Bonham Texas Dec the 16th 1847

The honourable Stephen A Douglas &
Edward Baker

Gentlemen as old and tried friends I
call on you in behalf of regiment of volunteers
from this State who it appears must look to
a special act of congress to remunerate
them for their services, Last spring a call
was made by one Col Curtis of the U S Army
for six months volunteers to relieve Gen Taylor
from the dangerous predicament it was
reported he was in and from which he could
not extricate himself, In all good faith
and acting the ultimate despatch, we immediate-
-ly equipped ourselves, & to the neglect and pre-
-judice of every other interest immediately took
up the line of march to Monterey under
Col J Hays & Lieut Col Harper, We had
traveled to within 40 miles of the Rio Grande
when we met an express from Gen Taylor
ordering us back to be disbanded, by
Capt Howe the then presiding officer at
San Antonio we were mustered out of as we
had been previously mustered into service
As there was neither paymaster or Gov means at
San Antonio either on our passing through or
returning we did receive one cent, Having
furnished several I am interested 500 dollars

which is enough to ruin me if I fail in getting it. there are many others of my acquaintance who through their loss will be less, will not feel it less seriously. Our place of residence is four hundred and fifty or 500 miles from San Antonio where we were ordered to rendezvous and from the time we left home until we returned was three months. As you are well aware privates are but poorly paid at best and as had undergone all the expense & neglect of business incident upon 6 months service and as we on our part complied strictly with every condition of the contract or requisition made of us, we will never have justice unless we are paid for the six months. but a half loaf is better than no bread and as strictly so in Texas as in any place under the sun.

I feel well assured that your love of justice, that the feelings you have for an old friend, that the sympathy you bear your suffering fellow volunteers will each prompt you to take a lively interest in this matter. Humanity calls loud for justice in the case for I do assure you that the disappointment has occasioned the sacrifice of considerable property belonging to the poor volunteer.

It is needless to say more about it. With Texas I am well pleased we have a beautiful country & delightful climate and it only requires labour to produce an abundance of produce such as is adapted to the climate. We cannot live as sumptuously on varieties but I venture the assertion that enjoy as much such as we have, as you do the luxuries of Washington City.

The opinion that our community is made of a bad material is indeed erroneous so far as I have had opportunity of judgeing. as to the refugees the rope or rifle as had a most salutary influence in correcting them for there is no stealing here than I have ever known.

After tendering you my sincere respect and esteem I bid you good night.

Samuel T. Bledsoe M.D.

Franking Lea
Dec 22 1860

Hon. Stephen A Douglass
or
Edward D Baker
Washington City
Dist Columbia

J q Adams

New Orleans Decr 16-1847-

Hon Stephen A. Douglas-

Sir

I take great pleasure in recommending to you Mr Alonzo C. Wakeman - he is desirous of obtaining the appointment of Asst. Quarter Master in the Army - Mr Wakeman is now employed as chief Clerk in the Q. M^s Office at this place - Last year he accompaind Genl Wool's column on the long march - and performed arduous and laborious duties with satisfaction to the officers belonging to the Dept - he was at that time clerk to Major Chas Thomas chief Quarter Master - I with much pleasure vouch for his moral character and his correct gentlemanly deportment - His appointment would give much satisfaction to his friends in the Army -

I am Sir
Very Res^ly
Your Humble serv^t
Chas W. Davis
Capt & Q. M. Q. M
U. S. Army

Capt Davis

(Confidential)

Alton, Ill Dec 16. 1847

My Dear Friend.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing to you a recommendation, which I desire you to examine, and if strictly in accordance with your views of propriety should be glad to have you present it & lend me the aid of your influence.

This I ask purely as a personal friend. But in the decision to which you may arrive, I hope and desire, that you will do nothing on account of that personal friendship that may either directly or indirectly militate against your political views, interests or wishes. Our difference of political matters is an honest one. And much as my pecuniary affairs would be benefitted by the success of the application, yet I would rather myself & family should beg their bread, than to have you do any thing on my account from personal friendship, that might in any way operate against you either now or hereafter politically. I feel the same way in regard to the President, & desire you should act accordingly.

Genl Quitman & Genl Shields will both be in Washington when this reaches you, by their decision as to my course throughout the campaign I am willing to abide. My long absence has entirely destroyed my professional business, and my poverty demands that I should find employment at once in order to support them. I should like if you conclude not to present the application to return me the recommendation, as I regard it as valuable as a testimonial of Offices of high rank. I do not wish you to present it under any circumstances unless you think there is a reasonable chance of success. But in all these matters be governed by your own good judgment. Do not for a moment hesitate to decline acting if inconsistent with your political duty. I regard you as my friend, and as such would be unwilling to be the cause of your doing any thing that might under any contingency operate against you. I should have been glad to have come on to Washington this winter, but could not afford it. Of your success in the greatest forum in the world I entertain no doubts. You will confer upon me a great personal kindness, if you will let me know your decision at as early a day as possible; as my making other arrangements to do something for a living will depend upon your reply.

Present my kindest regards to your Esteemed Lady & believe me to remain very truly and sincerely Your friend

Geo. P. Wm. Davis

Hon S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senator
Washington
D.C.

Rev. P. M. Davis

Galena Ill. Dec 16th 1847.

Hon Judge Douglass

Dear Sir:-

You will please excuse the presumption of a Stranger in thus addressing you. My only excuse is the enclosed letter from my Friend Gov. Reynolds.

I have been recommended by the Hon Thos Benton - Judge Boulin of Mo, & Hon Robt Smith of Ill, for the appointment of Surgeon or Ass't in the Army. This day I have written to Judge Breese & your Hon Self to solicite, if possible, your influence in my behalf. I am a Missourian - but Lucker Educated, a graduate of McKendree College, in Literature & the State University of Mo, in Medicine. You will no doubt recognize in me a Brother of your Friend Dr. T. Dorey, formerly of Exeter near Naples, Ill, (who wishes to be remembered to you).

I conceive it needless to write a long epistle, as I shall refer you to any of the above named Gentlemen or Mr. R. Corbin or James McAllister. Should it be consistant with your feelings to interest yourself in my behalf, you will confer a a great favor on one who is in need of it & one whom I believe is worthy & should have some claim upon the Department. If possible procure me an answer either "pro" or "con" at the earliest possible day, & you shall if in my power never regret having recommended & assisted me, for my endeavor to prove myself worthy the confidence of

my Friends & Country. And they shall ever receive the lasting gratitude of

Your Friend &

Most Obt Servt

Thos S. Dorey

Galena

Ill.

To

Hon Judge Douglass

Washington

D. C.

Dr T. Dorey

Belleville, Ill. Dec. 17. 1847.

My Dear Judge:

I shall feel greatly obliged to you for such standard documents as you may find it convenient to send me. The newspapers furnish me with many such, it is true — but, then they are not in a convenient or preservable form. I do not desire to trouble you for the common documents — such as the member from my own district would naturally send me. There are rarer ones which are very valuable and which can not be procured in large numbers, and sometimes only by Senators. You will understand what will be useful and interesting to me — and, for any such, I shall be greatly your debtor.

The message suits us exactly. It is only the Clay Whigs who object to it — and "Clay Whigs" do not by any means

confine the entire "universal whig party" heralds.

G. T. M. Davis has taken leave of the Alta Telegraph — giving as a reason that the Whig party of the State seems inclined to go for Taylor — a man whom he will not, under any circumstances, support. Upon this subject he could not sustain the views of the party, &c &c. The Senior adv. declares that the Whig members of the Constitutional Convention who undertook to speak for the Whig party at Springfield, did not reflect the views of that party at all. He, like Davis, prefers Clay. Unlike Davis, however, he will support Taylor in preference to an avowed Loco.

Clay is unquestionably to be the candidate of the Whig party. I think we shall beat him much easier than we could beat Taylor. This State would give 25000 majority for any Democrat against Clay, tomorrow, if an election were to be had. Clay's speech and resolutions have injured him greatly with the Whig masses throughout the West.

I should be very glad to get letters from you as often as you can find it convenient to write.

Do you know Col. Churchill, of the Army — a member of the Court Martial now sitting? I wish you would make his acquaintance — and tell him that I mentioned him to you. He is an excellent and brave old man as ever lived — and a great friend to Illinoisans.

Yours Ever

W. H. Bissell

Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate.

Col. Bepell

Jacksonville Dec. 17. 1847

Dr Sir,

I dislike much to trouble you, but I feel it my duty to do so. I would not do so, if I did not believe I was writing to a friend. The favor I would ask is, that you would use your influence with the department for the procurement of a commission as an officer in the army for my brother Hanson C. Roberts. That you may judge for yourself as to whether he is worthy of promotion I will give some facts as data. When Illinois was first called upon for volunteers, he volunteered in Capt. Lawlers company in Gallatin county, was mustered into service at Alton as first Sergeant and went with the third regiment to the Rio Grande, where he remained until October or November, when he was discharged on account of sickness contracted in the service. He returned home and during the winter he recovered, and went to Cincinnati. When Capt. Bogardus was appointed, he wrote to my brother proffering him the appointment of first Sergeant if he would join his company. He immediately complied and attached himself to the company and is now

with it in the city of Mexico. That he has faithfully done his duty I have no doubt from the fact of having received a letter from his commander in which he commends him for his good conduct particularly in command of a squad of his company sent with bars, &c. to undermine the main gate at Garrita De Belen. Having this recommendation, I will say in addition that he has the advantage of a clasical education, was very popular as a non-commissioned officer in Capt. Lawlers company and I am informed he is a favorite with his present company. ~~After he~~ had re-entered the service and left for the seat of war, Col. Sloo and others of his friends, (as I am informed by them) sent on a recommendation for his appointed as a Lieutenant, whether said recommendation is now in possession of the Department or in the hands of Col. McClernand I am not informed, and therefore ask you to inquire therefor to these sources for it. Should you feel disposed to interest yourself in this matter you will confer an obligation on one who tho' humble has never faltered as a friend in fair & foul weather. It is a matter I am anxious about particularly as I have been deprived the opportunity of participating myself in the stirring scenes in Mexico. Col. McClernand has been written to on the same subject, and if you and he will give your influence, I feel confident the application will be successfull. The Presidents Message has dumbfounded the whigs in this section. They strive hard to find fault, but have not been able to do so, in fact all the honest and candid admit the truth of its sentiments and declare the President right.

Sincerely Your Friend
Geo. S. Roberts

Hon. S. A. Douglas

My brother, for whom I make this application is now first Sergeant of Capt. Bogardus' company (E. I believe) of the 14th Regt of U. S. Infantry.

JACKSONVILLE ILL.
DEC
18

FREE

Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate
Washington
D. C.

A. J. Lotts

Springfield Illinois
17th Dec. 1847.

Dear Sir

I have so completely withdrawn my mind from political matters for the last year that I can not now tell how many persons if any, that I have recommended as one of the Judges to be appointed in Oregon, but I would be glad to have good men appointed at any rate. In relation to that office or one of them I would recommend to your favorable consideration a friend of mine Mr. O. B. Pratt of Salina. I have become somewhat acquainted with him personally and am much pleased with him. He is desirous of going to Oregon and if you can aid him in it I shall take it a favor.

Your's truly

Lincoln

Hon S. A. Douglas

James Semple

Confidential

Springfield Ills, Dec. 19th /47.

Dr. Sir

I would be much gratified if I could (before the close of this Administration) receive the appointment of Indian Agt. — there are frequent vacancies in the several agencies, and occasionally new ones created, I wrote Bruce a similar letter, which was the first, and this is the last I have, or will, say on the subject. Should the interest, meet your views, I will be thankful for your assistance, I would not go to Oregon.

I would be much pleased, if the appointment of Major Noah Johnston, as paymaster, could be made permanent, such arrangement, would be gratifying to him, & his friends.

No news in this quarter, please write me occasionally.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
S. H. Anderson

Hon
S. A. Douglas
Washington City
D. C.

S. H. Anderson

Springfield Dec 22 47

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir

I am requested by Thomas Graham Esq of Beardstown in this State, to request your influence to procure him the appointment of 1st Lt in U.S. Infantry — From Mr G.' reputation I think him well qualified for the appmt, a good democrat, & that his appmt would be generally satisfactory.

Nothing new. I probed upon a letter yesterday, inclosing Art Imp Rec 1 36, 7 which I presume are ere this received.

I am Dear Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Frd & Obt Svt

H. S. Cooley

H. S. Cooley.

Ottawa Dec 23 1847

Dear Sir

I understand that Mr George Fisher is an Applicant for a commission in the United States Army and as I am well aquainted with him and know him to be a man well qualified to fill any post the president may give him I regard serving with the Volunteers from this County with the universal acknowledgement of all the company of being the Best drill Officer with the single exception of Capt Prentiss in said company now I would say to you that Mr ~~Fisher~~ Fisher is in my humble Opinion as worthy a man as will apply to the President for any post in the army and such a man as you would take pleasure in supporting if you knew his acquaintance and I will say there is no more in the country who could get an appointment that would give the same satisfaction

Yours with great Respt

Hon S A Douglas

L B Detaum

F. B. Depew

New Orleans Decr 27th 1847

Maj S A Douglas
Sir

I know that I am principally indebted to you for the honorable station I hold in the army of the United States, and feel anxious of not to say ambitious to perform the duties of the station in such a manner as will reflect not only to my credit, but also to the credit of such of my friends as have plaged themselves for me; and in this view must again draw on your kindness, and ask the favor of you to urge the Quartermaster Genl to assign me to some post where I can have an opportunity of effecting the object.

I was ordered to this city for duty, but on reaching here found two Majors in the service of the Dept, both of whom ranked me, with a Asst Quartermaster all of whom have evinced I think a disposition to keep me in the back ground. This is the most important post in the U States, and in the purchase of horses provisions and procuring transportation I think I could make myself eminently useful to the government, and not less so to the Dr Mc Genl himself but as I presume he will be unwilling to believe any thing else than that he has made the very best selection for officers for this Post, he will

hardly be willing to assign those specific duties to me, in which event I should be glad to be sent to Tolaya, Puebla or the city of Mexico— I hope Sir you will pardon me for troubling you, but I am a newsmit and should the war be brought to a close, before I shall have an opportunity to contribute something towards so desirable a result— it will be deeply mortifying to

Sir

Your friend

Robt. Allen

Hon S. A. Douglas
Washington City
D. C.

Abm. Lincoln

Rock Island. Dec: 27th. 1847.

To the Hon:

Judge Douglas

Dear Sir

I write to bear my testimony to the value of the services rendered this part of the state by our fellow Citizen David B. Sears in Constructing the Dams & Water Power at the head of Rock Island. He now applies to the United States for a pre-emption of 160 acres at the head of the Island. The improvement he has made to the navigation of the Rapids at the lower channel well entitles him to reward. You have seen the work & the man, & the whole public will applaud your efforts in his behalf.

I have the honor to be, Your most obt. Svt

N. B. Buford

ROCK ISLAND
DEC
28
ILL.

Free

10

To

The Hon S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senator
Washington City
D. C.

J. B. Barton

Carrollton Dec 27th 1847.

My Dear Friend

During the last summer I wrote you, but am without reply.— It had been my intention to have seen you before you left for the Capital, but on enquiring for you in Nov last, learned you had gone East. I Congratulate you on your new position, and welcom you into the fraternity of married life, as I have not seen you since that important event occured,—

We are looking with much interest to the action of Congress on the great interests that will necessarily come before that body— The Mexican War will assume a commanding position, and its prosecution will call out and define the course of the Whig party. The Message is just such an one as the occasion the required, and does honor to President Polk. The Oregon question will command the early attention of Congress, and a Bill for its organization will no doubt pass at an early day. Let me hear from you as often as your leisure will permit— Send me Documents.

Truely Your Friend
A W. Cavarly

Hon S. A. Douglas.

A. W. Conly.

(Carrollton La. 27 Jan 1847

My dear Friend

Among the last amongst
I have, but am unfeigned glad
of that you are indeed to have an
letter from the Capital, letter from
for you on the left, leaves you have
been. I congratulate you on your
promotion, and trust you will the fortunate
deserved life, as I am sure you are
indefatigable and zealous.

We are leaving with much pleasure to the return
being on the great subject that will occupy
some time after that body — the Mexican. Pro
with opinions a commercial protection, and
the Democratic will act and not adjust the
of the tariff bill. The subject is just dawning
on the occasion the principal, but we have
to prevent 30th. The Congress will
commence the early adoption of the tariff, and a
bill for its accompanies will no doubt pass
of an early day. All we have to
a office on your business with promptly. Since
we shall be very glad to hear from
you. Yours Very Truly

Hon. J. P. Kennedy. J. H. Everett

Lewistown Dec 27. 1847

Hon S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir I have for some time thought of writing to you in reference to the wish of my brotherinlaw S. D. Reynolds to obtain a situation in the army, but knowing your many business relations I have deferred it, fearing that you might be put to trouble without much prospect of success. Since Rowan, I have seen the President's Message recommending new levies of troops for the war, my hopes are renewed that there may some opportunity occur, where your acknowledged influence may be exerted successfully in his favor, and accordingly I venture to call to your recolection, the recomendation in Mr Reynold's favor, which you have had from Shields, Baker, and Harris his commanding officers in the war.

Mr Buchanan, a relative of Mr Reynold's father, will no doubt say a word in his favor if he ~~was~~ is made aware of his services in the war, and of the fact that he is the son of John Reynolds dec. of Beaford Pa.

By volunteering in the service of his

country Mr Reynolds threw himself out of a position to succeed in life, and his taste for military life has become so strong that he is still waiting with anxiety an opportunity to assist in the prosecution of this (in his eyes) most righteous war. Having served as a private or non-commissioned officer for one year, with credit and honor to himself, I think his merits are as great as many who have received greater favors from Government than he asks. You will remember that he only asks an appointment to a Lieutenancy or to some respectable station in the quarter-master's or Commissary departments. But the first would be preferred as he is anxious to join in an active military life. Your kind services in his case will be more gratefully remembered by me than if they were given in my own behalf.

We are all on the "qui vive" to hear the action of Congress on the war question; the Democrats fearing that something may be done to cramp the movements of the President and the army, and the Whigs dreading that their hopes of the Succession may be blasted, by the prosecution of the war to ~~an~~ honorable and a glorious termination. We all expect much from you in favor of the country, and I have a strong inkling to see something from you as suitable to the Mexican Whigs, as was your great speech to the enemies of Genl. Jackson.

Do not forget that I am living here obscurely among your sucker constituents but let me hear from you as often as you can.

Respectly yours
R. R. McDowell

FREE
FREE

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass
Washington City
D. C.

A. A. Phillips

Shelbyville Ill Oct. 28. 1847.

Hon S. A. Douglass.

Dear Sir.

The object of the present communication is to ask you to use your influence if you can do so consistently to procure for Tom White Esq. a citizen of our place, and by the way a clever fellow, perfectly competent, and a good business man, the appointment of First Lieut in the Regular Army. Mr White served our campaign. he volunteered as a private, but during most of the year in which he was engaged in the service, was in the Quarter Master & Commissary department. You can recommend him with the most perfect confidence as I am confident should you ever become acquainted with him, you would find no cause to regret having used your influence in his promotion.

I need also take occasion to say that it would be highly gratifying as well to myself as his other numerous friends, could the appointment of Secretary to the contemplated Territory of Oregon, be procured for our mutual friend Judge Evey — of him I is

unnecessary for me to speak — as you are acquainted with him.

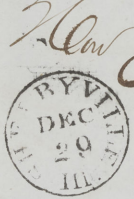
I will only add that these appointments must be extremely gratifying to your friends & the democracy generally hereabouts.

Yours Faithfully

Wm. O. Prentice

FREE

Hon S. A. Douglas
Washington City DC



Jno Burke

Lawrenceville Illinois
Dec 28th 1847.

Hon
S. A. Douglass.

Dear Sir

The post office at this place is about to become vacant by the resignation of Mr Wm I. Crews the present incumbent. at which time Mr Charles H. Nabb of this place by consent of all or nearly so of the inhabitants of our place. will be an applicant for the post office. and I am pleased to say that he is a Gentleman every way qualified to render satisfaction to the department as well the community who feel interested in the discharge of the duties thereof any thing that you might do to facilitate his appointment would be flattering to your old friends and satisfactory to your very numerous friends in this County -

Very Respectfully
your most obedt Servt

E. F. Ryan

Lawrenceville Ill
December 29th 1847

Free

Hon.
S. A. Douglas
Washington City
D. C.

P. 7 Cents