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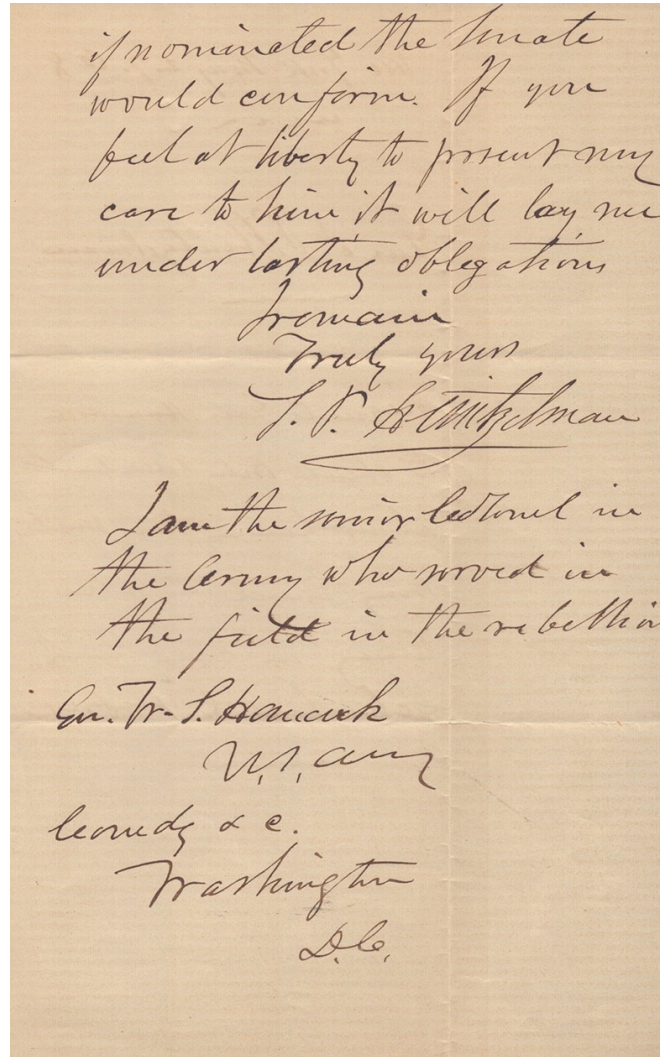
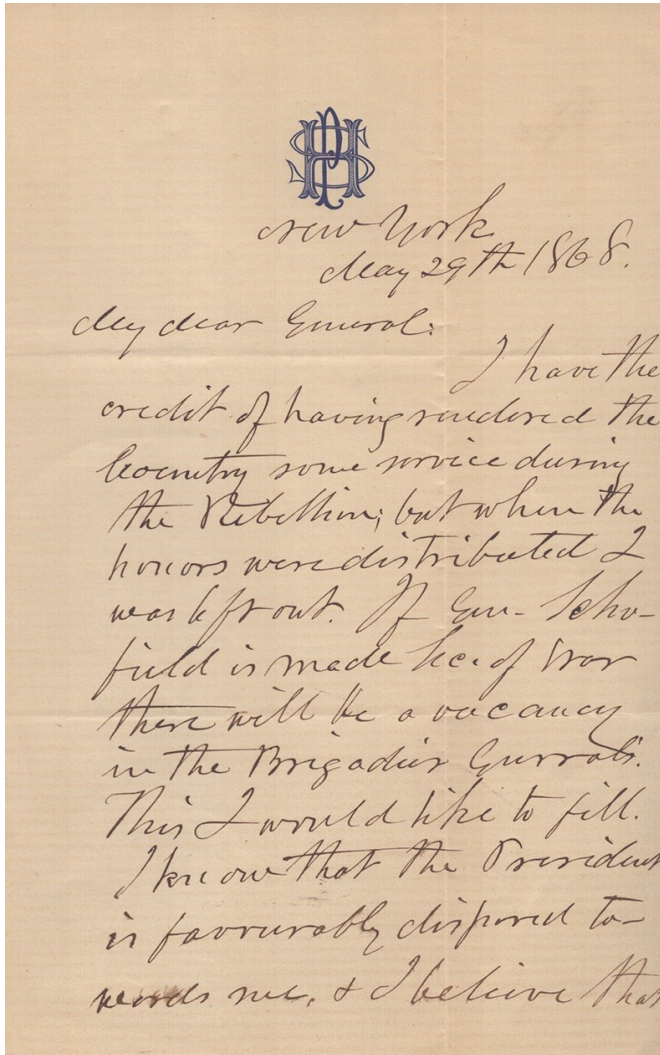


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July 2025

Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman

The letter featured in the article was written by General Samuel P. Heintzelman to General Winfield Hancock. It's a request to be considered for promotion to brigadier general should a vacancy occur.



The letter reads as follows: "I have the credit of having rendered the country some service during the Rebellion, but when the honors were distributed I was left out. If Gen. Schofield is made Sec. of War there will be a vacancy in the Brigadier Generals."

I know that the President is favorably disposed toward me, & I believe that if nominated the Senate would confirm. If you feel at liberty to present my case to him it will lay me under lasting obligations. I remain truly yours". [signature] I am the senior Colonel in the Army who moved in the field in the Rebellion".

Andrew Johnson was President of the United States at the time Gen. Heintzelman wrote the letter to Gen. Winfield Hancock.

General Schofield was appointed Secretary of War (1868-1869) under Andrew Johnson, and his replacement as a general was John Rawlins. Rawlins had previously been a brigadier general of volunteers and a brevet major general, and his promotion to regular army brigadier general was a confirmation of his rank.

General Heintzelman's service record:

Occupation before War:

1826: Brevet 2ndLt. United States Army, 3rdInfantry Regiment
1826 – 1833: 2ndLt. United States Army, 2ndInfantry Regt
1826 – 1827: Garrison Duty at Jefferson Barracks
1827 – 1828: Garrison Duty at Fort Mackinac, Michigan
1828 – 1831: Garrison Duty at Fort Gratiot, Michigan
1832 – 1834: Topographical Duty with United States Army
1833 – 1838: 1stLt. United States Army, 2ndInfantry Regiment
1834 – 1835: Garrison Duty at Fort Brady, Wisconsin
1835 – 1837: Quartermaster Duty in Seminole War in Florida
1837 – 1838: Quartermaster Duty at Columbus, Georgia
1838 – 1841: Served in the Seminole War in Florida
1838 – 1846: Captain, and Quartermaster in United States Army

1838 – 1855: Captain United States Army, 2nd Infantry Regiment
1841 – 1842: Investigator of Florida Militia Claims
1843 – 1845: Quartermaster in Buffalo, New York
1845 – 1846: Quartermaster in Detroit, Michigan
1846 – 1847: Quartermaster in Louisville, Kentucky
1847: Recruiter for United States Army
1847: Served in the Defense Convoy in Mexican War
1847: Brevetted Major for Gallantry at Battle of Huamantla, Mexico
1848: Garrison Duty at Jefferson Barracks
1848: Garrison Duty at Fort Hamilton, New York
1852 – 1853: Garrison Duty at Fort Yuma, California
1853 – 1854: U.S. Army Commander, Southern District of California
1854 – 1855: Recruiter for United States Army
1855: Garrison Duty at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri
1855 – 1861: Major of United States Army, 1st Infantry Regiment
1855 – 1857: Superintendent of Western Recruiting Service
1856 – 1859: President of Sonora Exploring and Mining Company
1857 – 1859: Leave of Absence from United States Army
1859: Frontier Duty at Fort Duncan, Texas
1859: Frontier Duty at Camp Verde, Texas
1859 – 1860: Commander of Operations against Mexican Marauders
1859: Served in the combats near Fort Brown
1860 – 1861: Leave of Absence from United States Army

Civil War Career:

1861: Superintendent of General Recruiting, Eastern Department
1861 – 1869: Colonel of United States Army 17th Infantry Regiment
1861: Acting Inspector General of Department of Washington, D.C.
1861 – 1862: Brigadier General of Union Army, Volunteers
1861: Commander of force that captured Alexandria, and Arlington

1861: Served in the Defenses of Washington, D.C.
 1861: Served in the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia
 1861: Wounded in the elbow at the First Battle of Bull Run, Virginia
 1861 – 1862: Served in the Defenses of Washington, D.C.
 1861: Served in the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia
 1861: Wounded in the elbow at the First Battle of Bull Run, Virginia
 1861 – 1862: Served in the Defenses of Washington, D.C.
 1862: Commander of 22nd Army Corps in Virginia Peninsula Campaign
 1862 – 1865: Major General of Union Army, Volunteers
 1862: Bruised in the Wrist at Battle of Glendale, Virginia
 1862: Brevetted Brig. General for Gallantry at Battle of Fair Oaks
 1862: Present at the Battle of Chantilly, Virginia
 1862 – 1863: Commander Washington, D.C. Defenses, South Potomac
 1863: Commander of 23rd Army Corps, Department of Washington
 1864: Commander of Northern Department, Headquarters in Ohio
 1864: Waiting for orders in Wheeling, West Virginia
 1865: Brevetted Major General for Gallantry, Battle of Williamsburg
 1864 – 1865: Served on Court martial duty and waiting for orders
 1865: Mustered out of the Union Army on August 24th

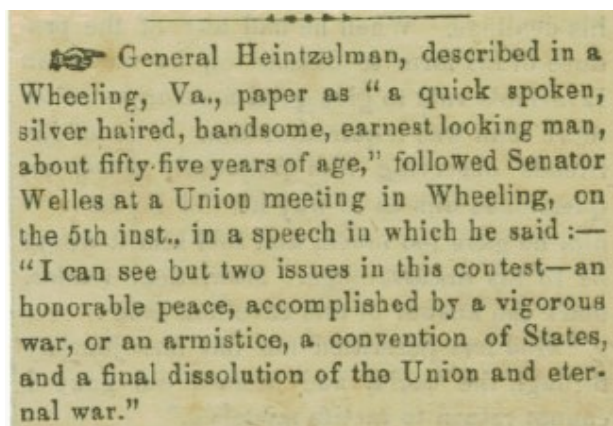
Occupation after War:

1861 – 1869: Colonel of United States Army 17th Infantry Regiment
 1865 – 1866: Commander of 17th Infantry Regiment at Hart Island
 1866: Commander of 17th Infantry Regiment at San Antonio, Texas
 1866: Commander of Central District of Texas
 1866: United States Army, District of Texas

1866 – 1867: U.S. Army Commander of Post at Galveston, Texas
 1867: Member of Examining Board in New York City, New York
 1868: Member of United States Army Retiring Board
 1868 – 1869: Leave of Absence from United States Army
 1869: Retired from United States Army as Major General on Feb. 2nd
 1869: President of Defiance Mining Company
 1870 – 1871: President of Mutual Guarantee Life Insurance, Co.
 1873: President of Emigration Company in Washington, D.C.

When you look at the record of officer Samuel P. Heintzelman's service to the United States of America, how can anyone not believe that politics played a part in his not being made a brigadier general when General John McAllister Schofield was appointed Secretary of War (1868-1869) under Andrew Johnson?

Few small towns of less than 350 residents could proudly boast of having one of their sons appointed to the prestigious West Point Military Academy. Samuel Heintzelman was 17 years old when he entered West Point, and he graduated four years later in 1826. Out of a class of 103 cadets in the 1826 class, only 41 graduated. Samuel Heintzelman was academically in the top 17 of the 41 cadets.



The above appeared in the Oct. 22, 1864 issue of *The Rail Splitter* campaign paper published by H. M. Ensminger.



Autographed CDV as Bvt. Maj. Gen.

Born: September 30, 1805

Birthplace: Manheim, Pennsylvania

Father: Peter Heintzelman 1768 – 1824

(Buried: Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Manheim, Pennsylvania)

Mother: Hannah Elizabeth Grubb 1774 – 1812

(Buried: Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Manheim, Pennsylvania)

Wife: Margaret Stuart 1819 – 1893

(Buried: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York)

Children:

Captain Charles Stuart Heintzelman 1846 – 1881

(Buried: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia)

Education: Manheim and West Point Military Academy

Died: May 1, 1880

Place of Death: Washington, D.C.

Cause of Death: Dropsy

Age at time of Death: 74 years old

Burial Place: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

OBITUARY.

Major General Samuel P. Heintzelman.

Major General Samuel P. Heintzelman, United States army, retired, who died in Washington on Saturday, was born at Manheim, Lancaster county, September 30, 1805, and graduated from West Point, July 1, 1826. July 7, 1838, he was appointed captain and assistant quartermaster. He served through the Mexican war, and at the battle of Huamaulta he distinguished himself and was breveted a major on the field. In 1855 he was made a major and assigned to the 1st infantry. At the breaking out of the rebellion he was ordered to Washington, and acted as inspector general of the troops there. At the first battle of Bull Run, where he was wounded, he commanded the 3d division. During the campaign of 1861, and '62 he commanded a division of the army of the Potomac, and in March, 1862, took command of the Second army corps. In the Chickahominy campaign he did effective service and was made a major general of volunteers. At the second battle of Bull Run his corps had the post of honor, and held its ground through the fight. During McClellan's Maryland campaign Gen. Heintzelman commanded the defenses at Washington. He was breveted major general in the regular army for gallant conduct at the battle of Williamsburg, and at the close of the war became colonel of the 17th infantry. In 1869 he was retired with the rank of major general and has since resided in Washington. The general of the army, in a general order, says: "Gen. Heintzelman was a man of an intense nature, of vehement action guided by sound judgment and a cultivated taste. Universally respected and beloved, at a ripe old age he leaves us, universally regretted. 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' May our end be as peaceful and as much deplored as his." The funeral will take place with military honors and the remains will be taken to Buffalo for interment.

