
The Maine Bugle

The Maine Cavalry Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4

July-August 1997

1st Maine Cavalry

Organized at Augusta and mustered in November 5, 1861. Companies "A," "D," "E" and "F" moved to Washington, D.C., March 14-19, 1862; Companies "B," "I," "H" and "M" March 19-24, and Companies "C," "G," "K" and "L" to Washington March 19-28, 1862. Attached to Miles' Railroad Brigade, Army of Potomac, to May, 1862 (Cos. "A," "B," "E," "H" and "M"). Hatch's Cavalry Brigade, Banks' 5th Army Corps, and Dept. of the Shenandoah, to July, 1862 (Cos. "A," "B," "E," "H" and "M"). Abercrombie's Brigade, Williams' Division, Banks' 5th Army Corps, and Dept. of the Shenandoah, March to May, 1862 (Cos. "C," "D," "F," "G," "I," "K" and "L"). Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Dept. of the Rappahannock, to July, 1862 (Cos. "C," "D," "F," "G," "I," "K" and "L"). Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Army of Virginia, to September, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Cavalry Division, Army of the Potomac, to January, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, to June, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, June, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, to October, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, to October, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, to August, 1865.

SERVICE.--Companies "A," "B," "E," "H" and "M" ordered to Harper's Ferry, W. Va., March, 1862, and guard duty along Baltimore & Ohio Railroad till May 19. Moved to Strasburg and operations in the Shenandoah Valley May 15-June 17. Action at Woodstock May 21, Strasburg May 22 (Cos. "H" and "M"), Middletown May 24, Winchester May 25. Retreat to Williamsport May 25-26. Winchester June 3. Milford June 24. Reconnoissance to Front Royal June 29-30. Luray June 30. Rejoin Regiment at Warrenton July 10. Companies "C," "D," "F," "G," "I," "K" and "L" moved to Warrenton March, 1862. Reconnoissance to the Rappahannock April 16 (Co. "C"). Reconnoissance to Liberty Church April 16 (Detachment). Reconnoissance to Culpeper Court House May 4-5. Brandy Station May 5. Join McDowell at Manassas Junction May 25. Milford July 2. Winchester July 3. Sperryville July 5. Regiment scouting on the Rappahannock during July. Reconnoissance to James City July 22-24. Slaughter House August 7. Robinson River August 8. Battle of Cedar Mountain August 9. Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia August 16-September 2. Stevensburg, Raccoon Ford and Brandy Station August 20. Beverly Ford August 20. Fords of the Rappahannock August 21-23. Rappahannock Station August 24-25. Sulphur Springs August 27. Thoroughfare Gap August 28. Groveton August 29. Bull Run August 30. Mountsville, Centerville, Chantilly and Germantown August 31. Chantilly September 1. Frederick, Md., September 7 and 12. South Mountain September 14. Antietam September 16-17. At Frederick, Md., till November 2. Manassas Junction October 24. Middleburg October 30. Aldie October 31. Salem, New Baltimore and near Warrenton November 4.

Rappahannock Station November 7-9. Battle of Fredericksburg December 12-15. Dumfries December 28. "Mud March" January 20-24, 1863, Rappahannock Bridge April 14. Stoneman's Raid April 29-May 8. Kelly's Ford April 29. Louisa Court House May 1-2. South Anna Bridge near Ashland May 3. Bealton May 10. Operations on Northern Neck May 20-26 (Detachment). Brandy Station and Beverly Ford June 9. Aldie June 17. Middleburg June 18-19. Upperville June 21. Hanover, Pa., June 30. Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 1-3. Steven's Furnace July 5. Hagerstown July 11. Funkstown, Md., July 12. Shephardstown and near Harper's Ferry July 14. Halltown and Charlestown July 15. Shephardstown July 16. Little Washington August 5. Beverly Ford August 15. Brandy Station September 6. Advance from the Rappahannock to the Rapidan September 13-17. Culpeper Court House September 13. Hazel River September 13. Raccoon Ford September 14. Culpeper September 20. White's Ford September 21-22. Bristoe Campaign October 9-22. Gaines' Cross Roads October 12. Warrenton or White Sulphur Springs October 12-13. Auburn and Bristoe October 14. St. Stephen's Church October 14. Blackburn's Ford October 15. Culpeper October 20. Near Bealton October 22. Rappahannock Crossing October 22. Rappahannock Station October 23. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Mine Run Campaign November 26-December 2. Morton's Ford November 26. New Hope Church November 27. Parker's Store November 29. Expedition to Luray December 21-23. Reconnoissance to Front Royal January 1-4, 1864. Near Salem January 3 (Detachment). Kilpatrick's Raid to Richmond February 28-March 4. Beaver Dam Station February 29. Fortifications of Richmond March 1. Brook's Turnpike March 1. Old Church March 2. Near Tunstall Station March 2. Rapidan Campaign May 3-June 15. Battles of Todd's Tavern May 5-6; Wilderness May 6-7; Todd's Tavern May 7-8. Sheridan's Raid May 9-24. North Anna River May 9-10. Ground Squirrel Church and Yellow Tavern May 11. Diamond Hill May 11. Brook Church or Fortifications of Richmond May 12. Meadow Bridge May 12. Jones' Bridge May 17. Haxall's Landing May 18. Milford May 20. Haw's Shop May 28. Old Church May 29-30. Cold Harbor May 31-June 1. About Cold Harbor June 1-7. Sumner's Upper Bridge and McGee's Mills June 2. Sheridan's Trevillian Raid June 7-24. Elliott's Mills June 8. Trevillian Station June 11-12. Black Creek, Tunstall Station, June 21. White House, St. Peter's Church, June 21. St. Mary's Church June 24. Second Swamp June 28. Siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond June, 1864, to April, 1865. Warwick Swamp and Lee's Mill July 12. Deep Bottom July 27-28. New Market July 28. Malvern Hill July 29. Lee's Mills July 30. Near Sycamore Church August 9. Gravel Hill August 14, Strawberry Plains August 14-18. Deep Run August 16. Nelson's Farm August 18. Ream's Station August 23-25. Dinwiddie Road near Ream's Station August 23. Yellow Tavern September 2. Stony Creek Station September 15. Belcher's Mills September 17. Lee's Mills September 18.

Vaughan Road September 26. Wyatt's Farm September 29. Poplar Springs Church September 29-October 1. <dy_1216> Vaughan and Duncan Road October 1. Boydton Plank Road or Hatcher's Run October 27-28. Old members mustered out November 4, 1864. Stony Creek Station December 1. Bellefield Raid December 7-11. Bellefield December 9-10. Dabney's Mills, Hatcher's Run, February 5-7, 1865. Appomattox Campaign March 28-April 9. Dinwiddie Court House March 30-31. Five Forks April 1. Namozine Church and Jetersville April 3. Fame's Cross Roads and Amelia Springs April 5. Sailor's Creek and Deatonville Road April 6. Briery Creek and Farmville April 7. Appomattox Station April 8. Appomattox Court House April 9. Surrender of Lee and his army. Duty at Petersburg and in the Dept. of Virginia till August. Mustered out August 1, 1865.

This Regiment lost greatest number killed in action of any Cavalry Regiment in the entire army: 15 Officers and 159 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded; 3 Officers and 341 Enlisted men died of disease, a total of 518.

Report from Gettysburg

Private David Gesloius joined the company around this time last year after meeting us at the Fairfield, PA event. From the start, he has been keeping a journal of the events he's attended. He tries to keep it in period style, and write as if all this were taking place during the war, which makes me wonder how he'll explain things when he's 10 years into this hobby?

With his permission, here's Dave's journal entry concerning our recent foray up to Gettysburg.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 3rd

I have been selected to accompany Sgt. Todd on a recruiting mission as the army moves north to counter a Rebel advance into Pennsylvania. Sgt. Todd's promotion from corporal officially took effect last month [actually April]. The regiment could not spare a lieutenant to lead the detachment due to the crisis in Pennsylvania. In fact, the recruitment would have been put off to a later time if it were not for the serious situation of the First Maine. The regimen's strength is down considerably due to casualties and enlistment expirations.

We entered Gettysburg with the Second US Cavalry. We will camp with them until the situation in PA has been resolved. As we arrive at our campsite southwest of town, we find that the Seventeenth Pa has also arrived and is making camp. The weather is warm and dry. Once our tents are up, the sgt. and I will head to town to have a meal at one of the local taverns.

July 4th, Independence Day

We returned from town about ten o'clock last evening. The townsfolk here are very friendly and were very happy to see us come to the defense of their town and state.

We slept very comfortably. The night was cool and dry. This morning as I ventured out to collect wood I could see how much more of the army arrived during the night. The Federal camp has doubled in size since our arrival yesterday.

The sgt. and I spent the day visiting friends in other regiments and walking through the sutler camp. Late in the afternoon, the First Wisconsin Cavalry arrived. They were a friendly group, but their drill leaves much to be desired.

About six o'clock, we accompanied the Second US as they moved out to skirmish with the advancing rebels. As it turned out, this skirmish was the opening engagement of a general assault by Ewell's corps of Confederates. We put up a hot fire and held our line against several reb ad-

vances. We gradually fell back and covered an artillery battery until we were relieved by the infantry. The Federal lines held and the rebs paid a high price for what little ground was gained.

July 5th

Last night was clear and cold. Slept with a blanket. Seems rather strange for July in Pa. This morning the sgt. and I procured some eggs and made french toast with syrup. After our meal, we checked in with the 2nd US. They were being held in reserve. The sgt. and I returned to town to visit some old friends of mine that live there.

Gettysburg town hasn't changed much since my last visit. It was good to see that my friends at the Dobbin tavern and the general store are all well. I will return and visit the Sullivans at the Gaslight Inn when things quiet down some. We stayed in town till about two o'clock. We heard some artillery rumbling in the distance and thought it best to return to camp. We found the 2nd US and the 17th PA was saddling their horses and getting ready to move. The Reb army was on the advance again and our infantry was engaged elsewhere. It would fall to the cavalry to delay the rebel advance until our infantry could come up and get on line.

We moved out and deployed across a road and the fields on either side of it. Everyone dismounted and formed a skirmish line. We had to deny the rebels the high ground behind us and delay them until our own 1st Corps could arrive. There was much anticipation and many anxious moments as we waited for the rebs to come within range of our carbines. We opened a steady fire and pushed the rebs back. They brought up another brigade and tried to flank us but we were able to extend our line with the arrival of the 17th and 6th PA. Again the rebs pulled back to reform. They returned with two full brigades. We were forced to fall back, but kept up a heavy fire as we moved. Many a good trooper was left on that field. A battery of horse artillery came up to support us as we fell back. Again, the reb advance was delayed. After about 45 minutes, the lead elements of the 1st Corp arrived on the field. They went into line and filed past us pushing the rebs back as they went. Men were falling all around me. At some points the fighting was hand-to-hand. This was the most savage fighting I have yet to see. Looking out over the field after the engagement, there were places where so many bodies lay that no grass could be seen for yards around.

We accomplished our task though, and held till the infantry arrived. The sgt. and I returned to camp. We cleaned our weapons and refilled our ammunition. No telling what tomorrow would bring. As dusk settled in, we made a fire and opened a tin of oysters I had picked up in town. All the constellations of stars were visible that night. As if they were paying their respects to those who would never look upon them again. The sgt, having been a sailor, was able to point out and name all the different constellations. I won't remember their names, but I did enjoy gazing upon them before they faded away for the night.



ANTIETAM

September 11th through 14th will be the 135th anniversary reenactment of the battle of Antietam. The current advertising claims between 10,000 and 12,000 participants for this event, and some of 1st Maine will be counted in that total.

Historically, the cavalry barely took part in the battle at Sharpsburg, but the organizers of this event have planned activities for the the "mounted arm."

In addition to the planned activities for our branch of the army, some of us also intend to fall in with the 7th Maine Infantry. This unit is made up of members of several down-east groups that have put aside their differences to portray the 7th at this event. Some of us will don infantry trappings to help bolster their meager 80-100 rifles. If it's ok with the 7th, those that don't have infantry gear, and would like to fall in, should wear a sackcoat, plain hat, and look as non-descript as you can.

A schedule of events and map to the site near Hagerstown will appear in the next Bugle, but because of the size of this event, if you can get there thursday, the 11th, do so! Try, at least, to make it as early Friday as you can.

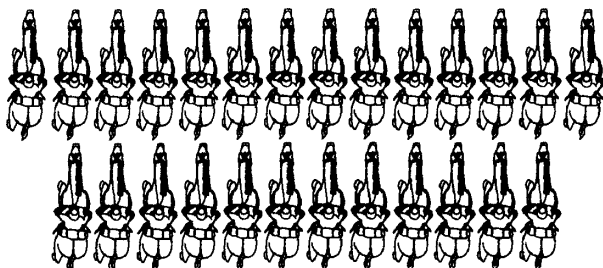
At this event civillians will be camped separately from the military encampment. According to the information I have now, the civillian camp will be within 500 feet of the cavalry camp. Arrangements for meals will be annouced in the next Bugle.



Upcoming Skirmishes

August 1-3	2nd Manassass, Leeburg, VA	walkon
August 29-31	Boonsboro, MD	walkon
September 12-14	Antietam, Hagerstown, MD	\$5.00
September 26-28	Monmouth, Freehold, NJ	\$5.00
October 17-19	Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA	\$6.00
November 22	Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA	

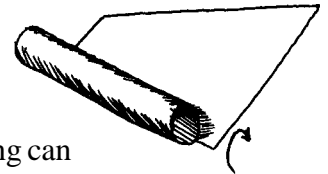
If you want to attend any of the above listed events, you have to tell me **NOW** and cover your registration fees.



Cartridge Rolling

Cartridges are rolled from newprint paper. Preferably unprinted newsprint, never the stuff sold in art supply stores, it isn't the same thing, and is too heavy. Phone book pages are good, if you don't mind names and phone numbers all over your rounds. You can also cut thousands of cartridge papers at once from an old phone book with a razor knife.

The cartridge paper is rolled on a 1/2" outside diameter tube about 4" long.



A foot long length of such tubing can be had from any hobby shop for about a dollar.

Roll the paper onto the tube with the long (3-3/4") side to the right, and 3/8" to 1/2" extending beyond the right end of the rolling tube. Roll the paper snugly onto the tube.

Twist the paper extending off the tube into a pig-tail, and push this gently into the end of the tube. Be careful not to tear the paper or the cartridge will be useless.

Slide the cartridge off the tube and fill it with 55-60 grains of FFF black powder. Flatten the empty part of the tube down to the powder. Where the flat meets the filled part of the cartridge, fold it

over. Fold about an 1/8" of the flat end of the cartridge over to keep it from leaking. Press the flat part down between the shoulders, which will cup the flattened part of the cartridge into a 'U' shape. Fold the standing shoulders down, one over lapping the other. You may have

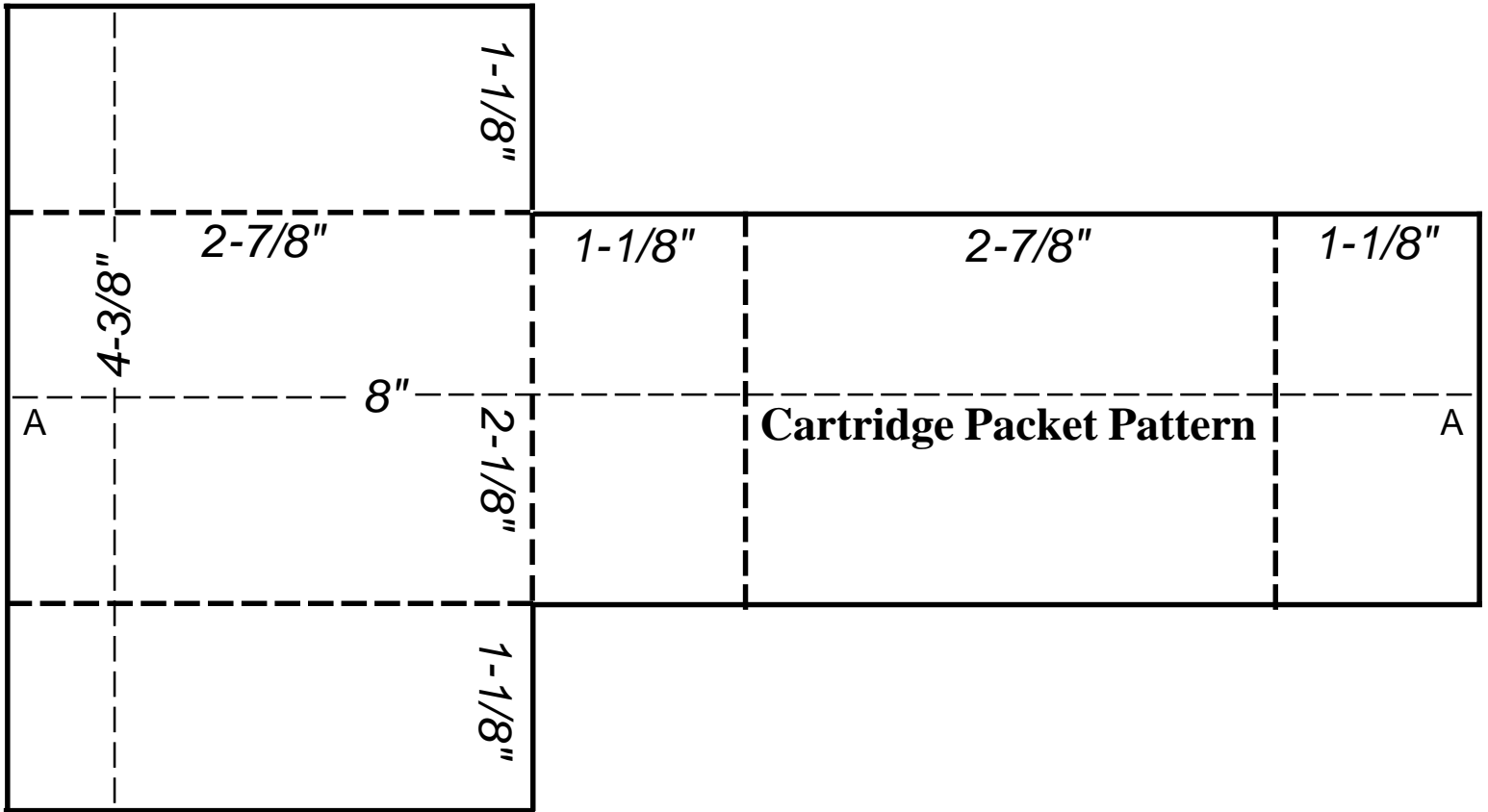
to tap any powder from inside the shoulders. Keep the powder in a firm cylinder, and be careful not to tear the cartridge.

Press the tail flat and fold it back over itself, completing the cartridge.

Packaging

The cartridge packet is made of heavy card stock, such as the card on the back of a notepad. On the pattern, the heavy broken lines are fold lines, they should be scored with your razor knife to make them fold sharp and clean. The two ends marked 'A' are taped





together and one of the flaps taped down to form a small box.

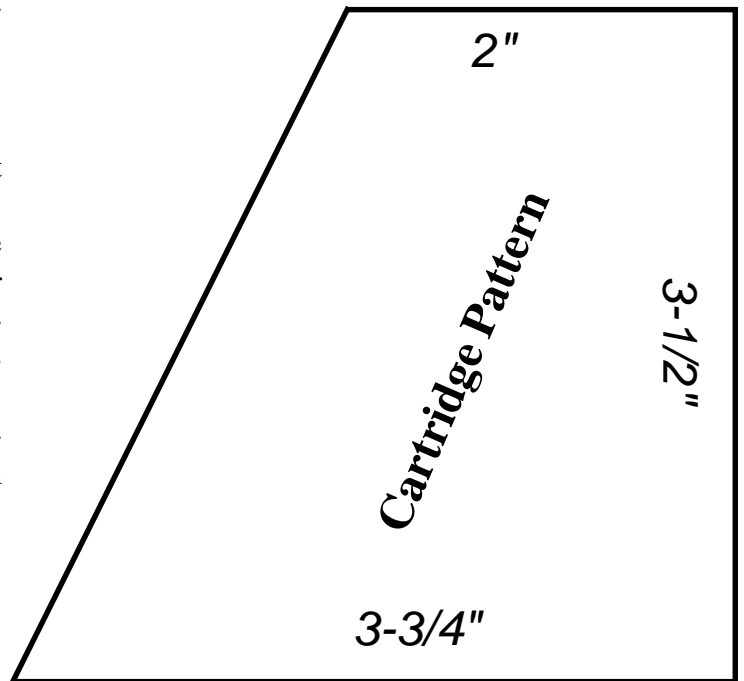
Ten filled cartridges and a packet of 12 percussion caps are placed in the box, and a wad of crumpled paper fills the empty space so the cartridges won't rattle around inside. The box is closed and wrapped in a labeled wrapper with the label aligned on one face of the box.

Tips

The only glue used is to wrap the packet. This is best done with a glue-stick.

The caps can be placed in paper tubes rolled like the cartridges. Roll them on a length of 1/2 inside diameter copper tubing so they won't fit into the barrel of the carbine. They should also be rolled of paper colored different than the cartridges.

Neatness counts. Cartridges should be firm and cylindrical so they won't flatten when the carbine's breech is closed. Any powder more than 70 grains is a waste, the excess simply blows out of the barrel unburnt.



TEN
LINEN CARTRIDGES
FOR SHARP'S CARBINE,
CAL. 52-100.
WITH 12 PERCUSSION CAPS
WATERVLIET ARSENAL.
1864

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CW TRIVIA

Dave Geslois

1. What weapon was known as the *Old Wristbreaker*?
2. How were Federal ambulances equipped?
3. What was the First Maine's order of battle in the Gettysburg campaign?
4. What percentage of the soldier vote did Lincoln receive in his 1864 presidential campaign against General George McClellan?
5. Can you identify the individual pictured above?



1. The Model 1840 Heavy Cavalry Saber was dubbed "Old Wristbreaker" by the troops that used it.
2. By 1863 each ambulance in the Army of the Potomac was equipped with two leather covered benches, two kegs of water, a supply of beef broth, assorted sizes of bandages, and two stretchers.
3. The First Maine was assigned to Irvin Gregg's third brigade of David M. Gregg's second division of Pleasonton's cavalry corps - Army of the Potomac.
4. Lincoln won 55 percent of the popular vote, including 78 percent of the tabulated soldier vote.
5. The photo is of Colonel Charles Henry Smith. Smith was mustered in as captain of company D of the 1st Maine Cavalry in October 1861. Eventually, he was promoted to Colonel of the 1st Maine and later commanded the brigade consisting of the 1st Me, 2nd NY Mtd Rifles, 6th Oh, 13th Oh, and the 21st Pa.

Sutlers

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|---|--|
| C&D Jarnagin Co.
Clothing & leather goods | PO Box 1860
Corinth, MS 38834
601-287-4977 |
| Coutry Cloth, Inc.
Clothing patterns & kits | Charlie Childs
13797-C Georgetown Street, NE
Paris, OH 44669
216-862-3307 |
| Missouri Boot & Shoe
Brogans | 417-451-6100 |
| Montana Boot Co.
Boots | 406-222-7721 |
| F. Burgess & Co.
Sword belts, boxes, etc. | 908-576-1624 |

Please feel free to add to this list, any sutler or other supplier that meets or exceeds the quality of the ones listed above.

Second Manassas

The 135th anniversary reenactment of the battle of Second Manassas will be held at Ida Lee Park, near Leesburg, Virginia, the weekend of August 2nd. Ida Lee Park is located just north of Leesburg, on the west side of route 15.

Registration opens at 1000, Friday the 1st. Our company mess will be determined in the field.

South Mountain

This year marks the 135th anniversary of the battle of South Mountain. A reenactment to commemorate the battle will be held near Boonsboro, Maryland on the weekend of August 30th.

On Interstate 70 go to exit 35. Go south on Route 66 to Boonsboro. Left on Route 40 to Route 34. Right to Monroe Road. Right 1/4 mile to event on right.

Registration opens at 1000 Friday, the 30th, and the company mess will, again, be determined in the field.

1st Maine in Cyberspace

In the near future we will have a site on the Internet's World-Wide-Web; a Webpage. Basically this is a way for anyone with a computer and a modem to learn about the unit from anywhere in the world. It can, and will, contain information about the 1st and 2nd Maine cavalry regiments, black & white as well as color images, music, animated graphics, and links to other web sites of interest, such as the Maine State Archives. Basically, this will be our billboard on the "Information Superhighway."

If you have anything that can be used in the construction of this webpage, such as graphic images, Java scripts, and especially photos of the unit that can be scanned and put into an on-line photo-album, please let me know so we can start off with a first-rate webpage from the start.

Any files can be sent directly to gtodd@sprynet.com and other items can be gotten to me at an event, or mailed to:

Gerald Todd
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Baltimore MD 21226-2020

