

Collection #  
SC 2840

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

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 4 letters

COLLECTION  
DATES: 28 February 1864; 16 June 1864; 16 June 1865; 3 July 1865

PROVENANCE: Nate D. Sanders, Los Angeles, CA, September 2007;  
November 2007; 22 May 2009; 2012.0298

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION  
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection  
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2007.0272; 2007.0345; 2009.0126; 2012.0298

NOTES:

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

American Civil War Research Database <http://www.civilwardata.com/active/index.html>; accessed 16 October 2007.

Terrell, W.H.H., *Report of the Adjutant General, Indiana*.

Ancestry Library.com <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>; accessed 16 October 2007.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters in this collection were written by E. (Erastus) Pollitt with the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.