

A gathering storm

Private Jeffrey Smith 1862 – 1865

“The Soldier”

FORWARD

The story of Private Jeffrey Smith, great, great grandfather was an amazing description of the way life was in those times. Just eighty-six years earlier, the newly enfranchised thirteen English colonies declared their Independence from the British Empire. Misinterpreted by many historians with describing England as “the mother country” it was an era of great changes. The Industrial Revolution was yet to take place in the early part of the 1800’s. Painfully slow newspapers being printing in small shops with hand set type and manually operated presses got those sheets of the latest news out to post riders who delivered them to local taverns and other places of business in post Colonial America. Militarily, there was no standing Colonial Army in the colonies, not until a newly formed and may be added; illegal in England’s eyes Continental Congress sitting in Philadelphia “authorized” one. The Representatives there actually had no more authority to authorize such a body of troops then a modern day street gang would have, in Britain’s way of looking at it. But after the Declaration of Independence, in 1776, the birth of a new nation did empower by virtue of it’s profound statement but even in the Declaration the words, “Ought to be free and independent states.....” still did not actually profess that they were....only that in the view of the upstart Continentals, they “should be--- but actually still weren’t”..... that point was to be decided by armed conflict with the King’s troops and only a defeat of either side would settle the argument.

The Fetterman side of our family had of it’s progenitors, soldiers who fought in the War for Independence and no doubt, so did the forefathers of Jeffrey Smith. Originally from German ancestry, the Fettermans had arrived in America very early from Europe and eventually after many years settled in the western part of Monroe County, “The west end”.. as it was often called. It was a large family, owning many farms and mills from there to the Stroudsburg area. Jeffrey Smith’s father had settled in Porter township, Pike County, a land of heavy but scrubby forests and stony, hard to plow ground but they made a living off the land, in sawmills, and farming. Jeffrey himself, like his brother, Moses, lived on the family holdings there eking out an existence while the rest of the young nation was forging new frontiers all the way to the Pacific. Life was extremely hard, education was either non-existent or in tiny one-room backwoods school houses. It was a far cry from the great plantations of the South where slavery kept an agrarian society entrenched. Jeffrey probably never had any contact with other people more than thirty-five miles in any direction from his home, much less ever meeting a person of color or hearing of the plight of slaves fleeing through the “underground railroad” as it was dubbed. He cared not for the political ramifications of slave states verses free states and had no conception of the inequality that existed between the North and the South. To him, each day, was one of subsistence farming, or wood cutting in the forests or driving a freight wagon perhaps over stony rough back woods roads.

Somehow in his meager travels he apparently came in contact with another man who had been given his “draft notice” to be called up for Army Service. After the Battle of Bull Run, President Lincoln issued a directive for the call up of 175,000 northern men for the Army. This quota was only filled by the first “draft” in U.S. History of its citizens to serve. It was met by outright rioting in the streets of New York and Baltimore by those who felt a national President had no authority to conscript it’s own citizens to force them unwillingly to serve or be arrested. And in fact it can still be argued today, that there is nothing in the original Declaration of Independence that gives authority for that. Yet our history proves it certainly has been the common practice ever since the Civil War to do just that.

Jeffrey agreed to serve in this man’s place for the sum of \$150.00. For him it was an “easy way” of earning a sizable sum of money to help his family survive. That amount of money in 1862 would today be equal probably to over ten thousand dollars. For about two dollars, a month’s worth of groceries could be bought at the General store for his family, and all other debts probably paid off.

The news he brought home that day probably was joyful that such an opportunity had come his way, but also slowly the realization that it also meant he would have to leave his Pike County home and travel farther than he had ever gone in his life up to that point to a strange country with unfamiliar people and the restrictive life in the Army. He packed his meager bag, kissed his wife good-bye and waved, and off he went. He was a man at the time of twenty-eight, in full health and equal promise, over the next three years that would change dramatically.

At Stroudsburg he signed enlistment papers and somehow made his way to Philadelphia. There was as yet no train connection in Stroudsburg, that wouldn't arrive until 1873 when the forerunner of the Susquehanna and Western finally laid tracks there. In Philadelphia he had his first real taste of Army life and eventually went on to Camp Curtin in Harrisburg. There, along with hundreds of other new recruits he started his indoctrination of life in the Union Army. From there his unit assigned to went on to Bladensburg, Maryland, one of the ring of forts surrounding Washington D.C. Commencing his drill there in Company "B" 180th Regiment of Volunteers he soon became immersed in Army life. Through on-going reorganization and shuffling about, he was assigned to the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry 163rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The term "volunteer" was indeed a misnomer in that he had not joined the Army for the glorious purpose of that, but in fact it had been for a fee to help his family survive at home. He still had no more animosity for a Southerner than anyone and as yet had not faced gunfire of someone else's rifle aimed at him. Hopefully this war would be over soon, and he would be back on his way to Porter township. The days ran slowly into each other, and his Regiment was detailed to move through Washington city and over the Long Bridge into Virginia where they encamped.

Over the next three and a half years until he was finally mustered out October 31st 1865, his life would be profoundly affected. With his fellow troopers he went into battle, suffering gunfire and saber charges, witnessed his friends being killed, and the horrors of the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Following that, and more campaigning, he was finally captured and made a prisoner of war and sent to Belle Island prison, an island in the James River just north of Richmond. With 10,500 other prisoners there he suffered undue horror and deprivation, contracted spinal disease from having to sleep on the open ground in all kinds of weather. Mercifully, he was among a fortunate few that were finally exchanged in December 1863 and made there way from City Point to Camp Parole in Maryland. A curious system of repatriation camps established to process exchanged prisoners. He was still basically a prisoner of war but now in a Union camp with hopefully better facilities and would remain so until the exchange was finalized. While there he lost the sight of his left eye in a wood splitting accident and still suffering from the spinal disease he was already a bent and crippled man, and now with only the sight of one eye.

He was afforded fifteen days leave to go home to Pike County, and once there was counseled by his family members not to go back to the deprivations of Army life. Indeed, the prospects of having to return to Camp Parole were not appealing, in his weakened condition, what possible use of service could he adequately perform in a Cavalry unit?...

In December of that year, he was arrested at his home its' said "by a soldier", and taken eventually back to Philadelphia along with his brother Moses who had also failed to respond to his draft call. There in January at a Military Prison he was afforded a courts martial hearing and it was the judgment that the charge was reduced to "misinterpretation of orders" but he was still listed in roll calls as a deserter. Possibly his past service at Gettysburg and with his Regiment, and later incarceration and his physical condition weighed on that decision. One can only theorize.

His pay was forfeited presumably for the remainder of his time in the Army or at least for the period he had been absent beyond furlough. From January until late April, well over three months he was confined in some manner either in a military prison or back at Camp Parole, Maryland.

Harsh as this may sound, it may have just saved Jeffrey's life, for his Regiment of the 18th cavalry was heavily engaged in fierce fighting on many campaigns, and most certainly may have been killed or at the least recaptured once more somewhere during that period of time.

He was now a broken man, the spinal disease incapacitated him from being an active cavalry man, and certainly having sight of only one eye; an unheard of reason for keeping a soldier in active duty today kept him from all but the most menial tasks. From arrival until July when he was finally discharged his brother Moses was continually sick and in the camp hospital. Jeffrey took him to the camp doctor and from there he was sent to a hospital and released back to his home in Pike County.

Private Jeffrey Smith however, for whatever reasons continued on and in late April of 1865 was reassigned to his Company M, 18th PA cavalry at camp near Winchester, Virginia. In operations there and until being mustered out with only 37 of the original compliment of 333 men assigned on October 31st, 1865 he made his way home to Porter township in Pike County.

Throughout the remainder of his life he continually fought for and applied for his Army pension, a quarterly sum that could mean the difference between having something for his family to eat or not. These applications continued even into the 1890's when it's presumed it was finally granted, thirty-five years after he had signed his enlistment papers to serve the Union. A tired, and broken man, he none-the less raised a family of nine children and after arriving home he was always referred to by friends, family, and neighbors as "the soldier..Jeffrey Smith"..

Other more glorious stories about the Civil War may be told, of famous battles and brave men who faced bullets and cannon fire- but in my eyes, Private Jeffrey Smith, was as much a hero as anyone of those others. He survived the deprivations of a harsh life, served his country in time of war, became a prisoner of war, suffered excruciatingly painful injuries and disease, and then had to fight a burecratic and at times unfeeling authority for a small measly sum to help support his family in later life. I believe he gave his true full measure of what he was able to do, there is a certain honor in being referred to as "the soldier"; is it not the same honor given to any veteran and rightfully so.



The "Grand Review" in Washington D.C. 1865 celebrating the return of the victorious Union Army; riding in the forefront were such notables as General Sherman, General Joshua Chamberlain and George Armstrong Custer.

“A gathering storm”



Fig.1

A story of Jeffrey Smith's exploits during the American Civil War 1861 – 1865

*This is partly a work of fiction, but based on actual known facts of the life of Jeffrey Smith known in later life by his family members as “*The Soldier*”. Jeffrey Smith is the great great grandfather of the author.

Facts as known of Jeffrey Smith's war-time experiences from Civil War Veteran Card file archives 1861 – 1865 Pennsylvania State archives.

Jeffrey Smith b: June 03, 1834 Pike County, PA Porter township

d: January 29th 1906 Pike County, PA Porter township

father: William C. Smith

mother: Mary Counterman

wife: Esther Miller

Children:

George C. Smith; Suvannah C. Smith; Jeffrey S. Smith; Dinah M. Smith; Daniel M. Smith; Harvey E. Smith; E. Smith; Elizabeth M. Smith; Morris L. Smith; Lorenzo E. Smith*

**direct line*

*From PA State archives

Mustered in @ Philadelphia, PA November 15th 1862, sent to Camp Curtan and then in December 1862 on to Bladensburg, Maryland. In January, moved into Virginia two miles from Fairfax Courthouse on the Little River turnpike at Germantown.

June 25th 1863 proceeded to Middletown Pennsylvania under command of General Kilpatrick* and became known as the 3rd Cavalry Corps.

@ Littlestown on the 29th and Hanover, Pennsylvania on the 30th of June 1863. In July they moved on to Berlin and then returned to New Oxford.

July 3rd, 1863 @ Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They moved to the rear of the Union lines beyond the Round Tops where they were engaged in battle*

On July 4th, 1863, they passed through Emmetsburg, Maryland and on to Hagerstown MD again meeting the enemy.

@ Falling Waters they captured 500 Confederates and 2 field pieces, and in mid-July 1863, crossed the Potomac. In the Fall and winter engaged at Culpeper and Brandy Station, Virginia.

@ Brandy Station, listed as missing but made his way back to his Regiment. On October 14th, 1863 captured at Bristow, Virginia and taken prisoner of war. Sent to

Belle Island prison at Richmond for 2 months and 13 days. Released was sent to Camp Parole, Maryland. Developed spinal disease in prison at Richmond and at Camp Parole, lost the sight of his left eye.

April 22nd 1863 was given 15 days leave to return home to Pike County, PA but failed to return when his furlough was up to his Regiment. Remained at his home until December 27th, 1864 when he was arrested and returned to Philadelphia. Returned to Camp Parole and then on to camp at Winchester, Virginia, arriving there April 30th, 1865.

Most of the rest of the time in the Army was spent in Maryland or Virginia engaged in scouting and skirmishes with the enemy.

Mustered out October 31st 1865 @ Cumberland, Maryland.

Wartime description:

Company "M" 18th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry.

April 30th 1865 Jeffrey Smith, age 28 years* ht; 5' 4" dark complexion, hazel eyes born in Pike County, PA; occupation at enlistment; Teamster enlisted November 15th, 1862

Transferred to Company "D" 3rd Provisional Cavalry July 14th, 1865

*Civil War Vet Card file 1861 – 1865 PA State Archives



Fig 2 Fairfax County Courthouse Va.

“Present Arms”

The preceding information covers a lot of history and only summarizes the “surface” of events that happened in Jeffrey Smith’s life during that time period. Born in the back woods of Pike County, Pennsylvania, life was hard growing up as can be imagined. At the time he enlisted, he was already 28 years old which by the date above from 1865 would have made him 31 when he mustered out. By today’s standards, this is an older age to still be serving as a “line soldier”.

Married at the time of his enlistment, he saw joining the Army as a means of making some money to support his family which many did at that time in the north. Although actually outlawed, many authorities confidently “looked the other way” and took no action to discourage the practice of a wealthier man to “sell” his draft time to someone for a fee so they would not have to serve. A “substitute” thusly was made use of and Jeffrey was paid the sum of \$150.00 for his time to serve in another’s place. Such a sum of money in the 1860’s was a sizable amount when for as little as \$2.00, would buy a month’s worth of groceries at the nearby General Store for your family. And after-all this war was going to over in no more than two months anyway, and Jeffrey would be on his way back home to Pike County.



Fig 3 *Sudley Springs Va.*

After recruitment papers were signed, probably in Stroudsburg, he made his way to Philadelphia where he was officially mustered in to the Union Army and got his assignment to continue on with a newly formed Regiment to Camp Curtain, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. During the course of the War, some 300,000 enlisted men passed through the gates at Camp Curtain.

Muster rolls indicate he was placed in Company “B” 180th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers as of December 8th, 1862 with a muster in date of November 15th, 1862 at Philadelphia. Book mark #765-L(?) -86

Horsemen and good ones were in dire need for as the First Battle of Bull Run July 21st 1861 had proven, this war was going to take a bit longer than had first been thought. The first full year, Jeffrey was in the Army, little if anything is known from existing records of his activities. Training, then was short and swift, probably no more than three weeks before being assigned to a Regiment.

By December of 1862 the Regiment Jeffrey was assigned went to Bladensburg, Maryland. The town originally called "Garrison's Landing" was established in 1742. During the Revolutionary War, skirmishes between British redcoats and Continental troops took place nearby and again during the War of 1812 it was on a more or less direct route of march of the British after they had sacked and burned the U.S. capitol. During the Civil War, it was one of the ring of fortified camps surrounding Washington D.C. and served as a "staging area" for Army units being assigned elsewhere. There they began their "drill" and were issued a "condemned saber" as their only armament.

The First Army Corps at it's top strength consisted of 46 Regiments of infantry and 12 batteries of light artillery, and was organized in March 1862 with three Divisions under General Irwin McDowell. In the Maryland campaign it was under General Joe Hooker and at Gettysburg in 1863, under Abner Doubleday. In the Peninsula Campaign (so named for the topography between the James River and Chesapeake bay) in April 1862 McDowell's Corps was officially designated as the Third Corps Army of Virginia, but after Lincoln was forced to reinstate George B. McClellan it was restored to its' former title as the First Army Corps.

*In February 1863 Companies "L" and "M" were added to the 18th Cavalry's roster as these had been wanting for a full compliment. As this period involves the where-about of Jeffrey Smith during this time frame, little is actually known of day to day activities. Some of the Pennsylvania units were held as a Reserve force and participated in some of the major engagements. In January (1st) 1863, the unit which Jeffrey Smith was assigned to moved into Virginia, at a place called "Long Bridge" *1 finally into "Reb country" and two weeks later to a position two miles from Fairfax Courthouse on the Little River Turnpike two weeks later. This is southwest of Annapolis a number of miles at Germantown.*2*

The 18th Pennsylvania was part of the Brigade which included the Fifth New York and the First Vermont Cavalry and it's duties here included the defensive picketing the long lines and approaches to Washington and the Virginia shore and scouting on its front. Enemy country, and the operational area of Confederate guerilla Mosby made this exceedingly hazardous duty. Armed only with a condemned saber, which by today's standards would seem like issuing a combat soldier only a knife, the cavalry's main weapon was his horsemanship and versatility at maneuvering over long distances. Better armed infantry units were the main defensive /offensive ability. Those troopers who had been issued Smith carbines were little better off as these were highly inaccurate and could only be used when dismounted.

By early Spring, a brigade of Michigan troops under Lt col. Custer was added bringing the total strength up to a full Division. General Julius Stahel was put in command and was charged with defending the gaps of the Blue Ridge mountains. Smith carbines were exchanged for Burnside carbines.

Between this time frame and the next document date from the State archives, that of June 1863, many very important engagements took place, among which was the Battle of Kelly's Ford March 17, 1863. This battle set the stage for the upcoming ones at Brandy Station June 9th 1863 and the Gettysburg cavalry campaigns that followed.

On the 25th of June, 1863 the command left Fairfax Court House, crossed the Potomac and proceeded by way of Frederick, Maryland to Middletown, Pennsylvania below Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River, but it's not believed they reached there. That had been the original intention but the situation at that time was very fluid. Hooker did not know exactly where Lee's Army was.

Army command was sending Regiments to cover large sweeps of areas from Washington city to Harrisburg, fearful that a Southern attack could materialize at any place. As Stahel's Division was heading north, unbeknownst to them, Lee was at that moment passing up the opposite side of South Mountain and J.E.B. Stuart was in process of reigning confusion and mayhem behind Union lines with lightening-like raids and galloping maneuvers far to the east and around the Union Army. In mid-stride here now during this march, Stahel was relieved by Judson Kilpatrick who had received his Brigadier star June 13th.

Reserve units were pressed into service to cover areas. From Fairfax Virginia to Middletown Pennsylvania a distance of some 132 miles over 1863 style roads. On the 29th of June, the Regiment reached Littlestown, PA and pushing hard the next day arrived at Hanover, Pennsylvania on the 30th. Here they clashed briefly with units of J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry who were ranging far afield from his own headquarters and to the consternation of General Lee. Now under the command of General Judson Kilpatrick, the Third Cavalry corp. The climatic battle at Gettysburg was closing fast.



Fig 4 Hugh Judson Kilpatrick Civil War photo

Morning boots and saddles had Kilpatrick's cavalry up by dawn, saddled mounts and headed off to intercept more of Stuart's men if they were in the

area. They ranged north from Hanover to Berlin, thence southeast to Abbottstown by July 2nd. Confederate General Euell who had, had his Army as far north as Carlisle where they had burned the railroad bridge over the Susquehanna, setting fire to the town beyond by blowing embers, had now redeployed and had come over the mountain to Gettysburg where they were engaged with Buford's cavalry. The first fighting was already taking place at Gettysburg on the 1st, when foraging Confederates entered the town and ran into the Federal Cavalry of General Buford and his 2500 men. Dismounting and fighting as infantry they held the on-coming rebels at bay until finally General Reynolds* arrived with his Corp.

Kilpatrick's brigades then returned through New Oxford, where they could hear the far off booming of cannon fire from Gettysburg. In the early evening a dispatch from the new Commanding General's headquarters of George Meade* to redeploy to the rear of the Union lines behind Round Top to counter a possible Confederate rear flank action had Kilpatrick's troopers again riding hard. They had been continually in the saddle for over forty-eight hours with little rest being pressed from one position to the next. Their mounts were wearing out also, but true to "Kill-Cavalry" Kilpatrick's reputation he cared not for his men's discomfort or most of their well-being. They finally arrived at Two Taverns long after twilight and made camp.

page notes;

*General Reynolds was killed by a Rebel sharpshooter as he spurred his men on to drive the rebels out the woods at his front.

*General George Gordon Meade replaced General Hooker just prior to the Gettysburg fight, Lincoln had been unimpressed by Hooker's inability to locate General Lee's army before they arrived in Pennsylvania.

*Meade, a rather bookish looking "damned old goggle-eyed snapping turtle" as was remarked arrived after dark on the evening of the 1st, with orders from Lincoln to defeat Robert E. Lee. He replaced whiskey drinking, profane "fighting" Joe Hooker, a diminutive but feisty career Army officer who went to command Union forces for the rest of the war. General Buford himself later in the war succumbed to pneumonia, after leading a very distinguished Army career.

Major General George Stoneman was put in overall command of the Union Cavalry Corps and he was so, during the Battle of Kelly's Ford where another young officer, Captain Marcus Reno commanded a Brigade at Kelly's Ford. Reno, much later in 1876 at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Wyoming at first garnered the scorn of career Army officers who accused him of not coming to Custer's aide when he was over-run by thousands of hostiles, but after a court of inquiry cleared Reno of any wrong-doing he was partly exonerated. As it turned out, Reno himself was in dire straits and also under attack and had all he could do to save his own troopers.



Fig 5 *Rickett's battery under fire*

“A Crash of Thor’s hammer!”

The Gettysburg Campaign as it is later referred to by Civil War scholars started when General Lee, and the Southern Presidency of Jefferson Davis began to push for some kind of a climatic battle that would once and for all make the North realize that the cost of this War was too much and have Washington in a position it was threatened and would sue for an end to hostilities. Before Gettysburg, the South was riding a “wave of great promise” that their Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee was invincible. Morale was at its high point among Southern troops, at least in the deep South and Virginia. Vicksburg however was another story, there was little in the way of high morale for the beleaguered citizens of that city on the Mississippi as it was under siege by a as yet little known Union general named Ulysses S Grant

Under Robert E. Lee’s insistence, his Army moved ever northward up the sheltered valleys of northern Virginia toward Pennsylvania. Flanked by his able Cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart his army of some 70,000 soldiers edged ever northward shadowed by an even larger Union force under Hooker to the

east side of the mountains. Both Armies were putting out scouting forays to find their opponent's positions. By June, the two Armies were closing gaps, bobbing and weaving like two huge prize-fighters looking for an opening. On June 9th, Stuart's cavalry and Union cavalry came together at what was called the largest single Cavalry battle of the War involving some 20,000 combatants. It ended in a draw, both sides neither winning nor gaining ground and Union General Alfred Pleasanton in command of some 11,000 Union men did not discover the where-about of General Lee's bivouacked Army of North Virginia. One of the odysseys of this battle was that on June 5th, just 4 days before, the flamboyant J.E.B. Stuart held a "Grand Review" of his entire force at Brandy Station, complete with simulated battle. General Lee however could not attend. Stuart's 9,500 cavalry troopers fought hard but after Brandy Station, the Union's cavalry forces gained ground rapidly on their counterparts.

Stuart devised a plan of his own after that and sallied his cavalry eastward seeking the Union Army and proceeded to ride nearly completely around it, actually coming within sight of the capitol dome at Washington, before continuing on his circuitous route into Pennsylvania. Much to the disdain and chagrin of General Lee who was deprived of his "eyes of the Army" as he referred to Stuart. Later privately and severely rebuffed by an angry Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg, Stuart was said to have offered Lee his sword in disgrace, but was counseled by Lee who called him one of the finest cavalry officers in his Army and was needed.

By June 25th 1863, Jeffrey Smith's Regiment was ordered to Middletown, Pennsylvania and was placed under the command of General Judson Kilpatrick. It was reorganized then as the Third Cavalry Corps.

Known as "kill-cavalry", he had received that unglamorous name by fellow officers and enlisted alike. Utterly fearless in battle, wounded already several times and unhorsed at the Battle of Amisville, he gained notoriety by sacrificing his men without due process of "charity" to them in the face of withering enemy fire. He was both cussed at and cussed with, was known by other officers to be vain and self serving, seeking out the most glory filled assignments, not caring of the cost of his own men in the process, but he was a fighter. If there was a particular nasty job that needed doing, his superiors knew who to pick for it and that man was Judson Kilpatrick.

Born on his family farm in Wantage, near Deckertown, (now Sussex NJ) New Jersey's farm country, he was admitted to West Point because of his father's career in the Army and graduated a 2nd Ltn of Artillery. His family influence he quickly rose to Captain in the 5th NY infantry; Duryea's Zouaves. He also had the painful distinction of being the first Union officer wounded in the Civil War at the Battle of Big Bethel June 10th, 1861 taking shrapnel in his thigh. Afterwards he assumed being 2ndLtn in the NY Cavalry which he helped organize.

His camps were known to be badly kept and he himself had even been jailed for selling Army provisions to raise money for his troopers. But he was a man

that got things done when things were needed doing. His men, among them Pvt Jeffrey Smith who was now "Company M" 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry fought at Aldie and Upper Ville and clashed with J.E.B. Stuart at Hanover, Pennsylvania on June 30th.

Back on June 13th he had been promoted to Brigadier General at just 28 years old, followed closely by another equally brash and glory-bound young officer, George Armstrong Custer who achieved that rank, being the youngest officer in the Army to do so at just 21. Custer was assigned as one of Kilpatrick's subordinates as a Lt Colonel before Gettysburg. Kilpatrick assumed Divisional command on June 30th.

The prelude to the Gettysburg fight had started in late June when the first elements of Lee's Army crossed the border State line into Maryland and officially began his "invasion of the north" Maryland, as Missouri and Kansas was a "border State", and was split fairly evenly between sympathies for the South but in the Federal legislature sided with the North. The makeup of the State is clearly, Southern in nature and respect, and there were many slave-owning families in Maryland before the war. There were, as there is many respects still is today "two-Maryland's". The Eastern shore peninsula which it shares with Delaware and Virginia is flat, loamy land suited to the growing of tobacco, peanuts and cotton, much like the rest of the South, while the central and western parts of the State is hilly to mountainous country and the northern expanse of the Shenandoah Valley region. "Pennsylvanian's" here even today are still referred to as "Yankees"; but not in any derogatory term, merely an historical reference. In the 1860's, there were very clear distinctions however. Marylanders often found themselves fighting each other on the battlefield, in one such fight; a wounded southern Marylander was approached by his Union counterpart and hollered at "...don't you know- your fighting your own people?!"..... which produced an unknown reply from the dying soldier....

In some respects, Maryland in the first years of the war was much like New Jersey had been during the Revolutionary War eighty-five years earlier. In that earlier conflict, much of the War for Independence was fought between New York City and Philadelphia, across the plains and hills of New Jersey as the redcoats and continentals fought bloody combat with each other.

Jeffrey Smith who had most likely never travelled beyond the borders of his native Porter township in Pike County, Pennsylvania was out of his element when he enlisted in the Army. Like many men, at that time, who seldom travelled more than thirty-five miles in any one direction from their home, finding one's-self in the "far off" land of Virginia was as if today, travelling to Europe might be! Having taken the place of another who had been drafted and paid the sum of \$150.00 for it, he had enlisted simply in the Union Army as his papers indicated, however, being from Pike County PA, which was the recruitment area for the 18th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry he was lumped

in with others in a "volunteer" status. In that capacity, he and his fellow soldiers were issued sub-standard equipment, such as a "condemned saber" or a "second-grade" issue weapon of the U.S. Cavalry Corps. This was their only armament. Later Smith carbines were issued and these were replaced just before Gettysburg with new Burnside carbines with saddle rings. Companies "L" and "M" were the last two to be organized in the 163rd regiment. As a Cavalry soldier, the men were responsible for the care of their mounts and their meager equipment which was probably no more than a bedroll, and rations, a canteen, their saddle and bridle for their mount, their worn saber and carbine whose large ring slipped over or was tied by a strap to the pommel. In the field, they slept on the ground in their bedrolls and travelled light. Supply wagons brought up tents and utensils for longer encampments and an infirmary set up. But later; travelling with "Kil-cavalry" Kilpatrick, these comforts were few and far apart it seems as the details of their maneuvers are followed. From when the regiment left Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia and headed north, shadowing Lee's Army, the 18th was in nearly constant motion, stopping only for a hasty camp for a brief rest and a meal. And they were constantly sniping at or being sniped upon...by J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry. At Hanover, Pennsylvania, Kilpatrick himself with the vanguard had already ridden through town in search of their wily foe and was in process determining his next move when units of the 18th Pennsylvania now passing had suddenly been surprised by Stuart as they galloped down nearly parallel streets in town, rounding a corner and being confronted by a charging rebel yell from horsemen. Momentarily thrown into confusion by the ferocity of the Rebel leader's attack they were thrown back in temporary disarray

Kilpatrick coming to the rescue rallied his men and drove the Rebels off with his own cavalry in hot pursuit. Stuart who had already captured some one-hundred Union supply wagons was managing an unwieldy force by then and realized he had to get back to contact with Lee's main Army that was now fighting at Gettysburg, but a stubborn charge by Custer blocked Stuart's path and by some accounts prevented him from getting back to Lee until after the Gettysburg fighting. Other accounts have Stuart returning on the late afternoon of the 2nd to be severely chastised by Lee for his disobedience of orders.

The over-all picture of events in those very active and confused last days of June and into the Gettysburg fight is often over-looked by the over-powering weight of information about the actual Battle of Gettysburg itself. As is often the case, the real story is in the details of what and how things transpired. The events as seen through a single soldier's eyes, someone perhaps like Pvt Jeffrey Smith.

_____ / _____

*July 1st, the opening day of the Gettysburg battle, Kilpatrick's Division*3 which the 18th Pennsylvania was part of still chasing after Stuart east of Gettysburg. On the 2nd, Custer was detached by headquarters to continue after Stuart east of Gettysburg which he did and successfully foiled that mounted force from cutting into the Union rear. Kilpatrick was down to one Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Elon J. Farnsworth who had only sewn his star on the day before. Among those troopers were the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, "Company M" and trooper Jeffrey Smith. Kilpatrick's force sallied forth from their camp at Two Taverns and very quickly covered the ground to the rear of Little Round Top. The rebel charge that Lee had hoped would "split the Federal line at the little coupes of trees before him was underway"*

Confederate gun batteries had opened fire with round shot from positions just below Seminary ridge, in that they were firing slightly uphill at the Union lines and so their elevated barrels put a goodly number of rounds harmlessly over the prone Union troops, landing instead far to the rear. Some landed very near the Union commanding General's headquarters. A Rebel Whitworth rifled gun had been brought up and began firing at Federal cannon with great effect, knocking out several gun crews. This English made breech loading rifled gun fired a eight sided "bolt" with an explosive timed charge and in the hands of a well trained gun crew, could be devastating at long range. It was the precursor of later day accurate field gun firing right into the Spanish-American War in 1898. There were very few of them that made it through the Naval blockade to the Southern Armies, along with the British made Enfield musket and a curious French made pistol, the "LeMat" having a 6 shot revolving cylinder with a .410 shotgun barrel which the cylinder pivoted around. Nathan Bedford Forrest carried one in his forays.

Farnsworth was given the order to demonstrate against the Confederate right in front of Little Round Top which only the day before had been hotly contested, the dead still littered the field, the scene must have been of absolute carnage and a page out of Dante's Hell itself... He protested that it was suicide and a slaughter of his men to do so, but Kilpatrick cowered Farnsworth into going with a threat that he would go instead if not! This was during the ingenious "Pickett's charge" where between 11,000 to 15,000 Confederates stormed across a mile of open ground under killing gunfire from Union guns.

"Company M" along with others followed Farnsworth in front of the Round Tops- what followed can only be imagined of the ferocity they faced. How Jeffrey Smith survived is itself astonishing... Farnsworth was hit five times and his horse killed under him, several of the 18th were wounded but none killed. Private Smith among them straggled back to their lines, some

unhorsed, others grabbing wounded comrades and hoisting, half dragging them back.

During this time, some of the 18th were only armed with a condemned cavalry saber, they had been issued the newer Burnside carbines, replacing the older weaker Smith rifle, a clumsy short barreled carbine that was about as accurate as throwing a rock. Some most likely also carried Army or Navy revolvers picked up along the way. The more affluent commands equipped their men with better quality weapons. The Army then was not the well oiled highly mobilized force of today. It was largely up to the Commanders of each Regiment to procure proper arms for his men, even cities and towns would buy armaments for their own troopers. During it's time on the Penninsula campaign they suffered from inadequate arms and the guerrilla tactics of Mosby's Rangers who were peaceful citizens during the day but deadly assassins at night.

Surviving the carnage that day, must have been an unspeakable horror for Pvt Jeffrey Smith and his comrades, they had lost their commander, and most likely eighty-percent of their force. The Confederates equally faired little better. Inside of an hour or more, some 6,800 to 9,000 had been killed wounded, missing or captured in that charge across the wheat fields and fences.

General Longstreet in his memoirs of the war recalled Farnsworth's valiant charge, Kilpatrick made little mention of it after his daily reports to headquarters. With Pickett's charge turned back and Lee's forces clearly disheartened by their terrific losses, Custer who now had returned from turning back Stuart, chided General Meade to push the attack on the Confederate left, but there was no more fight left in either side other than that. What was left of Company M, picked up its pieces and retrieved the body of their fallen new Brigadier from the battleground. They camped that night not far from the blood soaked fields, somber, conscious all of what they had been through. The water of Plum Run was said to be running red that evening and over 5,000 dead horses alone lay in the fields amid some total of 53,000 casualties. The town of Gettysburg would take months to recover, the stench of death lingered everywhere. Soldiers from both sides were found by townspeople for weeks afterward. The only lady killed there was a woman baking bread at here oven. A minie ball had come crashing through her wall and struck her in her head. Cannon balls tore holes in barns and the Theogioan seminary, haystacks were set afire by rifle fire. Farmers fences torn down, farm animals destroyed by shot and shell. The concussion from the largest cannonade ever on the North American continent on July 3rd shattered all the windows of the town and could be heard forty miles away. Captain Ezra Fielding of the Union Army First Corp field staff exclaimed it sounded like a thousand "crashes of Thor's hammer" the cannonading broke ear drums, explosions rippled the air with visual sound waves, shrapnel flew everywhere, tore the siding off houses in Gettysburg town, errant cannon balls

bounced along the ground like drunken bowling balls, smashing everything before them. Many of the South's howitzer shells overshot the Union lines because of their trajectory and landed in the rear areas where the ambulances and horses were held, great carnage was done there. A cannon ball ricocheted off the corner of the porch where General Meade was standing, another foot and that would have been his end. Another took the head off an Army Chaplain who had bent over to care for a wounded man. Rifle fire split fence rail, went through walls, bounced off rocks. One bullet tore through a man's body and split another man's musket stock. General Hancock was hit in the lower abdomen as he sat his horse near the Union line, as an aide pleaded with him to get down sir "we cannot spare you.....!"...

The fields of Gettysburg the next Spring said to be the prettiest green ever, fertilized by the grisly carnage of 53,000 casualties and animals. Trees had their limbs torn from them by shrapnel. Little Round Top gradually grew back with its cover of trees and today as you walk the Gettysburg battlefield the sounds of that carnage is muted. Children play a-top the sharp turn in the little rock wall called "the bloody angle". The wall itself not more than two feet or so high, barely looks high enough to hide a rabbit, but on July 3rd 1863, this was the High water mark of Pickett's charge. Today, monuments mark where men fought and died and even yet the Battle is recounted over and over by Historians seeking a different aspect of it. I visited there some years ago, long before I knew our great great grandfather had fought there, and I had an eerry presence of mind that somehow I knew I was more connected to this place than just reading about it in a history book. Little did I know at the time but I had been standing not more than several hundred feet from the peach orchard near Devils Den before Little Round Top, where Jeffrey Smith had fought with his fellow troopers one-hundred forty-nine years ago. Standing solemnly on the piled stone wall of Little Round Top, all was quiet now, it was quite a different picture then.

On July 4th, 1863; Independence Day ironically- Kilpatrick's regiment picked itself up, collected it's gear and moved out quickly on horse in pursuit of Lee's retreating Army toward Maryland. They passed through Emmitsburg and by midnight, made contact with Ewell's wagon train near Monterey Springs in the process of crossing South Mountain. Kilpatrick was between Ewell's train and the vanguard of the now retreating Rebel Army. He had captured over a thousand prisoners, two pieces of rebel artillery and about 200 wagons and ambulances. loaded with severely wounded men. Many of these because of the headlong pace being set overturned into steep gorges, exacerbating the injured terribly. In the morning after all this carnage, the wagons that were still upright were formed in a circle and set ablaze to deny them from falling back into rebel hands.

During that day Rebel cavalry harassed Kilpatrick from the front and rear but he held them off and delivered his prisoners to the Union garrison at Boonsboro. On July 5th the Brigade which Kilpatrick had with him (Custer was still on detached duty back at Gettysburg and had not rejoined yet) moved back into Hagerstown and soon met the head of the retreating Rebel column. Kilpatrick ordered a charge by two Battalions of the 18th and the enemy was chased through the town and a Rebel Colonel was captured. The 18th lost heavily in the narrow streets using only their sabers against an enemy armed with pistols. A woman fired from a window striking an 18th Sergeant. Skirmishes in Hagerstown between contending artillery was kept up as more retreating Rebel Battalions began arriving from the north. Two companies of the 18th were cut to pieces in a vain attempt to discover the enemy's strength, few returned. Kilpatrick and his Battalion were basically "out in front" during this entire time fighting the War alone, as Meade and his Army was still back in Gettysburg picking up the pieces. The old nemesis, J.E.B. Stuart appeared on the 8th at Boonsboro where there was a sharp fight. By this time Meade and Lee were maneuvering their strength and on the 12th, the Division finally occupied Hagerstown.

General Lee's main Army was still engrossed in fording the Potomac at Falling Waters. The 18th was sent to charge a Rebel Brigade that had been left to guard the right bank and about 500 prisoners were taken of exhausted Southern troops and two artillery pieces. By July 14th, 1863; Kilpatrick moved on Williamsport and then on to Falling Waters where the main body of Confederates had crossed the night before. With Lee's Army again safely across the Potomac and able to continue back into Virginia, so basically ended the Gettysburg campaign.

By July 6th, all the able bodied Southern troops had left Gettysburg through Cashtown and were headed through a driving rain toward Maryland Lee's exhausted Army got to the rain swollen banks of the Potomac and had to wait four days for the water to recede to ford. Meade was severely criticized by Lincoln for not following up on this crucial delay and forcing another decisive battle. Although the Federal forces outnumbered Lee's now severely depleted force, they had expended nearly all their heavy ordinance at the battle and supplies to provide for up to 100,000 men are not moved quickly. The dead and wounded at Gettysburg was a monumental job to take care of. The town was in ruins, as was Chambersburg and many others that were in the way of up to 200,000 men, wagons, pack trains and equipment. The countryside had been picked clean by Southern troops and foraging parties. Add to that, Meade realized that despite General Lee's misfortune at Gettysburg, he was still holding a powerful force, some of Lee's troops had not even seen fighting during the battle and as yet were still highly mobile and adequately armed.

Finally the waters receded, and Lee got his Army across at Fallen Waters (West Virginia) leaving some of the earlier captured Federal wagons on the Pennsylvania side as a ruse. News of the Federal victory at Vicksburg however did more to dampen the South's prospects. That upstart General out there, Grant, would prove to be the undoing of all that remained of the South's insurrection.

“Brandy Station again....”

Gettysburg was a monumental defeat for the Confederacy, it ended General Lee's “offensive war” against the north and although as late as 1864 there were still occasional harassments, even another raid on Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 1864, the South, after Gettysburg fought a defensive hit and run tactic.

On September 13th, 1863 an engagement was fought by cavalry at Culpepper Court House. The Bristow Campaign as it is called resulted in the second battle near Brandy Station on October 11th, 1863. The 163rd regiment charged an enemy force from Culpeper. The commander, Major Van Voorhis was lost along with 3 lieutenants and 50 men captured. Jeffrey Smith was listed among the missing in action October 11th 1863, but somehow made his way back to his company the next day. Two days later on the 14th, at Bristow Station, Virginia, Pvt Jeffrey Smith was taken prisoner of war and eventually was transported to the 2nd most notorious prison in the South at Belle Island, near Richmond. He was reported “Missing action” at **Broad Run**, Va October 14th, 1863. *The conflicting locations possibly due to that theater of the war was referred to as “The Bristow Campaign”, however Broad Run is actually located some miles north of that.*

Held there under the most deplorable human conditions for two months and thirteen days he developed spinal disease, dysentery, and a host of other ailments and how he survived at all is a wonder of the human spirit. On October 23rd, 1863 according to one report there were 10,500 prisoners at Belle Island prison. This was during the time Jeffrey Smith was there. There were no tents, no cover at all, no food, no sanitary conditions, the waters of the James River served as the “walls”, some prisoners tried to escape, were either drowned in their emaciated condition or shot by guards, few survived their attempt and if they did, were far behind enemy lines. Sometime during his captivity he was among a fortunate few that were taken into Richmond to the Confederate hospital there, where some care may have been marginally better but assured not by much. The South was hurting, Rebel troops barely had food to feed themselves, their uniforms were in tatters with no replacements, yet their willpower was strong and they always seem to have ample supplies of arms and gunpowder.

On December 24th, 1863 one of the truly miraculous miracles of warfare took place and Pvt Smith with some others were selected to be “paroled” from Confederate prison and sent to Camp Parole, Maryland which is near Annapolis. Papers indicate he was paroled at City Point, Va 12/24/1863 and reported at Camp Parole, Maryland January 3rd, 1864; 10 days later. Another date for Camp Parole is also found for December 29th, 1863.

Despite the horrors of the Civil War and the untold stories of places like Belle Island, Libby, and Andersonville prisons, there were moments of great joy. Chivalry it seems was still practiced to a limited extent in exchanging prisoners. A like number of Union prisoners could be exchanged for the same number of Rebels where their physical conditions warranted it.

This all ended when Northern Newspapers spurred on by Walt Whitman’s observations of conditions in these camps raised public outcry to a fever pitch. Prisoner exchanges were curtailed eventually by US Grant in August of 1864 and on July 18th 1865, Camp Parole was finally vacated. This hurt the South more than ever for now they were deprived of getting some of their men back to fight again. The parole conditions were subject to a time limit, a returning prisoner was obligated to serve in Parole camp. During his stay in Maryland, and accident lost the sight of his left eye which further debilitated his already weakened state. At Camp Parole, it was intended to be a “way-station” for returned men to either return to their units or be discharged.

Despite Pvt Jeffrey Smith’s condition, he was not discharged, one can only assume that this was due to the fact he had been serving in another man’s place for the fee he received since 1862. Despite having survived the fighting up to now, included in that, Gettysburg, incarceration as a prisoner of war, death dealing disease and the loss of eyesight, and no doubt other wounds, he was granted fifteen days furlough on April 22nd 1864 to go home to Pike County, Pennsylvania to visit his family. How thoughtful of the Army to do that, is mind boggling....

Arriving home, and recounting the horrors of war he had witnessed over the past year and a half he had been away, and recuperating from his illness he suffered, he was urged by family and friends not to go back. During this time period his brother, Moses C. Smith [Feb 4,1829- Dec 26, 1908] on June 27th, 1864 had received his Union draft notice and likewise refused to report. The War was still boiling with ghastly results in killed and wounded partly due to an incredible number of “new methods” of warfare. Better munitions, repeating rifles, and a most deadly device by a dentist, Doctor John Gatling, a ten barreled revolving gun mounted on a cannon carriage and dubbed the “the Gatlin gun” it fired new copper rim-fire .45 caliber ammunition at up to 325 rounds per minute.. Armored vessels based on the Monitor design were now used against shipping and sophisticated mines were developed. Upwards of three million Union men were now in uniform against a dwindling half starved Southern population.

*Jeffrey had decided with the advice of friends and family at home not to go back to the Army, he states "I would have gone back if people had not advised me to do so..." he was reported a deserter May 8th, 1864 and was absent without leave for roll call at Philadelphia January-February 1865, forfeiture of all pay now due as per sentence G.C.M. No. 148 Military Govt, Alexandria, Va Feb. 17, 1865, subsequent rolls found, he was transferred to Co. D 3rd Prov. Pa Cav. July 20, 1865 and was mustered out of service with that Oct 31, 1865 [dated July 13th 1875] Washington D.C. **

**Other notes indicate he was indeed mustered out in Company "M" 18th Pa Cav. that date at Cumberland, Maryland. (doc dated March 18th 1884)*

The Smith boys figured the War was going to pass them by but finally on December 27, 1864 both brothers were arrested by a "soldier" at their home in Pike County and transported to Philadelphia. Returning to Camp Parole in Maryland April 21, 1865. In his court-martial he was found to have been absent without leave but the charges were dropped, and instead, charged only with "misinterpreting his orders"... a non-punishable application. The affidavit was from the Washington St. Military Prison January 27th, 1865. The terms of his release back to his Regiment was "forfeiture of all pay" (that can only be supposed for the time period he was absent from his return from furlough. From Camp Parole, both brothers were sent to a camp near Winchester, Virginia arriving there April 30th, 1865 and rejoined his Company M in the 18th Pennsylvania.

The town of Winchester, Virginia changed hands seventy-two times during the war, and small unit action between regular Army and guerilla bands continued nearly to the end. In September, two expeditions up the valley were detailed to escort returning prisoners. The last battle of the Civil War was fought at Palmetto Ranch in Texas by Black Union troops and Confederates trying to escape into Mexico. The Union troops were routed and it was a Rebel victory, but the war for all intensive purposes was finished. The last official surrender was by a Confederate Merchant raiding vessel when it surrendered to authorities in Yokosuka, Japan November 9th 1865.

By this time Judson Kilpatrick had been replaced and the 18th was now part of the Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah and on June 24th, 1865 it was reformed as the 3rd Provisional Cavalry until it was disbanded in October. Brother Moses was ill from day one arriving in camp and spent nearly all his time in the infirmary, he was discharged July 20th, 1865 and sent home to Pike County. Pvt Jeffrey Smith, despite his condition, stayed in the Army, finishing his required enlistment time and mustering out with the other members of his Company October 31st, 1865.*

.....the war was over.....

***mustered out:** In later years, despite his wartime service and incurred injuries Jeffrey Smith was repeatedly turned down for his requests for a quarterly Army pension. This due to his absenteeism under orders in 1864, the Army wouldn't dismiss it, yet gave him a full honorable discharge in 1865. After many appeals for it, was finally granted and upon his death, in 1906 was then cancelled leaving his widow with nothing.

Notes:

***1 Long Bridge;** page 4 is today the 14th Street bridge between Washington D.C. and Virginia. The 18th Pennsylvania was then encamped "at the foot of the Long bridge" on the Virginia side of the Potomac here and two weeks later, moved on to Germantown, today, a small enclave two miles from Fairfax Courthouse on the Little River Turnpike.



Fig 6 Long Bridge rebuilt in 1843 from damage by freshets, and built by the Washington Bridge Company in 1809, it had replaced and even earlier one from 1797. It was over the Long Bridge where horrified Washingtonians streamed back from the disastrous battle of Bull Run in 1861. A major causeway into Virginia it was first fortified to prevent Rebels forces from galloping across into the National capitol. The photo above of Union soldiers guarding the bridge in 1861. On January 1st, 1863, the 18th Pennsylvania encamped on the Virginia side, it's first foray into Rebel country.

***2** Jermantown/Germantown is an unincorporated part of Fairfax Virginia located approximately 2 miles north of the old Courthouse between the intersections of present day Route 50 (Little River turnpike) and Route 29 (Warrenton turnpike) and Jermantown road which bisects that area. On September 1st, 1862 it was the scene of the Battle of Ox hill, between Union and Confederate forces. Today it's believed nothing remains of the actual battleground and the area is completely developed, one would not even imagine a battle took place there. The 18th Pennsylvania moved to that place from the Potomac bridge in the continuing campaign to root out Confederate forces and bring the fight to the enemy. It was here about February 1st, 1863 companies "L" and "M" were added bringing the Regiment up to full strength.



location; Jermantown Va 1863

Fig 7

***3 Kilpatrick's Division** it's worthy of note here to explain that the entire division commanded by Judson Kilpatrick consisted of the 18th Pennsylvania 163rd Regiment, the 5th NY and the 1st Vermont Cavalry and the Michigan brigade under Custer. Of these in "Company M" are the names of 187 men who were on the rolls in some manner during the time frame, Jeffrey Smith was leading up to Gettysburg. Some men had been killed prior to this, others were unaccounted for various reasons. Some may never had joined the company, others may have been missing, or captured, records are inconclusive. Some had deserted prior to this, others no doubt were sick and unfit for duty. Some, there is no explanation at all, but the picture here is that "M" was only one of 14 such Companies. If the average Company partition was 200 men, the total would be 2800 full compliment. Custer was said to have as about 4,000 in his Brigade command. It was not an easy task to wield around 6800 to 8000 mounted troopers so the scale of

the events leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg is truly awesome. And this was just one Division of an Army Corps.

**4 In 1878 a Reenactment took place across the road from the Kilpatrick farm on Deckertown road in Sussex, New Jersey. General Kilpatrick was active in annual Civil War gatherings of veterans and at that time, it was said as many as 40,000 people attended this grand review. Cannons boomed across the countryside and mock cavalry charges took place between the the “Rebel” and the “Union” camps. Followed by bar-be-ques and barn dancing and reliving the events of Civil War battles fought. The new northern branch of the railroad had made it to Sussex only that year and this was as much a boost for the local economy as anything. Kilpatrick himself who had garnered a position in the Hayes Administration as Ambassador to Chile was present with all his flamboyant gusto he was famous for. An historical marker marks the spot today in this quiet section of northern New Jersey, far from the bloody battlefields of Gettysburg, Antietam and Petersburg.*

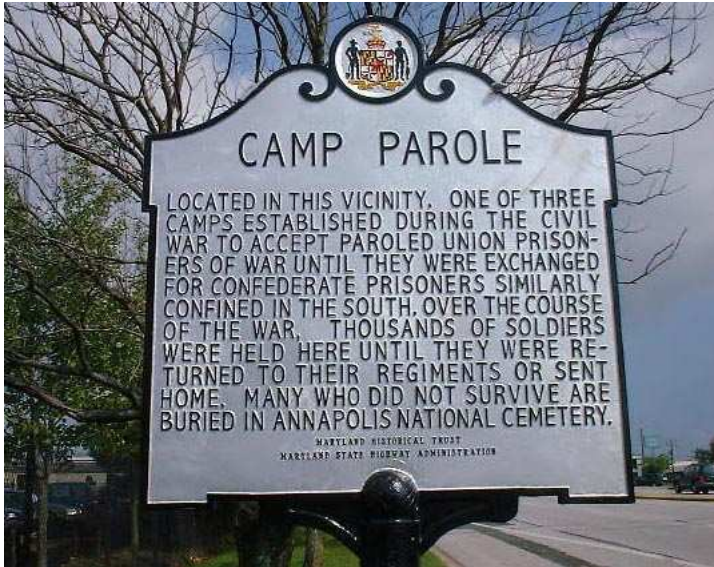


Fig 8

Camp Parole Maryland

One of the “curiosities” of the Civil War was a system for receiving prisoners of war released from Confederate hell-holes like Belle Island in Richmond. Jeffrey Smith and others upon their release from incarceration were passed through the front lines and sent to this Camp in Maryland, which was near Annapolis. Here they were received by Union authorities and kept in over-crowded conditions, not unlike which they had left but at least better facilities until a like number of Confederate prisoners of war were assembled from Federal prisons and then could be exchanged. The vast numbers of prisoners from both sides quickly overwhelmed Camp Parole and conditions grew worse. It was at Camp Parole in the Spring of 1864 where Private Smith lost the sight of his left eye while splitting firewood it’s recorded. He was given his 15 days leave then to return home to Pike County, PA, and at the advice of family was convinced not to return. From April to December he was absent without approved leave until apprehended and returned to a Federal military prison in Annapolis where an affidavit dated January 27th, 1865 stated his facts and why he had not returned. Witnessed by H.H.Foster, Capt and L.H.Davis, 1st Lt. Pa Volunteers. His court marshall verdict was that charges of desertion having been dropped and instead a decision of “Misinterpretation of orders” was applied; a lesser offense, most likely his prior service at Gettysburg and the follow up Virginia campaign that resulted in his capture, and the 2 months and 13 days incarceration at Belle Island prison, joined by his physical state as a result of that had a very large affect on this decision. Possibly given the opportunity also of additional prison time or rejoining his unit may also have been a factor. Despite all of this, apparently he remained at Annapolis until late April when he was finally sent to Winchester to rejoin his regiment.

Without knowing the full details of what happened one may judge this as still being an incredibly harsh decision given his physical state and prior service but times were hard then and the War was still going on.

Whitworth rifle

Primarily associated with the CSA forces, this was a British made rifled cannon, that was unique in being a breechloader and fired a special hexagonal “bolt” rather than a cannon ball. It was extremely accurate when handled by a trained gun crew and was akin to being a “sharpshooters field piece”. Few of them made it through the Federal blockade but when they were used in a fight, they were a feared weapon at long ranges that normal field artillery could not be effective at. At least one was used at Gettysburg by Southern gun crews and was successful in knocking out several Union batteries before withdrawing.



The 6 pounder smoothbore field gun below left was the standard of the Mexican War 1848 and by the Civil War was considered obsolete by the Union Army however they were still in use and more so by the Confederacy that would use anything they could.

The model 1857 12 pound field gun was adopted by the Union Army and used extensively as a multi purpose weapon. A few of the older 6 pounders were sleeved with a rifled barrel but were not very successful.

below: 12 pounder Parrot rifle Fig: 9,10,11

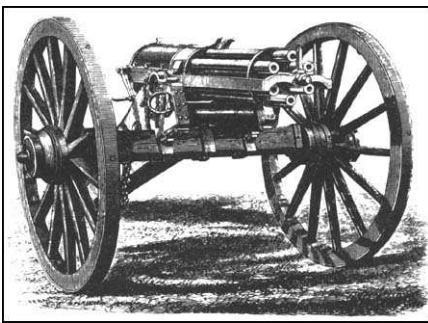


Fig 12

Invented by a dentist, Dr. Gatling’s gun was one of the more modern accomplishments, man had of killing his fellow man with. It could fire .45 caliber rounds at up to 320 rds per minute Patented in 1862 and used only late in the war it was a devastating piece of artillery. It’s modern day counter-parts are the Vulcan 20mm cannon and the mini-gun used by American armed forces yet today. Fortunately for the conduct of the war, it was a late arrival but certainly did and would have added to the already staggering 650,000 casualties of the Civil War.

Figures:

- #1 *page 1 Hugh Judson Kilpatrick at Chancellorsville*
- #2 *page 2 Fairfax County Courthouse; Wikipedia*
- #3 *page 3 Federal cavalry at Sudley Springs, Virginia 1863*
- #4 *page 5 Brigadier Gen'l Hugh Judson "Kill-cavalry" Kilpatrick*
- #5 *page 6 Rickett's battery under fire; painting, Wikipedia*
- #6 *page 13 the Long bridge over the Potomac between the Capitol & Virginia*
- #7 *mini map of Virginia*
- #8 *Camp Parole marker, Maryland*
- #9-11 *Artillery of the Civil War*
- #12 *Gatling Gun*

CAVALRY CORPS *Gettysburg*

Major General Alfred Plesonton

1st Cavalry Division – Brigadier General John Buford

2nd Cavalry Division- Brigadier General David McMurtrie Gregg

3rd Division- Brigadier General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick

Headquarters Guard; Company C 1st Ohio Cavalry-Capt S.N.Stanford

1st Cavalry Brigade- Brig Gen'l Elon John Farnsworth (killed in action)

Col. Nathaniel P. Richmond

5th New York Cavalry Regiment—Major John Hammond

18th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment –*Lietenant Col. W.P. Brinton*

14 companies A – M

1st Vermont Cavalry Regiment- Liet. Col. A.W.Preston

1st West Virginia Cavalry Regiment- Col. Nathaniel P. Richmond

Major Charles E. Capehart

2nd Cavalry Brigade- Brigadier Gen. George Armstrong Custer

1st, 5th, 6th, 7th Michigan Cavalry Regiments

18th Pennsylvania Cavalry 163rd regiment volunteers

It's something of note that despite the definition as "Volunteers", the majority of these men had either been drafted by the Union Army, or had been men who took the positions for others for a fee, such as with the case of Jeffrey Smith. He was not at the time a young man at 28 years old when he agreed to serve. But having accepted the terms of his service time, he could be considered he "volunteered" Several hundred years earlier, he may have been more aptly classified as a "paid mercenary" , in other words, someone who fought for money. Apparently the man he was serving for had been destined for the regular Army and that perhaps is why, even after Jeffrey's terrible physical condition after being released from a Confederate prisoner of war camp, he was still obliged to complete that term of service.

On the other hand, Jeffrey may also have actually desired to complete his service despite the possibility of a discharge. To serve with his fellow troopers to the bitter end and the commaraderie of wartime conditions. We will never actually know the reasons why the events happened in the manner they did, because there is so little written transcription of his actual experiences and his reasons. We can only hope that judging by the facts that do remain, the dates and the locations and the actual larger physical history of the conduct of that war and each unit, we can hazard some thoughts as to what really happened.

The "breakdown" of Company "M" of the 18th 163rd regiment, 18th PA Cavalry is as follows, from actual historic accounts.

333 *men was the full authorized compliment of Company M of this number only **37** men of Company M were discharged October 31st, 1865 at Winchester, Virginia*

20 *men had died or were wounded **13** of which either killed in battle, died from wounds in hospitals or in captivity*

3 *men were discharged by Surgeon's certificate; meaning they either had limbs amputated or were judged no longer fit for service*

26 men were discharged by Special orders; this could have meant a variety of reasons. For the “good of the Army discipline perhaps”..or other reasons unknown. 24 men deserted; whether any were later apprehended for punishment is unknown or simply vanished into history.

116 men were not on the Muster out rolls on October 31st 1865. This could have been for a variety of reasons, paperwork errors, but more likely these were “missing in action” Men who were simply “blown away” by cannon fire or lost in action, some men fighting at Gettysburg were just disintegrated by the ferocity of the fighting, only body parts were found belonging to who knows who.

10 men were on “detached service” or sick and could not be present for muster out but their whereabouts were known.

27 men never joined the Company; they either never reported for duty when drafted or perhaps were detailed elsewhere, or other reasons unknown. Some of these also may have been draftees who had sold their enlistment time to another such as in the case of Jeffrey Smith who was serving for someone else.

38 men of the total compliment did muster out but did so because they had been transferred to Company “D” or “C” or another Company and received their discharges that way.

***Company M** was one of **14** such companies in the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry of Volunteers with a possible total Regimental strength of **4,662** men. *this number is only an estimate The 18th, in company with the 5th NY and the 1st Vermont Cavalry made up one Brigade and was later joined by Custer’s Michigan troops as a 2nd Brigade making up a Division which by June 30th was under the command of Judson Kilpatrick.*

Aftermath

The turning point of the war for Jeffery Smith was his capture at Broad Run Virginia during the Bristow Campaign which followed Gettysburg. The particulars of how that happened is unknown. A detachment of Kilpatrick's troops which included Private Smith was somehow surprised and cut off by Confederates and he was taken prisoner. He and his fellows in a few weeks found themselves at a hell-hole called Belle Island, at Richmond's James River prisoner of war camp.

Nothing in Jeffery's life up to that point prepared him for that. Along with over 10,000 other Union prisoners they were subjected to the most dehumanizing and physically challenging times. Sleeping on the ground often in the mud and filth of the camp he contracted spinal disease, curvature of the spine. Already a slightly built fellow, his weight most likely dropped to that of a walking skeleton. He and others were released, arriving at Camp Parole, Maryland, Walt Whitman remarked of the condition of the returning men. Newspapers picked up his story and public outcry throughout the North was immense. It finally led to the curtailment of prisoner exchanges when U.S. Grant assumed command of the Army.

Returning home for an authorized leave, now with only the sight of one eye, Jeffrey was in a terrible physical state and was urged not to go back. We don't know what his thoughts were at the time but can only imagine the peacefulness he had now found away from the horrors he had witnessed, and his desire to be home with family. In December, however he was forced to return, by being arrested. In January a military court found the charges to be "a misinterpretation of orders" and he was returned to Camp Parole, Maryland. There he stayed until being released back to his former command now at Winchester, Virginia.

After the War, and finally once more returning home, he came back as a broken, bent man of only 31 years old. His physical state prevented him from most heavy work and he was confined to bed for great lengths of time recuperating, which literally took years. An uncaring bureaucracy in the Army denied him his Army pension he applied for, Surgeons' documents presented conflicting accounts of his injuries. One spurious report stated that he had not been performing "military work" at the time of his eye injury at Camp Parole. That of splitting wood I suppose was not the same as firing a rifle. His debilitating spinal disease was on other Surgeon's accounts not deemed to be sufficient evidence for receiving his pension. After the Civil War, there was so much graft and corruption in the government that it got President Johnson impeached and even tainted the later Presidency of Grant. Carpet baggers in the South were taking advantage of a crippled economy.

Jeffrey Smith continued to apply stubbornly for his pension, which required countless Doctor's certificates attesting to his infirmities that had been the direct result of his incarceration at Belle Island prison and his later accident at Camp Parole. Was he still not in the Army during all this time and as such a "soldier" in that Army didn't seem to matter to a uncaring and graft infested government bureaucracy. In many extremes his War continued long past the end of the fighting in 1865, as he suffered the rest of his life as a result of it. Finally granted a quarterly pension in the 1890's. He passed away at his home in Porter Township in 1906 at the age of 72, and is buried there among his family and the woods of Pike County.... his war was finally over.