

CIVIL WAR LODGE OF RESEARCH 1865



18 September 2021



Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865^{††}



803 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Va.



FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO 4





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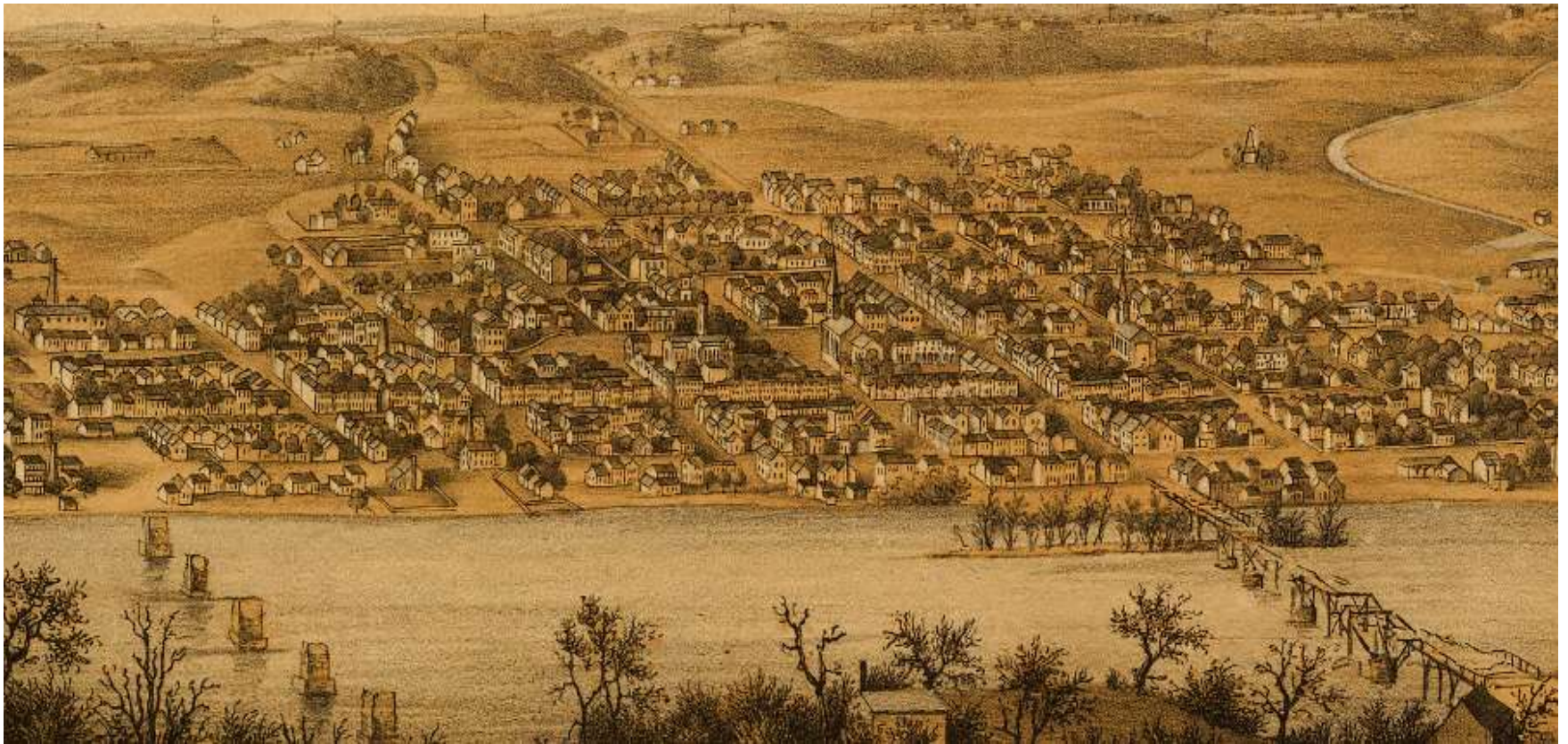


Even during the Battle of Fredericksburg, we learn that our Northern Brethren entered into this Lodge through the rear livery and our Southern Brethren entered through the front door of that same building. It was here that they dropped off their weapons and equipment, hugged one another and attended Lodge together. After Lodge was over, these same Brethren would again hug one another, go downstairs, recover their weapons and equipment and exit, where again, they would commence killing one another. It is said that the wood floors of our original Lodge room upstairs still hold the bloodstains from the time it was used as a hospital by Union forces.



The Battle of Fredericksburg

December 11-15, 1862





The Battle of Fredericksburg

December 13, 1862

Brad Gottfried, Author



The Battle of Fredericksburg

December 11-15, 1862



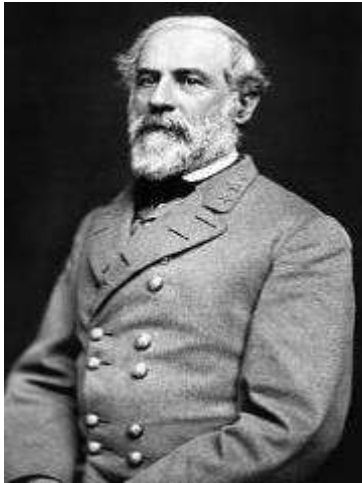
- The Battle of Fredericksburg was fought December 11–15, 1862, in and around Fredericksburg, Virginia, between General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by Major General Ambrose Burnside, as part of the American Civil War. The Union Army's futile frontal attacks on December 13 against entrenched Confederate defenders on the heights behind the city are remembered as one of the most one-sided battles of the war, with Union casualties more than three times as heavy as those suffered by the Confederates. A visitor to the battlefield described the battle to U.S. President Abraham Lincoln as a "butchery." [14]
- Burnside's plan was to cross the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg in mid-November and race to the Confederate capital of Richmond before Lee's army could stop him. Bureaucratic delays prevented Burnside from receiving the necessary pontoon bridges in time and Lee moved his army to block the crossings. When the Union army was finally able to build its bridges and cross under fire, urban combat in the city resulted on December 11–12. Union troops prepared to assault Confederate defensive positions south of the city and on a strongly fortified ridge just west of the city known as Marye's Heights.
- On December 13, the "Grand Division" of Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin was able to pierce the first defensive line of Confederate Lieutenant General Stonewall Jackson to the south, but was finally repulsed when he did not send reinforcements as ordered.
- Burnside ordered the Grand Divisions of Maj. Gens. Edwin V. Sumner and Joseph Hooker to make multiple frontal assaults against Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's position on Marye's Heights, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses. On December 15, Burnside withdrew his army, ending another failed Union campaign in the Eastern Theater.



The Leaders/Armies



- Army of Northern Virginia



- Gen. Robert E. Lee
- 79,000
- 75,000

Gettysburg

- Army of the Potomac



- Gen. Ambrose Burnside
- 122,000
- 104,000



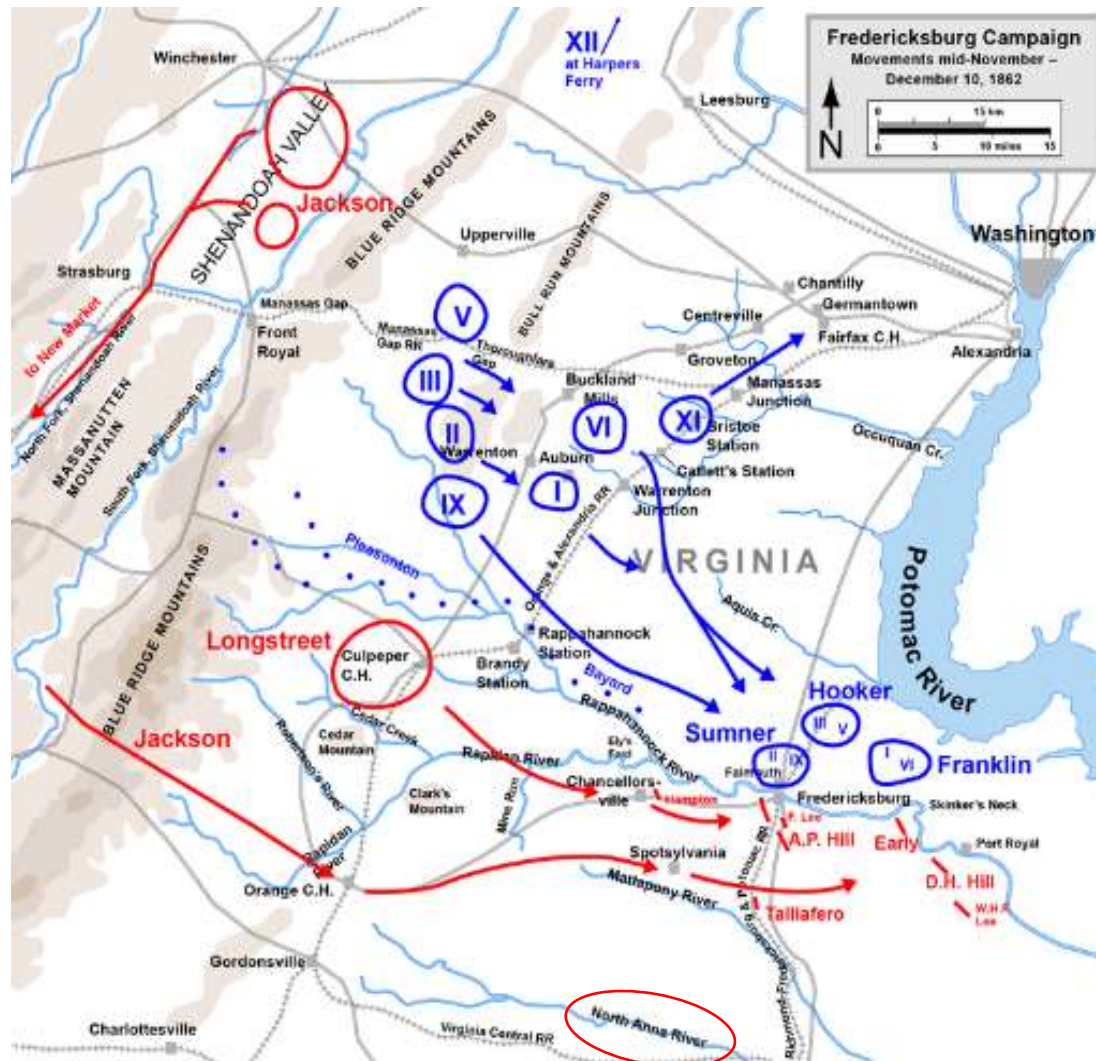
Situation after Antietam





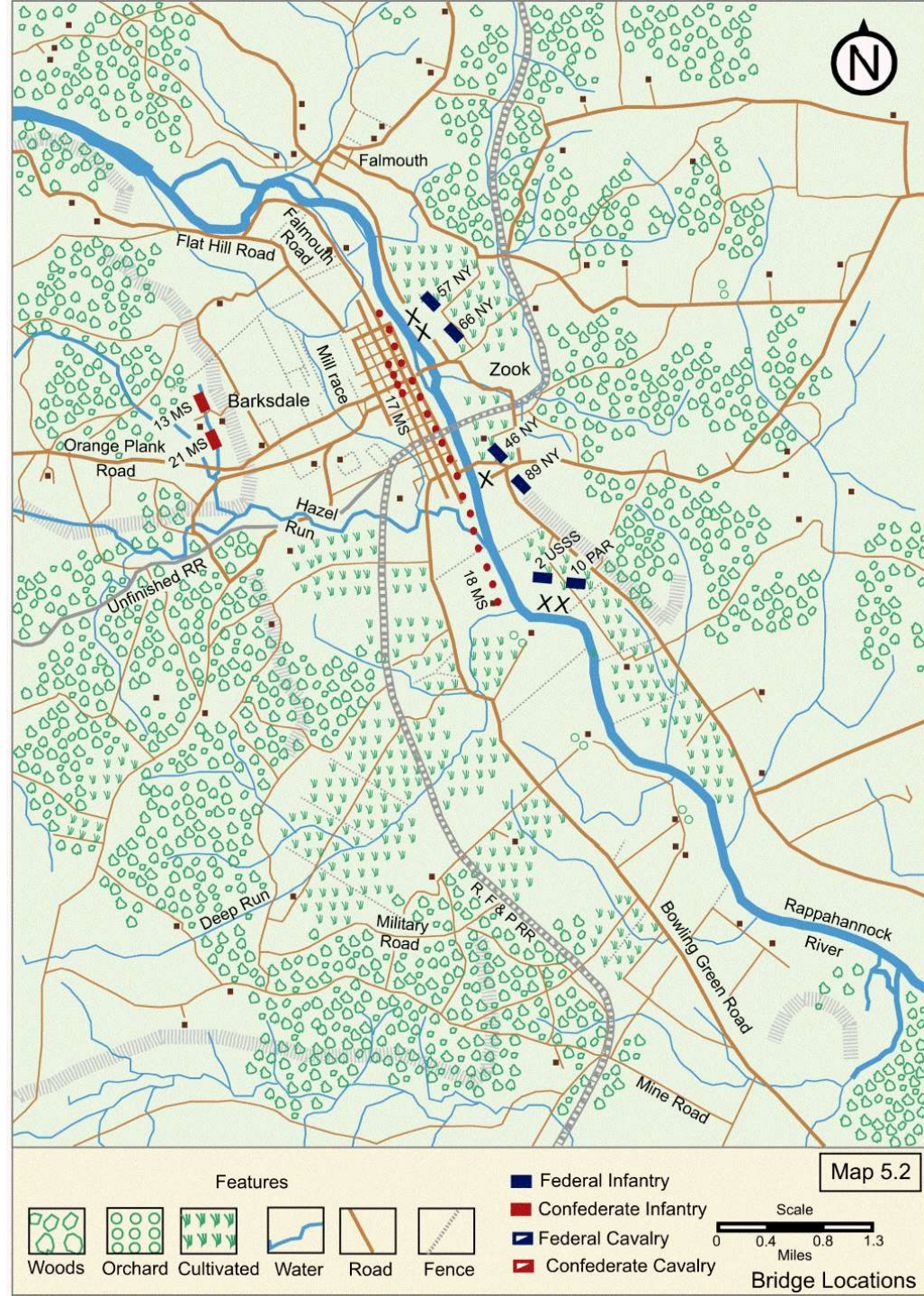
Getting to the Battlefield

Nov – Dec 1862



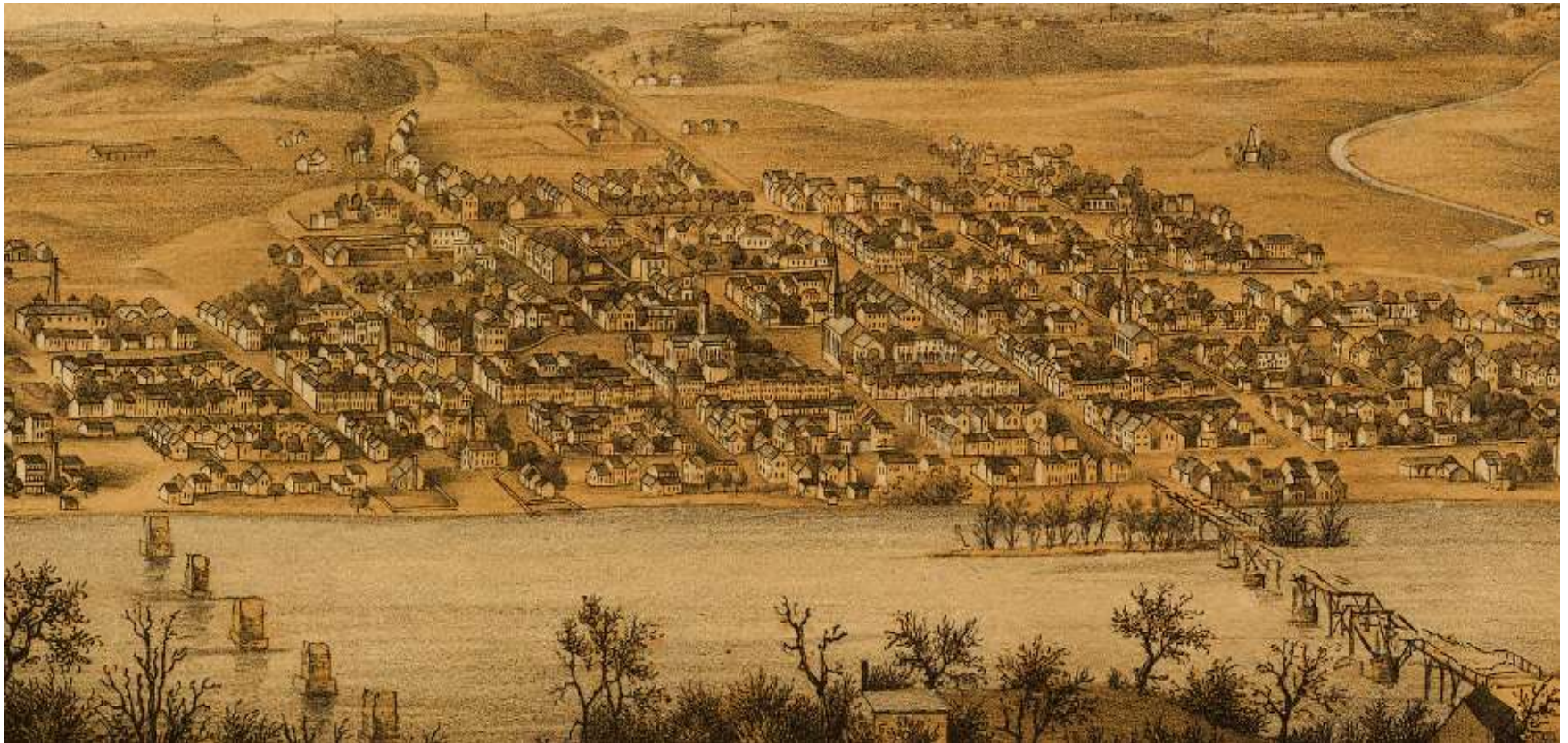


The Battlefield





Fredericksburg



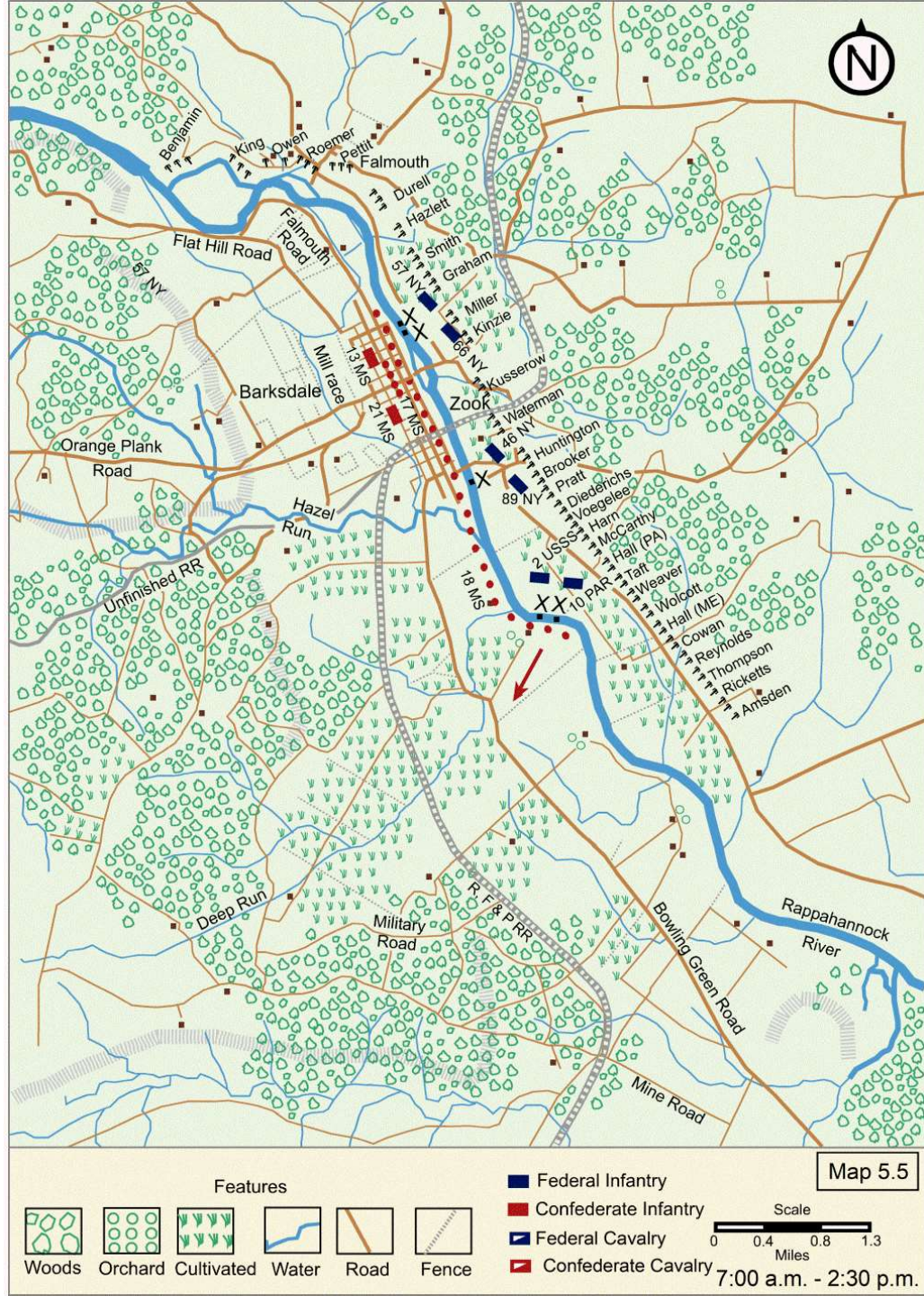


December 11th 1862 Fight in the Town





Crossing the Rappahannock River



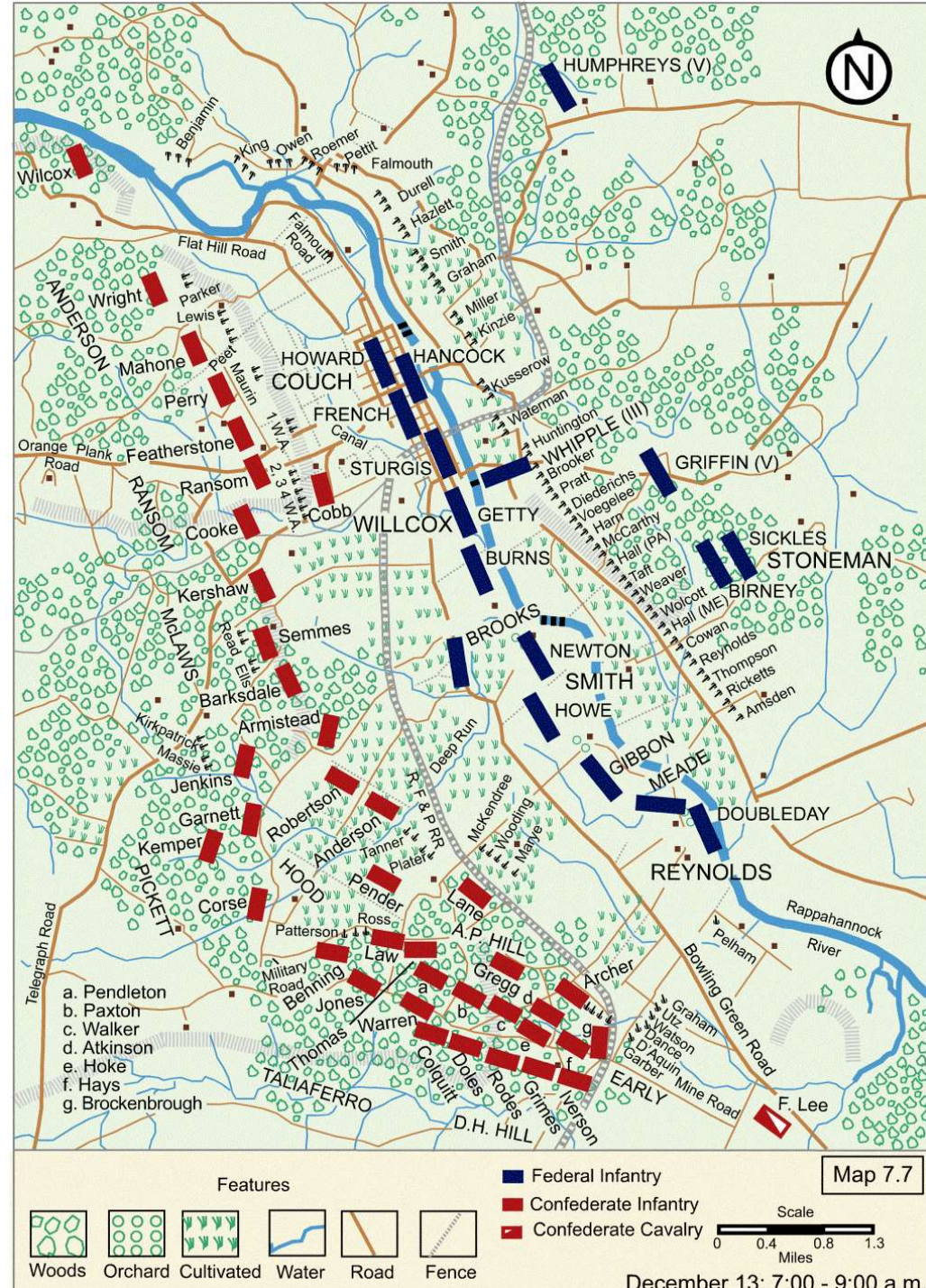


The Fight in the Town





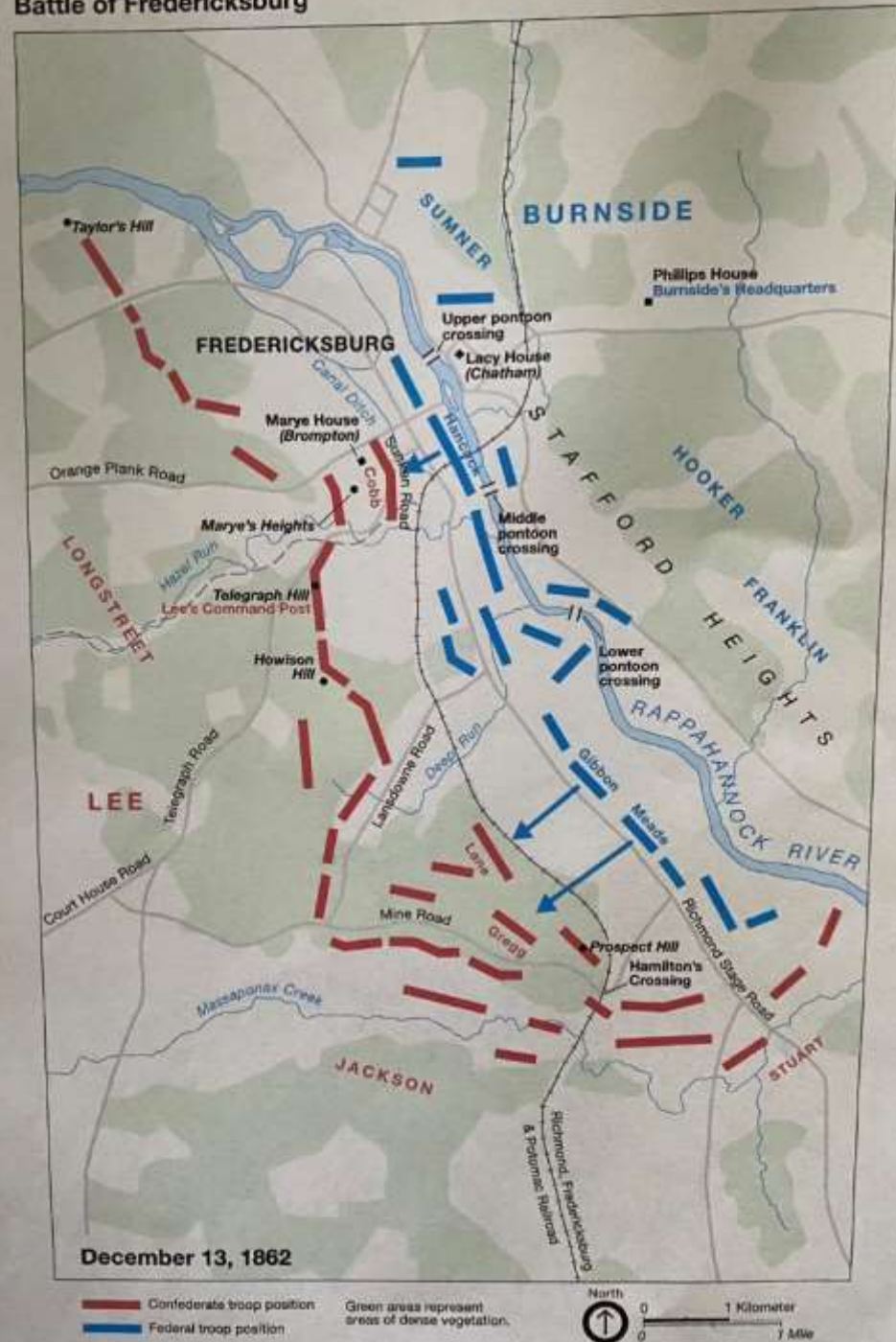
Getting into Position 13 Dec





Burnside Plan For 13 Dec

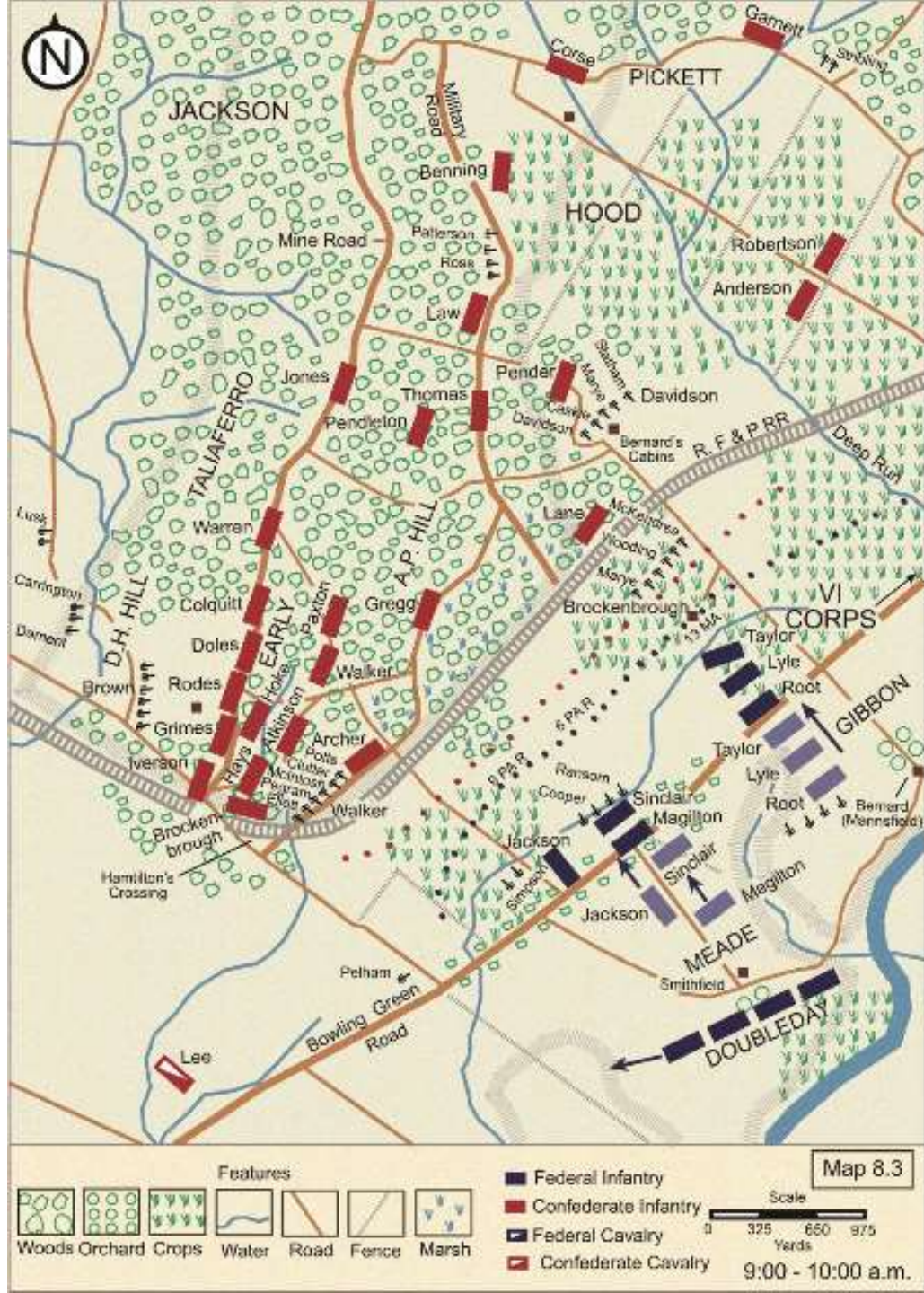
Battle of Fredericksburg





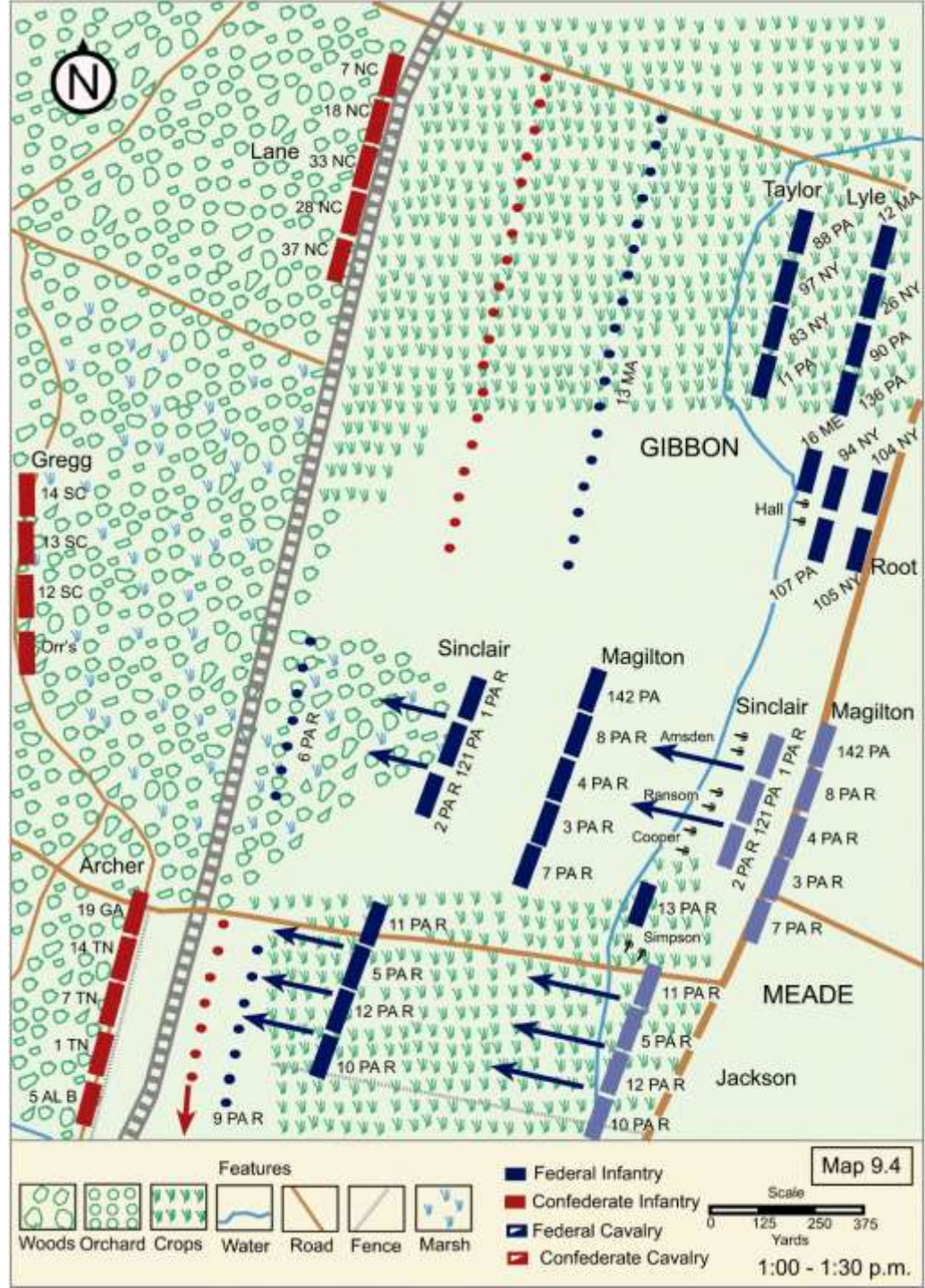
Meade and Gibbon Getting into Position I Corps (Reynolds)

(Meade commands
Pennsylvania
Reserve Division)



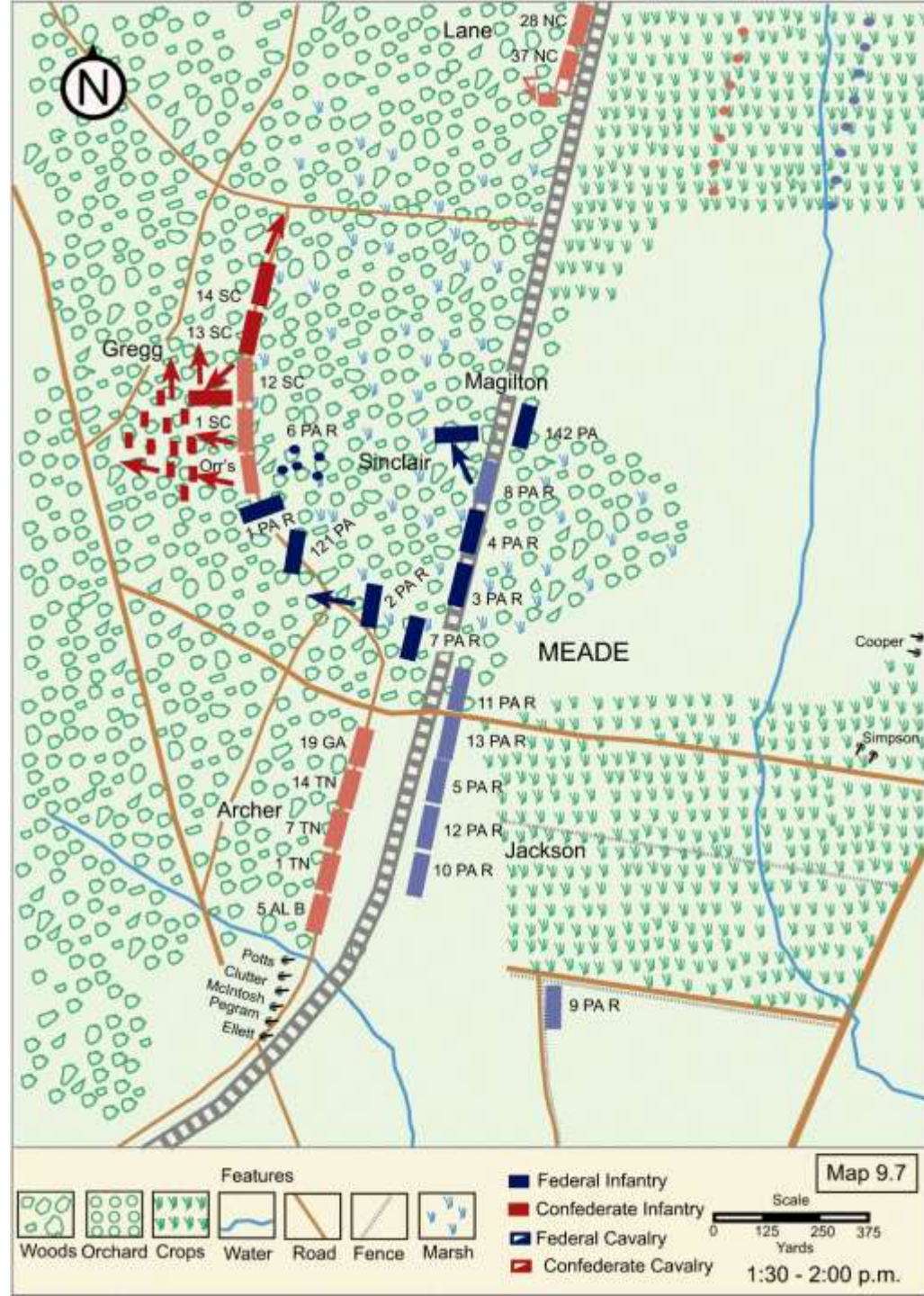


Meade Attack on the Union Left Begins



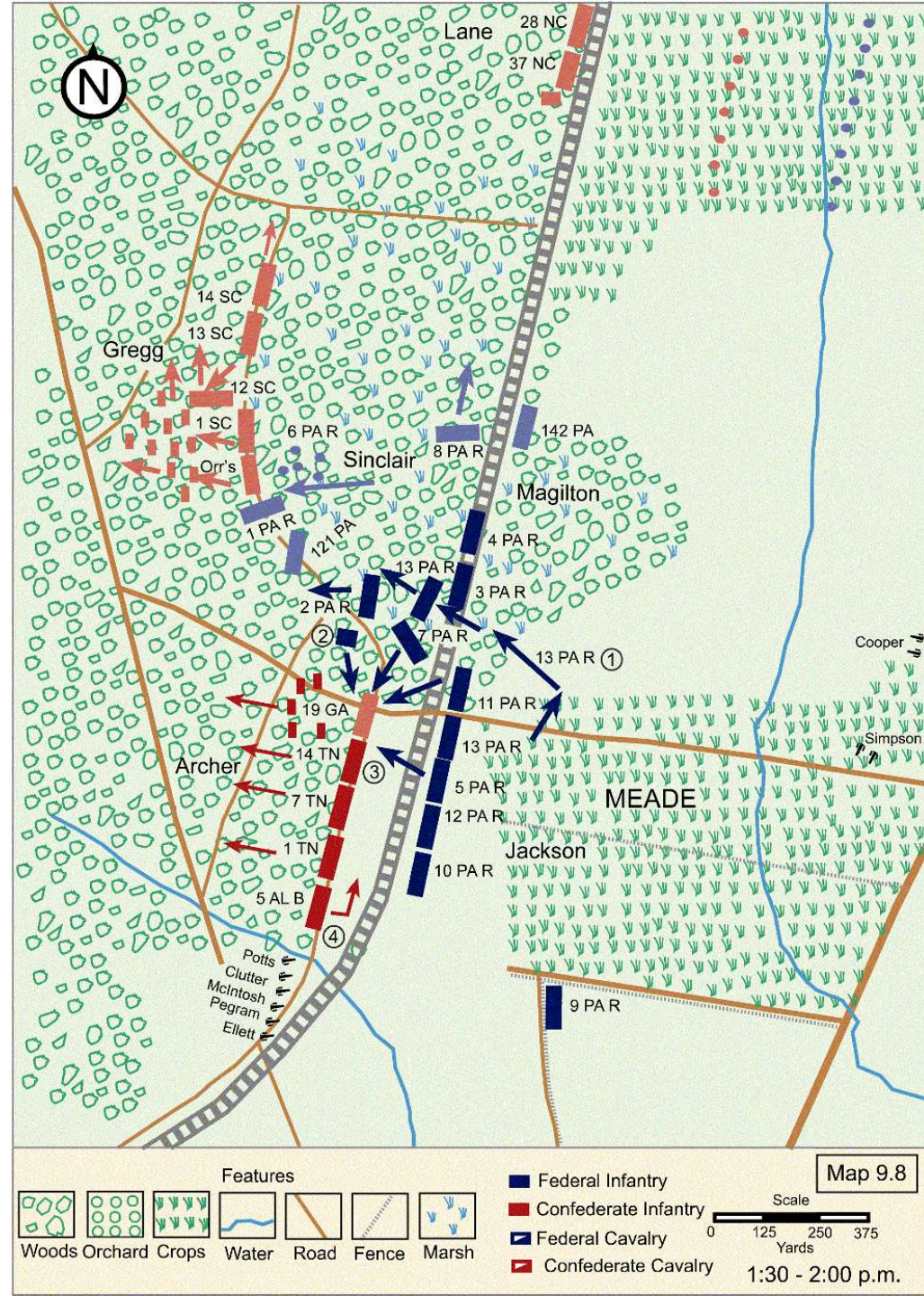


Gregg's Confederate Brigade is Beaten





A Second Confederate Brigade is Beaten (Archer)



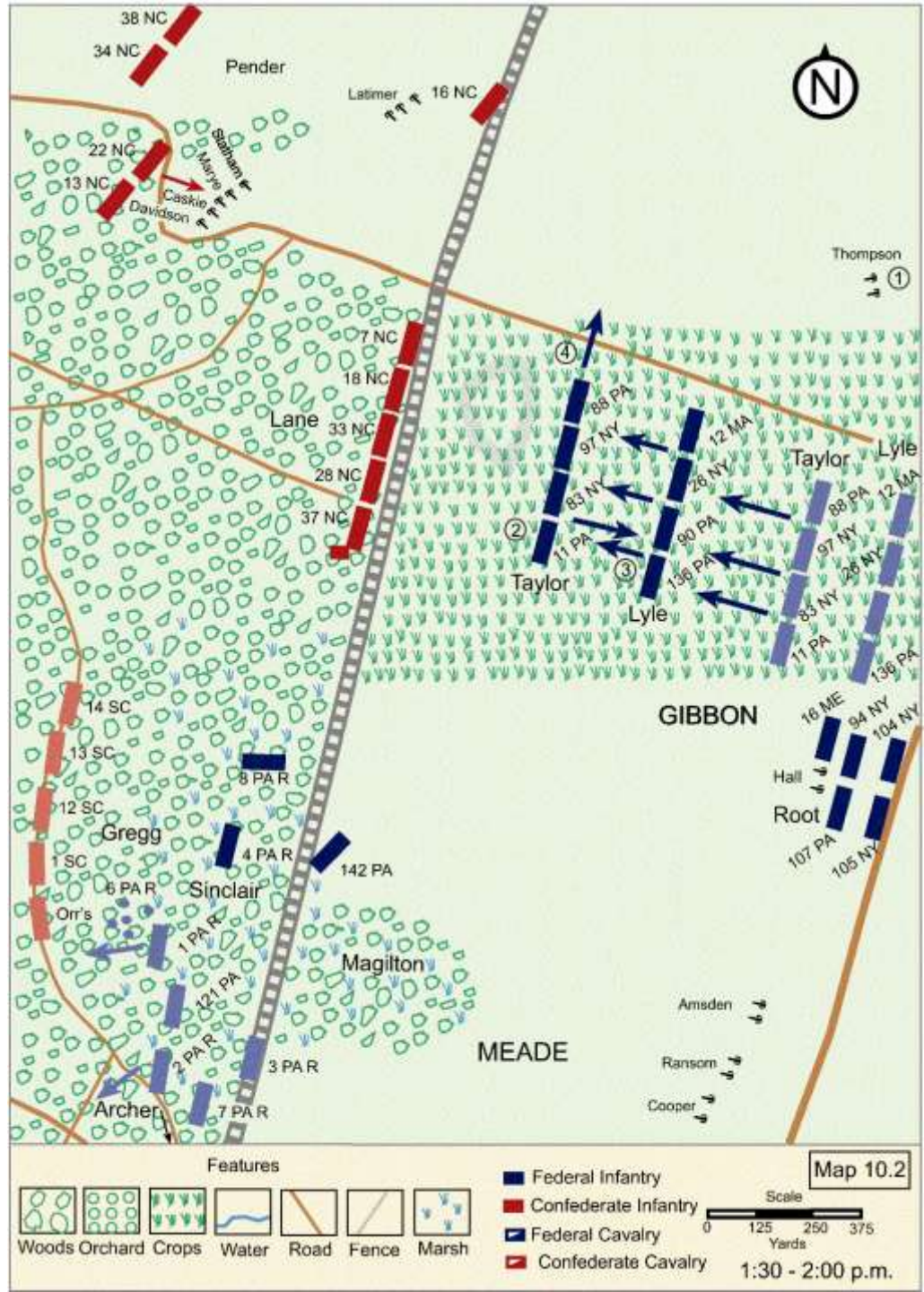


Meade Takes Prospect Hill



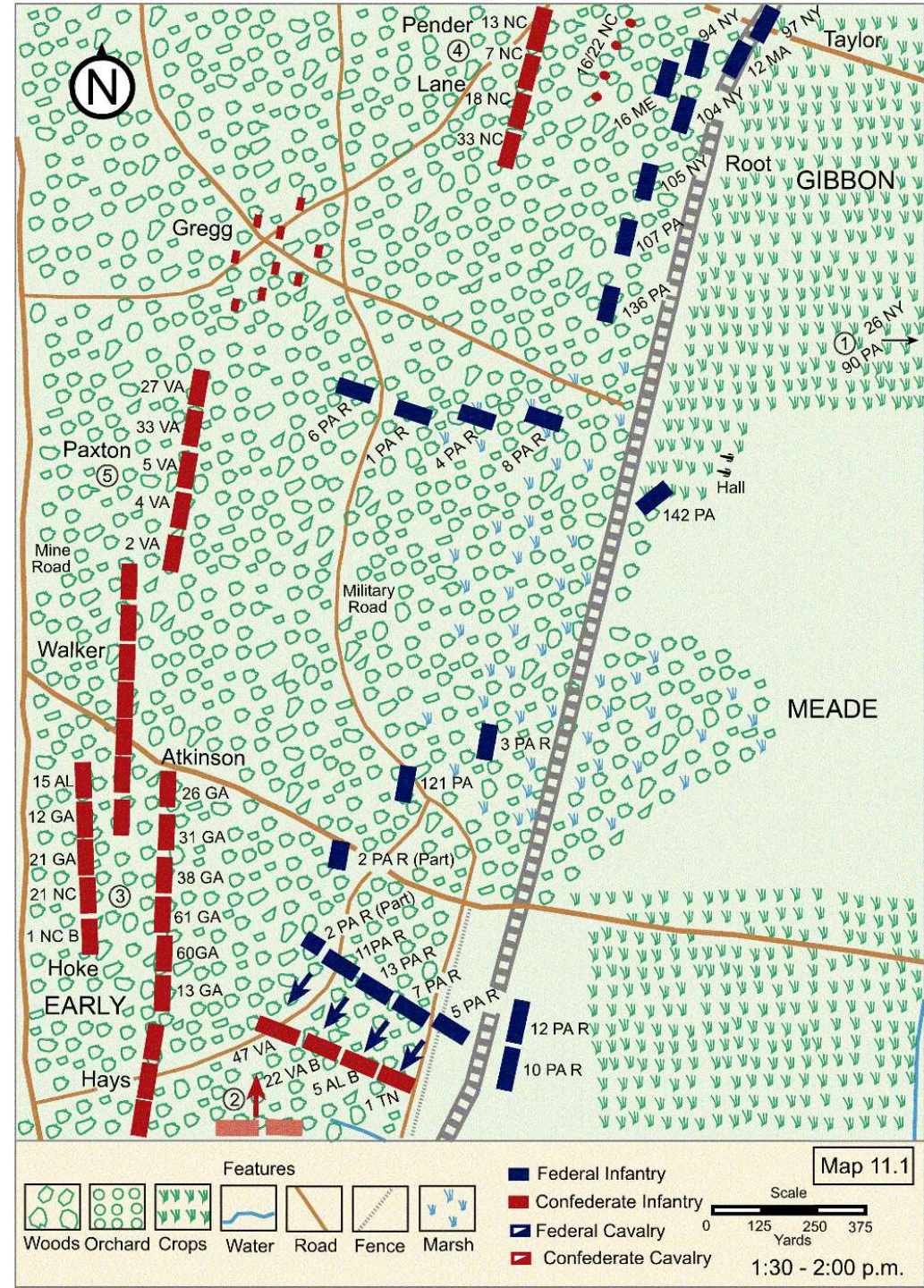


Gibbon Division Attacks



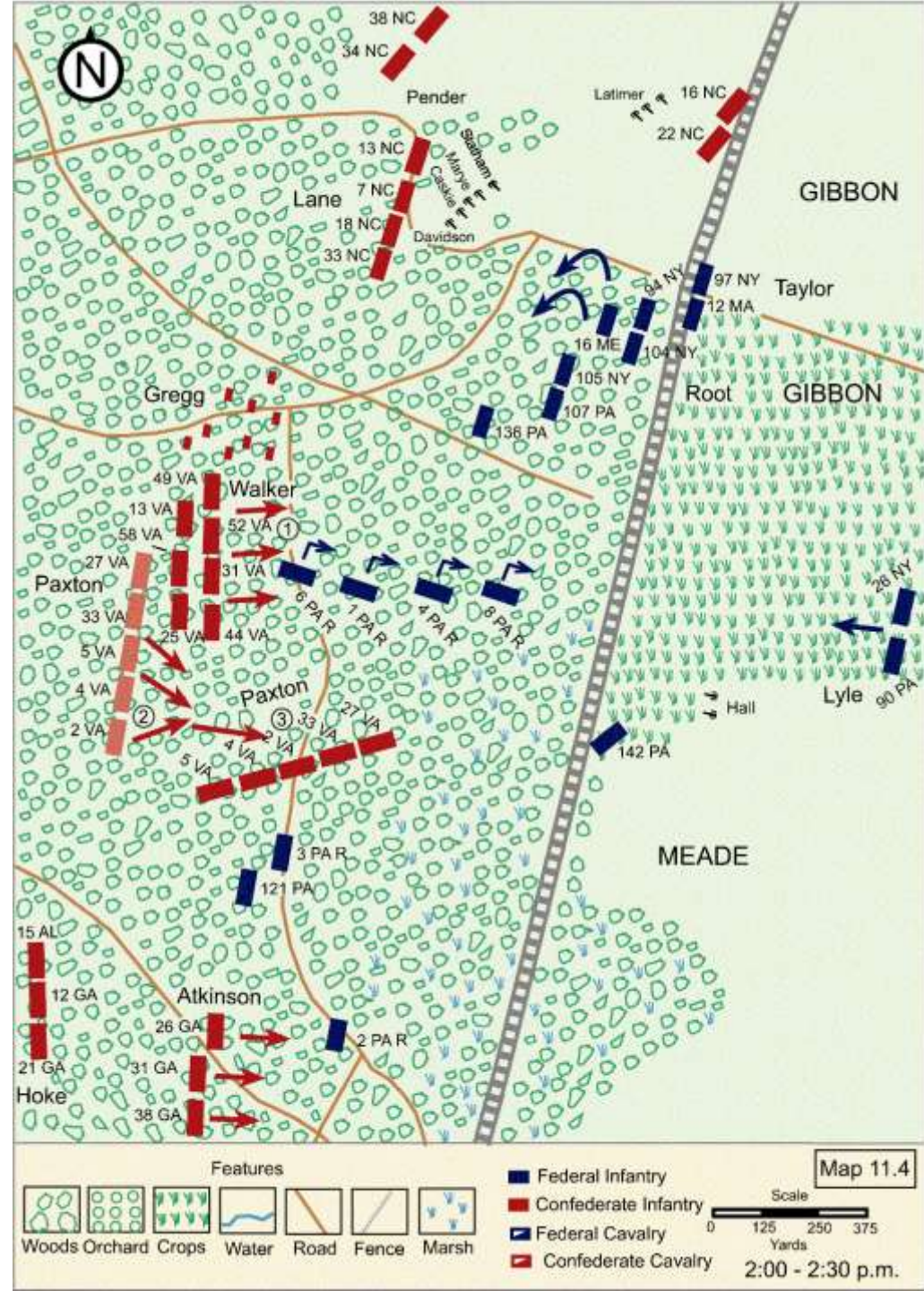


The Confederates Prepare to Respond



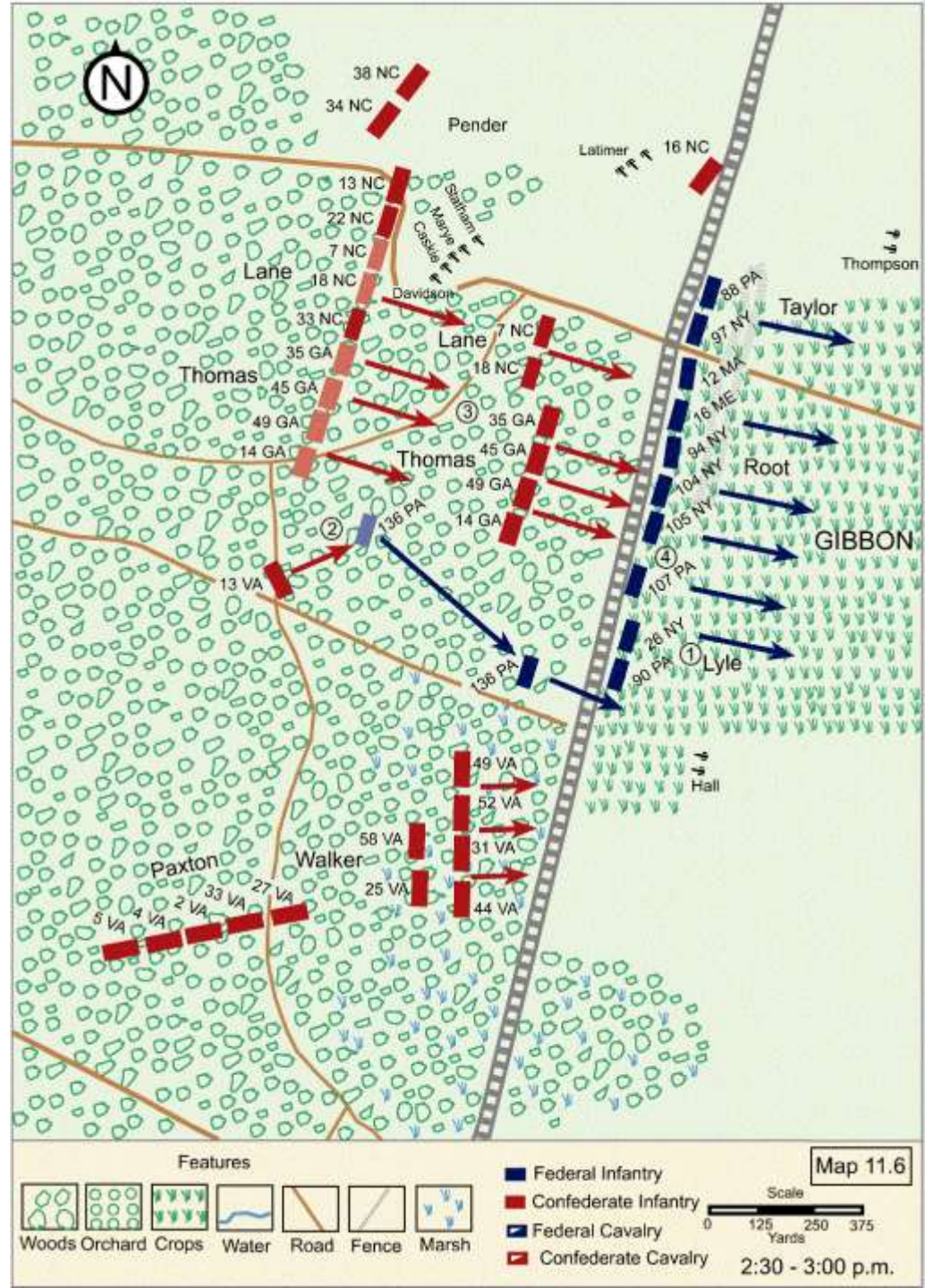


The Counterattacks Begin



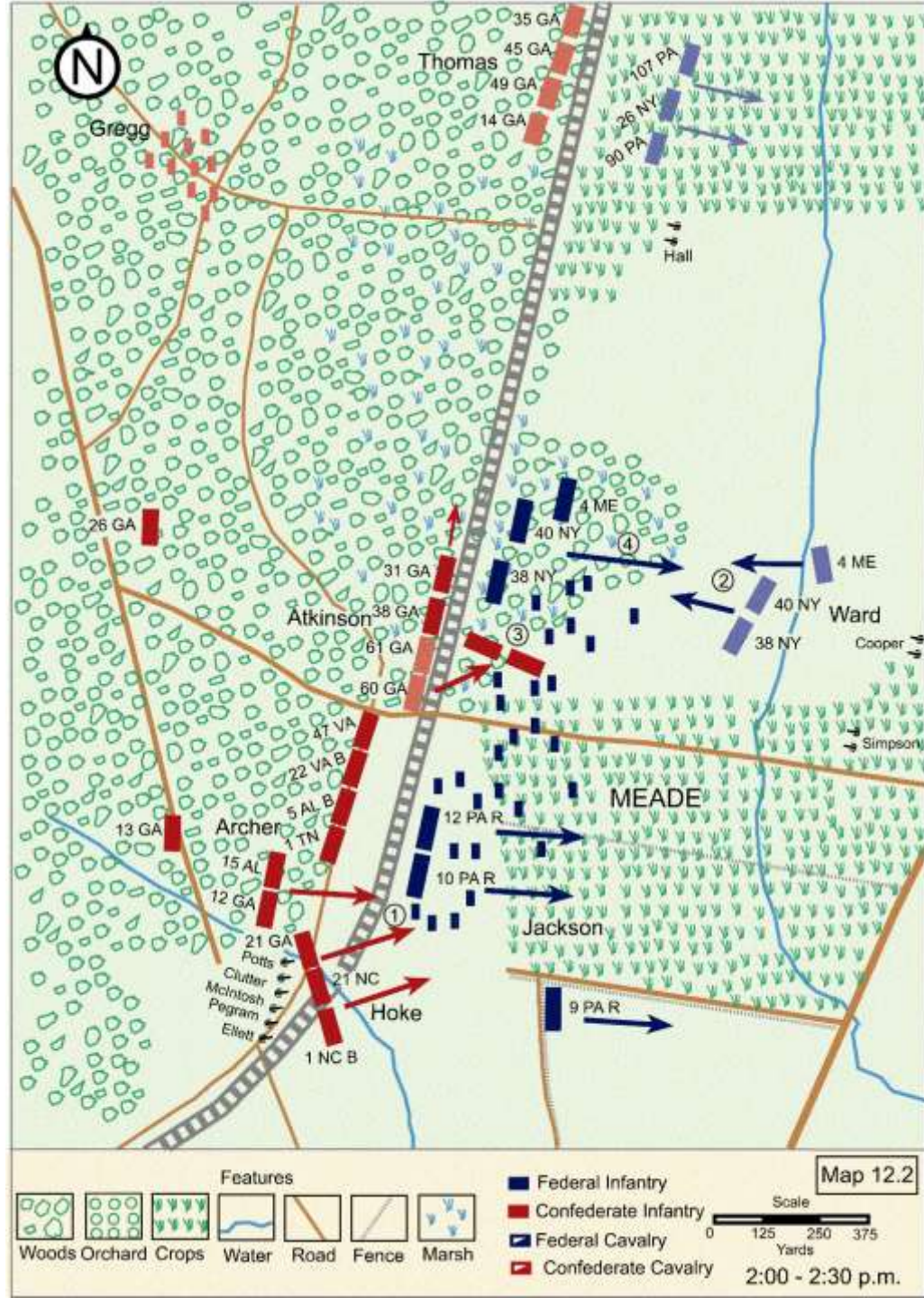


Confederates Restore Their Lines



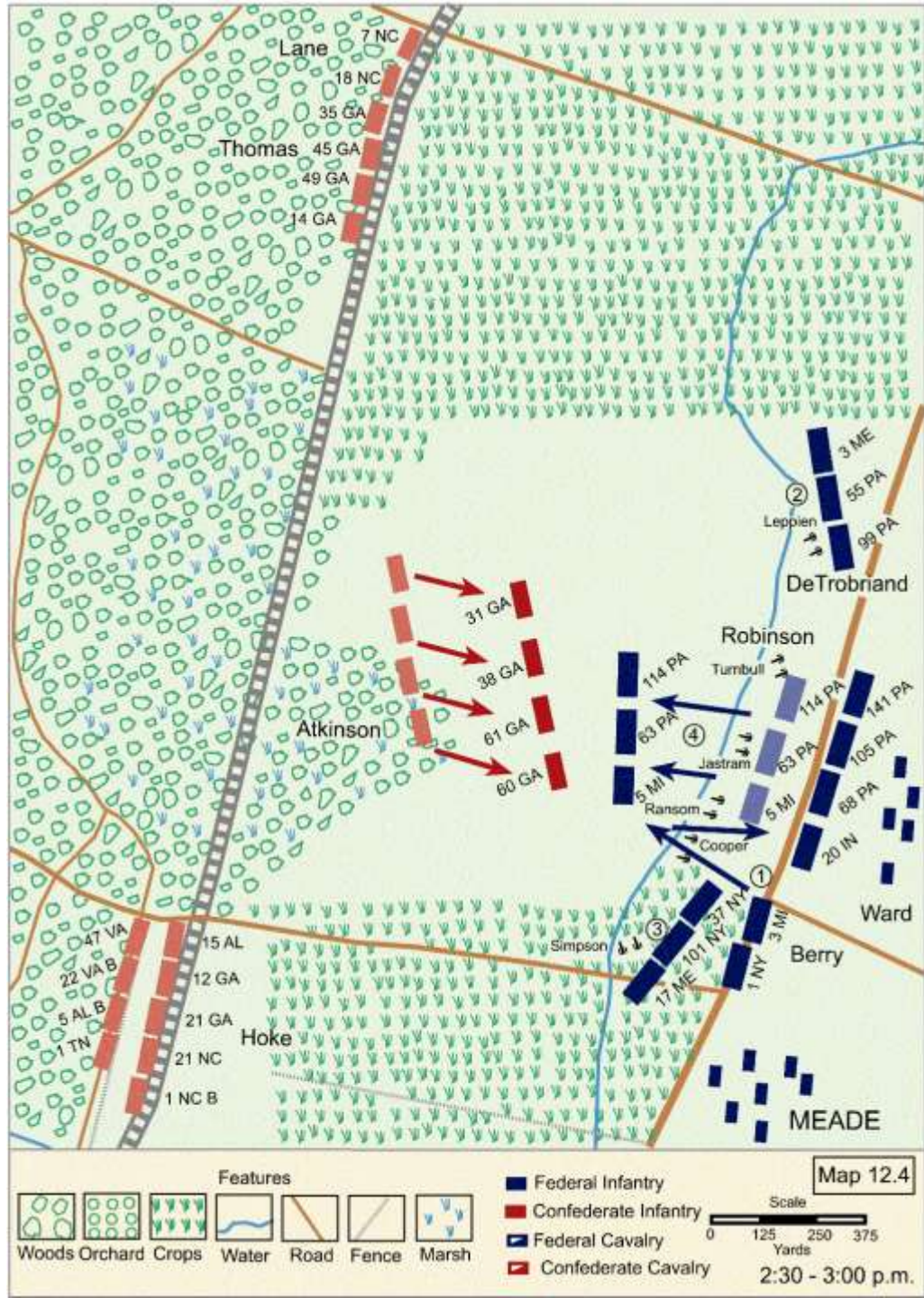


Meade is Driven Back Due to Lack of Reinforcements from Franklin





A Counterattack Not Successful



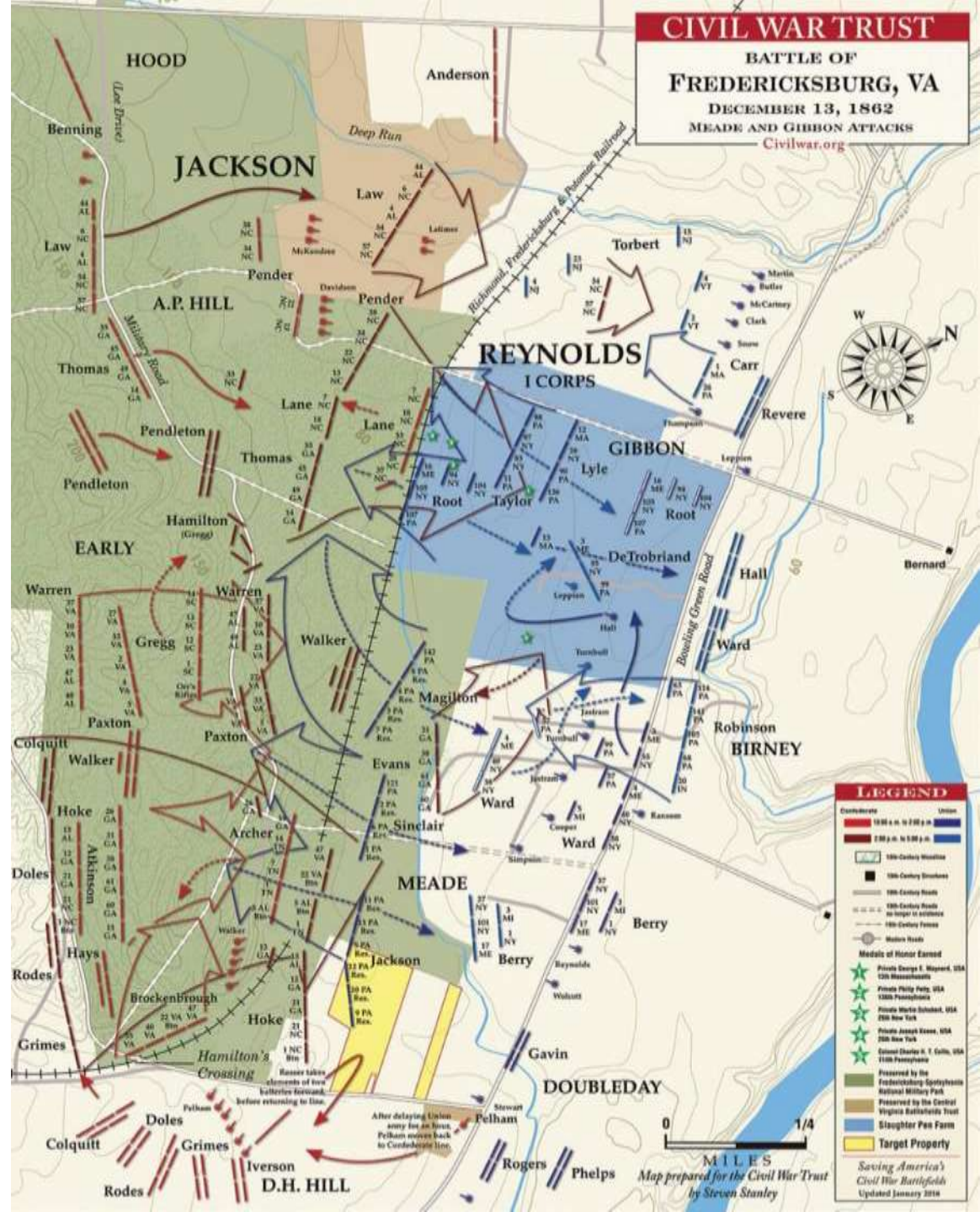


Late Support to Meade Collis – 114th PA Regiment



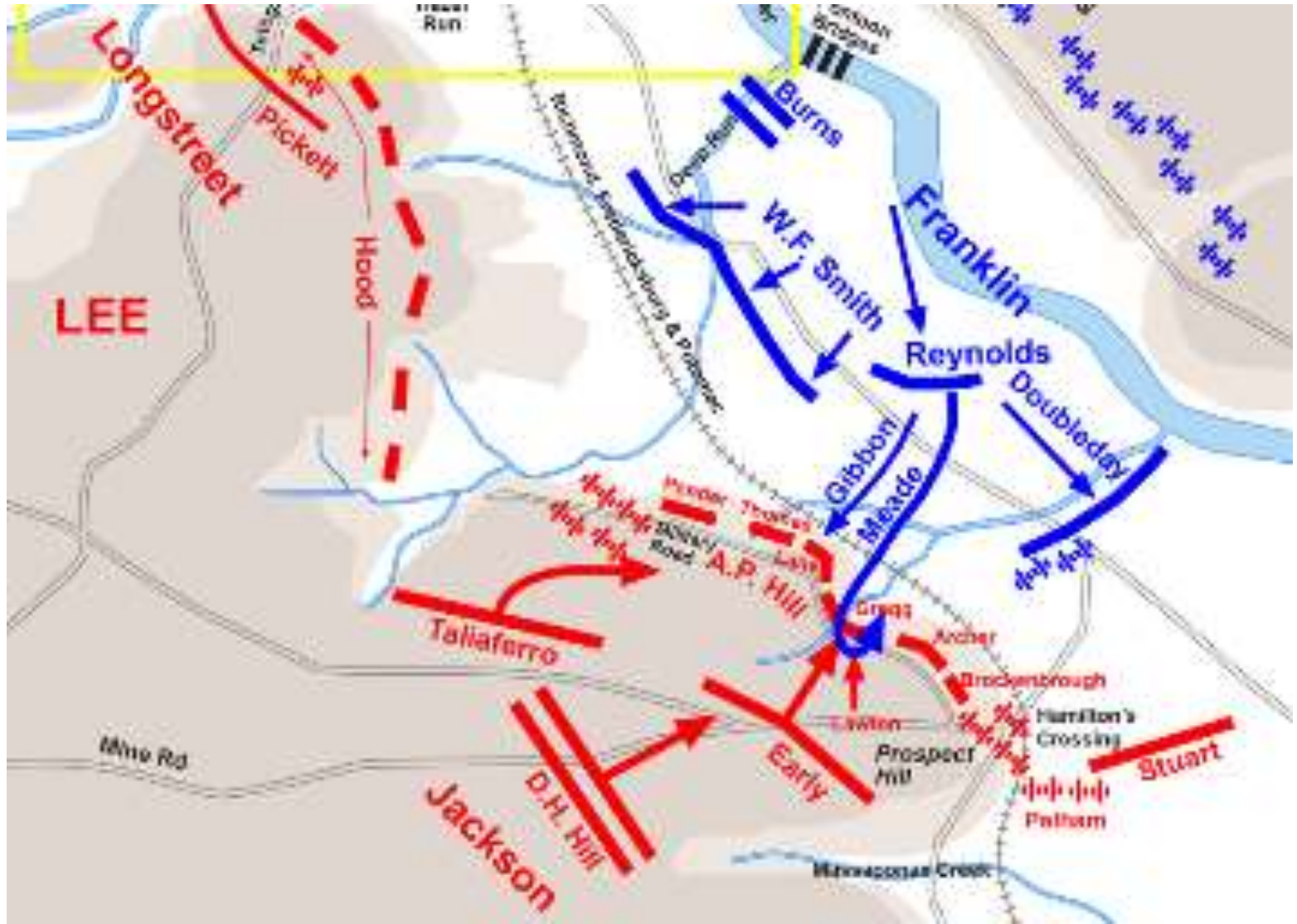


Recap of Battle in South





Recap of Battle in South





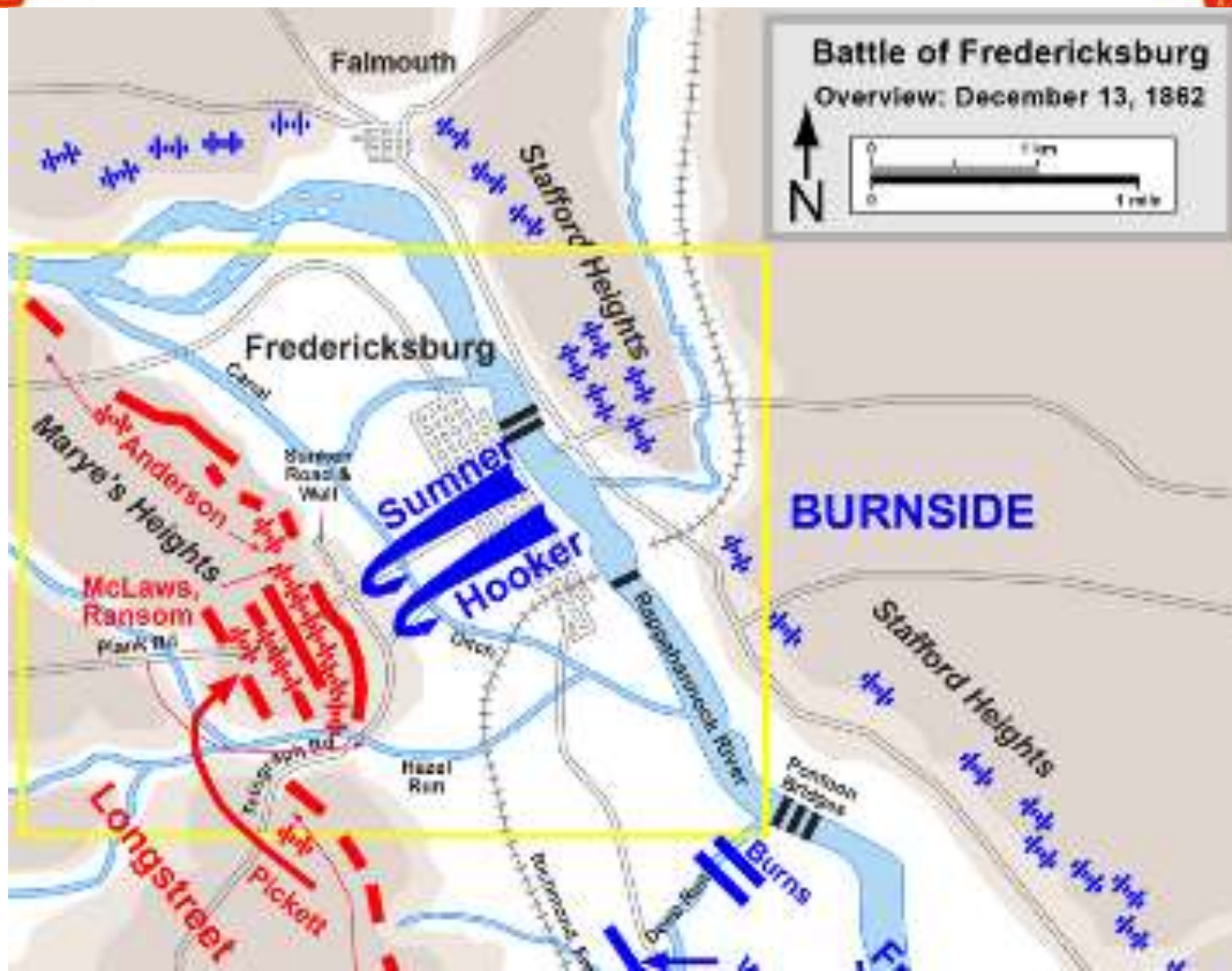
Attack on the Confederate Left



- Union losses: 7,711
- Confederate losses: 1,287
- One regiment fired 35,000 bullets
- Young Union soldier: “We went out in buoyant spirits with the mighty array that was to invest the rebel stronghold beyond the Rappahannock. We returned tired, forsaken and dispirited—our bands mournfully filling the air with requiems for the dead.”



Fight in the Town





Burnside's Headquarters





Chatham and Parrot Gun



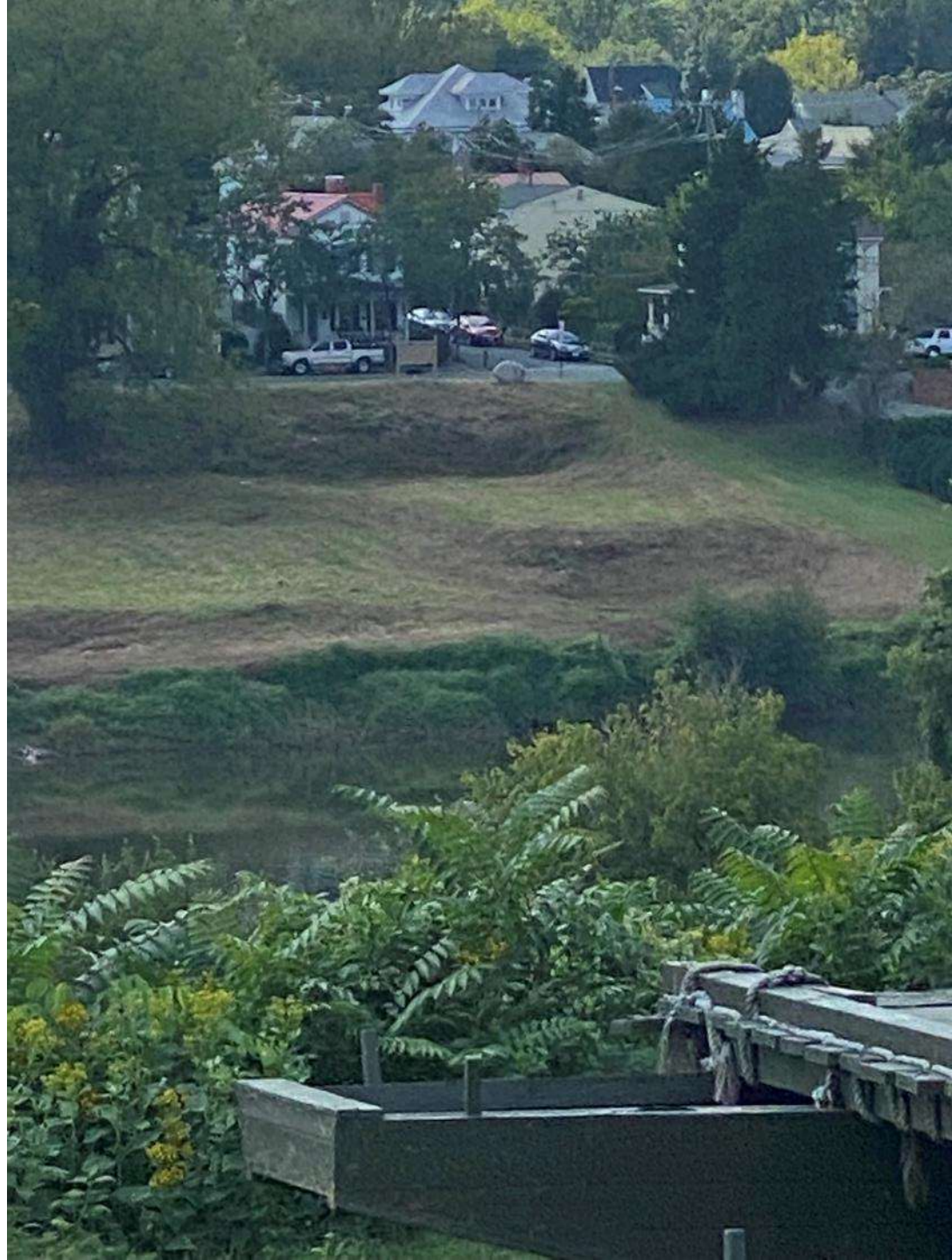


Today and Yesterday

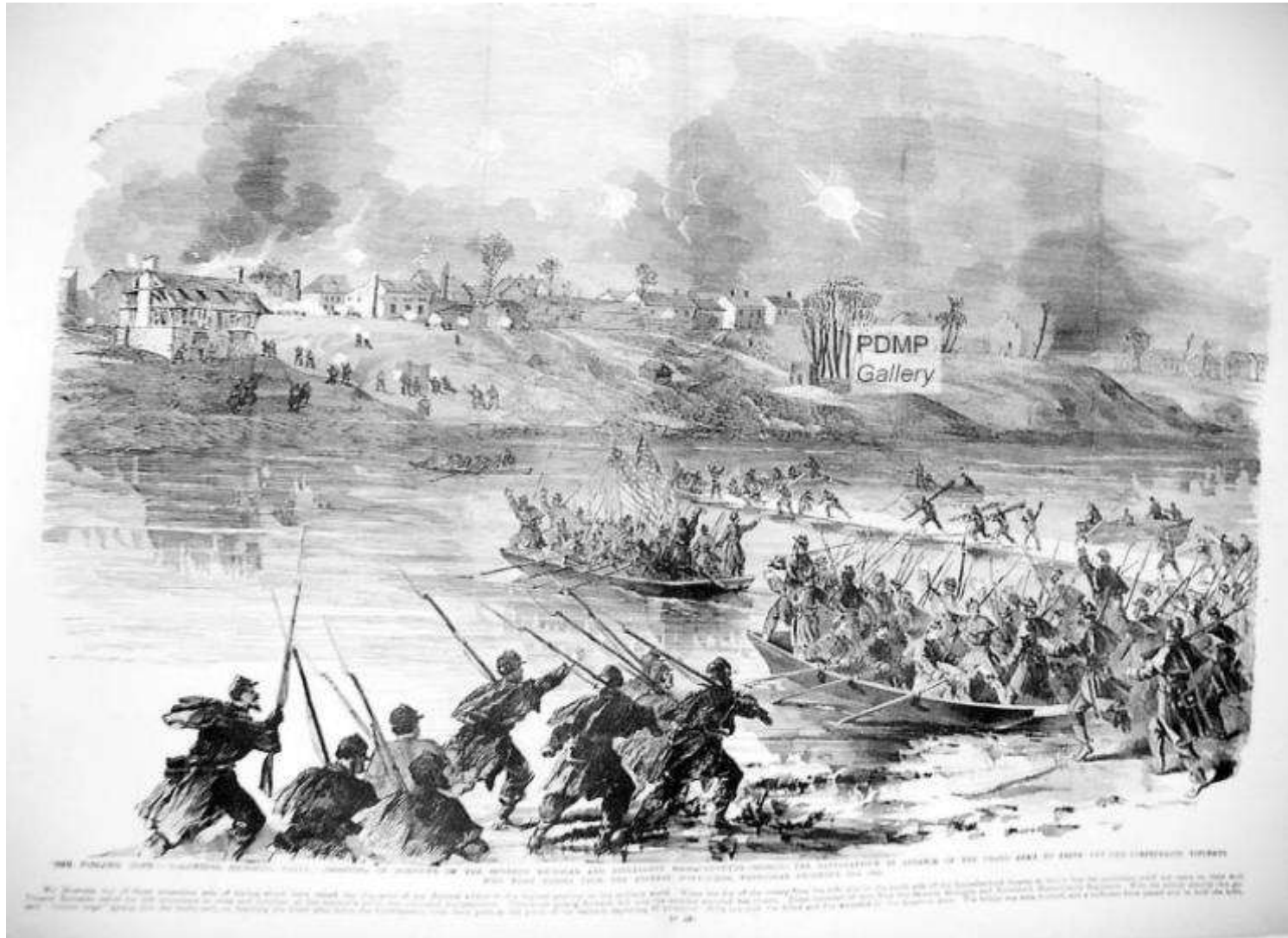




The Pontoon Bridge into Fredericksburg









Fight in the Town





The Attack on the Union Right Begins

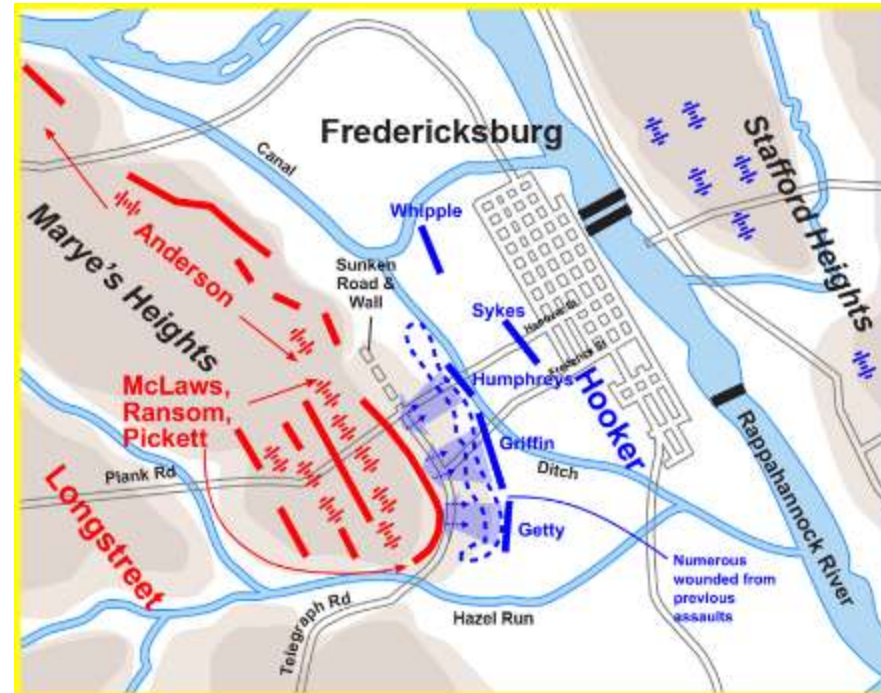
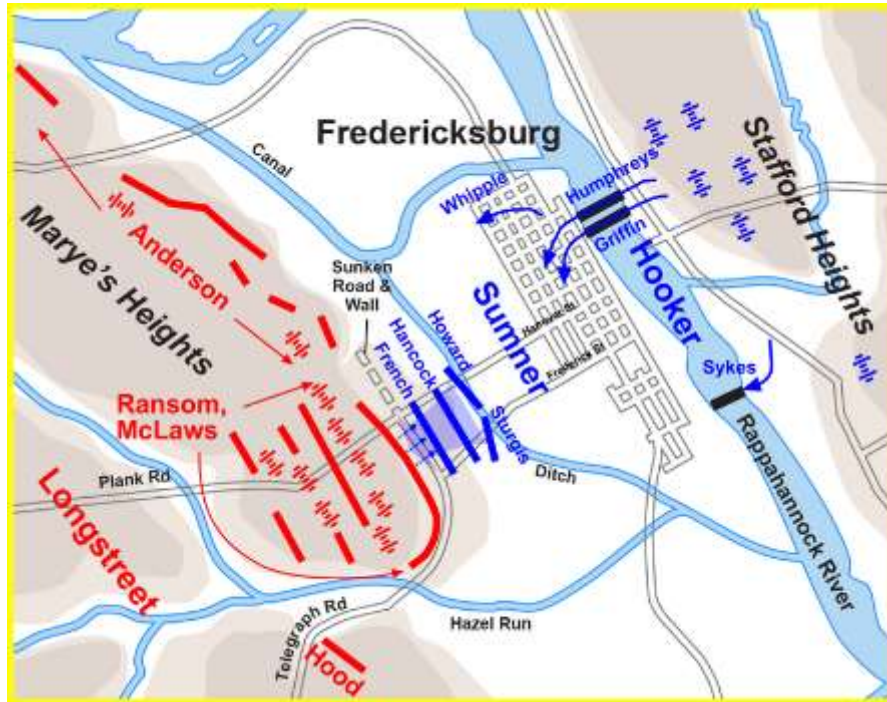




Dec 13, 1862
1:00 PM



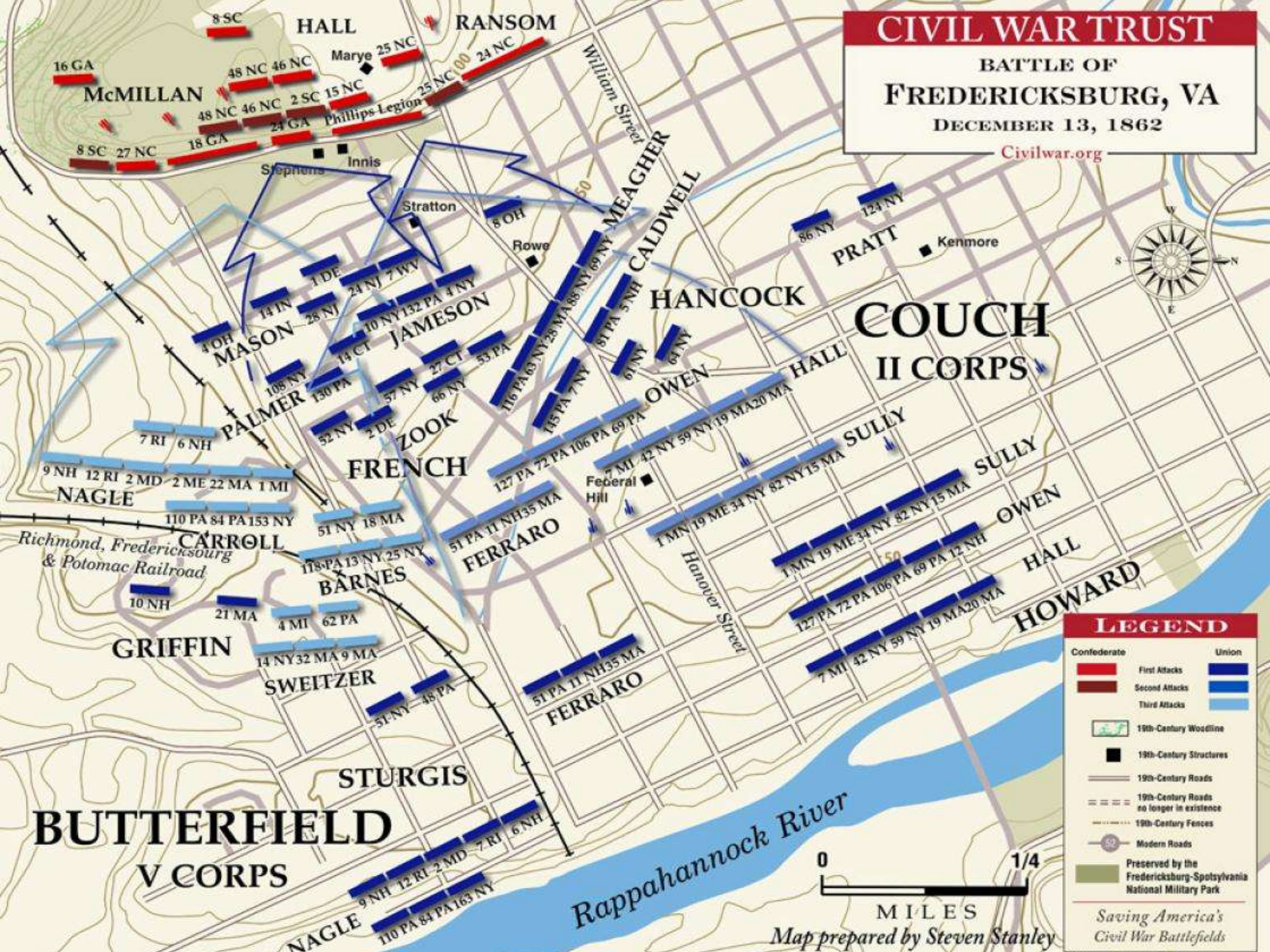
3:30 PM



CIVIL WAR TRUST

BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, VA DECEMBER 13, 1862

Civilwar.org





A “Bird’s Eye View”





Six Miles of Trench and Earthworks





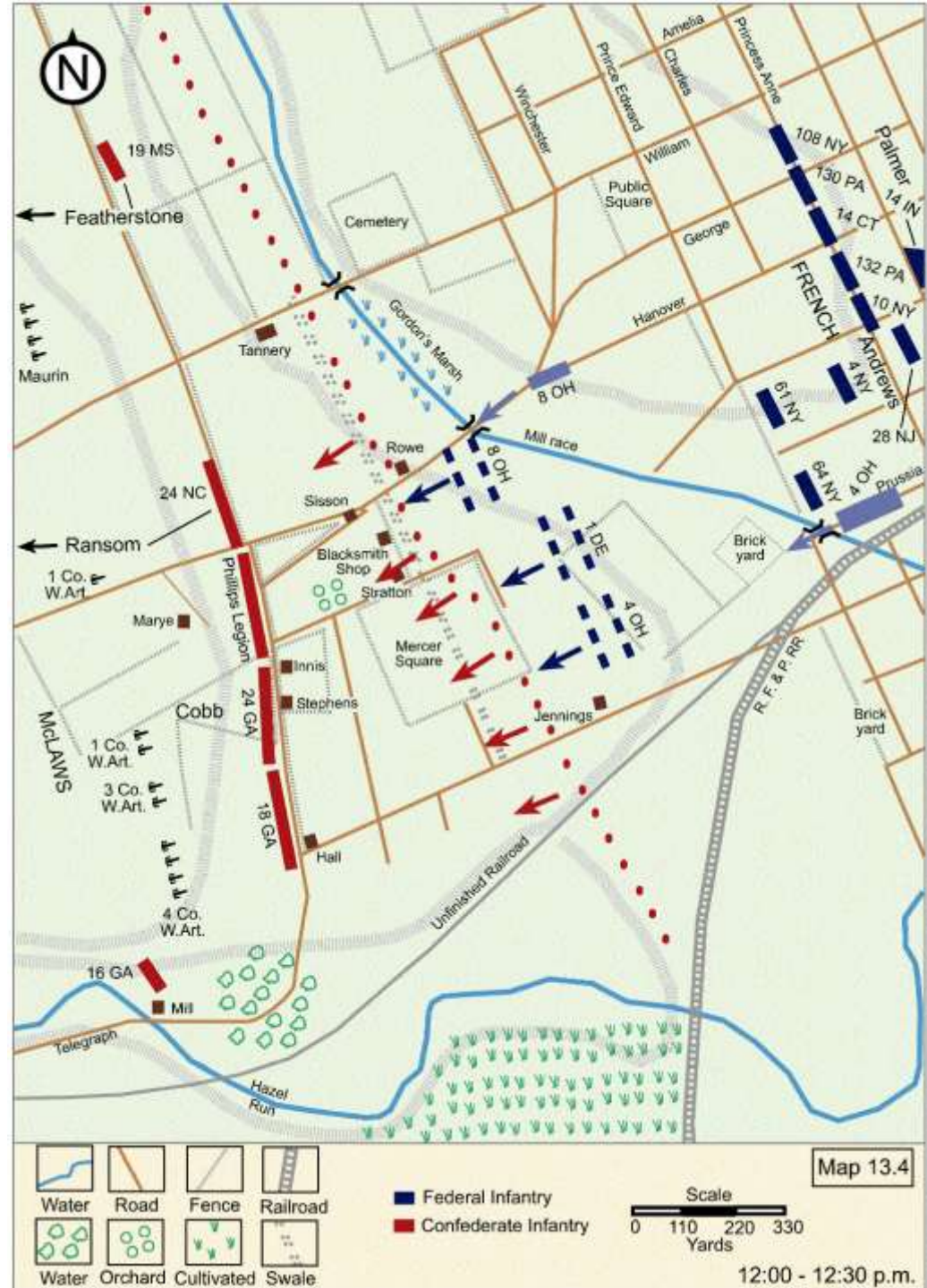
The Stone Wall/Sunken Road





Massed Artillery







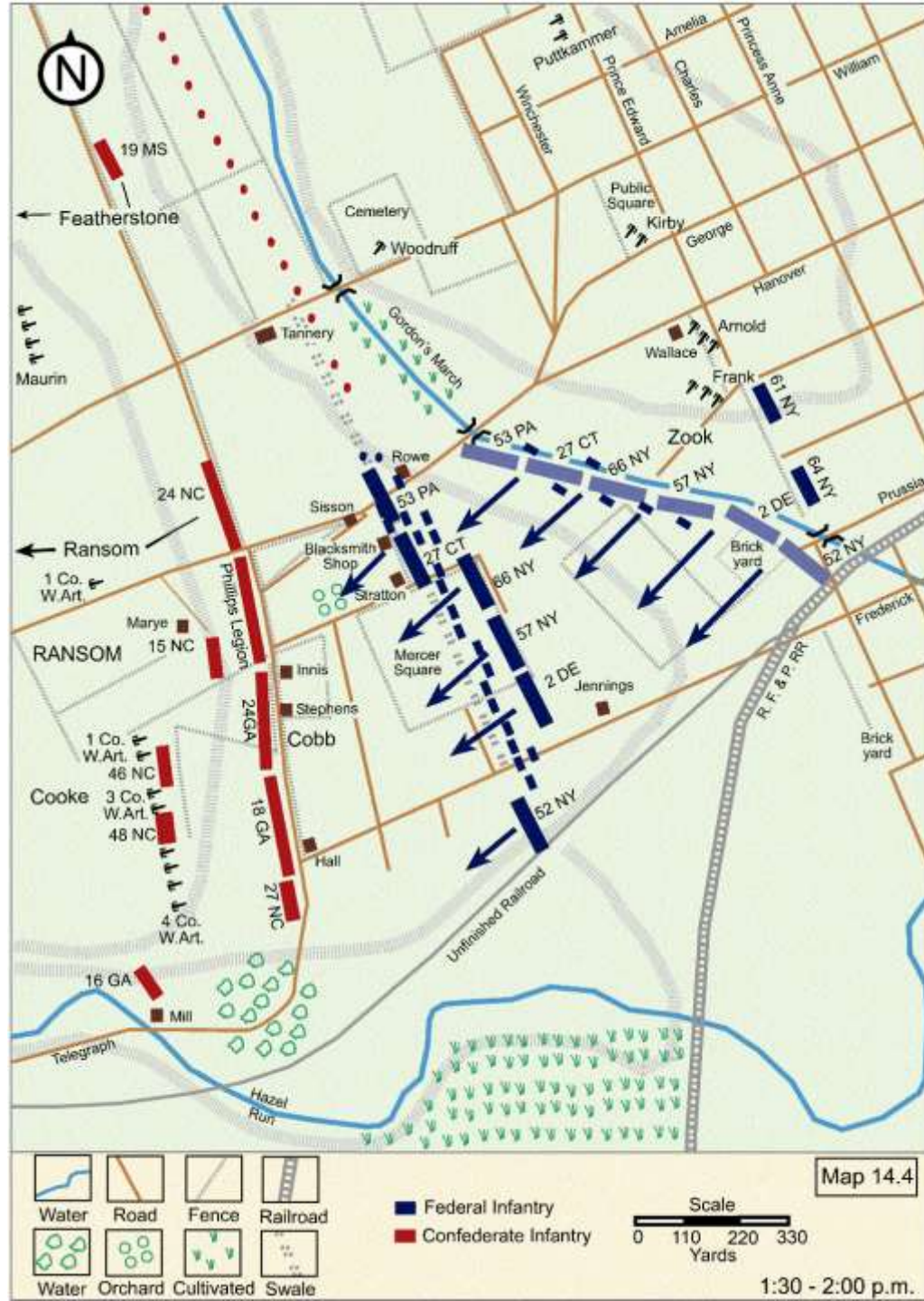
Futile Charges





The Second Division Attacks

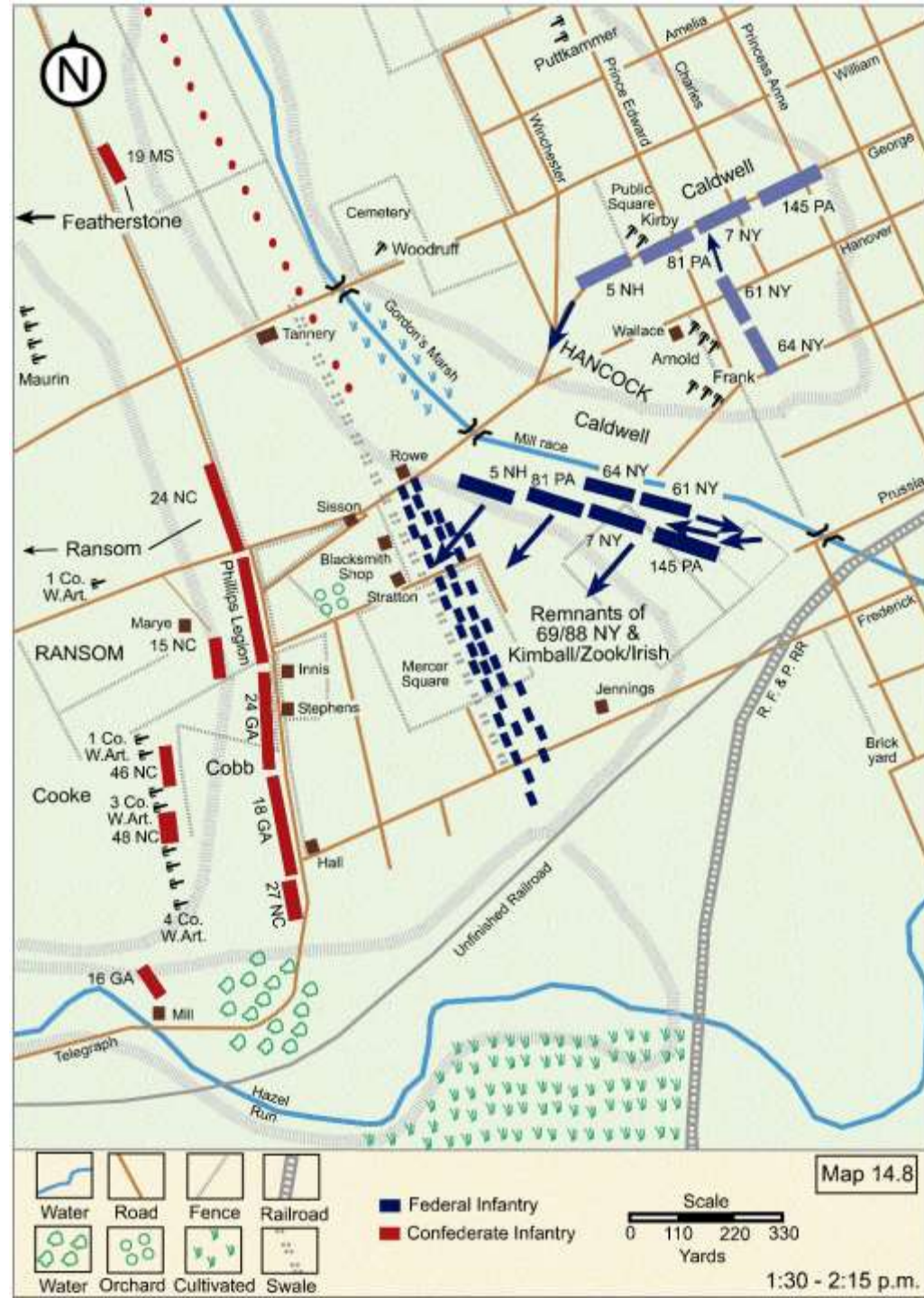
1st Div – II Corps
(Hancock)





The Second Attack Continues

1st Div – II Corps
(Hancock)





The Irish Brigade Attacks (Meagher)

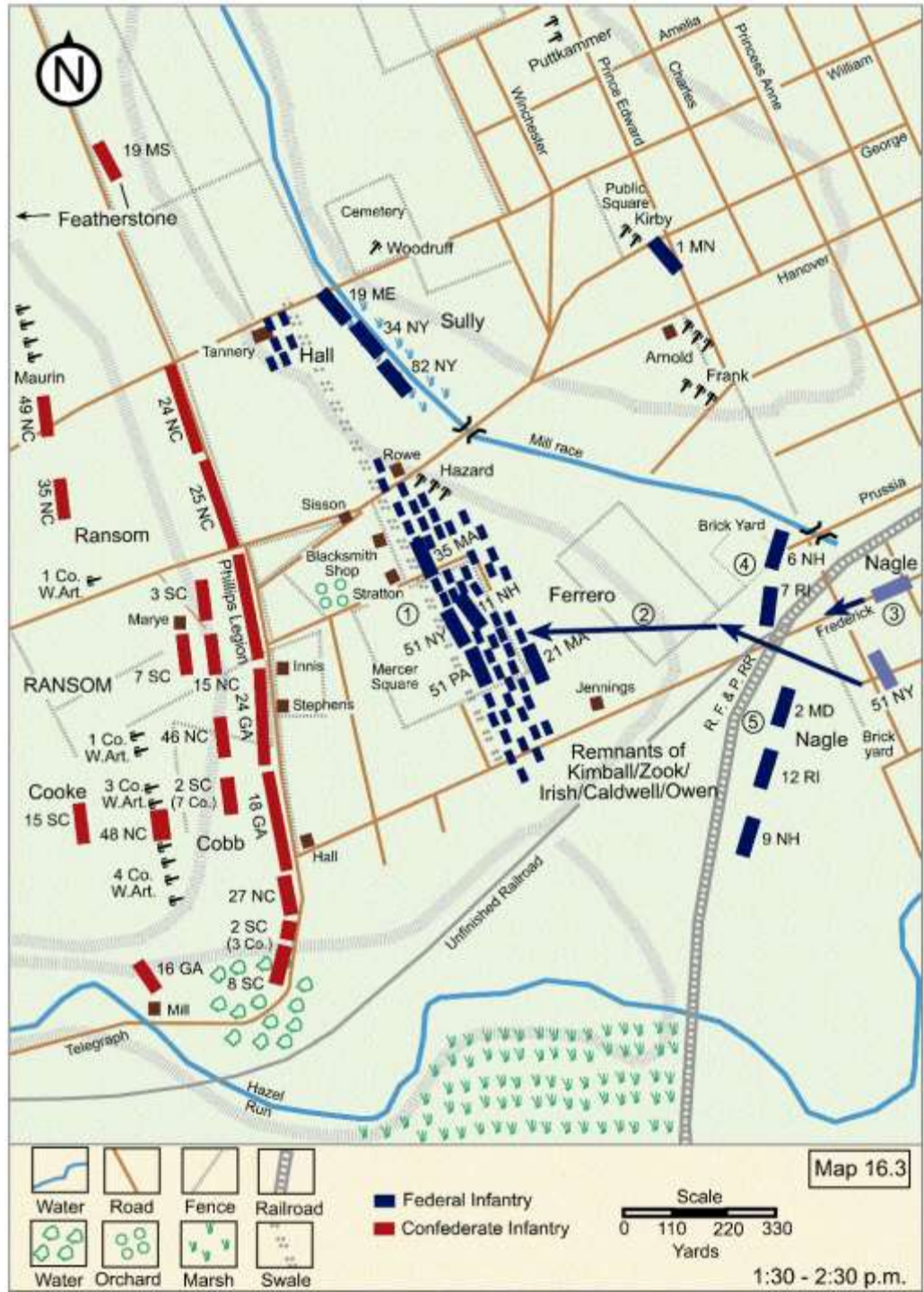
1st Div – II
Corps
(Hancock)





The Third Division Attacks

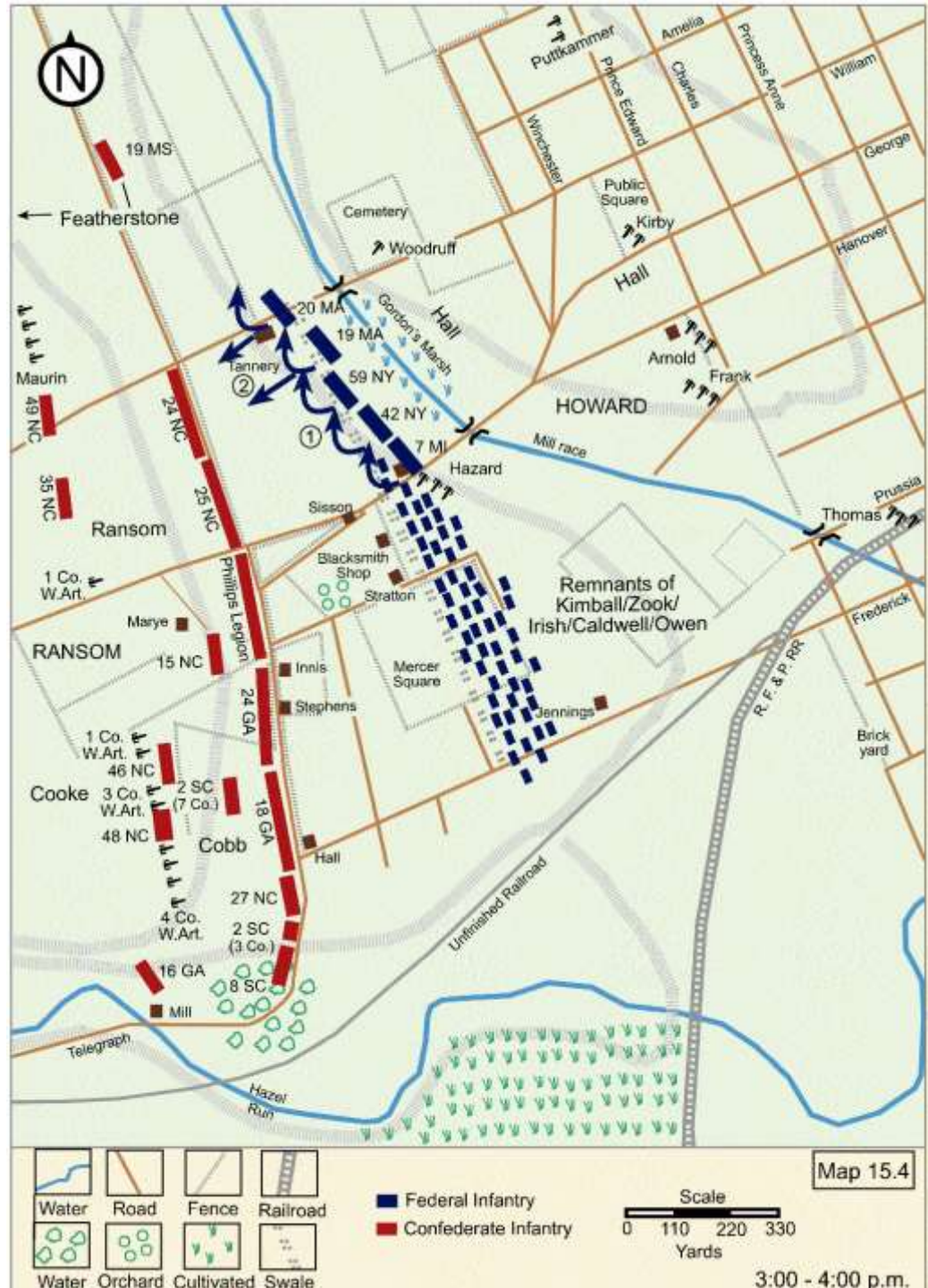
2nd Div – IX Corps





The Fourth Division Attacks

2nd Div – II Corps



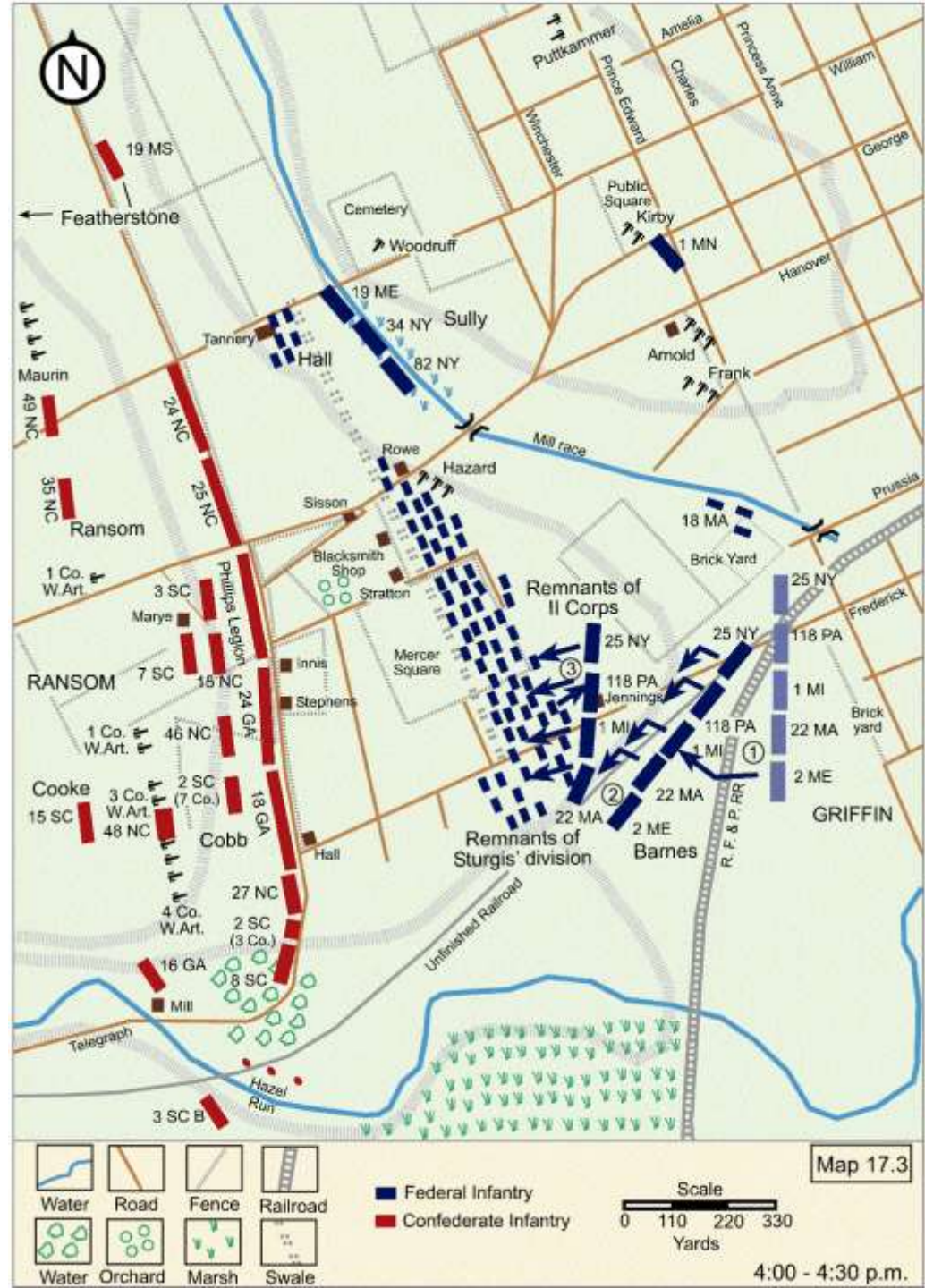


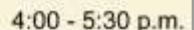
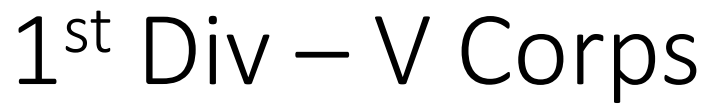
The Attack Continues





1st Div – V Corps



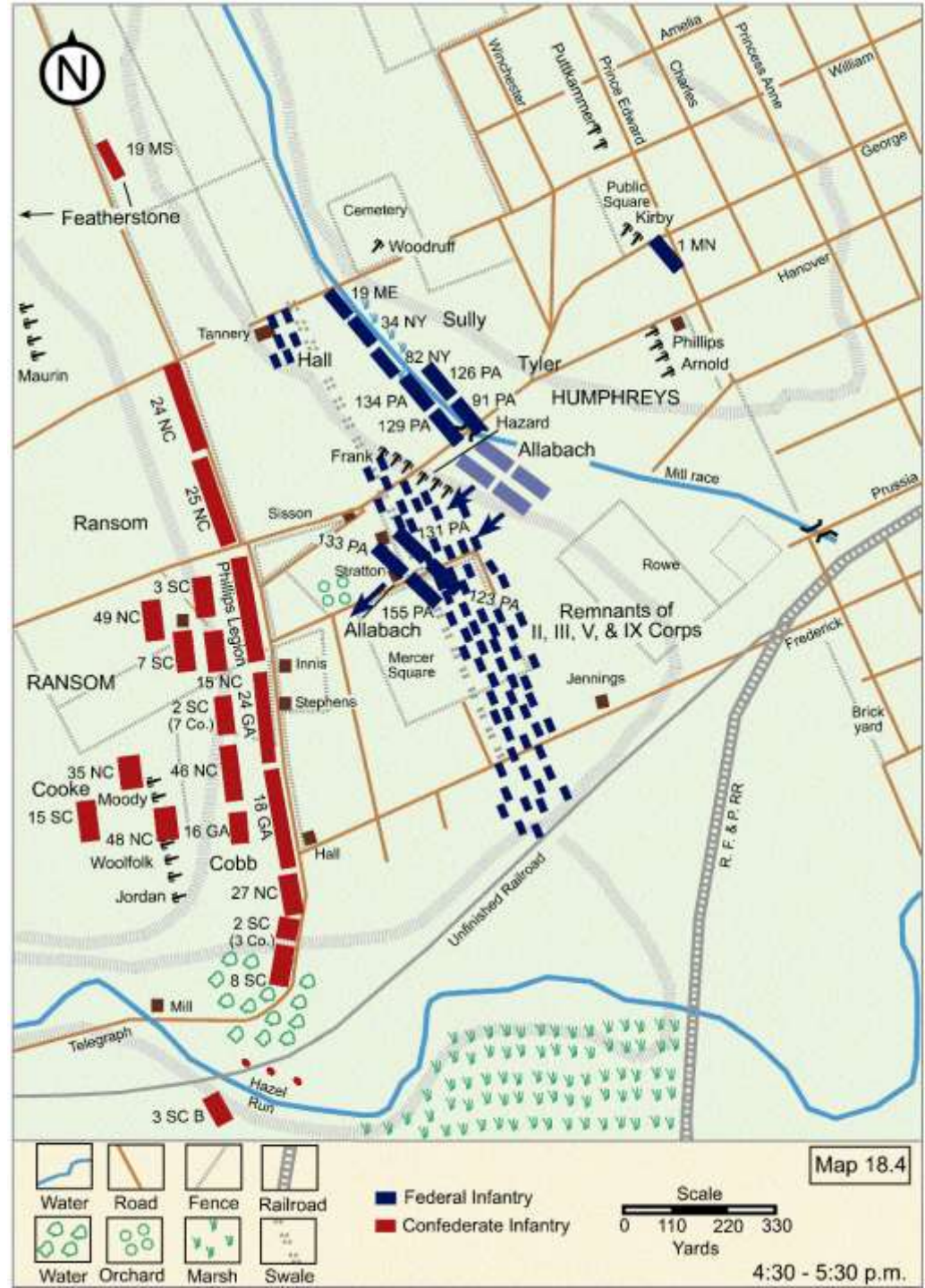




Joshua Chamberlain 20th Maine



3rd Bde – 1st Div – V Corps





Lee Watches the Destruction

“It is well that war
is so terrible, or
we would grow to
fond of it.”





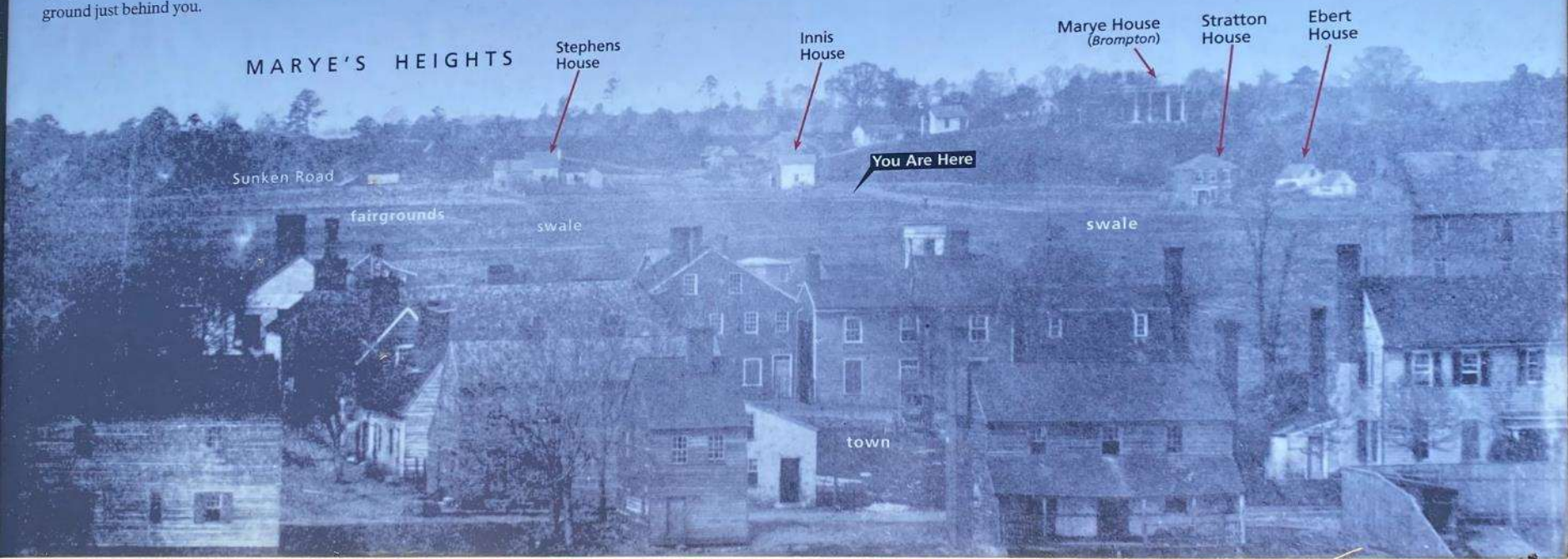
The Killing Fields

The Battle of Fredericksburg

The Killing Fields

This view, taken a mile behind you, shows the vast open space in front of Marye's Heights only months after the December 1862 battle. Union troops crossed the plain between the town (in the foreground) and Marye's Heights. Some attackers advanced to within about 80 yards of the Sunken Road, and a few got as close as 40 yards. More than 7,500 Union troops fell killed or wounded in the span of the photograph, on the ground just behind you.

The photo shows clearly both the stark nature of the battlefield and several prominent landmarks. Most important was the Stratton House, the solitary brick building at the right of the image, which gave cover to hundreds of Union soldiers. The Marye House and the Innis House (both still standing), as well as the Ebert House are also clearly seen. Today most of this landscape is covered by an early 20th-century neighborhood.



Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
National Military Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Seeking Cover

Battle of Fredericksburg

National Military Park

U.S. Department of the Interior

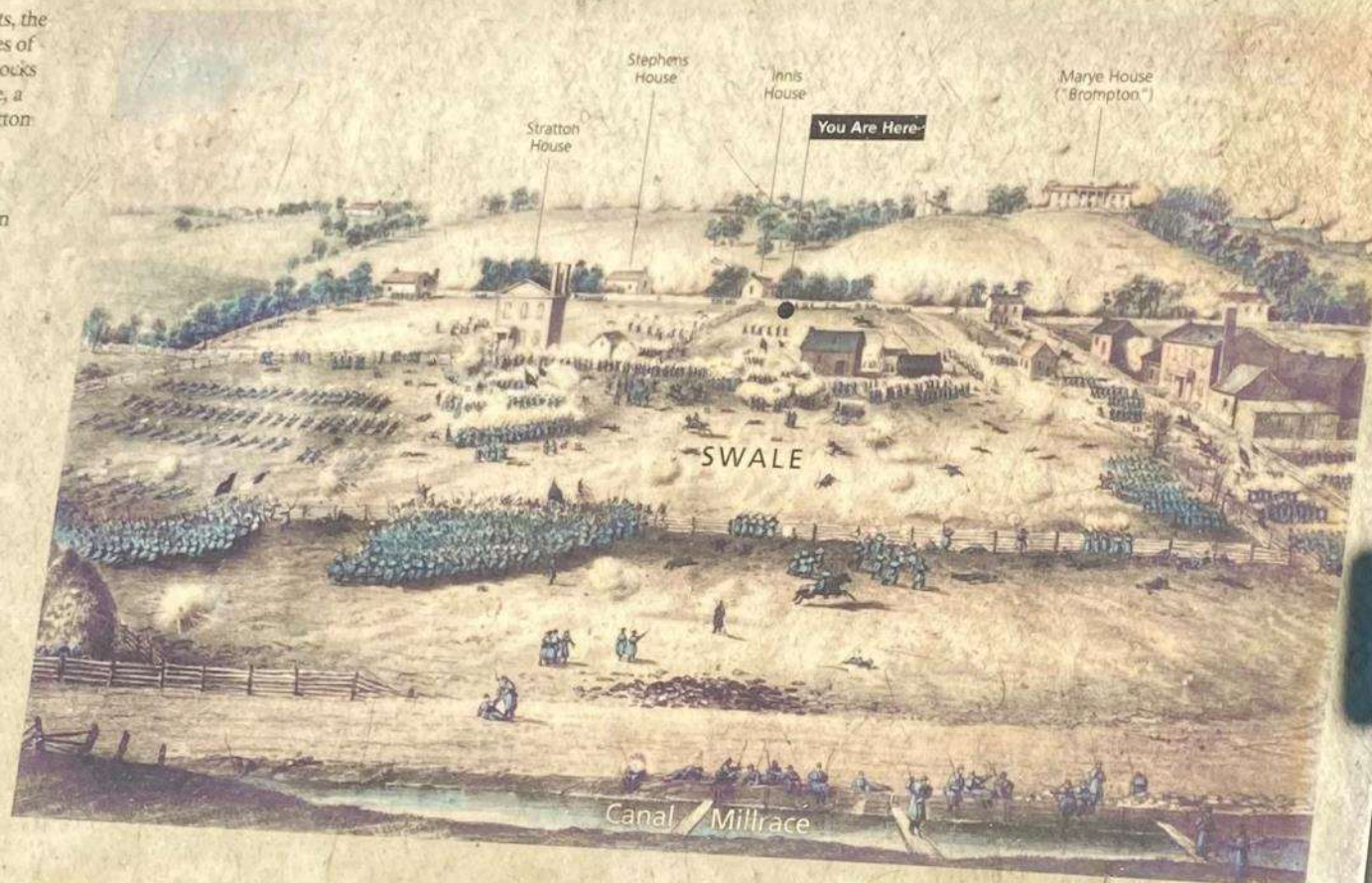
Seeking Cover

For Union soldiers who attacked Marye's Heights, the open plain in front of you offered just two sources of cover: the brick Stratton house, visible just two blocks ahead on the left side of the street, and the swale, a slight drop in the landscape just beyond the Stratton house. Both are visible from this location.

For three days, Union soldiers stubbornly clung to their position in front of the stone wall, pinned down by Confederate riflemen in the Sunken Road. Some Union soldiers lying in the swale tried to protect themselves by pushing dirt in front of them. Others sought shelter behind the bodies of fallen comrades. Night alone brought protection.

The enemy riddled every moving thing in sight....

Capt. John W. Ames, 11th United States Infantry



This watercolor, by Private John G. Keyser, depicts the initial assault on Marye's Heights. Keyser took part in that attack. He drew this picture from the vantage point of the Union

soldiers, who were looking toward you. Although inaccurate in its details, the image shows many of the principle landmarks of the battlefield, including the Stratton house and swale.



Angels of Mercy







Angels of Mercy Harrisburg Statue



Moment of Mercy

by
Sculptor Terry Jones

The Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December of 1862, was one of the bloodier engagements of the American Civil War. On December 13th, Federal troops made repeated frontal assaults against Confederate positions behind the stone walls along the Sunken Road at Marye's Heights. In five hours an estimated 6300 Union soldiers lay dead or wounded on the battlefield. As darkness approached, a light snow fell and the temperatures dropped to near zero. All through the frigid gloom, injured men cried in agony: "Help," "Water," "Somebody, please help." For one Union Commander that night was forever etched in his memory. "My ears were filled with the cries and groans of the wounded, and the ghastly faces of the dead almost made a wall around me."

By the afternoon of December 14th, Sergeant Richard R. Kirkland of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry could no longer bear those mournful cries. Shortly after mid-day, Kirkland secured permission from his commander to take water to those in need. Filling as many canteens as he could carry, Kirkland hurtled the stone wall and ran to the aid of wounded Union soldiers. Shots rang out from the Federal lines. Only when the purpose of the Confederate's errand became readily apparent, did the Union commander shout down the line: "Don't shoot that man, he's too brave to die." Then, for ninety minutes the battlefield was quiet.

Both sides observed a solemn truce as the nineteen-year-old sergeant turned Good Samaritan tenderly ministered to enemy wounded soldiers in what was most assuredly a "moment of mercy."

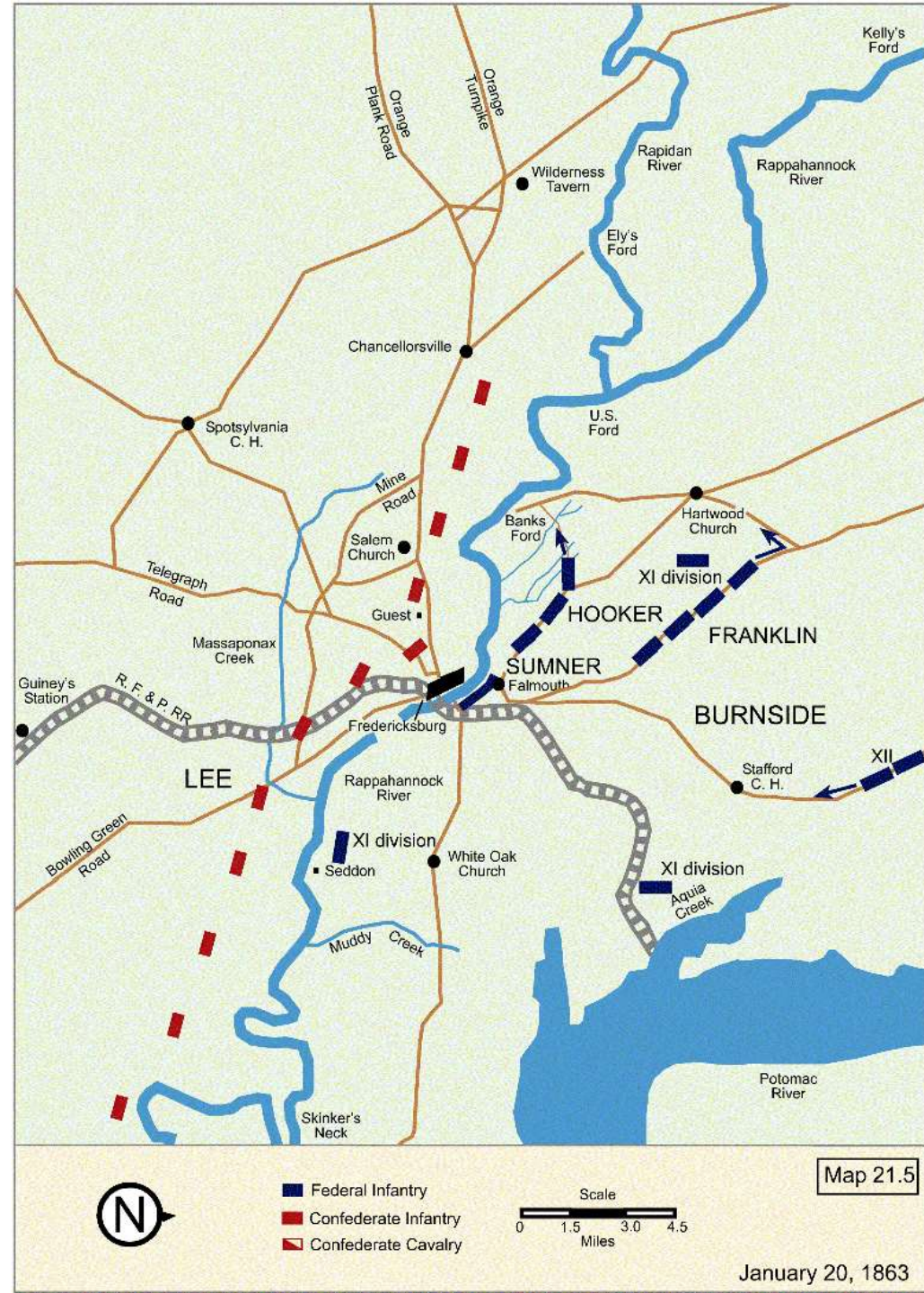
Soldiers in blue and soldiers in gray repeated this incident many times throughout the Civil War. This Moment of Mercy sculpture pays homage to them and the uniquely American spirit of aiding those in need.

Sponsored
by
The John Crain Kunkel Foundation

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Burnside Plans a New Offensive





Total Losses

- Union (12,653)
 - Killed: 1,284
 - Wounded: 9,600
 - Captured/missing: 1,769
- Confederate (5,309)
 - Killed: 592
 - Wounded: 4,061
 - Captured/missing: 653

1862

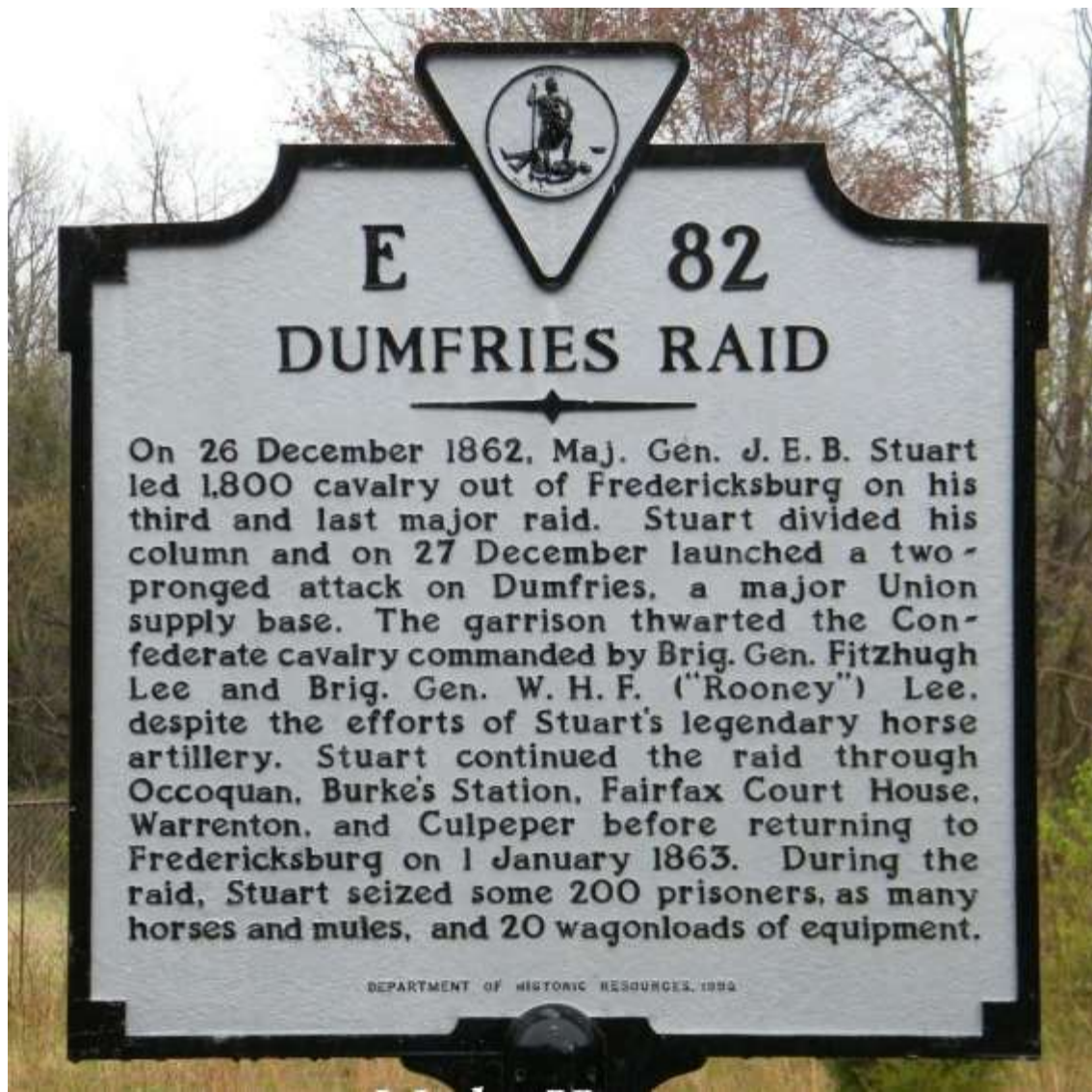
Each leaf
represents
one thousand
soldiers who
died between
December 13-15th
in the battle of
Fredericksburg



Dear Madam,
I have been shown in the files of the War Department that you are the mother of a fine son who has died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel
and feel that must be any word of comfort that shall attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I feel that I must bring
you the consolation that may be found in thanks of the Republic they died for. I am, Madam, your one, the shoulder of
load and lot, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have lost so noble a son. I am, Madam, your one, the shoulder of
your very sincerely,
Ramon



JEB STUART'S THIRD RAID DEC 27, 1862 TO JAN 1, 1863





TOUR



Scott Walker (540-809-3918) Cell
www.hallowedgroundtours.com)

He will meet everyone going on the tour at **1:30 pm** at the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center ([1013 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22401](#), 540-693-3200)

Everyone can carpool from there to make things easier. The tour doesn't have to go 3 hours but he said to get the most out of it, at least 2.5 hours.