

Enlargement of the Erie Canal  
 Chief Engineer's Office  
 Rochester Jan'y 23, 1858

Dear Sir  
 Being desirous of obtaining a copy  
 of the Report of the "Explorations for a Rail Road  
 from the Mississippi River to the Pacific". I take the  
 liberty of addressing You. And would most  
 respectfully ask of you to send me a copy  
 to this place - being under the necessity of  
 applying to a Democrat, for a copy - not being  
 represented by a Democrat from this Congres-  
 sional District

I Am Very Respectfully  
 Yours &c &c

John A. Anderson  
 Rochester N.Y.

Wm. L. Douglass  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington

Geo. H. Anderson  
Rochester, N.Y.  
Jan'y 22/88,  
Mauls Co. R.R.  
Surveys. —



Received of  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
the sum of \$100.00  
for rent of  
the premises  
situated at  
No. 1234  
Main St.  
St. Louis, Mo.  
this 1st day of  
January 1888



Simsbury Hartford 6<sup>th</sup> Nov  
 Jan<sup>y</sup> 22. 1858

Hon Sir

altho a stranger I offer no apology  
 for addressing you being a natural Born citizen of  
 the U.S & thus claiming the right to do so,

I was Born a Federalist from the fact that  
 my Father put me more than 6 years in the  
 S<sup>t</sup> Conn. militia Regt (I shew his discharge given by  
 Lie<sup>ut</sup> Washington & the certificate of the Purveyor of  
 Merits given by his Col<sup>l</sup> S<sup>t</sup> B Webb.)

I have pass thro the various phases of Political  
 change, to Whig, Free Soil (but never an Abolitionist,  
 held a slight touch of Wm. B. Douglass but am  
 now a Republican, have held for years of  
 title to do with the Politics of Conn but never  
 as an aspirant for office.

I have for some time watched for some time  
 with much interest the signs of our Political  
 Horizon, I have hoped that Gen<sup>l</sup> Birney  
 altho his opponents would have so rapidly  
 his cause (as I think he might have done) as  
 to have merited & have won the Congratulations  
 of the Honor part of his Countrymen North &  
 South, for I fully admit that the South have  
 Rights, but either from a want of principle or  
 common sense, he has (in my opinion) entirely  
 mistaken ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> cause calculated to produce  
 that result, I may be wrong but such is my



honest opinion, & interests of a future Rank  
among the Hon Names, Adams, Jeff. Monroe &c  
he will make up the Trio of Tyler, Cass  
& Buchanan, & God Grant no other for some  
years may be added to ~~it~~ the list

I can suppose that you need not be  
told that the present is a crisis in our  
National Affairs, & that the North are looking about for a  
Saviour that will save our people to  
I may say save the Country, & I myself  
stand high in our estimation but it is  
evident that he is not available, he cannot  
accomplish what we wish, he can't & will  
do much, now the question is, is there  
a man who possibly can, we think there  
is, such who is it, & so far as my  
acquaintance goes the answer is, A. A.  
Douglas, even those who have heretofore  
been opponents of his course, & been his  
decided opponents now even (altho a little  
unwilling, perhaps) to admit that such is  
possible, as there was Joy in Heaven over  
a repentant mortal since so there is joy  
now over if not <sup>our</sup> repentant Political  
sinner, still there is one who has  
the moral courage to come out boldly  
& oppose the wrong contemplated by which  
I term a Slave Oligarchy,

I long have predicted to my friend S. D. May  
that the question & only question would be Slavery  
& Freedom, that time has undoubtedly come, it is now  
the question every either is made subordinate to  
it, that question much sooner or later (I think must  
be settled) even at the risk of a dissolution of the  
Union of which however I think there is but a  
little danger, no involvement even at the time  
or a Secession comes both sides of the question  
be won, while admitting that the South have  
constitutional rights, & have the North, still as  
Freedom & Slavery are antagonistic one must  
(right or wrong) give way, you will not fail  
understand me as pointing out your course  
but simply to express a hope that you will  
pursue as have have started adopted as I  
presume you are that it is right, & to quote  
a remark of the Hon. Mr. May he would rather be  
right than Post, (altho his anxiety to be Post  
was his great failing) to aspire to the Presidency  
of the U.S. by the spontaneous & honest vote  
of a respectable majority of the Electors is an  
aspiration honorable to any man who  
has talents equal to the place, for raised  
there is at stake in the affairs of men & of  
that truly is a struggle at this time better in  
your favor, you will not wonder  
one or one, entering in anticipation of a possible  
not certain event for office, no Sir a man

already 72 years <sup>young men</sup> old can hardly hope to give  
you his vote & should be desirous to do so  
to ever elude their views about the time & a declaration on the  
part of the house of all parties to act in a course to  
accomplish the great objects. & it is apparent to do it  
there must be a union of the parties, as at present organ-  
ized neither one can accomplish it from the fact  
that neither can reverse the current of the South  
the question now is principles not men, & as new issues  
are now before the promiscuous itself there is no aban-  
donment of old principles but only to let them alone  
& discuss & if possible settle the new ones & upon  
which settlement all our future depends  
it has long been my strong L. I now claim that the  
people as a whole are honest & if properly led will  
do & support right, that factions must wait & decide  
to one who will boldly & honestly take them himself  
will be sure to reverse their support in 1860.

I am Sir

respectfully

yours

Wm. H. Ransom

Smithing  
& Co.  
Cincinnati  
Ohio  
Michael Bloom



Puebatista Jan 22. 1859

Dear Sir,

Having just declared myself a Candidate for the House of Delegates of Virginia, and the question of the next Presidency is already one of such interest with our people, that all of our Candidates for political office have to take ground upon it.

I have felt it my duty and pleasure to advocate your claims for the nomination at the Charleston Convention for that high position and finding it very difficult to obtain your published speeches, and having so long cut of politics of late that I have not preserved political documents, I take the liberty of writing to you and desiring that you will send me such of your published speeches as you can readily lay your hands on.

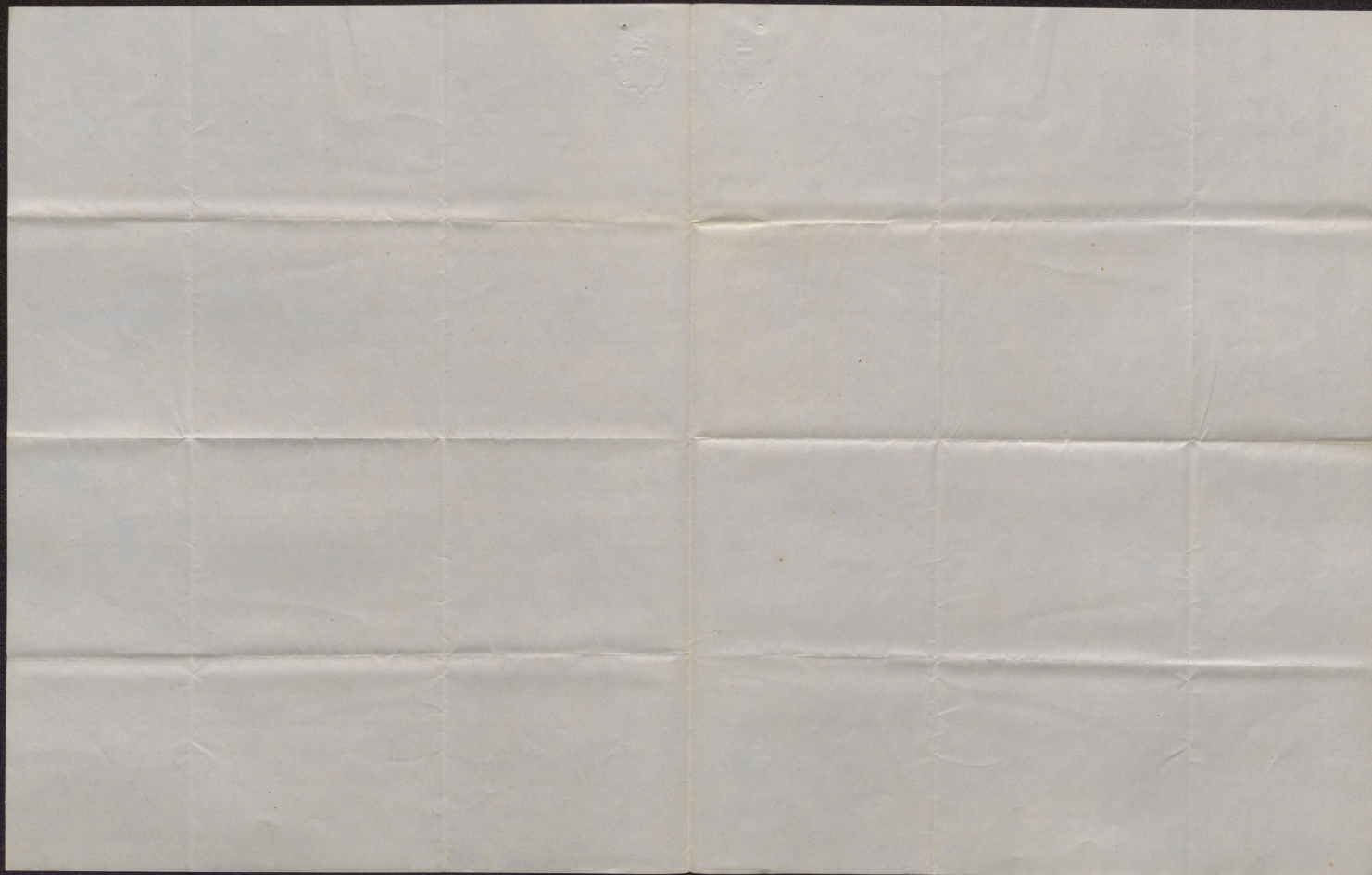
I am the same individual that took the liberty of addressing you an anonymous note last winter over the signature of Poanoke, but I hardly suppose so insignificant a circumstance remains in your memory.

My friend Hon. W. D. Goode will assure you that I am a gentleman and entitled to civility - With high respects  
 Hon: J. S. Douglas }  
 Washington }  
 (Yr. Obt. Srv. Wm. Baskerville Jr  
 Lombardy Grove P. O. Mecklenburg Co. Virg. ?



Com Baskerville  
Lombardy Grove No  
Mechlenburg Co  
Jan. 22. Va

asking speedier &c





Eldred Wayne to Pa  
Jan 28 1858

Dear Sir

Will you have the  
Kindness to send me some  
of your Speeches in the Senate  
from time to time

You have  
some warm friends in  
this place that would  
be pleased to read your  
reasonings

Respectfully  
Yours  
Thos. J. Bayne  
P.M.

Eldred

Hon S A Douglass

Thos W Baird

Elared

Waynes Co. Pa

Jan 22/58

Wants a few  
copies of speech



Verona 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
 Hon, Stephen A. Douglas  
 Sir

Being indebted to you  
 for your speeches, reports, and other documents  
 during the last session of Congress, I would  
 esteem it a great favor, to acknowledge a similar  
 obligation from you, during the present session.

Respectfully  
 John Beattie

John Beattie  
 Verona  
 Dane County  
 Wisconsin

John Beath  
Vrona  
Dane co  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> / 58, Wis  
Spencer

Newburgh Jan 22<sup>d</sup> 1838  
Hon<sup>d</sup> S A Douglass

Dear Sir

Will you do me the kind favor  
of sending me your autograph

and oblige

William Chapman  
Newburgh N.Y



man's  
Autographs

Wm Chapman  
Newburg  
N.Y.

Wittanning 22 Jan'y 1858

Dear Sir

Will you be so kind as to  
send me a few copies of your Speech  
on the Kansas question, for distribution

Yours

John D. Crawford

W

Hon S. A. Douglass

Pro. J. Crawford  
Kittanning  
Pa. Jan'y 22/58,  
Wants a few  
Copies of speech  
for distribution



San Antonio Texas  
Jan 22 1858

2911

Dear friend Douglas

as you have oblige me in  
days gone by for which you have my thanks  
and well wishes and as I no you will interme  
you self in Cause of a friend of yours & mine  
I therefore write I speak of Mr A C Davenport  
a nephew of Coln J. Davenport of Rock  
island whom I think you no as he was  
one of your warmest friends in days gone  
by My A. C. Davenport was Rescued from  
the indian agency by the Taylor administration  
for no cause but being a Stanch Democrat  
he has been prisoned 3 or 4 times since that he  
should have the appointment but in every  
case as yet he has been disappointed  
and men appointed in no wise qualified The  
office Mr Davenport speak the Indian  
Language as well as the English and has  
been in charge in the agency with his  
uncle Davenport of Rock island from  
a boy this I no now friend ~~Douglas~~ Douglas  
now if you will assist him you will confer  
a favor on him & your Country and our  
Country need him a special this part  
of Texas & New Mexico  
I will see you in Springfield Illinois  
in August if you should be there

I do not think it is right for the Government  
to turne old tried officer out and put  
men not qualified in if such ~~men~~ <sup>men</sup>  
Mr. Davenport had been retained in  
office we would not have need of so many  
troops & so large an army but shall a  
man who has served his country from a  
boy to old age and have become colifide  
be forgot when he is so much needed  
I have been wandering in this country for some time  
and I do think of all the impersation on the  
Government & fraud and rascality on the poor  
Indians & the agency is men that no  
kind of fraud is imposed on them I shall  
make my report to the Government  
next fall but Mr. Davenport is needed  
now in this country at this time  
I leave him in a day, out for New  
Mexico on Santa Fe from there to St. Louis  
and from there to Springfield Ill. I am from  
there to Washington City whom I hope to see  
you close by, requesting you will attend to  
the above said & I hope you will  
J W French  
Private Indian agent

Mr Davenport resides San Antonio Texas

I wish you to Lay Mr A C Davenport  
claim before the proper department  
As I do not think the Government should promise  
and not fulfill the same there will be grate  
need of him I think and one so well qualified  
should be none to the Government by so doing  
you will confer a favor on many old  
friends  
J W F

He is a nephew of Col Davenport of Rock  
Island who served the country for many years  
as Indian agent and is well none and is in  
all respect well qualified to serve in  
and department of the same

Mr A C Davenport now Reside at  
San Antonio Texas

J W French of Springfield,  
Illinois  
to Hon S A Douglas



San Antonio, Texas  
Jan'y 22<sup>d</sup> /58.

J. W. Fenchel  
Springfield Ill

wants you to  
obtain an Indian  
Agency for Mr.  
A. C. Waverford

Wm. D. Fenchel



Indiana, Pa  
Jan'y 22/58.  
J. B. Gamble

Wants speech  
"message & doc" &c

2912

{ Indiana Pa  
Fri. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 1858  
Hon S. A. Douglass  
Dear Sir

I have read  
your speech against the President's  
Kansas Policy & desire a copy in a  
suitable form for preservation.

I would like too to have the  
"Message & Documents" and any  
other Documents or Speeches of a  
permanent value that may is-  
sue from Congress from time  
to time. Your course on the  
Kansas question meets with a  
most hearty approval from a vast  
majority of all parties. It has done  
much to conciliate Republicans.  
It is not a little singular to see them  
commend so warmly the man  
they have been so wont to scan-  
dal. The President has lost

the confidence of the Northern  
wing of his party to a great  
extent. His removal of Stanton  
is thought to be the worst fea-  
ture in all his acts. It is my  
opinion that Stanton's act of  
convening the Territorial Leg-  
islature helped the President  
out of a "predicament" & thus  
saved our party. Stanton  
ought to be rewarded. What  
has been done will be overlooked  
but if Kansas had been ad-  
mitted under the Lecompton  
Scheme the Democratic Party  
would have been crushed.

With sentiments of  
highest respects I remain  
Very Respectfully Yours,  
J. B. Gamble M.D.  
Indiana  
Pa.

St. Louis  
26-2-1857  
Whitely, J. B.  
Savage & Co.  
St. Louis, Mo.

Post office  
address

Marshall  
Highland  
County  
Ohio

Marshall Ohio

Jan 22 / 58

Hon<sup>ble</sup> S A Douglas

Sir i am happy to  
Address you at this Remote  
Distance asking your Notice  
in one instance if it please  
Your Honour to condescend  
to notice my letter in answer  
to it please to send me one  
copy of the Kansas Becomton  
Constitution if you have a  
any to spare as i wish to  
inform myself on that instrument  
& its contents

My respects

A Gracill



A. Sprabill  
Marshall  
Highland Co  
O Aug 22/53.  
Waut-copy  
of Secompton  
con —————



J. G. Hall  
Brattleboro, Vt  
Wants Autographs

2917  
Brattleboro Vt

Jan 22<sup>d</sup>

Em. V. A. Douglass  
Sir

I am collecting  
the autographs of distinguished  
persons, and it will afford  
me much pleasure to receive  
yours to place with my collection.  
Very Respectfully,  
J. G. Hall

W. H. P.  
J. L. and M. L.  
J. H. and J. L.

W. H. P.  
J. L. and M. L.  
J. H. and J. L.



Hon E. A. Douglass  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Rising Sun, Ind  
Jan'y 22 1838

I took the liberty of addressing you a few days ago in regard to my Telegraph Key - Since then I have been in Cincinnati & have had it Photographed & enclose one of the Copies for your inspection. I understand Prof Morse is at this time in Washington and have addressed a few lines to him in relation to my Key asking his opinion as to its merits.

The Telegraph Operators in Cincinnati pronounce it a "Success" and admit that is all I claim for it. If this is the case it must prove invaluable to the public.

Yours Obedt Servt.

J. J. Hayden

Rising Sun. Inda

Jan'y 22<sup>d</sup> 1858.

J. J. Hayden

Relative to his  
Telegraphic Key.

Washington City, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1858.

Gen Stephen A. Douglas,  
Senator from Illinois.

Sir; To a Gentleman so

deeply absorbed as you are in struggling for the general welfare of our common Country, a letter of this character may appear as an intrusion on that valuable time & attention so incessantly drawn upon by interests of the most varied and important character. As I have no intention to trouble you with any "impertinence of eulogy"; permit to say that necessity per se, arising principally from unexpected, severe & protracted sickness, - most impressively compels me to inquire if you can employ me in any species of writing for yourself or your friends. For upwards of a year, - until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of last October, - I was engaged as a draughtsman in what is termed the "Bureau of Construction", Treasury Department; under Major A. H. Bouman. The first dash of the sickness which has so severely affected me, was then pressing heavily on me; and Reed, on the said date, during the Major's absence, from his subordinate, Mr. Young, - termed the supervising architect of the Treasury Extension, - the usual formula that "my services were no longer required." When the Major returned, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, I was just able to go out. I ascertained from him that this movement varied from his directions - that, however, owing to the condition of the Treasury, it was unavoidable; and on the



19<sup>th</sup>, in his office, I recd from Major Bousman a letter of discharge mentioning my time of service, and the reduction of work & want of employment for me. As far as my weak condition would permit, I sought for work at the Aqueduct, at the office of Capt. Meigs, - at the Patent Office, - from various Patent Agents, &c. This tedious & fruitless exertment &c., again prostrated me. Out of money, among strangers, & what is still worse, without friends, I suffered, Sir, for two months as I have neither heart nor spirit to detail. The mild fine weather which we have enjoyed for the last few weeks has wonderfully restored me. They say, in the Eastern States of Ind., that in a Summer's night when the "dew is falling fast", the corn grows so rapidly per hour, one can hear it "crackling" all over the fields; and in one week so wholesome a rapid was the change in myself, that I could actually feel the flesh growing on my bones. The sensation was so remarkable that it alarmed me. A kind never failing Providence threw an old friend in my way who provided me with a suitable place to rest my distressed system, & with that food to which I had long been a stranger. Sir I had not seen nor tasted but four cooked potatoes for 2 months - a portion of "turkey" did not pass my lips until 3 weeks ago. But no more of this, or I shall appear to be asking for charity - the poor man's last miserable left plank. It is employment I seek, & at your hands, & through your friendship. I have read a liberal education, - have been a clerk & book-keeper in several counting rooms in Balto, - was book-keeper many years ago in

Phil<sup>a</sup> for a stock-broker, & then became an architect. My letters will furnish satisfactory data to any Gentleman who will take the trouble to examine into the painful position in which I am placed. If you can aid me you will secure the services of a man accustomed to protracted labour, - day & night, & the unwearied, frugalship, & best efforts of an honorable man shall be at your service. This poverty & want of work makes me seem to daily lose caste. If you will condescend to step aside from your "great labours" long enough to even examine the data I ask to lay before you, I shall be deeply grateful. This "office seeking" is horrible work, & well might Mr. Robt J. Probst who, two months or so ago, gave me a warm letter of introduction to the Hon Mr. Soucy, bitterly inveigh against the whole system, & entreat me as soon as possible, to collect funds & pass away to "the West". If you will address me a line through the Post Office stating when & where I may have the honor & pleasure of calling on you, I will avail myself of the opportunity more gladly than I can express.

Yours Sir,

With true regard,  
your obedient servant,  
St. Louis Hayes  
Architect.

Wash - on City  
Jan'y 22/58

P. Louis Hays

Mau's employment



Baltimore, Jan'y. 22<sup>d</sup> 1858.

My dear Doug.

Permit me to express my approbation and extreme gratification at the course you have pursued in the late debates on the Kansas question, and my dear Sir, if you ever should visit the City of Baltimore, 'the Monumental City' just call at No. 20 Cooper alley, and you shall have a reception worthy of so distinguished a lion & worthy a champion of "Sliding Kansas".

Your true friend,

Humble & Obedient Servant.

Benj. H. Hagenbottom

P.S. Drink my health & the success of Kansas, the next time you take a (whatever it may) favorite drink of yours.

B. H. H.



Baltimore  
Md Jan'y 22/58  
Benj<sup>r</sup> H. Hagenbom

✓

R. Stuart Hill  
Pail - Pa.  
Jan'y 22/58.  
- Notifies you  
of yr election  
as a member  
of the "Irving  
Lib - Society."

2918  
Philadelphia Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Dear Sir

At the last meeting of  
the "Irving Literary Society" you were  
unanimously elected, an honorary  
member of that body, hoping soon to  
hear of your acceptance, I am

Your obt. servt.

R. Stuart Hill Secy  
Care Spachan & Stanton & Wards  
Philadelphia

To

Stephen A. Douglass, Esq.

It is the will of

God - that

we should

be faithful -

in the midst of

adversity - as

our "Lord" is

"faithful - and true"



c 18587

Springfield, Jan. 22  
Dear Sir:

To day McClelland  
made the motion in the su-  
preme court for a mandamus  
in regard to the appointment  
law. I am inclined to think  
the opposition will not make  
much fight about it; indeed  
I think they now prefer the  
new law, except that it touch  
es Russell. The better opinion  
is that the court will de-  
cide for the new law. So  
the matter is decided, it makes  
but little difference which  
way. This is now the predom-  
inant feeling on both  
sides

// I suppose you have learn-

ed before then about our last  
Wednesday's meeting. In view  
of the fact that there was such  
a large attendance from other  
counties, it will have a good  
effect. But we need nothing  
to put our party in Illinois in  
better plight in the present  
crisis. They are almost unan-  
imously right. To-day's dis-  
patches inform us that the  
"contingent" has arrived at  
Washington. As the free state  
men have the legislature, what  
will Cal. do about it? He  
can't get to the Senate, and  
will probably desert Bush,  
in the last quarter. He will  
stay where it does not pay,  
you know. //

I hope before many days

that the thing will be settled,  
and that you may have them  
done.

Not having heard from Harris  
for two weeks, we have been led  
to fear that the aspect of things  
was not comfortable, but a let-  
ter to Allen from Marshall to-  
day cheers us up. The feeling  
with our friends is intense,  
and the success of the De-  
scriptivists would be a ter-  
rible blow, felt clean down  
to the most humble of the de-  
mocracy of the state. They  
would have but little stomach  
for the fight this summer  
if it is shown that our  
success is only to be followed  
by abandonment of their  
principles when time ar-

ries for their practical  
application

The state general com-  
mittee have agreed to sell  
the State convention <sup>during</sup> the  
first week in June

Yours friend  
Chas H Sampson  
B

Springfield, Ill.  
Jan'y 22 - 188  
Chas H Sampson  
Political.



2920

If you have the time to spare, please write to our  
Assistant Army of Utah, I will write you again when I  
get on the banks of the Jordan, — Prinded —  
Congress must make some provision for the Volunteers.  
Hearo Quartermaster Volunteer Battalion  
Camp Scott, N. L. Aug 22nd 1858

My Dr Sir

We have no news in Camp since  
the departure of S. M. H. & R. A. & Mr Brown  
who left this on the fifth inst, Not a single  
communication either from the States, or from Salt  
Lake has been received since their departure, I pre-  
sume you have seen Mr. H., who has given you all  
the news prior to that time, The Camp is quiet,  
and inactive, The men are contented, all anxiously  
looking for the spring spring, when the order "Forward  
March," will be given, Every man <sup>will</sup> spring into his  
position, and start on the Road to Jordan,  
and then on its banks test the strength of Brigham  
Young and his followers.

On account of the difficulties in this Country  
I had to abandon the Popago Expedition, I built a  
Fort on the Big Popozer River, being enough of men  
to protect the property, with the rest of them, organized  
a Company, and volunteered in the Army for nine  
months, I have turned over a large part of my  
Transportation to the Army, & as soon as Col. Johnson  
can conveniently send an escort to Fort Humpson  
to protect the transit of the remainder, it will also be  
delivered to him, I like my <sup>new</sup> life very well, and  
I hope in the Spring we will be able to give a good

account of the Mountain Battalion, my Company, is Letter "A", it being the first, the other organized about a month after, our Camp is situated about 20 miles above "Head Quarter", It may be regarded as an out post,

Our regular Army is so small, and ought to be increased, should <sup>Company</sup> conclude to do so, I write him around you of a conversation I once made - had with you, which was, that in the West that certain things would take place, that I wanted a Commission in the Army, I would like to get into the Mountain Series, I would like the position of Major, If you care in justice to yourself take an interest in this matter, if there should be an increase of the Army, you will surely skip me, I am the only one to whom I have made known my wishes, If you should mention this subject to any of my Friends, don't mention that I have written to you about it,

Old Johnson's appointment to take Command of this Army, I think was one of the best that could have been made, It is one of the best orders, and best guarded Camps I have ever seen, little or no dissipation of any kind, and all is quiet, about five hours of each day is spent in drilling the men,

The winter here can not be regarded as a severe one, to day, a gloriously warm like Spring days, I think the winter might be regarded so, we now have storms, and some cold days, but no long continued hard weather, In the evening - the South Pass, and at other elevation points

it has been otherwise,

I am very anxious to know what is going on in the States, I left in Feb, and we have had but one mail, that left Independence on the first of Octob, I'm unable to say on any matter of sending me such documents as you may have, that you think would be interesting,

I expect that I am unable to make this letter more interesting to you, the truth is, we have no news, our position is an isolated one from all the outside world, and the Indians are off hunting Buffaloes, and I have no one to write about, Don't you think it is unkind in your old friend Brigham to keep me out here this winter, I think so, and as the Prophet says, "We intend to argue that point" with him in the Spring, I have my reasons to believe, from my own observing, and from the best information which I can gather, that we could have enjoyed ourselves in various ways, had we been permitted to have gone quite along,

I expect you are better posted in Salt Lake matters than we are here, as we are informed that Communication is kept open with California, we have not <sup>had</sup> a single intelligent, or reliable account from there since Capt Van Hook left, and Brigham had so completely comforted him by feeding him on Peaches, & Apples, and showing him through his Harass, and representing his strength as being so great, that I don't think the Captain did himself justice in his reports - My kind regards to Mrs D. & the Boys, Truly yours D. W. W. Morgan



W. M. B. Magraw  
Fort Leota  
Mich. Ind.

July 22/88

General news

no





Danvers Jan<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1853

Please send  
me a copy of your Address in the  
Lanette, and you will oblige your

Friend and  
Farpaster

B. F. Warden

Danvers

Mass



B. F. Marden  
Danvers  
Mass - Jan'y 22/58.  
Wants to address  
in the Senate.

Salem, Ill.  
Jan'y 22<sup>d</sup> / 58  
Jno. W. Merrill

Went to the office  
of Visits to  
West Point the  
coming season.  
R -

2922

Salem Marion Co Ky  
Mr. Jan'y 22 / 58  
Hon. S. A. Douglas  
Dear Sir

May I be permitted to ask  
your attention to my application  
for appointment as Visitor to  
West Point the coming season.

You will perhaps recollect  
that my former application came  
too late; and that you kindly  
suggested that you would be glad  
to assist me at some future  
time. I have never sought any  
post heretofore; but have ever  
been proud to do my duty without  
hope of reward.

If consistent with your views  
of "man and things" I shall be  
glad to get your assistance.

I need not tell you that  
I think is more proud than ever  
of her "Favorite Son". A little



editorial which I published in  
the second No. of our new series  
entitled "The position of the favorite  
son of Illinois" I notice with  
pleasure has been copied with  
words of comment largely, in a  
number of my exchanges.

I hope you get the Salem  
Advocate

With respect and esteem

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

John W. Merritt

H. C. Nivins  
Brighton  
Mass -  
wants Autograph

2923  
Brighton Mass  
Jan 22<sup>d</sup> 1858

Dear Sir,

It would give me great  
pleasure to receive the Autograph, of the  
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas Senator  
from Illinois if the distinguished  
gentleman will have the kindness to  
favor me, in the above named request  
I will be exceedingly obliged to  
you him by

Very Respectfully Yours  
most Obed<sup>t</sup> Servant  
H. C. Nivins

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas.

Washington D. C.

March 2. H

Friday

April

April 11th