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**An Account of the Battle of Crampton's Pass**

BEING AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

**EDWARD BURD GRUBB, Bvt. Brig. Genl. U. S. Vols.,**  
**AT THE RE-UNION OF KEARNEY'S FIRST NEW JERSEY BRIGADE,**  
At Edgewater Park, September 20, 1888.

*Comrades of the Old Brigade:*

It is a pleasure that comes but seldom to any man to meet at his own home and around his own hearth at one time, so many of the men who, in the days gone by, have stood with him in battle. Such occasion brings to the surface all the better part of man's nature and renews the bonds of friendship, which in a soldier's heart are rarely weakened. I bid you most heartily welcome and I assure you I appreciate the honor, as I most sincerely feel the pleasure which your presence here gives me. I see around me men browned and time-stained now, whom I remember well when they were ruddy-cheeked boys with fresh visages and slim figures and in whose eyes I have often seen gleam the fierce light of battle and I miss many well-known faces, some of which I know lie on the fields of Virginia and some lie buried in the churchyards of our own dear State. This gathering will commemorate them all, and on this day we will remember those who fell around us in battle and not forget those who have fallen since, under the wings of the peace we conquered.

My special object here to-day, besides giving you the most sincere welcome that my heart is capable of, is to recall to

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your minds the battle which this re-union is intended to commemorate. The battle of Crampton's Pass was fought upon the 14th of September, 1862, and the 14th of September is the day on which your re-union is annually fixed, but by reason of my absence at the Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Columbus, Ohio, which as Department Commander it was my duty to attend, you were kind enough to postpone your meeting until this day, thereby giving me the great pleasure of your presence at my place.

On the 11th of September, 1862, the Army of the Potomac, under the command of General McClellan, was moving toward the Rebel Army, which was then concentrated not far from Hagerstown, Md., and on the 13th a very large portion of the Army of the Potomac was fiercely engaged at the gap in the South Mountain, known as South Mountain Gap. The Sixth Corps, under the command of General Franklin, was ordered to proceed along the Burkettsville road and seize and hold Crampton's Pass, which was not then known to be occupied by the enemy. The object of this move was to relieve, if possible, Col. Miles, who was besieged at Harper's Ferry, about fourteen miles from the Pass, and history shows now, that if the victory which the First Division of the Sixth Corps gained had been followed promptly up there was a great opportunity to have relieved Col. Miles.

The road from Burkettsville to Crampton's Pass lies through a beautiful rolling country, with the sweet pasture lands of Maryland lying on either side, thickly dotted with farm houses. A short distance from Burkettsville the road rises to ascend the South Mountain and passes over it, through a narrow gorge, walled on either side by very steep hills. At the foot of the hills were fields enclosed by stone walls and the hills were thickly wooded. There were two ranges of low hills and then the mountain top, forming a natural and admirable position for the placing in position of artillery.

As General Franklin approached the gap, his scouts in-

formed him that the Pass was held by the enemy in force. He made his disposition about two o'clock on the afternoon of the 14th of September to attack them. The attack was intended to be made by Newton's Second Division and Slocum's First Division of the Sixth Corps. We may leave out the gallant part which the other troops of the First Division bore and confine ourselves to that which was borne by the gallant boys of our Brigade, for they really won the battle and I have never heard anybody deny it. Col. Torbert was in command of the First Brigade and at half past two o'clock in the afternoon he was ordered to relieve one of the Regiments of General Newton's Division, which was on his right, which he did with the Second New Jersey, and this really commenced the battle so far as our Brigade was concerned. The distribution of the Brigade was in two lines, the First and Second in one line and the Third and Fourth, about one hundred and fifty yards in their rear, composing the second line. They were supported by, but had no need of, the other Regiments of the First Division.

Let us now see what was opposed to them. The gap was held by Col. T. T. Munford's Brigade of Second Virginia Cavalry, the Sixth Virginia Cavalry, the Twelfth Virginia Cavalry and Seventeenth Virginia Cavalry and Chew's and Pelham's Virginia Batteries, eight guns in all. They were supported by Semmes' Brigade, the Tenth and Thirteenth Georgia, the Fifteenth and Thirty-Second Virginia and a short distance in their rear, and as it turned out, within supporting distance, Cobb's Brigade, comprising the Georgia Legion, the Sixteenth and Twenty-Fourth Georgia and the Fifteenth North Carolina. Also Mahone's Brigade, commanded by Col. Parham. Col. Munford, on seeing the advance of the infantry, opened with his artillery and sent back word to Gen. Cobb to come to his support, and it was about that time that the Jersey Brigade charged. This charge is described by every one who saw it, as one of the most magnificent, best sustained and most gallant charges

that every was seen. Torbert ordered the second line, composed as I have said of the Third and Fourth, to charge, which it did with a yell, rushing over the fence behind which the first line, composed of the First and Second, were lying, which line immediately joined them and the entire Brigade went over the fence, up to the stone wall behind which the rebels were hid and from which they were pouring a deadly fire. The enemy fell back before our men could reach the wall, fleeing in some confusion across a small field to the second wall, closely pursued by the Brigade. There was no stand made at the second which was, remember, almost at the foot of a steep hill, and the entire Brigade, yelling and charging, firing and in many instances engaging in single combat with those who refused to surrender, rushed over the wall and scrambled, for that is the only word that expresses it, up the steep hill with the enemy in front of them and in many cases among them. This hill was so steep that afterward, in company with some others, I found the greatest difficulty in cold blood in climbing it at all. Upon reaching the top of the hill there was one of the most magnificent war scenes enacted that any man could wish to see. Cobb's Legion and Semmes' men were there, the artillery was at one end of the flat top of the hill and the Jersey Brigade, flushed with victory, rushed with exultant yells upon it. The firing was very severe and a slight check was made on the top of the hill; it was only for a moment, but sufficient for the rebels to get off all their guns but one; another rush was made and this gun was taken. These with three stands of colors fell to the possession of that magnificent regiment, which through no fault of its own or any of its members, but through the mischance of a badly arranged battle, had lost its liberty, its arms and its colors at Gaines' Mills, I mean that grand old regiment, the Fourth New Jersey. Well did the Brigade avenge them that day and well did they avenge themselves, for three hundred prisoners, three stands of colors, over seven hundred stands of arms of the

most approved pattern, one piece of artillery and a large number of haversacks and blankets were the spoils of the top of the hill at Crampton's Pass.

Over the hill-top they pursued, the enemy fleeing panic-stricken and down, far down on the other side. As long as they could pursue they did pursue, but human breath and human legs cannot go very far over a mountain-top and so at the foot of the hill on the other side from where they had made their first stand, the rebels stopped when night came down and they could no longer be seen to be captured. And when the evening's shade hid them from the view of our sharpshooters, they fell back two miles along the plain, and Crampton's Pass, the key of the rebel position, was in the hands of the Jersey Brigade. This was a clear and undisputed victory, one of the few fights in the whole war, so far as I know, that the enemy made no claim to having won.

Howell Cobb, in his report of the battle, says: "after the lines were broken all our efforts to rally the troops were unsuccessful. It is impossible for me to report the casualties, as the fate of a very large portion of the number who went into the battle is not certainly known; there are missing and unaccounted for over eight hundred." Well, we have accounted for three hundred of this number as prisoners and the others will probably answer to their names on the day of judgment.

General Semmes says in his report: "I encountered fugitives from the battle and endeavored to turn them back; proceeding further up the mountain, the troops were pouring down in great disorder, where I found Howell Cobb and Staff, at the imminent risk of their lives, using every effort to check and rally them." And Col. Munford in his report says, "when the other two Regiments of Gen. Cobb's Brigade came up he again requested me to put them in position, but they behaved badly and they did not get into position before the wildest confusion occurred, the wounded coming to the rear in numbers and more well men coming with

them. General Cobb tried to rally the men, but without effect; it would have been as useless to attempt to rally a flock of frightened sheep. I formed my command (Cavalry) and moved down the mountain, the Infantry still running in great disorder on the Harper's Ferry road, followed a short distance by the enemy who were then between them and the Cavalry who had to go for their horses; the enemy was at the forks of this road before many of the Cavalry, who were the last to give up their position."

This is the record the Jersey Brigade made for itself on the 14th of September, 1862. Its cost was heavy, but most remarkably light compared with that of the enemy, notwithstanding its magnificent charge over two stone walls held by Virginia's best troops and up a hill so steep that many of the enemy fleeing before them were shot lengthwise, that is, from foot to head. The loss to the Brigade was one officer killed, the gallant Studdiford, who was shot through the heart just as the long cheer of victory rang out on the top of the hill; nine officers wounded, thirty-nine commissioned officers and privates killed, one hundred and twenty-five non-commissioned officers and privates wounded, aggregate one hundred and seventy-four. God rest their souls and let us keep their memory ever green.

# REPORTS OF MOVEMENTS

*Report of Col. A. T. A. Torbert, First New Jersey Infantry,  
commanding First Brigade, of the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., FIRST DIV., SIXTH CORPS,  
*Camp in Crampton's Pass, near Burkettsville, Md.,* }  
September 16, 1862. }

SIR—I have the honor to report the following as the part taken by the First Brigade in the action on the 14th at Crampton's Pass, Md.:

It being decided to attack the enemy posted in the pass, the division was ordered to advance in six lines, two regiments front, the First Brigade being in rear. About 3 o'clock I marched my brigade in two lines by the right flank under cover till we gained the open ground, when the advance was made in line of battle as follows: First line, First and Second Regiments New Jersey Volunteers; second line, 150 paces in rear, Third and Fourth Regiments New Jersey Volunteers. They advanced about a half mile with great regularity through clover and corn fields, intersected by high wood and stone fences, being exposed the greater part of the time to the enemy's artillery fire. Arriving within supporting distance of Colonel Bartlett's Brigade, which was engaging the enemy, I halted. Soon after I ordered the Second Regiment New Jersey Volunteers forward to relieve one of Colonel Bartlett's regiments, which was out of ammunition, which they did with promptness. The enemy was posted behind a stone wall at the base of the mountains, with a wood just behind them.

At this time the distance between the contending parties was between 300 and 400 yards, an open field intervening. Thinking the distance too great, General Newton ordered

me to charge forward to the wood. Accordingly, I ordered forward my second line, Third and Fourth Regiments New Jersey Volunteers, to charge across the open field into the woods. The front line was ordered to cease firing. A cheer, and the men went forward at double quick in a most gallant manner, jumping the fence, on the way, behind which our men had been fighting. When they had advanced about 150 yards, I ordered the second line, First and Second Regiments, to charge in the same manner as the first, which they did in a handsome manner. The enemy, although holding a very strong position, and having the advantage of artillery, could not stand these charges, so broke and fled up the mountain side in great disorder, closely pursued by our men, who drove them through the pass, and some distance in the valley on the other side, when night put an end to the pursuit.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the bravery and gallantry of both officers and men, for they certainly did credit to themselves and the State they represent.

I am pleased to make particular mention of Lieutenant-Colonel Collet, Third Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, commanding First Regiment New Jersey Volunteers; Colonel Buck, Second Regiment; Colonel Brown, Third Regiment, and Colonel Hatch, Fourth Regiment, for their bravery, coolness, and the admirable manner in which they handled their regiments.

Where officers and men all behave with such gallantry, it would be invidious to particularize.

A great many of the enemy were taken prisoners, and among them several officers. The brigade captured nearly enough Springfield rifled muskets to arm the Fourth Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, who were before armed with the smooth-bore musket.

I am happy to state that the Fourth Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, which lost its colors before Richmond, captured two colors during the engagement.

I take great pleasure in making honorable mention of my staff, Lieut. Henry P. Cooke, Second Regiment, acting assistant adjutant-general; Capt. James G. Fitts, brigade commissary, and Lieut. Charles Wilson, Third Regiment, acting aide-de-camp, for their bravery, coolness, promptness and correctness in carrying my orders to different parts of the field.

I regret to mention the death of Josiah S. Studdiford, first lieutenant and adjutant, Fourth Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, who fell while gallantly cheering on his men, just as we had gained the top of the pass.

The loss to the brigade has been as follows: One officer killed, 9 officers wounded; total, 10. Thirty-nine non-commissioned officers and privates killed, 125 non-commissioned officers and privates wounded; total, 164. Aggregate, 174.

I cannot pay too high a compliment to the medical staff of the brigade for the manner in which they performed their duty.

The chaplains of the different regiments deserve great credit for their assistance in conveying the wounded to the rear, and administering to their wants.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. T. A. TORBERT,

*Colonel First Regiment New Jersey Vols., Comdg. Brigade.*

MAJOR RODGERS,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Report of Lieut. Col. Mark W. Collet, Third New Jersey Infantry, commanding First New Jersey Infantry, of the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

HDQURS. FIRST REGIMENT NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS, }  
 September 16, 1862. }

SIR—I have the honor to report:

The First Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, with the Second Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, was in the first line of the brigade. The advance across the fields, under a heavy fire of shell and solid shot from the enemy's batteries, was steady and unwavering. When the order was given to "Charge, and drive the rebels from the hill," the regiment, with cheers, started, and halted only when the enemy was driven from the hill and entirely dispersed.

Where officers and men all behaved with such distinguished gallantry, it is impossible to single out one for particular mention.

The killed and wounded in the First New Jersey, as far as yet ascertained, are as follows:

\*            \*            \*            \*            \*            \*            \*

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
M. W. COLLET,  
*Lieut. Col. Third N. J. Vols., in command of First N. J. Vols.*

FIRST LIEUT. H. P. COOKE,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, New Jersey Brigade.*

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*Report of Col. Samuel L. Buck, Second New Jersey Infantry,  
of the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

HDQRS. SECOND REGIMENT NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS, }  
*Camp in Crampton's Pass, September 16, 1862.* }

SIR—The movements of this regiment previous to, and in action of, 14th instant are as follows:

Marched from camp near Buckey's Station at 6 a. m., Second Regiment in column; arrived at Jefferson at 11 o'clock; bivouacked about one hour; then advanced within 2 miles of Crampton's Pass; there rested one hour and thirty minutes; advanced by the flank under cover of rising ground until within musket-range of the enemy; formed in line of battle (having the left of the advance line of the brigade), and moved forward to relieve one regiment of Bartlett's brigade, posted in rear of a rail fence. We occupied the same position which they had left, and opened fire on the enemy. After firing about twenty minutes, the Fourth Regiment of the second line advanced through our lines and made a charge across an open field, followed immediately by us, both reaching the stone fence about the same time, behind which the enemy were in position. The enemy broke and fled, we pursuing them up the hill and through the pass. As we advanced, the regiment wheeled to the right, the left resting on the crest of the hill on the left of the road. At this point the enemy were re-inforced by fresh regiments, but they could not withstand our fire, and, without getting into position, broke and fled, we following them down the hill and along the road a distance of about a quarter of a mile, where we could see the baggage train of the enemy, protected by two pieces of artillery, in full retreat. As we appeared, they opened on us with grape and canister. If

our men had been fresh at this point, we could easily have taken the artillery and part of the baggage train, but the men were so fatigued, and darkness coming on, the enemy made good their escape. Being relieved by the Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, by order of Colonel Torbert we fell back about a quarter of a mile, encamping in a field on the left-hand side of the road, which position we occupy at the present time.

As regards the conduct of officers and men, I would state that it was all that could be desired or expected. Where all exhibited so much determination and gallantry, it would be invidious to particularize, but I cannot close without calling your attention to the brave conduct of Color Corpl. Joseph Donovan, of Company A, who bore our colors through the thickest of the fight in the most gallant manner, and justly merits promotion.

Herewith find list of casualties:

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Trusting the above will meet your approbation, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. BUCK,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

LIEUT. H. P. COOKE,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*Report of Col. Henry Brown, Third New Jersey Infantry, of  
the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

HDQRS. THIRD REGIMENT NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEES, }  
*Camp in Crampton's Pass, Md., Sept. 15, 1862. }*

SIR—On Sunday morning, the 14th instant, about six o'clock, we left our bivouac, and marched through a pass over the mountain to Jefferson, where we halted in a field by the town for some time. A little before noon we again marched to a point about a half a mile to the rear of the village of Burkittsville, where we formed a line of battle on the slope of a wooded height, a little on the right of the enemy's position. After remaining a few minutes, we moved forward into a swampy hollow, and there remained until 4 o'clock p. m., when we marched by a flank side by side with the First Regiment, followed respectively by the

Fourth and Second, keeping as well concealed as the nature of the ground permitted from the fire of the enemy's artillery, which was strongly posted on a road which leads nearly parallel to the hillside from Burkittsville, and turned suddenly to the left through the gap (artillery was also posted on the steep, rocky, and woody height), until we came directly in front of the enemy's position, where we halted.

The First and Second Regiments moved forward, forming the first line of the brigade. The Third and Fourth followed to the front at a distance varying from 100 to sometimes only 30 paces in rear, according to the nature of the ground. We moved thus over an open country intersected by high fences, the men clambering over as best they could, and quickly regaining their position in line, marching with great steadiness and precision, and so through a corn-field, still exposed to a hot fire of shell from the enemy, for a distance of one-fourth of a mile. At the verge of the corn-field we were ordered to halt. Here we lost some men from their shell.

Ten minutes after, we were ordered forward, and moved rapidly and steadily across a grass field under cover of a slight rise in front. The men were here ordered to lie down in line. The first line was now hotly engaged, as we could hear from the incessant fusillade intermingled with the roar of the enemy's guns, now throwing grape and canister as well as shell. In five minutes the Third and Fourth were ordered in to relieve the first line, and the men, springing up, went in with a cheer up to, over, and through the high fence held by the enemy at the base of the wooded heights and strongly lined by his sharpshooters, who delivered their fire with great rapidity. But nothing could withstand the onset of our men. The enemy broke and fled, pursued by our men without halt up the sides of the mountain, climbing up the shingly sides of the hill until they reached the road before mentioned.

Here it was observed that a battalion of the enemy were forming on the right of our line, now become the first line of the brigade, when we changed front forward and delivered a destructive fire on his half-formed line, followed up by a renewal of the charge, when he broke utterly and the pursuit continued. A party of my regiment, under command of Lieutenant Fairly, my acting adjutant, and Lieutenant

Huffy, consisting of about 20 men, moved off from the regiment by my order, and circling round by the road to the right, got in rear of and around the heights up which the body of the regiment was pursuing the retreating foe. They moved with such rapidity that many of the party fell out exhausted, and on their arrival at the point described in rear the adjutant found he had but five men. With these he succeeded in capturing 4 of the enemy's officers and many of their men. This party, being out of ammunition, was obliged to abandon the pursuit, though they delivered their last remaining fire into the enemy's artillery, now in full retreat, and which could easily have been captured had there been cavalry to pursue.

Thus ended a sharp and well-contested action, in which the enemy had every advantage of numbers, position and artillery. In his utter and complete rout, my men showed here what they could do when they had a fair chance, and they here well sustained the honor of New Jersey on this field. I have not to regret the loss of any officer killed. Captain Stickney, of Company F, and Second Lieutenant Lambson, of Company E, are both slightly wounded. My officers and men behaved most gallantly. Those officers who had received their commissions on the previous day (all in command of companies) showed by their conduct how well they had deserved their promotion. Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of the Fifteenth Regiment New Jersey Volunteers, late captain of Company E, in my regiment, and of the acceptance of whose resignation I have not yet received official notice, was my only acting field officer, and though where all have distinguished themselves it might seem invidious to particularize, I should be acting unjustly did I not mention how nobly he assisted me. I must also mention First Lieut. David Fairly, my acting adjutant, for his promptness in repeating my commands, as well as for his perfect coolness and daring intrepidity. Lieutenant Huffy also behaved remarkably well.

One of my officers captured the colors of the Cobb Legion at the same time with a private, but seeing the man belonged to the Fourth Regiment of our brigade, he gave up his claim to the colors, and gave Colonel Hatch the sling in the evening. Both color-bearers of my regiment, Sergeant Haggerty, of Company A, and Corporal Westcott, of Company B, behaved with distinguished gallantry, waving their

colors continually in advance, and I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of Acting Sergeant Dalziel, of Company D, who accompanied my acting adjutant with the party detailed and brought down many of the enemy with his unerring rifle.

My entire loss was 11 killed and 28 wounded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. BROWN,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

LIEUT. H. P. COOKE,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*Report of Colonel William B. Hatch, New Jersey Infantry, of  
the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

CRAMPTON'S PASS, MD., *September 16, 1862.*

SIR—I have the honor to report that in compliance with orders received on the 16th instant from Col. A. T. A. Torbert, then in command of the brigade, I took position with the Fourth New Jersey Volunteers in rear of the Second Regiment, forming part of the second line of battle. The Second Regiment had engaged the enemy, who held a strong position behind a stone wall at the foot of the mountain with a large force of infantry. I then received orders to charge the enemy. I advanced across a plowed field of 400 yards in extent under a heavy cross-fire from the enemy's artillery, which was planted on the mountain slope, driving him from every point in front of us. We leaped the walls and continued in pursuit over the mountain into the gorge and up the next ascent to its summit, the enemy retreating in disorder into the valley below. We took many prisoners, including a large number of officers, among whom was Col. Lamar, wounded, and his adjutant; also two stand of colors. In the eagerness of pursuit we ran over two other rebel flags, which were picked up by a New York regiment. Among the spoils of the engagement obtained by us were a sufficient number of Springfield rifled muskets to equip my whole command, who were previously armed with an imperfect smooth-bore musket.

Where officers and men fought with such determination

it is impossible for me to make an exception for brave and gallant conduct during the engagement. My officers bravely cheered on their men, who advanced with unflinching steadiness, and maintained their alignment with almost the precision of a battalion drill. On the list of casualties of the day the most to be regretted is Adjt. Josiah S. Studdiford, who was instantly killed after we had reached the gorge between the mountain cliffs. He had borne himself gallantly, everywhere cheering the men to victory. Ten killed, 27 wounded; total, 37.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. HATCH,  
*Colonel Fourth New Jersey Volunteers.*

LIEUT. H. P. COOKE,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First N. J. Brig.*

*Report of Brig. Gen. Howell Cobb, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of the battle of Crampton's Pass.*

GENERAL S. McLAW'S BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, }  
*Opequon Crossing, September 22, 1862.*

GENERAL—On the 13th instant I was ordered by you to take and hold possession of Sandy Hook, near Harper's Ferry; which was done, without serious opposition. On the 14th my command was ordered by you to return to our former camp, at Brownsville. This order was received about 1 o'clock p. m., and the brigade was immediately marched to that point, reaching there about 4 p. m. I had been in camp about an hour when I received message from Colonel Munford, at Crampton's Gap, distant about 2 miles, recommending the removal of my command to that point, as the enemy were pressing the small force at the gap. I immediately ordered my two strongest regiments to march to their support. Before, however, the head of the column had filed into the road I received a message from Colonel Parham, who was in command of Mahone's brigade at the gap, to the effect that the enemy was pressing him hard with overwhelming numbers, and appealing for all the support I could bring to him. I immediately ordered the remaining two regiments to march, and accompanied the command in person. As I was marching the last of the column, I received

a message from you, through your assistant adjutant-general (Major McIntosh) that I must hold the gap if it cost the life of every man in my command. Thus impressed with the importance of the position, I went forward with the utmost dispatch. When I reached the top of the mountain, I found that the enemy had been repulsed and driven back in the centre and had been pursued down the other side of the mountain by Mahone's brigade. I soon discovered, however, that the enemy, by their greatly superior numbers, were flanking us both upon the right and left. Two of my regiments were sent to the right and two to the left to meet these movements of the enemy. In this we were successful, until the centre gave way, pressed by fresh troops of the enemy and increased numbers. Up to this time the troops had fought well, and maintained their ground against greatly superior forces. The Tenth Georgia Regiment, of General Semmes' brigade, had been ordered to the gap from their position at the foot of the mountain, and participated in the battle with great courage and energy. After the lines were broken, all my efforts to rally the troops were unsuccessful. I was enabled to check their advance by momentary rallies, and, the night coming on, I made a successful stand near the foot of the mountain, which position we held during the night, and until a new position was taken about day-dawn the next morning, in the rear of Brownsville, which position was held until the surrender of Harper's Ferry. General Semmes' brigade and Wilcox's brigade, under the command of Col. Cumming, of the Tenth Georgia Regiment, had been ordered, the former by General Semmes, the latter by yourself, to my support. They came up to the position I occupied during the night; they could not have reached me sooner. The whole number of troops engaged on our side did not exceed 2,200, whilst the force of the enemy was variously estimated from 10,000 to 20,000 men. It could not have been less than 10,000 and probably reached 15,000.

It is impossible for me to report the casualties, as the fate of only a few of the large number missing is certainly known. Of the number who went into battle there are now missing and unaccounted for over 800. The larger portion of this number is believed to be prisoners, as we were flanked on both the right and the left by the enemy, and, thus surrounded, our men were compelled to surrender. For the most successful rally made on the retreat from the crest of

the mountain I was indebted to a section of the Troup Artillery, under Lieutenant [Henry] Jennings. They had been ordered forward, and had reached a point where, under the terrific fire of the enemy, their pieces were placed in position, and, by their prompt and rapid firing, checked for a time the advance of the enemy. One of the pieces was brought off safely; the other was lost by an accident to the axle. When I reached the gap I found both Colonel Munford and Colonel Parham active and energetic in the discharge of their duty, which continued to the end of the fight. Shortly after the lines were broken, and I was endeavoring to rally the troops, General Semmes appeared on the field, and, at great exposure and with great coolness and courage, gave me his cordial aid and co-operation. All of the members of my staff were on the field, and did all that could be done under the circumstances. One of them, Col. John B. Lamar, of Georgia, volunteer aide, whilst near my side, earnestly rallying the men, received a mortal wound, of which he died the next day. No nobler or braver man has fallen in this war. There were many other acts of personal courage which circumstances prevent me from mentioning at present. The remnant of my brigade marched with the rest of your division from Harper's Ferry, and was engaged in the battle of the 17th, at Sharpsburg. I was necessarily absent for two days from the command, and reached it the morning after the battle, and the present absence of the officer then in command of this brigade prevents a report at this time of that day's operation.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

HOWELL COBB,  
*Brigadier-General.*

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Paul J. Semmes, C. S. Army, commanding brigade, of the battles of Crampton's Pass and Sharpsburg.*

MAJOR—I have the honor to submit herewith the report of Major Holt, commanding the Tenth Georgia Volunteers, of the conduct of his regiment in the battle of Crampton's Gap, on the 14th instant, together with a list of casualties in his regiment; also Captain Manly's report of the part taken by his battery in the same action:

By order of Major-General McLaws, a picket, consisting

of a company was posted in Burkittsville Gap, which, by my orders, was afterward increased to three regiments and five pieces of artillery, thus employing all the regiments of my brigade, except the Tenth Georgia, which had been previously sent to picket the Rohrersville road and other avenues leading down Pleasant Valley in the direction of Harper's Ferry. On the 13th instant, Colonel Parham, commanding Mahone's brigade, reported with his command to me by order of Major General McLaws, with directions to post one of his regiments as a picket in Solomon's Gap.

Having soon become more familiar with the roads and passes, on the morning of the 14th instant I ordered Colonel Parham, with his three remaining regiments and battery, to Crampton's Gap, for the purpose of guarding that pass; and directed him, if he should need support, to call upon Major Holt, commanding Tenth Georgia Volunteers, for his regiment, then posted on the Rohrersville road. On the morning of the 14th instant, Brigadier-General Cobb, with his command, was ordered up the valley to his old camp near mine, by Major-General McLaws. General McLaws informed me that General Cobb would take command of Crampton's Gap, and directed that the troops under my command should be withdrawn therefrom. When General Cobb returned to his old camp, I called on him, and communicated General McLaws' orders, and soon after set out to visit the picket guard in Burkittsville Gap. While on the mountain, the enemy engaged Colonel Parham's troops with artillery and infantry at the base of the mountain. I immediately dispatched this information to General Cobb, with the request that he would hurry forward his troops to Crampton's Gap, to the support of Colonel Parham, and in a few minutes I followed hurriedly on horseback, for the purpose of offering General Cobb whatever assistance it might be in my power to render him. Arriving at the base of, and soon after commencing the ascent of, the mountain at Crampton's Gap, I encountered fugitives from the battle-field, and endeavored to turn them back. Proceeding farther up the mountain, the troops were met pouring down the road and through the wood, in great disorder, where I found General Cobb and his staff, at the imminent risk of their lives, using every effort to check and rally them. I immediately joined my efforts, and those of my staff who were with me, to General Cobb's, and cooperated with him for a considerable time in the vain effort

to rally the men. Finding it impossible to rally them so near the enemy, it was determined to post artillery about half a mile farther to the rear and bring up two of my regiments from Burkittsville Gap, which had been previously ordered forward, and make a stand there to arrest the farther advance of the enemy during that night. Line of battle was finally formed here. The enemy made no farther advance.

Colonel Parham, commanding Mahone's brigade, and Colonel Munford, of the cavalry, as I was informed, jointly made the dispositions for the battle, which was conducted under their orders, and the troops under their command had been thrown into disorder and were retiring from the field before General Cobb's command came up.

Major Holt's report shows that up to the time he was disabled his regiment behaved well, and I can testify from my own observation that Captain Loud, upon whom the command devolved, conducted himself most gallantly. A section of Captain Manly's battery, and three pieces of the Reserve Artillery, under command of Captain Macon, which had been ordered to Burkittsville Gap by myself, did good service in breaking the enemy's lines, checking his advance, and inflicting loss on him.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 PAUL J. SEMMES,  
*Brigadier-General.*

MAJ. JAMES M. GOGGIN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*Report of Col. Thomas T. Munford, Second Virginia Cavalry,  
 commanding brigade*

HEADQUARTERS ROBERTSON'S BRIGADE, }  
 October 3, 1862. }

MAJOR—I have the honor to report that on September 14 the enemy drove in my pickets at Burkittsville, and, in accordance with the orders received from Major-General Stuart, I assumed command at Crampton's Gap (as I was the senior officer), and instructed the officers commanding the two fragments of regiments (infantry) of Mahone's brigade to hold the post at all hazards. I posted the infantry behind a stone wall, at the base of the mountain, and running par-

allel with it; the artillery—Chew's battery and a section of the Portsmouth Battery (boat howitzers)—about half way up the mountain, in the most eligible position I could find. I dismounted all the cavalry, and posted them on the right and left flanks. Finding that the artillery could not reach the enemy from the position selected, with effect, I retired the two rifle pieces to the crest of the mountain, and from that elevation poured an effective fire into their advancing columns. The enemy first advanced his skirmishers and made a demonstration, as if he intended attacking the gap held by General Semmes, but, as both his and my artillery played upon him with effect, he retired and moved his whole force upon me. As soon as his skirmishers were deployed, he advanced one regiment of infantry in line of battle, which was immediately followed by four others. In half an hour five other regiments appeared on their left and advanced in the same way, and in a very short time another brigade appeared in rear of those who had preceded them. Soon after the skirmishing commenced, Colonel Parham, commanding Mahone's brigade, came up with two very small regiments (Sixth and Twelfth Virginia), scarcely 300 men, which he soon got in position. General Semmes certainly knew the condition of things, as his artillery had been used, and he could see what was going on from his gap. I also sent dispatches to General Cobb, informing him of what was in front of us. For at least three hours this little force maintained their position against Slocum's division. (See General McClellan's dispatch of 16th). After much delay, and some four couriers had been sent, General Cobb, with two regiments of his brigade, came up to my support. When the General himself came up, I explained the position of the troops, and of course turned over to him the command. At his request I posted the two regiments. The first troops, having exhausted all the ammunition, began to fall back as soon as their support came up, Colonel Parham having already partially supplied them with ammunition. When the other two regiments of General Cobb's brigade came up, he again requested me to put them in position, but they behaved badly and did not get in position before the wildest confusion commenced, the wounded coming to the rear in numbers and more well men coming with them. General Cobb attempted to rally the men, but without the least effect, and it would have been as useless

to attempt to rally a flock of frightened sheep. Had General Cobb's brigade given the support to the first troops engaged which they deserved, the gap would have been held. The cavalry horses were on the road leading to Boonsborough, and, having previously retired the artillery on the Harper's Ferry road (every round of ammunition having been fired for some time before), I formed my command, and moved down the mountain, the infantry still running in great disorder on the Harper's Ferry road, followed a short distance by the enemy, who were then between them and the cavalry, who had to go for the horses. The enemy was at the forks of these roads before many of the cavalry, who were the last to give up their position.

The Second Virginia Cavalry lost 1 man killed (Peter Bird, Company D) and 2 men wounded.

Had General Cobb come up in time, the result might have been otherwise. There were two stone walls at the base of the mountain parallel to each other, and one commanding the other, which could have been held against great odds had the troops been in position.

It affords me great pleasure to commend Colonel Parham as a gallant and efficient soldier, he did everything in his power to hold his position, and his little command fought splendidly.

Captain Chew used his guns with great coolness and effect, and his battery only retired when he had exhausted every round of ammunition. The guns of the Portsmouth Battery were of too short range to be effective.

The cavalry (Second and Twelfth) behaved splendidly under the fire they were placed, and did good service with their rifles.

Colonel Parham's loss must have been heavy, as they were a long time engaged, and the firing was as heavy as I ever heard.

I have the honor to be, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS T. MUNFORD,  
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

MAJ. J. T. W. HAIRSTON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*