

January 20, 1863 – Simon Huntington Dies From His Wounds From Stones River,
by Leslie Korenko

Simon's Mother, Emeline K. Huntington, was still in Cincinnati trying to reach her wounded son. On Monday morning, January 20th, Emeline learned that her son had died. "Yesterday by telegraph from Erastus [her son] at Nashville I received the melancholy news of Simon's death and that his brother was bringing his remains home. It is very uncertain when he will get here, perhaps not this week. I feel very anxious to get home as soon as possible. If the crossing is very bad we shall leave his body in a vault in Sandusky until it can be safely taken over.



Poor boy, he would have liked to have endured the perils and hardships of war until this terrible rebellion was crushed out rather than be at rest. The country has lost in him, two willing hands and a brave heart; his parents a dutiful, loving son; and his friends an exemplary, honest and loving companion. EKH"

"Simon died Monday morning at 10 minutes before 8. He was very cheerful all the while he was there and did not suffer much pain. He had his senses until within about 10 minutes before he died and thought he saw his mother and heard her voice in the room. I told him there was no woman in the room at all. He said he thought it was her. He never was conscious that he was going to die. A few minutes before he died he said he felt queer, and sank

away as contented as he would to go to sleep.

The body was laid in the burial case Monday evening. I went to Gen'l Mitchell's headquarters, and got an order for free transportation of the body to Louisville, and wanted to come on the boat with it, but he said that would be impossible as the boats would be loaded with the dead and wounded, and it would make no difference with its safe deliverance in Louisville if I would meet it there and see that it was properly taken care of. He also said that the boats could not leave before Friday at the best and as I was in no condition to stay in Nashville any longer, I took the car for Louisville the next day and arrived in Cincinnati the 22nd, pretty much used up, having been among strangers two weeks under anything but favorable circumstances."

The news of Simon's death finally reached the island. "The doleful news brought here by the *Harlequin* on Tuesday morning was whispered from lip to lip with the tenderest sympathy and regret. The sad announcement settled a deep gloom over the hearts of his many friends akin [to] that produced by the clods rattling on the coffin of a departed brother. He was not only endeared to us from the conspicuous position he occupied as our correspondent and a brother in our little band; but we admired him for his generous and undaunted patriotism, his ardent zeal and untiring devotion. He went forth with fearless heart to battle for the right; sacrificing ease and comfort and home, staking even his life for the perpetuity of the government and the good of his fellow men. But also he has suffered bitterly for the cause he has loved so well. And we of the Lyceum, in whose affections he always held a sacred position, deeply mourn the calamity which has befallen him.

Simon Huntington was 23 years of age, in the full flush of life, and deliberately and as a matter of duty, had volunteered to fight for his country. We had the pleasure of a conversation with him only a day or two before he volunteered and were impressed with the intelligence which he manifested, the motives which prompted him to enlist, and the simple noble patriotism which underlay the sacrifice which he proposed to make. He won our admiration, and we now feel that in his death, as true a soldier, as genuine a patriot as ever shouldered a musket or rode in the Revolutionary war, has been called hence. To his friends and all who knew him, his memory should be ever green and his honor ever cherished. Not a soldier who died at Bunker Hill, at Saratoga, or at Monmouth, died more nobly than Simon Huntington of wounds received at Murfreesboro.

Capt. Orr, we believe, has been requested to make arrangements to take charge of the remains on their arrival here. As soon as it can be done, they will be taken thence to Kelley's for interment." His casket was brought over the ice to the Island's cemetery. On February 7 a diary

entry indicated that “thermometer 15, wind South. Fred started with horse and cutter for Sandusky but had to come back. Dan Huntington went on over for his mother and Simon’s body.” The next day Alfred wrote that “a crowd went over to Peninsula to get Emeline over. Myself and about 30 others went over at Noon for the remains of Simon Huntington. Got home with them at dark.”

Leslie is the author of six books about the history of Kelleys Island including Kelleys Island 1862-1864 – The Civil War, the Island Soldiers & the Island Queen