



KENTUCKY HISTORICAL STUDIES FOUNDATION

Enriching our Future by Connecting with the Past

XXXXXX Gratz
XXXXXXXXXX Road
XXXXXX, TN 3XXXX

June 25, 2014

Muster Record Analysis for Major Lewis A Gratz, 6th Kentucky Cavalry (US)

Mr. Gratz,

Thank you for the opportunity to review Major Lewis A Gratz's service with the Unionist 6th Kentucky Cavalry. This muster record was retrieved from Microcopy 397, Roll 65, of the National Archive Microfilm Publications.

The National Park Service's Soldiers and Sailors system shows Louis\Lewis Gratz having served in both the 6th Kentucky Cavalry (US) as well as the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry (92nd Volunteers). Based on our earlier email conversation we believe this to be your ancestor. We will be analyzing only the Kentucky records for Major Gratz. If you have the 9th Pennsylvania records we would be happy to help you with those as well under a separate project. We will provide the very brief history of the 9th Pennsylvania provided by the National Park Service's system as Appendix A.

We hope you find this as interesting as we did during the reading and analysis. Major Gratz was obviously a man of character and military bearing. His service is mentioned in several reports from his immediate as well as Division and Department commanders. His service is obviously something to be proud of and in his particular case of exceptional service to his Country and Kentucky we are proud to get to know him through this project. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Wayne Fielder
Genealogist & Civil War Researcher

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Prologue

The accompanying PDF contains scans of the original cards as found in the muster record for Major Gratz. The PDF has bookmarks that allow you to quickly jump to the card of interest. The names of those bookmarks will be used throughout this analysis to identify the specific cards we are analyzing and/or referring back to should the case arise. Let's get started.

Lieutenant Gratz had joined the 9th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry in Harrisburg Pennsylvania in either October or November of 1861. He served with them until they assembled at Lebanon Kentucky in August of 1862. It was during this stay that Lieutenant Gratz left the 9th PA Cavalry and joined the 6th Kentucky Cavalry. He officially mustered in on September 22nd as the 1st Major of the Regiment and for the purposes of pay, the muster-in date is listed as August 16th. The Cavalry Regiment of the Civil War had three Majors in the early years of the war. The 1st Major would be considered the most senior of the others and could command a battalion (two to three companies) of the Regiment should the Colonel make that decision. By 1863 the junior Major positions were eliminated. This change is clear in the record of Major Gratz by the dropping of the number beside the rank on the Periodic Muster cards.

Field and Staff Muster-in Roll

The "Field and Staff Muster-In Roll" card in his muster record claims Major Gratz was 23 years old when he joined the 6th Kentucky. If that age is consistent with your other genealogical research then it is likely accurate. If you have no other evidence as to his age then I encourage you to use this as only a suggestion rather than fact. The muster records we have available to us is actually a product of a compilation, organization, and audit process that happened in the immediate years after the war. There **ARE** errors in the muster records either dutifully copied from original war time sources which were incorrect or from basic human error during the process of taking the records and turning them into the muster record cards that we now have readily available.

Enlistment to Oct 31, 1862

The first Periodic Muster card lists the date as "Enlistment to Oct 31, 1862". This is fairly common in early war Kentucky regiments and is due to either the inability of the Colonel to get the proper paperwork to complete the records or that the Colonel simply didn't know that such a thing had to be done. Once either of those situations was remedied records such as this would be created to fill in the gap of time. There are two stamps on toward the end of this card. The first reads "From Second Auditor's Roll" and this is just an indication that Major Gratz's record had been part of the second audit and you will see why as we progress. The second reads, "Next Roll on File, Feb 1863" and this might be skipped over without the information in Speed's book concerning the regiment's activities. From the summer of 1862 when Major Gratz joined the 6th Kentucky at Lebanon Kentucky, the regiment was working as individual battalions meaning in groups of 2 to 4 companies. Speed writes,

"In September, Companies F, G, H, I, K, L, and M were nominally consolidated with Mundy's Battalion, thus making the 6th Cavalry; D. J. Hallisy being Colonel and Reuben Mundy lieutenant-colonel. At that time the 1st Battalion, under Maj. W.H. Fidler, was sent to Leitchfield, KY., and

*skirmished with the cavalry of Bragg's army. The 2d Battalion, under Col. Hallisy, went to Bardstown, and there encountered Morgan's Confederate cavalry. The 3d, under Maj. L. A. Gratz, went to Stanford, and was instrumental in capturing prisoners from Bragg's army. It also broke up a band of guerrillas infesting that section."*¹

From September through the end of the year the regiment continued to be divided and sent hither and yon around Central Kentucky. It was January 20th when the 6th Kentucky Cavalry was ordered into the Army of the Cumberland and the muster record begins to be more complete.²

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
Cincinnati, Ohio, January 20, 1863.

Maj. Gen. GORDON GRANGER,
Commanding Army of Kentucky, Cincinnati, Ohio:

*GENERAL: The following named troops are to be sent to the Department of the Cumberland, to operate with the forces in that department: First, the infantry division under the command of Brigadier-General Baird; second, the Eighteenth and Twenty-fourth Regiments Kentucky Infantry; third, three batteries to be selected by you from the Army of Kentucky; fourth, the Second Michigan and Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry; fifth, four regiments from West Virginia, under Brigadier-General Crook; sixth, Reid's brigade, including one battery; seventh, the Twelfth and Sixteenth Kentucky Infantry; eighth, the Seventy-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and, ninth, the **Sixth and Ninth Kentucky Cavalry.***

The above force is to be under your command, and will be assembled, with the least possible delay, at Louisville, and proceed thence by steamers to Nashville, via the Cumberland River. No wagons will be taken, as General Rosecrans has a surplus of transportation.

Possibly it may be best to march the cavalry across the country to Nashville, instead of transporting by boat, and in the event of the railroad being put in working order from Elizabethtown to Nashville in time, it may be best to send a part of the infantry threes by that route. On your arrival at Nashville you will report to Major-General Rosecrans, commanding the Department of the Cumberland.

The following general officers will be assigned to your command, in addition to General Baird: First, Brig. Gen. H. M. Judah; second, Brig. Gen. S. P. Carter; third, Brig. Gen. C. G. Gilbert; fourth, Brig. Gen. George Crook.

The command of the District of Central Kentucky will be turned over to Brig. Gen. Q. A. Gillmore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. WRIGHT,

Major-General, Commanding.

From this point onward through the Periodic Muster cards I will simply list the date, Major Gratz's disposition, and provide whatever narrative necessary to explain or draw attention to peculiarities in the record.

¹ (Speed, 170)

² (O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XX/2 pg342) (Department 1900)

January – February 1863

Present or Absent: "Present"

Remarks: none

His rank was still listed as "1 Maj". At this point in the war, the usage of multiple Majors was becoming less common. This reference is likely a perpetuation of the rank found on the first Muster-In card and not a reflection of his actual and recognized rank in the regiment.

Special Muster dated April 17, 1863

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Absent without Leave since Mch 29th '63"

March – April 1863

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Absent without leave since March 29th '63"

This muster covers the same period as the "Special Muster" previously dated. The chronology is out of order here and this is common with the microfilm across all soldiers.

May – June 1863

Present or Absent: "Present"

Remarks: none

Major Gratz is listed as Present and there is nothing mentioned in the "Remarks". This is probably because his absence was actually not without leave and he simply returned to the regiment from whatever service he was engaged in.

July – August 1863

Present or Absent: "Present"

Remarks: none

September – October 1863

Present or Absent: “Present”

Remarks: none

November – December 1863

Present or Absent: “Absent”

Remarks: “Report to Genl Carter Knoxville Tenn by order of Genl Thomas November 13th ’63
Spec O. W 304”

His rank on this card is marked as simply “Major” so it appears the new “tradition” of having only one Major in the regiment was beginning to take hold. . The last portion of that may be confusing. “Spec O. W 304” probably means “Special Order 304 by the War Department” but I am unsure of exactly what that “W” actually means.

January - February 1864

Present or Absent: “Absent”

Remarks: “Detached with Genl Carter Knoxville, Tenn. Nov 13th 1863”

March – April 1864

Present or Absent: “Absent”

Remarks: “Detached with Genl Carter, Knoxville, Tenn. By order Genl Thomas Nov 13th 63. S.O. 304”

May – June 1864

Present or Absent: “Absent”

Remarks: “Detachd A.A.G. to Genl Carter Knoxville S.F.O. No 63 Nov 13th/63 D.C.”

The previous three Periodic Musters simply had Major Gratz as being detached to General Carter at Knoxville but we didn’t know why. With this Periodic Muster we know that he was serving with the Assistant Adjutant General in Knoxville. The Adjutant General is defined in Gilham’s Manual for Volunteers and Militia as:³

“...the chief staff-officer of the army, division, or brigade to which he belongs, and assists the general in the discharge of his duties; he keeps the roster of the officers; makes details for duty; makes up morning reports, returns, etc.; publishes the orders of the general; and is the channel through which all reports to, and correspondence with the general, pass.”

³ (Gilham, xiii)

The "D.C." can easily be mistaken as a reference to the National Capital but at the time of the Civil War references to the National Capital were made as "Washington" or "Washington City" and not "D.C.". The reference in the remarks section here actually means "Department of the Cumberland".

July – August 1864

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Detached by S. F. Order No 63 Hd Qtrs Dept Cumberland Nov 13th 1863 as A.A.G. to Brig Genl Carter Knoxville."

June 30 – Oct 31 1864

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Detached by S.F.O. No 63 H. Qtrs Dept. C. Nov 13th 1863, A.A.A.G. to Brig. Genl. Carter, Knoxville"

On this Periodic Muster Major Gratz is listed as the "A.A.A.G." which means Acting Assistant Adjutant General. Essentially Major Gratz was on the staff of the Adjutant General. The titles of these officers were all "A.A.A.G." or "A.A.G." so the inclusion of the extra "A" on this particular muster should not be taken as a change in his status.

There is another chronology problem with this Periodic Muster. The reason for this could be as simple as there not being any substantial change to his status combined with the move of the headquarters from Knoxville to Chattanooga as is evidenced by the November – December Periodic Muster.

November – December 1864

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Detached by S.F.O. 63 Hd Qrs. D.C. Chattanooga Nov 13th/63"

January – February 1865

Present or Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Detached by S.F.O. No 63 Hd. Qrs. DC. Chattanooga Tenn Nov 13th/63"

March – April 1865

Present of Absent: "Absent"

Remarks: "Detached by S.F.O. 203 H.Q. D.C. Chattanooga nov 13th/63"

At the bottom of this Periodic Muster is stamped "NEXT ROLL ON FILE, AUG 1865" but there is no further reference to August in the record. I believe this is an error made during the compilation process and not something missing in Major Gratz's record.

“Appears on RETURNS as follows”

“Feb. 1863 – Present

Mch 1863 – Absent – On detch’d serv. Gathering stragglers by order of Gen. Granger

May 1863 – Absent – without leave since Mch 29/63.

July 1863 – Present, joined Regt 12 – from det. Duty.

Sept & Oct 1863 – Present

Nov 1863 to June 1865 – Absent – A.A.Gen. to Brig. Gen. Carter S.F.O. No 304, D.C. Hd, Qrs, Chattanooga, Tenn, Gen Thomas, Nov 13/63.”

This “Appears on RETURNS as follows” card draws information from the Regimental and Company order books to fill in gaps and answer discrepancies in the Periodic Musters. In Major Gratz’s March-April of 1863 Periodic Muster he is listed as “Absent without leave since Mar 29/63”. On this card we see that he was detached “Gathering stragglers by order of Gen. Granger”. It is likely that circumstances prevented him from returning by the arbitrary date of March 29th and was therefore listed as “Absent without leave”. The “May 1863” entry on this card suggests that the Major had not returned for the May-June Periodic Muster but the card for that muster is included in the record and he is listed as “Present”. I believe this is an error made by the compilation process and is not indicative of Major Gratz’s service.

The following eight items in the record are out of Chronological sequence. For all of the Periodic Musters where Major Gratz is listed as “Absent”, the War Department included the Returns for the commands where he was detached as evidence of his continued service. These returns provide some information that is unavailable on the Periodic Musters such as the Major’s location at the time the Return was completed. The Periodic Musters show where the Head Quarters of his command was but the Returns show precisely the location of the Major for a given period.

Return of the District of Central Kentucky, Department of the Ohio

For the month of April 1863

dated Lexington KY May 25 1863

Post or Station: {blank}

Remarks: “A.A.A. Genl. 4th Division A.C. Ky

“A.C. Ky” means Army of Central Kentucky. The incomplete “Post or Station” probably means he was in Lexington and the copyist made an assumption that we would make that connection. Major Gratz is listed as the A.A.A.G. on this return. When placed in the overall chronology this is the earliest reference to his service as A.A.A.G.

Return of the 4th Division, Army of Central Kentucky, Department of the Ohio

For the month of May, 1863
 dated Somerset, KY May 31 1863
 Post or Station: Somerset, KY
 Remarks: {none}

Return of the 4th Division, Army of Central Kentucky, Department of the Ohio

For the month of June 1863
 dated Somerset, KY July 1, 1863
 Post or station: {blank}
 Remarks: {blank}

Return of the 23d Army Corps

For the month of June 1863
 dated Lexington KY Aug 3 1863
 Post or station: Somerset KY
 Remarks: A.A.A.G. (1 Brig 1 Div)

This return tells us Major Gratz was responsible as Acting Assistant Adjutant General for the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division in the 23rd Army Corps. Major Gratz's role as AAAG is further reflected in the Official Record of the War of the Rebellion. Some examples of his work can be found in Appendix B.

Return of the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland

For the month of Sept 1863
 dated opposite Chattanooga Tenn Sept 30 1864(x)
 Post or station: opposite Chattanooga
 Remarks: Act Asst Adjt General. The order from Hd Qrs assigning to duty was captured by the enemy Sept 21 1863 along with all the papers of this command.

The event occurring on September 21st of 1863 that resulted in the capture of the papers of the command was the Battle of Chickamauga.

The (x) on this return is noted toward the end of this card as "so on return". This is a notation of an obvious error on the original documents provided to the War Department and noted here during the compilation process.

Return of the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Department of the Cumberland

For the month of Oct 1863

dated Caperton's Ferry Ala Oct 31, 1863

Post or station: Caperton's Ferry Ala.

Remarks: Act Asst Adjt General. The order from Hd Qrs assigning to duty was captured by the enemy Sept 21 1863 along with all the papers of this command.

Return of the 3d Division, 23d Army Corps

For the month of Apl 1865

dated Raleigh N.C. April 1865

Post or Station: Raleigh N.C.

Remarks: A.A.I.G Detailed April 7 1865

The Remarks section shows Major Gratz as serving as A.A.I.G or Acting Assistant Inspector General. This seemed strange to me because the Inspector General role is one of policing the Division's activities while the Adjutant General role is actually managing the Division. Typically the two roles create friction against each other. I found in the Official Record of the War of the Rebellion a report by General S.P. Carter, commander of the 2nd Division, in his report of operations of March 7th through the 10th:⁴

"To the members of my staff--Major Gratz, acting assistant inspector-general; Captain Thomas, assistant adjutant-general; Captain Devine, acting aide-de-camp; Captain Bivin, acting ordnance officer, and Lieutenant Bell, aide-de-camp--my thanks are due for the prompt and satisfactory manner in which they performed the several duties assigned them. The arrangements of Doctor Mulford, surgeon-in-chief, for the care of the wounded were all that could be expected."

I cannot find explicit orders assigning Major Gratz to the Acting Assistant Inspector-General duty but in General Orders No. 18 dated April 19, 1865 we see where he was relieved and announced again as Acting Assistant Adjutant General:⁵

GENERAL ORDERS No. 18.

*HDQRS. 3D DIV., 23D ARMY CORPS,
Raleigh, N. C., April 19, 1865.*

I. Maj. L. A. Gratz, Sixth Kentucky Cavalry, is hereby relieved from duty as acting assistant inspector-general and announced as acting assistant adjutant-general, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

⁴ (OR--Series I--Vol XLVII/1, pg 995) (Department 1900)

⁵ (OR--Series I--Vol XLVII/3, pg 252) (Department 1900)

II. Capt. R. C. Taggart, One hundred and fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, having reported for duty in compliance with Special Orders, No. 48, current series, from these headquarters, is hereby announced as acting assistant inspector-general of this division, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

*By command of Brigadier-General Carter:
H. H. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Return of the 3d Division, 23d Army Corps

For the month of May 1865
dated Greensboro N.C. May 1865
Post or Station: Greensboro N.C.
Remarks: A.A.A.G.

Field and Staff Muster-out Roll

Roll Dated Edgefield Tenn, July 14th 1865
Remarks: Mustered out on separate rolls.

“Mustered out on Separate rolls”. The “Separate rolls” would be an Individual Muster-Out roll which follows this card.

Individual Muster-out Roll

Roll Dated Edgefield, Tenn July 14, 1865
Muster-out to date July 14, 1865
Last paid to May 31, 1865.
Remarks: Mustered out by expiration of term of service in accordance with General Orders No 83 C.S.

The age listed on this Muster-out roll is incorrect. It was carried forward from the Muster-In roll which was completed in September of 1862. Assuming the age listed on the Muster-in card is accurate, Major Gratz would be 25 or 26 years old at the time of his mustering out.

The “C.S.” at the end of the General Order number means “Current Series”. General Orders were organized by years. The term “Current Series” means the current year.

Notation

""The Military Secretary's Office, War Department,

Washington, Jany 30, 1905.

It has this day, Jany 30, 1905, been determined by this Department from Records on file that all charges of absence without leave against the above named officer, in 1863, prior to June 30, 1863 are erroneous."

These notations are typically found in records where pension applications reference the soldier. That doesn't necessarily mean there was a pension application filed FOR the soldier but only that his service was investigated in connection with a pension application for someone. During the investigation these kinds of errors were corrected and these notations added to the soldier's record.

This particular notation refers back to the March – April 1863 Periodic Muster where Major Gratz is listed as "Absent without leave since March 29th '63". We know from the "Appears on Returns as follows" card that the Major had been assigned to gathering up stragglers and potentially being held up in that duty for whatever reason. If there was any question as to the nature of Major Gratz's character he would never have been assigned to the Inspector General duty so the notation clearing all question on the matter is rather expected.

Enclosures

There are 10 items listed as "enclosed" in the record. Some of these are duplicates. I will attempt a transcriptions of the items of consequence in the order they appear on the microfilm.

Item 1 - a letter from Major Gratz to Major G.M. Rascum, the Assistant Adjutant General at Chattanooga Tenn. It appears to be written on Dec 17th of 1865 at Knoxville Tennessee.

Transcription:

Knoxville, Thurs Dec 14th '65

Major,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th inst. For reply I have to say that shortly after my return from the army, Calvin R King(?) formerly Provost Marshall of Anderson County called upon me and inquired after the papers securing him the pay due as I had written, shortly before leaving East Tenn that he might find my Draft in possession of the Provost Marshal Genl following Carter. He, however {unknown} for the money until shortly after I returned to East Tenn, and as my search for the Draft was in vain, and the sum still accredited to me in National Bank, I gave him a new draft and he has got the money and I his receipt.

Please cancel original Draft and secure it for that purpose either to Adkins or myself.

The PO Address of him is

Clinton, Anderson Co, ETenn.

Item 2 - "Order for Maj Gratz to take Confederate papers to Headquarters of the Army" with a filing number following. The document is stamped "June 11, 1865" by the "A.Q.M. Office" in "Washington". "A.Q.M." probably refers to the "Army Quarter Master".

Transcription:

Headquarters Department of North Carolina.

Army of the Ohio

Raleigh, N.C. June 2nd, 1865

Special Orders No 92

Major L.A. Gratz, 6th Ky Cav., with one enlisted man will proceed to Washington D.C. with the record of the Post Office Dept of the late so called Confederate States and executive Dept of the State of North Carolina which he will deliver at Headquarters of the Army. Upon completion of this duty Major Gratz will return to his duties at Greensboro N.C.

The Q.M. Dept. will furnish transportation.

By Command of Major-General Schofield.

Received three (3) cases Rebel Records at War Dept. Washington D.C. June 9 1865.

#s# Leonard Whitney, Capt & A.A.I.G.(?) for Tho F. Eckert, A. Ass. Sec. War

#s# Major Gratz

There is something written perpendicular to the primary document but I cannot make it out completely. Perhaps the receipt from the Quartermaster for transportation?

Item 3 - Cover for Orders to report to Nashville for Mustering Out.

Transcription:

Raleigh N.C.

No 3. June 16, 1865 (something else written over it with what may be a date of 1866)

North Carolina, Dept of

Campbell, J. A. A.A.G (Whether that is J.A. Campbell, A.A.G. or J. Campbell, A.A.A.G. is a question)

S.O. No 92 Part 4

Major L.A. Gratz, 6th Ky Cavy will proceed to Nashville T via Morgantown N.C. reporting to the Comdg Genl Dept of the Cumberland for muster out of service with his Regiment.

Rec'd H.Q. MDT June 26/65

Item 4 - Actual Orders for travel to Nashville and Mustering out

Transcription:

Headquarters Dept. of North Carolina, Army of the Ohio

Raleigh, N.C. June 16th, 1865

Special Field Order No 92

X X x

4th. Major L.A. Gratz 6th Ky Cavy will proceed via Morgantown N.C. to Nashville Tenn and report to the Comdg General Dept of the Cumberland for muster out of service with his regiment.

The Q.M. Dept will furnish transportation for two private horses to Morgantown N.C. and from Greenville to Knoxville Tenn.

X X x

By Command of Major General Schofield

Item 5 – Discussion on Major Gratz mustering out with his Regt

This is the cover for a letter to the Adjutant General of the Army regarding whether or not Major Gratz could muster-out with the 6th Kentucky Cavalry.

Item 5a serves as something of an index for the letter to the Adjutant General.

Transcription:

Se – 447 – 1865
Raleigh N.C. May 25 1865
LM Letcher
{illegible} 3rd Div 23rd AC (AGO)
Major U.S. Vols
Com: of Musters
Dept of N.C.

Asks when the term of service of Major L.A. Gratz 6KY Cavalry expires, and that of his regiment & if he can be mustered out under G.O. No83 AGO C.S.

Col. {illegible}

The bottom of the left hand column is record keeping numbers, receipt dates and stamps.

Item 5b – Letter from Assistant Adjutant General Thomas Vincent to Adjutant General Office

Transcription:

War Department, A.G.O
June 6th 1865

Respectfully returned to Major L.M. Letcher Commissary of Musters department of North Carolina.

Lewis A Gratz was mustered into the United States Service as major in the 6th Ky Cavalry to date from Augt 16th 1862, for three years, by Major S St.greaves{?} T. Eng.

On regimental return for Sept 1864 (latest) he is reported A.A.G. to Brig General Carter special order No ___ Hd Qrs D.C. Chattanooga Tenn. Nov 13th 1863.

The term of service of the 6th Ky Cavalry expires Sept 26th 1865.

This officer cannot, according to the above record, be mustered out under Special Orders No. 82 Current Series.

If he desires to leave the service he can do so by tendering his resignation as directed by Par 1675, Army Regulations.

#s# Thomas M Vincent

Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Item 5c – Major Letcher refers the question to Brig Genl S.P. Carter

Transcription:

Hdquarters Depat of N.C.

Army of Ohio

Raleigh N.C. June 12 65

Respectfully referred to Brig Genl S.P. Carter Commanding 3d Division 23d Army Corps for his information.

E.L.P. 113{?}

#s# LM Letcher

Major & Chief C.M.

Dept of N.C.

Item 6 – Major Letcher to General L Thomas concerning Major Gratz’s mustering out

Transcription:

Headquarters Department of North Carolina,

(Army of the Ohio)

Office Commissary of Musters

Raleigh N.C. May 23 1865

General L Thomas

Adjutant General USA

Washington DC

General:

For the information of Major L A Gratz Sixth Regiment Kentucky Cavalry Vols: I have the honor to ask when his term of service and that of his regiment expires; and whether he can be mustered out under

the provisions of General Orders No 82 War Department {??} series 1865? Major G is on duty in this Dept his regiment is serving under Major Genl Wilson comdg Cavalry of the Military div of the Mississippi. I respectfully request an early reply.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obdt Servt

#s# LM Letcher
Major USV CM Dept of NCa

Item 7 – Cover of Special Order 91

Transcription:

Hd Qrs Dept of N. Carolina
Army of the Ohio June 16th 1865

SO 91
L.A. Gratz

6 KY Cav

Item 8 – Special Order 91

Transcription:

Headquarters Dept of North Carolina Army of the Ohio
Raleigh NC June 16th 1865

Special Orders No 91

X X x
4th Major L.A. Gratz 6th KY Cav will proceed via Morgantown N.C. to Nashville Tenn and report to the Comdg General Dept of the Cumberland and for muster out of service with his regiment.

The Q.M. Dept will furnish transportation for two private horses to Morgantown N.C. and from Greenville to Knoxville Tenn.

X X x

By Command of Major General Schofield

#s#{illegible}

Assistant Adjutant General

Item 9 – Special Field Orders No. 304 cover

Transcription:

Hd Qrs Dept. of the Cumberland

Special Field Orders No 304

Nov. 13.1863

Orders Maj. L.A. Gratz, 6th KY. Cav. To report to Brig Gen Carter East Tenn.

Item 10 – Actual Special Field Orders No. 304

Transcription:

COPY

Hd. Qrs. Dept. of the Cumberland

Chattanooga Nov 13th 1863

Special Field Orders No 304 “EXTRACT”

VI. By direction of the Maj. Genl. Comdg. The military Div. of the Miss. Maj L.A. Gratz. 6th Ky Cav is ordered to report without delay to Brig. Gen. S.P. Carter East Tennessee.

By Command of Maj. Gen. Thomas

#s# Wm. McMichael

Major & A.A.G.

Item 11 – The grand drama of Major Gratz and the AWOL charge

The following two items address in excruciating detail the initial order for him to be attached to Brigadier General S.P. Carter’s staff in East Tennessee. It appears this process began on April 6th of 1863. There are several independent missives written on this single item and I will attempt to transcribe them in chronological order so the story can be told.

Item 11a – The initial request

Transcription:

Hd Qrs. US Forces
Lexington (DO)(AK) KY Apl 6th 1863

Carter. S.P. Brig. General

Requests Maj. L.A. Gratz 6th Ky Cavalry be temporarily attached to his Staff as his Asst Adjt Genl is at present unable to do duty.

**Item 11b – Approval by Department of Central Kentucky at Lexington
Commanding General**

Transcription:

Head Quarters D.C. KY
Lexington Apr 7/63

Approved & respectfully forwarded.

#s# Q A Gillmore

Brig Gen Comg

Item 11c – General Burnside refers the matter to Maj Gen Rosecrans

Transcription:

Head Quarters Dept of the Ohio
Cincinnati, Ohio April 9th 1863

Respectfully referred to Maj Genl U.S. Rosecrans Comd’g Dept of the Cumberland, in which the 6th Ky Cavalry is serving; with the request that Genl Rosecrans will approve this application and forward it for the action of the Genl in Chg.

Major Gratz has been instructed to remain on duty with Genl Carter until the matter is decided.

Should Genl Rosecrans dissent Maj Gratz will be ordered at once to join his regiment. An early reply is respectfully requested.

By order of

Maj. Genl Burnside

#s#C.W. Foster
A.A. Genl

Item 11d – Rosecrans refers the matter to Comd’g officer of the 6th Kentucky Cav

Transcription:

Hd Qrs. Depart of Cumberland
Murfreesboro April 13th 63

Resp’y referred to the Comdg Officer 6th Kentucky Cav for report.

By Command of Maj General Rosecrans

#s# {illegible signature}
Major & A.A. Genl

Item 11e – General Granger forwards\refers the matter to Col. Watkins, 6th Ky Cav

Transcription:

HdQrs A of Ky
Franklin Tenn April 21st 1863

Respectfully referred to Col. Watkins, 6th Ky Cav

By order of Maj Genl Granger.
Wm Russell AAG

Item 11f – Commander of 4th Cavalry Brigade refers to Col Watkins

Transcription:

HdQr 4th Cav Brig
Franklin Tenn Apl 21st 1863

Respectfully referred to Col Watkins 6th Ky Cav with the opinion that Maj Gratz should be ordered back to the regiment as the regiment is short of Field Officers.

By order
Brig Gnl. G Clay Smith
J Speed Peay(?)
Capt & AAG

Item 11g – Col Watkins finally gets the request and says no

Transcription:

Hd Qrs 6th Ky Cavalry,
Brentwood Tenn April 28th 1863

Maj L.A. Gratz was sent to Kentucky on Special Duty to be absent ten days and neglected to attend to the duty upon which he was sent. His presense with the regiment is needed and the Col Comd’g desires that he be ordered back immediately.

L.D. Watkins
Col Comd’g 6th Ky Cav

All of Item 7 was written on the back of this order which we will call Item 8

Item 12 – Full Request from Brig Gen S.P. Carter for Maj Gratz’s service as AAAG

Transcription:

HeadQuarters US Forces
Lexington KY April 6th 1863

Brig Genl Q A Gillmore
Comdg Dist of Central Kentucky, Lexington KY

General,

Major L.A. Gratz 6th Ky Cav. Was ordered by special orders No 43 Hd Quart Army of Kentucky, Maj Genl G Granger Comd’g – on special duty to Kentucky, to return to his command on the 30th of March 1863. Owing to the last rebel raid Major Gratz was unable to return at the proper time and consequently attached to my staff.

My Asst Adj Genl, Capt C.W. Cowan, on account of ill health, is not able to attend his duties for the present and I therefore request very respectfully that Major L.A. Gratz 6th Ky Cav by temporarily attached to my staff.

Very Respectfully,
Your obt Srvt
S.P. Carter
Brig Genl.

There are three items in the collection of enclosures between Item 12 and Item 13. They are not included in this analysis because they add nothing of importance or intrigue to the discussion of whether or not Major Gratz could muster-out with his regiment as discussed in items 5 through 7.

Item 13 – Major Gratz ordered to return to his regiment with threatened charges against him

This item has three different items on it spread across two columns. The left most column appears to be the cover piece of the page folded twice.

Item 13a – Maj Genl Granger prefers charges against Maj Gratz

Transcription:

Head Qrs Army of Ky
April 29th 1863

I have ordered Charges to be preferred against Major Gratz for neglect of duty, absence without leave, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. It is important that he be ordered here for trial.

#S#GGranger
Maj Genl
Comdg

Item 13b – Maj Genl Rosecrans orders Major Gratz back to his regiment

Transcription:

Hd Qrs Depart of Cumberland
Murreesboro May 2nd 1863

Respectfully returned with the request that Maj Gratz be ordered to rejoin his regiment without delay in accordance with the request contained in accompanying endorsements.

By Command of
Maj Genl Rosecrans

CGoddard
Lieut Col & AAGenl

Item 13c – Maj Genl Burnside orders Brig Genl Willcox to relieve Maj Gratz and send him to his regiment

Transcription:

HeadQuarters Dept of the Ohio
Cincinnati Ohio may 9th 1863

Respectfully referred to Brig Genl O.B. Willcox, Comd’g District of Central Kentucky who will relieve Maj Gratz from duty with Genl Carter and order him to join his regt in the Dept of the Cumberland without delay.

By order of
Maj Genl Burnside

C.W. Foster
A.A.G.

And we hear nothing more about Major Gratz’s improper behavior as claimed by Maj. Gen. Granger. One year later Major Gratz asks for 10 days leave.

Item 14 – Gratz’s Leave request cover

Transcription:

Office P.M.G. of E Tenn
Knoxville Tenn May 30/64

Gratz

Major & AAAG {illegible}

Asks for a leave of absence of (10) ten days before returning to Knoxville from Washington to which place he is travelling under orders.

“P.M.G. of E Tenn” means Provost Marshal General of East Tennessee

Item 14a – Brig Genl S.P.Carter forwards the request with recommendation

Transcription:

Office P.M.G.E Tenn
Knoxville Tenn May 30/64

Respectfully forwarded to Dept Hd Qrs recommend that request be granted.

S.P. Carter
Brig Genl & PMG of E Tenn

Item 15 – Official Request for Leave from Major Gratz

Transcription:

Office Provost Marshal General East Tenn

Knoxville, Tenn May 30th 1864

Lt. Col. Bascom
A.A. Genl
Dept of the Ohio

Col.

I have the honor to ask for a leave of absence of (10) ten days.

Having rec'd orders from Dept Hd Qrs to proceed to Washington D.C. in charge of recruits belonging to the 2nd Ohio V.C. also of certain oaths administrated in E Tenn which are to be delivered to the Dept of State. I must respectfully ask that before returning to the place under said orders I be permitted to receive the desired leave.

I have been serving over (3) three years in the army of the United States without ever having asked for a or rec'd a leave and it is for me of great importance to attend to some private affairs of mine.

I am, Col

Very Respectfully
Your obd serv't
LA Gratz
Major & AAAG

There is a blank sheet of folded paper at this point in the list of enclosures.

Item 16 – S.P. Carter’s request for orders to send Major Gratz to Washington

Transcription:

Office Provost Marshal General East Tenn

Knoxville, Tenn May 30th 1864

Lt. Col. Bascom

A.A. Genl

Dept of the Ohio

Col.

I must respectfully ask that Major L.A. Gratz A.A.A. Genl in this office be ordered to take charge of a number of recruits of the 2nd Ohio V Cav and proceed with them to Washington DC (their Regt serving in the Dept of Washington). Also that he take charge of certain oaths administered in East Tenn under the Presidents Amnesty Proclamation Decbr 8th 63 and deliver them to the Department of State at Washington.

I am Col

Very Respectfully

SP. Carter

Brig Genl & P.M.G. of E Tenn

Epilogue

We have no information in the record that might explain whether or not the Charges that were threatened by General Granger in Item 13 nor why Major Gratz sought his leave so late in his service in Item 15.

I suspect that there was never going to be any charges preferred on Major Gratz and it was simply a ploy to force the hand of Brigadier General Carter to return the Major to his regiment. I have nothing to support it beyond a familiarity with General Carter’s tendency of obstinacy. Carter was a master of the plausible delay but he was also a strict adherent to Military Discipline. When Major General Granger informed him of the prospect of such harsh charges as “conduct unbecoming and Office and a Gentleman”, Brigadier General Carter had no choice but to release Major Gratz back to his regiment. At which point everyone was happy and General Granger never pressed forward with the charges. If there were evidence to support the charge, Major Gratz would likely never hold such important positions such as Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

The reason for the May 1864 request for leave may well be found in further Genealogical research. He was already in Washington and Pennsylvania is much closer to Washington than is Knoxville.

I hope this enlightens you as to your ancestor's military service. If we can be of any further assistance do not hesitate to contact us.

Wayne Fielder
Kentucky Historical Studies Foundation
www.khsf.net

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