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Battle of Hanover

A self-guided walking tour
of historic accounts in
Hanover

Welcome to Downtown Hanover

Message from Mayor Gary Brown

Welcome to Downtown Hanover. We are delighted you have decided to take a walk into the past by participating in the Battle of Hanover Walking Tour. Please enjoy our charming town and visit our fine shopping, dining and lodging establishments, and area attractions. We hope you enjoy your visit and come back to see us soon!

How to Use This Guide

The Battle of Hanover Walking Tour is a two-mile self-guided tour through Downtown Hanover. Although the tour is designed to begin where you choose, we advise starting your journey into Hanover's history by parking in Center Square or a nearby lot (indicated on the inside map). Waysides are numbered for navigational purposes only and may not necessarily be in chronological order.

Battle of Hanover

One of the reasons why General Robert E. Lee failed to gain victory at Gettysburg might have been the unplanned encounter at Hanover. Lee was depending on Major General J.E.B. Stuart to supply him with information about the position of General George G. Meade's Union army. Meanwhile, Stuart had captured a Union wagon train and was cutting around the right of Meade's forces when he clashed with the troops of Major General Judson Kilpatrick and General George A. Custer of the Union cavalry at Hanover. The engagement lasted the best part of the day. In the evening, Stuart withdrew to meet Lee along the Susquehanna River. Lee, in the meantime had begun to concentrate his army in the Gettysburg and Cashtown areas. Stuart, delayed by the conflict at Hanover, was "lost" to Lee and the Confederate army, and they did not reach Lee at Gettysburg until the second day of the three-day battle. In the meantime, Kilpatrick marched his troops straight to Gettysburg after the conflict in Hanover and participated in the Union victory there.

33 Destruction of Private Property

Josiah Gitt, a Hanover merchant, was hard hit by Confederate and Union troops moving through the area the next day. One of his properties was a farm in York County along Westminster Road. By the time the main Confederate column had passed this farm, Gitt had lost three horses, three mules, 75 bushels of corn and 20 bushels of oats. *To be installed Fall 2008.*

Mount Olivet Cemetery

The Soldiers' Memorial, located within Mount Olivet Cemetery, bears plaques that display the names of Civil War soldiers from Hanover and the vicinity. It is also the final resting place of Civil War pioneer newspaper woman, Mary Shaw Leader. The cemetery is located at 725 Baltimore St. (not plotted on the map).

27 Conrad Moul - The Public Commons

The Public Commons was sold or rented by perpetual land leases to local industries, such as foundries, distillers, coal and lumber.

28 The Confederates Take Stock

After the initial success of the Confederate charge, the center of Hanover was occupied by a large contingent of Southern cavalry. In the town, Regiments were bringing in captured Union men.

29 Battle of Hanover

On the morning of June 30, 1863, Confederate Cavalry General Stuart attacked the rear of the Union Cavalry SE of here, and for a while, had possession of the town.

30 The Square is Now Recaptured

The Scattered Debris of Battle

Major John Hammond led the charge into Center Square “with drawn sabers.” The Union “onslaught” of counterattacks was sudden and strong. The battle-worn Confederates retreated along Frederick St., side streets and into the fields.

31 The Picket

The Picket depicts a Union cavalryman standing picket duty during the Battle of Hanover does not represent any one soldier, but instead represents all of the Union cavalry who took part in the battle.

32 Abraham Lincoln

On November 18, 1863, President Lincoln addressed the citizens of Hanover from the rear platform of a Hanover branch railroad coach on his way to dedicate the national cemetery in Gettysburg.

1 George Washington

Washington stopped at an inn located on this site when passing through Hanover during his presidency.

2 General George Armstrong Custer

George Armstrong Custer was appointed brigadier general on June 29, 1863, and assigned as commander of the Michigan brigade, which he led as the Union cavalry entered Hanover on the morning of June 30, 1863. *To be installed Fall 2008.*

3 Kilpatrick Headquarters

On June 30, 1863, Gen. Kilpatrick, commanding the Third Division of the Union Cavalry, took headquarters in this building after part of his forces had been attacked by Confederate Cavalry SE of town.

4 The Hanover Spectator Covers the Battle

In the July 3, 1863 edition of the Hanover Spectator, the newspaper reported two scenes during the battles that “are indelibly impressed upon our memory.”

5 The Daniel Trone House

Daniel Trone, a telegrapher at the Hanover Railroad station, resided at 233 Frederick St. He telegraphed much of the news to major northeastern cities concerning the Battle of Gettysburg.

6 Mother Loses Two Hoffacker Sons

Elizabeth Hoffacker of West Manheim Township received the news of her sons', John and William Hoffacker's deaths. John was shot and killed instantly upon the first encounter with the enemy in Hanover on June 30, 1863 and William was mortally wounded at Spotsylvania, Virginia Court House on May 12, 1864. *To be installed Fall 2008.*

7 The Winebrenner Tannery

The Scene of Repeated Cavalry Charges

Control of this area remained uncertain as cavalymen fought. Upon the arrival of Union Regiments, the balance of power tipped to the Union side. They then made another charge, “driving the rebels in confusion along the road and through the fields.”

8 J.E.B. Stuart’s Jump

Escaping extreme personal peril, Stuart, whose retreat by the road was cut off, “...took the ditch at a running leap, and landed safely on the other side with several feet to spare.”

9 Custer at Hanover

Painted by Civil War artist Dale Gallon, soldiers are shown armed with Spencer rifles that were accurate at 300 yards. A well-trained soldier could fire seven aimed shots in 30 seconds.

10 Consequences on the Battle of Gettysburg

With Kilpatrick’s men firmly in control of Hanover, Stuart was forced to detour to the east. By nightfall, Stuart’s cavalry had moved away, still searching for the Confederate infantry. The next day, the great battle of Gettysburg began.

11 The Confederates Invade PA

The Opening Encounter at Hanover

In early June 1863, the Lee’s Confederate Army of Northern Virginia left its camps in Virginia and marched to Pennsylvania. Lee hoped that a victory on northern soil might break the will of the Northern population and possibly lead to a negotiated peace and Southern independence.

22 Hanover's Wounded

Physicians Administer Aid

A lull in the fighting after the first charge prompted several Hanover physicians to begin caring for the wounded on the streets and sidewalks. As care for the wounded progressed, they were all transferred to a U.S. hospital that had been opened by authority of the government.

23 Market House

Stood on this square from 1815 to 1872. Under the market, at one end was a jail. Equipment for fighting fires was kept here. Fairs and other public events were held under its roof.

24 Killed in Action at Hanover

Reformed Cemetery

Nineteen Union cavalymen were reported killed or mortally wounded in Hanover on June 30, 1863. They were buried in the German Reformed Cemetery; later exhumed, and reburied in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

25 Abbottstown St./Broadway

A Glimpse of Hanover's Past

The chaotic fighting at the Center Square quickly spilled over onto several side streets, alleys and fields. Along Abbottstown Street/Broadway, many surviving pre-Civil War buildings are identified with brass plaques.

26 The Turning Point

Kilpatrick and his Union staff had reached the vicinity of Abbottstown when they heard cannons. Kilpatrick quickly returned back to Hanover to help his comrades.

17 Cannons - Army of the Potomac

Two Civil War Cannons of the Square, Parrott guns/tubes 1 and 6, circa 1863, rest in the south west quadrant of Center Square. The Parrott gun is easily recognized by the thick band of iron wrapped around its breech. This reinforcing band, at the point of greatest force, enabled the gun to be made of iron, rather than bronze. The Parrott Gun could thus be manufactured quickly and cheaply. It was a boon to the Union.

18 General George Custer

Although better known for his Indian fighting, George Custer compiled a creditable record as a cavalry leader in the latter part of the Civil War.

19 Women Tending to Wounded

In reporting the condition of the hospital, on August 1, Surgeon P. Gardner said, "Every desired comfort is furnished in great abundance, and every luxury, with which this county abounds in great profusion, is supplied by sympathetic people, and administered to the suffering wounded by devoted women. A heartier response to the calls of humanity never came from a more generous people than we have witnessed here." *To be installed Fall 2008.*

20 Pleasant Hill Hotel Becomes Hospital

Pleasant Hill Hotel was being used as a private academy when the government rented the hotel to use as a hospital for about 150 male patients from July 10 - August 15. After the Battle of Gettysburg, about 13,000 wounded men passed through Hanover by rail on their way home or to larger hospitals.

21 The Gazebo

Dedicated in 2005 by the Rotary Club of Hanover, the Gazebo features Hanover's history. From the town's involvement in the Revolutionary War to inventions.

12 Gettysburg Campaign

On June 30, 1863, General J. Kilpatrick's Union Cavalry, hunting Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry, were attacked here by Stuart. Repulsed, Stuart tried to join Early; finding him gone, he marked to Carlisle, failing to reach Gettysburg until July 2.

13 The Forney Farms

Fighting Focused on Forney Lands

The initial attack, the 13th Virginia and 2nd North Carolina Cavalry Regiments charged along Frederick St. and through the Forney fields. A later Union counterattack drove the Rebels back through this same area to the high ground southwest of Hanover.

14 The Winebrenner House

Confederate Artillery Opens Fire

After the artillery shell had penetrated the second floor of the Winebrenner House, it emerged in a first floor room where the rest of the family was gathered. It then struck a brick wall, but failed to explode. Mr. Winebrenner then threw the shell outside.

15 The Jacob Wirt House

Reverend William K. Zieber, pastor of Emmanuel Reformed Church, encouraged the townspeople to feed the hungry soldiers. While enjoying the people's hospitality, a Confederate artillery shell burst over the town. Major John Hammond of the 5th New York Cavalry promptly rode to the Center Square and urged citizens to take shelter in their basements.

16 Battle of Hanover

Although the battle lasted only one day and was small by Civil War standards, it played an important part in the Gettysburg campaign. *To be installed Fall 2008.*



KEY

-  Historic Markers
-  Parking
-  Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
-  Borough of Hanover
-  Guthrie Memorial Library
-  Hanover Hospital
-  Trinity United Church of Christ
-  Museum

