

Collection #
SC 2715

**FRANCIS POLLARD
LETTER, 1862**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 6 February 1862

PROVENANCE: Charles Apfelbaum Rare Manuscripts, 551 Ridge Road,
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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Francis Pollard was most likely a Union soldier from New Jersey. Pollard enlisted on 15 September 1861. On 2 October 1861, he mustered into Co. K, New Jersey 7th Infantry, and on 30 January 1863, he mustered out of that company. Pollard returned to Co. K on 20 March 1863 and mustered out on 7 October 1864. The dates of his birth and death are unknown.

In a letter to his brother and sister, Pollard writes of the expulsion of U.S. Senator Jesse D. Bright of Indiana. Bright was born in Chenango County, New York, on 18 December 1812. He moved with his parents to Madison, Indiana, in 1820. Bright studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1831. From 1834–39, Bright was a judge of the probate court in Jefferson County, Indiana. He became a United States marshal for Indiana in 1840. Running as a Democrat, Bright was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1845; he was reelected in 1850 and 1856.

While serving in the Senate, Bright composed a letter of introduction for an arms merchant to Jefferson Davis. In the letter, he acknowledged Davis as the president of the Confederate States. Because of this alleged disloyalty to the Union, he was expelled from the Senate on 5 February 1862. Later, Bright unsuccessfully ran to fill his vacant position in the Senate, and after his loss, he moved to Kentucky in 1863. Bright was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1867 to 1871. In 1874, Bright moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he died on 20 May 1875.

Sources:

American Civil War Research and Genealogy Database. <http://www.civilwardata.com/>. Accessed 6 August 2003.

Ancestry Plus. <http://www.ancestry.com/>. Accessed 24 July 2003.

Political Graveyard. <http://www.politicalgraveyard.com/>. Accessed 24 July 2003.

United States Congress. <http://www.congress.gov/>. Accessed 24 July 2003.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In a letter dated 6 February 1862, Pollard writes to his brother and sister from Washington, D.C. He writes that he obtained a pass to leave his position with the military for a few hours. Pollard traveled to Georgetown where he saw some batteries on the Virginia shore, including rebel forces. Later that evening, Pollard went to the U.S. Senate to hear the trial of Senator Bright. By a vote of thirty-two to fourteen, Bright was expelled from the Senate because of a letter he had written to Jefferson Davis. Pollard writes that Bright's letter had recommended a man to Davis because of his improvement on firearms.

Pollard continues his letter, asking for money to repair his boots. His letter also mentions wounded soldiers who cannot get the medicines that they require. An envelope accompanies Pollard's letter.

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Letter and envelope, 6 February 1862

CONTAINER

Folder 1