

Chapter 1 : 1st West Virginia Cavalry Regiment

The 1st Virginia Cavalry completed its organization at Winchester, Virginia, in July , under the command of Colonel James Ewell Brown (J.E.B.) Stuart at the command of General Thomas Jackson. Unlike most regiments, the First contained twelve companies.

Although Virginia seceded from the union and joined the Confederate States of America , many people in the northwestern portion of the state preferred to remain loyal to the United States. This loyal segment of Virginia formed the Restored Government of Virginia , which was loyal to the United States, and this led to the eventual formation of the state of West Virginia from the western portion of Virginia. The first new cavalry regiment formed from this loyal region was originally known as the 1st Virginia Cavalry, and was sometimes noted as a loyal to the union regiment to differentiate it from the 1st Virginia Cavalry that was a rebel force for the Confederacy. Recruiting for the new regiment began during July , and continued into the fall. Pennsylvania and Ohio were also sources for recruits. One company consisted mostly of men who spoke German. This company was the first cavalry unit organized in the Virginia counties that became West Virginia, and it was mustered in at Morgantown on July The Lancers were said to be good for "three to one" against rebel cavalry, and the rebels swore "eternal vengeance against them". The regiment commander was Colonel Henry Anisansel, who was commissioned September 7, Anisansel was a former lieutenant in the Ringgold Cavalry. Caphart eventually became regiment commander and a general. The regiment is credited with being present at the Battle of Carnifex Ferry on September 10, The Union force in the "brilliant victory over the rebels at Romney" was commanded by General Kelley, and included infantry from Ohio and Virginia plus two companies of cavalry: It was shifted among several divisions during the year. Stanton , said "First Virginia Cavalry good for nothing. I propose to leave it in camp of instruction here. Lander was forced to rely on cavalry from Ohio instead. When the 1st Virginia Cavalry finally joined the fight, Anisansel fell from his horseâ€”worsening a hernia injury suffered earlier. His regiment retreated after the fall and had five casualties. Infantry from Indiana and Virginia moved to the front, passing the retreating cavalry and capturing several supply wagons belonging to the Confederates. Lander was dying from pneumonia when the case came to court, and Anisansel was exonerated because he claimed a battle injury made him unable to make the charge. One Ohio soldier wrote that Anisansel "was one of the foreign adventurers who so largely officered our army at its beginning and were absolutely useless for any purpose except to draw their pay and to wear gold braid. Six companies, commanded by Major Benjamin F. Chamberlain, fought in the First Battle of Kernstown on March Chamberlain was complemented in the report by Colonel T. Brodhead, Chief of Cavalry. During July, Anisansel led the larger portion of the regiment in the Madison - Culpeper area of Virginia. He was succeeded by his second-in-command, Lieutenant Colonel Richmond. Krepps, fought at Second Bull Run a. Two companies fought at the Battle of Antietam in Maryland on September Wyndham was both controversial and had a "volatile personality". Shortly afterwards, Richmond was arrested for disobedience. Krepps led the regiment. Krepps had been promoted from major on October 16, The detachment included men from companies C, G, F and L. They were surprise attacked by a group of 70 to 80 men under the command of Major John S. Others ran to nearby houses. Major Josiah Steele, seeing that it was impossible to saddle the horses in time to meet the attack, cut the horses loose to prevent them from being captured. Major Steel and Captain William A. The Union soldiers ran out of ammunition, and were forced to surrender. About 40 of the New Yorkers quickly rode to the rescue of the West Virginians, arriving when the house was on fire and its occupants were ready to surrender. More joined the fight when they retrieved their horses. The 1st West Virginia Cavalry suffered 17 men killed or wounded, including Major Steeleâ€”who died about one month later from his wounds. The reason for the resignation was given as medical. Wyndham, the person responsible for the departure of Richmond, had been transferred in the spring. Richmond was reinstated as regimental commander on June Their destination was Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Farnsworth was assigned command of the brigade. The 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry was attached. On June 30, the brigade approached Hanover, Pennsylvania. The 1st West Virginia led the advance through the town, while the 18th Pennsylvania was in the

rear. The rear guard was attacked by cavalry and artillery, causing the front of the brigade to reform and charge back through the town. The Confederates were driven away, but the 1st West Virginia had 2 killed, 5 wounded, and 18 men taken prisoner. The Battle of Gettysburg began on the next day, lasting from July 1 through July 3. Union forces commanded by General George G. Meade, men from both sides combined fought in this battle, and casualties are estimated to be around 51,000. It was fought near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Hunterstown. Early morning on July 3, the brigade was positioned near the rear center of the Army of the Potomac, near Gettysburg. Confederate infantry, cavalry, and artillery were discovered by the brigade around 3:00. General Kilpatrick ordered brigade commander Farnsworth to make a mounted charge against a Confederate infantry position that was fortified and near ground difficult for horses. He said "General, do you mean it? Shall I throw my handful of men over rough ground, through timber, against a brigade of infantry? The West Virginians became nearly surrounded by the 1st Texas Infantry and had to retreat to safety using their sabers. They took some prisoners and suffered casualties of five killed and four wounded. Farnsworth led a second group of men in another charge and was killed. Of the men that Farnsworth led on this charge, 65 became casualties. Capehart assumed command of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry. The Confederate army had over 12,000 men. Their trip back would involve traveling through mountains to cross the Potomac River at Williamsport, Maryland. Lee chose General John D. Lee. The retreat was orderly, as Lee knew he would eventually be pursued but he hoped for a cautious pursuit that would enable his army to escape to Virginia. Lee led the retreat and rode with General A. The division rode to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where it was reinforced with an additional brigade consisting of cavalry men from the 8th Pennsylvania, 6th Ohio, 2nd New York, and 4th New York regiments plus two companies from the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry. A rain storm caused flooding everywhere, and made road conditions difficult. From Emmitsburg, they took the road west toward Monterey Pass, which was part of a long and difficult crossing of South Mountain. The rebels, who were part of a brigade commanded by Confederate General William "Grumble" Jones, were able to delay Kilpatrick for hours with one piece of artillery while a wagon train belonging to General Richard S. Ewell moved from the north into the pass. When Capehart reported to Custer, he was ordered to make a charge. In pouring rain and total darkness, the 1st West Virginia Cavalry charged down the mountain, capturing the Confederate artillery piece and an entire wagon train. The Confederate artillery piece was pushed down an embankment. The wagons became entangled in a massive traffic jam. The captured wagon train consisted of wagons and 15 ambulances, and the horses and mules pulling them. Soldiers captured totaled to 1,000, plus officers. Casualties for the 1st West Virginia were only 2 killed and 2 wounded. The brigade took the advance in the move to Hagerstown, and a portion of the 1st West Virginia was involved in the fighting. The regiment suffered 20 casualties fighting enemy infantry that was positioned inside of houses. The brigade camped for the night near Boonsboro, and was attacked on the next morning. For the last half of July, the regiment fought in some minor skirmishes, and eventually reported to Stafford, Virginia, near Fredericksburg. They stayed at Camp Willey on Wheeling Island for a few days before going to their homes for a 30 day furlough. About 100 men re-enlisted. The local newspaper called them "The Heroes of 70 Engagements". They patrolled West Virginia for the next six weeks, but did not see any significant action. Rainy weather made the mission difficult, and ruined some ammunition. The division was able to escape pursuing Confederate forces and flooding rivers and return to its base in West Virginia on May 1. Their objective was to eliminate some Confederate sharpshooters that were harassing the cavalry. Colonel Henry Capehart stationed himself between the falls and the crossing. His standard procedure was to position himself down river at crossings, which would enable him to rescue men having trouble crossing the water. He was an expert rider and had a horse that was a good swimmer. In this circumstance, a private from Company B was swept out of his saddle while attempting to cross a swollen river with a swift current.

Chapter 2 : WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRYWEST VIRGINIA CAVALRYWEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY

Welcome to the home of the 1st Virginia Cavalry Reenactment Units. We are a group of families and individuals who strive to relive the lives of the soldiers and civilians of the American Civil War.

Main source is from the more complete records of the regiment by Robert Driver on the regiment published by H. Howard in Lynchburg, VA. Horse killed August 19, F as 1st Sgt. Acting Adjutant of Regt. Vanclevessville PO, Berkeley Co. He lived in the county after the war. Sent to Camp Chase. Served as scout for Gen. Absent on detached service with Gen. However, had been promoted Captain, Co. Not on muster rolls. WIA wrist near Fredericksburg Farmhand, Charles Town PO. Stuart and captured and escaped three times. Episcopal and Masonic Cem. Moved to Waynesboro Student, Waynesboro census. Washington College , and Hampden-Sidney College Served on staff Gen. Detailed as courier for Gen. Appointed ADC on Gen. Waynesboro Academy, then V. Overseer, Waynesboro, census. E as 3rd Lt. Manager of tannery, Rose Hill, Waynesboro, to the end of the war. Farmer, South River, Augusta Co. Charlestown, PO, Jefferson Co. Served briefly in Co. WIA date and place unknown. Farmer, Mint Spring, Augusta Co. Blacksmith Charles Town census. Sent to Fort McHenry. Deserted to the enemy. Took oath in Washington, D. Only record of service. Shepherdstown PO, Jefferson Co. Present until captured Flint Hill or Falls Church. F, 1st Virginia Cavalry under William A. Promoted to 1st Sgt. Lucas killed in Berkeley County Jan. Present until absent on detached service with Gen. Moved to Sharpsburg, Md. Laborer Charles Town enl. F, 12th Va Cav. Moved to Louisville, Ky. Present until elected 2nd Lt. Present until promoted 1st Lt. Absent wounded until trans. Returned to Jefferson Co. Vernon, Fairfax County, Va. Deserted to the enemy Sandy Hook, Md. Took oath and transportation furnished to Philadelphia. Charles Town census enl. Charles Town census Sent to Gordonsville hospital. Shepherds Town Census Census Jefferson County College of Physicians and Surgeons, NY. Served as Surgeon after Bull Run for three weeks. Appointed Surgeon, 21st N. Promoted Brigade Surgeon in Shepherdstown PO census. Absent detailed for light duty in brigade commissary dept. Transportation ordered from Washington, D. Otherwise present until absent wded. Farmer near Middleway, W.

Chapter 3 : 1st West Virginia Cavalry, Civil War

1st Virginia Cavalry. Men from Jefferson County who served in the 1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment. Main source is from the more complete records of the regiment by Robert Driver on the regiment published by H.E. Howard in Lynchburg, VA.

Event Memories The 1st Virginia Cavalry began the war as a group of independent companies of horse from the Shenandoah Valley, organized into a regiment by J. Stuart, later, of course, to become a Major General. The short jackets early in the war were similar to the Richmond Depot Type I shell jacket design, which had epaulets, sleeve trim, and belt loops. Although the traditional trim color for cavalry was yellow, the 1st Virginia wore black-trimmed uniforms instead, including a broad-brimmed black hat with black plume. They were well-armed, and carried Sharps carbines slung by leather shoulder belts and the standard model U. Although the traditional wearing of pants was outside the tall cavalry boots, many troopers chose to tuck their pants into their boots for a bit of style. They carried one or more Colt Navy Model The long gauntlet cavalry gloves were tucked in the belt when not in use. Since uniforms were subject to wear and damage as the war bore on into the second year, one might find the light blue Federal uniform pants being worn by Confederate troops as well, taken from the battlefield dead. Indeed, much of the Confederate equipment was captured from the Union troops. The uniforms were not reissued until Shirts were a matter of individual choice and style, and colorful calicos as well as white muslin or plain Onasburg cotton could be seen throughout the war on both sides. The well known "CS" belt plate was not issued to the Army of Northern Virginia, so belt plates from earlier state militia units were often seen, as well as a captured "US" belt plate worn upside-down. Although the mechanical sewing machine was available prior to the Civil War, such machines were more scarce in the south and principally of the "chain-stitch" variety, which easily came undone. Thus, many uniforms and most shirts were entirely hand-sewn by the tailors or ladies of the south, or hand-repaired by the individual soldier. For the remainder of the war, the 1st Virginia performed outstanding service with the Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, and were feared by all that encountered them. Assembling YOUR uniform Shell Jacket Anyone with reasonable sewing skills can sew a civil war uniform, given the correct pattern and correct materials. However, you should be warned that considerable time is required to do a good job, and the authentic fabrics are expensive. For those who lack the time or skill to create their own, ready-made or custom-made uniforms are readily available on the web. The 1st Virginia uniform, being non-standard in color trim, falls somewhere in between. Based on a traditional shell jacket pattern which every tailor of that era knew how to make an authentic 1st-issue jacket requires black trim as shown in the image at the right. One company offering a custom 1st Virginia shell jacket is the Quartermaster Shop, which has an excellent web site at www. In particular, the 1st Virginia shell jacket as pictured at the right is described on their Confederate Army Early War Jacket order page. Typical of Confederate styles- trousers have the split back without cord tie. Side seam pockets are standard. Trousers should be quite loose in the seat and thigh area, as was style during the period. Thanks for dropping in!

Chapter 4 : First Virginia Cavalry - 1st Virginia Cavalry Civil War Reenactment Unit

1st Virginia Cavalry. HISTORY. 1st Cavalry Regiment completed its organization at Winchester, Virginia, in July, Unlike most regiments, the 1st contained twelve companies.

History[edit] The First Virginia Cavalry participated in more than engagements of various types throughout the American Civil War, during which it was reorganized several times. Its significant casualties at the First Battle of Bull Run led to reorganization and placement under the command of Brigadier General J. However, members were allowed to elect their lower officers, and they failed to re-elect career U. Jones , who was then transferred to lead the 7th Virginia Cavalry. Stuart relayed his orders to Lt. Munford formerly of the 2nd Virginia Cavalry. Although many of the remaining soldiers either became casualties or were allowed to return to their homes by early , members did participate in the defense of Petersburg , and the Appomattox Campaign. The remains of the cavalry unit cut through the Federal lines at Appomattox, shortly before it was formally disbanded. Only one man from this unit was present at the surrender. In April , the First Virginia Cavalry totaled men. It lost eight percent of the engaged at Gettysburg in July , and had fit for duty in September Other field officers alphabetically included Colonels R. Welby Carter of Company H; son of Sen. Carter , James H. Drake, and William A. Morgan; Lieutenant Colonels L. Tiernan Brien and Charles R. Irving; and Major Robert Swan. He was commissioned a lieutenant and eventually transferred to division headquarters. However, in , he deserted.

Chapter 5 : 1st Virginia Cavalry - Wikipedia

The Cavalry Division of the Army of Northern Virginia was created under the command of Major General James E.B. Stuart. The 1st Virginia was assigned to the brigade of Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee, along with the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 9th Virginia Cavalry and Breathed's Battery of Horse Artillery.

Although Virginia seceded from the union and joined the Confederate States of America, many people in the northwestern portion of the state preferred to remain loyal to the United States. The first new cavalry regiment formed from this loyal region was originally known as the 1st Virginia Cavalry, and was sometimes noted as a loyal to the union regiment to differentiate it from the 1st Virginia Cavalry that was a rebel force for the Confederacy. Pennsylvania and Ohio were also sources for recruits. A total of 14 companies fought as part of the regiment. One company consisted mostly of men who spoke German. Anisansel was a former lieutenant in the Ringgold Cavalry. Lander brought court martial charges against Anisansel for "failing to obey an order to charge the enemy" at Bloomery Gap. He was succeeded by Richmond, his second-in-command. They were rescued by the 5th New York Cavalry, but had 17 men killed or wounded, including Major Josiah Steele who died about one month later from his wounds. Richmond was reinstated as regimental commander on June Their destination was Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Farnsworth was assigned command of the 1st Brigade. Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer was assigned command of the 2nd brigade. The 1st West Virginia had 2 killed, 5 wounded, and 18 men taken prisoner. Over , men both sides combined fought in this battle, and casualties are estimated to be around 51, Late in the afternoon on the third day of the battle, Kilpatrick ordered Farnsworth to make a mounted charge against a Confederate infantry position that was fortified and near ground difficult for horses. The West Virginians became nearly surrounded by the 1st Texas Infantry and had to retreat to safety using their sabers. They took some prisoners and suffered casualties of five killed and four wounded. Farnsworth led a second group of men in another charge and took significant casualties and Farnsworth was killed. Capehart assumed command of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry. After the third day of fighting at Gettysburg, armies on both sides were exhausted. Their trip back would involve traveling through mountains to cross the Potomac River at Williamsport, Maryland. Imboden led a wagon train carrying wounded men on a northwest route, which was safer and easier to follow. Ewell moved from the north into the pass. In pouring rain and total darkness, the 1st West Virginia Cavalry charged down the mountain, capturing the Confederate artillery piece and an entire wagon train in hand-to-hand combat. A total of officers and 1, men were captured. Casualties for the 1st West Virginia were only 2 killed and 2 wounded. They stayed at Camp Willey on Wheeling Island for a few days before going to their homes for a 30 day furlough. About men re-enlisted. The local newspaper called them "The Heroes of 70 Engagements". They patrolled West Virginia for the next six weeks, but did not see any significant action. They participated in General William W. Averell was eventually able to destroy 26 bridges and portions of railroad track near Dublin Newbern on old maps, Virginia. The division returned to its base in West Virginia on May Their objective was to eliminate some Confederate sharpshooters that were harassing the cavalry. Colonel Henry Capehart stationed himself between the falls and the crossing. His standard procedure was to position himself down river at crossings, which would enable him to rescue men having trouble crossing the water. He was an expert rider and had a horse that was a good swimmer. In this circumstance, a private from Company B was swept out of his saddle while attempting to cross a swollen river with a swift current. Not only was the private swept over the falls, but Capehart and his horse were too. Capehart was able to rescue the private while both were being shot at by enemy sharpshooters. His citation read "Saved, under fire, the life of a drowning soldier. The infantry was led by General George Crook. General David Hunter was the commander of the entire cavalry and infantry force. The force arrived in Lexington on June 11, and occupied the town for several days. During this time, Confederate reinforcements were arriving at Lynchburg. The Battle of Lynchburg was fought on June 17 and Approximately 44, soldiers participated in this Confederate victory. The force reached Charleston on July 1. Their destination was the rail station at Martinsburg. Hunter commanded this army while Averell commanded its Second Cavalry Division. Powell commanded the 2nd Brigade of the Second Division.

He also had another 1, infantrymen. Crook commanded the entire force. He did not believe the reports of Averell and General Alfred N. Averell encountered a much larger enemy force than he was led to expect, and the Second Battle of Kernstown began. Hayes future President of the United States were among the few organized units remaining. The 1st West Virginia Cavalry lost a total of 28 men killed, wounded, missing, or captured. In a surprise attack at dawn on August 6, , Averell captured over Confederates. After the 3rd West Virginia Cavalry charged across the South Branch of the Potomac River and met strong resistance from the Confederate 17th Virginia Cavalry , they were reinforced by the 1st West Virginiaâ€”and the two regiments overwhelmed the Confederates. Sheridan assumed command of all Union troops in the Shenandoah Valley on August 7. Union casualties were about 5, out of 40, men, while Confederate casualties were about 3, out of 12, men. Generals and colonels on both sides were killed, including Confederate Colonel George S. Confederate General Robert E. Rodes was killed, and Confederate cavalry generals Fitzhugh Lee and Bradley Johnson were among the wounded. General David Allen Russell , killed in action, was among the Union casualties. Sheridan became impatient with Averell, who he considered too cautious. On September 23, Sheridan replaced Averell with Powell. Although Union casualties were more than double those of the Confederates, this battle is considered a Union victory, and Confederate troops were driven from the battlefield. Lomax from flanking the Union force. The Confederates slowly pushed the 1st Brigade back. They were chased for 8 miles His citation is "Capture of flag of 22d Virginia Cavalry C. Custer Powell resigned from the Union Army on January 5, There was no Second Division. On February 27, they left Winchester and moved south. The reinforcement was the elite Confederate cavalry known as the Laurel Brigade, and it was under the command of General Thomas L. The 1st West Virginia Cavalry was sent upriver where it crossed and then charged down on Rosser. Boury captured a flag and three rebels. His mission meant that he had to get through Confederate lines. To accomplish this feat, Rowand wore a Confederate uniform for much of his journey. Near the end of his journey, he was chased by Confederates and had to abandon his horse and swim the Chickahominy River. That started the walking portion of his journey. He was wet, muddy, and was wearing only his underclothing when he crossed into Union lines. Grant was working on site with Meade and the Army of the Potomac. Their reconnaissance found a strong enemy infantry force led by General George E. Pickett , and the Union cavalry was driven back. Then the attacking Confederate force turned its attention to Sheridan. They moved near what would soon become the front, an open area in front of Dinwiddie. The brigade was able to halt the Confederate attack in fighting that continued until after dark. Sheridan received reinforcements from the Fifth Corps and a division of cavalry from the Army of the James. Both sides advanced and retreated, and soon the opposing forces were fighting in close combat using sabers. Blackmar caught up with Capehart and informed him of the situation, and was ordered to reform the brigade in the correct line of battle. Blackmar reformed a portion of the brigade and led a charge without waiting for the rest of the brigade. The charging men took prisoners, and captured artillery, wagons, and ambulances. Custer and Capehart promoted Blackmar to captain immediately. This inconclusive battle, described as a Confederate rear guard action, became known as the Battle of Namozine Church. Total casualties for both sides are an estimated 75, and Confederate General Rufus Barringer was captured. Although the charges were successful in capturing artillery and men, casualties were high.

Chapter 6 : First West Virginia Cavalry

First Virginia Cavalry History of the First Virginia Cavalry The 1st Virginia Cavalry began the war as a group of independent companies of horse from the Shenandoah Valley, organized into a regiment by J.E.B. Stuart, who later became a Major General.

Henry Capehart is by birth and education a Pennsylvanian, born in the county of Cambria, March 18, He located as a physician in Bridgeport, Ohio, in September, , from whence he entered the military service, and was commissioned surgeon of the First West Virginia Cavalry, September 10, He was a fine horseman, and an ardent admirer of the noble animal. The regiment was recruited from the western counties of Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and western Virginia, at a time when the Government was not organizing cavalry regiments. It was composed of superior material, mostly young men from the farms, experienced horsemen and marksmen, who could break and tame the wildest colt, or pierce the head of a squirrel in the top of the tallest hickory with a rifle-bullet. When the regiment entered the field mounted and equipped, with its complement of field, staff and line officers, and led by Prof. This the citizens of Clarksburg, Cumberland, Martinsburg and Winchester will no doubt cordially admit, though the uniforms may not have been their favorite color. Its first active service was in the mountains of West Virginia, by detachments, scouting and doing picket and outpost duty to the various infantry commands holding the mountain passes and guarding the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. These duties in the wild, mountainous region, infested with Confederate scouts, guerillas and bushwackers, soon developed in the officers and men that individuality, courage and daring which distinguished them throughout the period of their service. In the spring of , it was brigaded with other cavalry regiments, under the command of General Hatch, and participated in the operations in the valley of the Shenandoah and its neighborhood under General Shields, Banks, McDowell, Schenck and Fremont, though some of the companies were separated. As our army was retreating from second Bull Run, the regiment met the then famous Black Horse Cavalry in a hand-to-hand charge, and damaged it so badly that it was never again heard of under that name. This marked the regiment for outpost duty in the defenses of Washington, and Fairfax Court House, Centerville and Chantilly, with frequent reconnoissances to Warrenton, Salem, Aldie, and Upperville. In the spring of the regiment received its Spencer rifles, which added materially to its efficiency in its subsequent fights under the reckless and dashing Kilpatrick. It bore the leading part in repelling a charge of General J. At the pass at Monterey, single-handedly, during the night of the 4th of July, under Major Charles E. In the Mine Run campaign the regiment did its full share of duty. The army going into winter quarters the regiment was sent home on veteran furlough. To speak of individual acts of gallantry would be to mention almost every officer and private in the regiment. It may be said, too, that it was always accorded the first rank in every command with which it was associated. It was always conspicuous in the advance against the enemy, covering the rear in a dangerous retreat, and led in more than one forlorn hope. It was never in retreat except before overwhelming numbers, while on no occasion did it lose its organization, and was as nearly invincible as any body of men ever was. Recruited to the strength of , the regiment took part under General Crook and Averell in the raid against the railroads of southwestern Virginia. At the same time General Sigel moved up the Shenandoah Valley, which was part of the grand movement of all the armies under Grant. Sigel was defeated by Breckinridge; Colonel Strother, the celebrated author, facetiously remarked: Had the information obtained been accepted by General Crook, his retreat across the Potomac a day or two later would have been avoided. After recrossing the Potomac, the enemy passed south of Cumberland, captured and destroyed our station of supplies at New Creek, and reached Moorefield, where they rested in fancied security, enjoying the rich fruits of the raid. Averell was ordered from Washington to pursue and attack them to the death wherever found. Their outpost and picket was captured by day by the First West Virginia Cavalry without firing a shot. They were then charged and routed on one side of the river at early dawn. Forging the river, the First West Virginia Cavalry charged Imoden and McCausland on the other side, who had now become aroused, and formed to meet us. The enemy believed that no quarter would be given on account of having burned Chambersburg, hence, comparatively few offered to surrender, and an unexplained number, therefore, were

killed outright, though many were wounded and hundred were taken prisoners, while all the booty with which they had been laden, from a spool of cotton to a bolt of silk, was spilled, leaving in our hands artillery, flags, guns and equipage. It was here that the brilliant and daring fighter Lieutenant Donnelly fell. Capehart, who succeeded to the command of the First West Virginia, came from the West, soon after recovering from wounds received at Donelson. An athlete and of great physical strength, with a keen eye and a cool head, and an accomplished swordsman, probably no one else in the either army rode harder or straighter or wielded a more deadly sabre, or who could dare or do more with a regiment than he could with the First West Virginia Cavalry. On the first day of its new leadership it knocked out General Imboden, Johnston and McCausland, and drove them on the run for fifteen miles, capturing many prisoners, and everything they had on wheels. This Sheridan pronounced the cleanest victory of the Shenandoah. Later in the day it rode with Custer on the left, and also with him on the right, in the charge that was decisive of the battle. After several important reconnoissances, it went into winter quarters near Winchester for a brief period. The bold Colonel Moseby has certainly no good reason for recalling a certain Thanksgiving Day about this time with any pleasurable or glorious emotions. Sanitary Commission, and were reveling in the happy sensations produced by the consumption with a perfect appetite of turkey and cranberry sauce, prime roast beef, plum pudding and other things, at this time particularly appreciated by them. First in the saddle, the First West Virginia fell upon the bold marauder, forced him to disgorge his captures of men and wagons, took some of his men, and drove him for ten or twelve miles, when not a vestige of him or his command was visible, escaping by the by-ways, the ravines and the woods; his escape was due to the fleetness of his steeds. In winter quarters the regiment reached its highest state of discipline and drill, equaling any in the service. General Sheridan not only pronounced it his "fighting brigade," but, on seeing still more of it, claimed it to be the most efficient brigade of cavalry in the service of the United States. As the movement of Grant, at Petersburg, was beginning, the brigade was assigned to the division commanded by General Custer. Camp was hardly more than cleared before the blaze of rifles from either side illuminated the woods in the gloom of an extremely dark morning. A sweep forward and General Rosser was again running for dear life. The crossing at Mount Crawford was fortified, and the bridge, with the flooring taken up, was prepared for burning by the enemy. Swimming the swollen river, the First West Virginia and First New York attacked the enemy in flank and put him to rout, taking many prisoners, when the flames were subdued, the floor of the bridge relaid, and the column, with its artillery and wagons, passed on undisturbed. General Rosser was pursued on the run for twenty miles, and so closely that he failed to burn or injure the bridge over Middle River. General Early now collected all the force he had at his disposal, in a stronghold at Waynesborough, where he had erected substantial fortifications, well supplied with cannon, and resolved to defend the position to the last extremity. Custer, with his division alone, appeared in his front. Under orders from Custer, Capehart passed Rock Fish Gap, a position of such strength that it might have been held against great odds for an indefinite period, and continuing, at Greenwood, a depot of supplies, we captured a locomotive and cars, with several pieces of artillery. General Early having reached Greenwood Station, left there accompanied by a salute from the rifles of the advance of the First West Virginia. The affair was all over before Sheridan heard of it. The West Virginia Brigade camped for the night at Afton Station, where its colonel, with his staff, had the felicity of partaking of a wedding supper with the bride, bridesmaids and other charming ladies, in a cottage draped with clinging vines, amid rocks and trees, all of which was enlivened by the beautiful music of the brigade band. The tempting viands, untouched by the groom and his male companions, who had levanted at the approach of the detested West Virginians, were tastefully laid on the table in the dining room. The airy spirit of the fair ladies was at first decidedly chilly and forbidding, corresponding well with the cold, drizzling rain, of freezing mud and darkness without. Their hearts soon melted, however, before the warm-hearted and attractive young soldiers; brave all of them, in war, but mild in peace, who had in a measure forced their company upon the fair ladies, and with song, music and dance, all went merry as a marriage bell till break of day, when the boys were again in the saddle on the march. The continuation of the movement was comparatively an unobstructed, triumphal progress, through leaving more or less of terror, and the destruction of public buildings, railroads, and the canal in its path, carrying thousands of slaves, men, women and babes to freedom. We were freely reminded that we would

meet a superior class of troops, in the veteran regiments of the Confederate army, as compared with those we had vanquished in the Shenandoah. A hurrying aide relieved or brigade of this duty by another force, and ordered us to report with all possible haste to General Sheridan - near the Court House. During the night it held the extreme advance single-handedly, while its band enlivened the darkness and gave the impression to the enemy of an infantry reinforcement, the enemy sullenly retiring before morning. Lee and Rosser, and quickly routed them, to which, as Custer says, "the victory was mainly due. Blackmar, who was transferred from the cavalry in the southwest, and commissioned in the First W. General Sheridan, however, more than a mile away, has it that the cavalry here was held in check; and through some inexplicable blunder has Coppinger marked on the map in his memoirs as in command of the West Virginia Brigade, instead of commander Capehart. Coppinger never had any connection with the West Virginia Brigade, and never was in command of the brigade, while it is not probably that he led a mounted charge during his career. The record, however, if meager, due to the rush of events, confirms the facts as here given. In the assault afterwards the Sixth Corps met a bloody repulse, which General Sheridan, back to General Wright, was overlooking. The formation, already made, one regiment in line, supported in the center by two regiments in column of squadrons, and one regiment supporting the right line, also in column of squadrons. Colonel Capehart in the forefront, with his bugler, Tom Custer and Colonel Allen, of the Second West Virginia, on either side; at the blast of the bugle, iron hoofs were in motion. The speed increasing from a trot to a mad run, though the order perfect, the troopers, with sabres flashing, the firing of pistols and carbines, shouts and yells - with all the noise and uproar possible - surged over the works and rode smashing through the battle-lines, sabering and shooting all who offered resistance; the Confederates, thrown off their balance and panic stricken, the little handful ten times magnified in its audacity, the enemy began throwing down their arms and surrendering wholesale, though not without several isolated encounters to the death, in one of which Tom Custer received a bullet in the cheek, which came out near the ear; shooting his antagonist dead, he came smiling, and waving his captured battle flag. The Sixth Corps took no prisoners and the rest of the cavalry comparatively few, and those mostly stragglers. Custer, prevented by the death of his horse from riding in the charge with his bodyguard, soon came up and engaged in a somewhat prolonged conversation with General Ewell, who believed the end was near. Generals Kershaw and Pickett, the latter of Gettysburg fame, were among the captured. From Namozine Church to Deep Creek the brigade had the advance and drove the cavalry before it, while taking prisoners. Custer marched both night and day. In a sharp skirmish with the First and Second Brigade, at Appomattox Station, he captured the trains of supplies coming up from Lynchburg on the railroad to meet Lee, the West Virginia Brigade supplying the engineers to run off the trains. Guarding this reserve was a strong force of infantry and artillery. In the gray morning, the West Virginia Brigade is again in the saddle. You see Custer at the head of the column: The sun at Appomattox is beginning to light up the scene, over the somewhat depressed plain, in which lies Appomattox Court House and the army of the doomed Confederacy. At some distance to the rear and right of Custer, you see another large body of cavalry. It is the division of the slower and more conservative, but sturdy, Devin, which is supporting Custer. General Smith, with his command, is considerably to the front of the colored troops, his artillery injudiciously advanced. The sun at Appomattox is now out in full force, its rays reflecting from the bayonets, guns and equipment of the vast array. And all the panoply of war is seen - horse, foot and artillery - with its various attendants. Yet, to an onlooker taking in the general scene, all is silent as death - quiet enjoined on either side and the ground more or less yielding; not so much as the curling smoke or the sound of a solitary rifle shot. The troops are seemingly moving to their appointed places as stalking phantoms of the dead and gone armies marshaling for the Last Judgment. Almost without a sign of warning, and hardly expected, rifles are cracking and cannon are roaring. Gordon is making his assault. A white flag is up. He reaches it at the head of the West Virginia Brigade. Colonel Capehart and the officer proceed along the column to Custer. He said to Custer: Custer, his face beaming with animation, gripping the rim of his hat with his right hand and giving it a few spasmodic jerks, as is his habit, replies: Whitaker, his chief of staff, he says to him: On taking command, Capehart throws out a skirmish line to the outer edge of the timber between him and the enemy, which becomes immediately engaged in a brisk fusillade. The advance brigade is promptly ordered to their support; and a charge is on the

point of being made. But the rattle-headed Confederate colonel in front of Capehart, swearing and talking of death in the "last ditch" in preference to surrender, is finally squelched by peaceful means, with the assistance of the same officer who had appeared with the flag truce, and all is again tranquil.

Chapter 7 : 1st West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry Regiment - Wikipedia

First Virginia Cavalry. Mustered in Confederate service for one year dated 1 July, Arrived at Manassas Junction, Prince William County, Virginia, 20 July,

He was appointed as lieutenant colonel, 1st Virginia Cavalry, on 29 September, Company A Newtown Light Dragoons: Company B Berkeley Troop: The company was accepted in state service at Lexington, Rockbridge County, Virginia, on 18 April, , and was ordered to Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, Virginia, in the evening the same day. Company D 1st Clarke Cavalry: Company F Shepherdstown Troop: Company G 1st Fauquier Mountain Rangers: Company G 2nd Amelia Light Dragoons: His resignation was accepted by Special Orders No. Company H Loudoun Light Horse: Company I Harrisonburg Cavalry: Company L 2nd Gloucester Light Dragoons: The company was assigned to the 26th Virginia Infantry between 31 August, , and 28 February, , and temporarily assigned to the 1st Virginia Cavalry on? The company was ordered to Romney, Hampshire County, Virginia, on 18 June, , and declined service with the 7th Virginia Cavalry due to dissatisfaction on 17 July, Company O Sumter Mounted Guards: Sources "The Howard Dragoons, Capt. Gaither, from Howard county, reached the city yesterday afternoon, and reported at headquarters. Harman, the Rockbridge Rifles Capt. They number near able-bodied men. This evening the Rockbridge Troop, Capt. White, 80 strong, leave for Staunton, and the Troop in the lower end of our county, Capt. McNutt, goes with them. Irving commanding, arrived in the city yesterday evening, and were quartered at Trinity Church, Franklin street. Their baggage arrived by the cars early in the day. Weisiger, Amelia Light Dragoons, has sufficiently recovered from an accidental wound, and has assumed the command of his company, now at Ashland. It is a fine looking company of gallant young men, with strong arms and brave hearts, who will do honor to old Rockingham wherever they may be placed. My captain and 1st Lieut. Many were killed and many were wounded. Among the killed was Wm Lee, Sally Robbins husband. None of our Shepherdstown company were killed or wounded. They were not immediately engaged. Report says that Colonel Allen hacked and lost 3 horses from my company. You must excuse this style of writing as I am in a great hurry. Morgan, 1st Virginia Cavalry, Manassas Junction, 23 July, "A vacancy having occurred in the captaincy of his old company, the Clarke Cavalry, he was elected to fill it, on the day of the first battle of Manassas. Immediately on hearing of this election, notwithstanding his very delicate health, he set off to assume command, but of necessity too late to take part in that glorious day, which was to him a keen disappointment. At the time when the New York Zouaves were attempting to outflank Capt. Stuart gave the order to charge to the Cavalry, which was gallantly and daringly obeyed by the Loudoun Cavalry. His Rockbridge Dragoons were third in the line. William Taylor alone captured six of the enemy with arms in their hands. I was near Captain Jones. It was present at the Battle of Manassas, but no detailed account of its operations has come to light. We were engaged in the battle. Had five men seriously wounded and one horse killed in the charge on the New York Fire Zouaves. Had a part in the chase and captured a number of prisoners. Took part in the battle and since that time have been with the regiment in Fairfax County. After a forced march of thirty-six hours arrived at Manassas on the eve of the battle. This company was commanded by Lieutenant Taylor, second in the column in the gallant charge made by a portion of the regiment on the New York Zouaves in which the enemy was broken and put to flight. Our men acted with distinguished bravery. After the general retreat we pursued that column fleeing by way of Sudley, some five miles, capturing many prisoners and encamped for the night on flats of Bull Run. My company was detached to watch the ford and report any movement of the enemy in that direction. In consequence of thus being detached my company did not arrive in time to participate in the battle of 21 July but we assisted to some extent in the pursuit. Engaged in the battle of Bull Run. Engaged in the ever memorable battle. In the morning were battled on to the battle against the grand Army of Abraham Lincoln. Engaged in battle at Bull Run. We participated in the grand battle. Marched from Romney to Manassas via Winchester, ninety miles. He had, we learn, been ordered to make a charge for the rescue of some prisoners, when he received a shot in the head, which killed him instantly. He was a gallant soldier, and met his death like a patriot. The letters and diaries of J. The 1st Rockbridge Dragoons No. The Rockbridge Dragoons No. A

detachment of the 1st Virginia Cavalry was engaged in a skirmish at Dam No. The regiment was ordered to Martinsburg, Berkeley County, Virginia, on in the morning on 17 June, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac, 25 September, Series I, Volume 2 Serial No.

Chapter 8 : 1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment

The 1st West Virginia Volunteer Cavalry Regiment served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Although it started slowly, it became one of the most active, and most effective, of the West Virginia Civil War regiments”and had 14 Medal of Honor recipients.

Chapter 9 : Antietam: 1st Virginia Cavalry

First Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia. 59 likes. First Calvary Baptist Church is a historic African-American Baptist church located in Norfolk.