

“History of York County Pennsylvania” Volume I

By GEORGE R. PROWELL Curator and Librarian of Historical Society of York County; Member of the National Geographic Society; Member of the American Historical Association Chicago J. H. BEERS & CO. 1907 Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2009 with funding from University of Pittsburgh Library System
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On the night of June 28, General Early with a division of 9,000 Confederate troops leading the advance of Lee's army encamped in Paradise Township. He moved eastward through Weiglestown and when he arrived at that place detached Colonel French with 200 cavalymen to pass through Manchester and Mt. Wolf to York Haven, there they were ordered to burn the railroad bridges. This was the first and only time that the inhabitants of Manchester saw the Confederate troops during the invasion into Pennsylvania. Their unexpected arrival caused a flurry of excitement. Some people ran to the cellars, others to the garrets and watched the troopers as they rode by. The soldiers halted in town, went into stores and took such shoes as they could find. These they paid for in Confederate notes. They proceeded to Mt. Wolf, where they also ransacked the store of George H. Wolf. Before leaving this village, telegraph poles were cut down. There was a battalion of the 20th Pennsylvania Emergency Regiment guarding the bridges at York Haven. When the Union troops heard of the approach of the enemy they crossed the Susquehanna on flatboats to Bainbridge. The Confederates arrived at York Haven early in the afternoon and immediately burned the two railroad bridges over the Conewago at this place, setting them on fire with coal oil. Their mission had then been completed and as there were no Federal troops in sight, except on the opposite side of the river, which could not be forded. Colonel French and his men returned through Mt. Wolf and Manchester and proceeded down the turnpike, joining Early's command at York the same afternoon.