

Chronology of Events

The Battle of Perryville

Legend:

Confederate
Union

October 8, 1862

- 2:30 a.m. **Maj. Gen. Alex. McCook** (at Mackville) receives orders issued at 7:00 p.m. on October 7 to march to Perryville.
- 2:45 **Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas** receives marching orders issued at 8:00 p.m. on October 7 to march to Perryville.
- 3:00 **7th Arkansas** holds Peters Hill, **Col. Dan McCook's Brigade** moves forward along the Springfield Pike.
- 5:00 **Dan McCook** clears Confederates off Peters Hill.
- 5:00 After breakfast, **Alex. McCook** marches on Perryville, some ten miles away.
- 6:00 **Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk** informs **Gen. Braxton Bragg** that battle will be made "vigorously."
- 6:30 **Brig. Gen. St. John Liddell's 5th and 7th Arkansas** tries to dislodge **Dan McCook** off Peters Hill and fails.
- 7:00 **Thomas** begins marching.
- 7:00 **Col. John Wharton's Cavalry** ordered to cross the Chaplin River to the right.
- 7:00 **Col. Josphe Wheeler's Cavalry** ordered to picket the left down the Lebanon Road.
- 7:00 **Brig. Gen. Philip Sheridan** arrives at Peters Hill with two brigades. **Maj. Gen. Charles C. Gilbert** arrives, and decides to send **Capt. Ebenezer Gay's** cavalry forward.
- 7:30 **Gay's** cavalry fails, and is repulsed just east of Peters Hill.
- 8:30 **Sheridan** sends **Lt. Col. Bernard Laiboldt's Brigade** against the **5th and 7th Arkansas**. The Confederates are pushed back across Bull Run Creek.
- 9:00 **Sheridan** engages **Liddell** on Bottom Hill.
- 9:15 **Alex. McCook** reaches the Benton Rd / Mackville Pike intersection.
- 9:45 **Rousseau (of McCook)** reaches the Russell House and see **Sheridan's** fight with **Liddell**.
- 9:45 **Bragg** arrives from Harrodsburg & sets up headquarters at the Crawford House.
- 9:45 **Bragg** does not believe **Maj. Gen. D.C. Buell's** entire army is converging on Perryville, and decides to make a personal reconnaissance.
- 10:45 **Liddell** orders his force to back to Perryville main defense line.
- 10:45 **Wheeler** runs into **Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden's** infantry on the Lebanon Rd some three miles from Perryville, and falls back.

10:45 **Bragg** returns to the Crawford House from his reconnaissance.

11:00 **Gilbert** is astonished to see **Sheridan** so far forward & orders him to return to Peters Hill. He classifies **Sheridan's** success as "an unauthorized move."

11:00 **Buell**, at the Dorsey House (one mile west of Peters Hill), is concerned about his planned attack.

11:00 **Alex. McCook** sets out a battle line centered on the Russell House.

11:00 **Bragg** makes plans for a Confederate attack. **Maj. Gen. Ben Cheatham** moves to the right to take position near the Goodnight House.

11:00 **Maj. Gen. Simon B. Buckner** moves forward to occupy Chatham Hill. **Capt. Put. Durden's Battery** goes into position on Chatham Hill.

Noon **Rousseau** orders **Col. William H. Lytle** forward to Doctors Creek to get water. The **10th Ohio** is east of Doctors Creek in a skirmish line.

Noon **Alex. McCook** reaches **Buell** at the Dorsey House, and is told the attack is called off for the day.

12:10 **Wharton** receives word that substantial and unexpected Federals are proceeding down the Mackville Rd. **Polk**, at the Goodnight House, concludes to wait for reinforcements. **Bragg** is growing more impatient.

12:30 **10th Ohio** skirmishers fall back as **Buckner** engages with **Brig. Gen. Bushrod Johnson** and **Brig. Gen. S.A.M. Wood**.

12:30 **Buell** decides to delay his attack until the next day. Buell concludes to delay his attack until the next day.

12:30 **Captains Darden, Charles Lumsden, Henry Semple and William Carnes Batteries** open on **Rousseau**. **Capt. Loomis** opens return fire. **Capt. Peter Simonson** is ordered forward on the left of **Loomis**.

12:30 **Rousseau** places **Col. Leonard Harris's Brigade** to the left of **Lytle**, who was in place astride the Mackville Rd just behind the Squire Bottom House and overlooking Doctors Creek.

12:45 **Rousseau** orders **Col. George Webster's Brigade** forward and extends the line to the left and now covers the Widow Gibson Cabin.

13:00 **Alex. McCook** moves forward to the **Lookis / Simonson Battery** positions, and unable to see Confederate infantry, orders them to cease firing. Recall he has been told by **Buell** there will be no battle this day. **McCook** becomes aware of the hill on the far left that overlooks the entire Federal position in this sector.

13:00 **Wheeler** moves forward against **Crittenden** (**Wheeler** has no real idea as to the size of the Federal force in his front).

13:20 **Bragg** reaches **Polk**, orders **Cheatham** further to the right to Walker's Bend.

13:30 Federal skirmishers reach the bluffs overlooking Walkers Bend, encounter Confederate skirmishers, but do not realize the Confederate strength behind the skirmishers.

13:30 **Wharton** moves out of Walker's Bend to secure the Confederate right.

13:30 **Buell**, at the Dorsey House, is informed of the "arrival" of **Crittenden's Corps**.

13:45 **Brig. Generals William R. Terrill and James S. Jackson** are in position on the left, anchored on Open Hill. **Capt. Charles Parson's Battery** cover them. Terrill prepares to move forward to get water..

13:45 **Brig. Gen. Dan Adams Brigade** goes into position on Bottom Hill, just north of the Springfield Pike. **Col. Preston Smith** arrives on his right. **Adams** sees no Federals in his front on the Springfield Pike..

13:45 **Polk and Cheatham** see smoke from battery fire, and conclude they are already on the flank of the Federal line. They are wrong. They order **Brig. Gen. Daniel Donelson's Brigade** to move forward.

14:00 **Terrill's Brigade** reaches Open Hill and anchors the Federal left.

14:00 **Buell and Gilbert**, still at the Dorsey House, hear artillery fire. **Buell** has **Gilbert** send a message forward "to stop that useless waste of powder." **Buell** has **Gilbert** stay for dinner rather than move to the front as his subordinate desired.

14:15 **Donelson** moves to the attack, but is not on the Federal flank. He is opposite **Webster's Brigade**, with **Terrill and Lytle** on both flanks.

14:15 **Sheridan** receives the order from **Gilbert**, and chooses subsequently to literally obey the order.

14:30 **Col. John Savage's 16th Tennessee** seems to appear out of nowhere to attack **Webster**. **Col. Thomas M. Jones's Brigade** is forming on the left of **Donelson**. **A.P. Stewart's Brigade** of **Cheatham's Division** arrives on top of the bluff at the Dug Road.

14:30 **Crittenden** has all of his forces up, works to extend his lines north to link up with **Gilbert** on the Springfield Pike.

14:45 **Rousseau** orders up **Harris** in support of **Webster**. **Loomis** has exhausted his long-range ammunition and falls back near the Russell House.

14:45 **Jones** assaults the **10th Wisconsin** and the **10th Ohio** position (the left) of **Lytle's** position. **Bushrod Johnson** is moving down Chatham Hill, with **A.P. Stewart** forming in reserve. **Brig. Gen. George Maney's Brigade** is moving to the Confederate right to confront **Terrill**.

14:50 **Brig. Gen. James Jackson** is hit twice and dies shortly after.

14:50 **Bushrod Johnson** comes under fire from **Capt. Cuthbert Slocumb's Battery** while moving down Chatham Hill. **Johnson's** advance is completely disorganized.

14:50 **Maney** begins his assault on Open Hill. He gets about halfway there, but is pinned down by **Parson's Battery** and the infantry of **Terrill**.

15:00 **Maj. Gen. William J. Hardee or Buckner** orders **Adams's Brigade** forward.

15:00 **Bushrod Johnson** is in the middle of a nasty fire-fight at the H.P. Bottom House with **Lytle's Brigade**.

15:00 **Slocumb's Battery** moves forward, crosses Bull Run and Doctor's Creek and goes into action on the hill 200 yards south of the Bottom House (current site of the barn).

15:00 **Preston Smith** is ordered to Perryville to watch the Mitchellsburg and Lebanon Roads. **Bragg** is still unaware of the potential size of **Buell's** force. **Buell** is still unaware a major engagement is underway.

15:10 **Adams** is moving forward, up a ravine and cannot be detected by **Lytle**. **Sheridan**, on Peters Hill, can see **Adams** but cannot, or chooses to do nothing.

15:10 **Polk and Bragg**, stationed on the bluffs overlooking Walker's Bend, order **A.P. Stewart** forward.

15:10 **Sheridan** spots **Col. Samuel Powell's Brigade** forming just south of the Springfield Pike.

15:15 **Simonson**, almost out of ammunition, has to withdraw on the left of **Lytle's** line.

15:15 **Terrill**, fearful he cannot hold Open Hill, orders **Parson's Battery** to withdraw.

15:15 **Cheatham** orders **Brig. Gen. John C. Brown** and **Cleburne** forward. **Cleburne** moves to **Bushrod Johnson's** sector (the H.P. Bottom House) and **Brown** to the area being attacked by **Jones**.

15:20 **Jones's Brigade** is repulsed by the left of **Lytle's Brigade**.

15:20 **Stewart** aims for a gap between **Donelson** and **Maney**.

15:20 **Maney** forces the crest of Open Hill. **Parsons** can only bring off one gun.

15:30 **Stewart** and **Maney** have taken Open Hill. **Terrill's Brigade** is in retreat on the **McCook's** left.

15:30 **Maney** prepares to move on **Terrill's** second line. **Col. John C. Starkweather** is in position behind the Benton Road. **Maney** will have to attack through a cornfield located in a depression to reach the Benton Road.

15:40 **Cleburne** attacks **Lytle** at the H.P. Bottom House while **Adams** falls on the right flank protected by the **15th Kentucky**. **Sheridan**, after a request from **McCook**, orders a battery to fire on **Adams**.

15:45 **Brown's Brigade** falls back. The brigade loses its colonels in very short order.

15:45 **Lytle's** line collapses.

15:45 **Donelson** is out of ammunition and falls back.

15:55 While trying to rally his brigade, **Terrill** is struck by a shell fragment and mortally wounded.

16:00 **Maney** is attacking **Starkweather** across the Benton Road. **Stewart** is battling **Webster** and **Harris** in the center of **McCook's** line. **Lytle** is falling back along the Mackville Road towards the Russell House. **Loomis** and **Simonson** have replenished ammunition and are covering **Lytle's** retreat.

16:00 **McCook** is directing his front at the Russell House. He asks for support from **Brig. Gen. Albin Schoepf's** reserve division of **Gilbert's Corps**, and sends a courier to **Buell** to ask for reinforcements.

16:00 **Lytle** is severely wounded and captured.

16:00 **Gilbert** and **Buell** hear cannonading to **Sheridan's** front, and finally conclude a battle must be going on.

16:10 **Maney** has battery support in place, and forces **Starkweather** to pull back his guns. Two field pieces are lost in **Capt. Asahel Bush's Battery**.

16:10 **Crittenden** continues extending towards the Springfield Pike. **Col. Samuel Powell's Brigade** is about to attack **Gilbert's** entire corps just south of the Springfield Pike.

16:10 **Gilbert** agrees to reinforce **McCook**, and orders **Schoepf** to move up the Benton Road. This also protects **Gilbert's** left flank.

16:10 **Buell** finally learns of the problems of **McCook's Corps**. **Crittenden** is ordered to send a division to the center.

16:15 **Powell's** single brigade attacks three Federal brigades. **Sheridan's** forced inactivity has led the Confederates to incorrectly conclude Federal presence is weak here.

16:20 **Adams** presses the Russell House position. **Cleburne** pushes northwest from the Mackville Road towards the rear of **Webster's Brigade**. The remnants of **Lytle's Brigade** are frantically trying to replenish ammunition.

16:25 **A.P. Stewart** falls back from **Webster's** defensive line. **Webster** spots **Cleburne's** command approaching and changes front to face him.

16:25 **Maney** crosses the Benton Road to attack **Starkweather**; without the support of **A.P. Stewart**, he fails.

16:30 Along the Springfield Pike, **Powell** pressures **Sheridan** hard enough for **Sheridan** to note he "was hard pressed."

16:30 **Webster** is killed. His brigade abandons its position and falls back.

16:30 **Cleburne's** advance is stopped by remnants of **Lytle's and Webster's Brigades**.

16:30 **S.A.M. Wood** ordered to cross Doctor's Creek to support **Cleburne**.

16:45 **Donelson** reforms to support **A.P. Stewart's** retreating brigade.

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17:00 **Capt. Samuel J. Harris** loses four guns to the Confederates.

17:00 **Hardee** orders his last reserve, the brigade of **Liddell** forward.

17:00 **Powell** finally realizes he is greatly out-manned and finally retreats along the Springfield Pike towards Perryville.

17:10 **Col. William P. Carlin** pursues **Powell** back into Perryville.

17:15 The sun begins to set. **Donelson, Wood**, and parts of **Stewart** are moving forward towards the Federal center. **Adams** attacks the Russell House position to the south of the Mackville Road.

17:25 **Col. Michael Gooding** and **Brig. Gen. James B. Steedman's Brigades**, of **Gilbert's Corps** are moving to support **McCook**.

17:30 **S.A.M. Wood** pushes forward in the center but cannot make progress. **Adams, Cleburne** and **Maney** have fallen back.

17:30 **Gooding's Brigade** is marching down the Benton Road to **McCook's** relief.

17:30 **S.A.M. Wood's** attack on **Rousseau** still has a chance of success, but **Gooding** arrives to form a new line.

17:45 **Sheridan's** artillery on Peters Hill fires on **Adams**.

18:00 **Powell** forms in Perryville on the eastern bank of the Chaplin River. **Carlin** realizes he cannot push the issue as darkness closes in.

18:10 Inexplicably, **Crittenden** believes a large Confederate force is still in his front on the Lebanon Road.

18:15 **S.A.M. Wood** crashes against **Gooding's** line and cannot break it.

18:30 **Wheeler** pulls in his cavalry to the eastern bank of the Chaplin River.

18:45 **Liddell** attacks **Gooding** as **Steedman** is placed in a second line behind the Russell House. **S.A.M. Wood** is falling back. It is now almost dark.

18:45 **Polk** is at the front near the Russell House and is nearly captured when he rides up to an Indiana regiment.

- 19:00 **Liddell** clears **Gooding** off the Russell House / Mackville Pike line, but cannot move further.
- 19:00 **Gilbert, Sheridan** and **Buell** dine at the Dorsey House. In spite of dinner, **Sheridan** later claims **Buell** didn't know what was going on.
- 19:30 Battle ends.
- 20:00 **Bragg** returns to the Crawford House and begins to have second thoughts about his position. He asks to see his army commanders.
- 21:00 **Rousseau** reports to **Buell** in person; later reports **Buell** did not "appreciate the severity of the fighting."
- 21:30 **McCook** reviews **Rousseau's** final line and doesn't like what he sees. He decides to find a better position. The Federals are fearful of a night attack.
- 21:30 **Bragg** finally realizes **Buell's** entire army is in front. Realizing **Buell** would move to cut him off from Danville, he orders **Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshall** and **Maj. Gen. E.K. Smith** to concentrate their forces with him. **Bragg** decides to retreat.
- 21:45 **McCook** reports to **Buell** in person. He asks for two brigades to reinforce him because his corps is badly cut up, but is refused. **McCook** is "vexed" with **Buell**.
- 23:45 Confederate forces fall back behind the Chaplin River. The retreat to Tennessee commences.

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