

Company F, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo credit: Carmen Higgins [Voixloup] at [Find a Grave](#)

RECKARD, Francis B.* 24 Aug 1862 RICKERD
Private Francis Reckard was age 22 when he entered service. He died 17 Aug 1863 at Port Hudson, Louisiana. The Roll of Honor says that he is buried at Port Hudson, Louisiana. [Corporal on pension card.]

Father: Peter W. RICKERD

Mother: ???Elizabeth ????

Birth: <1840> NJ

Marriage:

Death: 17 Aug 1863 Port Hudson, LA

Relationship: Brother of George and James RECKARD of the Co F 120th OVI.

Cemetery: Port Hudson, LA **Pickerd, F B**, d. 08/17/1863, F 120 OHIO VOL, Plot: 3 2405

Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: Francis RICKORD, Private, Co F 120th OH Inf, died 17 Aug 1863 at Regimental Hospital. Cause: remittent fever.

Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960: J. B. PICKERD, Co F, 120th OH Inf, died 17 Aug 1863. Port Hudson National Cemetery, Section 3 number 49

Pension Card: Francis B. RICKERD, Corporal, Co F 120th OH Inf.

Father, Peter W. RICKERD, applied 6 Dec 1887, Application 364432, Certificate 244145, filed in Michigan.

1850 Census, Orange Twp, Ashland Co OH, Dwelling 791, Family 793: Peter W. RICHARD, age 36 PA, farmer; Elisabeth, age 39 NJ; Catherin, age 13 NJ; George, age 12 NJ, school; **Francis, age 10 NJ**; Lydia A., age 9 NJ; James, age 7 NJ; Phillip, age 5 NJ; Mary E, age 1 NJ.

[James RICKERD died 18 Dec 1868, born 1842. Buried at Ashland Cemetery, Ashland Co OH.]

Now from [a contributor, Sharon Korte](#), comes this information about her "family of the heart":

"The family apparently remained in Ashland, Ohio, until at least 1874, when [Mary Elizabeth married Joseph Staley](#). The couple moved first to Wisconsin, then to South Dakota, and finally to Colorado. Their eldest daughter was Nellie Evelyn (name butchered badly by the census taker in 1880), who married Rudolph Mueller, and they were the adoptive parents of my mother, Lucile Elizabeth. Mary and Joseph Staley moved to Manzanola, Colorado sometime in the 1920's, to be close to the Muellers, and they are [buried there](#)."

Letter written by Francis B. Rickerd from Claiborne county Mississippi after the battle at Thompson's Hill, Miss. [Port Gibson], 1 May 1863. The letter was written on the front and back of a page taken from a ledger book.

Contributed by Sharon Korte.

Clabern Co.

May the 9 - 1863 Mississippi

Dear father and mother i tke the plesure to sit don to write a few lines to let you now that wee are all well and injoining good helth and i hope wen these few lines coms to hand that they will find you injoining the same state of helth. I will state that wee had **a Big fight on tomson hill** and i will state god was by our side he saved us and we thank him for his kindnes and O i will state that it was a hard site to see and i will state that John Brindle got sot and he he has gone to his long home and he will not see home no more. But i hope that he has gon to a good home where there is no parten no more and I will state that george macra_ got woned he got wonded in the lage and I will state that **the fight commenced on the first day of May and I will state that wee march a bout 30 mile and on the last day of April and there we had to march all night and the first day of May we had to fight all day and a bout night wee ron the Rebles and then we chast them all but to vixburgh and i wil state that wee are a looking for a big**

fight in vixburgh be for long and i think that it will be befor long and i hope that we wont loss many men, and father i will state that wee hope that wee will slip threw it safe and if it falls to our lot to fall on the battle field i hope that god will take us up in heaven ware there is no parten no more and father i will state that i hant got time to write very much at this present time But i will state that if i get threw the next fight i will write a good long letter.

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But i will state that i will tell you that **wee sent a bout 100 Dolars home** and i wood like to now wether you got it or not i wish that you wood write to me rite away and tell me wether you got it or not and i will state that wee sent it on the 16 Of April and i will state that i wrote a letter on the same day that i sent the money and i will state that i hant got eny letter sence and i would like to here from you and here how you was a geting a long and i wish that you wood tell Cathrine to write to us and tell her and Charely that wee hant forgot them yet tell them that wee wood like to here from them and i will tell you dont forget to wirte to us and I will not forget to wirte to you i will state that it is hard day to send male we cant send male when ever wee pleas wee haft to send wen ever we can and i will tell you that wee cant get the male like we did when wee was a long the river and i will state that i haft to bring my little scribbling to a close and i will say that i wood write so more if i had time But i hant got time and i will haft to close as the male is a going to start they wont wate a minit for you, so good by this time an plese ecuse all poor writen and spelling as i am in a hurry writen. by your son

Francis B Richerd

to our father so good by

anser this

as quick as it coms to hand

[PostScripts he added to the page]

I will say that george masters is all write he got hit with a boolit on the temples but it did not ___hert___ him Direct your letters by the way to s vixburg and then wee will get them so good by this time.

When did mother Elizabeth die? Did Peter W. remarry in 1865?

Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013: Peter W. RICKERD married Rachel HELTMAN/HETTMAN on 18 May 1865 at Ashland Co OH. Did they have children Vinton and Franklin in Blooming Twp, Richland Co OH?

Joseph and Catherine HELTMAN were Rachel's parents and I think that they were Joseph STALEY's grandparents, because he was living with them in 1870 before he and Mary E. RICKARD were married. See the census records which follow.

1860 Census, Milton Twp, Ashland Co OH, Dwelling 165, Family 179: Joseph HELMON, age 69 PA, farmer; Catherine, age 69 PA; Rachel, age 23 PA.

Brother James, Co F 120th OVI, died 18 Dec 1868, buried in Ashland county, OH.

Brother George W., Co F 120th OVI, died 20 June 1869, buried in Ashland county OH.

Father, Peter and Rachel RICKERD are living in Blooming Grove, Richland Co OH in **1870** with children Elizabeth 18, Caroline 12; Lazarus 14; Allison 10, William 4; Vinton 2.

Sister, Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013: [Mary E. RICKARD](#) married Joseph STALEY, 17 Sep 1874 at Ashland Co OH. They died in Colorado.

1860 Census, Cass Twp, Richland Co OH, Dwelling 1470 , Family 1510: Israel STELLY, age 40 PA, laborer; Lucy A, age 36 OH, domestic; Joseph, age 10 OH; Almira, age 8 OH; Latarius, age 6 OH; Mary, age 4 OH; Jeremiah, age 2 OH. [Lucy A. STEELY was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine HELTMAN. They have her maiden name and married name mixed up on [Find a Grave](#).] [Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1958: Lucy Ann HELTMAN married Israel STALEY, 3 Jun 1847, Ashland OH.]

In 1870 Census, Milton Twp, Ashland Co, Dwelling 124, Family 122: Joseph HELTMAN, age 79 PA, farm laborer; Catherine HELTMAN, age 77 PA; Joseph STAHLEY, age 20 OH; Almyra STAHLEY, age 18 OH; Mary A STAHLEY, age 14 OH, Jeremiah STAHLEY, age 11 OH.

Realizing that the father was in Michigan when he filed in 1887 for the pension under his son's name, I looked for him there in 1880:

Father, 1880 Census, Carmel Twp, Eaton Co MI, Dwelling 213, Family 217: P. W. RICKARD, age 57 PA, farmer, parents from PA; Elizabeth R., wife, age 47 PA, parents born PA; William son, age 14 OH, parents born PA; Vinton, son, age 12 OH, parents born PA; Frank, son, age 8 OH, parents born PA. [Vinton died in Eaton Co MI in 1944, son of Peter and Rachel RICKERD, but record doesn't give mother's maiden name.] Franklin's mother was Rachel HELTMAN. He was born 1872 in Richland Co OH.]

Father's second wife, Rachel E. [HELTMAN] RICKERD died 22 Dec 1894 at Benton, Eaton Co MI. Age 61. Married. Born <1833> in PA.

Not in 1890 Veterans Schedule.

Father and mother: ???There is a [Peter RICKARD](#) buried at Ashland Cemetery, died 1897, age 80, born <1817> which is close to the birth year for the father in this research. Also an [Elizabeth RICKARD](#) buried there with no dates.

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