

Mingo Lodge,
Near Davenport, Iowa
December 1, 1855.

Dear Sir—For some years I had thrown politics aside, and contented myself to look on our glorious institutions as safe in the hands of either great political party. What led to this conclusion was the course pursued by Clay & Webster, in 1850, in the great compromise act. They abandoned false principles for the safety of their country and joined the democratic senators in advocating, and carrying out the measures of the constitution and the laws of the Union, and I have no doubt died the firm friends of the democratic party. Since the death of those great men, the whig party has ceased to exist; even its name is forgotten. But still an opposition is left, more bitter and virulent, barbarous and depraved, than ever the whig party professed to be, though made from the same materials. ~~in~~ parts combined with all elements of opposition to our republican form of government, pushed in a course heated by gloomy barbarous ~~their~~ dregs of all parties are easily put in motion by our ~~old~~ enemy, "the crowned heads of Europe," of which England is the head and front. This was foreseen by the immortal Washington, in 1792, in a letter to my father he says "if we can only be united, and keep down sectional prejudices and sectional feelings our government may continue for many years, but I fear the experiment will ultimately prove a failure, owing to the virulence of party." This was in a letter ordering my father to join Gen Wayne in an expedition against the Indians, when Wayne had command at Fort Pitt. now Pittsburgh and ^{my father} he, a President of Virginia. But had been in the army of the revolution from the battle of Lexington to the taking of the British army at York Town, Va, and was known to his General, having received an appointment from him on the field of Battle at Trenton, N.J.

But returning to the subject of my letter our state was most shamefully defeated by an enemy composed of Know Nothings, Abolitionists and Sons of Jefferson combined. Our state elections have been carried as Mr. Webster has since truthfully in his speech on the 17th March 1855, in the U.S. Senate, on the Great Compromise measure, in speaking of Massachusetts he says; "now, Sir, this prejudice, made by the incessant ~~attention~~ ^{attention} on the public mind, by abolition societies, abolition papers, and abolition lecturers has grown very strong, - No drum-head in the longest day's march was ever more incessantly smitten and beaten than ~~the~~ public sentiment in the north has been, every month, and day, and hour, by the din, and roll, and rub-a-dub of abolition writers, and abolition lecturers. That it is which has created the prejudice." We may well say that this is the cause of our defeat in '54 in our election for Governor, assembly, members of Congress, and almost everything else. Our loss of a U.S. Senator I consider the most serious of all. But we have yet Gen. Jones, in the Senate, to watch over our interests. Faithful to his state and to his country. With the exception of my friend, Gen. Dodge, a better and more able Senator could not be selected in Iowa. Our two members of Congress are both Know Nothings, or what they party or rather faction call republicans. They wish to revive the Alien and Sedition Laws of the clique Adams. Have our jails again filled with Irish, Dutch, French, and Spanish patriots as they were in the days of the reign of Terror. I have not forgotten the time that Jefferson cleared the Augean Stable. I was in his family at the time attending school ^{at what is now the University of Virginia,} near Monticello, from 1800, till 1806. I was born in Albemarle Co., Va. in 1785, on the Rivanna river, about 10 miles east of Charlottesville. - My father was intimate with Mr. Jefferson and John Randolph of Remond, to whom he was distantly connected.

But why do I take pride in giving my pedigree? or a history of my younger days - You do not wish to hear a tale of the times of old, of the days of other years. Suffice it to say, I was born a democrat; I have lived a democrat, and shall die a democrat. I consider the Constitution the bulwark of our Union. It is the platform of every true democrat. No party man can deviate far from the path of duty who adheres to its precepts. Be so kind as to ^{send} ~~send~~ me occasionally a speech on any important subject and furnish me with Documents on all the important subjects brought before Congress and when you have leisure a line from you would be very acceptable. I cannot depend on Gen. Jones, as he will have to supply the whole party in our state with information. I trust that Gen. Cap and you will be so kind as to send the democracy of Iowa occasionally something to revive old feelings and keep us united in brotherly affection. I should be very happy to cultivate a correspondence with you, had you only leisure to write occasionally.

Believe me sir,

Your sincere friend,

And most obt. Serv^t

A Logan

Hon. S. A. Douglass

U.S. Senate

Washington City
D. C.

A. Logan
Davenport Iowa
on politics generally
but mainly wants
Does —

Dec 1855

Quincy Woodford County Illinois December the 2^d 1853 350-1

Dear Senator Douglas from Illinois

Yours Sir Please Permit me to ask your attention to a small item of interest for me I was one of five hundred Volunteer Mounted Rifle men that was called out in the State of Tennessee by the United States Government to take possession of New Orleans when it came into the United States Government it was supposed the Spaniards would refuse to give it up Peaceable in order to prepare for the worst General Williamson was ordered to march there with the regular soldiers of the South and a portion the militia of the seceded territory was marched for that point and the Tennessee Regiment of five hundred under Col. Doherty of Mounted Riflemen we were mustered into the United States Service in Tennessee near Nashville and marched there a wilderness of several hundred miles down to the seceded territory and there met an Express from General Williamson informing us that the Spaniards ^{had} given up the City Peaceable and directed us to march about Nashville and recruit our horses and march back to Tennessee and there Disband which we did

I supposed I had a right to Bounty Land under the Bounty Law but my memory had failed me in relation to date of marching in and out of Service I wrote on to General William Hall of Sumner County Tennessee who was alive about 200 years ago he was our second Major in Col. Doherty's Regiment and an intimate acquaintance of mine he sent me a Certificate officially signed of the term of Service the Day we Mustered in and the Day we Mustered out claiming for me four months Service for me and my horse I sent his Letter and Certificate with my Affidavit relying on his Certificate for Date all was received and I satisfied of it by the War Department but when my turn came to receive my Land was sent the answer was as there was no War when

in 1803 and 1804 there can be no County Land Granted
I wrote on and Referred the Matter supposing there was some
mistake but received in return the the same answer I have
set the matter rest until now hoping that Partial Legislature
could be changed by a few words amendment to the Law
or a different Decision of its meaning many have received
County Land Warrants who never was in a Battle and who never
suffered the hardships of such a Campaign these the welcome of
I found myself and Horse most of the time I was marching
We had no baggage waggon ^{we} packed provisions on our Horses
I received no Back rations

Perhaps I am the only one of that Tennessee Regiment
that has applied for County Land for that Campaign
a number of the men were made ^{made} disabled when the course was
rendered Perhaps all the young men served in the late war with
Benton and the Indians of whom after returning home entered
into the Fox ^{some} hunt and have taken no part in military
service I served our State as Delegate from Marshall and ^{in the Legislature} State
Senator in the late State Convention and served 100 years
as representative of Sullivan County Indiana where I lived there
but my main business for a life has been spent between 40 and 50
years in teaching the Gospel according to my ability I am now
frail my hands tremble it is a task an one to write I am in
my seventy second year
I thought you and your Colleague General Shields are the guardians
of our rights in the Senate of the United States ^{hope} you will favour
me with your Decision on the matter of my claim for County Land
Please to write to me on the subject and direct your Letter to
Canebra Woodford County Illinois

May the wisdom that cometh down from above direct all
our National Councils and Decisions is the Prayer your aged
servant and fellow Citizen

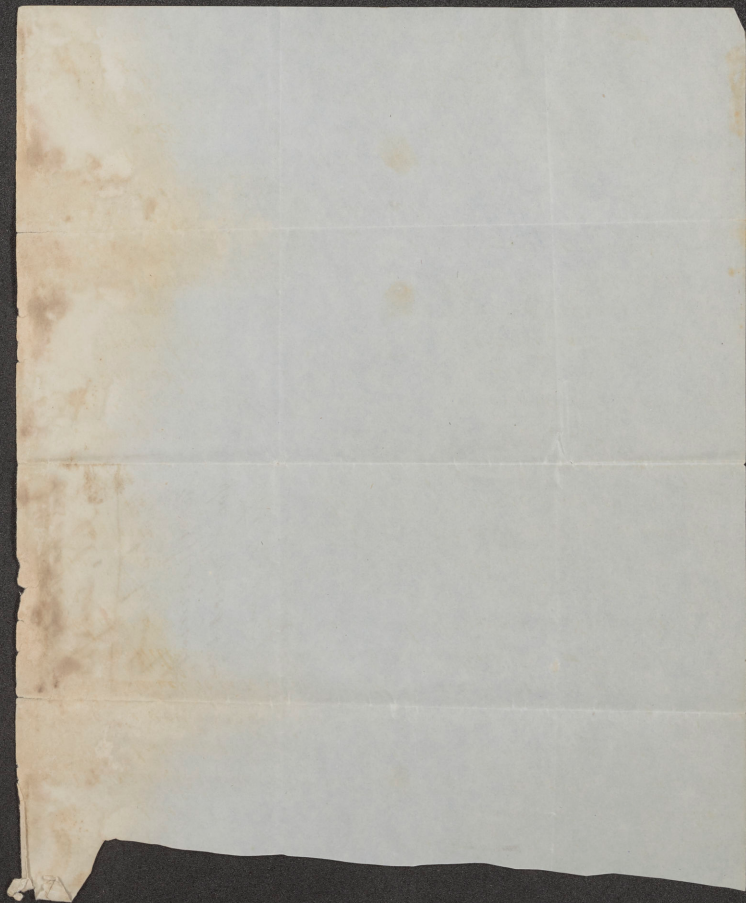
Henry D Palmer

Hon Mr Duplex
United States Senator from Illinois

11 B I suppose my affidavit and Document is yet
to be seen in the Trooper Office
there was no fault found ^{to the} Director of my application
but the Decision was on the fact there was no
war at the time the service was rendered

Henry D Palmer

Enoch Woodford
Co. M, Dec 8/13
Paid a bounty
on said Warrent
for service in
the Army



Notice that
you have been
Elected Honorary
member College
Irving, Tenn

Please Acknowledge

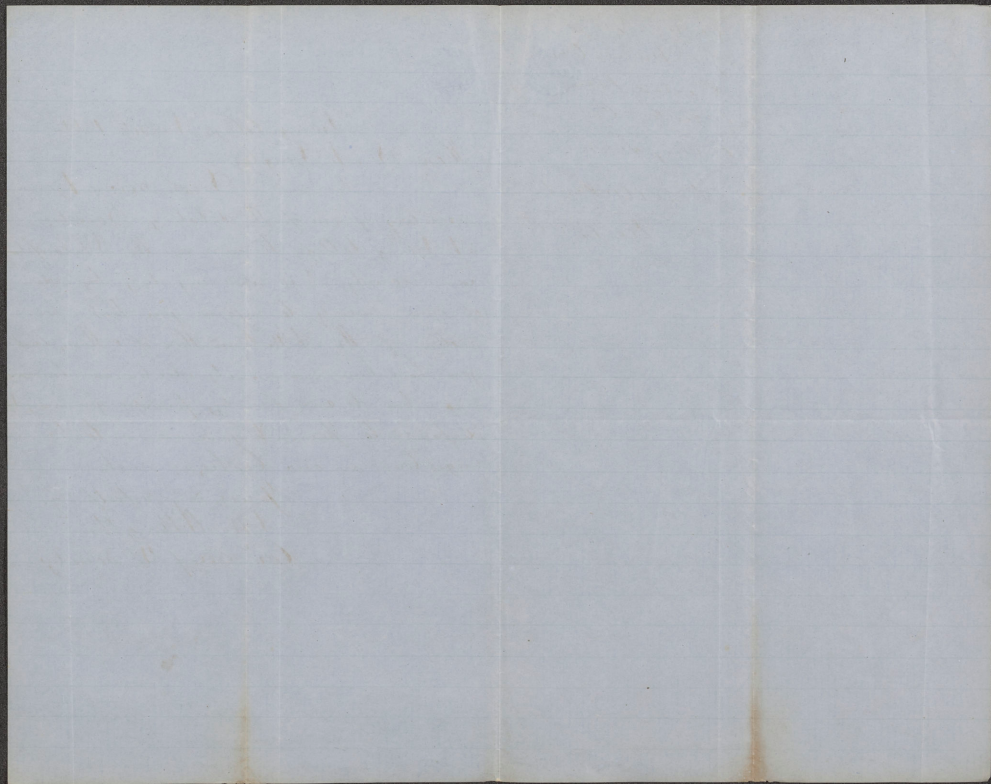
Dec 1853

no/

Irving College, Dec. 28th 1853.
Hon. D. A. Douglass.

Dear Sir: As
secretary of one of the debating Societies
at Irving College, known as the "Philosophi-
cians Society, it is made my duty by order
of said Society to inform you that upon
motion of Mr. A. W. Grant Sec. of a Miss., that
you have been unanimously elected an honorary
member to our Society, provided you may be
disposed to permit your name to be
registered in our books, as such.

Yours very respectfully,
J. W. McWhorter,
Cor. Sec. of P. Society



Washington,
Dec. 5th, 1858.

Dear Sir,

I received your favour of the 4th ult. by Maj. Harris, this morning. We admitted Judge Pennell on his certificate, and will refer his case to the Court on the Judiciary in due time. Nothing further shall be done (if I can prevent it) until you arrive.

Have offered a resolution, this morning, about Kansas - to enquire of the President whether any application had been made for assistance in enforcing the laws, and what orders had been given upon that subject. It lies over until to-morrow; and as we have a caucus, in the morning, some agreement will be made, among ourselves, as to its disposition. I wish you were on hand to

lead us - but don't jeopard your
health by attempting to move at
present. Write to me whatever
you wish to have done, and I
will give it prompt attention.

I send you a letter from
Mr. Dickinson, of this, in reference
to Presidential matters - first,
that you may think over what
he has said, and, second, that
you may know him (hence-
forth) as one of your best friends.
' and not say how much

I regret your illness. It has called
forth universal sympathy and
kind regard - and views that
your welfare is felt at heart
by so many, and the best
of the people.

Will you - or can you - write
to me?

Truly truly,
F. L. Douglass

Hon. S. C. Douglas
New York

Geo. E. Pugh

&

Col. B. Steadman

Ohio

Rec'd & answered

Dec 8th 1855-

✓ + encls ✓

Albany Dec 18 1855

Hon S. A. Douglass

Sir a few weeks since I very unexpectedly found myself turned out of the Post Office, and Mr G. Buckingham appointed in my place, it having been done, as I learned through Mr Butler an Agt of the Chicago Times. A few days after I was in Chicago and had a talk with the Editors of the Times. And they denied any knowledge on the subject, and said it was a mistake of Mr Butler, and they also said they would have the matter rectified - I also saw Mr Cook, who upon being told the facts of the case, also agreed to use his influence to have me reinstated - and when I was last in Chicago about two weeks since they all told me that the matter was all right and that my paper would be sent in a few days - but as yet I have heard nothing more from it, and then as I would apply to you for a request - you to inform me how the matter stood. As to my political and influence with the party, I would respectfully refer to Mr McDole P M, at Sterling in this County

Yours
G. Dennis

It turned out P.M.
by Chas Pullin says
there has been an
Error Committee &
that Sheahan & Cook
go for his re-instatement

Cordover Albany
KC

Dec 1883

Meriden N. H.

Dear Sir.

Will you send me
the printed account of the
Japan expedition you will
thus confer a great favor.
Also if it is not asking too
much I shall be happy to
receive any speeches that you
may happen to have on hand
as I have watched with increasing
interest the course you have
pursued with ^{reference to} Kansas &c. And
as there probably will be occasion
for more speeches this session if you
will from time to time send me such
as may be convenient - I shall
be placed under great obligations
to you, for I find that to know

the true state of affairs there
one needs to hear both sides
and in the Northern papers is
only one. Therefore I have taken
the liberty to write to you
as to one best acquainted
with Kansas affairs and hope
I may receive such documents
from you from time to time
as will keep me and my friends
posted on Kansas affairs.

Yours Truly

Wm. E. Brewster

Hon Stephen A. Douglas

Wm C. Brewster
Meridian N.H.

Wants Docs

Dec 15/55

Washington, Dec 15, 1855-

Sir,

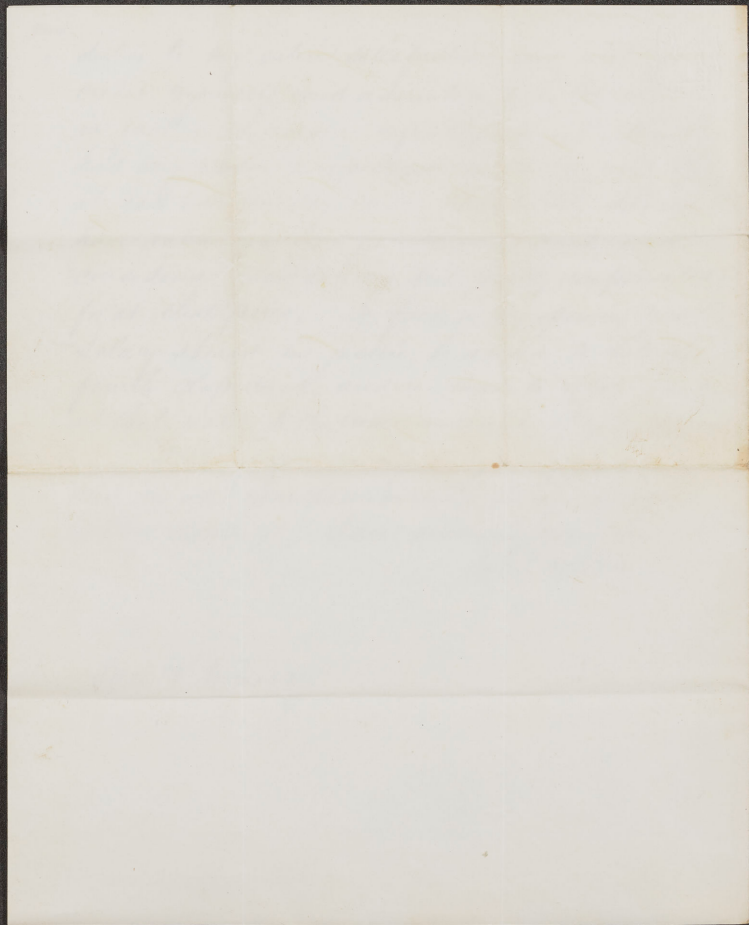
The preparation consequent on a preparation to remove my family from this City next week, has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 12th inst. In answer, and taking up the subject chronologically, I have to state, that the duties of the division having charge of Bounty lands, under the Revolutionary War, and that of 1812, have always been regarded as exceedingly complicated and arduous, and as requiring as much ability, diligence and integrity, as any other in the office. When the Land Office was reorganized in 1836, a salary of \$1500 was attached to that office, second only, to the Principal clerks. Subsequently, and when there was but little doing in your division, and on the introduction of a new head to it, the \$1500 salary was transferred to the pre-emption division. Since you have had charge of that division, I am free to say, what I frequently stated from my own experience & observation while in the office, that the duties were as onerous, complicated, and difficult as any other division of the office, and specially, required the attention of one having the strictest integrity. You discharged

Yours

1 duties to my entire satisfaction, and with equal credit to myself, and advantage to the Government, in fact, in a manner infinitely more able than I had any reason to expect from your age, and if it had been in my power, I certainly should have rated you as a fourth class clerk, and considered your services but poorly compensated for at that price. In fact, in my opinion, your salary should, in justice, be raised to that of a fourth class clerk, and be made to relate back at that rate, to the commencement of your service.

Wishing you success in your application, and in all your transactions in life, for you richly deserve it, I am sincerely, Your friend,
John Wilson

Saml V. Niles Esq



Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, Dec. 20. 1855.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the annual meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, will be held on Wednesday the 2nd of January, 1856, at 12 m. in the Hall of the Smithsonian building.

As it will be impossible to present a report on the accounts, so soon after the close of the year, the meeting will probably be adjourned till the 12th of January.

I am,

Very respectfully,
Your obed^t. servt.

Joseph M. Henry

To the

Mrs. S. A. Douglas.

Sad S. I.

December 20
1855.

Notice of
Meeting at the
Smithsonian

Jan 1856

Ringwood Dec 28th 1855

Gen S. A. Douglass
Washington City DC 3

Sir I am requested by the Citizens of Ringwood to forward to you the Enclosed Minutes of a Meeting relative to the appointment of a Post Master in this place in place of A Ringwald deceased And to desire you to use your influence to have the person therein mentioned appointed. The appointment of Mr. Dancy would undoubtedly give satisfaction to the inhabitants of the place.

Yours immediate attention to the matter will Very much oblige
Yours Graciously & Yours Very humble Servt,
A. H. Nisbarn

Nixon & others
wants a new
~~Post~~master at
Ryeport Ill

Dec 28/55

Wm S. A. Douglass
Washington City
D C

[Dec 21, 1855]

359

Minutes of a Public Meeting called for the purpose of recommending some suitable person for Post Master in Ringwood in place of Abr^d Reynolds deceased.

Meeting called to order, Mr.^s John Rockwood in the chair, B. F. Butler appointed Secretary. The notice calling the meeting, signed by Messrs John Rockwood, A. W. Nixon & J. F. Barney was read by the secretary. The chairman also explained the object of the meeting to be as above; whereupon, on motion the meeting proceeded to ~~to that~~ designate by ballot who should be recommended for the office, Edwin Edwards & Brainard Lester, having been appointed Tellers to receive and count the ballots. On counting the votes Dr Geo Vasey was found to have received forty two votes and to have been the only person voted for.

On motion, meeting adjourned sine die.
Ringwood Dec. 21st 1855

B. F. Butler

Secy

John Rockwood
Chm

Mon La Dampless

Hon^{ble} Stephen A. Douglas Dr. Sir

Dec. 30, 1853

I have had those writings made out by Judge Grant, for that Land I spoke to you about at the time of the celebration at Sterling

Judge Grant that is best, to draw the Petition to the General Land Office, and if it was refused there - to take it to the Court of Claims; and if refused by the Land office, and Court of Claims - then to present it in Congress - but you know what to do in the premises better than Judge Grant or myself.

At the time I settled on that land there was an order from the President (Vanburen) that, Settlers on lands running across navigable Streams should be governed by the lines - not by the Rivers

I wish to refer you to the decision of Mr. Lane, Attorney General, in the Rock Island Bridge Case; He there has decided that the Island never was a military reserve.

I settled on that Quarter Section of Land in 1834, have never given possession to any one,

My Family was the first Family that came in after the Black-hawk war -

Congress has given away two pieces of this Island - one to George Davenport, the other to David

- B. Sears recently, - both of whom individuals have
ever been the Maligning Opposes of the Federal
Government, and of the Democracy in all its forms -
The wonder that Congress gave Sears 35 acres
on the upper end of Rock Island (the most valuable
part, on account of the water power) he was doing
all in his power to oppose the government, and
every independent man connected therewith,
and is still very officious in his denunciations of
the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

I want you to get me that Land - it is a
matter of the slightest importance to me how
you get it, - but get it!! and you shall not be the
loser, or have cause to ever regret any favor
bestowed upon me.

Remain

Yours Truly
Lewis H. Underwood

Sharon Whiteside Co. Mo.

December 30th 1853

no