

Two days after the battle of Manassas the company was sent on picket duty to Falls Church, and made a reconnoissance on July 24 and occupied Mason's Hill, and upon Captain Gaither's report Colonel Stuart (who was at Fairfax Court House in command of the cavalry and infantry advance of the army) immediately marched the First Maryland Infantry and First Virginia Cavalry from Fairfax Court House and took possession of Mason's and Munson's Hills, two important points, each of which overlooked Washington City.

After this, Company M was constantly on picket duty from Lewinsville to the Great Falls of the Potomac, and skirmishes with the enemy's cavalry were of almost daily occurrence. But the enemy finally occupied Lewinsville in force, and Colonel Stuart was compelled to bring a considerable body of troops to drive them out. A severe fight ensued before the place was reoccupied by the Confederates, in which the First Virginia Cavalry, as usual, took a conspicuous part.

About this time Lieutenants George Howard and Samuel W. Dorsey resigned from the company, and upon an election for Lieutenants Ridgely Brown was chosen First Lieutenant, Frank A. Bond Second Lieutenant, and Thomas Griffith Third Lieutenant. The company as thus reorganized was then regularly mustered into the First Virginia Cavalry, for the first time, at Fairfax Court House on August 1, 1861.

The regiment had now undergone a change of commanders, Captain William E. Jones having been promoted to the Colonelcy, vice Colonel J. E. B. Stuart, who had been made a Brigadier-General.

During the fall and winter of 1861-2 the regiment saw much hard service on picket duty in advance of the army of General Joseph E. Johnston, which was at Centreville and Manassas. Heavy skirmishing was of frequent occurrence, until General Johnston finally fell back to the Rappahannock, and during that retreat the First Virginia brought up the rear. In all these operations Company M was conspicuous for its gallantry, and was more than once complimented by the Colonel commanding.

We next find the First Virginia with the army on the Peninsula, under command of Colonel Fitz Hugh Lee, Colonel Jones having been promoted in the meantime. By order of Colonel Lee, the initial of the company was changed from M to K, and to show his appreciation of its services he gave it position on the right of the column.

The history of the First Virginia Cavalry embraces the whole period of the war, and if we should go into detail of its operations up to the time Company K was transferred it would fill a large volume. In all these operations Company K bore a prominent part. We will, therefore, briefly enumerate the actions in which the regiment participated up to the transfer of Company K to the First Maryland Cavalry .