



Recommendation That

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE J. STANNARD

Be Awarded a

MEDAL OF HONOR

FOR GALLANTRY

AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

CAUTION NOTICE!

RECOMMENDATION ONLY – AWARD TO BE DETERMINED

The information in this packet has been compiled through a joint effort of the General Stannard House Committee, Milton Historical Society, and the Stannard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with the assistance and support of many institutions and individuals. The determination as to whether a Medal of Honor is awarded to MG Stannard may be a lengthy process and there is **no guarantee** that he will receive the award. Caution must be exercised when revealing that the **recommendation** has been submitted to avoid implying that the **medal** will actually be awarded.

Please comply with this distinction between the **recommendation** and the **award** in using the information provided here. Within that restriction, we encourage you to educate the public about this Vermont hero and we welcome the use of this packet for displays and other purposes, in whole or in part. Any further dissemination of information in the packet **MUST** include this cautionary notice to prevent possible misunderstanding of the status of the recommendation.

Points of contact for further information are: Bill Kaigle, General Stannard House Committee, bill@yeolddesignshoppe.net, and Liam McKone, Stannard Camp Commander, stannardcamp@gmail.com. We will give widespread public notice if and when a Medal of Honor is awarded to MG Stannard. Until then, this remains only a recommendation and must be handled as such.



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RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

For use of this form, see AR 600-8-22; the proponent agency is DCS, G-1.

For valor/heroism/wartime and all awards higher than MSM, refer to special instructions in Chapter 3, AR 600-8-22.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. Chapters 57 and 357, Decorations and Awards; 10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards; and E.O. 9397 (SSN), as amended.

PURPOSE(S): To consider individual nominations for awards and/or decorations; record final action; maintain individual award case files.

ROUTINE USES: In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, these records contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows: Information may be disclosed to public and private organizations including news media, which grant or publicize awards or honors.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of personally identifiable information is voluntary. However, failure to provide identifying information may delay processing of this application.

1. TO President of the United States of America	2. FROM Stannard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	3. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20180209
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PART I - SOLDIER DATA

4. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) George J. Stannard	5. RANK BG	6. SSN None
7. ORGANIZATION CO, 2 nd Vermont Brigade, 3 rd Division, First Corps, Army of the Potomac	8. PREVIOUS AWARDS None	
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE US Army	10. RECOMMENDED AWARD Medal of Honor	11. PERIOD OF AWARD a. FROM 18630628 b. TO 18630703

12. REASON FOR AWARD			
12a. INDICATE REASON Valor	12b. INTERIM AWARD IF YES, STATE AWARD GIVEN	12c. POSTHUMOUS YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	13. PROPOSED PRESENTATION DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20201020 (Stannard's 200th Birthday)

PART II - RECOMMENDER DATA

14. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) William L. McKone	15. ADDRESS 9 Joshua Way, Apt. 303, Essex Junction, VT 05452
16. TITLE/POSITION Commander, Stannard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	17. RANK n/a
18. RELATIONSHIP TO AWARDEE None	19. SIGNATURE <i>William L. McKone</i>

PART III - JUSTIFICATION AND CITATION DATA (Use specific bullet examples of meritorious acts or service)

20. ACHIEVEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENT #1

ACHIEVEMENT #2

ACHIEVEMENT #3

ACHIEVEMENT #4

21. PROPOSED CITATION

Awarded for valor displayed by BG George J. Stannard on 3 July 1863 at the crucial point of the battle of Gettysburg. His gallantry and intrepid command of the 2nd Vermont Brigade at the risk of his own life contributed greatly to this important Union victory.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		SSN	
PART IV - RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL			
22. I certify that this individual is eligible for an award in accordance with AR 600-8-22; and that the information contained in Part I is correct.		22a. SIGNATURE	
22b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)			
23. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
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g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
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26. APPROVAL AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
PART V - ORDERS DATA			
27a. ORDERS ISSUING HQ		27b. PERMANENT ORDER NO.	
28a. NAME OF ORDERS APPROVAL AUTHORITY		28b. RANK	
28c. TITLE/POSITION		29. APPROVED AWARD	
28d. SIGNATURE		30. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	
31. DISTRIBUTION			

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		SSN	
ADDENDUM - INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY			
25-A1. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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i. COMMENTS			
25-A2. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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i. COMMENTS			
25-A3. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25-A5. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
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i. COMMENTS			

Narrative for Medal of Honor

At the critical point of the battle of Gettysburg, Brigadier General George J. Stannard skillfully deployed his three Vermont regiments, untested in battle, to maximum effect at great risk to his own life. After an exhausting forced march of over one hundred miles from Virginia and despite a lack of rations or water on a hot day, the men obeyed his orders without hesitation, strong testimony to his leadership and discipline. Seeing a chance to counter the massive Confederate assault on Cemetery Ridge on July 3, 1863, he decided to order his men to leave a sheltered position in advance of the Union battle line. In a daring maneuver on an open field, about 1,200 Vermont soldiers attacked the flank of the rebel forces at close range and unleashed up to ten shots apiece. This devastating musketry caused numerous casualties among General Pickett's soldiers, along with the capture of many prisoners, and significantly helped to repulse the attack. Conspicuous on horseback and continuously exposed to deadly enemy fire, Stannard on his own initiative then sent two of his regiments to repel successfully another advance of rebel units nearby. Despite a severe wound to his leg, Stannard remained on the field in command of his brigade until the action ended and his units were relieved. His personal courage, bold decisiveness, and firm command without regard for his own safety contributed to the Union victory beyond expectations for an officer with very limited combat experience in his first action as brigade commander.



"The 13th Vermont at Gettysburg", painting by Middleton. Stannard is depicted on horseback waving his hat in the background. Image courtesy of the Vermont State House Curator's Office.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

STANNARD MEDAL OF HONOR RECOMMENDATION

Background of action qualifying for award

Guard duty in Virginia

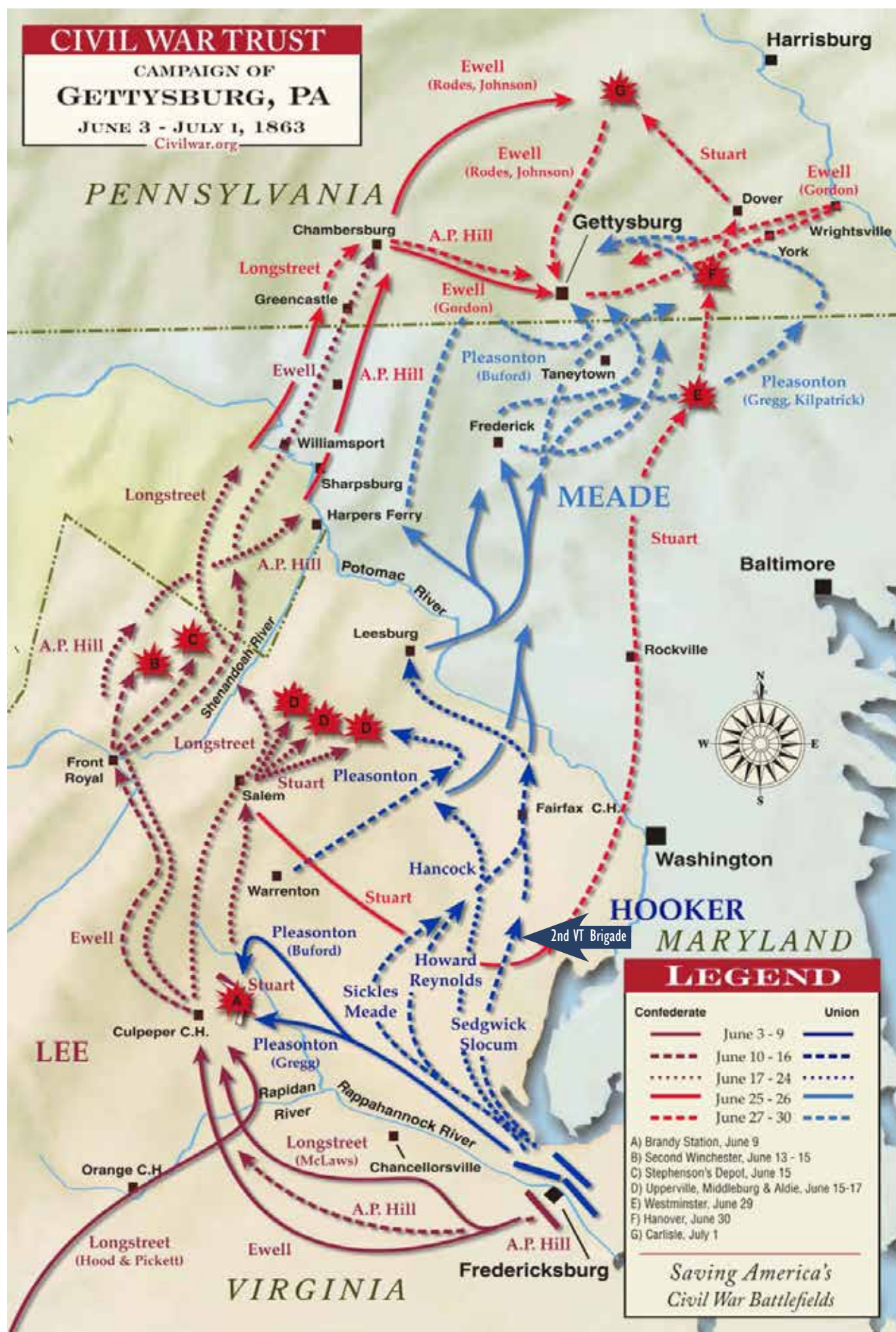
On March 11, 1863, Colonel Stannard was confirmed as a brigadier general by the United States Senate and appointed to the command of the Second Vermont Brigade, five regiments of Vermont soldiers mustered in during the fall of 1862 for nine-months service. Their previous commander, General Edwin Stoughton, had been captured by Mosby's irregulars in Fairfax, Virginia, on March 9. At the time of his promotion, Stannard commanded the 9th Vermont Regiment that had recently been released from parole by exchange on January 10 and were assigned to guarding Confederate prisoners in Camp Douglas, Illinois. This situation resulted from the surrender of Union forces at Harper's Ferry on September 15, 1862, including the 9th Vermont Regiment. Stannard spent the next six months of the war absent from active field duty.

Stannard assumed command of the Second Vermont Brigade, the 12th through 16th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiments, on April 20, 1863, as the units neared the end of their service. Assigned to the 22nd Corps defending Washington, his brigade occupied the farthest line of the outer defenses, guarding railroad bridges and fords along the Occoquan River deep into Virginia. A quiet sector of the front, only occasional harassment by irregular cavalry broke the routine. The soldiers were well disciplined and led competently by their field and line officers, but totally without any experience in battle. By spring, many men had already served nine months or more and felt that their enlistments had expired, some even signing a petition for discharge. Stannard thus took command of about 4,000 soldiers, never bloodied in combat, at a time when they expected to be released from duty within weeks.

Compounding this challenge of unit inexperience and ebbing morale, along with the resignation of some key officers, Stannard faced a sudden change of mission and subordination. Repeated requests by MG Hooker, commander of the Army of the Potomac, for more troops, resulted in the transfer of some forces defending Washington into the field army to counter Lee's movement north. Stannard's brigade was reassigned to the Third Division, 1st Corps, on June 23, but ordered to continue guarding the Occoquan line until the rest of Hooker's forces had passed through. The eastern wing of the huge army crossed the river at multiple points, yet it took several days to complete the passage northward.

Once the Army of the Potomac moved through, Stannard's brigade— isolated infantry vulnerable to rebel attack and strung out for 20 miles along the river—remained as the only Union troops in the area, other than a thin screen of cavalry. The general's first task was to assemble his five regiments and report with them to his new division commander. However, the 1st Corps in the vanguard of the western wing of the army was by then two days' march north of the Vermonters' assembly point. On June 25, Stannard brought his five scattered regiments together at Union Mills and set off in pursuit of the 1st Corps, at that time crossing the Potomac River into Maryland.

A few hours after Stannard's most remote troops departed Occoquan village, rebel cavalry crossed the river, almost capturing some of the Vermonters. Stuart had intended to slip his 5,000 horse soldiers through the lines of the Army of the Potomac on the march, but he had been frustrated in the attempt. The determined presence of Stannard's brigade guarding the fords of the Occoquan deflected Stuart's forces in the important phase of the approach to Gettysburg.



Map courtesy of the Civil War Trust

Forced march to Gettysburg

When Stannard put his consolidated brigade in motion, the Third Division to which his unit was assigned was fifty miles north—two days hard marching under the best of circumstances—and still moving away. The division headquarters was thus unable to perform the normal staff work for the movement of Stannard's brigade such as supplying rations, specifying march routes, or other routine functions to support his unit. Stannard's goal had been laid out only in broad terms, to catch up with his superior unit and report for duty, whatever the location and situation of the division might be. The Vermonters were an "orphan" brigade thrown on their own resources, competing for space on the crowded roads as they rushed to close the gap and join the 1st Corps ranks.

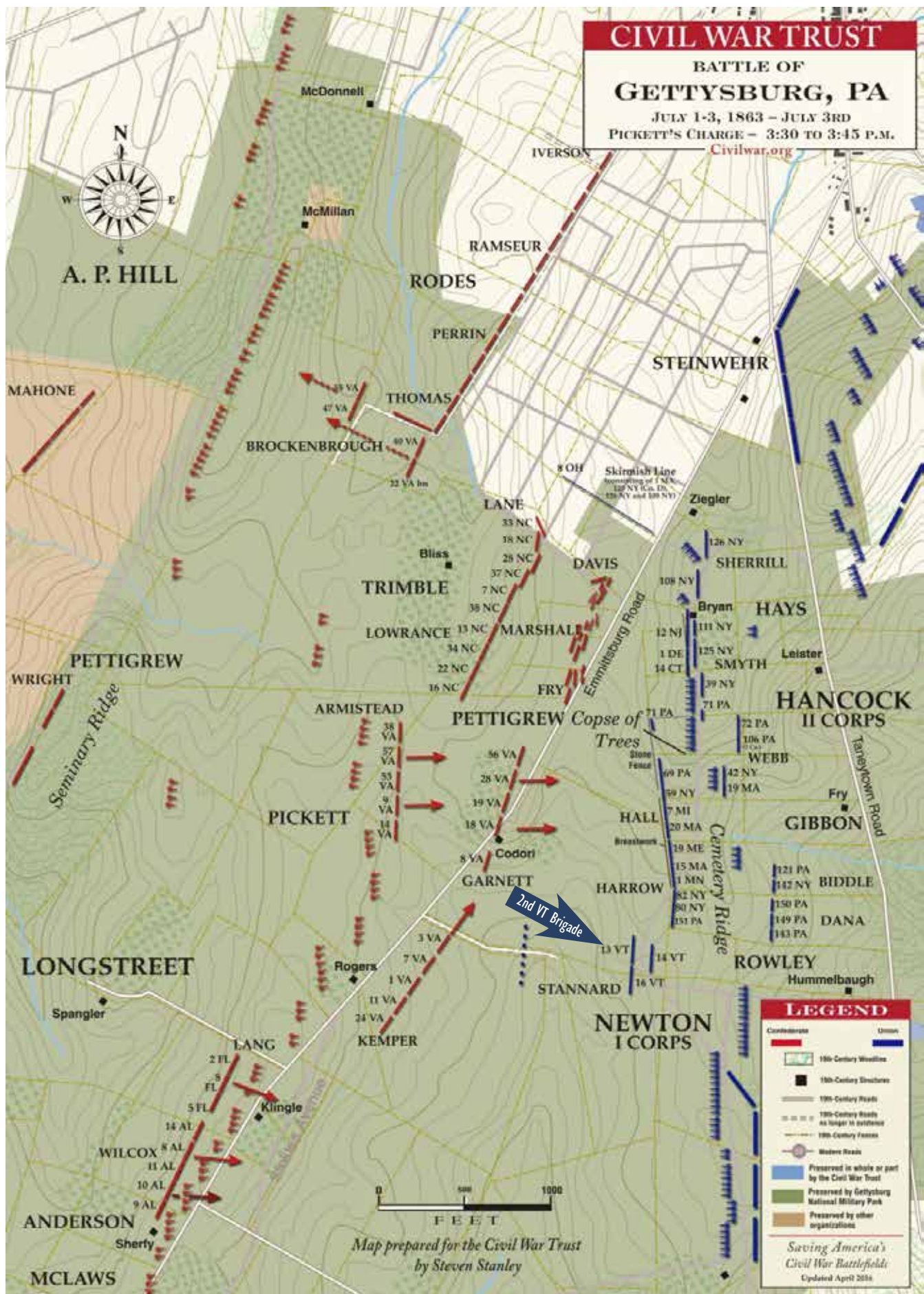
Employing officers on horseback as couriers, Stannard sent reports up the chain of command and received back further orders as the troops pressed on in the summer heat, narrowing the space between the brigade and its parent division with each day's long march. Even with the loss of men to the hardships of the fast-paced movement, Stannard understood that his units might be vital in repelling what was clearly an invasion of the North by Lee. Undiminished by battle, though there had been deaths from disease in camp, each Vermont regiment equaled the strength of the some Union divisions that had been depleted by casualties and discharges.

Despite Stannard's best efforts, his brigade arrived only during the night after the clash at Gettysburg began on July 1. The first day was marked by the death of the 1st Corps commander, MG John Reynolds, and the disorganization of Union forces that retreated to high ground south of the village. After marching some 120 miles in seven days, often lacking rations and even water, the Second Vermont Brigade entered the area of combat operations an effective unit under the steady command of Stannard. Two of his regiments were detailed to guard the wagon trains in the rear while the other three joined the Union forces occupying a hastily established defensive position. Exhausted soldiers slept on the ground under arms, but Stannard had no rest since he was on duty as "General Field Officer of the Day" responsible for establishing a picket line. The newly appointed commander had performed exceptionally well in bringing his brigade intact onto the scene of action, even without the usual staff support.

Into action, second day of battle

The first day's fighting and retreat under fire created disorganization among the larger units that resulted in disputes about deployment when Stannard arrived. MG Abner Doubleday had replaced the slain Reynolds as 1st Corps commander before in turn being supplanted by MG John Newton, who had seniority over him. Stannard found the Third Division in reserve on Cemetery Hill and brought his troops to join them. During the day, various elements of the brigade were moved to cover gaps in the line. The assault by Wright's Georgians late on July 2 caused MG Winfield Hancock, 2nd Corps commander, to personally order elements of the 13th Vermont into battle to retrieve captured Union cannon. Led by Col. Francis Randall, a battalion of the 13th recovered the guns and brought back eighty rebels captured at a farmhouse by Capt. Lonergan's "Irish Company." The Tipperary-born captain, who was Stannard's protégé in the pre-war Vermont militia, received a Medal of Honor in 1893 for this action.

(Citation reads: "Gallantry in the recapture of 4 guns and the capture of 2 additional guns from the enemy; also the capture of a number of prisoners." No evidence exists of the capture of any Confederate cannon and Lonergan did not claim to have done so.)



Map courtesy of the Civil War Trust

July 3, 1863

The Second Vermont Brigade spent the night with the 13th and 14th VT on the main battle line and the 16th VT serving as pickets well forward on the Emmitsburg Road. When the Confederate artillery concentrated the pre-assault bombardment on their sector of the Union lines, Stannard received permission to move the 13th and 14th one hundred yards in advance of the line where they had some shelter from the fire. As the senior regiment, the 13th was assigned the place of honor on the right of the brigade, with Lonergan's Company A holding the right flank as the senior company. His first lieutenant was mortally wounded during the cannonade and replaced by the regimental sergeant-major.

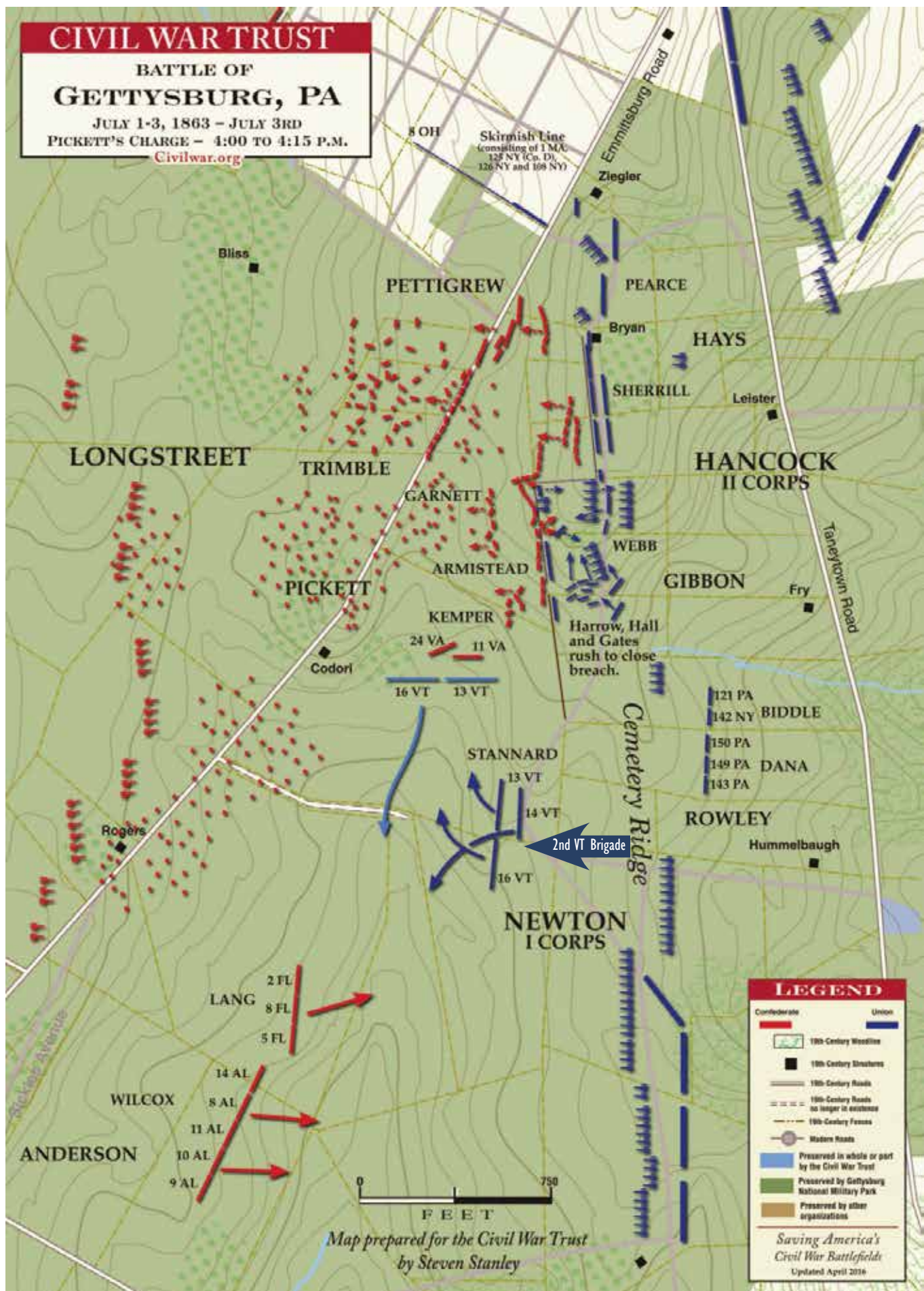
As the massed rebel infantry moved forward in the attack, Stannard recalled the 16th VT from their exposed position as pickets, placing them in reserve behind the two regiments on line. Once the mile-long line of gray-clad soldiers advanced within rifle range, the two Vermont regiments rose up and delivered a punishing volley. This musketry continued until the rebels shifted direction, massing to their left, and passed the Vermonters' position, no longer presenting a clear field of fire. Stannard immediately saw his opportunity to attack the rebel flank in force and ordered the 13th and 16th to "Change front forward on first company."

Stannard was subordinate to division commander MG Doubleday, but his isolated position had broken the usual chain of command. Doubleday reportedly endorsed the tactic employed by waving his hat and shouting "Glory to God, Glory to God! See the Vermonters go it!" as he watched from the main Union battle line. (Some controversy arose afterward as to whether MG Hancock, senior office present, had ordered this maneuver or Stannard had done so on his own initiative. The consensus is that Stannard had already set his soldiers in motion before receiving confirming instructions, if any, came from Hancock. Both officers were on horseback—making them a prime target—and Hancock had joined Stannard on a small knoll just south of the focal point of the attack.)

Lonergan formed his Company A into a column of fours to rush 100 yards toward the enemy on the double, his men loading as they ran. About 20 yards from the rebels or "half pistol-shot" range, he positioned his orderly sergeant as the pivot point for the transition into battle formation. His men fell into two ranks facing the enemy and immediately opened fire at the mass of rebels. Each company of the 13th, and then the 16th, in turn wheeled into position on the right flank of Pickett's division, a line of nearly a thousand men stretching almost to Emmitsburg Road. Within minutes, the wave of Confederates faltered and then retreated as hundreds of rebels fell or surrendered to the Vermonters. Only the soldiers on Pickett's right flank had been able to return fire on the Vermonters, but they caused significant casualties before retreating.

The supporting attack by two brigades of Anderson's division approached the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge as the main assault was repulsed. Stannard saw this threat developing just to his south and deployed the 14th and 16th for another blow on the enemy flank, leaving the 13th to collect the prisoners. The impact of the Vermonters again drove the Southern troops back with many casualties, plus the capture of two rebel battle flags. The Confederate artillery resumed its fire on Cemetery Ridge to cover the retreat of both prongs of the attack, causing further losses in the Vermont ranks. Both Stannard and Hancock were casualties in the last phase of the action. The Vermont commander was wounded in the leg by a ball from an exploding shell, while Hancock was shot by a musket bullet passing through his saddle and into his groin. As he toppled from his horse, the corps commander was caught in the arms of Stannard's aide, 2nd Lieutenant George Benedict, who in 1892 received a Medal of Honor for his role in the battle.

(Citation reads: "Passed through a murderous fire of grape and canister in delivering orders and re-formed the crowded lines.")



Map courtesy of the Civil War Trust

GEORGE J. STANNARD MEDAL OF HONOR RECOMMENDATION

After the battle

Despite his wound, Stannard remained on the field until his units were relieved and other injured soldiers were moved to the rear. Within an hour after he was hit, a surgeon removed the shrapnel ball from his thigh, operating on the spot as Stannard continued to supervise his units. Once the three Vermont regiments had been ordered back to the lines, Stannard “sank fainting to the ground” and his senior officer present, Col. Randall, assumed command of the brigade. Only then was Stannard evacuated to a field hospital where he wrote his after-action report on 4 July, his final duty related to the battle. Aware that his nine-month regiments were soon to be mustered out and the 2nd Vermont Brigade would then cease to exist, he no doubt wanted to document their gallant service at Gettysburg. Commanded by Col. Randall, Stannard’s brigade (less the 12th Vermont Regiment escorting prisoners to Baltimore) did join in the pursuit of Lee’s retreating forces. However, after several days hard marching each regiment was in turn relieved of duty as their term of service expired and they were sent home to Vermont to be discharged.

Along with hundreds of other wounded, Stannard was transferred by train to Baltimore for treatment. He then returned to Vermont for recuperation for several months before being assigned to temporary duty in New York City. Stannard’s subsequent distinguished service and his military experience prior to Gettysburg are summarized in a separate section of this documentation.



Note on Medals of Honor relating to Gettysburg:

On 8 September 1891, two Vermonters— Col. Wheelock Veazey, commander of the 16th VT, and Maj. William Wells of the 1st Vermont Cavalry—were each awarded a Medal of Honor for action at Gettysburg. (The Secretary of War at that time was Redfield Proctor, former commander of the 15th VT that had not seen any combat.) Of the 64 Medals of Honor bestowed on participants in the battle of Gettysburg, 47 were approved in a wave of commendations from 1888 to 1907. The medals for Lonergan and Benedict referenced above were awarded in this period. Two medals were also given to general officers: BG Webb, Philadelphia Brigade commander, in 1891 for “Distinguished personal gallantry in leading his men forward at a critical period in the contest.” and MG Sickles, 3rd Corps Commander, in 1897 for having “Displayed most conspicuous gallantry on the field vigorously contesting the advance of the enemy and continuing to encourage his troops after being himself severely wounded.”

Stannard did not benefit from this later wave of awards since he had died in 1886 after years of living in relative obscurity, working as a doorkeeper in the House of Representatives. He had resigned his position as a collector of customs in 1872 under a shadow of impropriety and may have lacked any patron for a Medal of Honor despite his very creditable service. (Stannard was replaced as district customs collector by the cavalryman cited above. William Wells had been commissioned as BG and brevet MG toward the end of the war and was a member of the Stannard Post of the Grand Army of the Republic veterans group.)

Since 1907, the only man who has received a Medal of Honor for the battle of Gettysburg is 1st Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing, whose descendants in 2014 succeeded in their campaign for recognition of his gallantry.

After-action reports on the role of Stannard and his Vermont Brigade

Commentary

More has been written about the battle of Gettysburg than any other during the conflict, often commenting on the role of Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade in securing the Union victory. Some official after-action reports are cited here, along with a few unofficial comments by Confederate sources. In several key instances, formal reports were not prepared. Commanders at levels from regiment upwards were expected to file a report to their higher headquarters documenting military actions. For various reasons, such after-action reports were sometimes not filed and that is apparently the case for one of Stannard's three regiments involved in the fighting. The report submitted by Stannard himself as he lay wounded in a field hospital the day after the repulse of the rebels is timely, comprehensive, and remarkable for its measured tone. It is included here in full, as are the reports of the commanders of the 13th and 16th Vermont Regiments. Of the reports by Stannard's higher headquarters, only extracts referencing his actions are presented here.

Even though some reports were written well after the fact, the significance of the battle and Stannard's role were still not fully appreciated at the time. It was obvious that the Union forces had won an important victory. With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that Gettysburg was the strategic turning point of the War of the Rebellion, even though it continued for almost two more years, and that Pickett's assault was the high water mark of the Confederacy. The true importance of Stannard's action in closing the flood gates to hold back the tide of on-rushing rebels became clear only with later examination of the battle.

Yet George G. Benedict, who was Stannard's aide and wrote Vermont's official Civil War history in 1888, claimed that the brigade awoke on July 2 "to full realization of the fact that they were in the centre [*sic, spelling of the time*] of the vast field of what might be the decisive battle of the war." A quarter century after the event, Benedict identified First Sergeant Scully of Company A, 13th Vermont Regiment—Captain Lonergan's "Irish regulars"—as "the pivot of the pivotal movement of the pivotal battle of the war." In the midst of the turmoil, Scully could then only have known that fate had placed him where Stannard's decision would unleash a powerful, though perhaps sacrificial, blow against the enemy. Realization of the glory achieved by this action came within weeks, however, when his regiment returned home to Vermont and celebration as heroes.

Report prepared by BG Stannard the day after the battle while being treated in a temporary field hospital established in a nearby farmhouse. The next day he was evacuated by train to Baltimore for medical care. Extract from the extensive *Official Record of the War of the Rebellion*.

Report of Brig. Gen. George J. Stannard,
U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade
O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XXVII/1 [S# 43] -- Gettysburg Campaign

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., *THIRD DIV., FIRST ARMY CORPS*,
Gettysburg, Pa., July 4, 1863.

Lieut. Col. C. KINGSBURY,
Jr., Assistant Adjutant-General.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Second Vermont Brigade, under my command, marched from the line of the Defenses of Washington, upon the Occoquan, on the 25th ultimo, under orders to report to Major-General Reynolds, commanding the First Army Corps. The brigade joined that corps at this place on the evening of July 1, after an exhausting march of seven days' duration. The distance marched averaged about 18 miles per day. The men marched well, with no straggling. Rain fell on every day of the seven, and considering the condition of the roads, the distance traveled (from the mouth of Occoquan to Gettysburg) could not have been accomplished in less time.

We reached the battle-ground in front of Gettysburg too late in the day to take part in the hard-contested battle of July 1, and my tired troops upon their arrival were placed in position in column by regiments on the front line, in connection with the Third Army Corps. Before reaching the ground, the Twelfth Regiment, under command of Colonel Blunt, and Fifteenth Regiment, under command of Colonel Proctor, were detailed, by order of General Reynolds, as guard to the wagon train of the corps in the rear. I was detailed, per order of Major-General Slocum, as general field officer, and met Major-General Meade, in company with Major-General Howard, near my command about 3 a.m. of the 2d instant. The Fifteenth Regiment rejoined the brigade in the morning, but was again ordered back on the same duty about noon.

On the morning of the 2d instant, we were allowed to join the First Army Corps, and reported to Major-General Doubleday, agreeably to previous orders, and were placed in the rear of the left of Cemetery Hill. After the opening of the battle of July 2, the left wing of the Thirteenth Regiment, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Munson, was ordered forward as support to a battery, and a company of the Sixteenth Regiment was sent as a support to the skirmishers in our front. While stationing them, Capt. A. G. Foster, assistant inspector-general of my staff, was seriously wounded by a ball through both legs, depriving me of his valuable services for the remainder of the battle.

Just before dark of the same day, the lines of our army on the left center having become broken under a desperate charge of the enemy, my brigade was ordered up. The right wing of the Thirteenth Regiment, under Colonel Randall, was in the advance, and, upon reaching the break in the line, was granted by Major-General Hancock, commanding upon the spot, the privilege of making the effort to retake the guns of Company C, regular battery, which had just been captured by the enemy. This they performed in a gallant charge, in which Colonel Randall's horse was shot under him. Four guns of the battery were retaken, and two rebel field pieces, with about 80 prisoners, were captured by five companies of the Thirteenth Regiment in this single charge. I placed the Sixteenth, under command of Colonel Veazey, on picket, agreeably to orders, extending to the left of our immediate front. The front thus established was held by my brigade for twenty-six hours.

At about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 3d, the enemy commenced a vigorous artillery attack, which continued for a short time upon my position. During its continuance, I moved the Fourteenth, under command of Colonel Nichols, to the front of the main line about 75 yards, which was done at double-quick in good order. I then, with permission from my immediate commander, selected a position to occupy,

if attacked with infantry, some distance in front of the main line.

At about 2 p.m. the enemy again commenced a vigorous attack upon my position. After subjecting us for one and one-half hours to the severest cannonade of the whole battle, from one hundred guns or more, the enemy charged with a heavy column of infantry, at least one division, in close column by regiments. The charge was aimed directly upon my command, but owing apparently to the firm front shown them, the enemy diverged midway, and came upon the line on my right. But they did not thus escape the warm reception prepared for them by the Vermonters. During this charge the enemy suffered from the fire of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth, the range being short. At the commencement of the attack, I called the Sixteenth from the skirmish line, and placed them in close column by division in my immediate rear. As soon as the change of the point of attack became evident, I ordered a flank attack upon the enemy's column. Forming in the open meadow in front of our lines, the Thirteenth changed front forward on first company; the Sixteenth, after deploying, performed the same, and formed on the left of the Thirteenth, at right angles to the main line of our army, bringing them in line of battle upon the flank of the charging division of the enemy, and opened a destructive fire at short range, which the enemy sustained but a very few moments before the larger portion of them surrendered and marched in--not as conquerors, but as captives. I then ordered the two regiments into their former position. The order was not filled when I saw another rebel column charging immediately upon our left. Colonel Veazey, of the Sixteenth, was at once ordered to attack it in its turn upon the flank. This was done as successfully as before. The rebel forces, already decimated by the fire of the Fourteenth Regiment, Colonel Nichols, were scooped almost *en masse* into our lines. The Sixteenth took in this charge the regimental colors of the Second Florida and Eighth Virginia Regiments, and the battle-flag of another regiment. The Sixteenth was supported in this new and advanced position by four companies of the Fourteenth, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Rose.

The movements I have briefly described were executed in the open field, under a very heavy fire of shell, grape, and musketry, and they were performed with the promptness and precision of battalion drill. They ended the contest in the center and substantially closed the battle. Officers and men behaved like veterans, although it was for most of them their first battle, and I am content to leave it to the witnesses of the fight whether or not they have sustained the credit of the service and the honor of our Green Mountain State.

The members of my staff--Capt. William H. Hill, assistant adjutant-general; Lieuts. George W. Hooker and G. G. Benedict, aides-de-camp; Lieutenant [Francis G.] Clark, provost-marshal, and Lieut. S. F. Prentiss, ordnance officer--executed all my orders with the utmost promptness, and by their coolness under fire and good example contributed essentially to the success of the day.

There were 350 killed, wounded, and missing from my three regiments engaged; of the missing, only 1 is known to have been taken prisoner.

I am, with much respect, your obedient servant,
GEO. J. STANNARD,
Brig. Gen. of Vols., Comdg. 3d Brig., 3d Div., 1st A. C.

ADDENDA TO GENERAL ORDERS, No. ---

HDQRS. THIRD DIV., *FIRST ARMY CORPS,*
July 4, 1863.

The major-general commanding the division desires to return his thanks to the Vermont Brigade, the One hundred and fifty-first Pennsylvania Volunteers, and the Twentieth New York State Militia, for their gallant conduct in resisting, in the front line, the main attack of the enemy upon this position, after sustaining a terrific fire from seventy-five to one hundred pieces of artillery. He congratulates them upon contributing so essentially to the glorious and, it is to be hoped, the final victory of yesterday.

By command of Major-General Doubleday:
EDWARD C. BAIRD,
Captain, and Assistant Adjutant-General.

Report of Col. Francis V. Randall, Thirteenth Vermont Infantry

CAMP NEAR MIDDLETOWN, MD.,
July 10, 1863.

GENERAL: In compliance with your request, I make the following report of the part taken by my regiment (Thirteenth Vermont) July 1, 2, and 3 instant:

Prior to June 24, my regiment was doing picket duty on the Occoquan River, from Occoquan Bay to near Wolf Run Shoals, headquarters near the village of Occoquan. The balance of our brigade (Second Vermont Brigade) was stationed at or near Union Mills.

On the evening of June 24, I received orders to call in my pickets and join the brigade at Centreville, which I did on June 25. The brigade consisted of the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth Vermont Regiments, commanded by Brig. Gen. George J. Stannard. The brigade then marched to Gettysburg, arriving there on July 1, at about 5 p.m. My regiment, with the Fourteenth and Sixteenth, took position on Cemetery Hill, in rear of our line of battle, made up of the First and Eleventh Corps.

On the morning of the 2d, we occupied substantially the same position until about 2 p.m., when I was ordered to advance five of my companies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Munson, to support a battery in our front. Soon after this, I was ordered to advance the balance of my regiment a little to the front and to the left of our former position, which brought us nearly in rear of the right of the Second Corps. This took me entirely out of the line occupied by the rest of our brigade, and I received no further orders from our brigade headquarters during the remainder of that day. A heavy fight was going on in our front, in which the Second and Third Corps were engaged, and we received some injury from the artillery fire of the rebels without being able to engage in the fight. At this time an officer, whom I did not know at the moment, but who proved to be General Doubleday, came galloping over the hill from General Hancock's position, and approached my regiment. After having found what regiment we were, and making a few inspiring remarks to my men, he directed me to take my regiment in the direction from which he had come, and report to General Hancock, whom I would find there, and hard pressed, and he said he feared he would lose his artillery or some of it before I could get there. I started, riding in advance of my regiment to meet General Hancock and find where I was needed, so as to be able to place my men in position without exposing them too long under fire. As I reached the ridge or highest ground between the cemetery and Little Round Top Mountain, I met General Hancock, who was encouraging and rallying his men to hold on to the position. He told me the rebels had captured a battery he had had there, and asked me if I could retake it. I told him I thought I could, and that I was willing to try. He said it would be a hazardous job, and he would not order it, but, if I thought I could do it, I might try. By this time my regiment had come up, and I moved them to the front far enough so that when I deployed them in line of battle they would leave Hancock's men in their rear. They were now in column by divisions, and I gave the order to deploy in line, instructing each captain as to what we were to do as they came on to the line, and, taking my position to lead them, gave the order to advance.

At this time my horse was killed, and I fell to the ground with him. While on the ground, I discovered a rebel line debouching from the woods on our left, and forming substantially across our track about 40 rods in our front. We received one volley from them, which did us very little injury, when my men sprang forward with the bayonet with so much precipitancy that they appeared to be taken wholly by surprise, and threw themselves in the grass, surrendering, and we passed over them. General Hancock followed up the movement, and told me to press on for the guns and he would take care of the prisoners, which he did, and we continued our pursuit of the guns, which we overtook about half way to the Emmitsburg road, and recaptured them, with some prisoners. These guns, as I am told, belong to the Fifth U.S. Regulars, Lieutenant Weir.

There were four of them.

We were now very near the Emmitsburg road, and I advanced my line to the road, and sent my adjutant (James S. Peck) back to inform General Hancock of our position. While he was gone, the rebels advanced two pieces of artillery into the road about 100 rods to the south of us, and commenced to shell us down the road, whereupon I detached one company, and advanced them under cover of the road, dug way, and fences, with instructions to charge upon and seize those guns, which they did most gallantly. We also captured the rebel picket reserve, consisting of 3 officers and 80 men, who had concealed themselves in a house near by.

In pursuance of orders from General Hancock, we now slowly fell back to the main line of battle. It was dark, and no further operations took place on our part that night.

In the morning of the third day of the battle, we were placed in the front line, to the left of Cemetery Hill. In this position we remained, sustaining the same against the heavy assaults which were made on our position during the day.

During the heavy artillery fire on the afternoon of that day, preceding Longstreet's great charge, my regiment being badly exposed, I asked permission to advance it a little to the front, about 15 rods, so as to take advantage of some rocky points that emerged from the ground, and also the more favorable conformation of the ground. This was granted me, and I immediately advanced my regiment to the more favorable position, and the Fourteenth Vermont, which occupied the position next to my left, also advanced, so as to conform to my line. This placed us that much farther to the front than the regiments to the right and left of us, but gave us a very favorable position, which we immediately strengthened with loose stones and rails that we found in the vicinity. Before we had fairly completed our little arrangements, the great charge commenced, and the course they took brought them directly on these two regiments. Our general officers were quite solicitous for this position, General Hancock repeatedly coming to me and giving us the benefit of his advice and encouragement, and offered us supports, but my men, as well as those of the Fourteenth Regiment, expressed a desire to hold the place alone if they could. The heavy rebel column, which I need not describe, bore down steadily upon us until about half way from the Emmitsburg road to our position. Our men were directed to withhold their fire up to this time, when the two regiments rose up and poured in a volley that seemed to level their front rank and all mounted officers. We continued to pour in our fire as best we could, and very soon the charging column seemed to slacken and nearly halt. In this way they staggered for a moment, and commenced to move by their left flank toward a position more nearly in front of the cemetery. As our front became uncovered, I moved my regiment a little by the flank, so as to extricate my left from some shrubbery that partially surrounded and hid them, when I changed front forward on my right company, throwing my left flank toward the rebel main line of battle. The Fourteenth Regiment remained in their position. The Sixteenth Regiment, or a portion of it, were on the skirmish line, and were driven in by this charge.

General Doubleday at this time rode up to me, and assured me that my movement would be a success, and he ordered the regiments to my right to cease firing and allow me to pass in front of their line, which we did, following the rebel column so close that when they faced to charge up Cemetery Hill we were within 15 rods of them, and they passed directly in review before us, my men at the same time pouring one of the most withering fires I had ever beheld into their exposed flank. We had fired about 10 rounds per man when they seemed to be in utter confusion and large numbers came in in rear of my regiment for shelter. I do not know how many prisoners my regiment captured, but I had apparently more than there were men in my regiment.

While this was going on, the Sixteenth Regiment, Colonel Veazey, came up in my rear (having gathered up his regiment as far as he could after having been driven in with the skirmish line), and formed his regiment in rear and partially to my left, where he succeeded in capturing some prisoners. He had been in this position but a few moments when we discovered a small rebel column approaching over nearly the same ground the main rebel column had passed over,

and for the moment it seemed as though we should be squeezed between the two, but Colonel Veazey promptly faced his regiment about, and advanced to meet this new danger and I very quickly followed. When I got nearly opposite my original position, General Stannard sent orders to me to bring my regiment back to the main line, and he sent a portion of the Fourteenth Regiment to support Colonel Veazey. This rebel column, however, about that time commenced to diverge in the opposite direction, and entered the woods to the south of us, where they were pursued by the Sixteenth and Fourteenth Regiments. This substantially ended our part in the battle.

General Hancock was wounded while sitting on his horse giving me some directions. I was standing very near him, and assisted him from his horse. General Stannard was also wounded soon after and compelled reluctantly to leave the field, since which time I have been in command of the brigade. The casualties in my regiment, as near as I can now ascertain, were 8 killed, 89 wounded, and 26 missing. As we know of none captured, probably many of the 26 may prove to have been killed, or severely wounded, and cared for in some private house.

FRANCIS V. RANDALL,
Colonel Thirteenth Regiment Vermont Volunteers.

Major-General NEWTON
Commanding First Army Corps.



Report of Col. Wheelock G. Veazey, Sixteenth Vermont Infantry

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH VERMONT VOLUNTEERS,
Camp at Berlin, Md., July 17, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the following as the part taken by the Sixteenth Regiment Vermont Volunteers in the battle of Gettysburg, fought July 1, 2, and 3, 1863:

The regiment arrived on the field near the close of the action of the first day, but was not engaged.

On the morning of the second day the regiment was moved to the rear of Cemetery Hill, and remained there in column, closed in mass (except Company B, Captain Armes, which was moved forward to the skirmish line at 4.30 p.m.) until about 5 p.m., when it was moved to the left about 100 rods, and forward to the crest of the hill, and there deployed in support of the batteries engaged. In this movement the regiment was under a severe fire, and several men were killed and wounded. Later still it was moved farther to the left and forward, and when the battle closed it occupied the front line of battle. Soon after dark I was detailed as general field officer of the day, and the whole regiment was detailed for picket duty.

On the morning of the third day, at a quarter before 4 o'clock, the enemy engaged the left of the picket line, and at 4 a.m. opened with their artillery, which was replied to by a battery on the elevated ground in our rear, firing over our heads. This fire continued but a short time. At about 2 p.m. the enemy again opened with their artillery severely. They are reported to have had over one hundred pieces in our front. This continued for about two hours. At about 4 p.m. the enemy advanced a line of battle against my picket line with great vigor. The pickets stood firm and opened fire upon them. The Fourteenth Vermont was moved down to the right of my reserves, which consisted of six companies. Two of the other four companies were on the picket line before they rallied on the reserves, and two (B and G) were in support of a battery. The Thirteenth

Vermont moved forward to the right of the Fourteenth and a little to the rear of their line, and the three regiments opened a rapid and destructive fire upon the right of the line of the enemy (Pickett's division), which soon diverged to their left, and thereby left their right flank exposed.

Pursuant to an order to me, the Sixteenth Regiment passed back and along by the rear of the Fourteenth and moved to the left of the Thirteenth, and, joining on to the left of that regiment, changed front forward, corresponding to a like movement of the Thirteenth, and the two regiments charged into the flank of the enemy and very soon crushed the force in our new front. Very many prisoners were taken in this charge. This line of the enemy had scarcely been destroyed before another line advanced farther to the left and obliquely to my rear. I immediately received an order to march back and get into position to oppose this new line. I moved about 15 rods by marching by the left flank and filing to the left, so as to gain upon the enemy and bring my front facing obliquely to his left flank. When this position was gained I received permission to charge. The result of this charge was a very large number of prisoners, and, in the two movements, three stand of colors, the colors being stripped from one standard. The two brought in were the Second Florida and the Eighth Virginia. The former had inscribed upon it "Williamsburg" and "Seven Pines." No further demonstrations were made by infantry in our front, but my regiment suffered severely from artillery after we had destroyed their infantry lines.

I could not speak too highly in praise of the conduct of both officers and men. I know of no instance of a man leaving the ranks until disabled.

I regret to mention as one of the killed Lieutenant Lawton, Company F. He was a young man of great fidelity and bravery, to whom I was much attached. He fell mortally wounded near the close of the battle.

A list of the killed and wounded is hereto attached.*

Respectfully submitted,
W. G. VEAZEY,

Colonel, Comdg. Sixteenth Regiment Vermont Vols.

Capt. W. H. HILL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.



Extracts from reports by higher Union headquarters

MG George G. Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac

Sent to the Adjutant-General of the U.S. Army on October 1, Meade attributed the reason for the delay to the failure of several corps and division commanders "who were severely wounded in the battle" to submit their reports in a timely manner. His account of only five pages covers all activities in the period from June 28, when he assumed command of the army, through the last actions related to the Gettysburg campaign the end of July. Even in this very broad brush report, Meade specifically singles out the 2nd Vermont Brigade for recognition.

[extract from page 4 of report describing the attack on Cemetery Ridge on July 3]

"The assault was made with great firmness, directed principally against the point occupied by the Second Corps, and was repelled with equal firmness by the troops of that corps, supported by Doubleday's division and Stannard's brigade of the First Corps."

MG Abner Doubleday, Commander of the Third Division of the First Corps

Doubleday, who was temporarily in command of the First Corps after Reynolds was killed, wrote two after-action reports. The first, submitted on September 19 from New York City, focused on his role after he resumed command of the Third Division on the evening of July 1. He then sent a more comprehensive report from Washington, dated December 14, covering the early fighting by First Corps units while he was commander. The first report details mostly the activities of the Second Vermont Brigade and quotes extensively from Stannard's report. The most striking portion of Doubleday's account is his commentary on Stannard's description of actions against rebel forces on July 3 that Doubleday quotes at length.

"To this splendid record I have nothing to add."

[Doubleday then inserts a passage from the report of Colonel Gates, 20th New York Regiment, and comments as follows:]

"I think that these extracts show that it is to General Stannard and Colonel Gates the country is mainly indebted for the repulse of the enemy's charge and the final victory of July 3."

Confederate

Lee [extract from a very brief report to the President of the Confederacy]

Report of General Robert E. Lee

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, Near Gettysburg, PA., July 4, 1863

On the 2d July, Longstreet's corps, with the exception of one division, having arrived, we attempted to dislodge the enemy, and, though we gained some ground, we were unable to get possession of his position. The next day, the third division of General Longstreet having come up, a more extensive attack was made. The works on the enemy's extreme right and left were taken, but his numbers were so great and his position so commanding, that our troops were compelled to relinquish their advantage and retire.

It is believed that the enemy suffered severely in these operations, but our own loss has not been light.

Longstreet [extract]

Report of James Longstreet, Lieutenant General

Headquarters, 1st Army Corps, Department of Northern VA

Near Culpeper Court House, July 27, 1863

Pickett's troops, after delivering fire, advanced to the charge, and entered the enemy's lines, capturing some of his batteries, and gained his works. About the same moment, the troops that had before hesitated, broke their ranks and fell back in great disorder, many more falling under the enemy's fire in retiring than while they were attacking. This gave the enemy time to throw his entire force upon Pickett, with a strong prospect of being able to break up his lines or destroy

him before Anderson's division could reach him, which would, in its turn, have greatly exposed Anderson. He was, therefore, ordered to halt. In a few moments the enemy, marching against both flanks and the front of Pickett's division, overpowered it and drove it back, capturing about half of those of it who were not killed or wounded.

[Note: The left flank of the assaulting column was attacked by the 8th Ohio Regiment—with fewer than 200 men on the battle line—at the same time Stannard moved his men against the right flank.]

Pickett

[Apparently no after action report was submitted by Pickett. Retreating from the charge, he reportedly responded to Lee's instructions to organize his division for a Union counter-attack: "General Lee, I have no division now." Perhaps Pickett felt that this direct verbal report sufficed.]

Unofficial comments by Confederates on Stannard's effect

One Southern historian wrote of the effect on Pickett's division, "The havoc in its ranks was appalling. Every brigadier in the division was killed or wounded. Out of twenty-four regimental officers only two escaped unhurt. The colonels of five Virginia regiments were killed. The Ninth Virginia went in 250 strong and came out with only 38 men, while the equally gallant Nineteenth rivaled the terrible glory of such devoted courage."

One of the few officers in the Ninth Virginia who survived the action, Captain H.T. Owens, later described the scene: "We were about 400 yards from the foot of Cemetery Hill [sic] when off to the right, there appeared in the open field a line of men at right angles with our own—a long, dark mass, dressed in blue and coming down at a 'double quick' upon the unprotected right flank of Pickett's men and with their muskets upon the 'right shoulder shift,' their battle flags dancing... A hundred yards from the stone wall the flanking party on the right, coming down on a heavy run, halted suddenly within fifty yards, and poured a deadly storm of musket balls into Pickett's men. Under this terrible cross-fire the men reeled and staggered between falling comrades, and the right came pressing down upon the centre, crowding the companies into confusion...a few hundred men, without orders, faced to the right and fought the flanking party there, although fifty to one, and for a time held them at bay. Muskets were crossed as some men faced to the right and others to the front, and the fighting was terrific, far beyond all other experience, even of Pickett's men."



Stannard in the field when serving as Lieutenant Colonel of 2nd Vermont Regiment in 1861-62. George Houghton photo, courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

STANNARD'S MILITARY SERVICE

SUMMARY OF STANNARD'S MILITARY SERVICE

Prior to War of the Rebellion

In 1837, Stannard began his military career when he served at age 17 in the state militia that guarded Vermont's northern border during the Patriote rebellion in British North America (later Canada). He then enlisted in the Ransom Guards militia company in St. Albans, eventually rising to the rank of Colonel in command of the 4th Vermont militia regiment with headquarters in that town. Responding to the threat of rebellion in early 1861, Stannard recruited men to fill the ranks of his units and added a fifth company to his regiment.

During the war

In April of 1861, Governor Fairbanks activated a composite 1st Vermont Regiment in response to President Lincoln's call to provide federalized militia for 90 days. Stannard reported his units ready to muster and three of his five companies were included in the regiment. Stannard was himself commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Vermont Regiment on June 6.

As new units were formed to expand the Union forces, he received command of the 9th Vermont and promoted to Colonel on May 21, 1862. The regiment was among those surrendered at Harper's Ferry on September 15 and paroled to a camp near Chicago. The regiment was assigned guard duty of prisoners of war for six months after being exchanged at the beginning of 1863, subsequently sent back to the field where it performed well until the end of the war.

Selected to replace the captured commander of the 2nd Vermont Brigade, Stannard was appointed Brigadier General on March 11, 1863, and assumed command the following month.

In recognition of his outstanding performance as a division commander, Stannard was promoted to Brevet Major General as October 28, 1864, while home in Vermont recovering from loss of his right arm. He was placed in temporary command of forces to guard the northern border after the Confederate raid on St. Albans on October 19 of that year .

Stannard participated in over a dozen major battles during the war, including Gettysburg and the capture of Fort Harrison in the siege of Petersburg, where he was wounded so severely in his right arm that it required amputation. He suffered four other wounds and continuing hardships during the conflict that undoubtedly shortened his life.

Post-war

Appointed to the Freeman's Bureau, he was not mustered out of service until June 28, 1866. He then served as U.S. Customs Collector for the District of Vermont and later as a door-keeper in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, where he died June 1, 1886.

1870 portrait by Carlton – Stannard in Major General's uniform



Courtesy of the Bennington Museum

STANNARD'S COMMISSIONS AS BRIGADIER AND MAJOR GENERAL

Appointments were made by the governor when selecting the commander of units being raised in his state. Vermont was unusual in organizing two full brigades of five regiments each and the governor was able to select the brigadier generals to initially command them. The policy at the time was to form brigades of regiments from more than just one state. This would help to avoid a catastrophe for any particular state in case there were heavy losses in a given brigade. The First Vermont Brigade composed of the 2nd through the 6th Vermont Regiments served as a unit for the entire war, at times with other regiments attached. The Second Vermont Brigade consisted of only the 12th through the 16th Vermont Regiments during its nine months service, though some artillery batteries were attached.

However, an officer—whether of the United States Regular Army or United States Volunteers—could legally be promoted to a grade of general officer only through appointment by the President of the United States and confirmation by the United States Senate. Field promotions, exercise of command duties or brevet grade promotions alone were insufficient to qualify an officer as an actual, substantive grade general.

During the course of the American Civil War, about 583 actual, substantive generals were appointed by President of the United States Abraham Lincoln and confirmed by the United States Senate for the Union Army. Many brevet ranks were awarded posthumously or to rank from dates near the end of the war and many of them were not confirmed until 1866 or later.

Some brevet appointments were honorary titles, more like commendations, and had little effect on command positions or status. Most of the awards were not confirmed until well after the war was over, regardless of the date from which the awarded brevet grade was to rank. Although most of the brevet awards were for faithful or meritorious or distinguished service, some were for more extraordinary acts of gallantry. Stannard's commission as major general cites both gallantry and meritorious service as the basis for his brevet rank with specific reference to a particular action.

STANNARD COMMISSION TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

[handwritten entries on the form are underlined]

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

[seal with motto]

To all who shall see these presents greeting:

Know Ye that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities of George J. Stannard I have nominated and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint him Brigadier General of Volunteers in the service of the **United States**: to rank as such from the Eleventh day of March eighteen hundred and sixty-three. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Brigadier General by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging and I do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Brigadier General and he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as he shall receive from me or the future President of the United States of America or the general or other superior officers set over him , according to the rules and discipline of War: This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington this fourteenth day of March of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three and in the eighty-seventh year of the independence of the United States

By the President

Abraham Lincoln

Edwin M. Stanton

Secretary of War



Courtesy of the Bennington Museum

STANNARD COMMISSION TO BREVET MAJOR GENERAL

[handwritten entries on the form are underlined]

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

[seal with motto]

To all who shall see these presents greeting:

Know Ye that I do hereby confer on George J. Stannard of the

U.S. Volunteers in the service of the United States and with the advice and consent of the Senate

the rank of Major General **BY BREVET** in said service to rank as such from the twenty-eighth

day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four *[the badly faded*

entry here in ink is only partially legible, but it appears to contain the following phrase]

for gallantry and meritorious service in the attack upon the enemy works at Fort Harrison]

and I do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under his command to be obey

and respect him accordingly and he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time

to time as he shall receive from me or the future President of the United States of America and other

officers set over him , according to law and the rules and discipline of war: This commission to

continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington this twentieth day of April of the year

of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five and in the eighty-ninth year

of the independence of the United States

By the President

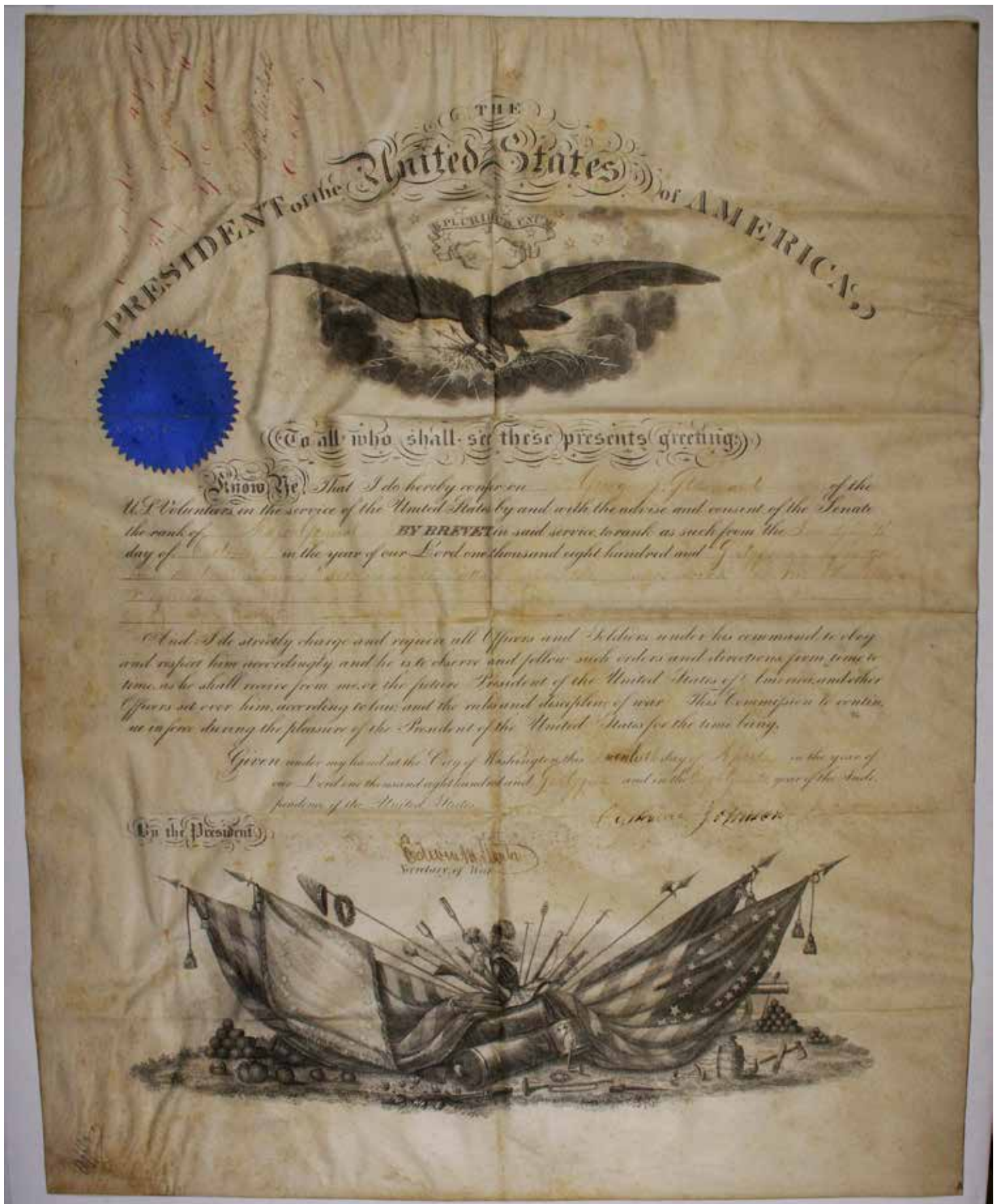
Andrew Johnson

Edwin M. Stanton

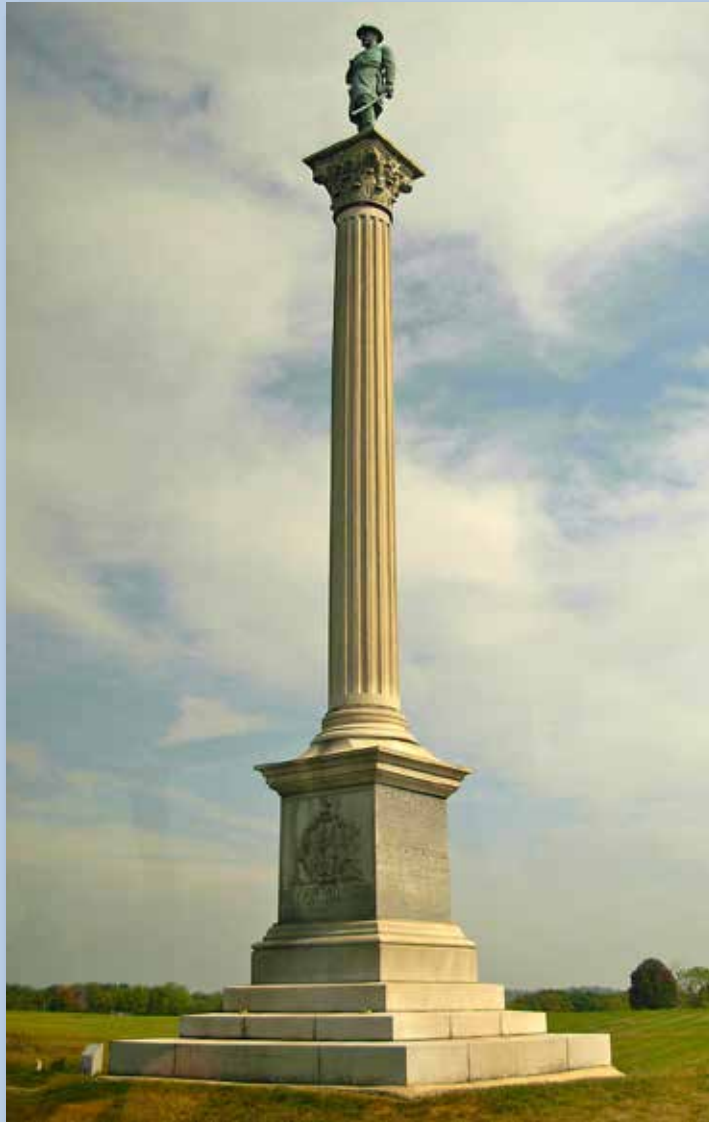
Secretary of War

[Note the commission was signed by the new President just five days after Lincoln's death. This promotion came at the end of the war after the capture of Richmond and Lee's surrender.]

Major General (Brevet) commission signed by President Johnson five days after Lincoln's death.
Date of rank October 28, 1864.



Courtesy of the Bennington Museum



MONUMENTS

MONUMENTS TO STANNARD

1. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

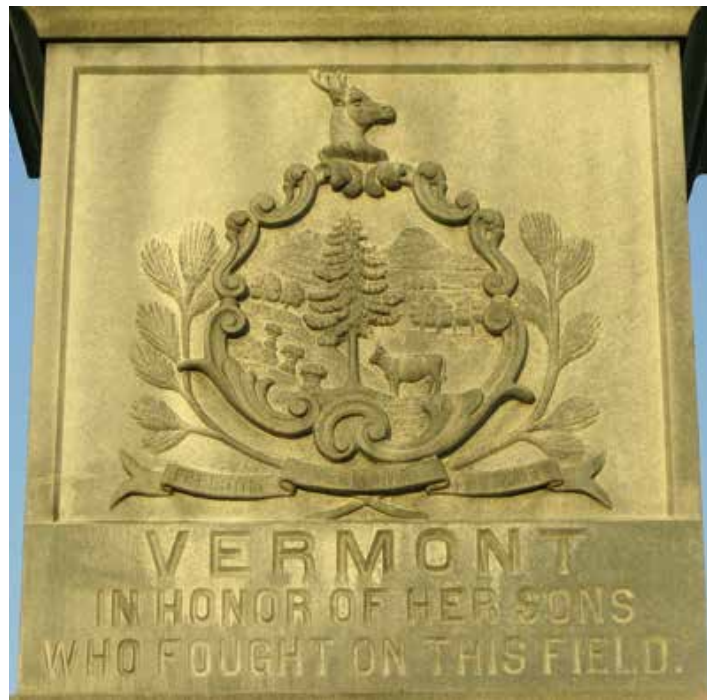
The sixty-foot tall monument erected in 1889 stands on an inscribed granite base, topped by a bronze statue of MG George J. Stannard, commander of the 2nd Vermont Brigade at Gettysburg.

(Depicted here missing his right arm, Stannard did not lose it until 1864 at the siege of Petersburg.)



Details from the State of Vermont monument

FRONT



© 2017 Photo of front inscription Steve A. Hawks

VERMONT

in honor of her sons
who fought on this field.

RIGHT SIDE

First Vermont Brigade:

Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Regiments;
Brig. Gen. L. A. Grant commanding;
Second Brigade, Second Division, Sixth Corps.

—

The brigade reached the field near Little Round Top in the afternoon of July 2, 1863, by a forced march of thirty-two miles, and soon after was assigned to the left Union flank, where it held a line from the summit of Round Top to the Taneytown Road until the close of the battle.

REAR

Second Vermont Brigade:
Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth,
Fifteenth and Sixteenth Regiments
Brig. Gen. George Stannard commanding
Third Brigade, Third Division, First Corps.

The brigade arrived on Cemetery Hill July 1, 1863. The Twelfth and Fifteenth Regiments were detached to guard the corps trains. About sunset, July 2, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth moved to this part of the field, retook Battery C, Fifth U.S. and re-established the Union line.

July 3, these regiments held the front line in advance of this spot. In the crisis of the day, the Thirteenth and Sixteenth changed front, and advancing 200 yards to the right, assaulted the flank of Pickett's Division. The Sixteenth then moved back 400 yards to the left and charged the flank of Wilcox's and Perry's Brigades. The Fourteenth supported these charges. The brigade captured three flags and many prisoners.

LEFT SIDE

First Vermont Cavalry
First Brigade, Third Division, Cavalry Corps.

This regiment fought Stuart's Cavalry at Hanover, June 30, 1863, opposed Hampton's Cavalry at Hunterstown, July 2, and charged through the First Texas Infantry and upon the line of Law's Brigade at the foot of Round Top, July 3.

Vermont Sharpshooters:
Co. F. First U.S.S. Co's E and H, Second U.S.S.;
Second Brigade, First Division, Third Corps.

July 2, company F aided in checking the advance of Wilcox's Brigade west of Seminary Ridge. Companies E and H resisted Law's Brigade west of Devil's Den and upon the Round Tops. July 3, the three companies took part in the repulse of Pickett's Charge.

2. Battlefield marker for 13th Vermont Regiment's attack on flank of Pickett's division.

Focus of the Confederate assault, the copse of trees, can be seen in the background on Cemetery Ridge.



Inscription:

13th Vt.

F.V. RANDALL, COLONEL
RIGHT OF STANNARD'S
BRIGADE
3D POSITION 3D DAY
STRUCK PICKETT'S
FLANK HERE

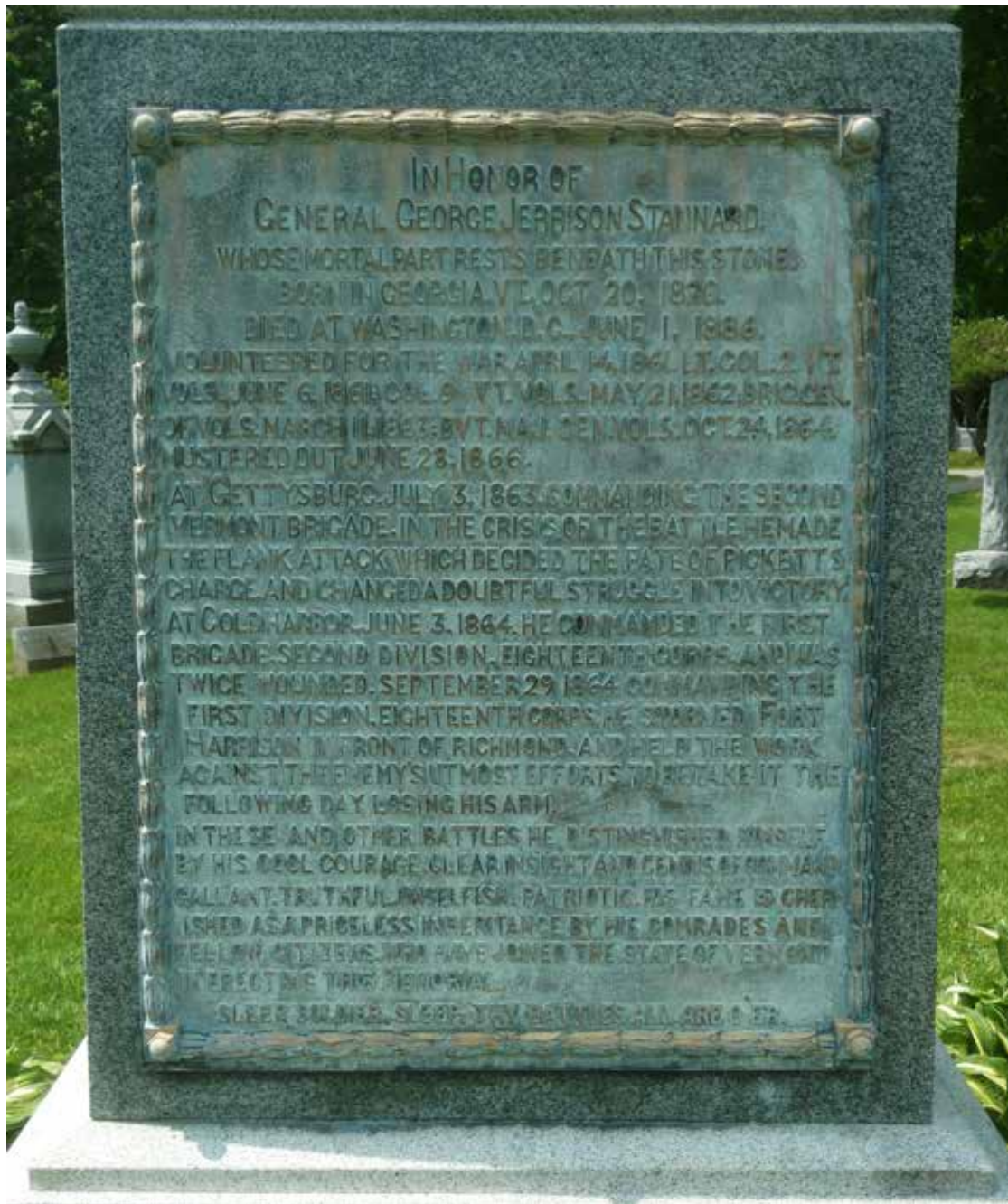
3. Georgia, Vermont - birthplace



Inscription:
ERECTED BY
THE STATE OF VERMONT
TO MARK THE BIRTHPLACE OF
BREVET MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE J. STANNARD
1908

4. Burlington, Vermont – grave in Lakeview Cemetery





Part of the text on brass plaque:

...AT GETTYSBURG, JULY 3, 1863, COMMANDING THE SECOND VERMONT BRIGADE IN THE CRISIS OF THE BATTLE, HE MADE THE FLANK ATTACK WHICH DECIDED THE FATE OF PICKETT'S CHARGE AND CHANGED A DOUBTFUL STRUGGLE INTO VICTORY...

IN THESE AND OTHER BATTLES, HE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY HIS COOL COURAGE, CLEAR INSIGHT AND GENIUS OF COMMAND. GALLANT, TRUTHFUL, UNSELFISH, PATRIOTIC. HIS FAME IS CHERISHED AS A PRICELESS INHERITANCE BY THE COMRADES AND FELLOW CITIZENS WHO HAVE JOINED THE STATE OF VERMONT IN ERECTING THIS MEMORIAL.

SLEEP, SOLDIER, SLEEP. THY BATTLES ALL ARE O'ER

5. Montpelier, Vermont - Hallway in State House



GEORGE J. STANNARD MEDAL OF HONOR RECOMMENDATION

Text of plaque:

GEORGE JERRISON STANNARD

Major Gen. United States Vols.

Born in Georgia, VT Oct. 20 1820

Died at Washington DC, June 1 1886

First Volunteer from Vermont in the War For The Union April 14 1861

Lieut. Col. 2nd Vermont Inf. June 6 1861

Col. 9th Vermont Inf. May 12 1862

Appointed Brigadier Gen. Vols. March 11 1863

For Bravery and Distinguished Valor at Harper's Ferry, Va.

Brevetted Major Gen. Vols. Oct. 28 1864

For Capture of Fort Harrison Sept. 29 1864

And Defeat of the Enemy's Utmost Efforts to Retake It

The Following Day When He Lost His Right Arm

Mustered Out June 28 1866

As Lieut. Col. Present in Action at Bull Run

Yorktown Golding's Farm Lee's Mills and Williamsburg

As Col. at Winchester and Harper's Ferry

As Brigade And Division Commander at Gettysburg

Drewry's Bluff Petersburg Chapin's Farm Bermuda Hundred

Cold Harbor The Mine and Fort Harrison

At Gettysburg July 3 1863 While Commanding 2nd Vermont Brigade

In the Crisis of the Battle He made a Flank Attack Which Decided

The Fate of Pickett's Charge and Changed a Doubtful Struggle

Into a Decisive Victory and Was Severely Wounded

At Cold Harbor June 3 1864

He Commanded 1st Brigade 2nd Division 18th Corps

And Was Twice Wounded

In These and Other Battles He Displayed Intrepid Courage

Clear Insight and Genius of Command

A Gallant Truthful Unselfish Patriot His Fame Is

The Priceless Inheritance Of His Native State.

6. Stannard-Related Monuments in Burlington City Hall Park



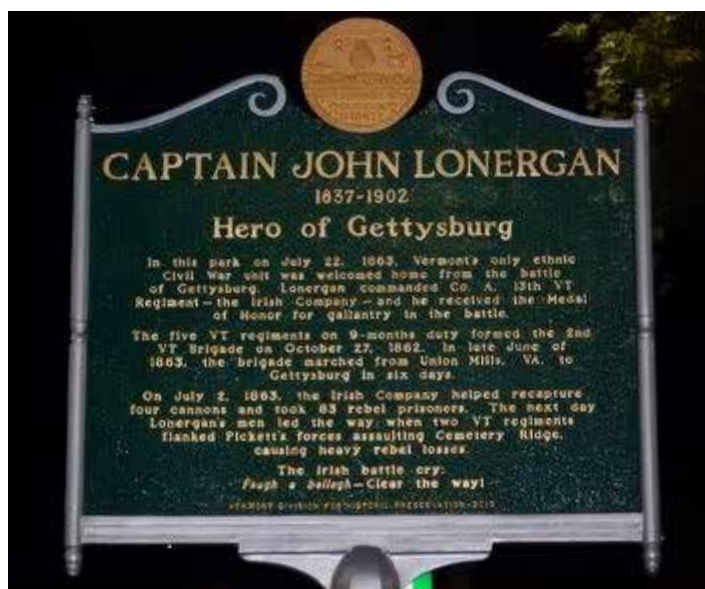
University of Vermont, Special Collections

1. In addition to the various monuments and plaques honoring General Stannard, public buildings and organizations were named for him. When a new Chittenden County Court House was built in 1872, the building on the left, next to the Burlington City Hall, became the Stannard Memorial Hall. It housed the offices of various groups and served as a community gathering place. Notable, the Stannard chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic formed as Post # 2 in Vermont met at this downtown building and hosted various larger GAR events there. Both buildings were torn down 1926 to build the current City Hall on the site.

General Stannard lived both in Burlington and St. Albans at different periods in his life. The latter town, some 30 miles north of Burlington, reportedly also had a Stannard Memorial Hall recognizing the general who was born in nearby Georgia, Vermont, and had business in St. Albans.

This photo was taken from the west side of City Hall Park.

2. A commemorative celebration of the homecoming of the soldiers in Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade was held in City Hall Park in July of 2013, on the 150th anniversary of a reception for the soldiers from Burlington. They were hailed as heroes for their role in the battle of Gettysburg fought only three weeks before their return. A plaque to Stannard's protégé, Captain John Lonergan, was unveiled by his great-granddaughter and the Consul General of the Republic of Ireland, Michael Lonergan.



Inscription

In this park on July 22, 1863, Vermont's only ethnic Civil War unit was welcomed home from the battle of Gettysburg. Lonergan commanded Co. A, 13th VT Regiment - the Irish Company - and he received the Medal of Honor for gallantry in the battle.

The five VT regiments on 9-months duty formed the 2nd VT Brigade on October 27, 1862. In late June of 1863, the brigade marched from Union Mills, VA. to Gettysburg in six days.

On July 2, 1863, the Irish Company helped recapture four cannons and took 83 rebel prisoners. The next day Lonergan's men led the way when two VT regiments flanked Pickett's forces assaulting Cemetery Ridge, causing heavy rebel losses.

The Irish battle cry:

Faugh a ballagh - Clear the way!

3. Monument to Burlington's Civil War Dead

Erected by the Gen. George
Stannard Chapter,
Women's Relief Corps.

Dedicated Memorial Day,
1907.





State Flag of Vermont

ENDORSEMENTS

ENDORSEMENTS OF MEDAL OF HONOR FOR STANNARD

Governmental

1. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin
2. Vermont House of Representatives
3. Major General Cray, Vermont Adjutant General
4. Senator Carolyn Branagan, Franklin County
5. Milton Town Select Board

Institutional

6. Vermont Military Museum
7. Vermont Historical Society
8. Chittenden County Historical Society
9. St. Albans Historical Society
10. Milton Historical Society
11. Georgia Historical Society
12. Stannard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans

Individual

13. Howard Coffin, historian and author
14. Tom Ledoux, historian and web master
15. Liam McKone, historian and author
16. Andy Ward, licensed Gettysburg battlefield guide
17. Michael Cairns, Civil War reenactor

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Second Vermont Brigade was commanded by Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard, a native of Georgia, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the Second Vermont Brigade, untested in battle and with but days remaining in its men's enlistments, reached Gettysburg July 1, 1863 at the end of the first day's fighting in the Civil War's greatest battle; and

WHEREAS, Stannard's Brigade fought ably late the second day at Gettysburg, helping to stabilize the threatened Union line and earning it a place at the front on Cemetery Ridge; and

WHEREAS, on the battle's final day as Pickett's Charge, probably the most important attack of the entire Civil War, approached the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, the Confederates suddenly shifted north, leaving no enemy troops to the Vermonters' front; and

WHEREAS, General Stannard instantly recognized the resulting military opportunity and ordered this 13th and 16th regiments to "change front forward on first company," sending 900 Vermonters in a great wheeling motion into the shot and shell to front of the Union lines; and

WHEREAS, Stannard's men hit the exposed right flank of Pickett's Charge in an attack utterly unexpected by Confederates, inflicting hundreds of casualties; and

WHEREAS, Major Abner Doubleday, commanding the Army of the Potomac's First Corp, in which the Vermonters served, said: "It is to General Stannard that the country is mainly indebted for the repulse of the enemy's charge and the final victory of July 3. His brilliant flank movement...greatly contributed to, if it did not completely insure, our final success;" and

WHEREAS, at Gettysburg, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was dealt a blow from which it never fully recovered; and

WHEREAS, General Stannard was severely wounded while commanding the Gettysburg flank attack from an exposed position at the front on Cemetery Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Stannard was also seriously wounded at Cold Harbor, in the great Union attack on June 10, 1864, driving his men for a time into the invincible enemy lines; and

WHEREAS, Stannard lost an arm leading the capture and defense of Fort Harrison in the Richmond defenses on September 30, 1864; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor was given to two of General Stannard's men for valor in the attack on Pickett's Charge; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby support efforts to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to George Jerrison Stannard. May the brave actions at Cold Harbor and Fort Harrison of this great Vermonter and American soldier be considered in determining the qualifications for receiving his nation's highest military honor;



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 26th day of April, A.D. 2016.

Peter Shumlin
Governor

State of Vermont House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 28

Joint resolution supporting the posthumous awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Krebs of South Hero, Devereux of Mount Holly, Branagan of Georgia, Jerman of Essex, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard, a native of Georgia, Vermont, commanded the Second Vermont Brigade, and

Whereas, the Second Vermont Brigade (Stannard's Brigade), untested in battle, reached Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 at the end of the first day's fighting, and

Whereas, Stannard's Brigade fought ably late on the battle's second day, helping to stabilize the threatened Union line, and earning it a place at the front of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, and

Whereas, on the battle's final day, in perhaps the most memorable Confederate maneuver of the Civil War that became known as Pickett's Charge, the Confederate troops approached the Union line, but they suddenly shifted their direction northward, leaving no enemy troops in front of the Vermonters, and

Whereas, General Stannard recognized this unexpected opportunity and ordered the Brigade's 13th and 16th regiments to "change front forward on first company," sending 900 Vermonters in a great wheeling motion to the front of the Union lines, and

Whereas, Stannard's men hit the exposed right flank of Pickett's Charge in an attack the Confederates did not expect, inflicting hundreds of casualties, and

Whereas, Major Abner Doubleday, commanding the Army of the Potomac's I Corps, in which the Vermonters served, commented that General Stannard's strategy helped to ensure, if not guarantee, the Union's victory at Gettysburg, and

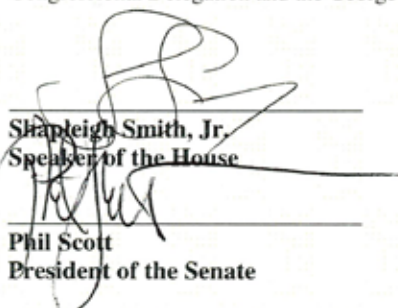
Whereas, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was dealt a blow from which it never fully recovered, and

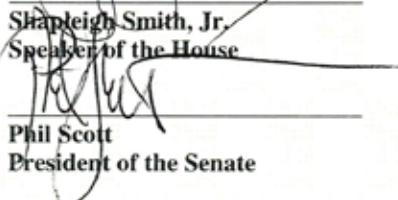
Whereas, General George Stannard was severely wounded three times during the Civil War: while commanding Vermont regiments at Gettysburg, at Cold Harbor in the Union attack on June 10, 1864, and at Fort Harrison on September 30, 1864 where he lost an arm during hostilities, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:


That the General Assembly supports, based on his illustrious record of military leadership, the posthumous awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Civil War Brigadier General George Jerrison Stannard, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the George Stannard House Committee in Milton.


Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House


Phil Scott
President of the Senate

Attested to:


William M. McGill
Clerk, House of Representatives





**STATE OF VERMONT
The Adjutant General's Office
789 Vermont Army National Guard Road
Colchester, Vermont 05446-3099**

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
199 Main Street, 4th Floor
Burlington, VT 05401
Attn: Katherine Long

Dear Senator Leahy,

As Adjutant General of the State of Vermont, I wish to add my endorsement to the recommendation that Brigadier General (BG) George J. Stannard, 2nd Vermont Brigade, be considered for a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor in recognition of his extraordinary heroism during the Confederate assault on Cemetery Ridge, July 3, 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Brigadier General Stannard's firm leadership, personal courage, and quick decision to reposition his units at the crucial point of Longstreet's assault on July 3 fully merit his receipt of a Medal of Honor. On two separate occasions, Brigadier General Stannard's actions on July 3 showed his key leadership ability and exercised his initiative while maneuvering his regiments to deliver punishing volleys into the Confederate ranks. He then maintained the initiative by ordering a charge attacking the flank of the opposing force. As the attack on Cemetery Ridge progressed, BG Stannard identified the threat developing just to his south and deployed the 14th and 16th Regiments for another blow on the enemy flank, leaving the 13th Regiment to collect the prisoners. The impact of the Vermonters in this battle again drove the Southern troops back with many casualties, resulting in the capture of two rebel battle flags.

General Stannard's sound judgement and strategic view of the battlefield by directing his troops on the field despite injury, contributed to the major victory at the Battle of Gettysburg and became a turning point in the war. He deliberately exposed himself to grave danger by commanding from horseback, presenting an obvious target. Despite a severe wound to the leg, he remained in command until the attack had been repulsed and his units relieved. By taking decisive action against the enemy with untested combat troops, and applying his unique ability to direct and increase the morale of his soldiers, BG Stannard's actions led his forces to victory.

My staff and I are available and if we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Cray".

STEVEN A. CRAY
Major General
The Adjutant General



**STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE CHAMBER
115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05633-5201**

To Whom it may Concern:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation that General George Jerrison Stannard receive a Medal of Honor.

Born in the Franklin County, Vermont community of Georgia, George Stannard lived on his family's farm and attended public schools in Georgia. His business was located in St. Albans. He farmed in Milton and later in life resided in Burlington. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Burlington, VT, where his is the only grave with a life-size statue.

He was the longest serving Vermont volunteer in the Civil War and remains a model of the citizen soldier. George Stannard is credited with being first to report his militia regiment ready to muster for duty in April 1861 at the outbreak of the war. He was active throughout the war, except when recovering from his several wounds, and when assigned to duty with the Freedman's Bureau to assist liberated slaves after the fighting ended.

General Stannard commanded the Vermont regiment and the entire brigade, as well as a division of units from various states. He rose in rank to Brevet Major General, and received the permanent rank of Brigadier General.

General Stannard skillfully commanded the 2nd Vermont Brigade in the battle of Gettysburg for which he is being recommended to receive a Medal of Honor. His commands in repelling the charge of southern General Pickett into the Union flank on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg changed the outcome of the battle.

Stannard's actions at Gettysburg meet the requirement in that they showed unusual gallantry at the risk of his life when he directed his three Vermont regiments from horseback, remaining on the field of battle even after being severely wounded. There is no doubt that his distinguished and gallant service in this part of the battle makes him deserving of recognition with the Medal of Honor, awarded for actions during conflict.

Sen. Carolyn Branagan

Senator Carolyn Branagan
Franklin Senate District
Vermont State Senate

RESOLUTION

Town of Milton Selectboard



WHEREAS, Milton is proud to call itself the former home of Civil War Union Army General George Jerrison Stannard; and

WHEREAS, General Stannard's leadership in ordering the 13th, 14th, 16th Vermont regiments to perform flanking maneuvers with firing action during Pickett's Charge that took place on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg 1863 shattered the Confederate ranks, thus ending any hope of Confederate victory in the decisive Civil War Battle; and

WHEREAS, The General Stannard House Restoration Committee is seeking to attain a Posthumous Award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to General Stannard.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Milton Selectboard recognizes the outstanding leadership and bravery of General Stannard in a pivotal Civil War battle, and voices its strong support to award the General with the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously.

Dated at Milton, Vermont this 4th day of April, 2016

SELECTBOARD


Darren Adams, Chairperson


John Bartlett, Clerk


John Palasik


Kenneth Nolan, Vice Chair


John Cushing

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office this 7 day of April, 2016

Attestation: 



VERMONT VETERANS MILITIA MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
789 VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD ROAD
COLCHESTER, VT 05446-3099
Tel. 802-338-3360

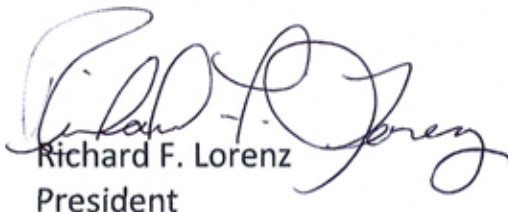


September 15, 2017

The Honorable Patrick Leahy United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4502

Dear Senator Leahy,

The Vermont Veterans Militia Museum and Library, located in Colchester Vermont fully supports and endorses this recommendation to belatedly award the Medal of Honor to Maj. Gen. George J. Stannard of Vermont for his heroic actions at Gettysburg. This recognition is long overdue and clearly warranted.


Richard F. Lorenz
President

Vermont History Center
Leahy Library &
Vermont Heritage Galleries
60 Washington Street
Barre, VT 05641-4209
(802) 479-8500



Vermont History Museum
& Store
Pavilion Building
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0901
(802) 828-2291

To whom it may concern,

I recently completed an interview with a local news station regarding Vermont Medal of Honor recipient William Wells; recounting his bravery at Gettysburg and later engagements with the first Vermont Cavalry. Though his accomplishments are certainly meritorious, I am always a bit perplexed why he received the Medal of Honor and his contemporary, Gen. George Stannard did not. I'm hoping that this application will rectify this century-old oversight.

General George J. Stannard's military service started in Vermont State service well before the Civil War and extended after the war with his service with the Freedman's Bureau, assisting liberated slaves integrate into a drastically changed society. His rise through the ranks started with the command of a single Vermont regiment to that of a brevet Major General (permanent rank of Brigadier General) at the close of the war.

He served valiantly in many engagements including Harper's Ferry and Petersburg, where he lost his arm. As outlined in this application, his actions at Gettysburg, in command of the 2nd Vermont Brigade qualify him for a post-humous Medal of Honor. Astride his horse, he showed extreme gallantry at great risk to his life directing his three Vermont regiments in wheeling to fold Picket's flank during the famous charge on the third day of battle. Though severely wounded, he stayed on the field of battle with his troops until battle's end.

His own peers recognized Stannard's bravery and leadership. His corps commander, Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday, wrote, "I can only say that they performed perhaps the most brilliant feat during the war. For they broke the desperate charge of Pickett, saved the day and with it, the whole North from invasion and devastation."

After the war, Stannard farmed, ran a business, and worked in State and Federal Government. His likeness represents Vermont troops on the State monument at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The Vermont Historical Society heartily endorses this application for a Medal of Honor to be awarded to General George S. Stannard.

Best Regards,



Stephen Perkins, Executive Director



**Chittenden County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1576
Burlington, Vermont 05402**

September 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Chittenden County Historical Society is honored to endorse General George J. Stannard for a posthumous Medal of Honor for his distinguished service in the Civil War.

General Stannard was born outside of Chittenden County but he is a vital part of Chittenden County history as he lived and farmed in the Town of Milton and also lived in the City of Burlington both of which are in Chittenden County. His final resting place is in Burlington's Lakeview Cemetery.

General Stannard enlisted in the Vermont militia at age 16 and became the commander of the 4th Vermont Regiment before the outbreak of the Civil War. His regiment was the first to report ready for duty in April of 1861 after they were called up for active duty by Vermont Governor Erastus Fairbanks.

General Stannard was the longest serving Vermont volunteer in the Civil War and was involved in many major battles including Harper's Ferry and Petersburg where he lost an arm. In addition to commanding a Vermont regiment and brigade, he commanded a division of units from several states.

General Stannard is best known for his actions in the Battle of Gettysburg. It is for his exemplary command of the 2nd Vermont Brigade at Gettysburg that he is being recommended to receive a Medal of Honor. General Stannard risked his own life by continuing to lead and direct the Vermonters from horseback after being severely wounded.

The Chittenden County Historical Society feels that General Stannard's actions during the Battle of Gettysburg meet the requirements for showing unusual gallantry at the risk of his life and that he desires to join the ranks of the other Vermont soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor for action in the Civil War.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Gray, President



SAINT ALBANS MUSEUM

September 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Saint Albans Museum, I am writing in support of the recommendation for General George J. Stannard (1820-1886) to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

A 1977 publication by the St. Albans Historical Society (our predecessor) described Stannard as "the most famous and respected officer from Vermont" during the Civil War. Although a native of nearby Georgia, he was for a time, a resident of our community and a partner in the St. Albans Foundry Company. He is often identified as the first in Vermont to respond to Lincoln's call for volunteers in April 1861.

Stannard's military career was distinguished. His service during the Civil War included conflicts at Harper's Ferry, Bull Run, Williamsburg, Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and of course, Gettysburg. His bravery and leadership at Gettysburg while in command of the 2nd Vermont (despite being wounded) was essential to the defense against Pickett's Charge, a crucial phase of the battle.

His commanding officer, Major General Abner Doubleday, later wrote:

"I can only say that they [Stannard's 2nd Vermont Brigade] performed perhaps the most brilliant feat during the war. For they broke the desperate charge of Pickett, saved the day and with it, the whole North from invasion and devastation."

The Saint Albans Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of northwestern Vermont, including the legacy of General Stannard. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or for further information regarding our support and recommendation for the Medal of Honor award.

Sincerely,

Alex Lehning, MA
Executive Director

Church & Bishop Streets P.O. Box 722 St. Albans, Vermont 05478 802-527-7933
museum@stamuseum.org www.stamuseum.org



MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

MUSEUM & MAIL: 13 School Street
Milton, Vermont 05468
PHONE: 802-893-1604
EMAIL: miltonhistorical@yahoo.com

September 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for the request to bestow the Medal of Honor to Major General George J. Stannard. General Stannard was born in Georgia Vermont and farmed in Milton Vermont. The local history connection is very important to our organization and is very significant to our state as a whole. As many as 50 other Vermont soldiers have received the Medal of Honor for their service in the Civil War. General Stannard's service should be celebrated with this honor. During the Battle of Gettysburg he commanded, from horseback, three Vermont regiments and remained in command even after being severely wounded.

Major General George J. Stannard served throughout the entire war except when recovering from wounds and continued to serve our country after the war in the Freedmen's Bureau. He was the longest serving Vermont volunteer in the Civil War.

Please reward the history and memory of General Stannard with the esteemed Medal of Honor. It is an important means of paying respect for his significant effort and the sacrifices he made for our country in order to keep us a United States.

Sincerely and with appreciation,

Allison E. Belisle
President
Milton Historical Society

Georgia Historical Society

P.O. Box 2072
Georgia, VT 05468

Founded March 14, 1975



October 2, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Georgia Vermont's native son, George Jerrison Stannard, served our nation with distinction his entire adult life.

His great leadership skills, crisp decision-making abilities, and his heroic actions ultimately contributed directly to the Union's victory in our nation's horrific War between the States.

General Stannard enlisted at a very young age in the Vermont Militia and rose to the rank of Brevet Major General because of his heroic actions at Fort Harrison. During his volunteer service in the Civil War, he was wounded four times, with his wound at Fort Harrison resulting in the amputation of his right arm.

General Stannard's leadership and successful actions were most notably exhibited during the Battle of Gettysburg and the Confederate advance known as "Pickett's Charge" on July 3, 1863. The advancing Confederate forces were turned back at the high point of the battle field as a result of a right-angle flank attack by the Vermont troops ordered by General Stannard. General Stannard led the Vermonters from his horse while being seriously wounded. This "flank" maneuver directly contributed to the defeat of the Confederates at Gettysburg and many months later with the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Corp Commander Abner Doubleday's comment following the Vermonter's actions expressed the importance of these heroic actions: **"I can only say that they (Vermonters) performed perhaps the most brilliant feat during the war. For they broke the desperate charge of Pickett, saved the day and with it, the whole North from invasion and devastation."**

There were sixty – three men awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions at Gettysburg.

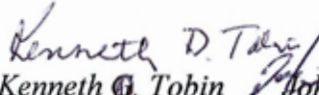
The Georgia, Vermont Historical Society strongly recommends that a 64th Medal of Honor be awarded posthumously to General George Jerrison Stannard for his heroic actions at the battle of Gettysburg, PA., on July 3, 1863.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colin Conger'.

Colin Conger,
Board of Directors,
Georgia Vermont Historical Society

STANNARD CAMP, SONS OF UNION VETERANS

The Camp Council of the revived Stannard Camp agrees with the sentiments expressed by the veterans of the original post upon the death of their namesake. We heartily endorse the current recommendation for a Medal of Honor for General Stannard.


Kenneth D. Tobin


John A. Mayville


Franklin J. McNight November 4, 2017

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC RESOLUTIONS

At a regular meeting of the Stannard Post No. 2, held December 3, 1886, the following preamble and resolutions were passed:

Whereas, On the first day of June, 1886, our honored namesake, Major General George J. Stannard, was summoned from his post of duty to the silent camping-ground of the dead, and this Post, which bears his name, has not placed upon its records this the deep sense of bereavement they feel, and the loss they have sustained in the death of our illustrious comrade, therefore be it,

Resolved, by Stannard Post No. 2, Department of Vermont, Grand Army of the Republic, That they will tenderly cherish the memory of his great services as a brilliant military commander in defence of our country, his sterling qualities as a patriot, and his many praiseworthy traits of character as a citizen.

Resolved, That in paying this tribute to the memory of General Stannard, they honor Vermont's greatest captain, whose life of self-sacrifice and deed of bravery and devotion in our Country's hour of peril, will shine with undying luster, and while they cannot attain to the summit of his fame, they will ever strive to imitate his virtues.

Resolved, They are deeply grateful to the senators and representatives of Vermont for the generous appropriations voted at the recent session of the general assembly toward an erection of a suitable monument at the grave of our distinguished soldier.

Resolved, That they will ever extend their warmest sympathy to the widow and daughters of our beloved comrade in their great sorrow.

Resolved, That these resolutions be enrolled upon the permanent records of this Post and that the adjutant transmit a copy of them to the afflicted family.

Headquarters, Stannard Post No. 2, G. A. R., Burlington, Vermont, December 3, 1886.

Official

Wm. C. Schroder, Post Adjutant.

Mr. Cunningham, Senior Vice Commander.

Per order of the Post

E. H. Trick, Post Commander.

F. O. P. Ray, Junior Vice Commander.

October 27, 2017
Montpelier, Vermont

To whom this may concern:

At about 3:30 p.m. on July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, two regiments of the Second Vermont Brigade were ordered by its commander, Brig. Gen. George Jerrison Stannard, to attack the right flank of the Confederate assault taking place to the north along the main Union line.

Stannard's command to the 13th and 16th Vermont was, "Change front forward on first company." This complex maneuver was, apparently, flawlessly executed by the troops, who were involved in their first battle. The result was the bringing to bear of some 900 rifle muskets on the Rebels' southern flank. The Vermonters fired, then advanced, fired then advanced, probably getting off 11 rounds. Thus it is possible that some 10,000 rounds were fired at the Confederates massed before the now-famed Angle and Clump of Trees.

Clearly, the effect of the Vermont assault on what history has come to know as Pickett's Charge was devastating, surely the telling blow to what may well have been the most important attack of the Civil War.

The idea for the flank attack was General Stannard's, though the Union commander in that part of the field, Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, for years tried to take credit. Stannard saw that the Rebel assault, as it swung north, had left open his reduced brigade's front. He saw the chance for a flank attack, and instantly ordered it.

The maneuver involved to create the attack required the 13th and 16th Vermont to move well forward of the Union line under heavy fire. Then A Company of the 13th had to pivot 90 degrees, and march forward. All subsequent companies of both regiments pivoted 45 degrees, then advanced. This formed a single line of the two regiments, standing shoulder to shoulder.

This was accomplished by regiments involved in their first battle, with only several days left in their enlistments. The fact that they did as ordered, and did it well, speaks to a remarkable degree of drilling and discipline imparted by General Stannard prior to the battle. The maneuver must have been practiced time and again.

But the genius of the Stannard attack at Gettysburg lies in the general recognizing, and instantly acting to seize on, one of the great military opportunities in the history of armed conflict. It may well be that Stannard's flank attack won the Battle of Gettysburg.

My book *Nine Months to Gettysburg: Stannard's Vermonters and the Repulse of Pickett's Charge*, published in 1997, was the modern era's first dealing with the Second Vermont Brigade. In his forward to it, the renowned Civil War historian Edwin Cole Bearss wrote, "Stannard's Second Vermont Brigade left a significant mark on what many of us perceive as one of the climactic events of our nation's history."

In concluding my chapter on Stannard's assault, I wrote of visiting the Gettysburg Battlefield one evening in the early nineties and looking from the Lee monument on Seminary Ridge to the Vermont monument, topped by a statue of Stannard, that stands where the flank attack began:

"There he was, one citizen soldier who, in a brief moment of golden opportunity, had seen the grand chance and, in seizing it, brought his nine-months brigade into the history of his nation. I looked that way for a long time, until the stars appeared. Still Stannard stood against the night, truly larger than life, forever determined that the Union should not fail because of anything left undone by his nine-months Vermont boys."

Stannard richly deserves the Medal of Honor, which was awarded in the war's aftermath to three of his men for their participation in the great flank attack. Unlike Stannard, none of the three was wounded in that crucial action.

Sincerely,
Howard J. Coffin

Vermont *in the Civil War*

Lest We Forget

3715 Font Hill Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
July 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the effort to award the Medal of Honor to George Jerrison Stannard.

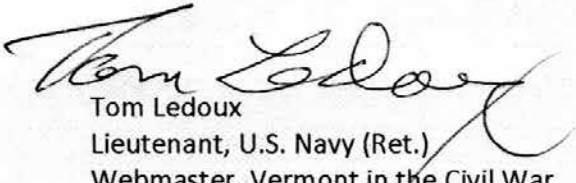
Sixty-four Vermonters, who served in Vermont or other State's units during the Civil War, received the Medal of Honor. Not to begrudge any of them, but many of their actions fall far short of then Brigadier General Stannard's contributions at Gettysburg on July 3, 1862.

During the final approach of the Confederate's charge against Cemetery Ridge, General Stannard watched the progress of the Confederates, put out sharpshooters, then moved the 13th Vermont forward of the line. As the Confederates approached, then passed, the 13th line, Stannard ordered them to "change front forward on the first company," according to regimental historian Ralph Sturtevant. Backed up by the 16th Vermont, the 2nd Brigade was able to lay down a withering enfilading fire that decimated the Confederate lines and resulted in 243 prisoners.

Seeing another threat from Confederate General Wilcox to the south of them, Stannard had the 16th turn about and joined the 14th Vermont in basically accomplishing the same.

General Abner Doubleday's reaction was "Glory to God! See the Vermonters Go It!"

In the 21 years since I created the Vermont in the Civil War website, it has become the largest repository of material on Vermont and Vermonters in the War of Rebellion available to the general public. The letters, diaries and published accounts it contains consistently praise Stannard and his brigade for their actions on the bloodiest battlefield of the war. He richly deserves this honor!



Tom Ledoux
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Webmaster, Vermont in the Civil War
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To Whom It May Concern

16 November 2017

Over the past twenty years, I have repeatedly visited the scene of General Stannard's bold action of 3 July 1863 at the crucial point of the battle of Gettysburg. Initially, I wanted to see first-hand the terrain where Captain John Lonergan's Irish Company led the movement of the 13th and 16th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiments to attack the flank of rebels assaulting Cemetery Ridge. Since 2010, when I published my biography of Lonergan, I have returned to this hallowed spot simply to pay homage to the audacity of these untested brave Vermonters commanded by Stannard.

Tipperary-born Lonergan mustered Vermont's only ethnic unit for the conflict, drawing Irishmen from Burlington and Rutland (plus a dozen Yankees from Westford). He distinguished himself in the battle with the recapture of Union cannon, along with 82 Confederate soldiers, on 2 July and received a Medal of Honor for this accomplishment. Stannard had acted as Lonergan's mentor before the war, encouraging him to organize a new Vermont militia company, designated Company E of the 4th Regiment commanded by Stannard. At Gettysburg, the place of honor of the right flank in the battle line went to Lonergan as the senior captain of the senior regiment on the field: Co. A, 13th VT Regiment. Thus his Irish Company led the two Vermont regiments from the comparative safety of their forward position along Plum Run to form their battle lines in two ranks at "half pistol shot distance" from the charging rebels.

For almost thirty years I worked in military intelligence, mostly at the National Security Agency after my time with the US Army, and I have a Master of Arts in Military History from Norwich University. Selected as a member of the Vermont governor's Sesquicentennial Commission on the Civil War and active in reenactor groups with my living history portrayals of General Stannard, I have an informed appreciation of the significance of his actions at Gettysburg. Recently I was elected Commander of the Stannard Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. My strong endorsement of the recommendation that Stannard be awarded a Medal of Honor is, I believe, most appropriate in that capacity.



William L. McKone

Commander, Stannard Camp of the SUV, Department of Vermont
Author of *Vermont's Irish Rebel*, the biography of Captain John Lonergan

Andrew Ward
Licensed Battlefield Guide #211
Gettysburg National Military Park

September 22, 2017

To whom it may concern,

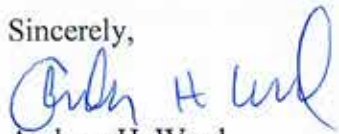
There are many stories of heroism and valor associated with the Battle of Gettysburg, and sixty-four Union soldiers have been awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during the battle. I believe that General George J. Stannard's actions on July 3, 1863 were as deserving as any of those sixty-four.

Stannard enlisted early in the war and despite being captured in 1862, he rose to the rank of brigadier general and commanded the 2nd Vermont Brigade at Gettysburg. During the climactic Confederate charge on July 3, 1863, Stannard directed his untested men to leave their relatively safe position, perform a flanking maneuver, and assault the Confederate flank. As he sat in an exposed position on horseback, Stannard suffered a serious thigh wound, but refused to leave the field until the enemy was repulsed. Stannard's immediate superior, General Abner Doubleday, later called the flanking movement a "brilliant feat" and that Stannard and the Vermonters "saved the day".

After recovering from his wound, Stannard returned to combat duty and rose to the brevet rank of major general by the end of the war. Late in the war he was wounded two additional times, including a wound that resulted in the amputation of his right arm.

After the war the Vermont Monument Commission, largely composed of Civil War veterans, chose to honor George J. Stannard's deeds at Gettysburg by placing a statue of him atop the Vermont State Monument located in the area where the Vermonters performed their flanking movement. This monument was dedicated in 1889.

Sincerely,



Andrew H. Ward

Native Vermonter and Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park

Michael Cairns
2nd Vermont Infantry co. A
Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors

To Whom It May Concern:

When one considers the percentage of men the State of Vermont supplied to the Union Army in the American Civil War, it would not be a surprise to learn that 43 of them were awarded the Medal of Honor. What is a surprise, is that General George J. Stannard is not one of them.

General Stannard is likely the first Vermont Civil War soldier historians would name and it is no shock that he is often considered the first Green Mountain Boy to have reported for duty in protecting the Union. He served his state and country well and during the course of the bloody war and was wounded four times, losing his right arm after the last wound.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, Stannard commanded the Second Vermont Brigade and their actions in defense of Cemetery Hill on July 2-3, 1863 were crucial to the Union victory, which many believe saved the United States as we know it. The Vermonters flanking maneuver during Pickett's Charge devastated the attack and the Union commander, Major General George Meade said, "There was no individual body of men who rendered a greater service at a critical moment then the comparatively raw troops commanded by General Stannard."

Major General Abner Doubleday stated, "It is to General Stannard...that the country is mainly indebted for the repulse of the enemy's charge and the final victory of July 3. [His] brilliant flank movement... greatly contributed to if it did not completely insure our final success."

My love of history and the Civil War period in particular, has led me to recently join the ranks of the Champlain Valley Historical Reenactors. The first Civil War battlefield I visited was Gettysburg in 1987. I still have the photo of my brother and me at the 2nd Vermont Brigade monument. I have been fascinated with the Civil War since I was able to read and my grandmother encouraged me in learning more about it. I have at least 4 ancestors who served in the Union Army and it remains a source of pride to me. As a native Vermonter, I know I am not the only one who takes pride in calling General Stannard one of us. I believe that General Stannard is well deserving of the Medal of Honor for his important action at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Sincerely,



Michael Cairns

REFERENCE