

Chapter 10 page 165-167

Crossing the Shenandoah at Berry's Ferry, Richards, with 16 men, on the morning of the 9th of May, pushed on towards Newtown, where he lay in the woods all day, occasionally picking up a few stragglers. About noon 3 Federal cavalrymen were observed riding along the pike and Richards, with Charles H. Dear, Boyd Smith and Charles L. Hall galloped out and followed them into the village. Spurring their horses, they were soon beside the trio and escorted them off to the woods, whence they were sent with the other prisoners under a guard of 4 men to Fauquier.

The rangers were proceeding to disarm them quietly, when a pistol shot was fired and the fight became general. Reinforcements from the main body charged up and Richards was compelled to retreat. The Rangers escaped by taking to the woods, Charles H. Dear was wounded, receiving a ball in his side. A number of the Federals were killed and wounded.

Chapter 20 page 260

Wednesday, October 12, Mosby crossed the Shenandoah just after nightfall, and moved on toward Bunker's Hill, They saw a detachment of cavalry, dressed in gray, coming from the direction of Winchester, they were "Jessie Scouts, " Grogan called out to his men:

"Come on, boys; we'll ride over them."

But the Jessies" did not wait to be ridden over; they broke and ran, with a of only 2 of their number--- one being killed by Charles Dear and one captured by Jas. G. Wiltshire.

Chapter 26 page 340

On the 30th of January Major Richards started from Bloomfield with 30 men for a raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, between Harper's Ferry and Winchester. When he reached the road, about 11 o'clock p.m., he found it heavily guarded by infantry and patrolled by cavalry, so that he could accomplish nothing. He sent a portion of his men back, but kept with him James and Charles Wiltshire, Charles Dear, Joseph Bryan, Edwin Gipson, Will. Sheppard, Bartlett Bolling, John Hearn and a few others, in all about 15 of his best men, and moved off toward Charlestown. Charles Dear and James Wiltshire were sent to quietly scout along the road, and soon returned with 2 of the mounted patrols. Richards questioned them, and then turned them over to Dear and Wiltshire to get the countersign.

From Mosby's Rangers

James J. Williamson

First printed 1896

Chapter 18, page 239-40

Friday, September 23- Early in the morning Captain Chapman, with a few men, went out to reconnoitre. Learning that an ambulance train with an escort of about 200 men, was moving down toward Front Royal, he determined to attack it.

Dividing his command, he sent Captain Frankland, with 45 men, to attack the train guard in front, while he with the other portion was to fall upon the rear. From his position, which was nearer than Frankland's to the approaching train, Chapman could see the force following, and noting the heavy body of cavalry advancing (which proved to be the Reserve Brigade of Merritt's Cavalry Division returning from their unsuccessful move on Milford), he ordered Lieutenant Hatcher to fall back with all speed in the direction of Chester Gap, while he went around to Captain Frankland to prevent his making the attack. But before reaching him, Frankland had already charged the escort in front and was driving them back on the ambulances.

"Call off your men; you are attacking a brigade!", said Chapman as he met Frankland.

"Why Sam, we've whipped them," returned Frankland, as he reluctantly obeyed orders.

Alternately fighting and retreating, Chapman fell back towards Chester Gap, the heavy mass of cavalry pressing on all sides, as if to overwhelm the little band. A Federal officer, Lt. McMaster, of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry, with a small party, had approached by the Chester Gap road, with the intention of cutting off some of our men who were seeking to escape by crossing Hominy Hollow, and as they made their appearance in our front, Lt. McMaster waving his sabre and urging his men to follow, our men naturally supposed the enemy were seeking to throw a force in our front, to cut off all avenues of retreat. As they wildly rushed on McMaster's horse was killed and he, a brave and dashing fellow, fell riddled with bullets from our rough riders, who rode over him in their flight. Fifteen or 20, in all, of the Federals were killed and wounded and two of Chapman's men were wounded, and 6, Thomas E. Anderson, Carter, Overby, Lucian Love, Lafayette Rhodes, and Jones, were taken prisoners and afterward barbarously hung or shot,

Chapter 18, p 242-3

Among the "characters" in the Battalion was one Robert W. Eastham, familiarly known as "Bob Ridley". Of a restless, roving disposition, he was never idle. A fight for a footrace, a fox hunt or a raid, were equally gratifying to him. He would often start off with two or three companions, and seldom returned without prisoners and horses.

On the day previous to the fight near Chester Gap he was scouting in Custer's rear with Joseph Foy, John Kirwin, Frank Kennerly and Joseph Griffin. Near Guard Hill they captured two couriers with dispatches for General Custer. A little further on, they saw a Federal soldier riding along with a half of a sheep before him on his horse. "Bob" suddenly started from behind a bush and presenting his pistol, called on the man to surrender. He was a Dutch man.....

.....Returning on the Gooney Manor road toward Front Royal, Eastham learned that a party of 37 Federal cavalry had passed but a little while before. As he had been joined by 4 troopers belonging to the 12th Virginia Cavalry, he left John Kirwin in charge of the 3 prisoners and started in pursuit of the Federal Cavalry. As soon as they came in sight Eastham and his little party charged with a yell. In the cloud of dust which enveloped them, the surprised and startled Federals could form no estimate of the number of their assailants, but naturally supposing the force superior to their own, broke and ran at break-neck speed. At a turn in the road one of the enemy's horses fell with its rider, and Eastham being too near to stop attempted to jump over the prostrate horse and rider. As he did so, the horse started to rise, and threw Eastham's horse down the bank, both horse and rider being lamed in the fall. The pursuit continued for some distance. Eastham then returned to Front Royal with the prisoners and 17 horses.

From Mosby's Rangers
James J. Williamson
First printed 1896

Chapter 27 Page 353-354

Ed. Thomson, with 30 picked men, among them Charles Dear, J. Willie Dear, John Newcomb, Crawford, James Lowndes, J.S. Mason and L. R. Mason, was sent on a scout from Loudoun. They went through the enemy's lines to Munson's Hill, capturing a patrol of 10 men, whom they met on their route, with their horses and equipments, and afterwards cutting their way through the lines near Springfield Station, returned to the command without loss.

From Mosby's Rangers
James J. Williamsen
First printed 1896

Chapter 6 page 114

Friday, November 27 A body of Federal cavalry having pitched their camp in the vicinity of the Hazel River, Mosby sent Lieut. Thomas² Turner, with Montjoy, Henry S. Ashby and three others, to reconnoitre their position and see what the chances were for a successful foray.

Chapter 25 page 326

Captain Miles was taken to a house near the road, where he died in a short time. One lieutenant was killed and another captured. Of the entire patrol but few escaped. About 30 killed and wounded, and the prisoners, 68 in number, were sent out with a guard of 10 men, Joseph Millan in charge, and turned over to McCausland, at Peola Mills. Over 60 horses were captured, with equipments. None of our men was injured.

From Mosby's Rangers
James J. Williamson
First Printed 1896

Chapter 22 page 291

Custer and Powell, but also by the action of the higher powers.

Grant to Sheridan, Aug. 16, 1864: "Where any of Mosby's men are caught, hang them without trial."

Sheridan to Grant, Aug. 17: "Mosby has annoyed me and captured a few wagons. We hung 1 and shot 6 of his men yesterday."