

Sgt. Benejah C. Merritt, C.S.A.



Benajah C. Merritt (1837-1863)

Robert's youngest son . . . he was killed riding with Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry at Buckland Mills, near Warrenton, VA, on 19 Oct 1863.

Bristoe Station

Other Names: None

Location: Prince William County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October–November 1863)

Date(s): October 14, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren [US]; Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill [CS]

Forces Engaged: Corps

Estimated Casualties: 1,980 total

Description: On October 14, 1863, A.P. Hill's corps stumbled upon two corps of the retreating Union army at Bristoe Station and attacked without proper reconnaissance. Union soldiers of the II Corps, posted behind the Orange & Alexandria Railroad embankment, mauled two brigades of Henry Heth's division and captured a battery of artillery. Hill reinforced his line but could make little headway against the determined defenders. After this victory, the Federals continued their withdrawal to Centreville unmolested. Lee's Bristoe offensive sputtered to a premature halt. After minor skirmishing near Manassas and Centreville, the Confederates retired slowly to Rappahannock River destroying the Orange & Alexandria Railroad as they went. At Bristoe Station, Hill lost standing in the eyes of Lee, who angrily ordered him to bury his dead and say no more about it.

Result(s): Union victory

After Gettysburg in July, 1863, both Confederate and Union armies spent August and September regrouping. During a movement to block the Union from a supply depot on 14 Oct 1863, Gen A. P. Hill blundered into the tail end of Gen Warren's army at Bristoe Station, made a couple of really dumb decisions, got soundly defeated and lost 1,300 men to Warren's 680. Gen Robert E. Lee arrived late in the day with reinforcements, but the battle was over. Gen Warren continued his march to Centreville after dark. Gen Lee followed the next day, but then decided to retire west to Winter Quarters. It was during that move that the Battle of Buckland Mills occurred.

[National Park Service at: www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/va042

Sgt. Benajah C. Merritt was riding with Gen J.E.B. Stuart covering the withdrawal of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army from Manassas when he was killed in the Battle of Buckland Mills on 19 Oct 1863. He was in Moore's North Carolina Regiment, then designated as the 9th Regiment, First Cavalry. His company commander was Capt. W. J. Houston.

[*"Roster of N. C. Troops" by Moore.*]

The battle took place near the intersection of Lee Highway and Dumfries Rd, northeast of Warrenton, and he is probably buried near there.

Buckland Mills

Other Names: Buckland Races, Chestnut Hill

Location: Fauquier County

Campaign: Bristoe Campaign (October–November 1863)

Date(s): October 19, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. J. Kilpatrick [US]; Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart [CS]

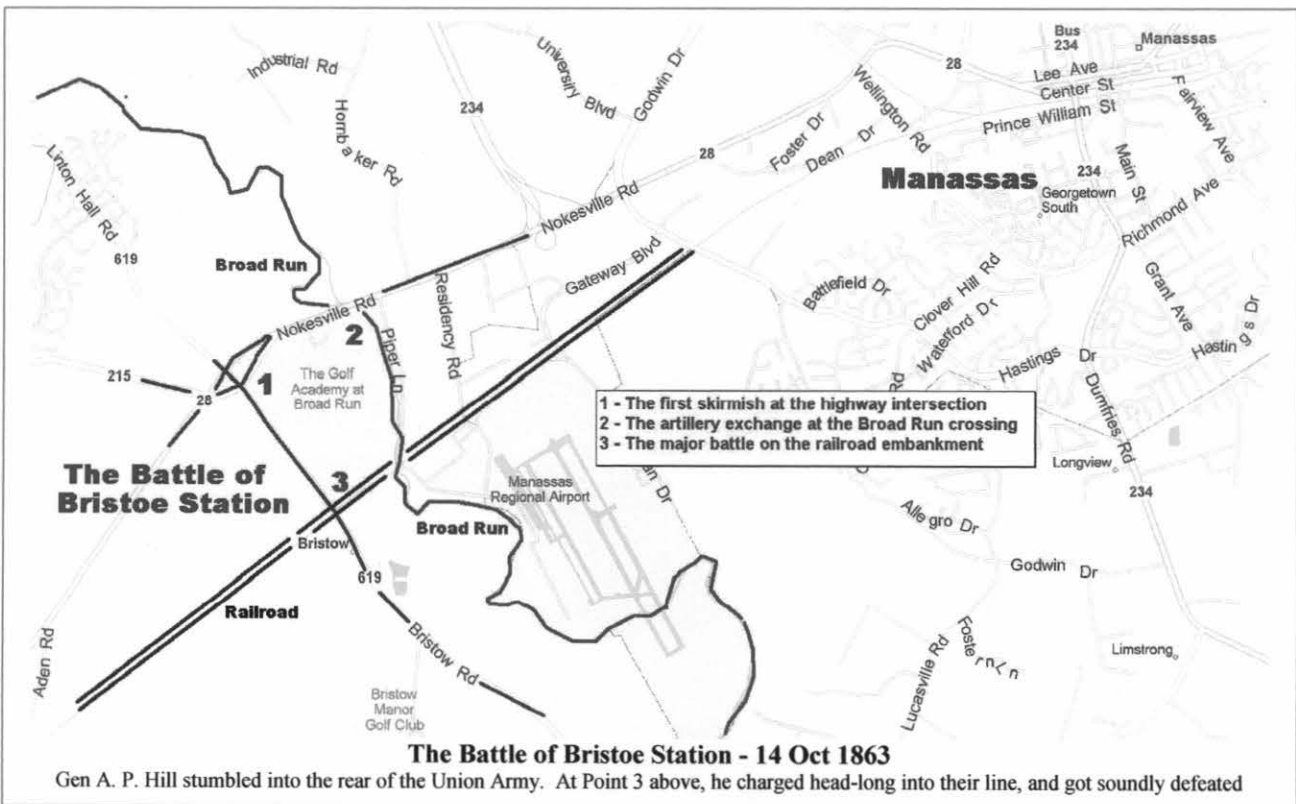
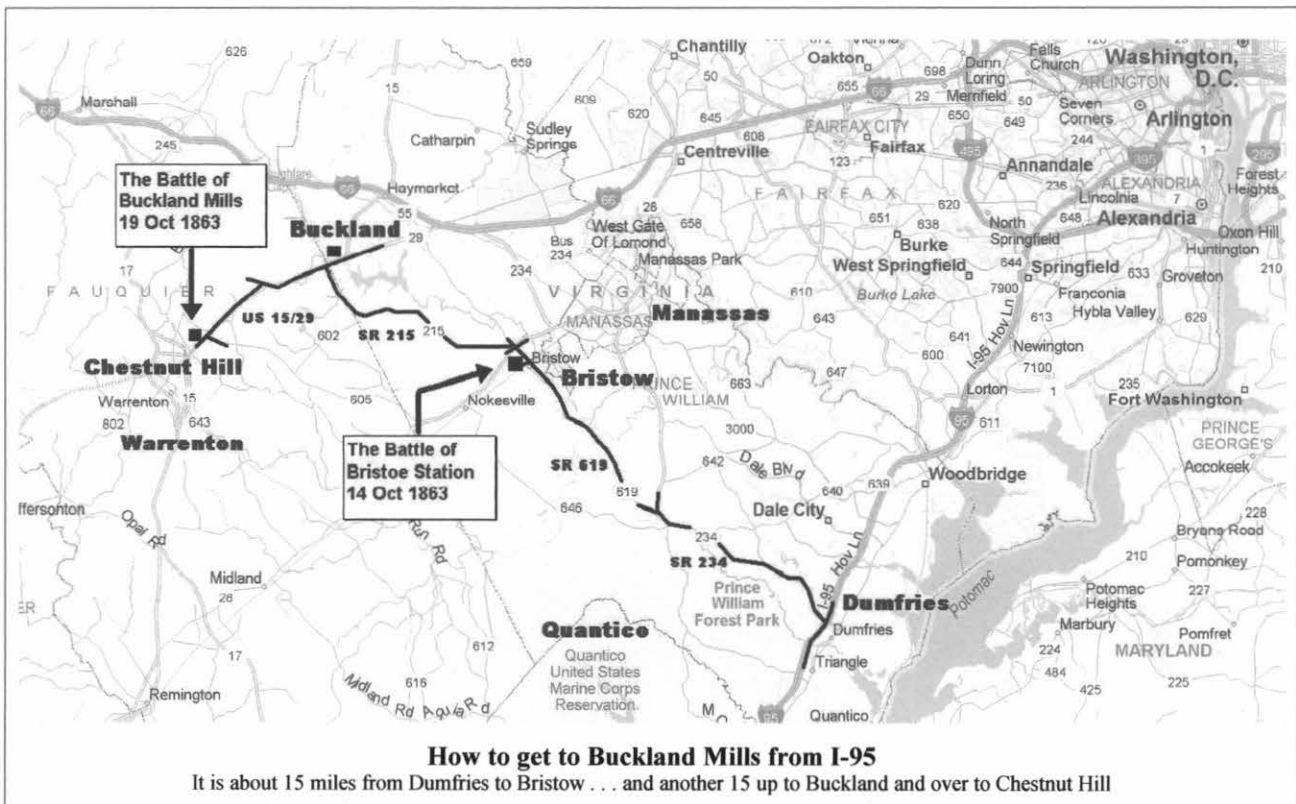
Forces Engaged: Divisions

Estimated Casualties: 230 total

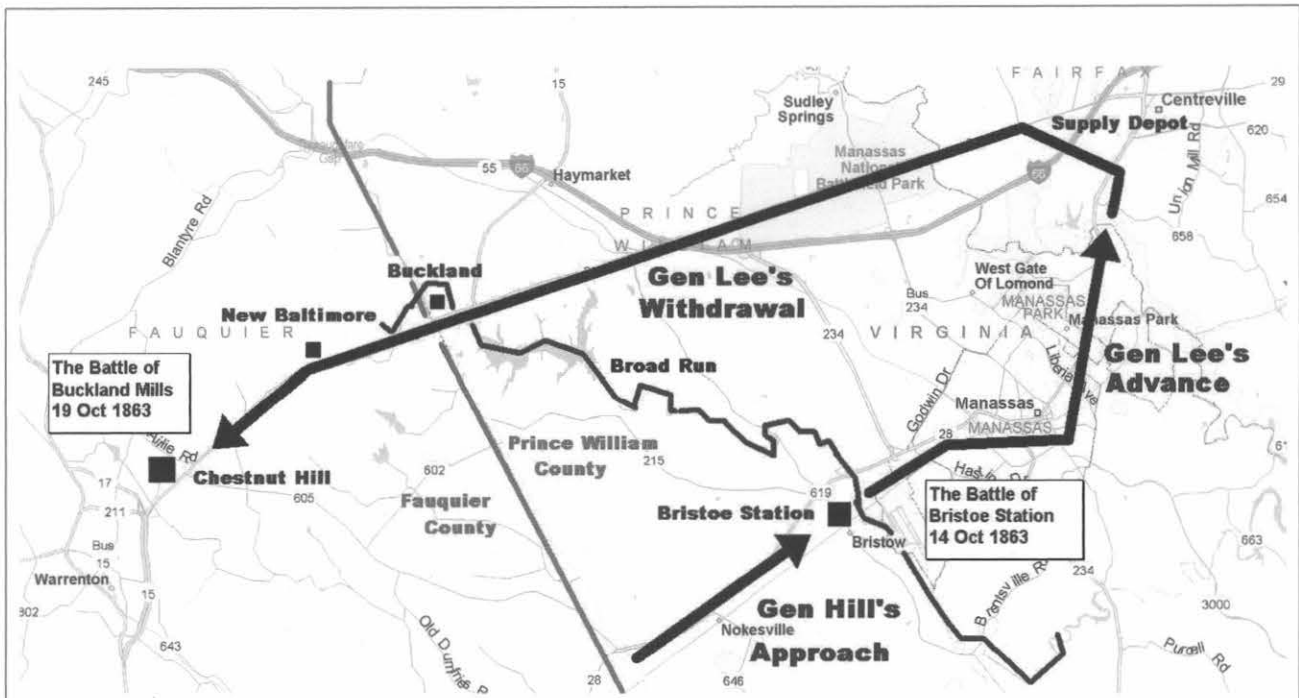
Description: After defeat at Bristoe Station and an aborted advance on Centreville, Stuart's cavalry shielded the withdrawal of Lee's army from the vicinity of Manassas Junction. Union cavalry under Kilpatrick pursued Stuart's cavalry along the Warrenton Turnpike but were lured into an ambush near Chestnut Hill and routed. The Federal troopers were scattered and chased five miles in an affair that came to be known as the "Buckland Races."

Result(s): Confederate victory

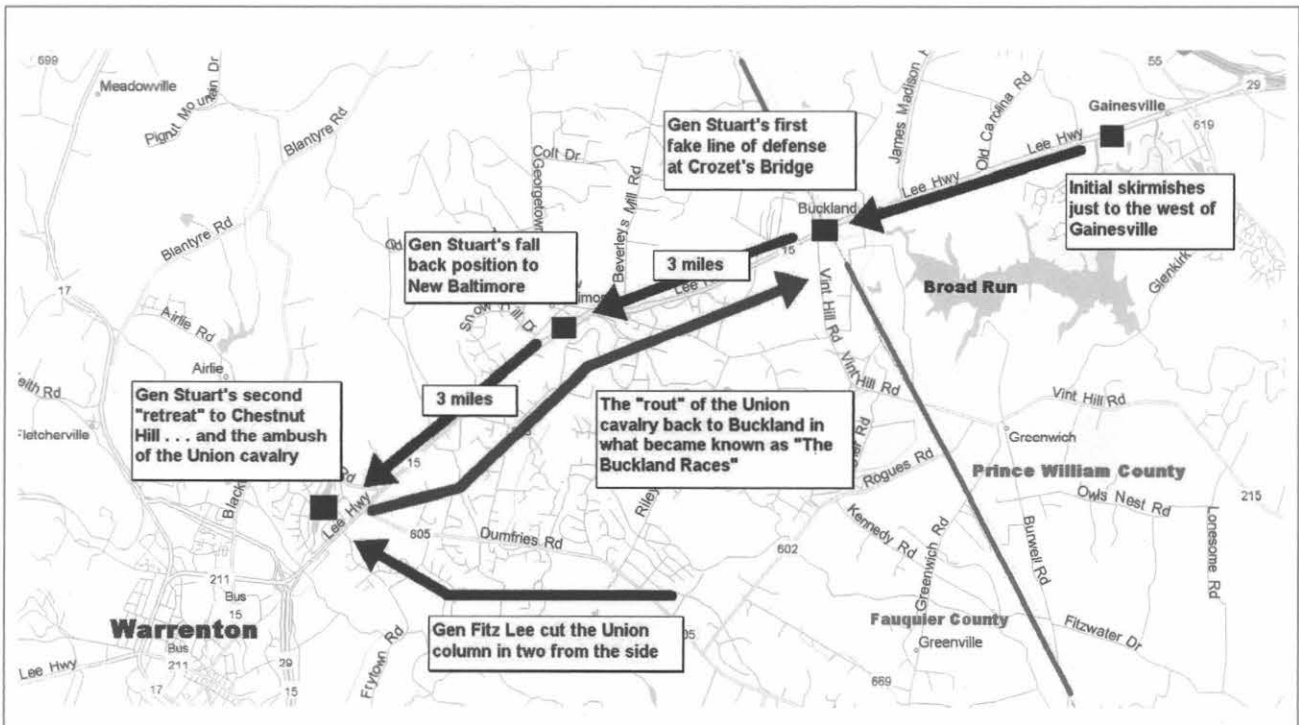
The Battle of Buckland, VA



The Battle of Buckland Mills, VA

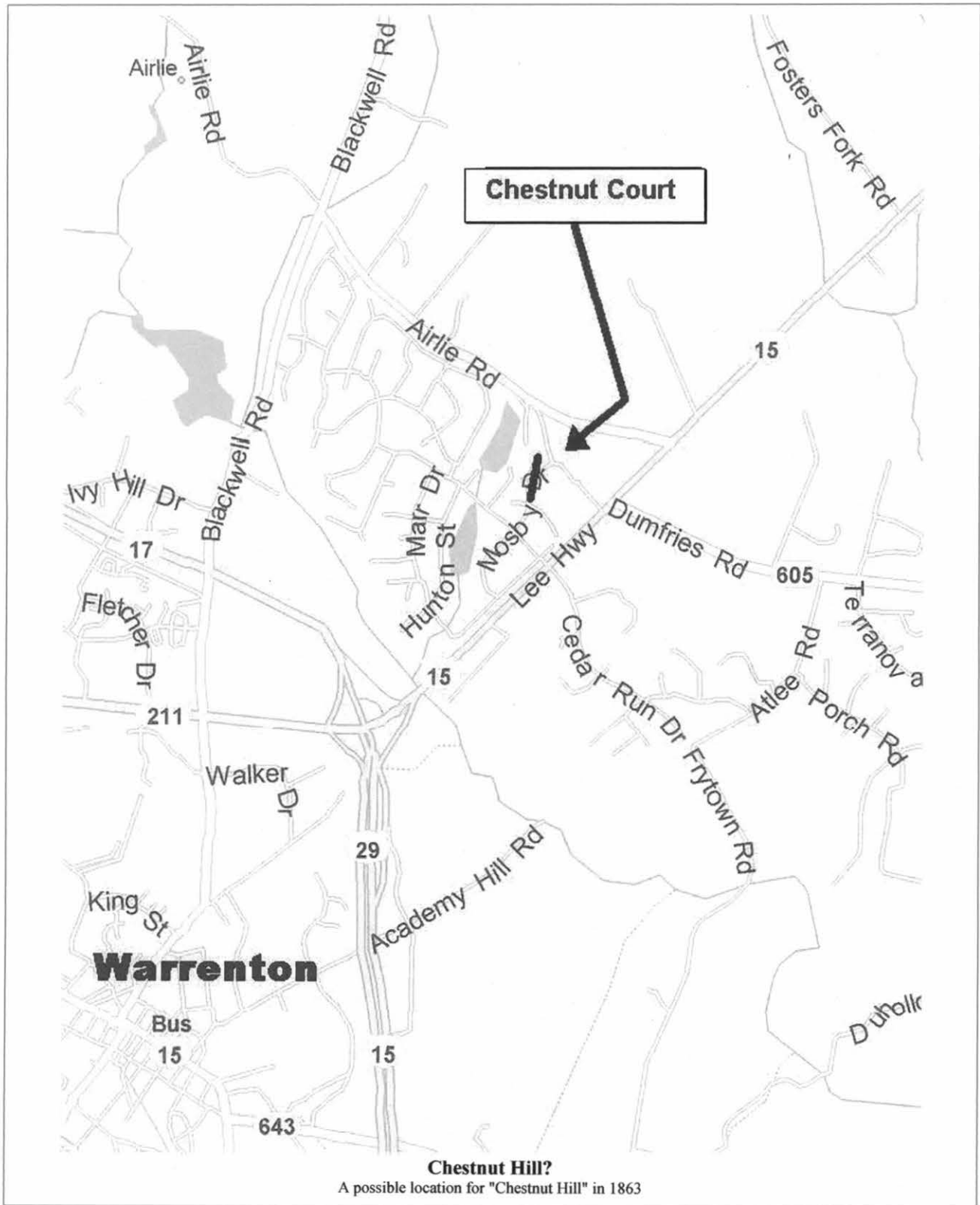


Gen Hill's and Gen Lee's movements on 14-19 Oct 1863
 Gen R. E. Lee got to Bristow after the battle, then moved first toward Centreville, and finally back west to set up Winter Quarters

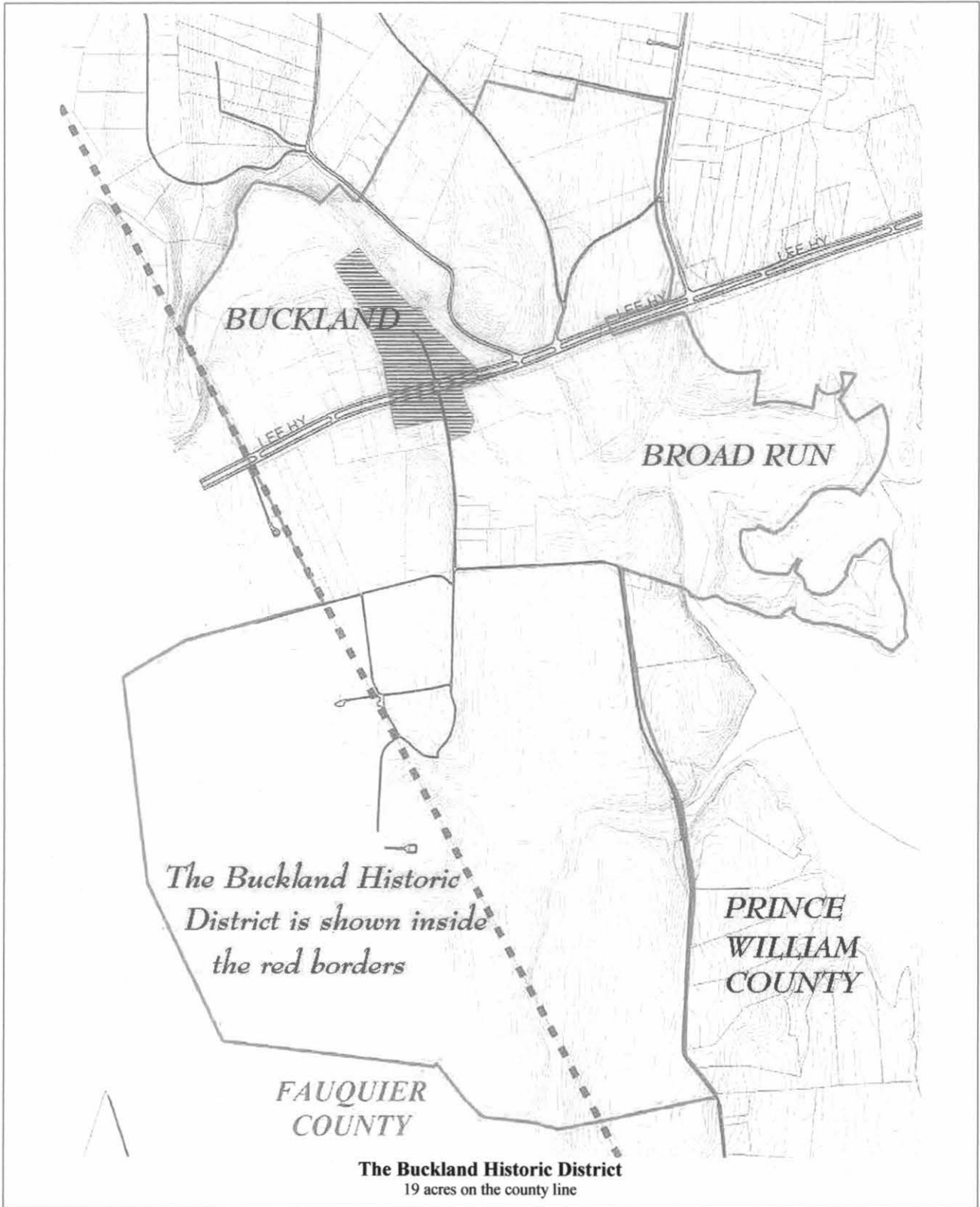


The Battle of Buckland Mills - 19 Oct 1863
 Trailed by the Union cavalry, Stuart set up two fake "retreats" to suck them in. Fitz Lee cut the column, and chased them 5 miles back to Buckland

The Battle of Buckland Mills, VA



The Battle of Buckland Mills, VA



DOU ←

YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH
TO HELP ME CHASE
CHESTNUT HILL — I'M
HEADED DOWN TO BUCKLASH
& WATZENTON —

ATTACHED IS WHAT I
KNOW — I'LL LET YOU
KNOW WHAT I FIND OUT

TED M. EACHERN

Spring 2005

E. M. McEachern, Jr.
Director of Computer Operations
Information Technology



Sentara Healthcare
1151 Azalea Garden Road, Suite 100
Norfolk, VA 23502

Tel: 757.857.8405 Fax: 757.857.8140
757.857.8112 emmceach@sentara.com