

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

A letter from Captain Edward A. Jacobs, Fort Larned, to John Jacobs, Clinton, Kansas, November 13, 1864. The letter was written 16 days prior to the Sand Creek Massacre in southeast Colorado on November 29, 1864.

Creator: Jacobs, Edward A.

Date: November 13, 1864

Callnumber: Military History Collection, Series D, Civil War: Out Of State, 1861-1870

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 310229

Item Identifier: 310229

www.kansasmemory.org/item/310229



Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

Fort Larned Kansas
November 13th 1864

Dear Brother John

Having nothing special to divert my mind and feeling anxious to hear whether Father has returned yet or not I thought to pen a short epistle to you. I am as well as usual but there is but little enjoyment at such a place as this at this season of the year. It has been very stormy here for the past week, but yesterday it cleared off and today has been as bright and warm as summer.

I have no news at all to write there are no Indians in this vicinity or at least none have been seen for the last three weeks. I have stopped the Santepee coach bound west at this place also two Ex-teams. The coach from the west has been due over two weeks and no word of it up to this date. I anticipate that there has been trouble with the Indians in the vicinity of Fort Lyon as at the last time the coach came down they were concentrating at that point and the Major that was in command at this place when you were here was ordered up there in expectation of trouble.

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

I have looked for a letter from you by every mail from the east for the last month but up to this date have failed to hear one word from you

Now in view of getting the local news from home and that vicinity I am going to issue a special to you

Head Quarters Fort Leamed

Kansas Nov 13th 1864

Special Order
No 98

It being necessary for the good of the service that certain Citizens of the United States of America (supposed to be good and loyal) should be placed under certain obligations and restrictions, it is hereby ordered, that, immediately after the receipt of this order you Mr John Jacobs a Citizen of the State of Kansas County of Douglas Township of Clinton do give your immediate attention to certain affairs as follows 1st As to how the election went 2nd Who got hurt on election day 3^d How is the war on the border progressing 4th Was any one hurt or killed from our section of country if so who 5th Was Bro Smith or Line McCoy started out this way with a train if so when did they start 6th How is Miss Grace and does she have any beaux nowadays 7th What kind of a time did you have after you left here and what have you been doing since



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you got home and how you found things generally
All this you will faithfully perform and as much more
as circumstances will allow In default of which you
are to be forever dismissed from service as a correspondent
of the undersigned and also to be debared the privilege of
kissing any pretty girl within the limits of the acquaintances
of your humble servant

By Order of

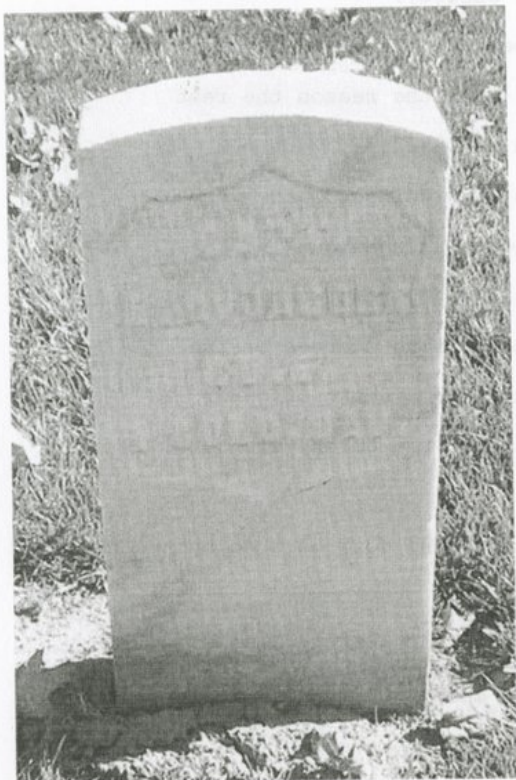
Edward A. Jacobs
Capt 1st Regt of Colorado
Commanding Post

To

John Jacobs
Citizen

Official Business

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs



Captain Edward A. Jacobs grave, Leavenworth, Ks.

From our Jacobs family history (written by Clarence W. Jacobs):

" Edward A. Jacobs: When Edward was in Douglas County in 1856, he became involved in the Hickory Point Attack in which a pro-slavery person was killed by one of 150 or 200 free-state men, Saturday, September 13, 1856. So Edward can be classed as a Jayhawker, for that was during the period

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

that the term Jayhawker originated.

His name appears in the Hickory Point Attack records on file in the Kansas State Historical Society.

Edward was among eighty-nine persons arrested, jailed, charged with murder, and convicted. The the reason the rest of the 150 to 200 were not arrested is that they were not caught. Seventeen of the prisoners, including Edward, were pardoned in March 1857, in compliance with numerous respectful petitions, extensively signed by respectable citizens of Kansas Territory, embracing some members of the territorial legislature, and well known residents of other territories, and several other States of the Union, without distinction as to party.

It was alleged in those petitions (and corroborated by facts) that those seventeen prisoners had previously maintained good reputations and that the offense for which they were convicted was committed in one of those political contentions in which a great portion of the people of the Territory took an active part; many of whom, though equally, if not more guilty, were still at liberty, and could never be brought to justice; that the prisoners had already suffered an imprisonment of nearly six months, and that their continued punishment could neither subserve the ends of justice nor the interests of the Territory.

In May of that year (1857) Edward gave his address as Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, Iowa, on a deed to Lot #39, in Peru, Clinton County, New York. This probably is the lot he

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inherited from his grandfather, Dyer Arnold.

Then in September of 1858 he settled on the homestead in Section 32 between Twin Mound and Clinton, Douglas County.

The next record of Edward appears in Colorado, where he enlisted in the First Colorado Volunteers in August of 1861. His enlistment record shows that he was a gold miner; so that was why the "boys from the farms walked away from their plows!"

The diagonal short cut road from Lawrence, Kansas to the Santa Fe Trail went right past the Jacobs homestead. And the trail was only a few miles below Edward's home. Edward must have listened and dreamed and was attracted by the adventure associated with the Trail. "Some said it was the fur that took them west, and some said it was gold or land; but in the last analysis it was simply the West that took them west. All other things were easy excuses, obvious explanations for obvious questions. They went west for the wild free life, the love of high adventure among lonely peaks, and for the call of the open prairie where the long winds blow across a thousand miles of grassland. And many of them left their blood upon the land, but where they died, others followed and died."

Edward's military career is an interesting part of this genealogy. As I said before, Edward was a gold miner, but we do not have any other records about that. He was in a gold mining area in the high mountains west of Denver when he was enlisted in Company B of the First Colorado Volunteers at

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

Central City, Colorado by Captain Samuel F. Tappan. On the same day he was enlisted he also was appointed to the rank of 3rd Sergeant; that was on August 1, 1861. Then just 25 days later he was appointed to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, vice Isaac Gray, who was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. It appears that Edward and Isaac Gray may have gone to Colorado together, for both of them were imprisoned together and released together in the Hickory Point Attack episode.

Edward's enlistment record shows his physical appearance: 5 feet and 9 and 3/4 inches tall; light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair.

Company B from the Central City and Black Hawk area assembled with the other companies at their camp in Denver, where there were a few interesting happenings and involvements.

When the Confederates captured Santa Fe, New Mexico, the First Colorado Volunteers were part of the Union forces that met them at Apache Pass, south of Fort Union, New Mexico. Second Lieutenant Edward A. Jacobs was in the battle at Apache Pass and then went with his Company B and others and marched over the high mountains and down into a canyon where they destroyed the Confederates' complete source of supplies: 500 horses and mules and 80 wagons of all kinds of equipment and supplies. That is called the Battle at Johnson's Ranch. The Confederates immediately retreated and the First Colorado followed. Edward, in his disability papers, states that he also was in the battle at Peralta, which was part of

Captain Edward A. Jacobs to John Jacobs

chasing the Confederates back to Texas.

Second Lieutenant Jacobs was soon appointed to First Lieutenant. Some of his time was spent in handling Court Martial cases.

When the First Colorado returned to Denver, they were quickly converted to a cavalry regiment, the First Colorado Cavalry, and were assigned to patrolling the Santa Fe Trail. Their duties were to fight the Indians when necessary to protect the pioneers, their wagon trains, stage coaches, and ox trains hauling supplies to the forts along the trail.

When 1st Lieutenant Jacobs was appointed Captain, he was given command of Company A, First Colorado Cavalry. As Captain he was often in command of various forts along the Santa Fe Trail. When he was in command of Fort Larned, he wrote his November 13, 1864 letter to his brother John, my grandfather.

On November 29, 1864 Colonel Chivington, Captain Jacobs' former regimental commander, with a number of military companies committed the infamous Sand Creek Massacre of the peaceful Cheyenne Indians camped on Sand Creek. And Captain Jacobs was one of the three officers assigned to investigate the circumstances of its occurrence.

When the terms of enlistment of most of the First Colorado Cavalry expired, the regiment title had been changed to Veteran Battalion. And Captain Edward A. Jacobs states that he was in command of the Veteran Battalion at the time it was disbanded at the end of the war.

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Edward returned to farming and remained a bachelor all the rest of his life. When ill health prevented him from doing physical labor, he had to go the old soldiers' home at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he died on June 2, 1904.

"June 2 -- Edward A. Jacobs, Captain, E, 1st Colorado Cavalry, aged 69, Home No. 9712."

He is buried in Section 18, Row 9, Grave 5, Fort Leavenworth Cemetery. I took a picture of Steven John Jacobs beside his gravestone July 2, 1975.

"The neighing troop, the flashing blade,
The bugle's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreaded cannonade,
The din and shout are past."

We are proud of Captain Edward A. Jacobs.

Information provided by: Steven J. Jacobs, Email: sjhumanist@gmail.com, great grandson of John Jacobs (1840-1899), brother of Edward A. Jacobs. An electronic version of the full text of C.W. Jacobs' book about Edward A. Jacobs will be provided at a future date.