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Stoneman's Raid, 1865

by Chris J. Hartley

On the morning of April 11, 1865, 70-year old Sarah Dalton of Yadkin County, N.C., awoke to a Federal military officer on her doorstep asking for breakfast for 15 of his men. Sarah quickly got to work preparing their meals. But after the fifteen mouths had been fed, the men kept coming. By the end of the day, Sarah had fed about 100 soldiers and lost numerous supplies and livestock in the process.

This is just one of the many stories told in *Stoneman's Raid, 1865*, the story of one of the longest cavalry raids in U.S. military history. Over the course of two months in the spring of 1865, Major General George Stoneman led about 4000 mounted Union men on a mission of strength and endurance. Traveling well-over 1,000 miles on horseback, Stoneman and his men invaded numerous Confederate communities in the southeast, leaving the area shattered and ultimately slowing postwar recovery efforts. Yet aside from the scattered historical markers along North Carolina's highways, one of the most important Civil War events to touch the Southeast has all but disappeared from the minds of many.

Chris J. Hartley grew up in the shadow of one of those historical markers in Wilkesboro, N.C., and developed an interest in the forgotten event at a young age. Chris wrote a paper about the raid as a student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and has been chasing its history ever since. His extensive research has led him everywhere from North Carolina historical records to Ohio newspaper archives to correspondence with libraries in Ireland.

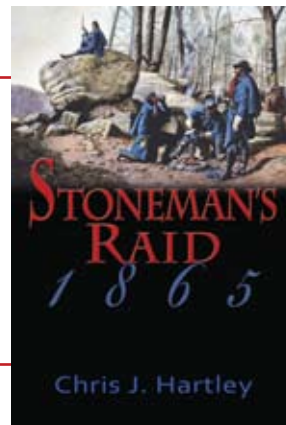
Stoneman's Raid, 1865 is the most complete account of the event to date, from its planning stages to its day-to-day activities to its far-reaching aftereffects. Its 13 maps track the cavalry's movements from East Tennes-

see, through southwestern Virginia and into North Carolina's foothills and Piedmont. The book tells the stories of citizens like Sarah Dalton in towns along the raid's path and of the soldiers who endured the 1,000-mile journey through the heart of the Confederacy. The author's exhaustive research in 34 repositories in 12 states and from more than 200 books and newspapers helps tell the forgotten story.

Stoneman's Raid, 1865 is poised to be the definitive account of what happened when the war came to town.

Chris J. Hartley has worked in marketing and communications for several large companies. On the side, he chases the history that has fascinated him since childhood. He has published several articles and is a frequent speaker about the Civil War. He lives in Pfafftown, NC.

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