

Abel David J. Heastings



Born: Sept, 1842
Where: Pittsburgh. Pa
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Height: 5' 11"
Complexion: Dark
Occupation: Surveyor

Company M, 102nd Regt. Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry data.

Enrolled on September 3, 1861 at Pittsburgh. Penna. for a three year enlistment
Sept. 15, 1861 mustered in as a Second Corporal
July 3, 1862 promoted to 5th Sergeant.
April 27, 1863 promoted to 3rd Sergeant.
May 3, 1863 wounded at Salem Church.
Captured May 4, 1863 at Fredericksburg, Va. Confined Richmond, Va., May 9, 1863.
Paroled at City Point Va., May 15, 1863; reported at Camp Parole, Md., May 17, 1863.
March 18, 1864 mustered in as Volunteer Vet. at Hallstown Va.
July 1864 promoted to 1st Sergeant.
Sept 10, 1864, took charge of the company.
December 2, 1864, discharged by reason of promotion.
In the field, Va. on December 3, 1864 mustered in as Captain of Company M 102 Reg't. Infantry, Pa. Vol.
December 30, 1864, David applies for leave to go home to visit his injured Mother.

May 2, 1865 Captains Heastings and Hubby decided that they wanted to get eggs for breakfast. So they set out to find them. On a back road, they met two Negroes who told them they knew a person that could help them.

On their way, the men told the captains that the owner of their farm had a silver set buried on the property. The captains told them they were not interested. They then proceeded to meet a person by the name of Joe, who would help them get the eggs.

After they arrived at the farm, the two Negroes dug up the Silver Set. The Captains again told them they were not interested. The two blacks got mad and found an axe and destroyed it.

After eating, the two were in the yard talking to Joe when the owner came riding up and produced a weapon. He pointed it at Captain Hubbly's head. A Private Patterson who was on guard at the front of the farm was with him. The owner put his gun away after they told him they had just purchased food and then they left.

The Captains had talked with the owner and he displayed no bad feelings but later complained to the army that the Captains told the Negroes to destroy the silver set. I can only guess that the owner found out what happened and told the Negroes to lie and blame the Captains. The owner probably filed a claim for the broken set.

Most likely the Negroes were scared of the owner because they still needed to work after the war.

The two Captains were charged with AWOL and marauding. The Captains pleaded guilty to the AWOL charges, and not guilty to the other charges

The two did not have a lawyer to represent them. They introduced a letter of their version of what happened.

The officers were given a chance to talk to the men, but to no avail. They were both found guilty and dismissed from the Army on May 18, 1865.

After leaving the Army in May 1865, David returned to Pittsburgh, Pa, and worked as a surveyor at his father's company. After the death of his father, he worked as a mason.

On June 6, 1866 he married Susan George. The couple had two daughters, but both died as little children.

On August 24 1903 Abel David died after being struck by a train at a street level crossing in Wilksburg, Allegheny County, Pa.

David was laid to rest in the Homewood Cemetery.



David's descendants are:

Clarence McAllister, great, great, nephew, Nora Gaskill Guckert, great, great, great niece.

Thomas V. Parker, great, great, nephew, Edward Parker, great, great, great nephew, Judith Parker, great, great, great niece.

Editors note:

I think the two men were railroaded to make the Army look better by convicting suspected marauders running loose at the time. They were charged with marauding and were taken to trial. The two officers were treated unfairly and should only have been fined two or three months pay.

The fact of the matter is, the Army failed poorly in finding and capturing the marauders. Heastings and Hubby were used as examples.

In a strange twist of fate, both men were killed in railroad accidents. Heastings was hit by a train at a ground level crossing and Hubby was killed in a train wreck in Ohio.

A letter by David requesting
leave to visit his sick mother.

Ad. Is. Co. M- 102^d P. V.

Dec 31/64

Adjutant.

I respectfully ask that I may forward through you my reasons for asking a leave of absence at this time. My mother who is a very aged lady (being fifty seven years of age) met with a very severe accident while coming down the stairs at home the same giving way breaking one of her legs, and injuring her inwardly, and as the surgeon attending her has declared she cannot live but a very short time, she is very anxious to see me before she dies and I am still more anxious that a leave should be granted me to enable me to do so. I also have some very important private business at home which I wish to attend to.

Hoping this may meet with your early attention and approval.

I am sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

ASJ Hastings
Capt Co M 102^d P. V.

To
Adj. L. J. Brown.