

A FINE WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR MEDAL TO AN OFFICER OF THE FAMED 1ST WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY WHO WAS INJURED AT THE BATTLE OF PORT REPUBLIC JUNE 1862. PREVIOUS TO ENLISTMENT HE WAS A PRINTER AND ESTABLISHED A NEWSPAPER 'THE AMERICAN CITIZEN' IN 1855



**WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR MEDAL 'HONORABLY DISCHARGED' TYPE
'WILM H. MURPHY. Co H 1st CAV VOLs. 1st SEgt'**

William H Murphy, aged 32, a printer from Uniontown, PA, who had established a newspaper 'The American Citizen' in 1855, enlisted as 2nd Lieutenant into Company 'E' 1st Virginia Cavalry on 16 June 1861. On 4 July 1862 resigned his commission due to health- his service papers noting he had contracted disease of the lungs during the winter of 1861-2 and that he had been severely injured falling from his horse while in action during the battle of Port Republic on 8 June 1862, suffering internal injuries. They also contain a letter from his Colonel regretting his loss to the Regiment. Murphy further reenlisted as a 1st Sgt Company "H" 1st West Virginia Cavalry on 27 February 1864. The 1st West Virginia Cavalry was his old Regiment that had been officially renamed West Virginia Cavalry when the Unionist State of West Virginia was officially admitted to the Union in 1863. Musters show that Murphy spent much of the time between mid September and December 1864 in hospital and from January 1865, variously on duty, detached service and hospital. He was finally discharged on 30 May 1865 and died on 30 October 1866

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Port_Republic

Condition; GVF. Medal named with rank of 1st Sergeant as this was his later rank. Sold with a good deal of research both printed and on CD, including musters and widow's pension file.

A fine medal to a soldier in an excellent Cavalry Regiment who's initial service as an Officer is of particular interest

1st WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY SERVICE

The regiment was recruited from the western counties of Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and western Virginia, at a time when the Government was not organizing cavalry regiments. It was composed of superior material, mostly young men from the farms, experienced horsemen and marksmen, who could break and tame the wildest colt, or pierce the head of a squirrel in the top of the tallest hickory with a rifle bullet. When the regiment entered the field mounted and equipped, with its complement of field, staff and line officers, and led by Prof. Carl Colby's famous silver cornet band, all mounted on milk white horses, the regiment well caparisoned, with jingling and flapping trappings, the riders all young and handsome, it was a beautiful and inspiring organization as ever graced the armies of the United States. This the citizens of Clarksburg, Cumberland, Martinsburg and Winchester will no doubt cordially admit, though the uniforms may not have been their favourite colour.

Its first active service was in the mountains of West Virginia, by detachments, scouting and doing picket and outpost duty to the various infantry commands holding the mountain passes and guarding the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. These duties in the wild, mountainous region, infested with Confederate scouts, guerrillas and bushwhackers, soon developed in the officers and men that individuality, courage and daring which distinguished them throughout the period of their service. In the spring of 1862, it was brigaded with other cavalry regiments, under the command of General Hatch, and participated in the operations in the valley of the Shenandoah and its neighbourhood under General Shields, Banks, McDowell, Schenck and Fremont, though some of the companies were separated. Capt. C.C. Krepps, with a company of the regiment, put the enemy's cavalry, panic stricken, to flight, and gained possession of the bridge at Port Republic, and but for orders to the contrary, would have destroyed it, thereby cutting off the retreat of Stonewall Jackson. In the darkness of night preceding the battle of Cedar Mountain, Captains Steele and C.C. Krepps, with two companies, rode through General Jackson's camps, creating great apprehension and confusion, at the same time capturing a number of prisoners.



1st WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY SERVICE – MURPHY'S FIRST ENLISTMENT:

SERVICE.--Action at Carnifex Ferry, W. Va., September 10, 1861 (Detachment). Romney, W. Va., October 26 (Co. "A"). Guyandotte, W. Va., November 10 (Detachment). Wirt Court House November 19. Capture of Suttonville, Braxton Court House, November 29. In support

of Garfield's operations in Eastern Kentucky against Humphrey Marshall December 23, 1861, to January 30, 1862 (Detachment). Skirmishes in Clay, Braxton and Webster Counties December 29-31. Jennies Creek, Ky., January 7, 1862 (Detachment). Regiment engaged in scouting, picket and outpost duty and guarding Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in West Virginia till March, 1862. Expedition to Blue's Gap January 6-7. Hanging Rock Pass, Romney, January 7. Bloomery Gap February 13. Bloomen February 15. Advance on Winchester, Va., March 5-12 (Cos. "C," "E" and "L"). Phillippi March 20 (4 Cos.). Battle of Winchester March 23. Monterey April 12 (Cos. "C," "E" and "L"). Buffalo Gap May 3 (Cos. "C," "E" and "L"). McDowell May 7 (Cos. "C," "E" and "L"). Scouts to Roane and Clay Counties May 8-21. Giles Court House May 10 (Detachment). Strasburg June 1. Cross Keys June 8. Port Republic June 9. White Plains June 10. Expedition to Madison Court House, Culpeper Court House and Orange Court House July 12-17. Near Culpeper July 12. Cedar Mountain August 9 (Cos. "C," "E" and "L").

1st WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY SERVICE – MURPHY'S SECOND ENLISTMENT:

Averill's Raid on Virginia & Tennessee Railroad May 5-19. Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, between Bloomfield and Piedmont, May 5. Abb's Valley, Jeffersonville, May 8. Grassy Lick, Cove Mountain, near Wytheville, May 10. Doublin Station May 12. Rude's Hill and New Market May 14. Lewisburg May 20 (Detachment). Hunter's Raid on Lynchburg May 26-July 1. Staunton June 8. White Sulphur Springs June 10. Lexington June 11. Scout around Lynchburg June 13-15. Near Buchanan June 13. New London June 16. Diamond Hill June 17. Lynchburg June 17-18. Snicker's Ford June 18. Liberty June 19. Buford's Gap June 20. Catawba Mountains and about Salem June 21. Snicker's Ferry, Va., July 17-18. Carter's Farm, near Stephenson's Depot, July 20. Newtown July 22. Kernstown, Winchester, July 24. Falling Waters July 24. Martinsburg July 25. Hagerstown July 29. Hancock July 31. Williamsport and Hagerstown August 5. Near Moorefield August 7. Williamsport August 26. Martinsburg August 31. Bunker Hill September 3-4. Stephenson's Depot September 5. Darkesville September 10. Bunker Hill September 13. Berryville and near Brentsville September 14. Centreville September 14. Charlestown September 17. Winchester September 19



1st Sergeant Murphy musters are incomplete or/and contradictory for the following months when comparing with his pension file. It seems he was mainly in hospital and on detached service until discharged.