

OUR CAMP JOURNAL



Volume 27, Issue 9

"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

April 2024



7th Maryland Annual Meeting

The 2024 7th Maryland annual meeting convened March 2, at the Frederick Public Library in Frederick, MD.

Business, yearly recaps and planning and discussion of the coming season was on the agenda at the yearly meeting.

Officers voted for continuance are Kevin Harris as President, Sarah Harris as Vice President and J. Henson as Secretary / Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Lacking a company Captain, Erik Schwetje will continue as Senior NCO.

Prior to the meeting several members gathered for lunch at a local restaurant nearby.

Adoption of several of the Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB) events, most notably Funkstown (in July) and Cedar Creek (in October) were confirmed as Company events by voting members. A full final 7th Maryland 2024 schedule of events will be posted to the 7th MD website soon.

Despite a couple of technical setbacks, the meeting was well received by those attending in person and online.

Members are reminded to that yearly dues are once again in effect and are urged to pay by April 15th to remain a member in good standing. Contact J. Henson for instructions on how to pay your dues.

In Person Attendance:

Scott Dietzman
Pat Ellis
Harrison Field

Josh Harris
Kevin Harris
Harrison Field
Bill Hart
Shelley "Bear" Holcomb
Jeff Joyce
Della Lafferty
Sarah Lafferty
Dan Patterson
Erik Schwetje
Peter Borlo

On Line Attendance:

Katie "Caleb" Gosmeyer (Rose)
Jay Henson
Rizwan Oskoui
Katie Blake



Members lunch together prior to the 7th Maryland annual meeting at the Frederick Publibrary in Frederick, MD.

Upcoming Campaigns

Members are reminded to individually register for any event they wish to attend.

APRIL

April 9-10: Skirmish of Campbell's Run & Spring Muster – Olde Fort Site, 7120 Brooklyn Rd, Ft. Loudon, PA 17224 (Lincoln Way West,

Route 30) Colonel Swope, to conduct 2nd Regiment Drill (Individual event)

April 27-28: Carroll County Farm Museum- Col. Monzi; Commanding; (Individual event)

MAY

May 18-19: Spring Skirmish at the Daniel Lady Farm – "Fields of Fury" (Company event) * (FVB Event)

Visit:

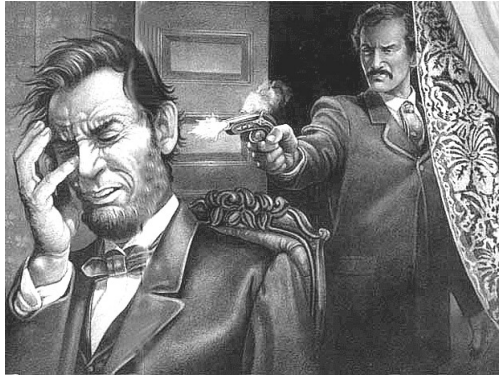
www.GBPA.org to register online

Lincoln Assassinated!

Abraham Lincoln had met frequently with Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant as the war drew to a close. The two men planned matters of reconstruction, and it was evident to all that they held each other in high regard. During their last meeting, on April 14, 1865 (Good Friday), Lincoln invited Grant to a social engagement that evening. Grant declined (Grant's wife, Julia Dent Grant, is said to have strongly disliked Mary Todd Lincoln). The President's eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, also turned down the invitation.

John Wilkes Booth, a well-known actor and Southern sympathizer from Maryland, heard that the president and Mrs. Lincoln, along with the Grants, would be attending Ford's Theatre. Having failed in a plot to kidnap Lincoln earlier, Booth informed his co-conspirators of his intention to kill Lincoln. Others were assigned to assassinate Vice-President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward.

Without his main bodyguard Ward Hill Lamon, to whom he related his famous dream of his own assassination, the Lincolns left to attend the play at Ford's Theater. The play, *Our American Cousin*. As a lone bodyguard wandered, and Lincoln sat in his state box in the balcony, Booth crept up behind the Presi-



dent's box and waited for the funniest line of the play, hoping the laughter would cover the gunshot noise. On stage, actor Harry Hawk said the last words Lincoln would ever hear "Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, old gal— you sockdologizing old man-trap...". When the laughter came, Booth jumped into the box the president was in and aimed a single-shot, round-slug .44 caliber Derringer at his head, firing at point-blank range. The bullet entered behind Lincoln's left ear and lodged behind his right eyeball. Major Henry Rathbone, who was present in the Presidential Box, momentarily grappled with Booth. Booth then shouted "*Sic semper tyrannis!*" (Latin: "Thus always to tyrants," the state motto of Virginia; some accounts say he added "The South is avenged!")

and jumped from the balcony to the stage below, breaking his leg. Despite his injury, Booth managed to limp to his horse and make his escape.

An army surgeon, Dr. Charles Leale quickly assessed the wound as mortal. The President was taken across the street from the theater to the Petersen House, where he lay in a coma for nine hours before he expired. Several physicians attended Lincoln, including U.S. Army Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes of the Army Medical Museum. Using a probe, Barnes located some fragments of Lincoln's skull and the ball lodged 6 inches inside his brain. Lincoln, who never regained consciousness, was officially pronounced dead at 7:22 A.M. the next morning, April 15, 1865. Upon his death, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton lamented "now he belongs to the ages." After Lincoln's body was returned to the White House, his body was prepared for his "lying in state" in the East Room.

The Army Medical Museum, now named the National Museum of Health and Medicine, has retained in its collection since the time of Lincoln's death, several artifacts relating to the assassination. Currently on display in the museum are the bullet that was fired from the Derringer pistol, ending Lincoln's life, the probe used by Barnes,

pieces of his skull and hair and the surgeon's cuff, stained with Lincoln's blood. The funeral train carried his remains, as well as 300 mourners and the casket of his son William, 1,654 miles to Illinois.

Lincoln's body was carried by train in a grand funeral procession through several states on its way back to Illinois. The nation mourned a man whom many viewed as the savior of the United States. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, where a 177 foot (54 m) tall granite tomb surmounted with several bronze statues of Lincoln was constructed by 1874. To prevent repeated attempts to steal Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom, Robert Todd Lincoln had Lincoln exhumed and re-interred in concrete several feet thick in 1901.

ASSASSINS CORNERED—KILLED!

John Wilkes Booth and David E. Herold were sleeping in a tobacco barn owned by Richard H. Garrett on the morning of Wednesday, April 26, 1865, when Union cavalry finally caught up with them. In the vicinity of 2:00 A.M. the soldiers surrounded the barn which was located about 60 miles south of

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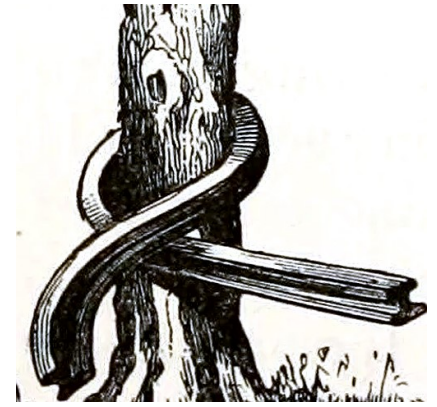
Sherman's Bow Ties

Bill Hart, and wife Rita, spent some time in Savannah, Georgia recently. At the Georgia State Railroad Museum, Bill found that this souvenir of General Sherman's visit 160 years ago that city residents had preserved, seemingly in fond memory of his brief stay. There is reportedly another example at nearby Fort McAllister but as he was not on campaign, he didn't get there.

"No – we are not talking about fashion statements made by the famous Union general. What we are referring to is Major General William Tecumseh Sherman's tactics for disrupting Confederate supply lines, specifically in Georgia. Sherman began his "March to the Sea" in Chattanooga marching to Atlanta and then on to the Savannah coast on orders from Union Army's Commander Lieutenant

General Ulysses S. Grant, who believed the Civil War would end sooner if Southern supply lines and infrastructure were destroyed. However, as soon Union soldiers tore up railroad tracks, it seemed Confederate soldiers would have the railroad restored within hours or a day. Sherman then instructed his men to twist the rails so Confederates would not be able to reuse the rails and damage would take much longer to repair. The men began wrapping the rails around trees. His new instructions worked and within three days, only one confederate railroad remained operational.

"In case of the sounds of serious battle [Major-General McPherson] will close in on General Schofield but otherwise will keep every man of his command at work in destroying the railroad by tearing up track, burning the ties and iron, and twist-

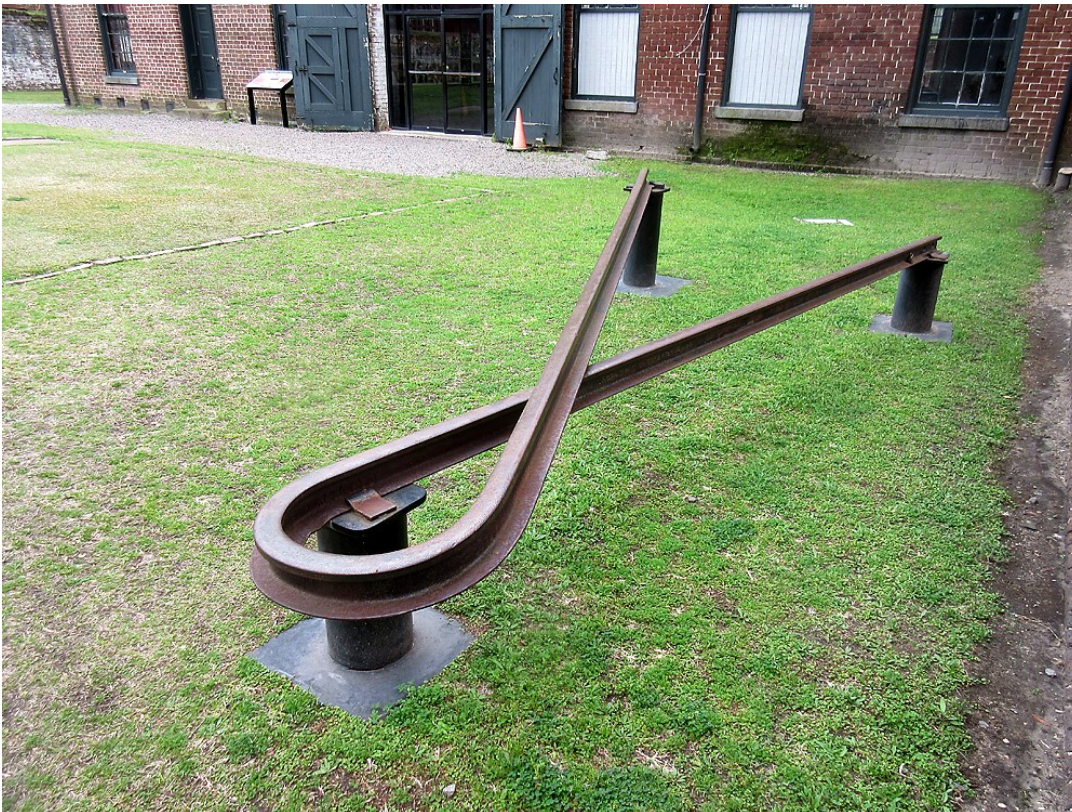


ing the bars when hot. Officers should be instructed that bars simply bent may be used again, but when red hot they are twisted out of line they cannot be used again. Pile the ties into shape for a bonfire, put the rails across and when red hot in the middle, let a man at each end twist the bar so that its surface becomes spiral.

— Wm. T. Sherman, *Special Field Orders*, July 18, 1864

When Confederate soldiers later headed north, they returned the favor to the Union and named their version "Old Mrs. Lincoln's Hair Pins."

Southeastern Railway Museum, August 2022



Left, a relic of Sherman's March to the Sea; a bent iron rail that thwarted the Confederate's lines of supply.

Photo by Bill Hart

The 7th Maryland's Third and Final Winter Camp

By Private Jeff Joyce

In mid-November 1864 the Army of the Potomac, including the 7th Maryland, prepared to go into winter quarters along the siege lines surrounding Petersburg. However, before the 7th Maryland got too comfortable in their newly constructed winter huts they and the rest of the Maryland Brigade (2nd Division, 5th Corps) participated in a large-scale raid to disrupt the Weldon

Railroad southwest of Petersburg. Led by Major General Gouverneur Warren, commander of the 5th Corps, the soldiers left their camps on the morning of December 7. Returning a week later after successfully damaging the Weldon Railroad (at least temporarily) the Maryland Brigade discovered their section of the siege lines had been occupied by elements of the 6th Corps newly returned from the Shenandoah Valley.

The 7th Maryland and the Maryland Brigade moved to new winter quarters near the Gurley House and Fort Davison, having to again build winter huts. The house and adjacent farm belonged to Doctor Jonathan Willis Gurley, a prominent physician in Southampton County, and was used as a Union hospital. There the 7th Maryland spent Christmas 1864.

By early February 1865 the siege of Petersburg was entering its eighth month. Lieutenant General Grant ordered another attempt to cut Confederate supply traffic on the Boydton Plank Road and the Wel-

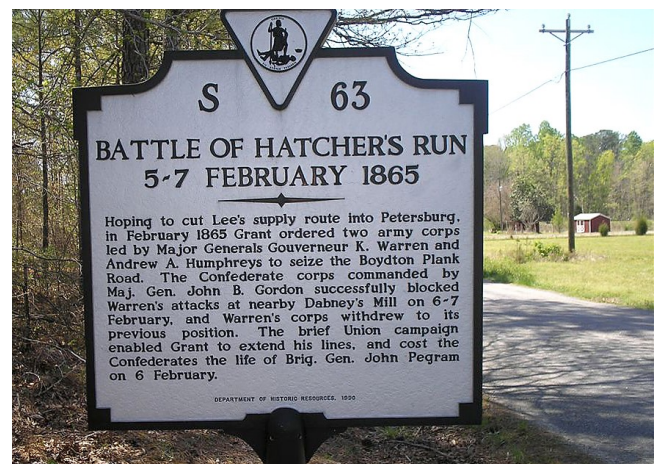
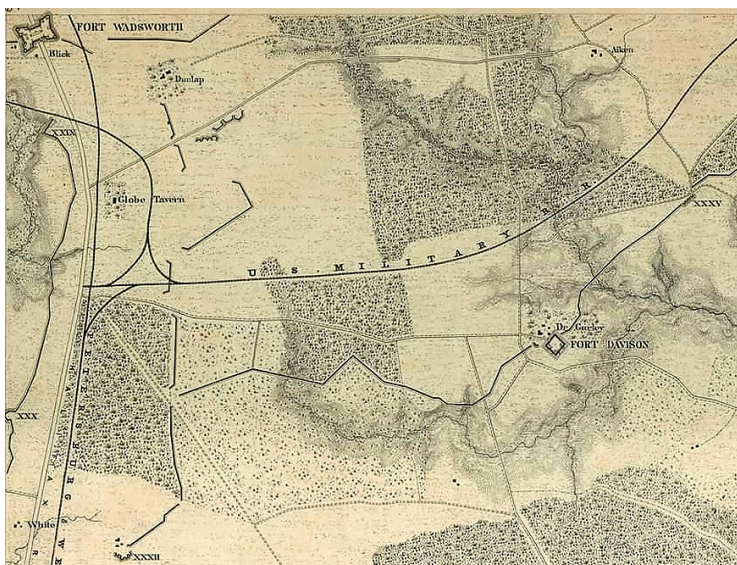
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Left, The house and adjacent farm belonged to Doctor Jonathan Willis Gurley, a prominent physician in Southampton County, and was used as a Union hospital.

Below left, a map of the Weldon Railroad and Hatcher's Run area.

Below, the Battle of Hatcher's Run historical marker.



Privates Albert and Thomas Tate, Co. "H"

By Pvt. Jeff Joyce

Privates Albert and Thomas Tate were born in Harford County, Maryland, to Martha M. Tate. Albert was born on August 15, 1840, and Thomas two years later. By 1860 Albert and Thomas were working as farm laborers and Martha had two additional children, daughters Ann Jane (born 1844) and Hannah (born 1849).

Albert and Thomas enlisted in Company H of the 7th Maryland in Baltimore in August 1862. Thomas was detailed as a brigade teamster and also assigned to the ambulance corps. While the 7th Maryland was spending its first winter on Maryland Heights near Harpers Ferry both brothers were charged with being absent without leave in February 1863. It's possible they were

visiting their mother and sisters in Harford County.

Sadly, during the 7th Maryland's second winter camp outside Culpeper Thomas died in the division hospital on January 22, 1864. He was recorded as suffering from typhoid, pneumonia, and severe diarrhea. Albert wrote to Martha on February 1, 1864, to let her know of his death;

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Above, Pvt. Thomas Tate was wounded in the left thigh on April 1, 1865, during the Battle of Five Forks outside Petersburg and treated at Douglas General Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Below, the grave markers for Pvt. Albert Tate in Prospect United Methodist Cemetery (or Gatchelville Cemetery) in York County, PA, and Pvt. Thomas Tate at Culpeper National Cemetery.



Lincoln's Assassination

(Continued from page 2)

Ford's Theatre near Port Royal, Virginia.

Lieutenant Luther Baker (a detective) yelled, "Surrender, or we'll fire the barn and smoke you out like rats! We'll give you five minutes more to make up your minds."

Booth asked for time to decide. Finally, after some more give and take with the soldiers, Booth yelled, "Well, my brave boys, you can prepare a stretcher for me! I will never surrender!"

After a short time Booth said, "Oh, Captain, there's a man in here who wants



The assassin— John Wilkes Booth

to surrender awful bad." The barn door rattled, and David Herold's voice was heard saying he wanted to give up. Herold slowly came out and was slammed to the ground by the soldiers. He was hauled to a nearby tree and tied up with rope. Still Booth would not come out. Using straw and brush, the cavalry set the barn on fire. Booth was visible to the soldiers because the barn was full of cracks and knotholes. They could see him moving about the burning barn holding his carbine and crutch (his left fibula being broken).

At this point a sol-



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dier, going against orders, shot Booth through the neck. Booth's body was dragged out of the burning barn. For a short time the dying man was placed on the grass near a locust tree. Soon, though, the body was moved to the front porch of the Garrett home. Booth was paralyzed and barely alive. (Library of Congress photo depicts Corbett at the left, and Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty who commanded the Union cavalry that pursued Booth).

With difficulty Booth was able to speak. He said, "Tell Mother I died for my country." He asked the soldiers to move his body to relieve the pain, but no position proved to be comfortable. A local doctor, Dr. Charles Urquhart, Jr., who had been a physician in nearby Port Royal since 1821, arrived on the scene and indicated the wound (which had punctured Booth's spinal cord) was fatal. Sometime around 7:00 A.M. Booth looked at his hands and moaned, "Useless! Useless!" Those were the last words Booth spoke before dying. He was pronounced dead at 7:15 A.M. A search of his body turned up a pair of revolvers, a belt and holster, a knife, some cartridges, a file, a War Map of the Southern States, a spur, a pipe, a Canadian bill of exchange, a compass with a leather case, a signal whistle, an almost burned up candle, pictures of 5 women - 4 actresses (Alice Grey, Helen Western, Effie Germon, and Fanny Brown) and his fiancée, Lucy Hale (the daughter of ex-Senator John P. Hale from New Hampshire), and an 1864 date book kept as a diary. The Garrett farmhouse is gone, and the exact spot where John W. Booth passed away now lies in a lonely, wooded stretch on the median of U.S. Rt. 301, about three miles south of Bowling Green, Virginia.

There is a historic marker on the north-bound lane of Rt. 301, but not the south-bound lane. The death site itself is marked by a metal pipe and a couple of cinder blocks.

Booth's third, fourth, and fifth cervical vertebrae, which were removed during his autopsy, are currently displayed at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

An additional fragment from Booth's autopsy is in a bottle in the Mutter Medical Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Did You Know? Facts About A. Lincoln

Lincoln stood 6'3 3/4" (192.4 cm) tall (not including his hat) and thus was the tallest president in U.S. history, just edging out Lyndon Johnson at 6'3 1/2" (191.8 cm).

He was born on the same day as Charles Darwin.

The last surviving self-described witness to Lincoln's assassination was Samuel J. Seymour (c. 1860–April 14, 1956), who appeared two months before his death at age 96 on the CBS-TV quiz show *I've Got a Secret*. He said that as a five-year-old he had thought at first that he, himself, had been shot because his nurse, trying to fix a torn place in his blouse, stuck him with a pin at the moment of the gun's discharge.

According to legend, Lincoln was referred to as "two-faced" by his opponent in the 1858 Senate election, Stephen Douglas. Upon hearing about this Lincoln jokingly replied, "If I had another face to wear, do you really think I would be wearing this one?"

According to legend, Lincoln also said, as a young man, on his appearance one day when looking in the mirror: "It's a fact, Abe! You are the ugliest man in the world. If ever I see a man uglier than you, I'm going to shoot him on the spot!" It would no doubt, he thought, be an act of mercy.

Based on written descriptions of Lincoln, including the observations that he was much taller than most men of his day and had long limbs, an abnormally-shaped chest, and loose or lax joints, it has been conjectured since the 1960s that Lincoln may have suffered from Marfan Syndrome.

Lincoln was known to have a case of depression. During his time in New Salem, Illinois, his fiancée died, and that triggered his depression. His close friends watched over him to make sure he did not commit suicide. He also suffered from nightmares during his term in the White House. His depression got so severe, he had to hold a cabinet meeting from his bed.

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Privates Albert and Thomas Tate, Co. "H"

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"you sent a few lines to Thomas but poor fellow he did not live to see it he died with the chronic diarrhoea and bad cold."

Thomas was buried in a temporary grave and after the war moved to Culpeper National Cemetery, where he rests today. Albert served with the 7th Maryland until the end of the war.

He was wounded in the left thigh on April 1, 1865, during the Battle of Five Forks outside Petersburg and treated at Douglas General Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Albert mustered out in June 1865 and returned to Harford County. He married Phebe A. Walker in 1869 and the couple settled in York County, Pennsylvania, where Albert continued working as a farm laborer. They apparently had no children. Phebe died in 1917 and Albert on January 18, 1918.

They are both buried in Prospect United Methodist Cemetery (or Gatchelville Cemetery) in York County. Martha moved to York County as well to be close to Albert and Phebe. She passed away on December 12, 1883, and is buried in Slate Ridge Cemetery.



*Civil War Re-enactors;
America's Living Historians.*

7th MD Winter Camp

(Continued from page 4)

don Railroad. Known as the Battle of Hatcher's Run or Dabney's Mill, the 2nd and 5th Corps (including the 7th Maryland) supported Brigadier General David Gregg's cavalry division during the February 5-7, 1865, battle. Fighting was heavy and Major Edward Mobley of the 7th Maryland recorded in his diary on February 6:



Maj. Edward Mobley

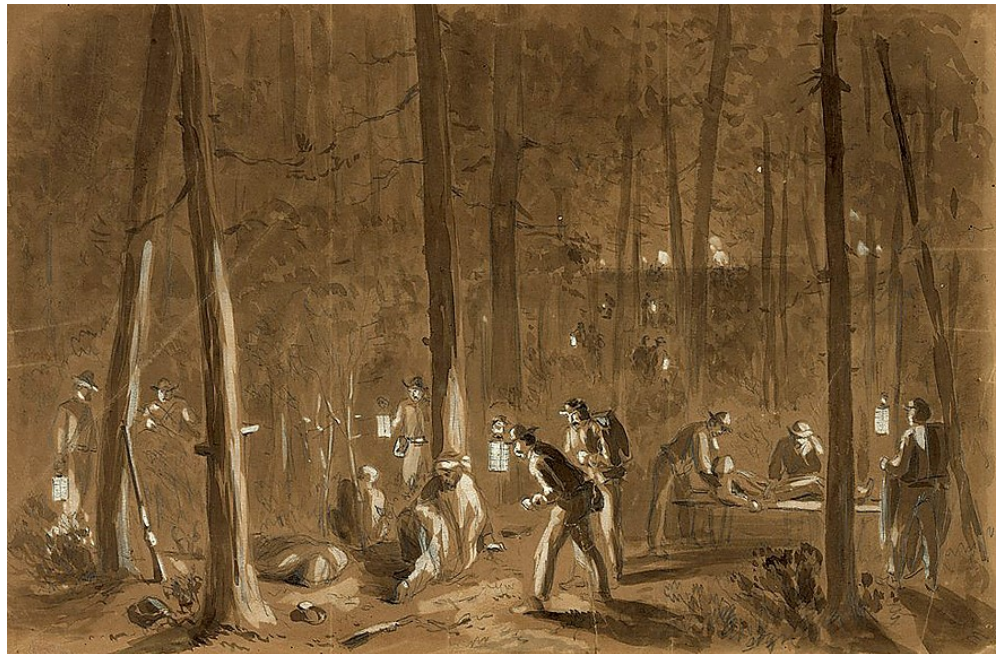
"Reached Hatcher's Run near Dabney's Mill at daylight. At 3 o'clock p.m. had a heavy fight. Drove the Rebs about a mile to a stream sawmill. Held the place for nearly two hours. Cartridges ran out and had to fall back. Loss of regiment 23 - of Brigade 153 - of Corps 500."

In his memorandum book Major Mobley recorded 7th Maryland casu-

alties as "3 men killed, 18 wounded or missing."

The 7th Maryland remained near Hatcher's Run behind new earthworks until the siege of Petersburg was broken in late March. Follow-

ing the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, 1865, the 7th Maryland and the rest of the Army of the Potomac pursued the Confederates as they retreated toward Appomattox Court-house.



Searching for wounded after the battle at Hatcher's Mill Run.