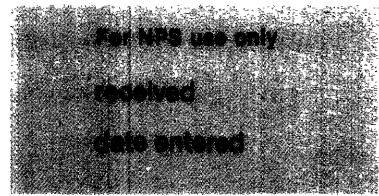


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic SAYLER'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD

and/or common

2. Location

street & number State Routes 617,618 and 619 not for publication

city, town FARMVILLE AND BURKEVILLE X vicinity of congressional district 5

state VIRGINIA code 51 county AMELIA & PRINCE EDWARD code 007
147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SUBMITTED federal X state county local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

1. The Battlefield

Historically, the "Battle of Sayler's Creek" (1) was actually three distinct engagements centering along this small tributary of the Appomattox River. For clarity's sake, these have been titled:

- 1) THE BATTLE OF HILLSMAN'S FARM
U.S. Forces- General H.G. Wright's VI Corps
C.S. Forces- General R.S. Ewell's Corps
- 2) THE BATTLE OF MARSHALL'S CROSS ROADS (also Harper's Farm)
U.S. Forces- General P.H. Sheridan's Cavalry Corps
C.S. Forces- General R.H. Anderson's Corps
- 3) THE BATTLE OF LOCKETT'S FARM (also Double Bridges)
U.S. Forces- General A.A. Humphreys' II Corps
C.S. Forces- General J.B. Gordon's 2nd Corps

This proposed National Historic Landmark would include most of the Hillsman and Lockett Farm battle sites and a small tract at Marshall's Cross Roads. These locations are geographically situated in "Southside Virginia" and encompass lands in Amelia and Prince Edward Counties. All sites have seen little change since 1865 and could be considered pristine in historical preservationist terms. The Commonwealth of Virginia currently owns the battlefield at Hillsman's Farm, including that historic structure, and has small land holdings at Marshall's Cross Roads and Double Bridges. These are all maintained as SAYLER'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD HISTORICAL STATE PARK. The State Park Service manages this land by allowing agricultural use permits in the cleared areas. This is handled by a cooperative agreement with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries with approximately 35 acres being leased.

On a limited basis, the Hillsman House is open to the public for special events and historical groups. Outside exhibit panels, a taped narration, and a large mural by Sidney King interpret the story of the fighting along Sayler's Creek on the Hillsman farm. A marker is also located at Marshall's and at Holt's Corner, explaining their importance to the story. The Double Bridges property is not marked at the present time although the remains of two 20th Century bridges still exist. During the winter months and hunting season the park's interpretive markers are taken in to protect them from vandalism.

In private ownership is the historic LOCKETT HOUSE and surrounding battlefield. The home has seen few changes since the battle and exhibits many vestiges of the fighting around it, i.e., bullet holes and shell marks on the chimney and siding. An erroneous granite marker, placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1928, adorns the front lawn of this structure. This land is currently owned by one family and is being used for agricultural purposes and private residences. Visitors are allowed onto the area and permitted to inspect the exterior of the Lockett house.

Since the area around Marshall's Cross Roads is divided into many private parcels, it was decided that the state tract would provide an adequate interpretive site for that engagement.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

On October 26, 1937, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments declared that the Saylor's Creek area was classified as of national significance, thus rendering it eligible for inclusion in the National Park System of Historic areas. (10) While their reasons for this classification were not enumerated, it can be assumed that this action was taken because the Battles of Saylor's Creek were:

1). The last major engagement between the armies under General Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant before the capitulation at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. They foreshadowed the end of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

2). Purportedly, the largest surrender of an army without terms took place here. Lee lost 7,700 men (total for all three engagements), plus eight Generals: Ewell, Barton, Simms, Kershaw, George Washington Custis Lee, Dubose, Hunton and Corse. This represented almost one fourth of Lee's effectives.

3). These battles were commanded by some of the most famous military leaders, North and South, of that time. They included such notables as --(Confederates) Richard S. Ewell, Joseph B. Kershaw, G.W.C. Lee, Richard H. Anderson, George E. Pickett, Bushrod R. Johnson, and John B. Gordon. (Federal) Horatio G. Wright, Philip H. Sheridan, Wesley Merritt, George A. Custer, George Crook, and Andrews A. Humphreys.

4). The success of the Federal Forces here led to the final downfall of Lee's Army three days later. General Sheridan, in reporting his victory to President Lincoln, (by way of General Grant) wrote: "If the thing is pressed I think that Lee will surrender." Lincoln replied: "Let the thing be pressed."

5). Confederate Naval personnel and Marines, along with civilian clerks, fought in this land battle. Commodore John Randolph Tucker commanded the sailors and marines.

6). One of the largest issuance of the Medal of Honor: 49 for the capture of flags, 9 for Gallantry, and 1 for the capture of General G.W.C. Lee; Total= 59

The Battles of Saylor's Creek, April 6, 1865, A Narrative

A. Withdrawal from the Richmond-Petersburg Fronts

After nine and a half months of defensive warfare along the 70-mile line connecting these two strategically important Southern cities, General R.E. Lee was forced to abandon his position on the evening of April 2, 1865. With the fall of the Confederate Capital and the flight of its government, Lee decided he would attempt a movement to North Carolina where hopefully he could join forces with the Confederate army operating there under General Joseph E. Johnston. Pulling out all contingents of his army from the lines, he instructed

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1021

Quadrangle name Deatonsville & Rice

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

1 1 7 7 4 5 1 0 0 4 1 3 2 4 6 0

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTOPHER M. CALKINS, PARK HISTORIAN

organization PETERSBURG NATL. BATTLEFIELD, N.P.S.

date JUNE 1984

street & number Box 549

telephone (804) 732-3531

city or town PETERSBURG

state VIRGINIA 23804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	date
-------	------

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

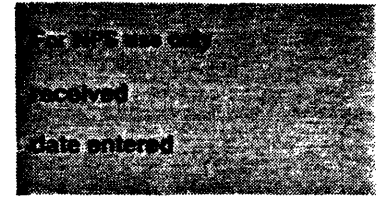
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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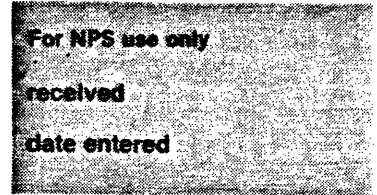
Continuation sheet Item number 4 Page 1

Owners of Property

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| <p>1. Sayler's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park
The Division of State Parks
1201 State Office Building
Capital Square
Richmond, Va. 23219</p> | <p>221 Acres</p> | |
| <p>2. James Garnett
Box 282-B
Rice, Va. 23966</p> | <p>688 Acres</p> | |
| <p>3. Lockett W. Garnett
1518 Unison Drive
Midlothian, Va. 23113</p> | <p>112 Acres</p> | <p>Lockett is James' brother who is acting spokesman for the property</p> |

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LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Garnett Tracts- County Clerk's Office
Prince Edward County
Farmville, Virginia 23901
(Lockett Magisterial District)

County Clerk's Office
Amelia County
Amelia Court House, Virginia
23002
(Leigh Magisterial District)

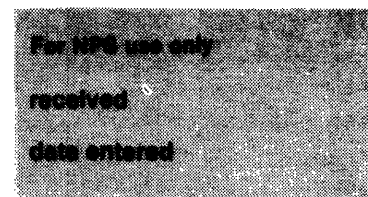
Virginia State Park
System Tracts-

County Clerk's Office
Amelia County
Amelia Court House, Virginia
23002

County Clerk's Office
Prince Edward County
Farmville, Virginia 23901

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II. Original Physical Appearance of the Battlefields

In 1867, under the direction of Bvt. Brig. Genl. N. Michler, Major of Engineers, and Major J.E. Weyss (assisted by F. Theilkuhl, J. Strasser and G. Thompson) a survey was done of the battlefields and detailed maps were produced for the government. They were designated as:

1. HIGH BRIDGE AND FARMVILLE, VA. (Includes a section of Lockett Farm field) Official Records Atlas Plate LXXVIII, No. 4
2. JETERSVILLE AND SAILOR'S CREEK, VA. (Lockett, Marshall & Hillsman Farms) O.R. Atlas Plate LXXVII, No. 4

These maps show roads, creeks, houses and outbuildings, ground cover, and some topography. By comparing these to modern topographical maps one can see very little change over the last 120 years. Their quality is excellent and provide a true representation of the area in 1865.

HILLSMAN FARM

There remain a few detailed accounts of the battlefields provided by the participants in each army. These are included to give an idea of what they experienced and saw. In portraying the situation at the Hillsman farm, a Federal soldier remarked as he readied himself for the assault on the Confederate position "...saw a line [Confederate troops] along the heights, which were mainly covered with forests, except for the face. There was a level bottom, wholly on the east [north] bank of the creek, over which they [Union forces] would have to pass before reaching the stream [Sayler's Creek,] then swollen beyond its banks by recent rains which washed the foot of the heights on which Gen. Ewell had rested his divisions of his army." (2)

The Confederate position "had a field of fire obstructed only by low scattered pine trees along the creek. The open ground they were posted on was strewn with broom sedge and a few bushes, mostly pine." (3)

MARSHALL'S CROSS ROADS

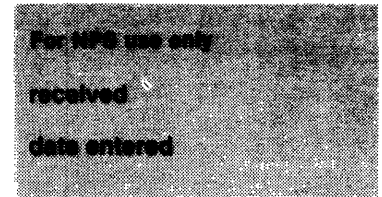
Few descriptions remain of this field except for one written by a Confederate soldier: "The men were facing south and west, with fence-rails thrown down and piled up on the side next to the enemy, the men on the right were furnished with the added protection of a road cut. An open field was in the Southerners' immediate front, leading to a long stretch of woods beyond." (4)

LOCKETT FARM

A Confederate soldier wrote, in describing this engagement: "The line of battle was formed on Lockett's Hill, which sloped gently down from the line to the creek, about 150 or 200 yards in rear of and running nearly parallel with the line of battle." (5) As the Confederates began falling back, the Federals advanced upon them and "passed a large farmhouse [Locketts] on the crest... [they] beheld a sight- before them was a narrow valley and a small stream called Saylor's Creek." (6)

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Their "Battle line broke into disorder and came swarming down the hill, firing and yelling." (7) Upon reaching the Confederate wagons, which had become bogged down in the creek bottom, their defenders began retreating up the opposite slope- " [It was a]race for life up the long, open hill-side of plowed ground." (8) A Federal on the battleline remarked: "Our skirmishers pursued the enemy up the farther slope until the flashes of their rifles dotted the hillside through the darkness like fireflies." (9)

Structures (Historic)

1. HILLSMAN HOUSE: Located in the boundaries of the State Park, this restored farmhouse serves as the Visitor Center for the battlefield. Although open to the public sporadically throughout the year, it still remains as an exterior exhibit and focal point for the parks' interpretation.

The house was built around the period of 1750-70, and is an example of early colonial architecture. Its builder, Moses Overton, had a son by the same name who served as a captain in the War of 1812. He and other members of the Overton-Hillsman family (Captain Overton's daughter, Martha, married John A. Hillsman) are buried in a nearby rock walled cemetery.

The story and a half residence exhibits dormer windows and is constructed with hand hewn timbers, wrought iron nails and wood pegs, and features brick nogging daubed in clay, hand crafted gutters, and beaded weatherboarding.

Its role in the battle lay in the fact that it served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers. Lieutenant George Peck, 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, who was wounded in the battle, was brought into the house and graphically described what he saw: "I was then placed on the floor of a room in which there were two beds, each occupied by two severely wounded officers, while in the third corner, on the floor, were at least a half dozen more. The only place found for me was in front of one of these beds; my head close beside the hall doorway where stood the operating table, with surgeons working the entire night, my body forming the bound of a passage way to the kitchen door in the fourth corner, whence people continually passed and re-passed." Supposedly, stains on the floor, which are still present, are blood stains from the use as a hospital.

2. LOCKETT HOUSE: Although a private residence, this structure has been kept in its original state with very few alterations being added since the war. Bullet and shell holes can still be seen in the weatherboarding and brick chimney. The home has and continues to be in the ownership of the descendants of James S. Lockett, the builder. The main or front part of the house, known as "Piney View," was built in 1858-9, while the rear wing is of an undetermined age although one of the chimneys bears an obliterated date of 17___. The farmhouse is of two stories with a high brick basement. It was in the west basement room that the Lockett family sought shelter during the fighting that raged around the house. After the battle, the building and yard served as a hospital.

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received
date entered

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Historic Structures Cont.

The present owner allows the house to be viewed as an exterior exhibit and wishes to restore the home in keeping with its place in history as a landmark of one of the Battles of Sayler's Creek.

CHRISTIAN HOUSE: While not directly related to the Battle of Lockett's Farm, this period home was passed by both armies on their way to the Double Bridges crossing of Sayler's Creek. Also, the Federal V Corps camped in the area of this farm on the evening of April 6 after their march through Painesville, Rodophil, and Ligon-town.

No information is currently available on this structure and it is presently a private residence.

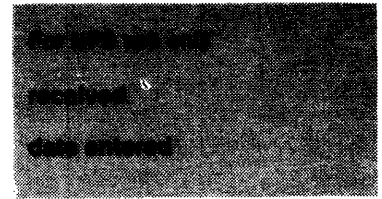
Structures (Non Historic)

The State Park has a modest caretaker's home which is in the southwest corner of the main property holding along Route 617.

The Garnett tract contains three private residences which are lived in by members of the family. A dairy farm operation is conducted on the tract.

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them all to rendezvous about 30 miles west at Amelia Court House, on the Richmond & Danville Railroad. Here he hoped he could provide his men with rations and ammunition, then follow the railroad line south toward Danville. Arriving at Amelia on April 4, Lee was astonished to find there had been a mix-up in his orders to send rations to this town and consequently all he found were trains laden with ammunition. Seeing no alternative, he decided to postpone his march from this locality and would allow his army to forage in the surrounding countryside. This delay proved disastrous because it lost the one day lead over Grant's army Lee had, allowing the Federals to move to his front and cut off his line of retreat at Jetersville Station.

B. Movements from Amelia Court House.

While the Union Army (Sheridan's Cavalry, II, V, and VI Corps) converged on Jetersville and began entrenching across Lee's path, the Confederate Army commenced its march down the railroad line. When Lee's cavalry scouts informed him of the situation which lay ahead at Jetersville, the commanding General decided not to do battle, but to skirt around the Federal left flank and move toward Farmville. Here Lee felt he could obtain rations for his men, then cut south, and intercept the Richmond & Danville line near Keysville. This change of plans would bring him to calamity in the valley of Saylor's Creek.

C. Setting up Disaster

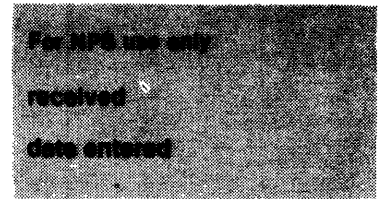
As Lee began his movement around the Union Forces, he designated his line of march as -- Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's combined First and Third Corps along with its wagon train in the lead, Lt. Gen. Richard H. Anderson's Corps; Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Reserve Corps; the main Confederate Wagon Train, and in the rear, Lt. Gen. John B. Gordon's Second Corps. (11) They skirted the entrenched Federals at Jetersville by taking a by-way across Flat Creek and through the Amelia Springs Resort area, and were not detected until most had passed the enemy.

About this time Grant's army became active and the cavalry, followed by the VI Corps, began moving out on a road that followed the Confederate line of retreat to the south. The II Corps was sent across Flat Creek and came in contact with Gordon's rear guard near Amelia Springs. The V Corps was sent to the north of Lee's army and would not be included in this day's operations (April 6).

The van (Longstreet) of the Confederates line of march moved unmolested the 16 miles to the crossing of Saylor's Creek on the Rice-Deatonville Road. Upon crossing, they continued on toward Rice's Station on the Southside Railroad. As Anderson's and Ewell's Corps approached the creek, they were deployed to stave off this assault while Longstreet's men kept moving. This allowed a gap to be formed in the line of march, and quick acting Union cavalry took advantage of this. Custer's Division, moving on a by road past Pride's Church and Gill's Mill, cut the Confederate column at Marshall's Cross Roads and prepared to give battle once the remainder of Sheridan's cavalry arrived.

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In the meantime, Anderson had moved from Holt's Corner, crossed the creek, and ran into Custer's roadblock at Marshall's. He began arranging his two divisions (Pickett's and Johnson's) into a defensive position. Ewell, after negating the Federal cavalry threat at Holt's, moved on toward the creek crossing, but only after instructing the main wagon train to turn north at Holt's and follow the Jamestown Road to a lower crossing of Sayler's Creek at the Double Bridges (Locketts). Gordon, bringing up the rear, and not being informed to do otherwise, also turned off the main road and advanced toward Locketts.

About this time, lead elements of Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright's VI Corps began closing on the Confederate column by turning north at Pride's Church then west to Holt's Corner. Seeing Ewell's rearguard around the Hillsman House, they set out after them. General Humphreys' II Corps, still pushing Gordon's rear, turned north at Holt's and continued their contact with him.

D. The Battle of Hillsman's Farm

While Ewell's rearguard (Humphreys' Brigade of Mississippians) held back the advance elements of the VI Corps, the main body of Ewell's troops crossed the creek and began laying out their defensive position on the high ground overlooking this run. This, incidentally, was being carried on at the same time Anderson was doing so a mile down the road at Marshall's.

As two Divisions of the VI Corps (1st & 3rd) began arriving upon the scene, the Confederate rearguard fell back to the creek and into their lines. The Federals halted around the Hillsman House and proceeded to form into battlelines. While this was transpiring, Maj. Andrew Cowan brought up his artillery and positioned 20 guns in the yard. For approximately 30 minutes, starting around 5:15 p.m., Cowan bombarded the Southern line, while the Confederates had no artillery with which to reply. When a cease fire was called, the two Union Divisions of around 7,000 men moved down the slope to the creek, crossed, and began reforming their lines in preparation for an assault on the heights. At 6:00 the Federal troops began their ascent only to be stopped by a well directed volley by the Confederates. This temporarily broke the momentum of the column, in fact, caused a few regiments to break ranks and retreat back to the creek. Seeing this, a contingent of the Southern forces, without orders, made a counterattack on the Federals and a vicious hand-to-hand combat took place. Only renewed Union artillery fire caused them to retreat back to their lines.

The Union lines were reformed again at the base of the hill and one final assault again took place, this time with success. The Federal forces overlapped the Confederate flanks and began rolling them up. As before, hand-to-hand fighting took place, but gradually the Southern forces started surrendering. Ewell's Inspector General, Maj. James W. Pegram, formally surrendered the entire command to the VI Corps.

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E. The Battle of Marshall's Cross Roads

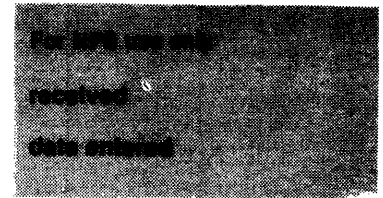
Simultaneously with the assault by the VI Corps at the creek, Sheridan's three cavalry divisions, commanded by Brig. Gen. Wesley Merritt, assaulted Anderson's position along the Rice-Deatonville Road. Here the Confederates did have artillery and used it successfully against the Federal horsemen. For various reasons, Anderson's men did not hold their ground as Ewell's men did, and many began retreating in front of the enemy attack. As the blueclad troopers started to pour over the Confederate line, the Southerners lit out cross country toward the crossing of Big Sayler's Creek on the road to Rice's Station. Because of this action, the Federal cavalry was then exposed to Ewell's rear and assisted in the capturing of many of his men. A fair number of Anderson's men did escape and joined Longstreet and General Lee to the west.

F. The Battle of Lockett's Farm

Two miles north of the crossing of Little Sayler's Creek at the Hillsman Farm, the Jamestown Road crossed the confluence of Big and Little Sayler's Creek over the "Double Bridges." East of this crossing, situated on a commanding ridge, was the Lockett Farm. As the main Confederate Wagon Train moved through this area, it became bogged down in the bottom lands of the creek, and brought the movements of the army to a standstill. Seeing this, Gordon prepared to make a stand, knowing the Federal II Corps was on his trail. As the two armies began skirmishing, Gordon's men fell back to the creek and attempted to guard the disabled train. Their stand was quickly repulsed as Federal battlelines pushed on their position, outflanking them and forcing them to retreat up the opposite slope. Darkness brought an end to the fighting and the Union troops pressed no further. This disaster brought a loss of 1,700 prisoners, 3 artillery pieces, 2000 wagons and 70 ambulances, along with 13 battleflags captured from Gordon's command.

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ENDNOTES

1. Officially known in the period military reports as "The Battle of Little Sailor's Creek." The correct spelling is Saylor's, not Sailors or Saylor's, the creek being named for a local family. On the modern topographical maps there is an error in which Big Saylor's Creek and Little Saylor's Creek are reversed in their identification.
2. Christopher Calkins, Thirty-Six Hours Before Appomattox (Farmville, 1980), p.9; cited hereinafter as 36 Hours. J. Warren Keifer, "The Battle of Sailor's Creek," Ohio Commandery Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Vol. 3 (Robert Clarke & co., Cincinnati, 1890), p.8.
3. 36 Hours, p. 9; Thomas B. Blake, "The Artillery Brigade at Sailor's Creek," Confederate Veteran, (1920) p. 213.
4. 36 Hours, p. 14; C.F. James, "The Battle of Sailor's Creek," Southern Historical Society Papers, Vol. XIV (1896), p. 85.
5. 36 Hours, p. 29; Carlton McCarthy, Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life in the Army of Northern Virginia 1861-65, (B.F. Johnson Pub. Co., Richmond, 1899), p. 135-6.
6. 36 Hours, p. 29; Horace Shaw and Charles House, The 1st Maine Heavy Artillery, (Portland, Me., 1903), p.180.
7. 36 Hours, p. 29; Charles Nutt and Alfred S. Roe, History of the First Regiment of Heavy Artillery Massachusetts Volunteers, (Commonwealth Press, 1917), p. 214.
8. 36 Hours, p. 29; Carlton McCarthy, Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life, (Richmond, 1899), p. 140.
9. 36 Hours, p. 30. Thomas L. Livermore, Days and Events, 1860-66, (Boston, 1920), p. 488.
10. Letter dated February 23, 1940, and Letter dated November 10, 1941; Folder containing this correspondence in possession of C.M. Calkins.
11. 36 Hours, p. 3; Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's Third Corps was placed with Longstreet's First Corps after Hill was killed on April 2, 1865, at Petersburg.
12. Although referred to in military reports as Hott's Corner, it was actually Holts.

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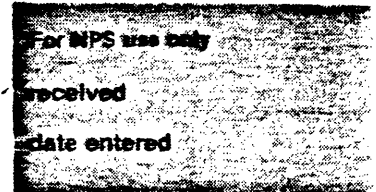
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ESTIMATES OF THOSE ACTUALLY ENGAGED AT SAYLER'S CREEK AND
 THEIR RESPECTIVE LOSSES

Confederate Forces	Source
1. Savannah Volunteer Guards or the 18th Georgia Battalion 85 present 30 killed 22 wounded	Basinger
2. Major Stile's Command- 100 were killed and wounded	Basinger
3. Barton's Brigade numbered about 500 Naval Brigade about 600 Custis Lee and Kershaw's Divisions totaled 4,000	Howard
4. Naval Brigade- 400 Ewell's Corp- 4,000	Johnston
5. Ewell and Anderson- numbered between 8-10,000 men aggregate	Watson
6. About 200 men escaped capture from Federal Forces.	Walker
7. Ewell's Force numbered 3600 Anderson's Force numbered 6400 Kershaw's numbered 2,000 Custis Lee's numbered 1,600 Johnson's numbered 3,800; Wise and Wallace's Brigades escaped along with 250 men of Moodys and 80 of Ransoms Pickett's numbered 2,500	Humphreys
8. Ewell's Losses- 3,400 of which 150 were/ killed and wounded Anderson's Losses- 2,600 Custis Lee's Losses-1,600 Kershaw's Losses-1,750 (250 escapees) Johnson's Losses-1,100 Pickett's Losses 1,500 (1,000 escapees)	Humphreys

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Federal Forces

Source

1. Sheridan's losses from March 29 to April 9, 1865, were 1,472

Watson

Confederate reports of Sheridan's losses amounted to 1,000 killed and wounded at Sayler's Creek

2. The infantry actually engaged of the VI Corps under Gen. Wright did not exceed 10,000 men

Keifer

In the assault on the heights the number was around 7,000

General Wright estimated the number of prisoners taken by his men was around 10,000

Sheridan's aggregate force numbered 8,000

Stevens

Federal forces lost an estimated 1,180 men, 170 which were killed (This includes the fight at the Double Bridges)

Virginia State Parks Manuscript

VI CORPS LOSSES: April 6, 1865

Official Record Reports

	Killed	Wounded	Total
1st Division: 7 Officers 70 enlisted Men; 19 Off.	277 E.M.		26 347= 373
3rd Division:	7 E.M.	2 Off. 58 E.M.	2 65= 67
Artillery Brigade:		2 E.M.	2= 2
			442

Wheaton's 1st Division

	Killed	Wounded	Total
Hamblin's 2nd Brig.:	3 Off. 14 E.M.	1 Off. 36 E.M.	4 50= 54
Edward's 3rd Brig.:	4 Off. 56 E.M.	18 Off. 241 E.M.	22 297= 319

Hamblin's Report: 17 Killed 38 Wounded 1 Missing

Edward's Report: 343 Killed and Wounded

No mention of casualties in Seymour's Report

" " " " " either Truex's or Keifer's Reports

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MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS FROM SAYLER'S CREEK

<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CITATION</u>
Benjamin, John F. Corp.	Co. M, 2 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of 9th Va. Flag
Bennett, Orren Priv.	Co. D, 141 Pa. Inf.	Capture of flag
Boon, Hugh P. Capt.	Co. B, 1 W.Va. Cav.	" "
Brest, Lewis F. Priv.	Co. D, 57 Pa. Inf.	" "
Bringle, Andrew Corp.	Co. F, 10 N.Y. Cav.	Gallantry
Calkin, Ivers S. 1st Sgt.	Co. M, 2 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of 18th Va. Flag
Chapman, John Priv.	Co. M, 1 Maine H. Art.	Capture of flag
Clapp, Albert A. 1st Sgt.	Co. G, 2 Ohio Cav.	Capture of 8th Fla. Flag
Connell, Trustrim Corp.	Co. I, 138 Pa. Inf.	Capture of flag
Cunningham, Francis M. 1st Sgt.	Co. H, 1 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of 12th Va. Flag
Custer, Thomas W. 2 Lt.	Co. B, 6 Mich. Cav.	Capture of flag
Davis, Thomas Priv.	Co. C., 2 N.Y. H. Art.	" "
Dockun, Warren C. Priv.	Co. H. 121 N.Y. Inf.	Capture of flag of Savannah Guards
Evans, Coron D. Priv.	Co. A, 3Ind. Cav.	Capture of 26 Va. Flag
Ford, George W. 1Lt.	Co. E, 88 N.Y. Inf.	Capture of flag
Gifford, Benjamin Priv.	Co. H, 121 N.Y. Inf.	" "
Gribben, James H. Lt.	Co. C, 2 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of 12th Va. Flag
Haggerty, Asel Priv.	Co. A, 61 N.Y. Inf.	Capture of flag
Haynes, Asbury F. Corp.	Co. H, 17 Maine Inf.	" "
Hoffman, Henry Corp.	Co. M, 2 Ohio Cav.	" "
Holmes, William T. Priv.	Co. A, 3 Ind. Cav.	Capture of 27th Va. Flag
Houlton, William M. Com. Sgt.	1 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of flag
Hughey, John Corp.	Co. L, 2 Ohio Cav.	Capture of 38th Va. Flag
Jordon, Absalon Corp.	Co. A., 3 Ind. Cav.	Capture of flag

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Kenyon, Samuel P. Priv.	Co. B, 24 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of flag
Keough, John Corp.	Co. E, 67 Pa. Inf.	Capture of 50th Ga. Flag
Kimball, Joseph Priv.	Co. B, 2 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of 6th N.C. Flag
Kline, Henry (Harry) Priv.	Co. E, 40 N.Y. Inf.	Capture of flag
Lanfore, Aaron S. 1Lt.	Co. B, 1 Conn. Cav.	Capture of 11th Fla. Flag
Lariner, Smith Corp.	Co. G, 2 Ohio Cav.	Capture of Kershaw's HDQ Flag
McElhany (McElhinny), Sam Priv.	Co. A, 2 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of flag
McWhorter, Walter F. Com. Sgt.	Co. E, 3 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of 6th Tenn. Flag
Menter, John W. Sgt.	Co. D, 5 Mich. Inf.	Capture of flag
Miller, Frank Priv.	Co. M, 2 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of 25 Battalion Va. Inf. Flag
Morris, William Sgt.	Co. C, 1 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of 40th Va. Flag
Mundell, Walter L. Corp.	Co. E, 5 Mich. Inf.	Capture of flag
Neville, Edwin M. Capt.	Co. C, 1 Conn. Cav.	" "
Norton, Elliot M. 2 Lt.	Co. H, 6 Mich. Cav.	Capture of two flags
Norton, John R. Lt.	Co. M, 1 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of flag
Norton, Llewellyn P. Sgt.	Co. L, 10 N.Y. Cav.	Gallantry
Parker, Thomas Corp.	Co. B, 2 R.I. Inf.	Gallantry
Payne, Irwin C. Corp.	Co. M, 2 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of Va. State Colors
Pitman, George J. Sgt.	Co. C, 1 N.Y. Cav.	Capture of flag of Sumter Heavy Artillery
Porter, William Sgt.	Co. H, 1 N.J. Cav.	Gallantry
Richardson, William R. Priv.	Co. A, 2 Ohio Cav.	"
Riddell, Rudolph Lt.	Co. I, 61 N.Y. Inf.	Capture of flag
Savacool, Edwin F. Capt.	Co. K, 1 N.Y. Cav.	" "
Shahan, Emisire Corp.	Co. A, 1 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of 76th ? Ga. Flag

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Shepherd, William Priv.	Co. A, 3 Ind. Cav.	Capture of flag
Simmons, John Priv.	Co. D, 2 N.Y. H. Art.	" "
Southard, David Sgt.	Co. C, 1 N.J. Cav.	Capture of flag
Taggart, Charles A. Priv.	Co. B, 37 Mass. Inf.	" "
Litus, Charles Sgt.	Co. H, 1 N.J. Cav.	Gallantry
Wilson, Charles E. Sgt.	Co. A, 1 N.J. Cav.	"
Woods, Daniel A. Priv.	Co. K, 1 W.Va. Cav.	Capture of 18th ? Fla. Flag

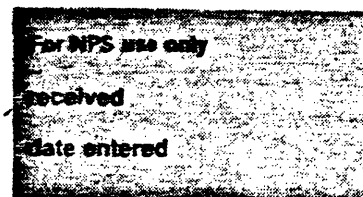
The above names were taken from the Official Records Report No. 266 of Vol. XLVI, Part 1, pp. 1257-61. Some of the names listed belonged to the Federal II Corps which fought against Gordon's Corp at the Double Bridges (Lockett Farm) Crossing.

ADDENDA: The following names were taken from other sources and are suppose to have been given the Medal of Honor for actions at Sayler's Creek.

Eddy, Samuel E. Priv.	Co. 37 Mass. Inf.	Gallantry
Hawthorn, Harris, S. Corp.	Co. F, 121 N.Y. Inf.	Captured Gen. Custis Lee
Mattocks, Charles P. Major	17 Maine Inf.	Gallantry
Tompkins, Aaron B. Sgt.	Co. G, 1 N.J. Cav.	Capture of flag

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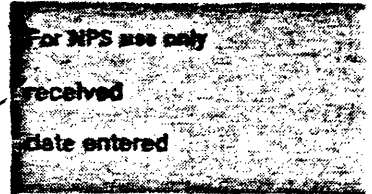
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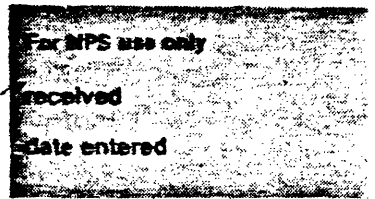
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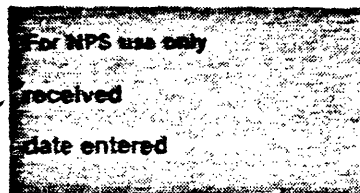
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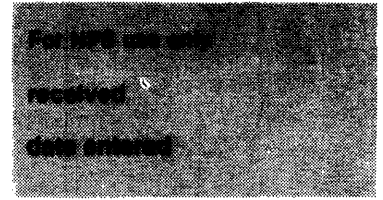
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

SECTION 1: Lockett Farm Battlefield (800 Acres)-- This section, composed of numerous tracts, contains the Historic Lockett and Christian Houses. It also encompasses a large portion of the battlefield and overnight campsites of the Federal VI and V Army Corps. State Routes 618 and 619 are also the Historic Jamestown Road over which both armies traversed. NOTICE: ALL DEEDS AND PLOT MAPS TO THE GARNETT TRACTS ARE ENCLOSED IN A SEPARATE FOLDER. A VERBAL BOUNDRY DESCRIPTION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THESE. FROM- DEED BOOKS 225,103, & 93; PAGES 680-2, 688-9, 199, & 415 (Prince Edward County)

SECTION 2: Double Bridges Crossing over Sayler's Creek (5 Acres)-- This plot preserves the Jamestown Road crossing over Little and Big Sayler's Creek. The remains of the two 20th Century bridges exist as well as the old road bed. Currently, Route 619 crosses the creek above the confluence of both streams. This land is controlled by the State Park System.

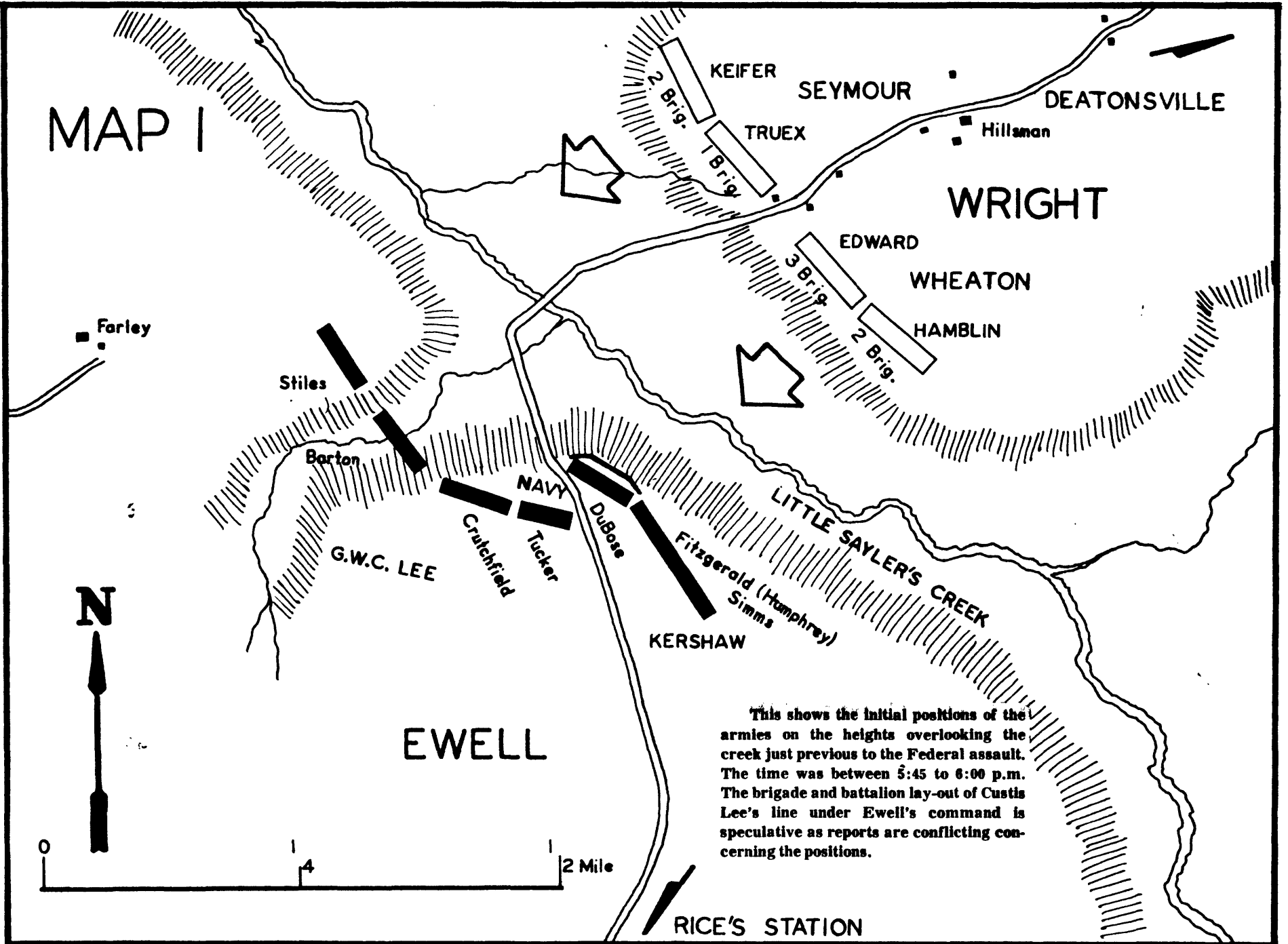
SECTION 3: Hillsman Farm Battlefield (214.839 Acres)--This area is the main unit of Sayler's Creek Battlefield State Park. It embraces most of the area of the fight between Ewell's Corps and Wright's VI Corps. The Hillsman Farm House is the main center for interpretation of this site. The Historic Gulley Tavern or Rice- Deatonsville Road intersects this tract.

SECTION 4: Marshall Cross Roads (0.599 Acres) Also administered by the State Park, this small tract offers an excellent site to interpret the engagement between Anderson's Corps and Sheridan's Cavalry Corps. The area covering this battle site is presently subdivided into numerous small tracts so it was decided not to include them in this nomination.

ALL DEEDS AND PLOT MAPS TO THE LAND HOLDINGS OF SAYLER'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK ARE CONTAINED IN A SEPARATE FOLDER. VERBAL BOUNDRY DESCRIPTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED HERE.

FROM- DEED BOOKS 87,89,94, & 101; PAGES 98,253,248,534, & 576 (Amelia County)

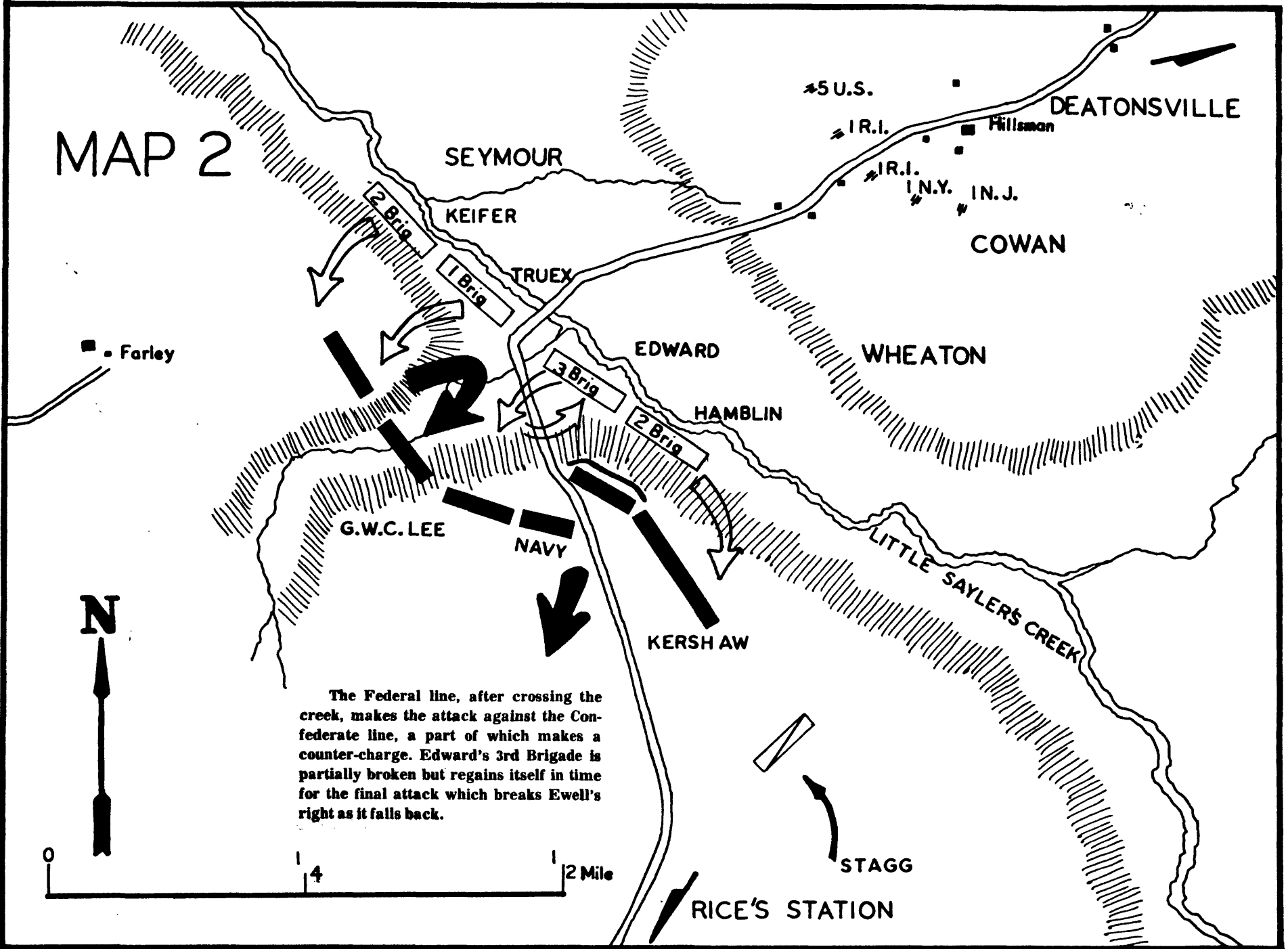
MAP I



This shows the initial positions of the armies on the heights overlooking the creek just previous to the Federal assault. The time was between 5:45 to 6:00 p.m. The brigade and battalion lay-out of Custis Lee's line under Ewell's command is speculative as reports are conflicting concerning the positions.

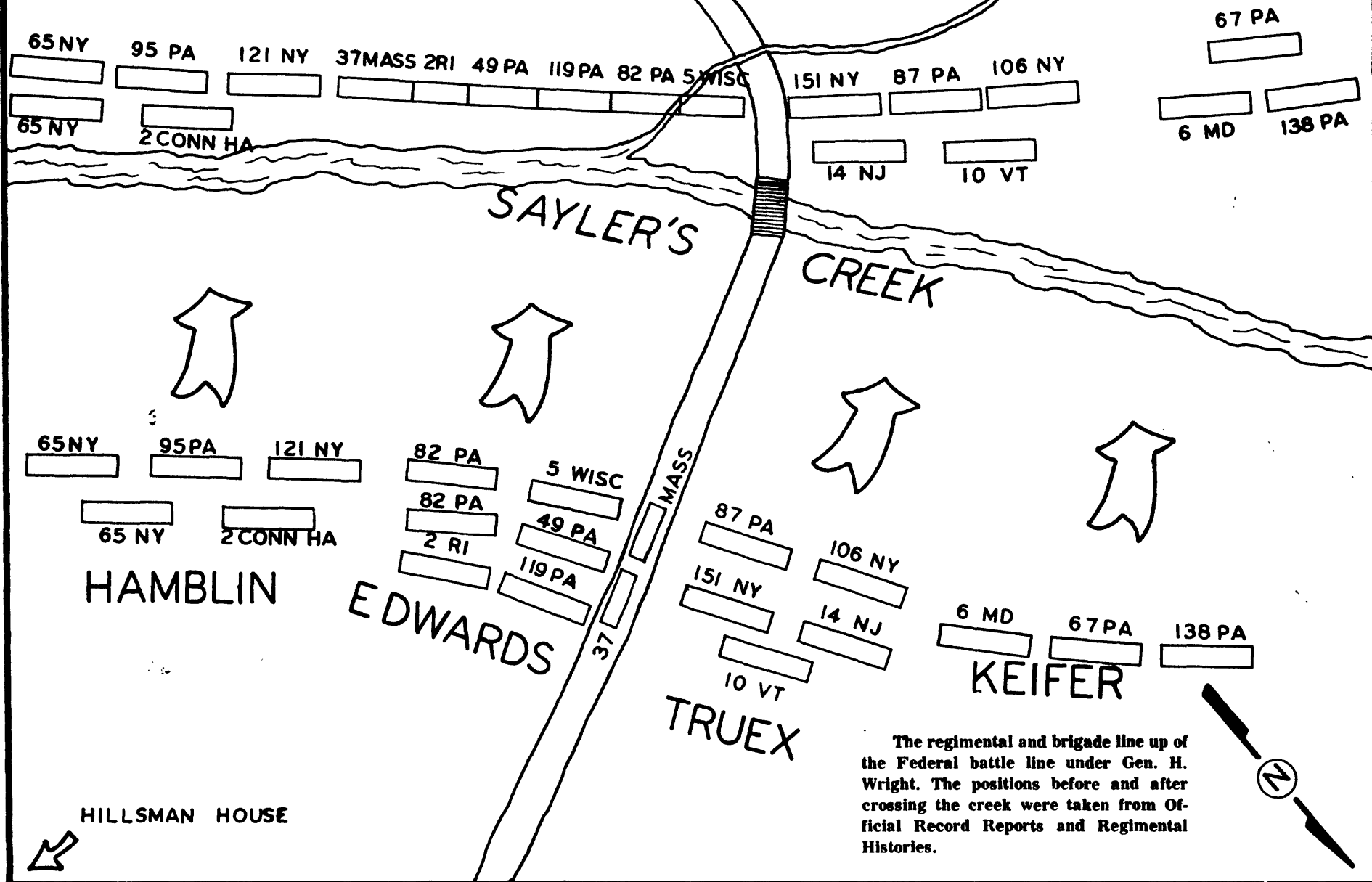
RICE'S STATION

MAP 2



The Federal line, after crossing the creek, makes the attack against the Confederate line, a part of which makes a counter-charge. Edward's 3rd Brigade is partially broken but regains itself in time for the final attack which breaks Ewell's right as it falls back.

MAP 3



The regimental and brigade line up of the Federal battle line under Gen. H. Wright. The positions before and after crossing the creek were taken from Official Record Reports and Regimental Histories.

MAP 4

ANDERSON

CROSS ROADS

EWELL Surrenders here

Marshall

RANSOM MOODY WALLACE WISE
JOHNSON

TERRY HUNTON CORSE
PICKETT

STEUART

G. Harper



GREGG

DAVIES

SMITH

RICE'S STATION

CROOK

FITZHUGH GIBBS

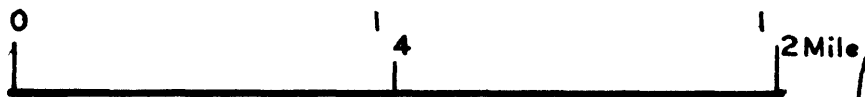
PENNINGTON CAPEHART
WELLS

DEVIN

MERRITT

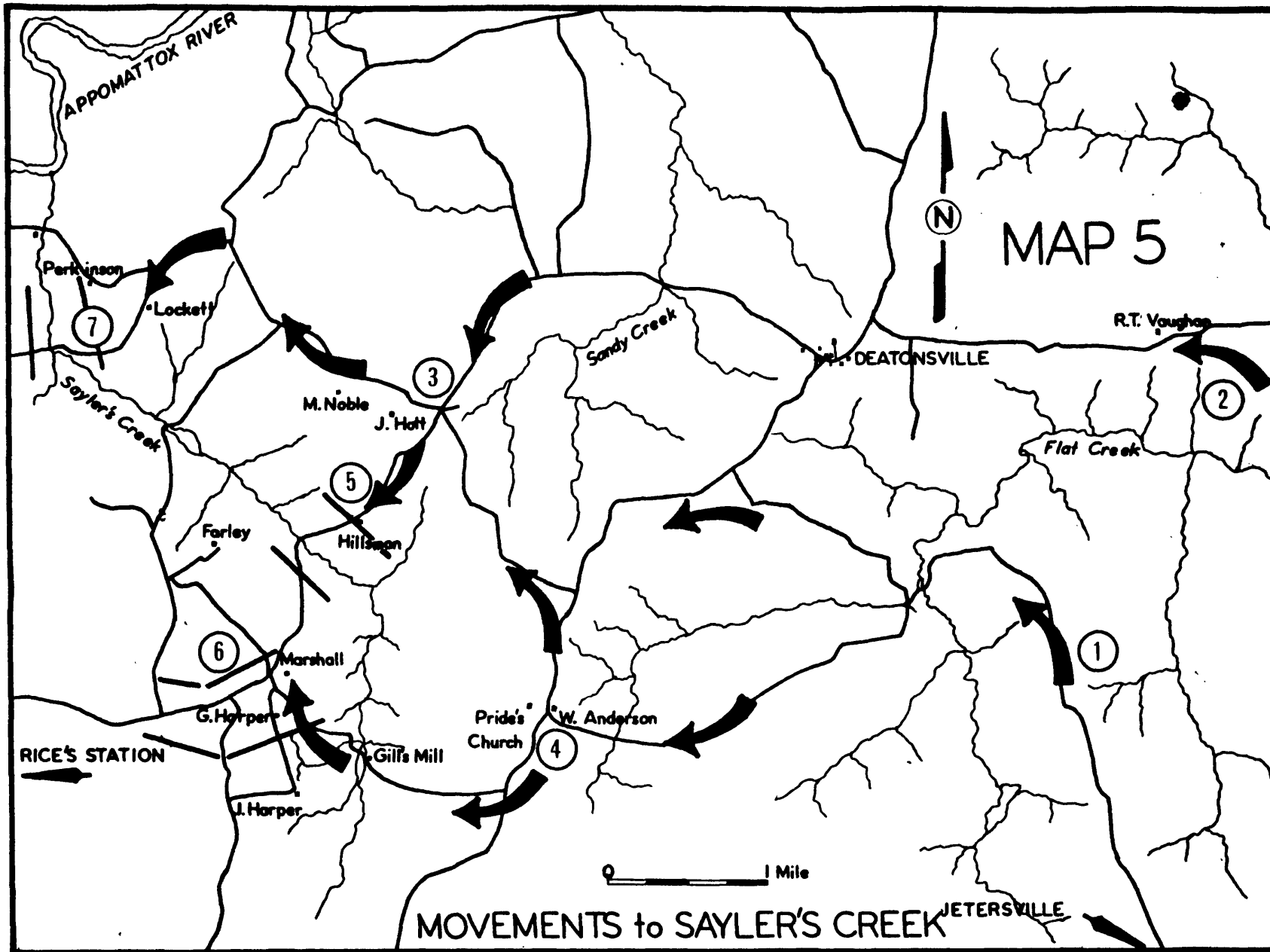
CUSTER

Anderson's and Merritt's fight at the Cross Roads (approx. one mile south of the fight at the Creek). Many of Anderson's men managed to escape while most of Ewell's men were captured.



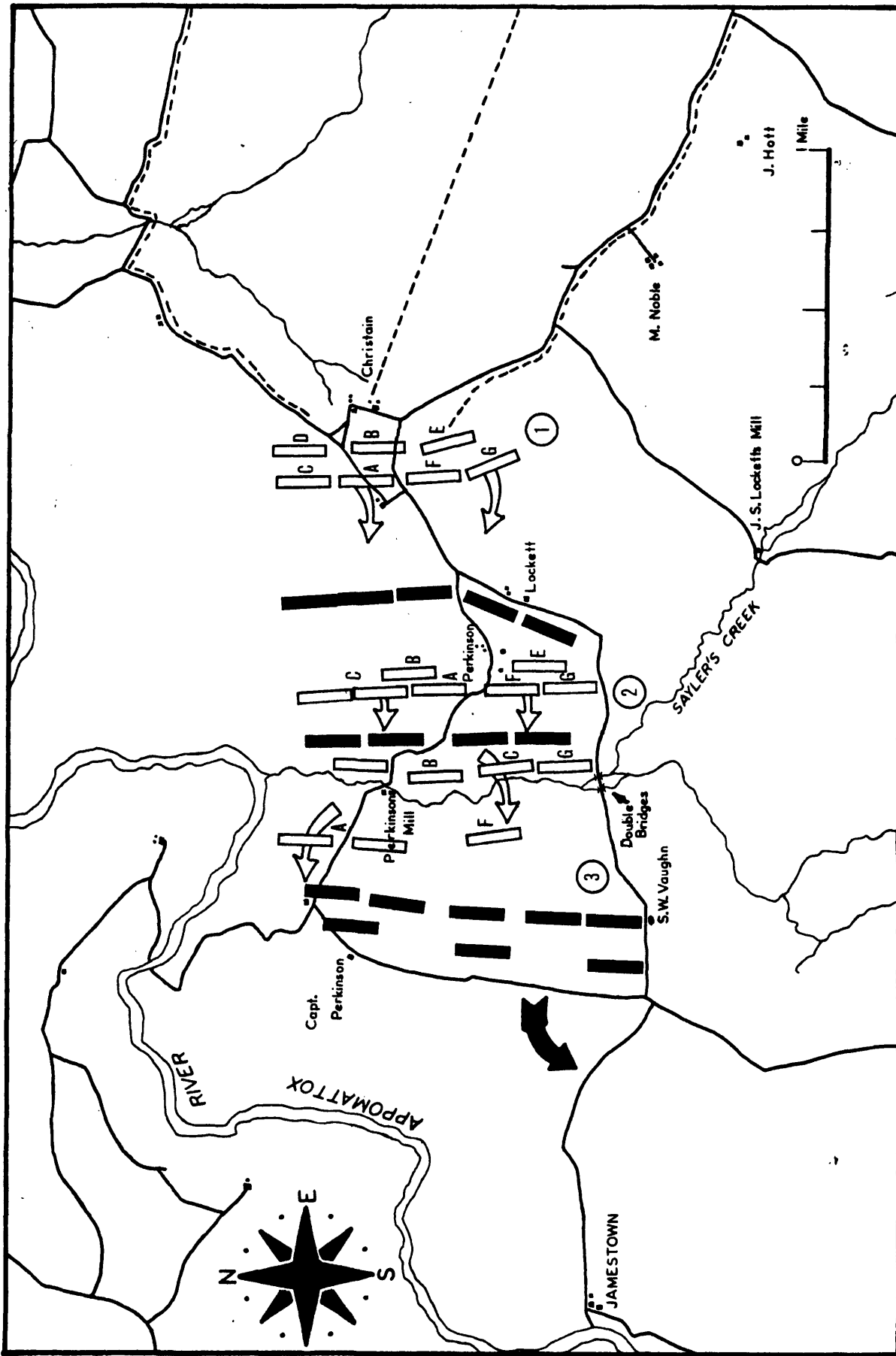
A. Beasley

J. Harper



The routes of the Confederate and Union Armies to Saylor's Creek.

1. Sheridan's Cavalry and Wright's VI Corps move up from Jetersville.
2. Route of the retreating Confederate Army pursued by Humphrey's II Corps.
3. Longstreet, Anderson and Ewell proceed south across Saylor's Creek while the wagon train and Gordon turn northward on the Jamestown Road.
4. At Pride's Church the Federal Cavalry moves south then west to the Cross Roads area. Wright's VI Corps turns north then west to come in behind Ewell.
5. At Holt's Corner the VI Corps turns south and moves to the Hillsman House. Here a battleline is formed for the impending attack.
6. Federal Cavalry moves upon the forces under Anderson at the Cross Roads.
7. Gordon and wagon trains become bogged down at Saylor's Creek. Humphrey's attacks and inflicts heavy losses on the Confederates.



Information for this map was taken from Plate LXXVII, #4 Official Records Atlas, drawn by Maj J. E. Weyss, 1867. Troop positions are from a map contained in La Rozaie by John Watts DePeyster, 1874.

FEDERAL TROOPS — Humphrey's II Corps
CONFEDERATE TROOPS — Gordon's Second Corps

Federal Troops:

- A. 1st Div. 1st Brig. Col. Scott
- B. 1st Div. 2nd Brig. Col. Nugent
- C. 1st Div. 3rd Brig. Brig. Gen. McDougall
- D. 1st Div. 4th Brig. Brig. Gen. Ramsey

- E. 3rd Div. 1st Brig. Col. Shepherd
- F. 3rd Div. 2nd Brig. Brig. Gen. Pierce
- G. 3rd Div. 3rd Brig. Brig. Gen. McAllister

The Numbers 1, 2, 3 on map designate the beginning and final movements of the Federal and Confederate troops during the fighting at Saylor's Creek.