

**Partial Transcription, Letter from Thomas F. Drayton  
To W. Heyward Drayton, July 4, 1865  
Drayton Family Papers, Collection 1854**

*Thomas Fenwick Drayton (1808-1891), was born in South Carolina, raised in Philadelphia, and after attending West Point, returned to South Carolina. Finding his army career unsatisfying, he resigned and established a plantation at Hilton Head. When the Civil War came, his pro-southern views set him against his immediate family. When the war began, Thomas was commissioned a brigadier general by his old West Point classmate Jefferson Davis. He commanded troops at significant battles including Port Royal, where his brother U.S. Navy Captain Percival commanded the Union gunboat Pocahontia.*

*When peace came, Thomas, along with many other former southern planters, found himself destitute. He tried to reclaim his confiscated land in South Carolina, but had no success. Though a bequest of \$30,000 from Percival helped Thomas and his family significantly, he spent the last twenty-five years of his life struggling to find consistent, livable employment. In this letter, Thomas is writing his step-brother William Heyward Drayton, (1817-1892), who was a lawyer in Philadelphia.*

Midway, Baldwin Co. Geo  
4<sup>th</sup> July, 1865.

My dear Heyward,

I arrived here yesterday from the Trans. Miss. Dept. in Galveston & N. Orleans, and found all well.

The question is now how to avoid starvation and what I can do to make my bread & butter. I would ask you to send me \$300 to meet present wants & to go some where[sic] in search of surplusment [sic], but I don't know to whose care in Macon or Augusta to tell you to send a draft. The war has left me very poor, but I do not doubt my ability to maintain myself and children as soon as the Amnesty of the President will permit me to enjoy once more, the rights of citizenship.

At present, my hands are tied, as I can engage in no pursuit until I have taken the Oath of Allegiance – which I am excluded from taking – being among the excepted cases alluded to in the Presidents Proclamation. I shall offer to take it however without delay for I must work for a living in some way, and that with the least possible delay.

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With love to all,

Your affect [sic] brother

Tho. F Drayton

W. Heyward Drayton Esq.

Philadelphia.