

BATTLE OF GLENDALE, HENRICO CO. VA 1862

A few months ago Franklin Whitlock sent me a section of the book *Henrico County [Va] - Field of Honor - Another day of Desperate Fighting* that details the Civil War Battle that took place June 30, 1862 around the farm house of John Whitlock.

The following extract shows the minute details of the battle are recorded:

The road continued south and crossed the headwaters of Western Run. In the open field stood John Whitlock's log farmhouse and outbuildings. Between Willis Church and Long Bridge Road, the headwaters of Western Run were approximately a half mile west of Willis Church/Quaker Road. Longstreet's men would have to cross the marshy areas on either side of Western Run before encountering the Union defenders. As events unfolded, the killing field, or area of intense fighting, during the Battle of Glendale was confined to an area a little over one mile long, south to north, by one-half mile deep, east to west, or roughly 2,000 by 1,000 yards.

On the left of the Union line, General Joseph Hooker was ordered to deploy his division southwest of the Willis Church/Quaker Road and south of the farm road that ran to Whitlock's. He reported that he began doing so around 9:00 a.m., and that the right of his division rested on the farm road to Whitlock's. Grover's Brigade moved into position on Hooker's right with two regiments on the first line and two on the second. On the right of Grover's first line, the 16th Massachusetts "was in position across and on the immediate left of the [farm] road [to Whitlock's]." Company H of the 16th Massachusetts was "posted immediately upon this road." Company C of the regiment was sent forward to occupy the Whitlock house. Grover placed the 26th Pennsylvania on the left of the 16th Massachusetts. Behind these two regiments, Grover deployed the 2nd New Hampshire on the right of his second line, behind the 16th Massachusetts. The 1st Massachusetts was deployed to the left of the 2nd New Hampshire, behind the 26th Pennsylvania. Grover's fifth regiment, the 11th Massachusetts, was sent to the left of the divisional line.

The book details all aspects of the battle in great detail. As you can see from the illustration below the Whitlock house was between the two armies on the left hand side of the battle. While there is no description of the effects on the Whitlock House, the neighbouring parsonage was. "Everything was destroyed, chair cushions and bedding has been slashed open in the hunt for hidden treasure." Not a room or piece of furniture escaped the avaricious eye of the pillager, whether he wore the Blue or Gray. In addition, minié balls were imbedded in the walls and a flying missile had damaged the upstairs railing. The house "was perforated on either side by hundreds of bullets, and crushed in some places with ponderous shells.

The Whitlock House that is featured so prominently in the Battle of Glendale was the home of John Whitlock (1790-1860), a long time resident of Henrico Co. John Whitlock was married first March 7, 1822 to Frances Woodfin who died before 1838. He was married secondly to Fanny Tucker June 4, 1838. Franklin Whitlock descends from John's son Richard Whitlock & his wife Virginia Elizabeth Sweeney. This family is detailed on our WHITLOCK23 chart. Our thanks to Franklin for this piece of Whitlock history.

SOURCES: R2558