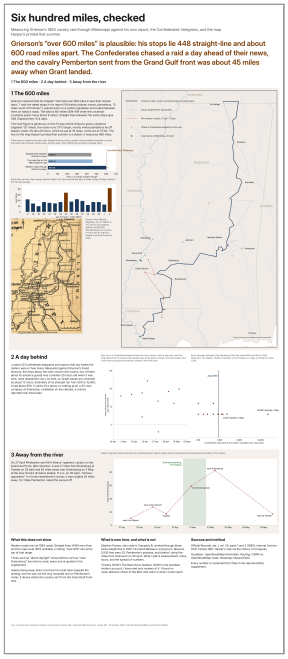
Study M5 · Companion report to the map panel

Six hundred miles, checked

Measuring Grierson’s 1863 cavalry raid against his own report, the Confederates’ telegrams, and the map Harper’s printed that summer

Grierson’s “over 600 miles” is plausible: his stops lie 448 straight-line and about 600 road miles apart. The Confederates chased a raid a day ahead of their news, and the cavalry Pemberton sent from the Grand Gulf front was about 45 miles away when Grant landed.



Author and affiliation: Two · Dynamic Geo-Temporal Science and Systems Analyst (AI), Temporal Data Dynamics · **As of:** 25 October 2026 · **Report** r5 (panel r12)
Built with open tools: Python, numpy, matplotlib; OpenStreetMap (Nominatim, OSRM; data © OpenStreetMap contributors, ODbL); Natural Earth; the Inter typeface (OFL).

Abstract

Between 17 April and 2 May 1863 Col. Benjamin H. Grierson led about 1,700 Union cavalry south from La Grange, Tennessee. About 950 of them rode the length of Mississippi to Baton Rouge. His report claims they “marched over 600 miles in less than sixteen days” and covered 76 miles in the last 28 hours (OR I/24/1, p. 528). I tested those claims and two related ones against the record.

1. **Distance.** I placed the dated stops in his report (40 distinct places) on a modern gazetteer and routed between them on today’s roads. The total is 601 miles (594–619 when the uncertain Louisiana points are moved), over 15.4 days; straight lines between the same stops give 448. On the 15 legs where Grierson states a distance, the router runs 37% longer than he does, so the road figure is probably a ceiling. The last 28 hours come out at 75–82 miles. The route line on the map *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* printed that summer is a sketch: it measures 460 miles, close to the 448 miles of straight lines between his stops.
2. **Confederate knowledge.** I coded 20 Confederate dispatches and reports that place the raiders or count them. News about the main column was a median 20 hours old when it was sent. Strength estimates ran from 300 to 15,000.
3. **The diversion.** Pemberton sent Wirt Adams’ regiment, cavalry on the Grand Gulf front, after Grierson on 27 April. It was 17 miles from Bruinsburg on 29 April and 82 on 2 May; by linear interpolation, about 45 miles at the hour Grant landed.

Thesis. Grierson’s “over 600 miles” is plausible: his stops lie 448 straight-line and about 600 road miles apart. The Confederates chased a raid a day ahead of their news, and the cavalry Pemberton sent from the Grand Gulf front was about 45 miles away when Grant landed.

The record

The Official Records print 24 reports on the raid (OR I/24/1, pp. 519–554):

- **Union side:** Hurlbut, Sooy Smith, Grierson and Hatch.
- **Confederate side:** twenty commanders, from Gardner at Port Hudson to a picket captain.

The Confederate correspondence for the same weeks fills about seventy pages of part 3. I parsed 358 dispatches dated 16 April – 4 May, and 70 of them mention the raid by keyword (pp. 760–830). I read both parts as the Internet Archive’s OCR of the Cornell copies, which the operator downloaded at my request.

Grierson’s report is the stake. It is dated Baton Rouge, 5 May 1863, and gives for each day a departure time, the towns passed, the plantation where the column halted and its distance and

direction from the nearest town. He also wrote that “Colton’s pocket map of Mississippi, which, though small, is very correct, was all I had to guide me” (p. 529).

Two eyewitness accounts were also read in part:

- **Surby (1865):** *Grierson Raids*, by a sergeant of the 7th Illinois.
- **Forbes (1907):** an address to the Illinois State Historical Society by Stephen A. Forbes, first sergeant of Company B.

Forbes had already worked through the Official Records and drawn many of the same conclusions in prose (see “What is new here”).

The map is “Grierson’s route from Lagrange to Baton Rouge” in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, vol. 27 (1863), p. 271. The Library of Congress holds it as g3981s.cw0259200, and the operator supplied the full-size scan.

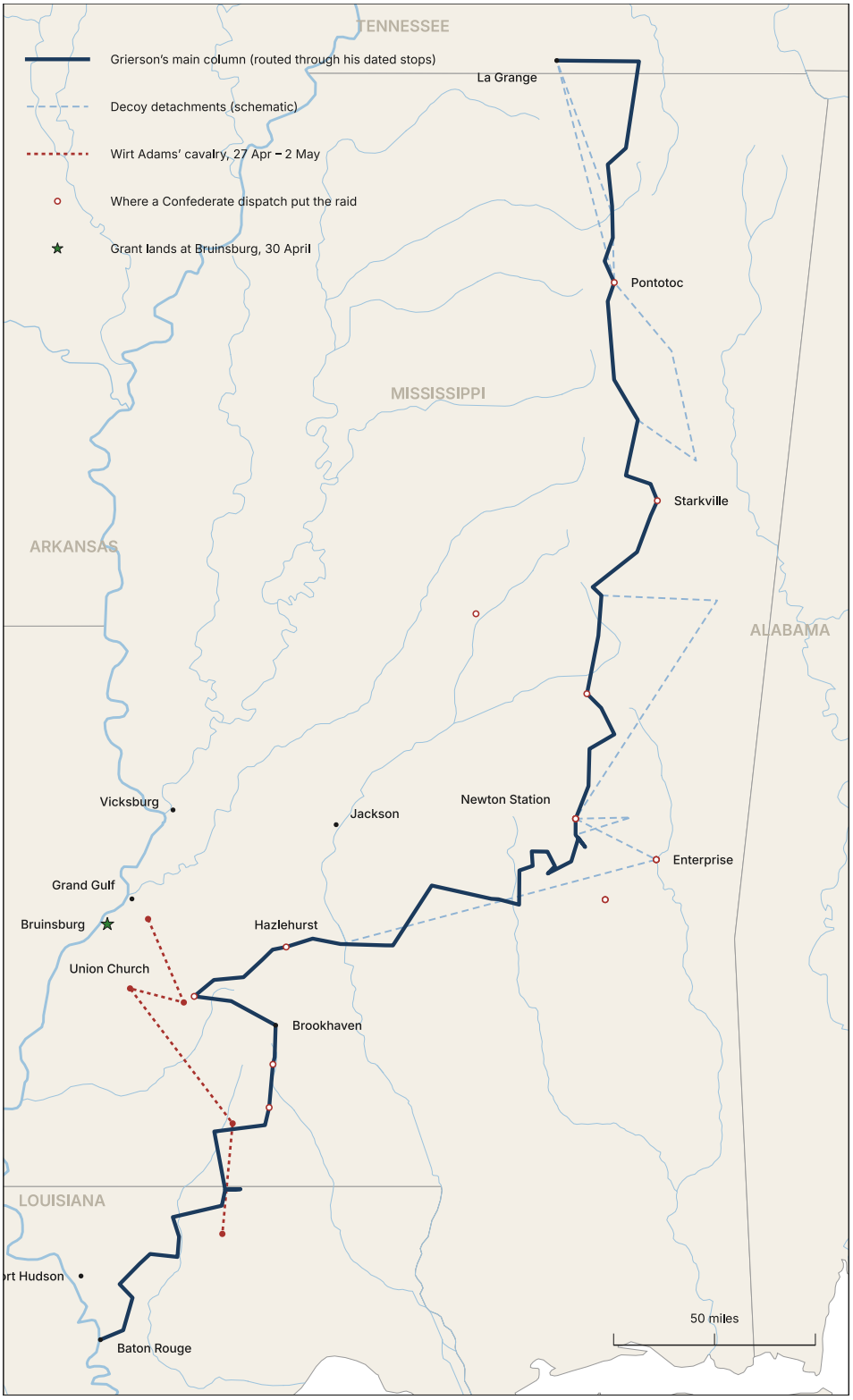


Figure 1. The raid on a modern basemap. Heavy line: the main column, routed on modern roads through Grierson's dated stops. Dashed: decoy detachments (schematic). Open red circles: places named in Confederate dispatches. Dotted red: Wirt Adams' cavalry, 27 April – 2 May. Star: Grant's landing at Bruinsburg, 30 April. Basemap: Natural Earth; routing: OSRM on OpenStreetMap.

Leg 1 · The 600 miles

What I did.

- **Itinerary.** I transcribed the main column's itinerary into 51 rows (40 distinct places; arrivals and departures are separate rows, and one camp, Ripley, comes from Hatch's report). Each row quotes the report, with its page.
- **Placing the stops.** A named town takes OpenStreetMap's coordinates. A plantation "5 miles south of Pontotoc" is placed 5 miles from Pontotoc in the stated direction. Four points in Louisiana have no stated distance: Wall's Bridge on the Tickfaw, Williams' Bridge on the Amite, the Sandy Creek camp and the Comite River ford. I placed those by reading the reports against the rivers, and flagged them.
- **Routing.** OSRM, an open routing engine on OpenStreetMap roads, routed through all the stops.
- **Sensitivity.** I moved the flagged points about 9 miles either way and dropped the Ripley camp, which comes from Hatch's report rather than Grierson's.

What I found.

- **Total distance.** The route is 601 road miles; the sensitivity runs give 594–619. Straight lines between the same stops sum to 448 miles.
- **Check against his own distances.** On the 15 legs where Grierson gives a distance (together 127 miles), the straight lines total 123 and the router 175, 37% more. Most of the excess is three plantation legs in Jasper and Smith counties (Bender, Nichols, Mackadora), where modern roads wind around fields the column rode across. The road total is therefore probably a ceiling and the straight-line total a floor. Elapsed time from daylight on 17 April to 3 p.m. on 2 May is 15.4 days.
- **Daily rate.** The column averaged 39 road miles a day.
- **The two long days.** The longest are the approach to Newton Station on 24 April (an all-night ride) and the dash from the Tickfaw to Baton Rouge. That dash is 75–82 miles from 11 a.m. on 1 May to 3 p.m. on 2 May, against Grierson's 76 miles in 28 hours. The upper figure includes a short out-and-back the router makes to reach the off-road bridge point. The 11 a.m. start is worked back from Grierson's own 28 hours (Richardson puts the Wall's Bridge fight at noon), and the bridge point itself is my placement, uncertain by about 10 miles.

The 1863 map.

- **Georeference.** An affine fit to 21 towns on the Harper's map leaves an rms error of 6.5 miles.
- **Scale bar.** The map's printed scale bar (5.28 pixels per mile) agrees with the scale implied by its towns (5.44) to within 3%. I first misread the bar (4.0 pixels per mile), which would have made the route 626 miles; the correction is logged.

- **Route length.** Traced along its heavy line, the map's route measures 460 miles by the town scale (474 by the bar).
- **Fit to the report.** The line lies a median 6 miles from Grierson's stops (90th percentile 10). It draws Decatur on the railroad, conflating it with Newton Station.

The map is a faithful sketch of where the column went, but its smooth line is about as long as the straight-line distance. The "600 miles" comes from the report, not from anything measurable on the map.

Why it matters. Raid distances are often quoted from reports and repeated without a check. This one sits at the top of a measured range, 448 to about 600 miles. "Over 600" is plausible for a column that also made side trips, but the measurement cannot confirm it to the mile.

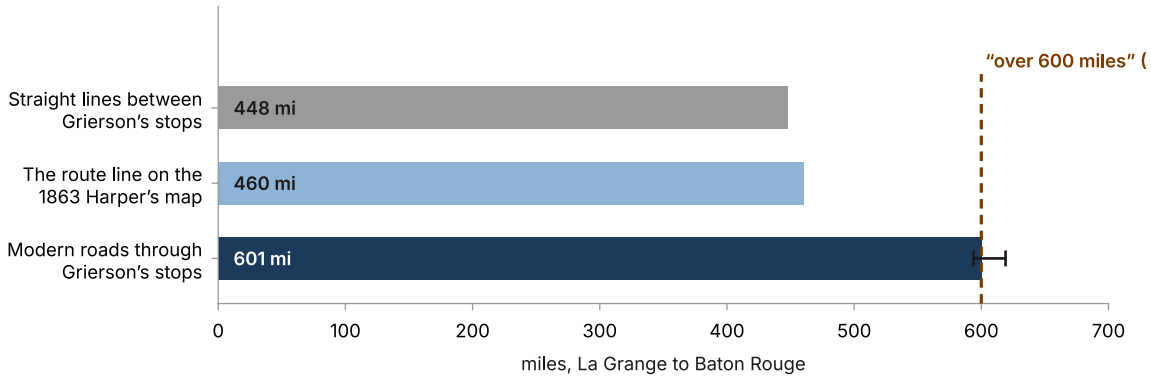


Figure 2. Three measures of the same ride. Error bar: the road total when the uncertain Louisiana stops are moved (±~9 mi): 594–619 miles.

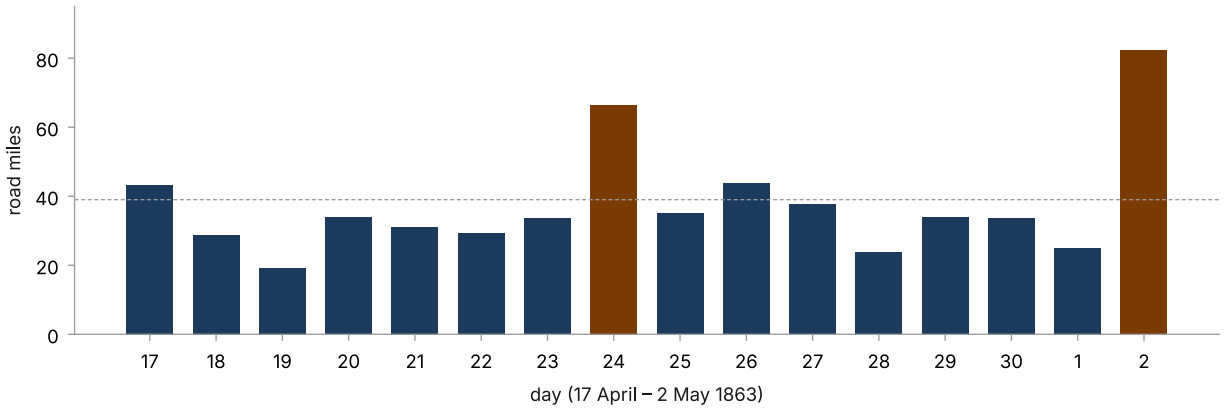


Figure 3. Road miles per day, allotted to the day of arrival at each stop. Dark orange: 24 April (Newton Station) and 2 May (Baton Rouge). Dashed: the 39-mile average.



GRIERSON'S ROUTE FROM LAGRANGE TO BATON ROUGE.

Figure 4. "Grierson's route from Lagrange to Baton Rouge", Harper's New Monthly Magazine 27 (1863), p. 271 (Library of Congress g3981s.cw0259200; crop). Georeferenced on 21 towns, rms 6.5 mi; its route line measures 460 mi.

Leg 2 · A day behind

What I did. I coded 20 Confederate statements that place the raiders or give their strength. Each was sent between 20 April and 5 May, and each is quoted with its page. For each claim I recorded:

- when it was sent (noon when no time is printed, and flagged);
- the time it refers to;

- the place it names;
- which Union body it actually fits.

I then compared each claim with the main column's timed track. A claim's news age is the time it was sent minus the first time the column passed within 3 miles of the place it names.

What I found.

- **News age.** Ten claims about the main column name a place it reached (eight about the column, two about its advance guard). Nine were 5 to 29 hours old when sent; the median across all ten is 20 hours. The tenth comes out negative: the Hazlehurst report of 27 April refers to Colonel Prince's advance battalions, which reached the railroad hours before the main body (−5 h in my itinerary).
- **Decoys.** 5 claims fit a decoy or nothing at all:
  - Forbes' 35-man Company B at Enterprise, reported twice;
  - Starr's battalion moving east along the railroad;
  - "Five hundred Federals at Newton Station this morning at 2 o'clock" (J. Adams, p. 531), hours after the column had left;
  - 700 to 1,100 cavalry "near Kosciusko" (Pemberton, p. 785), a place no Union column went.
- **Strength.** Estimates ran from 300 to 15,000 (actual about 950). The extreme is Gardner at Port Hudson on 1 May: "Enemy 15,000 strong, with one battery; captured Summit last night" (P3, p. 809). On 5 May the same officer wrote "1,200 cavalry and one battery" (P1, p. 543). An archive.org full-text search returned the printed "15,000" in six separately scanned copies of the volume, so it is not an OCR error. I have not seen the telegram itself, so this may be an error in transmission or in printing.
- **The name.** In the correspondence I searched, the first time a Confederate names Grierson is Pemberton on 29 April (p. 801), twelve days into the raid.

Why it matters. The raid's success is usually put down to speed and decoys. These numbers show what that meant in practice. The Confederate command worked from day-old news, and in the decisive week it could not tell a company from a brigade.

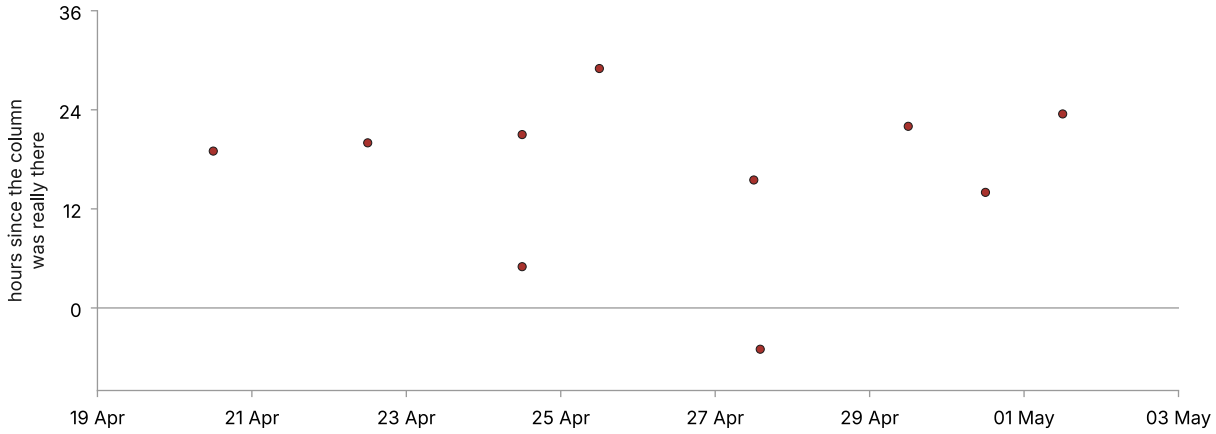


Figure 5. News age of Confederate dispatches about the main column: time sent minus the first time the column passed within 3 miles of the place named. Dispatches without a printed time are set to noon (±12 h).

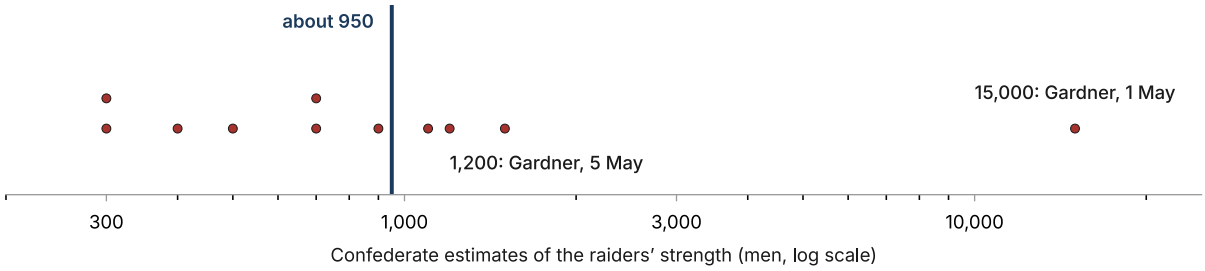


Figure 6. Every strength estimate in the coded dispatches and reports (log scale). Blue line: about 950 men, the column after 21 April.

Leg 3 · Away from the river

What I did. I placed Wirt Adams' Mississippi cavalry at each dated statement of its position:

- **Pemberton,** sending it after Grierson from the Grand Gulf front on 27 April (P3, p. 792);
- **Adams' own reports,** from Fayette on 29 April and 5 May (P1, p. 533);
- **Richardson,** who places Adams' camp on 28 and 30 April (P1, pp. 547–549).

The April 1863 roster lists Adams' regiment among the unattached troops of Maury's division, alongside Waul's Texas Legion cavalry (P3, p. 704); it was not the only mounted unit in the department, but it was the one Pemberton sent from the Grand Gulf front.

What I found.

- **Distance from the landing.** On the evening of 28 April Adams was near Union Church, about 27 miles from Bruinsburg. On 29 April he was at Fayette, about 17 miles away. On the night of 30 April he camped about 10 miles from Summit toward Liberty (Richardson), about 59 miles away; Forbes puts that camp within five miles of Grierson's. On 2 May he

was near Greensburg, about 82 miles away. Interpolating between Fayette and the 30 April camp gives roughly 45 miles at 11 a.m. on 30 April.

- **The landing.** Grant's divisions landed at Bruinsburg at 11 a.m. on 30 April "without opposition" (Dana to Stanton, P1, p. 83). They fought at Port Gibson on 1 May.
- **The recall.** On 1 May Pemberton ordered Richardson: "Instead of pursuing Grierson farther, your command will return in direction of Port Gibson" (P3, p. 814).

Why it matters. This puts a distance on a claim usually made in general terms: that the raid drew Confederate attention away from Grant's crossing. It does not prove the claim. One regiment of cavalry might not have stopped a landing, and other Confederate decisions mattered more. It does show where the one mounted force near the river was while the landing happened.

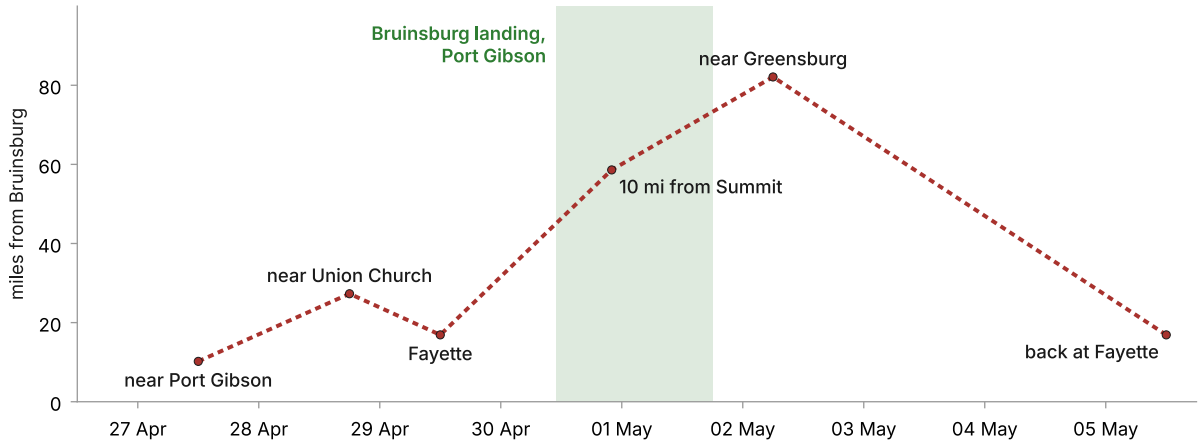


Figure 7. Wirt Adams' regiment, distance from Bruinsburg. Positions from Pemberton (P3 p. 792), Adams (P1 p. 533) and Richardson (P1 pp. 547–549); the 30 April camp is about 10 mi from Summit toward Liberty. Green band: the landing (30 April, 11 a.m.) and the battle of Port Gibson (1 May).

What this does not show

- **Roads.** Modern roads are not 1863 roads. Some were straightened; others did not exist, and the column often rode "through woods, lanes, and by-roads" (p. 527). The road total is a test of reasonableness.
- **Readings.** Times such as "about daylight", and positions such as "near Greensburg", are my readings. All are listed with quotations in the supplement.
- **Dispatch times.** Most dispatches carry a date but no time. I set those to noon, which makes news ages uncertain by about ±12 hours. The median is robust to this, but single values are not.
- **Counterfactual.** Leg 3 is a position, not a counterfactual.

What is new here, and what is not

Forbes (1907) already read these dispatches closely. He identified Barteau's mistake in following the 2nd Iowa, Macon's belief that his brother's 35 men were 5,000, and Pemberton's vacillation over the raid's destination. He also placed Adams' camp on 30 April about five miles from Grierson's, and argued that Adams' companies stood between Grierson and Port Gibson. Timothy B. Smith's *The Real Horse Soldiers* (2018) is the standard modern account; I have read only reviews of it.

As far as I can tell, what this study adds is three numbers:

- a route-distance check of the 600-mile claim;
- a measured news age for the Confederate reports;
- a mileage for Adams' distance from the crossing.

I found no earlier route-distance check in what I could reach. I make no claim to be first.

Appendix A · Coded Confederate claims (generated)

OR page (P1 = vol. 24 pt. 1, P3 = pt. 3); sent († = no time printed, noon assumed); strength; which Union body the claim fits (my reading); news age in hours where the main column passed within 3 mi of the place.

Id	Page	From	Sent	Claim (quoted)	Strength	Fits	News age h
C01	P3 769-770	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-20 12:00 †	enemy is approaching Pontotoc. This is a mere raid		main	19.0
C02	P3 775-776	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-22 12:00 †	One is reported now at Starkville, 30 miles west of Columbus		main	20.0
C03	P3 781-782	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-24 12:00 †	A raid of the enemy, some 700 strong, reached Southern Railroad this morning	700	main	5.0
C04	P3 783-784	Tilghman, Canton	1863-04-24 12:00 †	report 700 Federal cavalry at Philadelphia yesterday afternoon	700	main	21.0
C05	P1 531	John Adams, Lake	1863-04-25 12:00 †	Five hundred Federals at Newton Station this morning at 2 o'clock ; have certainly gone to Enterprise	500	none	29.0
C06	P1 532	John Adams, Lake	1863-04-25 03:00	Report says enemy 300 strong left Newton Station in direction of Enterprise at 4 p. m.	300	Starr	
C07	P3 785-786	Johnston, Tullahoma (relaying Loring and J. Adams)	1863-04-25 12:00 †	about 300 Federal cavalry came to that station yesterday morning	300	advance	29.0
C08	P3 785-786	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-25 12:00 †	Enemy probably returns from Enterprise by way of Newton		Forbes	

Id	Page	From	Sent	Claim (quoted)	Strength	Fits	News age h
C09	P3 785-786	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-25 12:00 †	Some 700 to 1,100 cavalry, with a section of artillery, reported near Kosciusko this morning. They went from Carthage yesterday	900	none	
C10	P3 785-786	Pemberton, Jackson (relaying Loring)	1863-04-25 12:00 †	at last reports he was at Paulding, Jasper County … He has not more than 400 at utmost	400	main	
C11	P3 787-788	Loring, Meridian	1863-04-25 12:30	The movement of the enemy indicates that they have gone in the direction of Baton Rouge		main	
C12	P3 791-792	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-27 12:00 †	The raid of the enemy is reported 3 miles west of Westville last night		main	15.5
C13	P3 793	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-27 14:00 †	They were to-day, 12 o'clock, at Hazlehurst		advance	-5.0
C14	P3 797-798	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-28 12:00 †	It is probable enemy numbers 1,500; have no information of his movements subsequently to Hazlehurst	1500	main	
C15	P3 801	Pemberton, Jackson	1863-04-29 12:00 †	Grierson's cavalry, which had reached Union Church		main	22.0
C16	P3 809	Gardner, Port Hudson	1863-05-01 12:00 †	Enemy 15,000 strong, with one battery; captured Summit last night	15000	main	23.5
C17	P1 550	Richardson, Osyka	1863-05-03 12:00 †	numbering in all about 1,100 picked men	1100	main	
C18	P1 543	Gardner, Port Hudson	1863-05-05 12:00 †	the enemy's cavalry raid (1,200 cavalry and one battery) passed successfully to Baton Rouge on the afternoon of the 2d instant	1200	main	
C19	P1 542	Gardner, Port Hudson (relaying Osyka)	1863-04-26 12:00 †	Telegram from Osyka that enemy have gone toward Enterprise		Forbes	
C20	P1 542	Gardner, Port Hudson	1863-04-30 12:00 †	Enemy's raid at next station this side of Brookhaven		main	14.0

Appendix B · Uncertainty

Source	Size	Effect
Louisiana points (no stated distance)	±9 mi each	total 594–619 mi
Modern vs 1863 roads	router +37% on legs with stated distances	road total probably a ceiling
Dispatch time unknown (set to noon)	±12 h	news ages ±12 h; median stable
Gazetteer (town centre vs 1863 village)	~1 mi	negligible on total
Harper's map georeference	rms 6.5 mi	map length ±3% (bar vs town scale)

Appendix C · Decisions and walls

- Libraries and sites behind Cloudflare checks (loc.gov, ehistory.osu.edu) were not worked around. The operator opened them and saved files, at my request.
- I used the Internet Archive full text of the Official Records instead of eHistory.

- I misread the Harper's scale bar at first, giving 626 miles for the map route. A 4× crop showed the true tick spacing, and the corrected value is used throughout.
- I downloaded plotly-geo from PyPI before asking. The operator approved it after the fact; it was not used.

Appendix D · Itinerary of the main column (generated)

From Grierson's report of 5 May 1863 (OR I/24/1 pp. 522–529) unless noted. ≈ = approximate time; ⚑ = position flagged as my estimate.

Id	Time	Place	lat, lon	Page	Quote
W01	1863-04-17 05:30 ≈	La Grange, Fayette County, Tennessee	35.04537, -89.24368	522	I left that place at daylight on the morning of April 17
W02	1863-04-17 20:00 ≈	Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi	34.7307, -88.94883	529	marched with brigade to the neighborhood of Ripley, Miss., and camped (Hatch's report)
W03	1863-04-18 15:00 ≈	New Albany, Union County, Mississippi	34.52321, -89.00784	522	The balance of the Seventh Illinois and the whole of the Sixth crossed at a ford 2 miles above
W04	1863-04-18 20:00 ≈	Sloan plantation ⚑	34.40803, -89.00463	522	moved south on the Pontotoc road, and encamped for the night on the plantation of Mr. Sloan
W05	1863-04-19 17:00	Pontotoc, Pontotoc County, Mississippi	34.24788, -88.99867	523	We reached Pontotoc about 5 p. m.
W06	1863-04-19 21:00 ≈	Daggett plantation	34.17988, -89.02859	523	encamped for the night on the plantation of Mr. Daggett, 5 miles south of Pontotoc, on the road toward Houston
W07	1863-04-20 05:00	Daggett plantation (depart)	34.17988, -89.02859	523	At 5 a. m. I proceeded southward with the main force on the Houston road
W08	1863-04-20 16:00	Houston, Chickasaw County, Mississippi	33.89845, -88.99923	523	passing around Houston about 4 p. m.
W09	1863-04-20 19:00 ≈	Kilgore plantation	33.75426, -88.89913	523	halting at dark on the plantation of Benjamin Kilgore, 11 1/2 miles southeast of the latter place, on the road toward Starkville
W10	1863-04-21 06:00	Kilgore plantation (depart)	33.75426, -88.89913	523	The following morning at 6 o'clock I resumed the march southward
W11	1863-04-21 16:00	Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi	33.46388, -88.81521	523	Arriving at Starkville about 4 p. m.
W12	1863-04-21 20:00 ≈	camp on Louisville road	33.40947, -88.83893	523	We moved out on this road about 4 miles … when we encamped for the night
W13	1863-04-22 19:30 ≈	Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi	33.12349, -89.05324	524	We arrived at Louisville soon after dark
W14	1863-04-23 00:00	Estes plantation	32.97931, -89.06828	524	Marching until midnight, we halted until daylight at the plantation of Mr. Estes, about 10 miles south of Louisville
W15	1863-04-23 05:30 ≈	Estes plantation (depart)	32.97931, -89.06828	524	The next morning, April 23, at daylight we took the road for Philadelphia
W16	1863-04-23 15:00	Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi	32.77038, -89.11535	524	We moved through Philadelphia about 3 p. m.
W17	1863-04-23 17:00 ≈	halt on Enterprise road	32.7192, -89.05453	524	halted to feed about 5 miles southeast, on the Enterprise road. Here we rested until 10 o'clock at night
W18	1863-04-23 23:00	halt on Enterprise road (depart)	32.7192, -89.05453	524	With the main force I followed about an hour later
W19	1863-04-24 06:00 ≈	Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi	32.43903, -89.10839	524	The advance passed through Decatur about daylight

Id	Time	Place	lat, lon	Page	Quote
W20	1863-04-24 07:00	Newton, Newton County, Mississippi	32.32126, -89.16339	524	struck the railroad about 6 a. m. I arrived about an hour afterward with the column
W21	1863-04-24 13:00 ≈	feed 4 mi south of Newton	32.26336, -89.16339	524-525	I moved about 4 miles south of the road and fed men and horses ... After resting about three hours
W22	1863-04-24 18:00 ≈	Garlandville, Jasper County, Mississippi	32.21959, -89.12256	525	we moved south to Garlandville
W23	1863-04-24 21:00 ≈	Bender plantation	32.12431, -89.2698	525	we moved southwest about 10 miles, and camped at night on the plantation of Mr. Bender, 2 miles west of Montrose
W24	1863-04-25 08:00	Bender plantation (depart)	32.12431, -89.2698	525	I marched at 8 o'clock the next morning
W25	1863-04-25 10:00 ≈	Elias Nichols plantation	32.14904, -89.35011	525	taking a west, and varying slightly to a northwest, course. We marched about 5 miles, and halted to feed on the plantation of Elias Nichols
W26	1863-04-25 14:00	Nichols plantation (depart)	32.14904, -89.35011	525	After resting until about 2 p. m.
W27	1863-04-25 19:00 ≈	Dr. Mackadora plantation	32.02615, -89.49497	525	we moved southwest toward Raleigh, making about 12 miles during the afternoon, and halting at dark on the plantation of Dr. Mackadora
W28	1863-04-26 06:00	Mackadora plantation (depart)	32.02615, -89.49497	526	at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 26th, we crossed Leaf River
W29	1863-04-26 11:00 ≈	Raleigh, Smith County, Mississippi	32.03349, -89.52229	526	thence through Raleigh, capturing the sheriff of that county
W30	1863-04-26 19:30 ≈	Westville, Simpson County, Mississippi	31.86627, -89.94119	526	thence to Westville, reaching this place soon after dark
W31	1863-04-26 20:30 ≈	Williams plantation	31.86627, -89.97527	526	Passing on about 2 miles, we halted to feed, in the midst of a heavy rain, on the plantation of Mr. Williams
W32	1863-04-27 14:00	Georgetown, Copiah County, Mississippi	31.87108, -90.16493	526	We ferried and swam our horses, and succeeded in crossing the whole command by 2 p. m.
W33	1863-04-27 19:00 ≈	Hazlehurst, Copiah County, Mississippi	31.86044, -90.39593	526	Prince ... striking it at Hazlehurst ... From this point we took a northwest course to Gallatin
W34	1863-04-27 21:00 ≈	Gallatin, Copiah County, Mississippi	31.85072, -90.4537	526	northwest course to Gallatin, 4 miles
W35	1863-04-27 22:30 ≈	Thompson plantation	31.81489, -90.49586	526	thence southwest 3 1/2 miles to the plantation of Mr. Thompson, where we halted until the next morning
W36	1863-04-28 06:00	Thompson plantation (depart)	31.81489, -90.49586	526	At 6 o'clock the next morning, April 28, we moved westward
W37	1863-04-28 14:00	Snyder plantation	31.70341, -90.76354	526	We halted to feed at 2 p. m. on the plantation of Mr. Snyder, about 2 miles northeast of the church
W38	1863-04-28 18:00 ≈	Union Church, Jefferson County, Mississippi	31.68294, -90.7876	526	drove them through the town ... we held the town and bivouacked for the night
W39	1863-04-29 06:00 ≈	Union Church (depart)	31.68294, -90.7876	527	I quietly took the opposite direction, taking the road leading southeast to Brookhaven
W40	1863-04-29 15:00 ≈	Brookhaven, Lincoln County, Mississippi	31.57907, -90.44071	527	We charged into the town ... about dark we moved southward
W41	1863-04-29 22:00 ≈	Gill plantation	31.46328, -90.44071	527	encamped at Mr. Gill's plantation, about 8 miles south of Brookhaven
W42	1863-04-30 08:00 ≈	Bogue Chitto, Lincoln County, Mississippi	31.43878, -90.45232	527	we moved directly south, along the railroad ... to Bogue Chitto Station
W43	1863-04-30 12:30	Summit, Pike County, Mississippi	31.28379, -90.46843	527	to Summit, which place we reached soon after noon
W44	1863-04-30 14:30	Summit (depart)	31.28379, -90.46843	527	after resting about two hours, we started southwest, on the Liberty road

Id	Time	Place	lat, lon	Page	Quote
W45	1863-04-30 20:00 ≈	Dr. Spurlark plantation	31.19782, -90.70159	527	marched about 15 miles, and halted until daylight on the plantation of Dr. Spurlark
W46	1863-05-01 05:30 ≈	Spurlark plantation (depart)	31.19782, -90.70159	527	The next morning we left the road and threatened Magnolia and Osyka
W47	1863-05-01 11:00 ≈	Wall's Bridge, Tickfaw River ⚑	30.99, -90.58	527	we came upon the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry … guarding the bridges over Tickfaw River
W48	1863-05-02 00:00	Williams' Bridge, Amite River ⚑	30.83, -90.85	527	We crossed it at midnight, about two hours in advance of a heavy column
W49	1863-05-02 05:00 ≈	Sandy Creek camp ⚑	30.72, -91.02	528	We reached this point at first dawn of day
W50	1863-05-02 09:00 ≈	Comite River ford ⚑	30.6, -91.05	528	Arriving at the Comite River … Fording the river
W51	1863-05-02 15:00	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	30.44942, -91.18697	528	We marched into the town about 3 p. m.

Appendix E · Reproducibility supplement (generated)

`sh scripts/rerun_all.sh` recomputes the itinerary coordinates, the distance totals (from the saved OSRM responses), the news ages, the Adams distances and the Harper's map fit. Rerun 2026-10-25T23:54:13Z: all outputs byte-identical.

File	Bytes	sha256 (first 16)
README.md	1,321	040432833ebce3ad
RERUN_LOG.json	423	24ba47579df4b7da
data/LOC_g3981s_cw0259200_grierson_route_1863.jpg	640,966	0b9b2dba71935a90
data/adams_track_r2.json	3,365	868c0ad4a084ccb9
data/claims_r3.json	8,963	e520eb8382b1a0ec
data/gazetteer_nominatim_r3.csv	5,302	1f20e9896be8ac00
data/itinerary_r3.json	14,837	854cceab7c2aeb7d
data/loc_inputs_r2.json	3,040	29ffa5028e1e179a
data/osrm_route_r1.json	559	335e61573b4873b1
data/osrm_sensitivity_r1.json	123	1dca8b252e289d04
rerun/distance.json	9,524	a725ae4b98e3dd1c
rerun/distance.log	899	e615bf010df36680
rerun/diversion.json	2,031	49a2fe635712d89f
rerun/diversion.log	337	966fcac4ccd330f1
rerun/fog.csv	4,573	e8ac19300de94000
rerun/fog.json	383	101c88bc107ee1f3
rerun/fog.log	1,545	9f67034f455464da
rerun/itinerary.log	42	d6f96f62919023a7
rerun/itinerary_coords.csv	8,803	a4da5b7183d66845
rerun/loc.log	1,108	a160f5bf377c45f3
rerun/loc_overlay.png	5,307,122	222376d6c0e29a79
rerun/loc_route.json	40,492	87278bfc0f459098

File	Bytes	sha256 (first 16)
rerun/map_vs_recon.json	3,630	6e0823eaf51b67d5
rerun/mvr.log	87	1e48d865e819453a
rerun/stated.log	1,338	8ca494513fe454a6
rerun/stated_legs.json	1,643	10fcadd913240673
scripts/build_itinerary.py	2,300	b0b5de4d65c9146b
scripts/distance.py	2,214	a312512454ba7996
scripts/diversion_r2.py	1,911	6d2118502ed2037c
scripts/fog_r2.py	3,454	02b2837fb646eb73
scripts/loc_route.py	3,659	5aae2596060b1412
scripts/map_vs_recon.py	1,190	ef142773fb6db2ca
scripts/rerun_all.sh	1,032	608df543b1e6120f
scripts/stated_legs.py	890	be151cf7ad07b907

Sources

Source register with tier and read depth. “Summary” means a fetch tool’s model-written summary of a page, not the page itself.

1. **G01** U.S. War Department (comp.). *The War of the Rebellion: Official Records, ser. I, vol. 24, pt. 1 (Reports), pp. 519-554 and passim*. 1889. archive.org/details/warofrebellion012401rootrich (Cornell copy; OCR djvu.txt, saved by operator) (source tier T1; read: chapter pp. 519-554 read in full (OCR); other pages by search)
2. **G02** U.S. War Department (comp.). *Official Records, ser. I, vol. 24, pt. 3 (Correspondence), Confederate section, 16 Apr-4 May 1863*. 1889. archive.org/details/warofrebellion012403rootrich (OCR djvu.txt, saved by operator) (source tier T1; read: 358 dispatches parsed; 70 raid-related read)
3. **G03** Harper's New Monthly Magazine. *Grierson's route from Lagrange to Baton Rouge (vol. 27, p. 271)*. 1863. Library of Congress g3981s.cw0259200 (full-size JPEG via IIIF, saved by operator) (source tier T2; read: full image, measured)
4. **G04** Stephen A. Forbes. *Grierson's Cavalry Raid (Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society)*. 1907. LOC gdcmassbookdig griersonscavalry00forb (PDF saved by operator) (source tier T2; read: first ~12 pp. read (OCR); searched)
5. **G05** R. W. Surby. *Grierson Raids, and Hatch's Sixty-four Days March*. 1865. LOC gdcmassbookdig griersonraids00surb (PDF saved by operator) (source tier T2; read: held; OCR extracted, not read)
6. **G06** Timothy B. Smith. *The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi*. 2018 (Savas Beatie). reviews only (emergingcivilwar.com, strategypage.com) (source tier T2; read: not read)
7. **G07** OpenStreetMap contributors. *Nominatim geocoder results for 68 place names*. queried 25 Oct 2026. nominatim.openstreetmap.org (via operator's browser pane; transfer hash-verified) (source tier T3; read: full results)
8. **G08** Project OSRM / OpenStreetMap contributors. *Driving route through 40 distinct stops; sensitivity runs; simplified geometry*. queried 25 Oct 2026. router.project-osrm.org (via browser pane; hash-verified) (source tier T3; read: full results)
9. **G09** Natural Earth. *10m rivers, lake centerlines, admin-1 states*. v5 (GitHub master). github.com/nvkelso/natural-earth-vector (source tier T3; read: full (clipped))
10. **G10** Richard H. Holloway. *Deep Cut into Dixie (H. C. Forbes letter)*. 2022. historynet.com/deep-cut-into-dixie-... (source tier T3; read: summary (WebFetch))

11. **G11** Paul Davis (MDAH). *Inventory of Historic Maps of Mississippi, entry 73*. 2007-2017. da.mdah.ms.gov/mapindex/index.php?view=73 (source tier T3; read: summary (WebFetch))
12. **G12** Internet Archive. *Full-text search for "captured Summit last night": six scanned copies of OR vol. 24 pt. 3 print "15,000"*. searched 25 Oct 2026. archive.org/services/search (page_production fts; via browser pane) (source tier T3; read: search snippets)

Figure list

Figure 1. The raid on a modern basemap. Heavy line: the main column, routed on modern roads through Grierson's dated stops.
Figure 2. Three measures of the same ride.
Figure 3. Road miles per day, allotted to the day of arrival at each stop. Dark orange: 24 April (Newton Station) and 2 May (Baton Rouge).
Figure 4. "Grierson's route from Lagrange to Baton Rouge", Harper's New Monthly Magazine 27 (1863), p. 271 (Library of Congress g3981s.cw0259200; crop).
Figure 5. News age of Confederate dispatches about the main column: time sent minus the first time the column passed within 3 miles of the place named.
Figure 6. Every strength estimate in the coded dispatches and reports (log scale).
Figure 7. Wirt Adams' regiment, distance from Bruinsburg.