



BATTLE OF RIGGINS' HILL



Fight for Control



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In mid-August 1862, Confederate cavalry recaptured Clarksville to disrupt Union transportation on the Cumberland River to Nashville and to gather new recruits and supplies. Early in September, Union Col. William W. Lowe led 1,100 men including detachments of the 5th Iowa Cavalry, the 71st Ohio, 11th Illinois, and 13th Wisconsin Infantry, as well as sections of Flood's and Starbuck's Illinois Batteries to retake the town in early September.

As Lowe marched eastward from Dover, scouts from Confederate Col. Thomas Woodward's 2nd Kentucky Cavalry fired on the column as it neared Clarksville on September 7. Woodward's force numbered some 700 men including armed townsmen. The Federals pushed the Confederates

back for a few miles to their main line at Riggins' Hill. The center of the line was along a ridge across present-day U.S. Route 79 and Dotsonville Road, near here. The dismounted Confederates used woods, rail and stone fences, and houses and barns as cover.

Lowe's men deployed on a parallel ridge south and west of here as his artillery opened fire, causing havoc in the Confederate position. After forty-five minutes, Woodward's line began to buckle, and when Lowe's flank units pushed forward, the Confederate line collapsed. Lowe's cavalry aggressively pursued Woodward's men through Clarksville. Confederate losses were 17 killed, 40 wounded, and about 50 captured. Reported Union losses were "negligible."

The Federals occupied Clarksville and reopened the river as a supply line. With too few Federal troops to hold the area, however, Clarksville was not permanently occupied until December 1862. Clashes over the control of the river continued in this area until late in 1864, when the Union finally gained the upper hand.



Col. William Lowe
Courtesy ????



Col. Thomas Woodward
Courtesy ????



5th Iowa Cavalry - *Courtesy ????*



Map, engagement at Riggins' Hill