail to tell us how General Fagan solved this misunderstanding between his subordinates.

Late in the afternoon, Shelby's patrols which were patrolling the area west of Marks' Mills sighted a strong infantry column headed their way. It was the crack 1st Iowa Cavalry.

Five hundred and twenty officers and men of the 1st Iowa Cavalry, slated to go home on veteran furlough, left Camden on the morning of April 24. This was one day later than Steele had intended. Before starting for Iowa, the veterans sold their horses to the government. In accordance with a request by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph W. Caldwell, the leader of the Iowans, two companies of the 3rd Missouri Cavalry were ordered to escort the veterans. Night fall on the 24th found the Iowans camped in the pines, 19 miles east of Camden.

Early the next morning the escort returned to Camden, while the veterans resumed their march toward Pine Bluff. Colonel Caldwell, hoping to overtake Drake's command, pushed his men hard. About noon "the booming of artillery was heard" rolling in from the east. Believing that the train had been attacked, Caldwell

quicken the march. A brief stop was made at the bridge across Moro Creek. As one of the participants recalled, "The halt had scarcely been made, when a most demoralized crowd of cotton speculators, sutlers, refugees, teamsters, etc., mounted on mules and horses, dashed past at the 'best gait' the animal possessed for Camden, followed immediately by a volley from the enemy."

Caldwell formed his men into line of battle covering the bridge. The wagons were turned around in an "incredibly short time" and sent to the rear.

When General Shelby learned that a Union force was approaching, he sent for Colonel De Witt C. Hunter. The colonel was told to take his regiment and engage the newcomers.

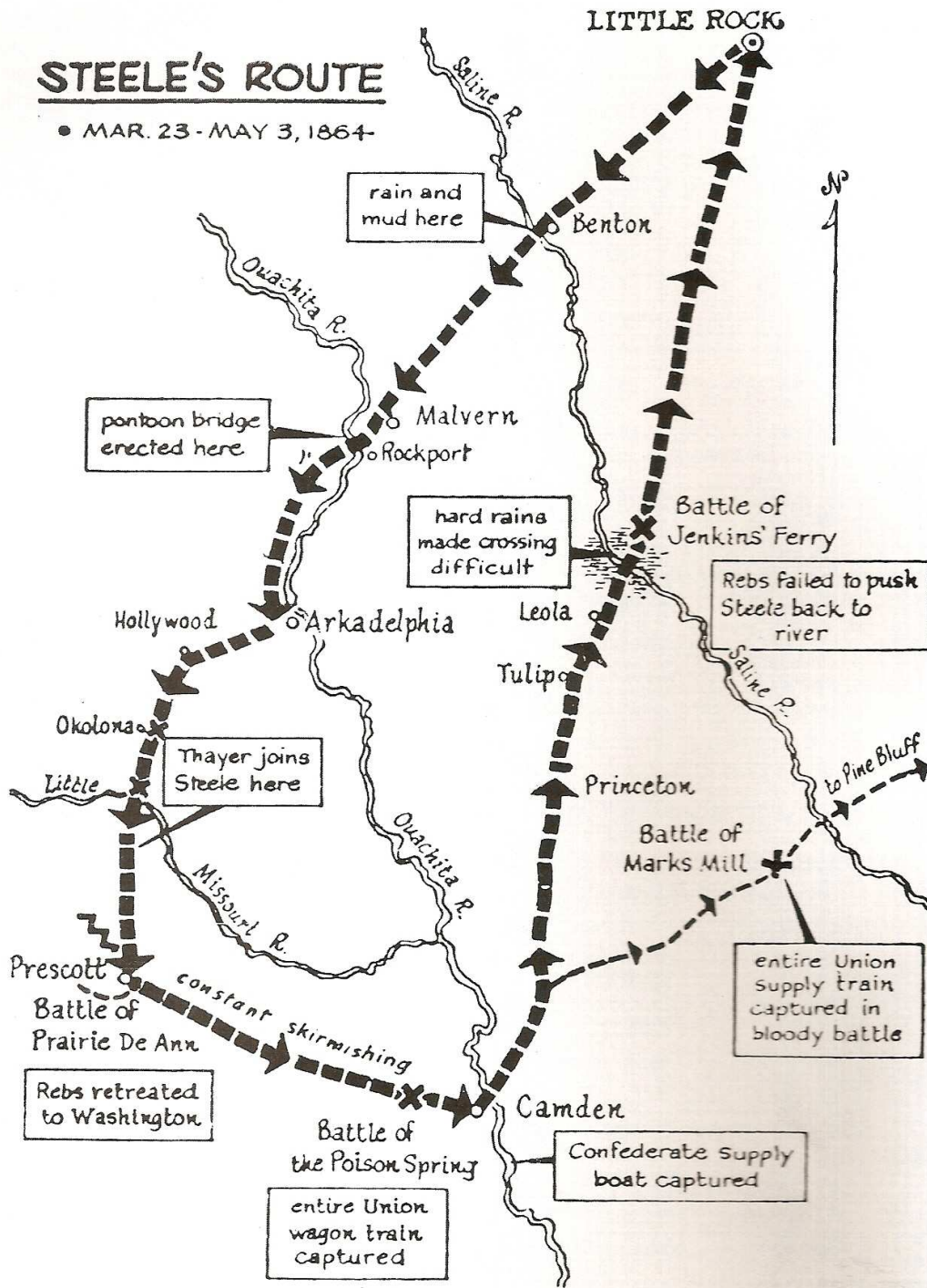
As soon as Hunter's vanguard came into view, the Iowans concentrated a heavy fire on the bridge. Colonel Hunter, who was riding at the head of his regiment, was shot from his horse, badly wounded. This took much of the fight out of the Confederates. One of the Iowans, Lieutenant Silas R. Nugen, was captured by the greyclads, and when asked by Rebel officers what force was to their front, he replied "it was the advance of General Steele's army." This curbed their enthusiasm for closing with the bluecoats. One of the veterans felt that the extreme caution displayed by the Confederates following the fall of Hunter and the capture of Nugen "saved us from disaster." Forming successive lines to cover their rear, the Iowans fell back toward Camden.

Colonel Caldwell, as expected, sent a rider pounding for Camden with a call for help. Private William Potts of M Company, "having a fleet blooded horse," was chosen as the messenger. Potts covered the 38 miles to Camden in record time. As soon as Steele learned of the trouble, he ordered out the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, Colonel Daniel Anderson commanding.

(to be continued)

STEELE'S ROUTE

• MAR. 23 - MAY 3, 1864



Steele's Expedition into South Arkansas.

THE MARKS-BARNETT FAMILY ASSOCIATION
c/o George Walker, Treasurer
2208 Beau Monde, Pine Bluff, AR 71603

I am a descendant of the Marks or Barnett families as indicated below. Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is \$10 for annual dues.

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