

Letter about Henry Heckart from his wife's uncle Granville Clayton

This letter was written to Joseph Thomas Heckart, Henry Heckart's son, from Lexington, Mo June 16, 1891. Joseph Thomas now lived in Oklahoma, having made the Cherokee Strip Run in 1893 for land.

Joseph T. Heckart,

Dear Nephew, I received a few lines from you a few days since and was glad to hear from you and that you were still in the land of the living. It has been a long while since I heard from you or any of your Brothers or your Sister. I don't know where any of them are. I don't think you are treating me very kindly you could write and let me hear from you occasionally. I want you to write and let me hear from you and what you are going. If you have married come and see me if you can, would be glad to see you. This leaves me and family well. I have five children living. William O. Clayton is living in Santa Anna California George and James are living in Kansas City. Caroline is living in Lexington and Joseph is living in Lexington. The others are all dead.

You wrote you wanted to get your Fathers war record that is not very long one. He was sworn into the U S Army in Sept. 1862 [enlisted Aug. 14, 1862] a few days before the Lone Jack Fight. He went up there from Lexington and was in that fight and was wounded. Was shot through the thigh and in the mouth, knocking out some of his teeth. The troupes were defeated and returned to Lexington which is about 30 miles from Lone Jack he rode horse back home.

They landed in Lexington the same night after the battle about 11 or 12 oclock in the night. I had your Father brought to my house and he stayed about two days. Was doing quite well but it was reported that the Conferats troops were a going to attack Lexington. The officers of the Union Army took your Father and all wounded soldiers and put them on a steam boat that was at the levy at the time. So that in case of attack they could not get the wounded but they did not attack the town they kept the wounded on the boat some days they then moved them off to a hospital.

I tried to let me keep your father but they was afraid he would be taken prisoner. While on the boat your father took the fever and was taken to the hospital. They would not let me take him until he had been in the hospital about a week and the doctor said he could not live. Then they let me bring him home to my house but he was out of his right mind and continued up to his death which was but a few days.

He told me that in the fight he knows he must have killed several. He said he was standing near a house while he was shooting. There was a porch just above him and he looked up at those standing on the porch and just as he did so a woman shot at him. The ball went in his mouth and struck the teeth on the left jaw and knocked 2 or three out. The ball lodged back in the neck. I always believed if they had let me kept him as I wanted he would have recovered but they would not so he died and I had him burried in the grave yard. Write and let me hear from you.

This is from your affectionate uncle, Granville Clayton. I am in my 81 year since the 10th of May.