

Collection #  
SC 2840

## ERASTUS POLLITT LETTERS 1864-1865

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 3 items

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

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

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0272; 2007.0345; 2009.0126

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.

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**

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Erastus Pollitt Letters, 28 February 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.