Bonham, Texas Dec. 16th 1849

The Honourable Stephen A. Douglas &
Edward Baker

Gentlemen as old and tried friends I
call on you in behalf of the regiment of volunteers
from this State who it appears must look to
a special act of congress to compensate
them for their services. Last spring a call
was made by one Col. Finley of the Ist 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 using the utmost dispatch, we immedi-
ately equipped ourselves, & to the neglect and pre-
judice of every other interest immediately took
at the line of march to Monterrey under
Col. Hays & Lieut. Col. Harper. We halted
traveled to within 40 miles of the Rio Grande
when we met an ex parte from Gen. Taylor
ordering us back to be disbanded. Lie-
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 Gen. 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 and if I fail in getting it these are many others of my acquaintance who though they to be lost will not fail to try seriously. Our place of residence is four hundred and fifty to five hundred miles from San Antonio where we now intend to reside. And form the time we left home until its arrival at our new home after three months. As you are well aware New York has not been so bad and as had undergone all the expenses and losses of business while in San Antonio. And as we are in our past condition still the same. With every condition of the contract or agreement made of us we will never have justice as long as we are hard for the six months but a half. America is better than no land and as strictly so as Texas as in any place under the sun. I felt well informed that your lordship's, that the King's good hand for an old friend, that the King's Majesty, you have been your problem fellow-citizens to which you the tie a lively interest in this matter. Humanity calls for justice and care. I do hope you that the disappointment has occasioned the sacrifice of considerable property belonging to the poor volunteer. I can hardly say more about it. With Texas I am well pleased to hear a beautiful country and delightful climate and it only requires labor to produce an abundance of produce such as is adapted to this climate. We cannot live as comfortably on vanity but I believe the expectation that enjoy as much such as we have, as good as the luxuries of Washington City.

The opinion that our community is made of a bad material is indeed erroneous as I have had opportunity of judging of the returns the work or public as had a most voluntary influence the correcting them for there is nothing more than I have. I know. After tendering you my sincere respect and esteem I wish you good night.

Samuel T. Blackwood
Yours truly,

Washington City,

December 24th.
New Orleans Dec 16, 1847

My dear Mr. Douglas,

I take great pleasure in recom- 
mending to you Mr. Henry C. Wacheman, he is at present 
of obtaining the appointment of 1st. Quarter Master 
in the Army. Mr. Wacheman is now employed 
as Chief Clerk in the Q. M. Office at this place. 
Last year he accompanied Gen. Wool's column 
on the long march, and performed arduous and 
laborsious duties with satisfaction to the officer 
belonging to the Dept. he was at that time clerk 
to Major Cha. Thomas, chief Quarter Master. 
I will much pleasure vouch for his moral 
character and his correct gentlemanly deport- 
ment. His appointment would give much satisfaction to his friends in the Army.

I am Sir,

Very Res.

Your humble serv't,

Capt. W. Davis
Capt. 1st. Q. M. 
3rd. U. S. Army
(Confidential)

Alton, 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 to 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 you 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 feeling affairs would be benefitted by the success of your application, yet I would rather myself, family should beg their bread, than to have you do anything 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, I desire you should act accordingly.
But Suttorps & Hill will both be in Washington when this reaches you, by which time my decision as to my course throughout the campaign will be known to all. My long absence has injured me in every way; I have lost my professional standing, and my poverty makes it necessary that I should find employment at once, in order to support them. I should like to see you, and to present the application for employment, the recommendation as regards my character as a testimony of friendship from a true friend who respects you. I am not with you to present it under any circumstances unless you think there is a reasonable chance of success. But in all these matters it is governed by your own good judgment. Most truly, W. S. Seward.

[Signature]

Upon me a great personal liganding, if you will let me know your decision at earliest possible day as possible; as my making other arrangements to do something for a living will depend upon your reply. Present my best respects to your esteemed Lady. Believe me to remain very truly and sincerely your friend.

W. S. Seward

[Signature]

Washington D.C.
Yale, Dec. 16th, 1847.

To Hon. Judge Douglas,

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, Geo. Reynolds.

I have been recommended by the Hon. Thos. Benton, Judge Bourke of Mo., & Hon. Post Smith of Ill., for the appointment of Surgeon or Assistant in the Army. This day I have written to Judge Breece of your Hon. S. to solicit, if possible, your influence in my behalf. I am a Missourian, but educated, a graduate of Mt. Hermon College, in Literature & the State University of Mo., in Medicine. You will no doubt recognize in me a Brother of your Friend (Dr. D. Enoey, formerly of Exeter, near Noyes, 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 M. Allister. Should it be consistent with your feelings to interest yourself in my behalf, you will confer a great favor on one who is in need of it & one whom I believe is worthy. I should have some claim upon the Department. If possible procure me an answer either "yea" or "nay" at the earliest possible day. If 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 &

Hon. Judge Douglass
Washington

Most Oft Sert
Mr. Thos. S. Dorey
Galena

Dr. J. Harvey
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 lend me. The newspapers furnish me with many such, it is true—but, then they are not in a convenient or permanent form. I do not desire to trouble you for the common documents—such as the memos from my own district would naturally lend me. There are rarer ones which are very valuable and which can not be procured in large numbers, and sometimes only by Senates. You will understand that 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" line. G. T. M. Davis has taken leave of the Atlas Telegraph — giving us 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, etc. The Junior Whip 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 arrowed 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 held. Clay's speech and resolutions have injured him greatly with the Whig mass, than about the best.

I should be very glad to see a letter 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 not sitting? I wish you would make his acquaintance — and tell him that I mentioned him to you. He is an efficient and brave old man as ever lived — and a good friend to Illinois.

Yours Ever

W. T. Billings

[Signature]

Hon. J. B. Ogden
W. S. Lucate
Jacksonville Dec. 12 1847

Sir,

I dislike much to trouble you, but I feel it my duty to 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, Harrison 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. Lawless 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, and with bustle to undermine the main gate at Guerita de Bola. During this recommendation, I will say in addition that he has the advantage of a classical education, was very popular as a non-commissioned officer in Capt. Lawless company and I am informed he is a favorite with the present company. After he had re-enlisted for service and left for the seat of war, Col. St. Clair and others of his friends, as I am informed by them, sent an recommendation for his appointment as a Lieutenant, whether said recommendation is now in possession of the Department or in the hands of Col. McChesney, I am not informed, and therefore ask you to inquire through the sources for it. Should you feel disposed to interest yourself in this matter, you will confer an obligation on one who the humblest kindness has never failed as a friend in fair and 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. McChesney has been connected to on the same subject, and if you and he will give your influence, I feel confident the applica-
Hon. J. Q. Douglas
U. S. Senate
Washington
D. C.

by his Excellency

[Seal]
Springfield, Illinois
19th Dec. 1847.

Dear Sir,

I have so completely withdrawn my name from political matters for the past year that I am not now able to say may name is any, that I have withdrawn as one of the Brigade to be appointed in Oregon, but I would be glad to have good men appointed at my rate. In relation to that office or any other I would confirm to your favorable consideration above. I have written to Mr. Burt of Calera. I have become somewhat argumentative with him recently and am much pleased with him. He is deserving of going to Oregon and if you can aid his ambition I shall take it as favoring

Very yours truly,

[Signature]

[Addressed to: Mr. N. B. Douglas]

My dear Sir,

I would be much gratified if I could, before the close of this Administration, release the appointment of Indian agent—Newark, frequent vacancies in the several agencies, and occasionally new ones created, I wrote Burns a similar letter, which was the first, and this is the last I have, on that subject. Should the intrepid, meet your views, I will be thankful for your assistance, I would not go to Bogota.

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 occasional.

Respectfully yours,
O. Thompson

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Washington City

[Signature]
Springfield, Dec 12, 47

Hon. S. A. Douglas, Sr.

I am requested by Thomas Graham, Esq. of Bloomington in this State, to request you to influence in procuring his appointment of 1st Lt. in U.S. Infantry. From Mr. Graham's reputation I think him well qualified for the appoint. A good democrat, I think his appoint would be generally satisfactory.

Nothing new. I forward you a letter yesterday, closing this gap, P.S. No. 136.7 which I presume are on this time received.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,

W. S. Corley.
Ottawa Dec 25, 1877

Dear Sir,

I understand that Mr. George Fisher is an applicant for a commission in the United States Army, and as I am well acquainted with him and know him to be a man well qualified to fill any post, the President may give the Major-General a good word with the volunteers from this county with the universal acknowledgement of all the company of the best and best officers with the entire expectation of Capt. Brown in said company, whom it would be to your interest to put in. As far as this is in my humble opinion is so worthy a man as well as well as 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 this country who could get an appointment that would give the same satisfaction.

Yours with great respect

John A. Douglas

J.B. Defauw
New Orleans, Dec. 27, 1837

Sir: I am, &c.,

I know that I am particularly indebted to you for the honorable station I hold in the army of the United States, and feel anxious if not to say ambitious to perform the duties of the station in such a manner as will redound not only to my credit, but also to the credit of such of my friends as have spoken themselves for me; and in this view must again bow to your kind wishes, and ask the favor of you to urge the Departmental but 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 the guards in the service of the Dept. of whom repeated to, with a list of their quarters, all of whom have consented I think a disposition to keep me in the back ground. This is the most important post in the State, and in the purchase of arms provisions and procuring transportations I think I could make myself eminently useful to the Government, and not less so to the Dept. We find himself but as I presume he will be unwilling to believe any thing else than that he has made the very best selection of officers for this Post, he will
hardly be willing to answer those specifick
questions to me, to which I sent. I should
be glad to be sent to Salute Quarters in
the city of Boston. I hope this will now be
known to you: I join you for troubling you,
but I am a necessitous man. Should the war be brought to a
close, before I shall have an opportunity
to contribute a thing towards so decent a
matter, it must be simply that, going to
your friend,

Rob. Allin
Mr. J. A. Douglass
Washington City, D.C.
Rock Island, Dec. 27th, 1847.

Sir:

Lucy Douglass

Dear Sir,

I wish to bear my testimony to the value of the services rendered this part of the State by our fellow Citizens. David B. Sears in constructing the dams in Beaver town at the head of Rock Island. He now applies to the United States for a preemption of 160 acres at the head of this island. The improvement he has made to the navigation of the Missouri at this town shows will entitle him to a reward. I am now near the head of the main river and will append from efforts in this behalf.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

N. B. Burgard
The Hon. S. H. Douglass
U. S. Senate
Washington City
D. C.

7/1/1863

Free 10
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 your departure for the capital, but on enquiring for you in Nov last, learned you had gone East. I congratulate you on your new position, and welcome you into the fraternity of married life, as I have not seen you since that important event occurred.

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 as 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.

Yours truly,

J. H. Carolina.

[Signature]

[Address]
[Handwritten text from the page, legibility varies due to age and condition of the document.]

[Signature or initials at the bottom of the page, not clearly visible due to condition.]
Lewistown Dec 27, 1847

Hon S.A. Douglas,

Dear Sir, I have for some time thought of writing to you in reference to the wish of my brother-in-law, 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 soon. When your acknowledged influence may be exerted successfully in his favor, and accordingly I venture to call to your recollection the recommendation in Mr. Reynolds' favor, which you have had from Shields, Baker, and Harris his commanding officers in the war.

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

My voluntry in the service of his
Country Mr Reynolds came here out of a position to be reen in life, and this taste for military life has become so strong that he is still waiting with anxiety an opportunity to assist in the prosecution of his (in his eye) most righteous war. Having served as a private or non-commissioned officer for one year, with merit and honor to himself, I think his merits are as great as many who have received great favors from Government. There he is. You will remember that he only calls an appointment to a lieutenant or to some respectable station in the Quartermaster's or Commissary's Department but the fact would be preferred as he is anxious to join in an active military life. Your Kind Services in this case will be more gratefully remembered by one than if they were given in my own behalf.

He is one of the "you saw" to hear the action of Congress on the war question; the Democrats fearing that something may be done to crush the movements of the President and the army, once the Whigs deeming that their hopes of the Executive may be blasted, by the prosecution of the war to a glorious termination. We all expect much from you in favor of the country, and I have a strong willing to do something for you as a brother to the Mexican Whig, as was your great speech to the Senate of Texas.

Do not forget that I am living here dismally among your sudden existences but let me know from you as often as you can.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Washington, D.C.
To my dear son,

The object of the present communication is to ask you to use your influence, if you can do so, to create a spirit of favor for Mr. HeS. HeS. as a citizen of our State, and by the way a clever, zealous, popular, and competent man. His appointment as First Post in the Regular Army, Mr. HeS. serves in our Campaign. He has served as a private, but during most of the year in which he was engaged in the Service, he was in the Quarter Master of Company A, Department. You can recommend him with the utmost confidence, as he has been a devoted friend and associate with him, you know and find no cause to regret having used your influence in his promotion.

I would also take occasion to say that it would be highly gratifying to myself, as his other munificent friends, once the appointment of Secretary to the Contingent Territory of Oregon, be procured for our mutual friend. Ever of his, it is
To J. A. Douglas
Washington Dec 29

[Signature]
Laconville Illinois
Decr 28th 1847

My Lord.

S. A. Douglas.

My Lord,

The post office at this place is about to become vacant by the resignation of Mr. Wm. B. Bews the present incumbent which time Mr. Charles W. 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 very well qualified to render satisfaction to the Department as well as 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 you old friend and satisfactory to your many numerous friends in this County.

Yours Respectfully your most humble

E. J. Rylan
Laurencille [illegible]
December 29, 1847

Free

Con. S. A. Vanstone
Washington City
D.C.

[Red seal stamp]