

### American Civil War Regiments

REGIMENT:	1st Cavalry Regiment Vermont
Date of Organization:	1 Nov 1861
Muster Date:	9 Aug 1865
Regiment State:	Vermont
Regiment Type:	Cavalry
Regiment Number:	1st
Enlisted Died of Disease or Accident:	10
Officers Died of Disease or Accident:	4
Enlisted Killed or Mortally Wounded:	124
Enlisted Died of Disease or Accident:	300
Regimental Soldiers and History:	<p><a href="#">List of Soldiers</a></p> <p><b>Regimental History</b> VERMONT FIRST REGIMENT CAVALRY.</p> <p>BY WILLIAM L. GREENLEAF, FIRST LIEUTENANT</p> <p>OF the two hundred fifty-eight regiments of cavalry in the service of the United States during the War of the Rebellion, but few, if any, performed more arduous, or took part in more engagements than did the First Vermont; which, during three years at the front, participated in seventy-five battles and skirmishes--a brief account of which would far exceed the limits of this sketch--and achieved a reputation as one of the best fighting regiments in the army, standing fifth in the list of cavalry organizations suffering the greatest loss in killed and mortally wounded.</p> <p>The regiment was recruited by Lemuel B. Platt, who had been specially commissioned by he Secretary of War for that purpose, and was the first full regiment of cavalry raised in New England. The several companies were enlisted as</p>

follows:-

-A, Chittenden county; B, Franklin county; C, Washington county; D, Orange and Caledonia counties; E, Windsor county; F, Windham county; G, Bennington county; H, Rutland county; I, Lamoille and Orleans counties; K, Addison county. In forty-two days from the time Colonel Platt received his authority the regiment was in camp at Burlington uniformed and mounted. The organization was then completed by the appointment of the following Field and Staff officers: Colonel--Lemuel B. Platt. Lieutenant--Colonel--George B. Kellogg. Majors--William D. Collins and John D. Bartlett. Adjutant--Edgar Pitkin. Quartermaster--Archibald S. Dewey. Surgeon--George S. Gale. Assistant Surgeon--P. O'Meara Edson. Chaplain--John H. Woodward.

The following company officers were elected by the several companies and commissioned by the Governor: Company A--Captain, Frank A. Platt; First Lieutenant, Joel B. Erhardt; Second Lieutenant, Ellis B. Edwards. Company B--Captain, George P. Conger; First Lieutenant, William M. Beeman; Second Lieutenant, Jed P. Clark. Company C--Captain, William Wells; First Lieutenant, H. M. Paige; Second Lieutenant, Eli Holden. Company D--Captain, Addison W. Preston; First Lieutenant, John W. Bennett; Second Lieutenant, William G. Cummings. Company E--Captain, S. P. Rundlett; First Lieutenant, Andrew J. Grover; Second Lieutenant, John C. Holmes. Company F--Captain, Josiah Hall; First Lieutenant, Robert Scofield, Jr.; Second Lieutenant, Nathaniel E. Haywood. Company G--Captain, James A. Sheldon; First Lieutenant, George H. Bean; Second Lieutenant, D. M. Blackmer. Company H--Captain, S. G. Perkins; First Lieutenant, F. T. Huntoon; Second Lieutenant, Charles A. Adams. Company I--Captain, E. B. Sawyer; First Lieutenant, H. C. Flint; Second Lieutenant, Josiah Grout, Jr. Company K--Captain, Franklin Moore; First Lieutenant, John S. Ward; Second Lieutenant, John Williamson.

The regiment was mustered into the service of the

United States November 19, 1861, and started for Washington on the 14th of the next month, requiring for the journey 153 cars, made up into a train of five sections. After passing through the experiences common to all new regiments, besides losing one Colonel by resignation and another by death, it met the enemy for the first time April 16, 1862, in the valley of the Shenandoah. In this engagement it charged through the little village of Mount Jackson and drove Ashby's cavalry for more than a mile to the North Fork of the Shenandoah, where the enemy set fire to the bridge hoping to cut off further pursuit. Finding the stream unfordable, part of the regiment dashed over the burning bridge after the flying Confederates, while the remainder brought water from the river in their feed-bags and extinguished the flames. The loss on this occasion was slight, but the regiment displayed in its maiden effort, that dashing valor and fertility of resource so essential to its success as a cavalry organization, and for which it was afterward noted on fields of greater magnitude.

On the 23d of May the regiment was joined by its new colonel, Charles H. Tompkins of the Regular Army, who had already achieved a reputation as a dashing cavalry officer, and under his leadership, in the retreat down the valley under Banks, the regiment had its full share of fighting, meeting the enemy at McGaheysville, Middletown and Winchester. In the campaign under Pope, which culminated in the second battle of Bull Run, the First Vermont was constantly on the move, and was engaged at Luray Court House, Culpeper Court House, Orange Court House, Kelley's Ford, Waterloo Bridge and Bull Run. At the close of this campaign the regiment, much reduced in numbers by its arduous service, was assigned to duty

in the defences of Washington. Its headquarters were established near Alexandria, and detachments were stationed at Annandale, Lewinsville, Dranesville and other points. In September Colonel Tompkins resigned and was succeeded by Edward B. Sawyer, making the fourth colonel within one year. The regiment had lost during its six months of active service 319 men by death or discharge, but this loss was made good by the addition of company L, which had been recruited by Capt. H. Chester Parsons in Franklin and Chittenden counties, and company M, recruited by Capt. John W. Woodward, principally in Chittenden county. These, with the addition of 200 recruits distributed among the ten original companies, raised the aggregate of the regiment to 1,034.

During the winter, portions of the regiment were frequently engaged with Mosby and other guerrilla leaders. These affairs were comparatively bloodless, but the one of April 1, 1863, when Captain Flint with a detachment of the regiment undertook the capture of Mosby near Broad Run and met with a serious repulse, in which Captain Flint, Lieut. C. A. Woodbury and seven men were killed or mortally wounded, 22 wounded, and 82 men and 95 horses captured, was a serious blow to the regiment. This misfortune was in a measure retrieved on May 30th, when Mosby, who had captured a supply train of ten cars near Catlett's Station, was attacked by Lieutenant-Colonel Preston with about 125 of the Vermont Cavalry and pursued to Greenwich, where he attempted to make a stand, but was completely routed by a charge led by Lieutenant Hazelton of company H, and his one piece of artillery captured. The loss of the regiment on this occasion was but one man killed and 7 wounded, and was its last encounter with this famous

partisan leader.

Early in June, 1863, the scattered detachments of the regiment assembled at Fairfax Court House, preparatory to joining the Army of the Potomac then on the march to Gettysburg. On the 28th of June it was attached to the Cavalry Corps of that army and was afterward associated with it until the close of the war. During the campaign of 1863

the regiment bore a conspicuous part in the brilliant operations which first brought the cavalry into notice as a valuable arm of the service, and won for itself fresh laurels on the field of Gettysburg where, under the lead of the gallant Farnsworth, it penetrated within the enemy's lines for nearly a mile, encountering the fire of five regiments of infantry and two batteries, leaving its leader on the field, the only general officer killed within the lines of the enemy. It also participated in the cavalry engagements at Hanover, Hunterstown, Hagerstown, Boonsborough, Falling Waters, Buckland Mills and many skirmishes of lesser account.

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During the ensuing winter the regiment was stationed at Stevensburg engaged in picketing the line of the Rapidan. It formed a part of Kilpatrick's force in his famous raid on Richmond, and was selected to make an attempt to enter the city and release the prisoners confined in Libby Prison and on Belle Isle. A portion of the regiment was with the ill-fated Dahlgren when he made the dash within the fortifications around the city which cost him his life.

In the reorganization of the Cavalry Corps previous to the opening of the Wilderness campaign, the regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade of the Third Division, and Colonel Sawyer having resigned, Lieut.-Col. Addison W. Preston was commissioned as his successor. The regiment crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford at daylight on the morning of May 4, and moved forward to Parker's Store. Early on the morning of

May 5, the Second Brigade, with the First Vermont Cavalry in front, proceeded to Craig's Meeting House, where, at about eight o'clock, the advance squadron encountered Rosser's brigade of Hampton's cavalry, and the engagement which followed was the opening fight of the battle of the Wilderness. In this action the Union forces were largely outnumbered and the regiment suffered a heavy loss in killed and prisoners.

The regiment was with Sheridan in his expedition to Richmond, in May, 1864, and participated in the engagements at Yellow Tavern and Meadow Bridge which resulted in the death of General Stuart, the famous cavalry leader of the Confederates, and the total rout of his forces. Returning to the Army of the Potomac, it took part in the cavalry engagements at Hanover Court House, Ashland, Hawes's Shop, Shop and Malvern Hill. In the action at Hawes's Shop the regiment met with a severe loss in the death of the gallant Preston, whom General Custer declared to be "the best cavalry colonel in the Army of the Potomac."

The army having crossed the James River, was followed by the cavalry, and the First Vermont with the Third Division and that of General Kautz, was sent to destroy the Weldon, South Side and other railroads leading south and west from the rebel capital. The expedition, numbering about 5,000 men, started from Prince George Court House at one o'clock on the morning of June 22, striking the Weldon road at Reams's Station, where the buildings and a portion of the track were destroyed. During the following seven days the regiment was constantly engaged in tearing up railroads and skirmishing with the enemy. At Nottoway Court House, Roanoke Station, Stony Creek and Reams's Station these skirmishes were quite severe and the regiment, bearing its part in all of them, suffered considerable loss in killed and wounded. At

Stony  
Creek the brigade to which the regiment belonged, was  
attacked  
by Hampton's division of cavalry and cut off from the  
rest of  
the division. After severe fighting it managed to cut its  
way  
through and joined the other brigade at Reams's Station.  
The  
whole force then made its way back to the Union lines  
with the  
loss of its artillery and wounded. This expedition was the  
  
most severe in which the regiment had as yet been  
engaged;  
and, reduced in numbers by the hard service of the last  
sixty  
days, it went into camp near Light House Point on the  
James,  
where it remained some three weeks recruiting its men  
and  
horses for harder experiences yet to come.

On the 8th of August the Third Cavalry Division,  
including the First Vermont now under Col. William  
Wells who  
had succeeded to the command after the death of  
Colonel  
Preston, embarked for Washington on its way to join  
General  
Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, arriving at  
Winchester on  
the 17th. General Sheridan was at this time retiring down  
the  
Valley, and the regiment participated in the  
engagements which  
occurred at Winchester, Summit Point, Charlestown and  
Kearneysville, crossing the Potomac with the rear guard  
at  
Harper's Ferry on the night of the 25th. On the following  
day  
Early began falling back up the Valley followed by the  
Union  
cavalry, and during the following week the First Vermont  
took  
part in several reconnoissances and was in slight  
skirmishes  
near Berryville and Paris. In the battle of the Opequan,  
September 19th, the regiment bore an active part and  
was in  
close pursuit of the retreating enemy when darkness put  
an end  
to the engagement. On the 21st, the regiment led the  
advance  
in the movement having for its object the clearing out of  
the

rebel cavalry in the Luray Valley. The First New Hampshire, fighting dismounted, had driven the enemy across the river, but was unable to effect a crossing. The First Vermont was then brought up and charged across the stream driving the enemy from his position. The division having in the meantime crossed along the pike to the right, the regiment joined the main column and followed the enemy to Front Royal, a distance of two miles. Here the regiment was again detached and sent to Gooney Manor, four miles above Front Royal, where it found the enemy's rear guard in a strong position on a hill south of Gooney Run. After skirmishing until after ten o'clock at night the regiment was relieved and joined the brigade. The next morning it was again actively engaged near Milford, but finding the position too strong to be carried, our cavalry retired to Buck's Ford. On the 26th, Colonel Wells was assigned to the command of the brigade and turned the command of the regiment over to Lieut.-Col. John W. Bennett.

During the first week in October the regiment was in camp near Mount Crawford. On the 7th, as rear guard of the cavalry column, it had a severe engagement with the enemy near

Columbia Furnace. General Sheridan was disgusted with these constant attacks on his rear and ordered his cavalry out the next morning with instructions to either whip the enemy or get whipped themselves. The result of this order was the splendid victory at Tom's Brook, in which the First Vermont acquitted itself with much credit, capturing two pieces of artillery, a large number of prisoners, and pursuing the flying enemy for more than ten miles.

On the morning of that memorable 19th of October, when "Sheridan rode from Winchester twenty miles away,"



Colonel

Wells' brigade was guarding the fords across Cedar Creek on the extreme right of the army. At the first sound of the firing on the left, Lieut.-Colonel Bennett was ordered to move out with his regiment, select a position covering the camp and feel the enemy. The Rebel cavalry was found to be in force, and arrangements were made to resist its advance in case one should be attempted. About nine o'clock the bulk of the cavalry was ordered to the extreme left to assist the infantry, Colonel Wells with his brigade being left to guard the right and prevent the enemy from turning that flank. Orders were soon received to retire slowly and keep in line with the infantry. After falling back about a mile, a halt was ordered and the cavalry held its position, skirmishing briskly for several hours. General Custer then returned to the right with the First Brigade and a battery and ordered a charge in which the enemy was driven back, and the regiment regained its former position.

In the final advance of our army, leaving the First Brigade to watch the enemy on the right, General Custer took the First Vermont and Fifth New York rapidly across the field to strike the left and rear of Early's infantry which was then trying to hold its position along the north bank of Cedar Creek, but, unable to resist the last furious charge of the Union infantry, the enemy broke and fled. The infantry halted in their old camps, but the cavalry kept on. The First Vermont led the way across the creek at a difficult ford west of the pike, the leading squadron under Captain Watson advancing to a stone wall about a quarter of a mile beyond, where it was brought to a halt by a volley from the enemy's infantry. Waiting until the remainder of the regiment came up, Colonel Wells ordered a charge. In a moment the regiment was over the wall and driving the enemy before it with great slaughter. Pushing on, more than a mile from any

support, the Vermonters still in the lead, the two regiments struck the valley pike along which the enemy was retreating. Night was fast settling over that field, both lost and won, but weariness and hunger were forgotten by the men at sight of the rich harvest before them, and they pushed on with renewed energy to gather in the spoils of the great and unparalleled victory. Reaching a point half a mile beyond Strasburg they found the road blockaded for miles with guns and wagons, and ambulances filled with wounded. Whole batteries were captured, with guns, men and horses intact. Captured cannon were sent to the rear in charge of small squads, and wagons and ambulances by the score were ordered back in charge of their rebel drivers. The pursuit was kept up until nearly midnight when the regiment, satiated with victory, returned to the north bank of Cedar Creek, having captured 161 prisoners, among whom were one general, one colonel and one lieutenant-colonel, 3 battle flags, 23 pieces of artillery, 14 caissons, 17 army wagons, 6 spring wagons and ambulances, 83 sets artillery harnesses, 75 sets wagon harnesses, 98 horses and 69 mules. Eight medals were awarded to the army of the Shenandoah for colors captured in this battle, of which members of the First Vermont received three.

The term of enlistment of the original members of the regiment having nearly expired, on October 22 twelve officers and two hundred and seventy men were sent home to be mustered out, some four hundred re-enlisted men and recruits remaining under the command of Maj. William G. Cummings. During the next sixty days the regiment was employed in outpost duty and scouting, keeping itself in fighting trim meanwhile, by taking part in the engagement at Middle Road, Middletown, Lacey Springs and Waynesboro. At the close of active operations it

went into camp Near Winchester.

On the 27th of February, 1865, the cavalry in the Valley started to join the Armies of the Potomac and the James in the operations around Petersburg. After 21 days of marching, the long column of nearly 10,000 mounted men crossed the Appomattox and went into camp near Hancock Station on the military railroad, having made a longer march within the

limits of the Confederacy than Sherman's famous march "from Atlanta to the sea." To any other commander than Sheridan, such a march would have been deemed impossible. The rain fell incessantly, and the roads led through streams, swamps, mud and obstacles that would have been insurmountable had not the whole command been stimulated with the belief that they were on their way to lend a helping hand in the final struggle of the war.

On the morning of April 1st the regiment moved to the front with the Division and during the afternoon was actively engaged in the battle of Five Forks, where it captured a large number of prisoners. The following day it had a slight skirmish with the enemy's cavalry at Scott's Corners. On the 3d it had the advance of the cavalry, and struck the enemy behind breastworks of considerable strength, behind a deep muddy creek. A part of the regiment was dismounted, and crossing the creek at some distance from the road, came down on the flank and rear of the works which were immediately abandoned by the enemy. The remainder of the regiment having crossed the stream, the enemy was followed up and found in force on the summit of a hill near Namozine Church. The regiment was formed in column of battalions and charged the enemy driving it back upon its reserves. The First Vermont

and Eighth New York then charged together, scattering the enemy in every direction, capturing their only piece of artillery and many prisoners, and continuing the pursuit for eight miles. General Sheridan calls this engagement the battle of Winticomack Creek, and gave General Wells the credit for its successful management,

On the 4th the regiment crossed Deep Creek and proceeded to Jeter's Station on the Richmond and Danville railroad, which was reached the next morning after a tedious all-night march. In the operations of the 6th, the First Vermont was sent to the extreme right of the line and followed the retreating enemy all day. During the evening of the 8th the regiment arrived at Appomattox Station where the enemy's reserve artillery and ammunition trains were found. A portion of Colonel Wells' brigade was at once dismounted and sent through the woods to take the enemy on the flank, while the First Vermont charged them in front. The batteries opened a brisk fire but were soon defeated with the loss of thirty guns and a large wagon train. Eighteen of the guns were taken by Wells' brigade, of which number the First Vermont captured eight. Among the captured guns were those of the famous Washington Artillery of New Orleans, which had long boasted of never having lost a gun.

On the morning of the memorable 9th of April, the regiment had the advance of the Second Brigade, which moved rapidly forward, forcing back the enemy's skirmish line. Moving to the right to uncover the Fifth Corps it passed along nearly the entire front of the enemy's line under the fire of two batteries, and came upon the rebel flank and rear in full view of the supply trains. Lieut.-Colonel Hall was ordered to charge the train with the First Vermont, and the first battalion had broken into a gallop when word was received that General Lee had sent in a flag of truce, offering to

surrender

his army, but before the regiment could be halted it had captured the last line between it and the train, which in a

few minutes more would have been added to its long list of captures.

Sabers were returned never to be drawn again in the fury

of battle, and the surrender having been completed, the regiment went into camp near the scene of its last charge. On

the following day the regiment started for Petersburg where it

arrived on the 19th. On the 24th it was ordered to North Carolina to join General Sherman, but when near South Boston

learned that Johnston had surrendered, and immediately

returned to Petersburg, where it remained until the 10th of

May, when it started for Washington, there participating in

the Grand Review on the 23d. June 9th it left Washington for

Vermont and on the 13th arrived at Burlington, where the men

whose term of service would expire previous to October 1st

were immediately mustered out. The remainder were consolidated into six companies and stationed at St. Albans,

Vt., and at different points in Northern New York, until mustered out August 9, 1865.

During its three years of active service in the presence of the enemy, the regiment captured in open field three battle

flags, thirty-seven pieces of artillery, and more prisoners than it had men--a record which, it is believed, was not excelled by any regiment in the Union service.

#### ENGAGEMENTS.

Mount Jackson, Va., April 16, 1862.

McGaheysville, Va., April 27, 1862.

Middletown, Va., May 24, 1862.

Winchester, Va., May 25, 1862.

Luray Court House, Va., June, 30, 1862.

Culpeper Court House, Va., July 10, 1862.

Orange Court House, Va., August 2, 1862.

Kelley's Ford, Va., August 20, 1862.

Waterloo Bridge, Va., August 22, 1862.

Bull Run, Va., August 30, 1862.

Ashby's Gap, Va., Sept. 22, 1862.

Aldie, Va., March 2, 1863.  
Broad Run, Va., April 1, 1863.  
Greenwich, Va., May 30, 1863.  
Warrenton, Va., June 18, 1863.  
Hanover, Pa., June 30, 1863.  
Hunterstown, Pa., July 2, 1863.  
Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863.  
Monterey, Pa., July 4, 1863.  
Leitersville, Md., July 5, 1863.  
Hagerstown, Md., July 6, 1863.  
Boonsboro, Md., July 8, 1863.  
Hagerstown, Md., July 13, 1863.  
Falling Waters, Va., July 14, 1863.  
Port Conway, Va., August 25, 1863.  
Port Conway, Va., Sept. 1, 1863.  
Culpeper Court House, Va., Sept. 13, 1863.  
Somerville Ford, Va., Sept. 14, 1863.  
Raccoon Ford, Va., Sept. 15, 1863.  
James City, Va., Oct. 10, 1863.  
Brandy Station, Va., Oct. 11, 1863.  
Gainesville, Va., Oct. 18 and 19, 1863.  
Buckland Mills, Va., Oct. 19, 1863.  
Falmouth, Va., Nov. 4, 1863.  
Morton's Ford, Va., Nov. 28, 1863.  
Mechanicsville, Va., March 1, 1864.  
Piping Tree, Va., March 2, 1864.  
Craig's Meeting House, Va., May 5, 1864.  
Spottsylvania, Va., May 8, 1864.  
Yellow Tavern, Va., May 11, 1864.  
Meadow Bridge, Va., May 12, 1864.  
Hanover Court House, Va., May 31, 1864.  
Ashland, Va., June 1, 1864.  
Hawes's Shop, Va., June 3, 1864.  
Bottom's Bridge, Va., June 10, 1864.  
White Oak Swamp, Va., June 13, 1864.  
Riddle's Shop, Va., June 13, 1864.  
Malvern Hill, Va., June 15, 1864.  
Reams's Station, Va., June 22, 1864.  
Nottoway Court House, Va., June 23, 1864.  
Roanoke Station, Va., June 25, 1864.  
Stony Creek, Va., June 28 and 29, 1864.  
Reams's station, Va., June 29, 1864.  
Winchester, Va., August 17, 1864.  
Summit Point, Va., August 21, 1864.  
Charlestown, W. Va., August 22, 1864.  
Kerneysville, W. Va., August 25, 1864.  
Opequan, Va., Sept. 19, 1864.  
Front Royal, Pa., Sept. 21, 1864.  
Gooney Manor Grade, Va., Sept. 21, 1864.  
Milford, Va., Sept. 22, 1864.  
Waynesboro, Va., Sept. 28, 1861.  
→ Columbia Furnace, Va., Oct. 7, 1864.  
Tom's Brook, Va., Oct. 9, 1864.  
Cedar Creek, Va., Oct. 13, 1864.  
Cedar Creek, Va., Oct 19, 1864.  
Middle Road, Va., Nov. 11, 1864.

Middle and Back Roads, or Middletown, Va., Nov. 12, 1864.

Lacey Springs, Va., Dec. 21, 1864.

Waynesboro, Va., March 2, 1865.

Five Forks, Va., April 1, 1865.

Scott's Corners, Va., April 2, 1865.

Namozine Creek, Va., April 3, 1865.

Namozine Church, or Winticomack Creek, Va., April 3, 1865.

Appomattox Station, Va., April 3, 1865.

Appomattox Court House, Va., April 9, 1865.

Gettysburg after battle report:

Reports of Lieut. Col. Addison W. Preston, First Vermont Cavalry.

Hartwood Church, Va.,

August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by the First Vermont Cavalry in the engagement at Hanover,

Pa., June 30:

Our column having been attacked in the rear, I was ordered by Brig.-Gen. Farnsworth to send a squadron to aid in repelling the attack. This was promptly obeyed by sending Maj. Bennett, with Companies M and D, who assisted in repelling the enemy by a vigorous charge, capturing about 20 prisoners. I was afterward ordered to support Elder's battery, which was done with the First and Second Battalions. The Third Battalion, under Maj. Bennett, by order of the brigade commander, held an important position on the left of the town. This battalion during the day was warmly engaged, and succeeded in repelling several attacks of the enemy.

Our loss in this engagement was 1 wounded and 16 missing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,

Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Hartwood Church, Va.,  
August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that in the engagement at Hunterstown, July 2, this regiment was deployed as skirmishers on the right of the Second Brigade and to the front and right of Elder's battery. It was here subjected to a severe fire from the enemy's guns. I remained in this position until the division retired. In this engagement I have no loss to report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,  
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Hartwood Church, Va., August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report the part borne by the First Vermont Cavalry in the engagement at Gettysburg, July 3.

In approaching the enemy's position on their extreme right, this regiment had the advance, Companies A, D, E, and I, dismounted, and were deployed as skirmishers. They soon succeeded in driving the enemy behind their breastworks and from behind some buildings on our extreme left.

Heavy skirmishing was kept up along this line through the entire day, the left of the line being supported by one squadron mounted (Companies L and F), which suffered considerably from the enemy's sharpshooters. Company M, of the Third Battalion, under Capt. Woodward, was sent to reconnoiter the enemy's position on our right. This detachment, connected with our infantry in that direction, discovered



the enemy's position.

At 5 p. m., in the charge made by Gen. Farnsworth, the Second Battalion of this regiment, under Maj. Wells, formed the right, and was led by Brig.-Gen. Farnsworth in person. This charge was made over severe obstacles, but succeeded in breaking the enemy's lines. Many of our dead, together with the body of Gen. Farnsworth, were found in the rear of the position held by the enemy's second line. I was immediately ordered by Brig.-Gen. Kilpatrick to support this charge with the balance of my regiment, which I did with the First Battalion, under Capt. Parsons, and a part of the Third Battalion, under Capt. Grover. In charging over the wall and hill carried by the first column, I encountered a very large force of the enemy, which had been sent in from their left to re-establish their line and cut off the retreat of the first column. The contest for the possession of this hill was most desperate. Being temporarily checked in a direct attack, I obliqued my force to the right, and succeeded in gaining the top of the hill by a flank movement. The opposing forces were now completely intermingled, and the contest became a hand-to-hand one, in which our sabers were effectually used. The enemy, being completely cut up, surrendered in squads, and were sent to the rear. Had I had two companies of carbineers at my command, I think I could have held this position and removed my wounded, but, being exposed to the fire of the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters, I was obliged to fall back.

Both officers and men deserve the warmest praise for the coolness, courage, and heroism which they displayed in this engagement. Individual instances of bravery were too numerous to mention. Where all did so well it would be difficult to say who did best. All have my heartfelt gratitude.

Our loss on this occasion was 12 killed, 20 wounded (2 of whom have since died), and 35 missing.

In this charge, Capt. Parsons, Company L, Capt. Cushman, Company E, and Lieut. Cheeney, Company C, were severely wounded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,  
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Hartwood Church, Va.,  
August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that, having been ordered by Gen.

Kilpatrick at 12 o'clock on the morning of July 5, at Monterey,

Md., to proceed with my command to Smithsburg and destroy such

of the enemy's trains as could be found in the vicinity. I moved

rapidly to the point directed, arriving there at 3 a. m. Not finding

anything here, I moved to Leitersburg, 5 miles distant, where I intercepted

and captured 100 prisoners, comprising cavalry and infantry,

and one drove of cattle and many wagons. A large train of

the enemy having passed two hours previous, I reported the same to

the general commanding, and pressed on as far as Hagerstown, 6

miles. Not succeeding in overtaking them, and having marched our

horses thirty-six hours with scarcely any food or rest, I went into

camp near Hagerstown, throwing out strong pickets. Learning that

the rebel Gen. Jenkins was approaching on the Greencastle road,

I reported the same to the general commanding at Smithsburg, and

received orders to join him at Boonsborough, which I did the same

night. I lost many horses, worn out by fatigue and want of food.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,  
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Hartwood Church, Va.,  
August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that in the engagement at Hagerstown, July 6, the First Vermont Cavalry was disposed as follows:

The First Battalion, under Capt. Scofield, were deployed as skirmishers on the extreme right of the town, and succeeded in driving the enemy from a strong position behind a house, and occupied it. Companies A and D, under Capt. Cummings and Lieut. Edwards, were sent into the town, and succeeded in holding a position there until ordered in the afternoon to retire. In so doing, 16 of my men were cut off, but were secreted by the Union citizens until our troops reoccupied the place on the 12th instant. The Second Battalion and one squadron of the Third Battalion remained in line in rear of the town. When our forces retired from Hagerstown in the afternoon, I was ordered by Col. Richmond, commanding brigade, to act as rear guard, and I disposed my command accordingly. We were severely pressed in front and on the right flank by the enemy, and twice we were nearly surrounded.

When the charge was made upon Elder's battery, about 2 miles from Hagerstown, I sent the First Battalion to assist the Fifth New York in support of the battery, while I repulsed a flank attack with the balance of my command. Capt. Beeman, with the Third Squadron, whom I ordered to hold a strong position, being cut off, was

ordered to surrender. He coolly replied, "I don't see it,"  
and escaped  
by leaping a fence upon his extreme right flank.

I again endeavored to hold another position near the  
toll-gate, on  
the Williamsport road. Capt. Grover, with Company K,  
made a  
vigorous charge upon the enemy's column in the road,  
and repulsed  
them temporarily, but the enemy's sharpshooters told  
too severely  
upon him, and he was obliged to fall back. Capt.  
Woodward,  
Company M, fell here, and many other brave men. About  
half a  
mile to the rear of this position I rallied my men again,  
and, giving  
three cheers, succeeded in turning back the enemy. At  
this point  
we were so intermingled with the enemy that we suffered  
equally  
from our own as well as rebel batteries.

About half a mile from this position, I came upon Brig.-  
Gen. Kilpatrick at dark with the balance of our division,  
and  
marched to Jones' Cross-Roads.

Officers and men on this occasion behaved well, and  
charged desperately,  
though greatly outnumbered.

Our loss in this engagement will be, as near as can be  
ascertained,  
5 killed, 16 wounded, and 55 missing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,  
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Hartwood Church, Va.,  
August 7, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that in the engagement at  
Boonsborough  
July 8, the First Vermont Cavalry was held in reserve  
until  
3 o'clock in the afternoon, when I was ordered to send  
one squadron  
of carbineers to the extreme right of our lines, which I

obeyed by  
sending the Sixth Squadron, under Capt. Cummings,  
who succeeded  
in gaining position very near one of the enemy's  
batteries, and annoyed  
them severely. I was again ordered to send another  
squadron  
of carbineers to the front. I immediately sent forward  
Companies  
E and I, under Capt. Scofield, who took position in front,  
near the  
Hagerstown road, and aided in pressing the enemy back  
at night. A  
battalion being now ordered to the front, I sent Maj.  
Bennett, with  
Companies L, F, K, and M, to report to the brigade  
commander.  
This force took a position in the front and on the right of  
the road  
leading to Hagerstown, and suffered severely from the  
enemy's batteries.

The Second (and remaining) Battalion, now numbering  
but  
55 men, was ordered to the front, and, under Maj. Wells,  
was ordered  
to charge the enemy, in a strong position on the  
Hagerstown  
road, at a point where there was a bridge. The charge  
was spiritedly  
made and sabers freely used, as the heads of my men will  
attest;  
but, not being in sufficient numbers, our men were  
obliged to come  
back, but not without inflicting serious injury upon the  
enemy. I  
was now ordered to draw in my various detachments,  
and to go into  
camp in my old position, which I accordingly obeyed.

The loss in this action is 2 killed, 8 wounded, and 5  
missing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. W. PRESTON,  
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. First Vermont Cavalry.

Capt. L. Siebert,  
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

Report of Col. Edward B. Sawyer, First Vermont Cavalry.

Groveton, Va.,  
October 24, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor of submitting to you the following

report  
of the part taken by this regiment in the Maryland and  
Virginia  
campaign, from July 10 to 25:  
I rejoined the regiment at Boonsborough on July 10,  
having been  
separated from it since the 22d ultimo by painful but  
unavoidable  
necessity. In this interim the regiment had passed  
through an arduous  
but brilliant campaign. I found it much reduced in  
officers  
and men, but its spirit as good as ever. The enemy,  
though beaten  
at Gettysburg, was in our immediate front in strong  
force, and another  
great and decisive battle was daily expected. We were  
ordered  
to advance on the afternoon of the 10th, and night  
marches and  
skirmishing and picketing constituted our duties. We  
had advanced  
and occupied Hagerstown on the 12th.

On the afternoon of July 13, I was ordered to report with  
my  
regiment to Gen. Kilpatrick at his headquarters. I found  
it to be  
his intention to make a reconnaissance to the left of the  
enemy's line  
of works above the town with my regiment and some  
Pennsylvania  
militia. Leaving the town, the infantry took the advance.  
Just at  
the outskirts of the town, a strong line of the enemy's  
pickets was  
encountered in front of their earthworks. I was ordered  
to send forward  
a squadron as skirmishers, which I did, supporting them  
with  
my whole command. My skirmishers took the advance,  
and my  
whole command passed the infantry, who were covered  
by a strong  
fence.

Capt. Cummings commanded the skirmishers, and he  
and Lieut.  
Grant led them up in gallant style. A very spirited  
skirmish  
ensued, our boys, now assisted by the infantry  
skirmishers,  
steadily driving the enemy. Here Gen. Kilpatrick ordered  
me  
to send a squadron--"only a squadron"--to charge. The  
enemy's

line of skirmishers was deployed on the right and left of the road, which had a very strong and high fence on each side. Capt. Scofield and Lieut. Newton, with Companies L and F, led the charge. I ordered them to charge up the road, passing the enemy's skirmish line, and to capture some of the enemy if possible. By this time the enemy had retreated to near their earthworks and to the cover of the woods, and their fire, raking the road, was sharp and galling. Led by Capt. Scofield and Lieut. Newton, the boys absolutely "pitched in" to this charge. It had become apparent as they advanced that some force was in their front on the road covered by the woods. The squadron never faltered. The enemy now opened a heavy fire from their batteries, but the boys went gallantly on until they had nearly reached the woods, when they received a terrific volley from a force of about 300 infantry or dismounted cavalry, under cover of the woods and fence, which compelled them to return; not, however, until they had accomplished their object, so far as to capture 2 of the enemy, whom they brought back as they retired.

Skirmishing continued until the enemy were driven inside their works and silenced, when we were ordered back to Hagerstown.

In the charge Capt. Scofield was wounded and taken prisoner; and Lieut. Newton's horse was hit in the shoulder by a musketball, which passed up and through the saddle, giving the lieutenant a very narrow escape with his life. My loss in killed, wounded, and missing was 13 men and 1 officer.

This affair, though not as considerable as many the regiment had before and has since passed through, was one which tested the spirit and mettle of the men and officers severely and gave me good earnest

for the future. Adjutant Gates did efficient service in promptly communicating my orders, and Maj.'s Wells and Bennett showed coolness under a severe fire while forming their battalions to cover them from the enemy's batteries. Lieut.-Col. Preston, having been absent when the regiment moved, did not go with us; but, returning to camp and finding we had gone, followed, and arrived in season to render me important assistance.

Next morning we followed the enemy to Williamsport, and were in reserve at the thrilling affair at Falling Waters.

On the 15th, we returned to Boonsborough, and next day marched to Harper's Ferry, via Berlin, and on the 17th crossed the Shenandoah. Passing down the south bank of the Potomac, we arrived at Purcellville on the 18th. Next day marched to Ashby's Gap.

On the 20th, the Gap was occupied by our forces, and we returned to Upperville.

On the 21st, we marched to Snickersville, and on the 22d occupied the Gap, and held it until the night of the 23d, and returned to Upperville.

On the 24th, marched from Upperville and crossed the Rappahannock, and bivouacked near Amissville.

On the 25th, joined the brigade at that place, and was immediately placed in command, of the First Brigade, of Kilpatrick's division, which was already formed upon our arrival to the front. I here turned the command over to Lieut.-Col. Preston, and excused it from duty that day in consideration of its recent great fatigues, and proceeded with the remainder of the brigade to Gaines' Cross-Roads. I did not again return to my regiment until August 22. I have, however, had command of it as brigade commander



meantime, yet its particular affairs in this interim are more properly reported to you by its then immediate commander. I shall make its operations from August 22 to September 12 the subject of a separate report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD B. SAWYER,  
Col., Comdg.

Peter T. Washburn,  
Adjutant and Inspector Gen., State of Vermont.

Source: Official Records: Series I. Vol. 27. Part I. Reports. Serial No. 43

#### **Battles Fought**

Fought on 19 Apr 1862.

Fought on 21 Apr 1862.

Fought on 27 Apr 1862 at McGaheysville, VA.

Fought on 8 May 1862.

Fought on 11 May 1862.

Fought on 14 May 1862.

Fought on 18 May 1862.

Fought on 20 May 1862.

Fought on 23 May 1862.

[Fought on 24 May 1862 at Middletown, VA.](#)

[Fought on 25 May 1862 at Winchester, VA.](#)

Fought on 30 May 1862.

Fought on 8 Jun 1862.

Fought on 19 Jun 1862.

Fought on 23 Jun 1862.

Fought on 2 Jul 1862.

Fought on 18 Jul 1862.

Fought on 21 Jul 1862.

[Fought on 2 Aug 1862 at Orange Court House, VA.](#)

Fought on 9 Aug 1862.

Fought on 20 Aug 1862 at Kelly's Ford, VA.

Fought on 22 Aug 1862.

Fought on 26 Aug 1862.

Fought on 30 Aug 1862.

Fought on 2 Sep 1862.

Fought on 5 Sep 1862.

Fought on 6 Sep 1862.

[Fought on 22 Sep 1862 at Ashby's Gap, VA.](#)

Fought on 23 Oct 1862.

Fought on 24 Oct 1862.

Fought on 5 Nov 1862.

Fought on 27 Dec 1862.

Fought on 28 Dec 1862.

Fought on 9 Feb 1863.

Fought on 15 Feb 1863.

Fought on 17 Feb 1863.

Fought on 2 Mar 1863 at Piping Tree, VA.  
[Fought on 2 Mar 1863 at Aldie, VA.](#)  
Fought on 15 Mar 1863.  
Fought on 17 Mar 1863.  
[Fought on 1 Apr 1863 at Broad Run, VA.](#)  
Fought on 4 Apr 1863.  
Fought on 10 May 1863.  
Fought on 23 May 1863.  
[Fought on 30 May 1863 at Greenwich, VA.](#)  
Fought on 7 Jun 1863.  
Fought on 23 Jun 1863.  
Fought on 30 Jun 1863.  
Fought on 1 Jul 1863.  
Fought on 2 Jul 1863 at Hunterstown, PA.  
[Fought on 3 Jul 1863 at Gettysburg, PA.](#)  
[Fought on 6 Jul 1863 at Hagerstown, MD.](#)  
Fought on 6 Jul 1863 at Boonsboro, MD.  
Fought on 7 Jul 1863.  
[Fought on 8 Jul 1863 at Boonsboro, MD.](#)  
Fought on 12 Jul 1863.  
Fought on 13 Jul 1863 at Hagerstown, MD.  
Fought on 24 Jul 1863.  
Fought on 10 Aug 1863.  
Fought on 23 Aug 1863.  
[Fought on 13 Sep 1863 at Culpeper, VA.](#)  
Fought on 13 Sep 1863 at Culpeper Court House, VA.  
Fought on 22 Sep 1863.  
Fought on 26 Sep 1863.  
Fought on 1 Oct 1863.  
[Fought on 11 Oct 1863 at Brandy Station, VA.](#)  
Fought on 12 Oct 1863.  
Fought on 14 Oct 1863.  
Fought on 19 Oct 1863 at Gainesville, VA.  
[Fought on 19 Oct 1863 at Buckland's Mills, VA.](#)  
Fought on 13 Nov 1863.  
Fought on 28 Nov 1863 at Morton's Ford, VA.  
Fought on 23 Dec 1863.  
→ Fought on 2 Feb 1864.  
→ Fought on 24 Feb 1864.  
→ Fought on 29 Feb 1864.  
→ Fought on 1 Mar 1864 at Mechanicsville, VA.  
→ Fought on 2 Mar 1864 at Piping Tree, VA.  
→ Fought on 3 Mar 1864.  
→ Fought on 8 Mar 1864.  
→ Fought on 9 Mar 1864.  
→ Fought on 19 Mar 1864.  
→ Fought on 7 Apr 1864.  
→ Fought on 8 Apr 1864.  
→ [Fought on 5 May 1864 at Wilderness, VA.](#)  
→ Fought on 5 May 1864 at Craig's Meeting House, VA.  
→ Fought on 6 May 1864.  
→ Fought on 7 May 1864.  
→ Fought on 9 May 1864.  
→ Fought on 10 May 1864.  
→ [Fought on 11 May 1864 at Yellow Tavern, VA.](#)  
→ [Fought on 12 May 1864 at Meadow Bridge, VA.](#)



Fought on 16 May 1864.  
Fought on 17 May 1864.  
Fought on 24 May 1864.  
Fought on 30 May 1864 at Hanover Court House, VA.  
Fought on 31 May 1864 at Hanover Court House, VA.  
[Fought on 1 Jun 1864 at Ashland, VA.](#)  
[Fought on 3 Jun 1864 at Hawes' Shop, VA.](#)  
Fought on 10 Jun 1864 at Bottom's Bridge, VA.  
Fought on 11 Jun 1864.  
Fought on 13 Jun 1864 at Riddle's Shop, VA.  
[Fought on 13 Jun 1864 at White Oak Swamp, VA.](#)  
[Fought on 15 Jun 1864 at Malvern Hill, VA.](#)  
[Fought on 22 Jun 1864 at Reams' Station, VA.](#)  
[Fought on 23 Jun 1864 at Nottoway Court House, VA.](#)  
Fought on 24 Jun 1864.  
Fought on 27 Jun 1864.  
Fought on 28 Jun 1864 at Stoney Creek, VA.  
Fought on 29 Jun 1864 at Stoney Creek, VA.  
[Fought on 29 Jun 1864 at Reams' Station, VA.](#)  
Fought on 30 Jun 1864.  
Fought on 2 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 5 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 15 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 19 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 21 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 24 Jul 1864.  
Fought on 21 Aug 1864 at Summit Point, VA.  
Fought on 25 Aug 1864 at Kerneysville, WV.  
Fought on 25 Aug 1864 at Leetown, VA.  
Fought on 11 Sep 1864.  
[Fought on 19 Sep 1864 at Opequan, VA.](#)  
Fought on 21 Sep 1864 at Gooney Manor Grade, VA.  
[Fought on 21 Sep 1864 at Front Royal, VA.](#)  
Fought on 6 Oct 1864.  
Fought on 7 Oct 1864 at Columbia Furnace, VA.  
[Fought on 7 Oct 1864 at Columbia Furnace, VA.](#)  
Fought on 8 Oct 1864.  
[Fought on 9 Oct 1864 at Tom's Brook, VA.](#)  
Fought on 11 Oct 1864.  
[Fought on 19 Oct 1864 at Cedar Creek, VA.](#)  
Fought on 26 Oct 1864.  
Fought on 6 Nov 1864.  
Fought on 7 Nov 1864.  
Fought on 11 Nov 1864 at Middle Road, VA.  
Fought on 12 Nov 1864 at Middletown, VA.  
Fought on 19 Nov 1864.  
Fought on 21 Nov 1864.  
Fought on 22 Nov 1864.  
Fought on 19 Dec 1864.  
[Fought on 2 Mar 1865 at Waynesboro, VA.](#)  
Fought on 4 Mar 1865.  
Fought on 5 Mar 1865.  
Fought on 10 Mar 1865.  
Fought on 12 Mar 1865.  
Fought on 19 Mar 1865.  
[Fought on 1 Apr 1865 at Five Forks, VA.](#)



Fought on 3 Apr 1865 at Appomattox Station, VA.

Fought on 3 Apr 1865 at Namozine Creek, VA.

[Fought on 8 Apr 1865 at Appomattox Court House, VA.](#)

[Fought on 9 Apr 1865 at Appomattox Court House, VA.](#)



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