



Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp # 443
Jasper, Alabama

Published Monthly

March 2022



March 2022 Newsletter

Major John C. Hutto Camp Meeting

Please join with the Major John C. Hutto Camp in Jasper, Alabama on 20 March 2022 at 2:00pm for the March 2022 Camp meeting. Meeting will be in the First United Methodist Church's Adult Center behind the church sanctuary.

Family, friends & guest are welcome

Wilson's Raid and the Town of Elyton By Norman Dasinger, Jr.



Union Gen. James H.
Wilson in 1865 | LOC

On March 30, 1865, Union Gen. James H. Wilson and his 13,000 cavalry were encamped in Elyton, Alabama. Soon after the Civil War, the fast-growing new city of Birmingham swallowed up the town.

Wilson and his men rested at the home of Judge William S. Mudd named "The Grove." From his headquarters, the Federal commander issued the following order:

"Brig. Gen E. M. McCook—

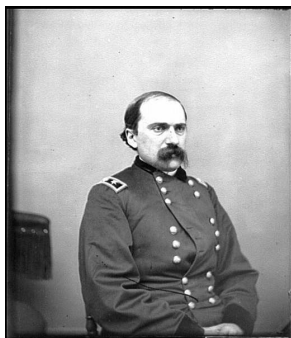
Detach one brigade of your division, to proceed rapidly by the most direct route to Tuscaloosa to destroy the bridge, factories, mills, university (military school) and whatever else may be of benefit to the rebel cause."

McCook picked Gen. John T. Croxton's brigade to fulfill the mission. Before he departed, Croxton received some valuable information. Judge Mudd, the man hosting Wilson and his men at his home, had just returned from Tuscaloosa and reported that only militia and university cadets were present in the town. Croxton would burn the school, as ordered, but not return to Wilson's command until he arrived in Macon, Georgia, on May 1.

Edward Moody McCook (June 15, 1833 – September 9, 1909) was born in Steubenville, Ohio. He moved to Colorado in 1848 and then to the Kansas Territory in 1849, where he became a lawyer and a Kansas legislator, serving in the territorial House of Representatives in 1859. With the onset of the Civil War, McCook traveled to Washington, D.C. and served for a time as a secret agent for the Federal government, gathering information of value to the military. He then joined the volunteer army as a captain in the 2nd Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, rising to the rank of colonel by the middle of 1862.

McCook commanded a cavalry brigade at the Battle of Perryville and a division at Chickamauga. On April 27, 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and given command of the First Cavalry Division in the Army of the Cumberland. His 3,600 cavalymen raided and severed the Macon & Western Railroad in late July 1864 while serving under George Stoneman during the Atlanta Campaign. On July 30, McCook was thoroughly defeated by Confederate cavalry under Joseph Wheeler at the Battle of Brown's Mill near Newnan, Georgia, losing a great number

of men, horses, and artillery. McCook and his remaining cavalry marched to Tennessee to assist in the Franklin-Nashville Campaign. In March and April of 1865, McCook commanded the First Division in Wilson's Raid and at the Battle of Selma.



General Edward M. McCook wrote this letter from the headquarters of the 1st Cavalry Division in Macon, Georgia to an unidentified friend in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 1, 1865. He reports that during his latest expedition, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Cavalry under the command of Brevet Major General Wilson captured Selma, Tuscaloosa, Columbus, Montgomery, West Point, and Macon. He goes on to say that Union troops have managed to destroy all the arsenals, iron works, rolling mills, machine shops, foundries, and factories in Alabama and Georgia, leaving the Confederacy hopelessly crippled.

Wilson had arrived in Elyton seeking a place to rest his men and finalize his continued movement through the middle of Alabama aiming for Selma. Surgeon Frances Salter described Elyton as a “pretty village of 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants.” General Wilson had a different observation. He wrote it was “poverty stricken and uninviting . . . a poor insignificant Southern village.”



The house Wilson chose for his headquarters, however, was not insignificant. The Grove—renamed Arlington in 1902—was built beginning in 1846 by Judge Mudd, one of the founders of the village of Elyton. A native of Kentucky, Mudd served in the Alabama state legislature between 1843 and 1848 and had a successful 23-year judicial career. He and his wife, Florence, raised nine children and, in 1860, Mudd reported 14 enslaved individuals also dwelling at The Grove. Among his business ventures were the building of Birmingham's first hotel, operation of the Oxmoor Furnace, and the establishment of Citizen's (now Regions) Bank. He died in 1884.

In 1953, Mudd's home, after passing through several owners, was purchased by a citizens group and the city of Birmingham for \$53,000. (Mudd had bought the land and an old cottage that stood on it for \$600.)

Today, the city of Birmingham still owns Arlington and six acres. It serves as an interpretive site with a museum and includes a reception hall, plantation kitchen, and gardens. Tours are offered Tuesday through Sunday. Period antiques furnish the rooms, including relics once owned by President Jefferson Davis and his family.

Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, the house is believed to be the last surviving antebellum mansion in Birmingham, Alabama.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Commander | James R. Blackston |
| 1 st Lt. Cmd. | Trent Harris |
| 2nd Lt. Cmd. | Jeremy Jackson |
| Adjutant | John McGraw |
| Chaplain | Barry Cook |
| Judge Advocate. | Cherokee Brasher |
| Communications. | Gene Herren |
| Facebook | Brandon Prescott |
| | Jeremy Jackson |
| Quartermaster | Barry Cook |
| Newsletter Editor | James Blackston |

Website: www.huttocamp.com

Facebook - [Hutto Camp](#)

The Rebel Underground, is the official monthly publication of the Major John C. Hutto Camp #443. Articles published are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Executive Board or the Editor.

The fair use of any included copyrighted work is for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research, and is for nonprofit educational purposes only. 17 U.S. Code § 107

The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.