

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE
UNITED STATES,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 22, 1894.

My dear Mrs. Heintzelman:

I cannot imagine in what unguarded moment I can have promised you an "autograph" note or letter. Penmanship is with me a lost art. Stenography and typewriting have almost entirely taken its place, but when I retire from active service doubtless it will become necessary for me to recover, so far as I may, the art of writing with my own hand. Then I will try to fulfill my promise to which you refer in your kind note of the 21st instant.

But to supply in advance the substance of what you ask for, though not the form, I will say that the first battle in which I was ever engaged, and which made the strongest impression upon me, was the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861. It was a fierce

Mrs. Emily Heintzelman,
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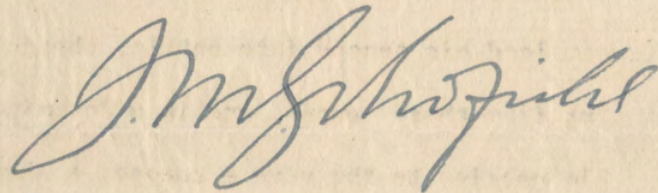
John M. Scott Field
Maj. Gen
USA

struggle, lasting nearly six hours, and resulted in what might be called a drawn battle. The Union losses were fully one-third of all the troops engaged. The Commanding General, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, upon whose Staff I was serving, was killed. I saw him twice wounded, and saw the blood flowing down his face from the wound in the scalp. I then saw him lead his troops into battle, though suffering from these wounds, and in a few minutes saw him carried to the rear a corpse, a shot having penetrated his heart. I saw a battery which had been subjected to so fierce an assault that when it was over not a single gun could be moved until the dead and wounded horses were cut out and the teams re-organized so as to haul off the guns and caissons. After witnessing these scenes, I said to myself: "If the Lord will forgive me for this fight, I will try never to go into another". But such thoughts soon vanish. A short time afterward I went

into and through the battle of Fredericktown without any such feeling. Of course the impressions of the first battle are much the strongest.

Hoping that I have fulfilled substantially my unguarded promise, I beg leave to subscribe myself, with great respect,

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Emily Heintzelman,
1000 22nd Street,
Washington, D. C.