



September 29, 1864 - September 30, 1864 - Cavalry engagements, Nobleville, Beaver Dam and Centreville environs, Perry and Hickman Counties.



"Fighting in Perry and Hickman Counties. 2d Tenn. Mounted Infantry Engaged with Col. Biffle's Command. Engagements at Nobleville, Beaver dam and Centerville."



On last Tuesday [Sept. 29th] Colonel Murphy's Second Tennessee Mounted Infantry, 250 strong, started from Section 54, N. & N. W. Railroad, in pursuit of Col. Biffle's band of guerrillas. They came upon the rebels at Nobleville, in Perry county, attacked them, and drove them thence to Beardstown. On the next day [30th] Col. Murphy proceeded to Caney Creek, supposing Biffles had gone in that direction. That evening, however, Biffles came upon or forces at Beaver Dam, with reinforcements amounts to 600 men, and made a fierce attack. In this attack the rebels were repulsed with heavy loss. Finding his force outnumbered nearly three to one, Col. Murphy fell back towards Centreville; the rebels pursued and a running fight ensued for seven miles. On arriving near Centreville, Colonel Murphy found that the rebels had occupied all the fords of Duck River. He rested his forces for a short time, and making a dash at what is called Nigger Ford, cut his way through the guard and escaped. His loss was one officer killed, Lieut. Barrett, of Co. F., a find and gallant young officer of Decatur county. He was shot through the body, at the side of Col. Murphy. His loss is deeply regretted. Beside Lieut. Barret, we lost not over twenty men in killed and wounded. The rebel loss was not far short of eighty.



As an evidence of the severity of the fighting, we will state that Col Murphy, and at least half of his officers, had their horses shot under them. The whole affair reflects infinite credit on our handful of heroes who so bravely and successfully withstood the protracted attack of a force so far their superior in numbers.^{Note 1}

Nashville *Daily Times and True Union*, October 4, 1864

Note 1: The engagement at Centreville on the 29th is referenced in the *OR*, [Ser. I, Vol. 39, pt. I, p. 4] although no circumstantial reports were filed. Moreover, *Dyer's Battle Index for Tennessee*, p. 874 lists the fight at Centreville.