

The Maryland Brigade, A Brief History.

In March 1864 the Army of the Potomac was reorganized in preparation for the spring campaign. The I Corps was broken up and the Maryland Brigade, including the 7th Maryland, became part of the V Corps under the command of Major General Gouverneur Warren.

During the subsequent Overland Campaign the 7th Maryland was heavily engaged, fighting continuously from the Wilderness to Petersburg. On May 8, as the Army of the Potomac raced the Army of Northern Virginia to Spotsylvania Court House, the V Corps attacked Confederates entrenched at Laurel Hill.

Led by the 7th Maryland and the Maryland Brigade the attack was repulsed with heavy casualties. Major Edward Mobley, formerly of Company A, recorded the 7th Maryland losing at least 60 men, including Colonel Charles Edward Phelps, the regimental commander. Phelps was briefly captured and in 1898 would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Laurel Hill. The Maryland Brigade as a whole lost at least 189 men.

Forty years after the attack Brevet Brigadier General Phelps, now a judge on Maryland's Court of Appeals, had a granite monument erected at Laurel Hill to commemorate the Maryland Brigade's sacrifice.



Maryland Brigade Monument at Laurel Hill.



Alfred Waud sketch of Major General Warren rallying Maryland troops at Laurel Hill.



Right, Brevet Brigadier General Charles Edward Phelps after the Civil War.

