



KILPATRICK'S LAST CHARGE AT WAYNESBOROUGH, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 4, 1864.—SKETCHED BY THEODORE R. DAVIS.—[SEE PAGE 28.]

From Harper's Weekly "Kilpatrick's last charge"

A cavalry general rode with Sherman's army as it passed through Atlanta named **Hugh Judson Kilpatrick (1836-1881)**. General Kilpatrick's actions around Atlanta have already been documented by us. The most complete version can be found at <http://clancolquhoun.blogspot.com/> under the label "Hugh Judson Kilpatrick".

Judson Kilpatrick was aggressive to the point of being reckless with the men he commanded. This recklessness earned him the nickname "Kill Cavalry" or "Lil' Kil", a comment on his stature.

It was said he wasted his cavalry by throwing them haphazardly into battle. He became adept at moving through the ranks using political influence, gaining few friends along the way. Judson Kilpatrick catapulted himself from a junior grade, artillery trained infantry officer 1861 to cavalry General in the battles that led up to the major conflict at Gettysburg, PA in 1863.

One of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's strategies for ending the war in favor of the South was to take his army into the northern states. One thing this accomplished was the Federal Army would have to follow him to protect their homeland. Then General Lee could "choose his ground" as to where he would turn and confront them. This was tried by Lee unsuccessfully in 1862 (Battle of Antietam) and in 1863 (Gettysburg).

Cavalry on both sides were used primarily as reconnaissance. Mounted soldiers moved faster and were usually out in front of the main army. Cavalry was also used as a screen to keep the enemy from observing which direction the main army was headed.

As Lee made his way north to cross the Potomac River in 1863, the Federal cavalry including General Kilpatrick challenged him at several places in Virginia: Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville. General Kilpatrick's main adversary during this time was General J. E. B. Stuart. General Lee was counting on Stuart to supply him with much needed information about where

the Federal army was during his forage into Pennsylvania. Lee lost contact with Stuart before the Gettysburg battle, partly because Kilpatrick's 3rd Division had encountered Stuart outside of Hanover, PA. Present in the 3rd Division were a young George Armstrong Custer and a **Lieutenant Henry C. Potter.**



Henry C. Potter

Lt. Potter, apparently from Pennsylvania, was captured and escaped several times after the Gettysburg battle. Henry rose to the rank of Captain and wrote "Personal Experiences of a Prisoner of War" after the war's end.



Hugh Judson Kilpatrick

General Kilpatrick was unquestionably brave. He led his men into battle and his superiors could always count on him to be ready for a fight. However Kilpatrick was careless with his preparations for battle. He wouldn't wait for support to be set up before charging into battle. Kilpatrick always wanted to be ahead of the similarly ranked officers in a battle to gain favor. He always dreamed of the glory he would bask in after he won the battle for everyone else. Sometimes he was successful, but mostly he ended up wasting his men and horses needlessly.

The Gettysburg battle was a large three day event that some historians say changed the course of the war. Promoted to General by this time, Judson Kilpatrick made the same tactical mistakes he had made so many times before. The attack he ordered on the third day at Gettysburg became one Kilpatrick's

most controversial decisions. This decision culminated in the death of General Elon Farnsworth and sixty-six other members of the 5th New York Cavalry. The one monument at Gettysburg that depicts Kilpatrick's Gettysburg experience is far off the battlefield in the northeastern woods behind Big Round Top. It's an area not traversed by most visitors to the battlefield.



Monument at Gettysburg

MONUMENT TO GEN. KILPATRICK

Will Be Unveiled in West Point Cemetery on Wednesday.

Special to The New York Times.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Oct. 12.—A monument to Gen. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, of civil war fame, who died in Chile while Minister there, will be unveiled on Wednesday in the cemetery at West Point, where he was buried. His grave was unmarked, and the monument is the result of a fund started by the Rev. E. A. Hamilton of the First Mounted Rifles and David G. Montross of Peekskill, a member of the Harris Light Cavalry, officially the Second New York Volunteer Cavalry. On Wednesday the annual reunion of the survivors of the Harris Light Cavalry will be held, and the association will take part in the unveiling ceremonies at West Point.

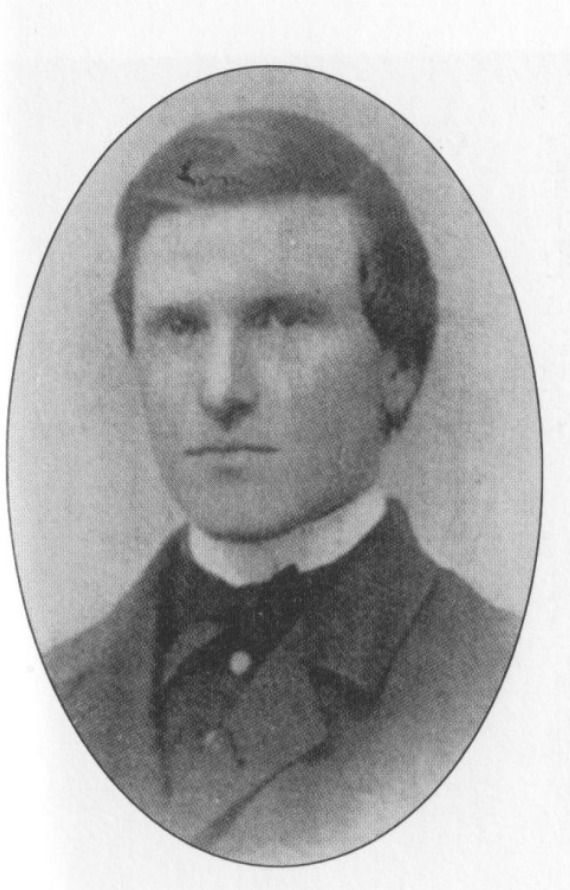
At West Point there will be a parade, of which Col. S. A. Mills, Superintendent of the Military Academy, will be grand marshal.

The monument is a plain stone weighing fifteen tons and about ten feet in height. The only inscriptions are the word "Kilpatrick" on the base and on the face of the die the words "Erected by his comrades and friends." On the obverse of the die is a bronze medalion with Kilpatrick mounted on a horse. George L. Hughson of Peekskill was the designer and builder.

BEEES BLIND A SMALL BOY

Notice of monument at West Point after Kilpatrick's death

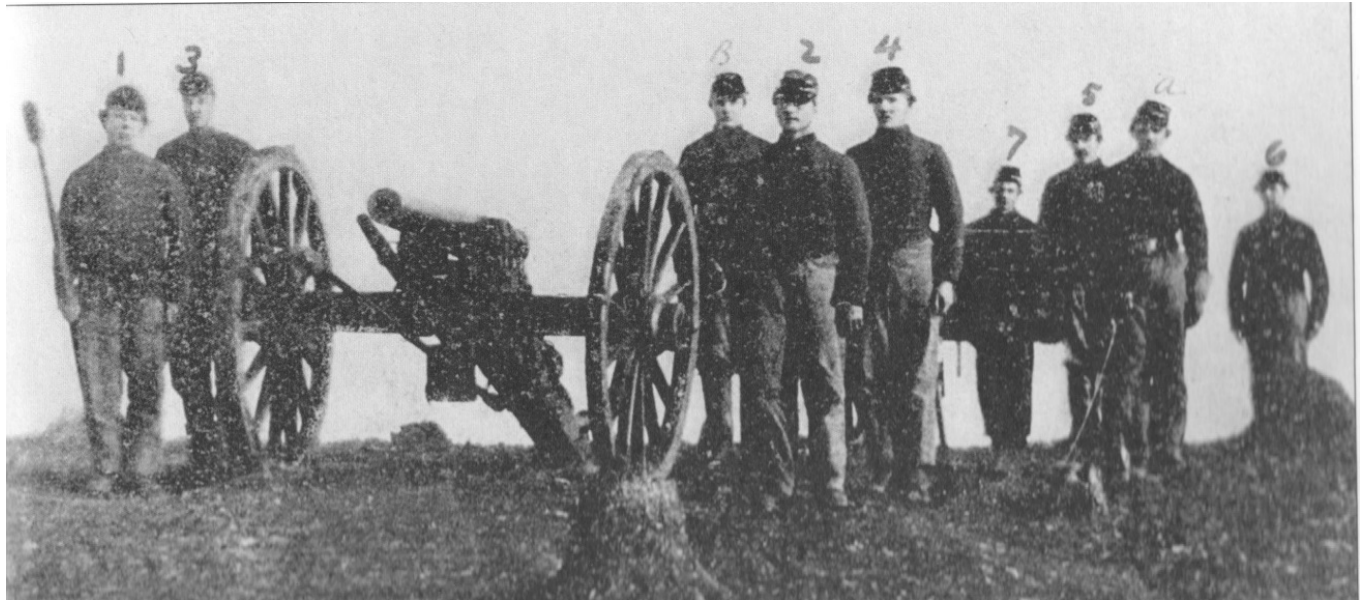
Earlier that same third day of the Gettysburg battle a 21 year old artillery captain was right in front of charging rebels from Pickett's, Trimble's, and Pettigrew's Division (known today as "Pickett's Charge").



Andrew Cowan

Andrew Cowan was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. By the third day of Gettysburg he was Captain of the First New York Battery. Captain Cowan's cannons ended up just to the left of the famous "copse of trees" General Lee had told his men to guide on as they charged across the battlefield. However, this was not Cowan's original position. His battery was brought up to reinforce the front wall after another battery was badly damaged during the Confederate's bombardment before the

“Charge”. Men from Pickett’s Division got within 10 yards of Cowan’s position. Captain Cowan survived the war and wrote an article of his experience at Gettysburg for the National Tribune in 1908.



“...and five of the company, mounted, with grooms and body servants in a forage wagon, in their new and unstained gray made a tour of the State with the flag, the company’s colors, the segments of silk cut and fitted but not sewn, from house to house until the sweethearts of each man in the company had taken a few stitches in it...”

From *Absalom, Absalom!* by William Faulkner

When the Civil War began in 1861, **William Hobson Kilpatrick** was a 41 year old lawyer in Corinth, Mississippi. In a letter supplied to us by historian Wiley Sword, the division between people in town over secession is clearly conveyed.

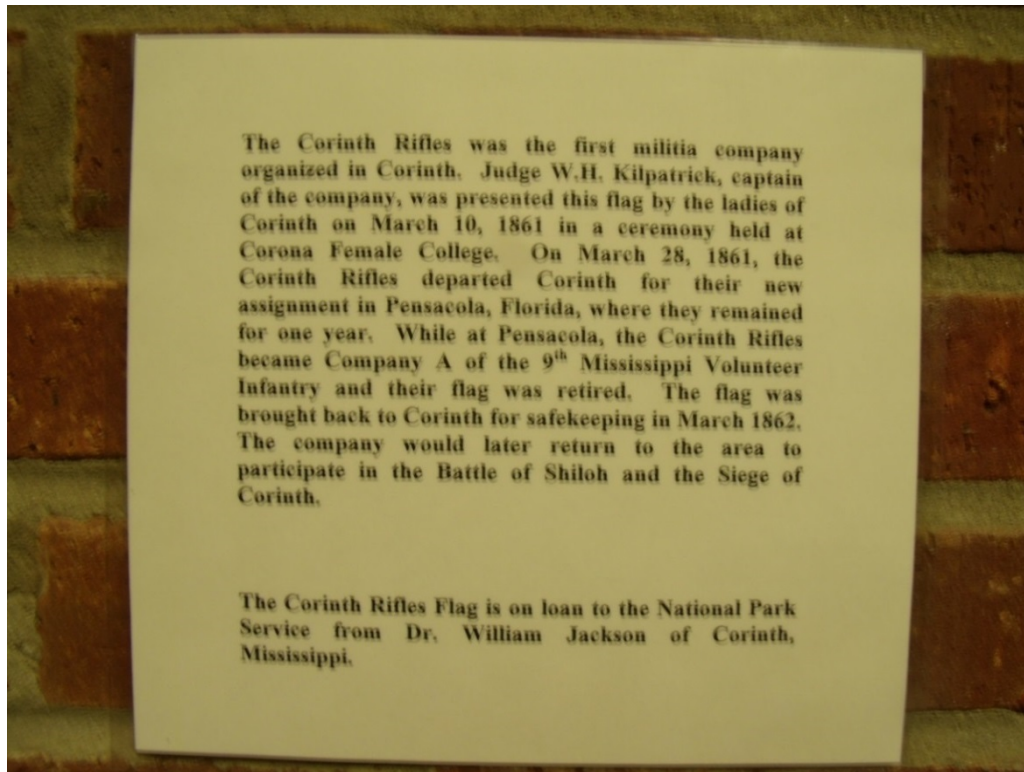
Lawyer Kilpatrick and another lawyer were “bound” over “...in the sum of \$500 each to keep the peace” after one of the many fights broke out over whether Mississippi should leave the Union.

William Hobson Kilpatrick was born in 1820 in Maury County, Tennessee. His parents had been from North Carolina. William married Jane Edmonson and together they built Oak Home which is on a historic tour in Corinth, MS:
<http://www.city-data.com/picfilesv/picv22986.php> .

On both sides of the war army regiments were formed locally. Prominent citizens were often elected to command each unit. Local citizens went to war in a group of their friends, neighbors, and relatives. William Kilpatrick was elected Captain of the “Corinth Rifles” soon after the war began. A flag was hand made by the ladies in town that featured a magnolia tree in full bloom. The magnolia depicts the state of Mississippi. “This We Will Defend” is written below. The silk flag was presented to the unit March 10, 1861.



Flag of the Corinth Rifles displayed at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center near Shiloh



The men in the Corinth Rifles enlisted for one year. They spent most of that year in the Pensacola, Florida area. The Corinth Rifles were billeted at Fort Barrancas just across the sound from Fort Pickens on Pensacola Beach held by the Union army. After their enlistment was up, many men of the Corinth Rifles reenlisted in the 9th MS.

William Kilpatrick took another command before his enlistment was up. William was promoted to Major and took command of the 5th Battalion of the Army of Mobile (Alabama). Mobile, New Orleans, and other Gulf coast towns became prime targets of the Federal Army and Navy. The rivers flowing up into the southern states from these towns were used to launch attacks on the Confederate Army. On May 9, 1862 William was ordered to destroy everything the enemy could use before Mobile could be captured.

William Kilpatrick's first wife Jane Edmonson died during the war. He remarried Maggie Hay but never moved back into Oak Home. William became a county judge and served as Corinth's mayor in the 1880's.



Kilpatrick plot

at Corinth City Cemetery

Thanks to Eagle Scout John A. Harris and Milton L. Sandy, Jr. for allowing me to quote from the article here:

http://mlsandy.home.tsixroads.com/Corinth_MLSANDY/histcw3.html

Thanks to Tom Parson, park ranger at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, for allowing me to quote from his article:

http://issuu.com/dailycorinthian/docs/daily_corinthian_e-edition_021713?e=1592116/1475452

Thanks also to historian and author Wiley Sword for allowing me to quote from letters in his possession