

Collection #  
SC 2521

**PETER MIESEL  
THE MAN WHO WOULD BE SENATOR:  
JESSE BRIGHT AND SECTIONAL POLITICS, 1845–1862: 1992**

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

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION DATE: 1992

PROVENANCE: Peter Miesel, Indianapolis, IN, 3 September 1992

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Retained by donor

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 0134, Jesse Bright; F 0424, Jesse Bright; See card catalog for printed works about Jesse Bright

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1992.0892

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

This collection is a paper written in 1992 by Peter Miesel about Jesse D. Bright.

Jesse D. Bright (1812-1875) was born in Chenango County, New York. He moved with his family first to Kentucky in 1819, and then to Madison, Indiana, in 1820. Educated in public schools, he studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1831. He soon became a probate judge (1834-1839), then a U. S. Marshal (1840-1841), and then a state representative (1841-1842). Rising quickly in Democratic ranks, he was elected Lieutenant Governor (1843-1845) during the first term of Governor James Whitcomb.

In 1845 Bright was elected to the U. S. Senate, and he served there until 1862. He backed all the provisions of the Compromise of 1850. He espoused popular sovereignty in the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, but in the late 1850s aligned himself with President Buchanan against Stephen A. Douglas. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was considered a Peace Democrat. In 1862 he was expelled from the Senate because he had written a letter of introduction to Jefferson Davis for an arms maker. He moved to Kentucky, and spent the rest of his life there and in Maryland.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains one item, a photocopy of a 29-page term paper written by Peter Miesel in 1992 in a course directed by Dr. Richard Curry. It is entitled, "The Man Who Would Be Senator-- Jesse Bright and Sectional Politics, 1845-1862." The bibliography indicates that it was written mainly from secondary sources.

## **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 2521).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.