

Claiborne J. Walton, Surgeon, 21 KY Infantry, US

- 1823 June 30: Born to John and Elizabeth Thompson Walton in Barron County, KY.
- 1847 Entered the University of Louisville, KY to obtain his medical degree.
- 1848 Began to practice medicine in Woodsonville, KY.
- 1851 Nominated and won a seat in the State Legislature in Kentucky.
- 1857 December 3: Married Nancy Maxey in Hart County, KY.
- 1860 June 12: The U. S. Federal Census enumerated in Hart County, KY showed Claiborne lived with his wife and daughter, Mary. A farm laborer named Robert Fulk also lived with the family. The family also owned three slaves.
- 1861 September 24: Enlisted into Co. S, 21 KY US Infantry as a Surgeon at Camp Hobson, KY.

December 31-April 30: Company Muster Roll-Present

1862 April to December: Company Muster Rolls-Present

¹ Photo originally shared by Deborah Cavalcante (accessed on Ancestry.com)

1863 January to December: Company Muster Rolls-Present

1864 January to June: Company Muster Rolls-Present

June 29: He wrote a letter home to his wife describing a surgeon's view of war.

Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
June 29-1864

My Dear Wife

I am sick. Yes sick and tired of bloodshed. Weary and worn out with it. We have been on this campaign fifty-six days and it has been almost one continued scene of carnage from day to day. I am not out of much of the groans of the wounded from morning till night. My hands are constantly steeped in blood. I have had them in blood and water so much that the nails are soft and tender. I have amputated limbs until it almost makes my heart ache to see a poor fellow coming in the Ambulance to the Hospital. I have not time to give you an account of the suffering of the poor Soldiers of this hardest of all campaigns. To give you a faint idea of some of their sufferings I will tell you that our troops are sometimes ordered to charge the Rebel fortifications and of course many of them are killed and wounded. Occasionally our men have to fall back a short distance leaving the wounded on the ground between the lines of our troops and the enemy where they are bound to remain until we regain the ground which is sometimes a day or two. You may well suppose that their suffering is

immense. They are left without water or anything else, in the broiling hot sun with Broken Bones and at the same time between the fire of both our guns and the enemies. Flies blow them and before they can possibly be removed they are often almost covered with maggots—I could tell you of many *yes*—of the most [most] distressing cases of wounds. Such as arms shot off—legs shot off. Eyes shot out—brains shot out. Lungs shot through and in a word *everything* shot to pieces and totally maimed for all after life. The horror of this war can never be half told. Citizens at home can never know one fourth part of the misery brought about by this terrible rebellion. We have been near Kennesaw Mountain for about two weeks and still the Rebels are resisting us at every step. It is true that we have driven them back a few miles but they only fall back a few hundred yards at a time and fortify and fight us again. Sometimes they make a charge upon us we drive them back with dreadful slaughter. Day before yesterday we made a charge upon their lines. They were well fortified. We were compelled to fall back. You may well imagine that they Slaughtered our men with a vengeance. We lost in a few minutes in killed and wounded *Two Thousand*—It was really distressing to see the ambulances coming in loaded with the wounded. We have three Operating tables in our division and we were all busy for Several hours—

Here I am writing upon the end of a cracker box. Trying to write you a letter but I am so much interrupted that I cannot do it. I have my tent out in the woods a hundred yards from the operating tent and as we sent off our wounded yesterday and there is but little fighting today I felt like it would be a very delightful task to write you one more letter. You know I have written you nothing but very short notes lately and most of them in pencil but I am so situated that I cannot write to do any good. Every Captain [and] Lieutenant that gets sick comes back to my quarters and I am crowded and perplexed. In fact I am bored and somewhat imposed upon. Here comes our most excellent Maj J E Haskins to get a certificate for a leave of absence on account of sickness. I must attend to that. Here comes a man for medicine. Here comes a man to get me to visit a wounded Lt in my ward and so it goes—Well Well worse than all here comes Lt Dean to get my *Pack Mule* to work to an ambulance. You remember that after we came back our medicine wagons were taken from us. Our ambulances were sent back to an ambulance train and we were allowed one pack mule to carry a *medicine Panier*. Well I used that mule to carry my blankets which is the only chance I have of getting my personal affects along with. Lt Dean of the "Ambulance Train has just been here and demanded" the mule to put to an ambulance. I told him to take Bill also that I could do better without both than one of them. You know now why we wear "the collar marked "Shermans Dog" I have just six months yet to serve and then I will wear a collar marked "Nannies Property" I would be glad if my time for these years could expire today—I do not feel like remaining the balance of my term—I have been away so much that you will not object if I go to the Senate or to Congress if I can will you? You say I will be into something when I quit the Service. You can make any disposition you think proper of me—Do just as you like—I will come under *Petticoat rule* I shall be a happy man if we should all be spared. We were once so happy as we well could be upon Earth. We were not wealthy but what little we had was neat and tidy and done up in good style. I have a wife that always does up everything in the very best style. How I long to be permitted to see her as in the days past seated at the head of the table pouring out my coffee and doing the honors of the table generally I felt all the time when I was at home like my coffee would be better if she were to pour it out and fix it for me my Nannie is a *model woman*. . . .

I wish I could tell you all that I desire to communicate, I could talk and listen to you all night long if I could reach you without being broken down. You must not forget what you had to tell me—Do you remember how I told you I was touched sometimes? I am in much better condition in that respect, my health is good. I am indeed quite vigorous. Oh I forgot. Tomorrow I shall be *41 years old*. How sad I feel to know that I am so advanced in life. I should feel as sprightly and as youthful if I could be with you *as I did at 15*—But time is telling upon me. My hair is going fast and age is leaving its traces upon my face. A few more years and the fitful-fretful fever of life will be over. My wife let us prepare for our final home—Give my love to all. Kiss our babies—One kiss one dear embrace and then goodbye

C J Walton

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² Letter written to his wife (accessed on Ancestry.com)

July-August: Company Muster Roll-Absent, Remarks: A Prisoner of war taken by the enemy August 26 near Atlanta, GA.

September 3: Paroled because of his non-combatant status and returned to his regiment.

September to December: Company Muster Rolls-Present

November 30: Attached to Whittaker's Brigade, Kimball's Division. He attended to the wounded during the Battle of Franklin.

1865 February 7: Mustered out of US Infantry in Huntsville, AL.

1867 October 5: Claiborne preferred a claim to the Freedman's Bureau regarding a stolen horse and was denied compensation after his loyalty to the Federal government was questioned.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.
Freedmen's Bureau Law and Practice—A Kentucky Case in Point—Booth's Remains and Where They Were Buried—Loyal Gen. Butler—How Senator Hunter Was Pardoned—Another Scheme of the Radicals Exposed—Brownlow's Policy to be Universal—Personal.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 5, 1867.
To the Editor of the Louisville Courier:
The beauties of "Freedmen's Bureau law" have been exemplified in your own State as well as those of the unfortunate people of the South; and most of these are recorded of course in the COURIER, which presents an epitome of the events of the times. Let me add another, which has not probably reached you: Hon. C. J. Walton, formerly a Senator from the Taylor county district, was a surgeon in the 21st Kentucky Infantry, U. S. A. He was "loyal" at the beginning of the war, and is, I believe, Radical now: He served for several years and was finally honorably mustered out of the service. But although a Radical, it appears he is not loyal according to the "Freedmen's Bureau test," which is conducted on the idea that he is disloyal who does not admit the supremacy of Congress and the negro over his own race. Dr. Walton lately preferred a claim against the government for a horse taken from his farm by a Federal Quartermaster while he (the Dr.) was absent in the field. The Quartermaster General rejected his claim, as I learn from Colonel Pennabaker, the agent of Kentucky, because he had been officially advised that Dr. Walton was disloyal. The information came from the "Bureau Agent" of the Dr.'s district. And so we progress! I suspect that the Doctor has refused to recognize the superiority of the negro.

1870 July 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Hart County, KY showed

³ The Louisville Daily Courier, Louisville, Kentucky, 09 Oct 1867, Wed, pg. 1

Claiborne, his wife and four children lived in the Green River Hotel. His occupation was listed as a Physician.

1880 June 16: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Hart County, KY showed Claiborne, his wife, four children, and grandchildren lived in the Green River Hotel. His occupation was listed as a Physician.


1890 January 10: Elected Pension Agent at Louisville, KY.

PENSION AGENT WALTON.

He Arrives To Acquaint Himself With His New Duties.

Probability That He Will Step Into Gen. Buell's Shoes About February 1.

Dr. C. J. Walton, the newly appointed Pension Agent came up from his home at Munfordville, yesterday, and is quartered at the Fifth-avenue Hotel. He called at the Pension office in the Custom-house in the afternoon, but Gen. Buell was out, and, after leaving his card, Dr. Walton departed. He had come up, he said, merely to familiarize himself somewhat with the duties of the office, and would remain but a few days. He does not yet know just when he will take possession of the office, but thinks it will be about February 1. Gen. Buell's term expires on the thirteenth day of this month, which will complete his four years' service, and it is probable that the new Pension Agent will take charge then.



The office will be turned over to Gen. Buell's successor in prime condition, as his systematic management of affairs has been very rigid. So careful has been the management of the office, that only one insignificant mistake has occurred in the whole four years of Gen. Buell's incumbency. This record is remarkable in view of the large sums of money handled, and the liability to make mistakes in paying it out in small amounts.

Dr. Walton said yesterday that he had never sought Gen. Buell's removal, but merely indicated to President Harrison, while in Washington, that when Gen. Buell's term was out he would seek the appointment. Dr. Walton served through the war under Gen. Buell, and has the highest personal regard and admiration for the old soldier. On the question as to who he would appoint to the chief clerkships in his office, Dr. Walton was not prepared to talk, not even having given the subject a thought.

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April 18: Claiborne filed and was approved for a Federal Pension.

⁴The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, 10 Jan 1890, Fri, pg.7

NAME OF SOLDIER:					<i>Walton, Claiborne J.</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT:					<i>Widow,</i>				
					<i>Minor,</i>				
SERVICE:					<i>Surg. 21 Ky. Inf.</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.					
<i>1890 April 18</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>770 006</i>	<i>703 646</i>	<i>Ky.</i>					
	<i>Widow,</i>								
	<i>Minor,</i>								
ATTORNEY:									
REMARKS:									

1895 August 19: Claiborne announced his candidacy for State Senator of Kentucky. He was defeated by Hon. W. J. Bale.

Greensburg, Ky., Aug. 19.—(Special).—Dr. C. J. Walton, Republican candidate for State Senator, opened the campaign here to-day. He was followed by the Hon. W. J. Bale, Democratic nominee, and when he had gotten through with the doctor's speech he had demonstrated very clearly to his audience that he was the man Green county wanted to watch its interests in the next Senate. Mr. Wilkinson, the Populist candidate, also made a speech.

1900 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Hart County, KY showed Claiborne lived with his brother widowed John (56), a widowed African American servant, Annie (69) and an African American boarder named Bill Bradley who was fifteen years old. Claiborne's occupation was listed as a Physician.

1907 February 1: Claiborne died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Munfordville, KY. Buried in Munfordville Municipal Cemetery in Hart County, KY.

⁵ U.S., Civil War Pension Index:General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 (accessed on Ancestry.com)

⁶ The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, 20 Aug 1895, Tue, pg.5



⁷ Photo originally shared by G. Euel Coats (accessed on Ancestry.com)