



From Civil War.org:

CWPT Map of the Battle of Perryville (2010)
 October 8, 1862

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's autumn 1862 invasion of Kentucky had reached the outskirts of Louisville and Cincinnati, but he was forced to retreat and regroup.

On October 7, the Federal army of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, numbering nearly 55,000, converged on the small crossroads town of Perryville, Kentucky, in three columns.

Union forces first skirmished with Rebel cavalry on the Springfield Pike before the fighting became more general, on Peters Hill, as the gray-clad infantry arrived.

The next day, at dawn, fighting began again around Peters Hill as a Union division advanced up the pike, halting just before the Confederate line. The fighting then stopped for a time.

After noon, a Confederate division struck the Union left flank and forced it to fall back. When more Confederate divisions joined the fray, the Union line made a stubborn stand, counterattacked, but finally fell back with some troops routed. Buell did not know of the happenings on the field, or he would have sent forward some reserves. Even so, the Union troops on the left flank, reinforced by two brigades, stabilized their line, and the Rebel attack sputtered to a halt.

Later, a Rebel brigade assaulted the Union division on the Springfield Pike but was repulsed and fell back into Perryville. The Yankees pursued, and skirmishing occurred in the streets in the evening before dark. Union reinforcements were threatening the Rebel left flank by now. Bragg, short of men and supplies, withdrew during the night, and, after pausing at Harrodsburg, continued the Confederate retrograde by way of Cumberland Gap into East Tennessee.

The Confederate offensive was over, and the Union controlled Kentucky.

Perryville

Preservation Priority: I.1 (Class A)

Location: Boyle County, Kentucky

Campaign: Confederate Heartland Offensive (1862)

Date(s): October 8, 1862

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell [US];
Gen. Braxton Bragg [CS]

Forces Engaged: Army of the Ohio [US]; Army of the
Mississippi [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 7,407 total (US 4,211; CS 3,196)

Description: Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's autumn 1862 invasion of Kentucky had reached the outskirts of Louisville and Cincinnati, but he was forced to retreat and regroup. On October 7, the Federal army of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell, numbering nearly 55,000, converged on the small crossroads town of Perryville, Kentucky, in three columns. Union forces first skirmished with Rebel cavalry on the Springfield Pike before the fighting became more general, on Peters Hill, as the grayclad infantry arrived. The next day, at dawn, fighting began again around Peters Hill as a Union division advanced up the pike, halting just before the Confederate line. The fighting then stopped for a time. After noon, a Confederate division struck the Union left flank and forced it to fall back. When more Confederate divisions joined the fray, the Union line made a stubborn stand, counterattacked, but finally fell back with some troops routed. Buell did not know of the happenings on the field, or he would have sent forward some reserves. Even so, the Union troops on the left flank, reinforced by two brigades, stabilized their line, and the Rebel attack sputtered to a halt. Later, a Rebel brigade assaulted the Union division on the Springfield Pike but was repulsed and fell back into Perryville. The Yankees pursued, and skirmishing occurred in the streets in the evening before dark. Union reinforcements were threatening the Rebel left flank by now. Bragg, short of men and supplies, withdrew during the night, and, after pausing at Harrodsburg, continued the Confederate retrograde by way of Cumberland Gap into East Tennessee. The Confederate offensive was over, and the Union controlled Kentucky.

Result(s): Union strategic victory

Source: Civil War Sites Advisory Commission

From Ancestry.com:

*Regiment: 5th Mounted Infantry Regiment Tennessee Date of Organization: 23 Sep 1864
Muster Date: 17 Jul 1865 Regiment State: Tennessee Regiment Type: Mounted Infantry
Regiment Number: 5th Regimental Soldiers and History:*

Regimental History

*Fifth Mounted Infantry
TENNESSEE
(1-YEAR)*

Fifth Mounted Infantry. -- Col., Spencer P. Boyd; Lieut.-Col., Stephen Beard, Maj., James S. Bradford.

This regiment was recruited and organized in the fall of 1864 at Cleveland, by Col. Boyd and Lieut.-Col. Beard. It was chiefly engaged in scouting through lower East Tennessee, northern Georgia, western North Carolina and northern Alabama.

It had frequent encounters with Gatewood's and other guerrillas, one of which occurred at Spring Place, GA, and another at Ducktown, Polk County, Tenn.

The regiment was mustered out at Nashville in July, 1865.

Source: The Union Army, vol. 4, p. 389

A little search online turned up this information on the skirmish at McLemore's Cove, GA on <http://www.lat34north.com/HistoricMarkers> in Walker County.

More History:

Bragg Sees an Opportunity, September 9-11, 1863

With four railroads and access to several natural passes through the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Chattanooga was the gateway to the deep South. The Union army's objective — to capture and destroy the Confederacy's industrial centers in central Georgia and central Alabama — could not be accomplished without securing Chattanooga. Throughout the fall of 1863, the Blue and the Gray clashed in bloody contests for control of Chattanooga.

In the early fall of 1863, Federal commander Major General William S. Rosecrans planned a three-column attack on the city where General Braxton Bragg's Confederate army guarded the railroad crossing. While Rosecrans and Major General Thomas L. Crittenden's columns maneuvered to confuse Bragg as to the Federals' true point of attack, the real threat was a third column made up of Major General George H. Thomas' 14th Corps and Major General Alexander McDowell McCook's 20th Corps. They moved up from the west and south to threaten the Western & Atlantic Railroad. Recognizing that his supply line was in peril, Bragg pulled his forces out of Chattanooga by September 9 and withdrew to LaFayette, Georgia, where they met reinforcements from Virginia and Mississippi. With the Union Army vulnerable — split into three columns and spread dangerously thin over 40 miles — Bragg decided to attack. His first opportunity occurred here, in McLemore Cove, September 9 - 11, 1863.

The link at <http://www.artcirclelibrary.info/Reference/civilwar/1865-02.pdf> gives lots of detail if you are interested in learning more.

The most interesting part in reading about John Alexander's time fighting at McLemore's Cove was that his unit, and others, fought against John Gatewood. Who was reported to be a notorious confederate guerilla, said to be 18 years old, 6 feet tall, over 200 pounds and have long red hair. Other researchers say he was a deserter from a TN Cav unit, who formed a gang of outlaws that terrorized NW Georgia and SE Tennessee. Look for the book, Mountain Partisans, it has a chapter on him.