ERASTUS POLLITT LETTERS
1864-1865

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Paul Brockman
October 2007
David Pfeiffer
January 2008
Ashley Lichtenbarger
June 2009
Paul Brockman
October 2012

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</th>
<th>4 letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLLECTION DATES:</td>
<td>28 February 1864; 16 June 1864; 16 June 1865; 3 July 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROVENANCE:</td>
<td>Nate D. Sanders, Los Angeles, CA, September 2007; November 2007; 22 May 2009; 2012.0298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTRICTIONS:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPYRIGHT:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:</td>
<td>Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELATED HOLDINGS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTES:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Erastus Pollitt was born in Ohio then moved to Shelbyville, IN around 1846 and enlisted in the Union Army on 10 October 1863 and served as a private in the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery. In 1880 he was residing in Shannondale, Montgomery County, Indiana.

The 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery unit was organized at Indianapolis, Ind., July 24, 1861, as 21st Indiana Infantry. Its designation changed to 1st Heavy Artillery February, 1863.

Sources:

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters in this collection were written by E. (Erastus) Pollitt with the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery. The letter from 28 February 1864 is from Pollitt stationed at Fort Williams in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to his father. The letter mainly deals with personal issues but does mention the problem of a drunken soldier. In his letter of 16 June 1864 he writes to his sister from Baton Rouge, Louisiana saying that his health is not good and he is not happy that she is not writing to him more often.

The 16 June 1865 letter was written to his father from Mobile, Alabama. He talks about the possibility of moving to do garrison duty somewhere else and about what he has been doing. He discusses the amount of stagnate water around there and his fears of poor health because of it. He also mentions that he would have liked to be able to make it home in time for harvest but says it is impossible.

In the 3 July 1865 letter, he writes to his sister, Laura, from Fort Pickens, Florida. Pollitt and his regiment were assigned to guarding Union soldiers who had committed crimes such as robbery and murder. He writes of soldiers deserting and of the dangers of sharks in the waters around the fort.
CONTENTS

CONTENTS
Erastus Pollitt Letters, 28 February 1864; 16 June 1864; 16 June 1865; 3 July 1865
CONTAINER
Folder 1
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2840).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.