

informed that they were moving by General W. E. Jones' orders. I found General Jones and told him that I had only a handful of men opposed to all of Kilpatrick's cavalry ; and I urged the importance of keeping the road clear, so that when the enemy broke through he would find nothing on it. The General said that the train must move on, and if I could hold out a little longer the Sixth Virginia Cavalry would come to my assistance. I returned to my men and urged them not to yield an inch nor to waste any ammunition (we had but little at the commencement). The enemy now increased their fire until it seemed as if nothing could stand before it. Still these men lay there under it coolly, awaiting an opportunity to strike another blow. The enemy's skirmishers at last walked into my line, and I was told that one of them actually trod on Private Key, who killed him on the spot. The enemy was again driven back. My ammunition was entirely exhausted and some of my men actually fought with rocks : nor did they give back an inch.

The Fourth North Carolina Cavalry now made its appearance at the junction of the two roads in my rear, and after General Jones and his staff had exhausted every means to get them to my assistance, I finally succeeded in getting a Lieutenant and about ten men to dismount and advance to my line. The Sixth Virginia Cavalry, that I knew so well to be good fighters, never made its appearance during the night. At about 3 o'clock A. M., finding that he had no force of consequence opposed to him, Kilpatrick advanced his cavalry to within twenty yards of my position and gave the order to charge. A running fight now ensued amid wagons and ambulances. As we passed out of the mountain we met Captain Welsh's company of the First Maryland Cavalry at the junction of another road. Here the enemy was held in check for a moment, but they soon swept us aside, and on they went until they had captured all the wagons found in the road. The two portions of the train that I had cut off were not reached by the enemy ; and I do not believe that we would have lost any of the train had it not been started on the road after I had stopped it.

In this fight about half the men I had engaged were captured, and I myself was wounded. According to the official report of General Kilpatrick, his loss was five killed, ten wounded and twenty-eight prisoners, in all forty-three men, or more than I had in the fight, including horse-holders.

General William E. Jones says in his official report :

With my staff, I hastened on to rally all the stragglers of the train to the support of whatever force might be guarding the road. Arriving, I found Captain George M. Emack's company of the Maryland cavalry, with one gun, opposed to a whole division of Federal cavalry with a full battery. He had already been driven back within a few hundred yards of the junction of the roads. Not half of the long train had passed. This brave little band of heroes was encouraged with the hope of speedy reinforcements, reminded of the importance of their trust, and exhorted to fight to the bitter end rather than yield. The last charge of grape was expended and the piece sent to the rear. For more than two