

Camp McClellan – 16th and 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiments National Civil War Museum

These are cavalry men. But few of them have yet received their horses. They are but novices in the art and science of soldiery; but yet the men of Camp McClellan are remarkably well-disciplined. In deportment towards their officers and others they are perfect gentlemen, in every sense of the word.

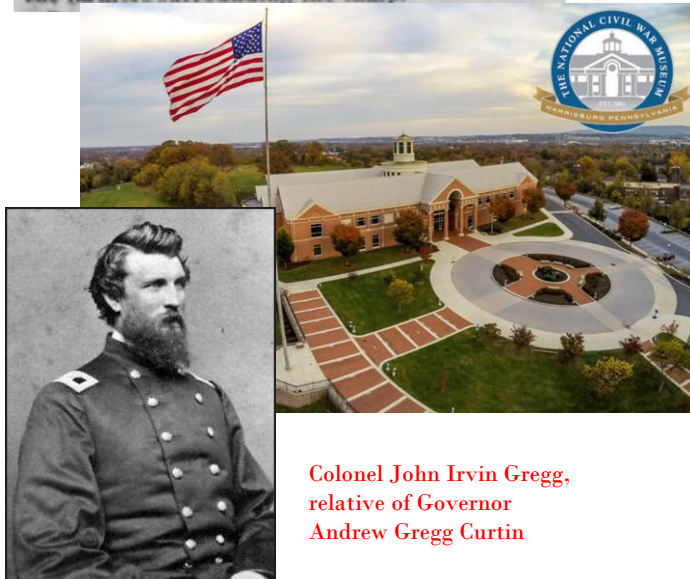
There are, of course, some few "black sheep" among them. Some who will escape the guard; some, but few, who will drink; some who, after they have obtained whisky at the country taverns, will carouse. Of these men, disgraceful reports are published. "Turkeys, chickens, fruit, fences, and other movable property, disappear every night." This is a little exaggerated. The fences, at least, are still standing. I conversed with a gentleman (Mr. Keyson), whose farm adjoins the camp, and who has been reported as having lost considerable, who informed me that he had no reason to be dissatisfied; that the injury to his farm was but trifling—not so great as reported. I met with the same reply among all the farmers surrounding the camp.

Camp McClellan was established in Harrisburg in November of 1862. The 16th and 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiments moved to Camp McClellan from Camp Simmons on November 12th, 1862, and in two week's time, were shipped to Washington DC on November 25th, 1862. The location of this camp had long been a mystery until the recent discovery of a November 21st, 1862, newspaper article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which noted the camp adjoined the farm of a Mr. Raysor (Keysor) on the Jonestown Road.

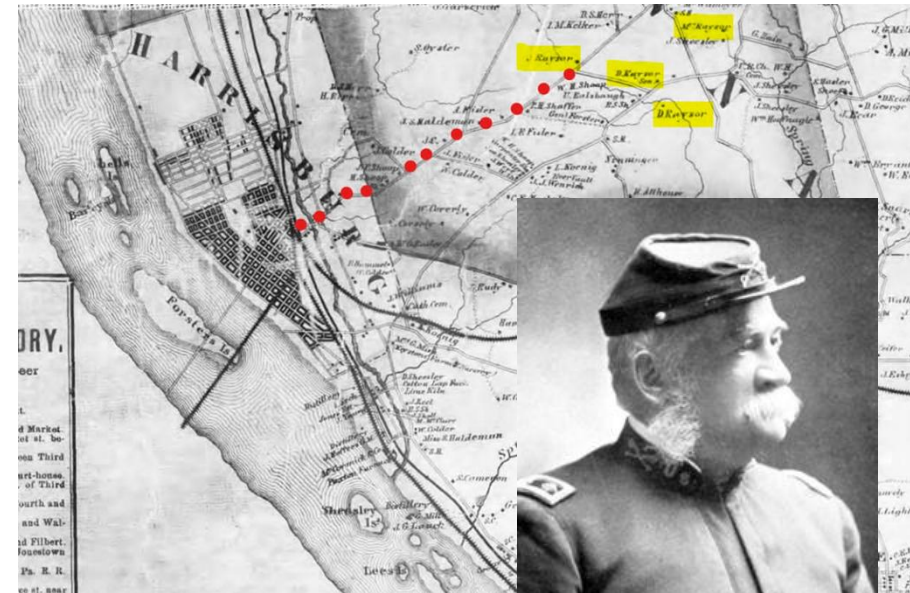
These two regiments, organized in Harrisburg in late 1862 were under the direction of two experienced cavalrymen. The 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry was under the command of Colonel John Irvin Gregg, cousin of Union Cavalry General David McMurtre Gregg. Gregg hailed from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, and had served as a Captain in 11th United States Infantry in the Mexican War. He stood 6'4" tall and was called "Long John" by the men who served under his command. He served in various roles prior to commanding the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Gregg was the colonel of the 5th Pennsylvania Reserves, a commander of 6th US Cavalry, and then the colonel of the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry. He would fight with the unit at Chancellorsville, Battle of Brandy Station and at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry was commanded by West Point graduate, Colonel Josiah H. Kellogg of Erie, Pennsylvania. Kellogg was another seasoned veteran serving as a captain in the 1st US Cavalry in the Peninsula Campaign. He would receive a promotion to colonel and then sent to Harrisburg to take command of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry at Camp McClellan. Likewise, the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry would fight with the 16th at Chancellorsville, Brandy Station and Gettysburg. These sole Camp McClellan units would prove valuable to the war effort and would serve through the end of the Civil War. General Robert Milroy also used the area of Camp McClellan in June of 1863 (present Penbrook) for one of his wagon trains that narrowly missed capture at Winchester.

The Sixteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry is commanded as follows:—
Colonel—J. IRVIN GREGG, of Centre county.
Lieutenant-Colonel—L. D. Rogers, Venango.
First Major—Wm. A. West, Fayette.
Second Major—Wm. H. Fry, Philadelphia.
Third Major—John Stroup, Mifflin.
Adjutant—J. R. Day.
Quartermaster—James K. Robinson, Juniata.
Commissary—Wm. A. McDowell, Fayette.
Sergeant-Major—Chas. H. Miller, Philadelphia.
Seventeenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.
This regiment has been organized as follows:—
Colonel—JOSEPH H. KELLOGG.
Lieutenant-Colonel—John B. McAllister.
First Major—David B. Hartranft.
Second Major—C. Durland.
Third Major—Reuben Reinhold.
Acting Surgeon—James Moore, M. D.
Captain, David E. Whitney: First Lieutenant.



Colonel John Irvin Gregg,
relative of Governor
Andrew Gregg Curtin



Colonel Josiah H. Kellogg