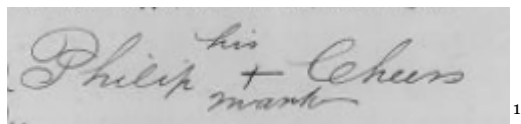


**Pvt. Phillip Cheers**  
**1843-1864**  
**Enslaved at Rippavilla**

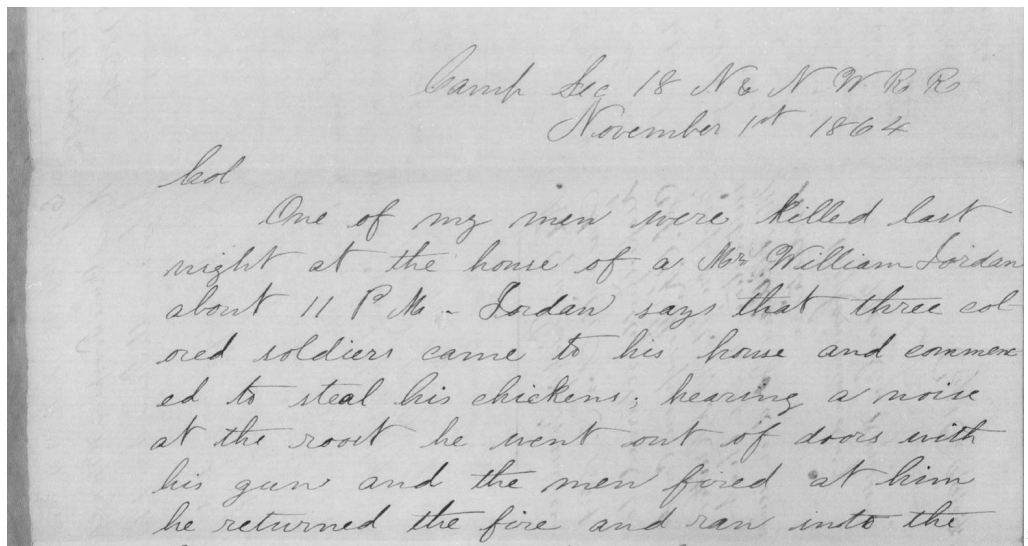
- 1843 Phillip was born in Maury County, TN to Milly Cheairs and unknown father. Milly was a slave owned by Nathaniel Cheairs III.
- 1846 October: Nathaniel Cheairs III died and bequeathed his slaves to his children and wife. Milly, denoted as "Little Milly" and her children: Ruth-13, Angeline-11, Josh-8, Phillip-6, Mintia Ann-4, Emily-1.5 were bequeathed to Nathaniel Cheairs IV.
- 1863 September 15: Enlisted in the US Army and mustered into Co. E, 12 Infantry USCT as a private. His occupation was listed as servant. Described as complexion dark, eyes Medium, hair black. Phillip could not read or write so he made his mark upon enlistment.



Phillip<sup>his</sup> Cheers  
mark

1

- 1864 November 1: Killed by William Jordan for allegedly stealing his chickens in Cheatham County, TN.



Camp Sec 18 No N W R R  
November 1st 1864

Sed

One of my men were killed last night at the house of a Mr. William Jordan about 11 P M - Jordan says that three colored soldiers came to his house and commenced to steal his chickens; hearing a noise at the roost he went out of doors with his gun and the men fired at him he returned the fire and ran into the

2

<sup>1</sup> Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Colored Troops 8th-13th Infantry (accessed on fold3.com)

<sup>2</sup> Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Colored Troops 8th-13th Infantry (accessed on fold3.com)

house; next morning he found a colored  
soldier laying in his yard which proves to be  
Phillip Cheers of Company E. The others I  
cannot find out as get but I am  
taking all the means I can think of to  
to do so. Jordan went to Nashville  
and delivered himself to the authorities.

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Robert Headon  
Capt Co E

Lt Col W R Sellon  
Comdg 12<sup>th</sup> Co. S. C. Inf

Excerpt from the letter regarding Phillips death from Capt. Robert Headon to Lt. Col. W. R. Sellon:

“One of my men were killed last night at the house of a Mr. William Jordan about 11 PM. Jordan says that three colored soldiers came to this house and commenced to steal his chickens, hearing a noise at the roost he went out of the doors with his gun and the men fired at him he returned fire and ran into the house, next morning he found a colored soldier laying in his yard which proves to be Phillip Cheers of Company E.”

Burial location unknown