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# OUR HERITAGE

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**Maj. Gen'l Samuel P. Heintzelman**

## **In search of our history.**

The acquisition of a ten-page account by General Samuel P. Heintzelman concerning the First Battle of Manassas and the start of the Civil War provides an intriguing story about the challenges historians sometimes face when trying to locate, acquire, and preserve history.

As a result of placing a want ad in a national publication, the person who placed the ad received a very brief phone call one noontime concerning the existence of the above-mentioned document. The only information provided was that it was a Heintzelman document concerning the First Battle of Manassas, perhaps the most significant Gen. Heintzelman document, and that it was part of a group of 29 Civil War documents signed by Northern generals.

The caller, who spoke with an accent and didn't identify himself, indicated that if the documents were sold separately, he would provide more information, which never happened. The caller created a real mystery.

About 10 years after the above incident, the writer of this article received a complimentary copy of an auction catalog from a Connecticut auction house. The recipient of the catalog had no prior knowledge of the auction house, so it was by good fortune that the catalog was received. The catalog listed a group of 29 Civil War-related documents, and Lot 461 was a 10-page Heintzelman document. Photocopies of documents were available at 10 cents each, but the consigner of Lot 461 would not permit photocopies of the lot to be produced. The group of documents did not reach a reserve placed on it, and while the Abraham Lincoln Book Store in Chicago was the high bidder and was negotiating with the owner, the group was not sold and was returned to the consigner.

About five years later, while talking with a person who bought and sold Civil War artifacts, it was learned that the Heintzelman document might have been listed for sale in a catalog issued by Norman Flayderman, a major dealer in Civil War-related items and more. A call was placed to Mr. Flayderman's Conn. phone number only to learn that he had moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. A call to the Fort Lauderdale office revealed that the document was still available. It was immediately purchased, more than fifteen years after first hearing of the existence of the Heintzelman/Manassas document.

## Facts Learned:

**The person who called was the owner of a small bookstore in Philadelphia.**

**The group of documents, after not being sold at auction, went back to the book dealer.**

**A picker for Norman Flayderman (someone who searches and buys for antique dealers) visited the bookstore and saw a Civil War discharge document hanging on the bookstore wall, and bingo!, uncovered the 29 documents.**

**A later conversation with the book dealer revealed that he had decided to not sell the documents individually and therefore never bothered to provide more information on the Heintzelman document.**

**A page from Norman Flayderman's 1988 catalog:**

**AN EXTRAORDINARY CIVIL WAR COLLECTION**

Without doubt, the most important & historic Civil War manuscript collection to ever appear on the collector's market; certainly the most important we have ever had the opportunity to own....or catalog! The very reason for the existence of all these items & the fact that they have remained intact is remarkable.

All of these absolutely unique & most historic manuscript documents were written & assembled specifically for the benefit of the U.S. Sanitary & Christian Commissions (the forerunners & Civil War counterparts of the American Red Cross & USO) for the MARYLAND STATE FAIR HELD AT BALTIMORE APRIL 18, 1864. The Commission was funded entirely by private citizens' donations mainly at these "Sanitary Fairs" which were held throughout the North in large metropolitan areas.

A novel idea was conceived by Mrs. Amos Binney, who headed the Committee for the Baltimore Fair of soliciting the top ranking Generals of the Union Army & the President of the U.S. to contribute an official document of significance....to be sold at the Fair.

Included in the collection are two of the original special printed broadsheets (see items #459 & #468) actually used by Mrs. Binney to solicit the generals. The front page (6 x 8) is boldly printed "Maryland State Fair...For The Benefit Of The US Sanitary Commissions" with names of members of the committee, including Mrs. Binney. The text discusses the fair to be held April 18, 1864, and solicits from both civilians & soldiers/sailors material that may be displayed & sold to raise funds. The other three pages are blank to be used as letter sheets. Mrs. Binney has personally written a letter in manuscript on the reverse page to each general whom she solicited. General Geary (see item #459) used it to write a covering letter for the superb document that he sent, thus creating an unimpeachable document testifying to the originality & provenance of all the collection. A photostatic copy of that broadside & General Geary's letter (along with our own letter testifying to authenticity & another copy of this catalog describing the collection) will be sent to the purchaser of each & every item in order to preserve the unique circumstance that created each of these.

With the exception of General's Birney & Parke, who politely refused to provide the requested document, as they deemed it to be a violation of Army regulations, the other Generals responded precisely as requested. In most cases, the contribution is a war letter or General Order, written in long-hand by the General himself, & one which he personally selected in response to Mrs. Binney's actual request in her letter "...for a copy in his own handwriting, of a characteristic or important official order or report with his signature". A note of interest...whereas the original report or General Order might have been in the hand of a clerk & only signed by the General, he has at Mrs. Binney's request actually written the entire General Order or report personally this time as well as signed it...or sent the original from his personal files!

Another important sidenote which underlines the historic importance of the material in this collection concerns the only piece to our knowledge which was removed from the collection almost 40 years ago. President Abraham Lincoln personally responded to Mrs. Binney's request also & submitted to her the final holograph draft of his Gettysburg Address, entirely in his own hand (known today as the "Bliss Copy"), described as the "only signed, dated & titled version in existence". Originally purchased at the Baltimore Fair by a Col. Bliss, who was also a member of the Fair's Committee. The Bliss family subsequently placed that Lincoln document for auction in New York in 1949 where it made history in the manuscript market, commanding in excess of \$50,000. The Bliss copy is now at the White House & was featured in Jacqueline Kennedy's television tour of the Presidential mansion.

In this context, the importance & rarity of the material needs little further elaboration. The subject matter of each of these documents is impressive, often times startling.... & in many cases unrecorded history. The following is an alphabetical listing of this most remarkable collection.

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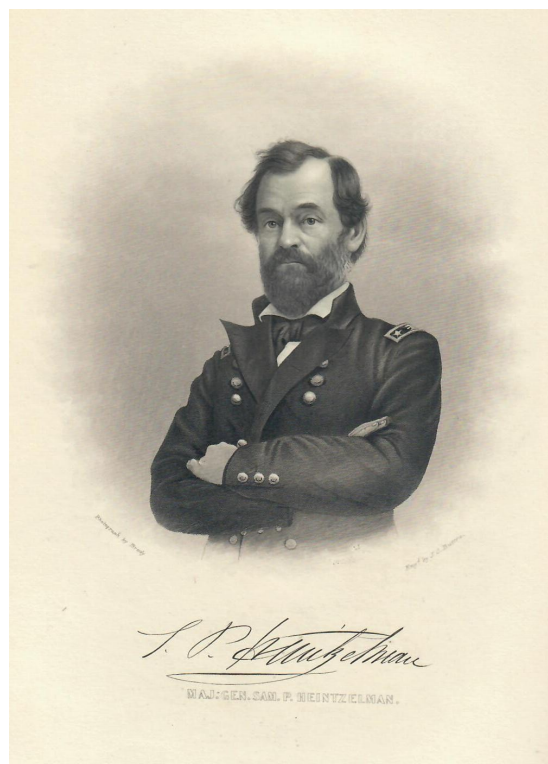
The following is an alphabetical listing of officers in this remarkable collection.

- 451. MAJ. GEN. DAVID BELL BIRNEY
- 452. MAJ. GEN. FRANK P. BLAIR
- 453. MAJ. GEN. AMBROSE E. BURNSIDE
- 454. MAJ. GEN. SILAS CASEY
- 455. MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL R. CURTIS
- 456. MAJ. GEN. JOHN A. DIX
- 457. MAJ. GEN. ABNER DOUBLEDAY
- 458. MAJ. GEN. JOHN G. FOSTER
- 459. MAJ. GEN. JOHN W. GEARY

- 461. MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL P. HEINTZELMAN
- 462. MAJ. GEN. ETHAN ALLEN HITCHCOCK
- 463. MAJ. GEN. OLIVER O. HOWARD
- 464. MAJ. GEN. DAVID HUNTER
- 465. MAJ. GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN
- 466. MAJ. GEN. GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN
- 467. MAJ. GEN. GEORGE G. MEADE
- 468. MAJ. GEN. MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS
- 469. MAJ. GEN. ROBERT H. MILROY
- 470. MAJ. GEN. JOHN G. PARKE
- 471. MAJ. GEN. JOHN J. PECK
- 472. MAJ. GEN. ALFRED PLEASANTON
- 473. BRIG. GEN. GEORGE F. SHEPLEY
- 474. MAJ. GEN. DAVID S. STANLEY
- 475. MAJ. GEN. GEORGE STONEMAN
- 476. MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL D. STURGIS
- 477. MAJ. GEN. GEORGE SYKES
- 478. MAJ. GEN. GEORGE H. THOMAS
- 479. MAJ. GEN. G. K. WARREN

**Items 461 and 467 sold for the highest amounts.**

Excerpts from Albert K. Hostetter's 22 page pamphlet, MAJ. GEN. S. P. HEINTZELMAN, published by The Lancaster County Historical Society in 1913.



**Major General Samuel Peter Heintzelman**

The memory of great and good men will not perish. Rising generations usually find some occasion, not only to remember the names and deeds, but to come together on some festal occasion and, with a united effort, laud the great and valiant deeds of men who have been prominent in days gone by.

It chanced to be so on July 2, 1912, when a centenary celebration was held at Manheim, Lancaster County, Pa., at which the memory of Major General Samuel Peter Heintzelman was the most conspicuous feature, and in whose honor a memorial volume was then published.

Although his brilliant attainments and well-merited honors during his military life have shed a halo of glory over his surroundings, we feel that he has never received the recognition in the historic annals of Lancaster County that he so richly deserved.

We hope the day is not far distant when the beautiful square in the central part of his native town will be still more beautified by the erection of a fitting monument to the memory of his noble deeds.

With the old adage, "Honor to whom honor is due,"

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With the above quote from Mr. Hostetter's pamphlet in mind, the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation in 20— considered and investigated the possibility of a bronze statue of Gen. Heintzelman being cast and placed on Market Square, perhaps in front of the museum property, for the statue's protection. We are certain that the addition of a Gen. Heintzelman statue to Market Square would be applauded by historians, past and present, and American service veterans.

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### **Gen. S. P. Heintzelman & Manheim**

In 1965, George Heiges published, through The Lancaster Historical Society's Journal, an article titled Gen. S. P. Heintzelman Visits His Hometown of Manheim. From the article we have extracted the following excerpts:

"Recently it was a privilege in a three-day period to peruse the daily journals of Samuel Peter Heintzelman, which he faithfully kept without a break from 1825 until 1872. Covering as it does Heintzelman's long and brilliant military career, I approached the pleasant task that I had assigned myself with

considerable interest and curiosity. Surely in more than 3000 handwritten pages made up into ten bound volumes I would find pertinent personal reflections as a result of his association with celebrated personalities and of his participation in significant events. And as I read of Heintzelman's contacts with Abraham Lincoln, with Winfield Scott, with Captain Robert E. Lee (later General Lee), and others, my expectations were fulfilled. However, as I went through volume after volume of this man's daily records of almost fifty years, I became more absorbed with those entries—some of them quite commonplace—which told of visits to his hometown of Manheim in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is of those portions of his diaries that I am writing at this time.

**Gen. Heintzelman's visits to Manheim will appear in a later HMPF issue of George Heiges' publication.**

Samuel Peter Heintzelman began making entries in a small pocket diary in 1822, the very year in which he received an appointment to West Point upon the recommendation of Congressman James Buchanan. He continued to use such pocket diaries until 1854. On January 17, 1854, he began the task of transcribing his journals from 1825 onto larger sheets, commencing at the same time the use of the larger sheets for subsequent entries until he laid down his pen in 1872.

Sometime in General Heintzelman's own lifetime, the daily journals covering the years 1825-1841 were bound in three volumes. At a later period the remaining journals were similarly bound, making altogether ten volumes of day-by-day entries covering the years 1825-1872. In 1913-14, these ten books, together with other related material, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Miss Mary L. Heintzelman and Captain (later a General) Stuart Heintzelman. Miss Heintzelman was a daughter of General Samuel Peter Heintzelman, while Captain Heintzelman was the general's grandson, he being a son of Captain Charles Stuart Heintzelman. In 1953 the deposit of the Heintzelman papers was converted to a gift by Mrs. Dorothy Heintzelman Mannan, a stepdaughter of Stuart Heintzelman."

**In addition, Geo. Heiges found that the Library of Congress has six boxes containing military maps, army orders and correspondence, and the original diaries through 1854.**