



Desha Letter, 1861

Joseph Desha, of the First Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A., wrote this letter of August 25, 1861, at Camp Bartow, near Mannassas, Virginia, to his brothers, Cave and Lucius Clay. It describes the aftermath of the first battle of Bull Run (Manassas). The letter graphically depicts the scene days after the battle. In contrast, Desha also shares thoughts about home and family. The First Kentucky was the only organized unit from Kentucky to serve in the eastern theater of the Civil War.

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