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Hogan: "My Very Dear Wife": The Letters of a Union Corporal, Part II  
**"My Very Dear Wife":  
The Letters of a Union Corporal, Part II**

BRIAN HOGAN

*[Editor's Note: This is a continuation of Brian Hogan's article published in the Summer-Fall 2002 edition of The Huntsville Historical Review, based on the letters written by Corporal Henry Ackerman Smith, 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry to his wife during the Union occupation of Huntsville and Athens, Alabama during 1862. The second part of this article begins with two letters not published in Part I, and concludes with an epilogue which recounts Smith's life after the Civil War.]*

**Author's Acknowledgement:** I want to take this opportunity to thank Renee Pruitt, Archivist at the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library and Pat Carpenter of the Library's Heritage Room for their help in preparing this article. Renee transcribed a number of Henry Ackerman Smith's letters to his wife, and Pat tracked down the authors of the poetry quoted by Henry in several of his letters.

### **Letters of Henry Ackerman Smith**

*Camp Taylor  
Huntsville, Alabama  
May 12th, 1862*

My very dear wife,

I received a letter from you today written on the 19th of April and which I had accused Morgan of stealing but it has come around all safe only a little after time.

I likewise received three Commercials a few days ago for which you have my kindest thanks.

I perceive by the letter received today that my letters have not been reaching you regularly. This has been the fault of the mail and not mine, for I have written every five or six days ever since I left Nashville and never have I written less than 3 sheets during that time. But I will dismiss this topic hoping that by this time you receive my letters tolerably regular.

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Note on Sources: The letters of Henry Ackerman Smith published here were obtained by the author from the holdings of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri – Columbia, Columbia, MO 65201-5149. Reference information is: Smith, Henry Ackerman (1837-1907), Papers, 1861-1907, (C431), 2 Rolls (Microfilm), Roll 1: Letters to his wife; Roll 2: Autobiography.  
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Since I wrote last we have had another of those sudden expeditionary journeys that characterize our stay here. On the night of the 9th ult we received orders to march at 10 o'clock P.M. and with utmost haste we packed up, called in guards, and were off. This was done so suddenly that we were gone before the citizens were aware of our intended departure. We were loaded on the cars together with the 15th [Kentucky Regiment] and away we went. Of course our trip was uninteresting as we went as darkness obscured every object and I slept most of the way. In the morning as old "Sol" sent forth his first rays we found ourselves in the pleasant town of Athens, Limestone Co. where we were informed the rebels were concentrating for the purpose of attacking us.

There we found the 8th Brigade and with our regiment we considered ourselves sufficiently strong to resist any attack.

Five dead bodies were brought in during the forenoon and we soon learned that the rebels retreated (according to their custom) as soon as they captured a company of our men (Co. E, 37[th] Indiana) after killing those above referred to.<sup>1</sup>

We attended worship in the forenoon on yesterday and were addressed by the Chaplain of the 37th Indiana Reg. It was the funeral sermon [for] the five men buried the day before.

While yet the service was incomplete we were startled by the shrill notes of the bugle which we knew too well meant a march, but as soon as we found out that we were destined to this place we were well pleased as our tents had not been removed.

I was much pleased with the country between here and Athens and it will undoubtedly be very wealthy after awhile, when the forests are felled and their places supplied by fruitful fields.

One thing I perceive-that the planters are raising less cotton and more corn this year than ever before and I presumed they were admonished by the scarcity of provisions at this time.

We arrived here on yesterday eve and found everything as quiet as usual. On last night I was detailed for guard and as the night was very pretty I enjoyed it. The almost perfectly serene night was enlivened by the unceasing carols, chirrups, screams, and warbles of the mockingbirds. I have not heretofore referred to this splendid bird nor can I give you a very distinct description of it. The color is like that of the catbird of Ky., only the wings have a white spot on each, not unlike shoulder straps. The bird is as large as the dove with longer tail feathers and in mocking it does it to perfection. At one time a blue jay, then the plaintive notes of the whippoorwill, then the robin. Next the shrill notes of the hawk and so on through the category of feathered minstrels. I observe they do all their singing between sunset and sunrise and it is in the silent hours of the night when one can appreciate their notes.

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Today I visited the famous Calhoun Garden of this city, <sup>2</sup> reputed the best collection of rare plants in the U.S. and costing in the aggregate more than a quarter of a million of dollars. It is certainly one of the attractions of Huntsville and is well worth the visit. The beds are all tastefully laid off and bordered with box plant, a little evergreen shrub growing to the height of six or eight inches, and the walks are bordered with an evergreen which I judge to be a species of bay tree, and some with cedar which looks quite homely in this spot of beauty.

The roses I admired most and there were more species than I had an idea could be collected.

I do wish darling Minie that you could see this garden. I know your sensitive mind would sympathize with the surrounding objects and it would furnish you an agreeable hour. Or that I could stroll together with you and hear the sweet accents of your voice. What a pleasure this would afford me. Oh I want this hateful war to terminate that I can come to my long absent Minie and enjoy the long severed relations that we once enjoyed before this wicked war was.

I am in the enjoyment of the very best health and I am sure when I return to you dearest I will have a restored health, for I have been strengthened in adversity and now when good weather has set in no ills seem to betide me. I am gratified with the progress of events and I have no doubt that the war will be over, at least as far as fighting is concerned, by the 4th of July or even before that.

The weather now is very warm so that we have to suspend drilling generally but I am not sorry for that.

We have drilled so much that we consider ourselves veterans in practice and adepts in experience. (I should have said veterans in experience and adepts in practice.)

Minie my mind is dull and I cannot write anything like a letter as I should. This I suppose is owing to loss of sleep on last night and the warmth today. I will just say darling that I desire your kind prayers for my continued health and safety and to hear that you are still striving to gain the Eternal reward of righteousness in heaven.

Let nothing keep you from a studied obedience to your good and kind parents. Be cheerful and kind to your brothers and sisters and in all things comport yourself as becomes a child of God and the example of Christian virtue.

It cheers me dear to think that while I am to do battle for my country that you are at home having willingly sacrificed your hopes and aspirations for the future, for the good of our flag. I am persuaded that we will be rewarded.

Sweet peace will soon be restored and then I can rejoin you never to be parted except by death.

Write soon.

I am your affectionate Husband, Harrie

Direct in care of Co. D  
21st Regiment O.V.  
Mitchell's Division  
via Nashville, Tenn.

*Camp Taylor*  
*Huntsville, Alabama*  
*May 22nd, 1862*

My sweet wife,

As I conjectured in my last letter, at this writing finds me once more restored to health and good spirits. I lost the pleasure of going on an expedition with my company by being unwell. They went to Fayetteville, Tenn. to break up some thieving bands of rebel plunderers and have not returned yet and of course cannot say what their success has been. I would like to have gone there as I hoped to meet with the 21st Ky. regiment which was there at latest accounts. But it may have gone away.<sup>3</sup>

My good spirits arises from the fact that I look upon a suspension of hostilities as a certainty and a speedy restoration of peace a matter of course. I expect to eat my 4th July dinner with you yet my dear and won't we be happy.

Oh will it not be a happy day when the herald of peace will proclaim the success of our arms and invite us, who have been shut out from the refinement of society, to our distant homes.

As the vindication of my country's honor how I shall rejoice to press the soil of Kentucky once more. But sweeter still will be the joy when I shall embrace you sweet Minie who have suffered the pangs of separation so long and trusted to the whims of fate. I thank God for his mercies to me & to you. Your fond and loving heart has not been made to bleed with sorrow while others have and soon in His mercy I believe I will be restored to you. Surely there is a Just God who rules the destinies of nations & though at first the rod of chastisement was laid heavily upon us but after we had drunk the dregs of a weak governmental policy we aroused, and by Almighty assistance stand out, an example of power. Our banners are inscribed with our achievements and our hearts are strong with the one feeling-"that in the right success attends the brave."

Our baggage train will without a doubt come through today and then I expect one of those sweet messages of love from you dear Minie, that so delight me.

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I cannot complain. I have received letters with tolerable regularity while there are some here who have not heard from their families since we came here.

The weather is warm and pleasant and the nights are just right for our kind of houses. I discover that although we live "out of doors" that gnats and musketoes [sic] do not molest us in the least at night. Why this is I do not pretend to say unless there is yet a streak of sympathy in these pestiverous creatures and they think a soldier has trouble enough without submitting to their unwelcome attentions.

P.M. Joy! Joy! Joy!

A mail has come and as I expected I received a sweet message from you, but joy seems ever to be mixed with sorrow in this world. Accompanying [sic] your letter is one from Mr. Potts giving an account of the sad misfortune he met with. But we must be thankful that it was not worse and as no bones were broken I sincerely hope that he is entirely well before this time. I cannot find suitable expressions of thankfulness for all the kindness I have received at his hands and from his family. Let all please accept my sincere thanks for my being so kindly remembered at home, sweet home! To be thus remembered repays one though he must march over parched deserts or wade through seas of fire.

Oft in the stilly night when all is quiet (except the mockingbird-the Nightingale of the south) I think of home and to know that there is a reciprocal feeling, or that at home wishes are in unison with my own, makes me feel that the soldier's lot is not so hard as it might be. And this is the connecting link that binds us to society and makes our arms strong, and hearts brave, to encounter every obstacle.

Your letter dearest was written on the 25th & 28th of April and mailed May 3rd., Mr. Potts' written and mailed May 13th and I learn by his letter that you have been visiting your relations in Fayette. I hope you have had a pleasant time in your visit as you have been wanting to go there for some time.

I have only one source of annoyance and that is the unceasing impertinence of abolition scemers [sic] to keep these unhappy difficulties from coming to a close. They cannot wait for the close of war before they begin to plunder or to secure the spoil. I trust alone to the discretion of the President and hope he will still keep back these treasonable tricksters. By so doing he will be the savior of his country & by yielding he will be as one of [the] worst traitors.

I heard it rumed that Gen. Hunter had liberated the slaves of S. Carolina, Georgia & Florida. If he has and the president sanctions it I am ready to give up. It seems that there are always some blockheads who are undoing all that the rest does and if this is to be the way I cannot risk my life in sustaining it.<sup>4</sup>

I trust in God that this is not so and that I am reasonably safe. In what I say above, there are many who will do the same. Some say the three fourths of the regiment including the Colonel &c.

I could fight even better if I had the Abolition traitors together with the secesh, for then I would be assured that there are none behind to aggravate for us to remedy.

Excuse me darling for thus alluding to politics as I know it is an unpopular subject to you.

I have hitherto not told you of our camp at this place. It is a lot on which is an Academy<sup>5</sup> and finely shaded, with large trees, just at the outskirts of town and with everything convenient except wood, which we get by railroad. Adjoining the rear is a wheat field already assuming the golden hue of harvest which reminds us that the true mission of man is not war, for here is other work for him to do. Gladly would I yield the paraphernalia of war and assume the garb of peace, but these unhappy difficulties must be settled if possible so that we may enjoy life in security.

But I ask again to be pardoned my dearest, because I am spinning out this letter without adding anything of special interest. Well, the fact is, here we are from day to day & nothing occurs but sameness and camp rumors and these latter it is useless to report as they are tracable [sic] to no reliable foundation and generally amount to nothing. We are doing nothing here now but holding this post which is considered of great importance.

But to conclude, be careful of yourself in every way. Expose yourself to no unnecessary danger. Be a good and candid Christian. Love and obey your good & kind parents. Esteem your brothers & sisters and merit their love. I return a kiss for Ninnie and wish it was a real instead of a paper kiss.

My kindest wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Potts & family.

My first offerings to you my dear Minie. Oh that I could see you & be with you. Write every week, both your letters gave me sincere pleasure.

Address Mitchell's Division via Nashville, Tenn.

Your ever true and faithful,

Husband Harrie

## Epilogue

Henry's last letter to his "darling sweet wife" is dated August 1, 1862. In that letter he wrote, "You say I ought to come home now. I promise you to be unceasing in my efforts to either get a discharge, or a furlough or a transfer. The last I can most readily get, and if I see that there is no chance of the other I will accept that and be transferred to a Kentucky regiment. Something seems to tell me that I will see you before another month."

Henry must have been notified later that same day that a transfer to a Kentucky regiment had been approved because his service record reflects a transfer date of August 1, 1862. Doubtless he would have left immediately, traveling by railroad via the Tennessee & Alabama railroad to Nashville and the Louisville & Nashville railroad to Nicholasville, a trip that would not have taken more than several days.

According to his autobiography <sup>6</sup> Henry was permitted to return to Jessamine County to enlist in the 9th Kentucky Cavalry <sup>7</sup>. Shortly after he arrived in Nicholasville, he was captured, and paroled, by Confederate cavalry who had made an "irruption into Kentucky." He claimed that he never had official notification of an exchange, so "didn't again engage in active duty in the army." This decision was to adversely affect him, and Minie, later in life.

Henry worked for a time in a mill at Hickman Bridge, Kentucky, and later at a store in the vicinity. In March, 1865 he moved to Indiana and taught school in North Vernon and Hardinsburg, where he connected with the Methodist Episcopal Southeast Conference and began preaching in various churches in that area. He returned to Kentucky in September, 1868, where he continued "teaching and preaching" in Kirksville until 1874, when he became a full-time preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Kentucky Conference, serving congregations in Mackville, Chaplin, Texas, and Bradfordsville, Kentucky. In 1882 he was asked to go to Cape Girardeau, Missouri to revive a church there. In 1891, he moved to West Plains, Missouri, and then to Poplar Bluff, Missouri in 1895, where, in 1899, he was placed in charge of the Bellevue Collegiate Institute, affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1900, headed the Missouri Children's Home Society.

Henry Ackerman Smith died on November 1, 1907 in Poplar Bluff, and his "Dear sweet Minie" joined him on November 6, 1931. They are buried side-by-side in the City Cemetery there. Henry and Minie had had eight children, five daughters and three sons. Their first-born, William Henry, was born July 19, 1863 while Minie was prostrated by typhoid fever and lived only twenty-one days. Their other children were:

- Eugene Herbert, born March 25, 1865, in Garrard County, Kentucky.
- Jessamine, born September 14, 1867, in Jennings County, Indiana.
- May, born September 2, 1869, in Kirksville, Kentucky.
- Blanche, born September 17, 1871, in Kirksville, Kentucky.
- Maggie Zue, born August 13, 1875, in Mackville, Kentucky.
- Mattie Ruby, born September 4, 1877, in Chaplin, Kentucky, and who died November 6, 1878.
- Roy Hiner, born January 30, 1880, in Texas, Washington County, Kentucky.



Henry applied for an Invalid Pension on February 9, 1903, at the age of 66.<sup>8</sup> In his application he claimed permanent disability from “disease of urinary organs, nasal catarrh affecting nasal passages, auditory organ of right ear, (causing) gradual deafness, rupture of right side, and old age.” On March 25, 1903, after investigating his military record the War Department reported:

The name Henry (or Harry) A. Smith has not been found on the rolls, on file in this office, of any company of the 9th Kentucky Cavalry Volunteers, nor has anything been found of record to show this man was a prisoner of war. His final record cannot be determined from the evidence before this Department. No record of his discharge from service has been found.

In a subsequent affidavit written in response to a request dated May 18, 1903 from the Bureau of Pensions Commissioner for further information, Henry wrote the following:

1. I failed to reach the 9th Kentucky Cavalry owing to the fact of my capture, and as I never received any notification of exchange while the regiment was in service, I never had any assignments.
2. I was on my way to where I was informed the regiment was on duty, (south of Richmond, Kentucky), when I was captured by a detachment of Morgan’s<sup>9</sup> cavalry about the time of the battle near Richmond, Kentucky<sup>10</sup>, and the next day I was guarded by one of Morgan’s command, named Creath Robinson<sup>11</sup>, who took me to Lexington, Kentucky, where I was paroled and allowed to return to my home. I was taken into custody at the turnpike crossing of the Kentucky River between Nicholasville and Danville, Kentucky.<sup>12</sup> The Provost Marshal who was my paroling officer was Colonel Gracie,<sup>13</sup> who afterwards was Gen. Gracie of Alabama, and who belonged to Kirby Smith’s Column. I continued to reside and work in Jessamine County, Kentucky, in that part of the county which became Camp Nelson, and was personally known to General Fry<sup>14</sup> who was for long time commander of the post. My transfer and parole papers were lost in a desk carried away by a Tennessee company stationed for a time at Camp Nelson.”
3. I never applied for, nor received a final discharge from the Ninth (9) Kentucky Cavalry.

Sincerely and fraternally, yours  
Henry A. Smith

The War Department, obviously disbelieving Henry’s statement, replied on July 29, 1903, that “Nothing has been found of record to warrant a change in the statement from this office, herewith, dated March 25, 1903, relative to the case of Henry A. Smith, Company D, 21st Ohio Infantry,  
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Hogan: "My Very Dear Wife": The Letters of a Union Corporal, Part II transferred to the 9th Kentucky Cavalry Volunteers." This letter further stated, " If this man was in fact captured and paroled by the enemy at or near Richmond, Kentucky, in August or September, 1862 as alleged, he became a deserter by failing to place himself under military control after having been declared duly exchanged in order from the War Department dated November 19, 1862."<sup>15</sup> The Bureau of Pensions disapproved Henry's application.

There was no question that Morgan's cavalry was in the area at the time, and had, in fact, camped in Nicholasville the night of September 3, proceeding to Lexington the next morning.<sup>16</sup>

There was also no question that two battalions of the 9th Kentucky Cavalry had been ordered to Richmond on August 30, only to find that Union forces were falling back, forcing the 9th Kentucky to pass around the town and join the retreat to Lexington, then to Louisville.<sup>17</sup>

It is questionable, given the state of disarray of the Union forces in Kentucky at the time, that Henry would have been notified of the existence of General Order No. 191. Camp Nelson, at the time, was primarily a rendezvous point without a command structure, so who would have notified him?

Henry can certainly be faulted for not being aggressive in seeking to determine his status, vis-à-vis parole and exchange, and it is likely that the Pension Bureau took note of this fact. In so doing, however, they ignored the fact that Henry had volunteered early in the war and had served with distinction for some 11 months. To deny him a pension seems harsh, especially so when others who served as little as 90 days were given them.

In December, 1907, U.S. Representative J. J. Russell of Missouri, wrote to the Pension Department on behalf of Minie, and asked them to review Henry's file to see if there was any way to remove the charge of desertion from his record, thus allowing a widow's pension based on his record with the 21st Ohio Infantry. He wrote:

Since his death his widow, who is very poor and deserving, is anxious to try to secure a pension, and it seems that in order to do so it would be necessary to have the charge of desertion removed from his record, and would be glad to know from you what the chances seem to be.

I have a long statement of his case, made to me by Mr. Smith in his lifetime, which, if true, would show that he was not at fault, and his widow naturally feels that she is justly entitled to a pension. There is a cryptic "OK" scrawled across the first paragraph above, and a word that seems to read, "removed" below it, but there is no letter response in the file and no record of Minie receiving a pension.

**Conclusion**

Henry's letters to Minie chronicle a transformation from a young, newly-wed teacher, to a soldier proud of his accomplishments and proud of his flag and the Union it stood for. Like many of the young men who volunteered early on he foresaw a short war, and a short separation from his "dear Minie," but became disillusioned as time passed with, seemingly, little progress. In his last letter to Minie he had gotten to the point where he would "almost doubt the ultimate success of our army." His transfer, and subsequent capture and parole by Confederate cavalry, were events that, most likely, he did not regret.

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**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> These men were Privates James R. Conner, Robert F. Heaton, James Jordan, John T. Morgan, and Alfred C. Scull, all residents of Decatur County, Indiana, who had enlisted together on October 20, 1861. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, 1861 – 1865* (8 vols.) (Indianapolis, IN: Holloway, 1865-66). The *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* provides the following information concerning this action:

Indianapolis, Indiana, December 31, 1862: May 4, 1862-The effective force of Company E, Thirty-seventh Indiana, were ordered by Colonel [John B.] Turchin, commanding the Eighth Brigade of General [Ormsby MacKnight] Mitchel's Division at Athens, Alabama to proceed twelve miles north of Athens on the Decatur and Nashville Railroad and guard trestleworks until relieved. May 9-Were attacked by 800 Rebel cavalry. Our whole command numbered forty-eight men in all. A fight ensued in which the Rebels acknowledged the loss of more men than were engaged on our side. Five of our own men were killed; the remainder taken prisoner, a number of which were wounded and paroled at Courtland, Alabama last June. The names which appear on this roll are those who served five months' imprisonment in southern prisons and were paroled at Richmond, Virginia October 19, 1862. (The roll was not listed.) *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Part II, Record of Events for the Thirty-Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Vol. 17, S/N 29* (Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1994), p. 82.

<sup>2</sup> Presumably referring to the gardens at the Calhoun House, then located on the northeast corner of Green and Eustis Streets.

<sup>3</sup> "On the 18th of May two thousand men, among whom were two companies and six men from each of the other companies of the 21st, having pro-

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Hogan: "My Very Dear Wife": The Letters of a Union Corporal, Part II cured horses, started north to intercept a body of cavalry, who had been busy interrupting our communications. They were unable to compel them to fight, but succeeded in dispersing them, and returned." Captain S. S. Canfield, *History of the 21st Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry* (Toledo, OH: 1893; reprint by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA, 1998), p. 49. The *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Vol. X, Part 1 (S/N 10)*, pp 893-894, reports: "Three hundred men from the Ninth Brigade, under command of Colonel Lytle, marched to Winchester on the 18<sup>th</sup> [and] arrived there on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. After a skirmish, dispersed a body of rebel cavalry, and occupied the town, and returned to Huntsville May 24."

<sup>4</sup> "May 9, 1862, Maj. General David Hunter at Hilton Head, SC ordered emancipation of slaves in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and authorized the arming of all able-bodied [N]egroes in those states. This order, without the approval of Congress or President Lincoln, caused a lively ferment at the North and was disavowed May 19 by Lincoln." E. B. Long, *The Civil War, Day By Day* (NY: DeCapo Press, reprint by Doubleday and Company, 1971), p209.

<sup>5</sup> The Greene Academy, which was located between Calhoun Street and the eastern Corporation limits, between Holmes Clinton Streets

<sup>6</sup> Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia, Smith, Henry Ackerman Papers, C431, Roll 2, Autobiography.

<sup>7</sup> The 9th Kentucky Cavalry was organized at Eminence, Kentucky, and mustered in there on August 22, 1862. Eminence is about 60 miles northwest of Nicholasville, Jessamine County. Frank J. Welcher, *The Union Army, Vol. 4* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1993), p.352. See also *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, 1861-62* (2 vols.) (Frankfort, KY: State Journal, 1866).

<sup>8</sup> National Archives and Records Administration, Pension file No. 1296213.

<sup>9</sup> Colonel John Hunt Morgan's 2nd Kentucky Cavalry C.S.A. plus 2 companies of Texas cavalry had left Hartsville, Tennessee on August 29, with orders to meet Confederate General E. Kirby Smith's forces at Lexington, Kentucky on September 2. Morgan reached Nicholasville on September 3, and arrived in Lexington in mid-morning of the 4th. See Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel (eds.), *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. III* (NY: Thomas Yoselof, 1956), p. 26.

<sup>10</sup> The Battle of Richmond, KY took place August 29-30, 1862. Confederate General E. Kirby Smith's forces of about 5,000 men routed a Union force of 6,500 newly-enlisted men led by General William Nelson, capturing some 4,000 troops. Another 1,000 were killed and wounded. The survivors retreated to Lexington, then to Louisville. Morgan's Cavalry was not involved in this battle. See Long, pp. 258-9.

<sup>11</sup> There is no record of a "Creath Robinson" having served in any of the Published by LOUIS, 2022

Kentucky or Texas cavalry units with Morgan. Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, Internet, [www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss). Perhaps Henry's memory was not quite so good after some 40 years.

<sup>12</sup> This crossing was located near the village of Shakertown and was named Lewis' Ferry.

<sup>13</sup> Colonel Archibald Gracie, Jr. commanded the 43rd Alabama Infantry in the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division under General Henry Heth in Major General E. Kirby Smith's Army of Kentucky. Willis Brewer, *Alabama: Her History, Resources* (Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Co., 1988), p. 654.

<sup>14</sup> On May 26, 1863 General Speed Smith Fry was given command of the Eastern Military District of Kentucky. He established his headquarters at Camp Nelson, which was located about 6 miles south of Nicholasville, on the Kentucky River. Camp Nelson was a major Union supply depot. David and Jeanne Heidler (eds.), *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War* (NY: W. W. Norton, 2000), p. 793.

<sup>15</sup> This is a reference to General Order No. 191 from the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, published as the result of a general exchange of prisoners of war arranged at Aiken's Landing, VA on November 11, 1862. Among those declared exchanged were "All officers and enlisted men captured at or near Richmond and Lexington, Ky., by the forces under the command of General E. Kirby Smith." These men were to report to Camp Benton, Missouri. It was the responsibility of commanding officers "to use their utmost exertions not only to give it the widest circulation in their neighborhoods, but to see that it is faithfully carried out." *The Official records of the War of Rebellion, Series II, Vol. 4*, p. 735.

<sup>16</sup> See *Rebel Raider, The Life of General John Hunt Morgan*, James A. Ramage, University Press of Kentucky, 1986. p.120.

<sup>17</sup> *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. 16*, p.91