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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Jacob Frick to Eli Slifer

**Date:** February - December 1861

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Pottsville, Feb. 18, 1861.

Dear Col:

Charles Albright  
Esq. (a lawyer of March Run)  
is an applicant for appointment  
of Mural Officer for the Port  
of Philadelphia, and if you can  
I wish you would send me a letter  
of recommendation for him. He has  
given me a letter for an ap-  
pointment and is getting me  
one from Gov. Reeder, his per-  
sonal friend and under whom  
he served as Private Secretary  
in Kansas. — He is a fine young  
man and labored ardently in  
the stump during the last Can-  
paign. Please send this week

Truly yours

H. Frick.

Col Eli Sifer  
Harrisburg

Pottsville, Feb. 18, 1861.

Dear Col:

Charles Albright Esq. (a lawyer of Mauch Clunk) is an applicant for appointment of Naval Officer for the Port of Philada. and if you can I wish you would send me a letter of recommendation for him. He has given me a letter for an appointment and is getting me one from Gov. Reeder, his personal friend and under whom he served as private secretary in Kansas. He is a fine young man and labored arduously in the Stump during the last campaign. Please send this week.

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick

Col Eli Slifer  
Harrisburg.

Patterson, April 11, 1861.

Dear Cal:

Mr. Campbell has arrived home again from Washington, and he thinks that it will be very important for you to be there on Monday and Tuesday of next week when the Philadelphia appointments will be taken up. He tells me the applicants from that city for all offices are striving to make all kinds of combinations and may succeed in heading me off entirely unless you are there. His professional engagements he says most likely will prevent him reaching Washington at all next week.

In haste yours, &c

E. S. Fisher, Esq. }

J. G. Fisher,

Pottsville, April 11, 1861.

Dear Col:-

Mr. Campbell has arrived home again from Washington, and he thinks that it will be very important for you to be there on Monday and Tuesday of next week when the Philada appointments will be taken up. He tells me the applicants from that city for all officers are striving to make all kinds of combinations and may succeed in heading me off entirely unless you are there. His professional engagements he says most likely will prevent him reaching Washington at all next week.

In haste yours, &c  
J. G. Frick

E. Slifer, Esq.



Pottsville, April 27, 1861.

Dear Gal:

The authorities of the rebellious city of Baltimore have prevented the shipment of produce from that city which was destined for northern cities. I would suggest that the Govern-  
ment prohibit immediately the transportation of coal and other commodities from this State to Baltimore. If this was done we would hear very soon great mur-  
muring in their midst. Coal is already \$16 per ton there. These and other precautionary measures would go far to bring these people to their senses. — The coal re-  
quirement of Penna. — Schuylkill Carbon, North & Luzerne, from which this coal is shipped would not suffer so much as the falling off of ship-  
ments from the coast, being pretty

equally divided would not be sensibly felt.

If another requisition is made upon Prussia for troops I would like to be appointed a Brigade Inspector. I feel myself fully equal to the position.

In haste  
Yours  
Jacob B. Frick.

Col. G. S. S. S.  
Hannover

Pottsville, April 27, 1861.

Dear Col:-

The authorities of the rebellious city of Baltimore have prevented the shipment of produce from that city which was destined for northern cities. I would suggest that the Governor prohibit immediately the transportation of coal and other commodities from this state to Baltimore. If this was done we would hear very soon great murmurings in their midst. Coal is already \$16 per ton there. These and other precautionary measures would go far to bring these people to their senses. \_ The coal region of Penn'a \_ (Schuylkill, Carbon, Northd and Luzerne) from which this coal is shipped would not suffer so much as the falling off of shipments from the counties being pretty

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equally divided would not be sensibly felt.

If another requisition is made upon Penn'a for troops I would like to be appointed a Brigade Inspector. I feel myself fully equal to the position.

In haste Yours,  
Jacob G. Frick

Col. Eli Slifer  
Harrisburg Pa



Danville, Pa. May 14, 1861.

Dear Col:

I see by today's papers that the Governor will have the appointing of all the commissioned officers, including the field officers for the different Regiments in the new requisition in Pennsylvania.

In view of this fact if I can be of any use in the Capacity of 'Lieut. Colonel' in the service of the country in the present emergency I am willing to serve and accept of an appointment for that position. I feel myself fully equal in point of military ability to the position of Colonel (being able to manoeuvre and drill a regiment as well as almost anybody in the State) but as it is a most responsible position I do not care about assuming it. If I received the appointment of Lieut. Col. and the Colonel of the Regiment to which I might be attached did not understand Battalion Drill I could ~~read~~ ~~learn~~ learn him.

I flatter myself that I am a thousand times better fitted for the position of Colonel than some, if not nearly all of those now occupying that position in the Pennsylvania Regiments. — I have been to North Union visit and shall go home tomorrow.

Truly yours  
Jacob Fries.

Danville, Pa. May 14, 1861.

Dear Col:-

I see by today's papers that the Governor will have the appiniting of all the commissioned officers, including the field officers for the different Regiments in the next requisition in Pennsylvania.\_

In view of this fact if I can be of any use in the capacity of 'Lieut. Colonel,' in the service of the country in the present emergency I am willing to serve and accept of an appointment for that position. I feel myself fully equal in point of military ability to the position of Colonel (being able to manueuvre and drill a regiment as well as almost anybody in the state) but as it is a most responsible position, I do not care about assuming it. If I received the appointment of Lieut. Col. and the colonel of the Regiment to which I might be attached did not understand Battalion drill I could ~~relieve and however~~ and learn him.

I flatter myself that I am a thousand times better fitted for the position of colonel than some, if not nearly all of those now occupying that position in the Pennsylvania Regiments.\_ I have been to Northd on a visit and shall go home tomorrow.

Truly Yours  
Jacob G. Frick



Pottsville May 27, 1861.

Dear Col: I enclose I send you a couple of extracts from the Miner's Journal and one from the Sunday American, in regard to a supposed wrong perpetrated upon our soldiers. There seems to be a great deal of indignation throughout the State against the State Administration, though how far it is just I cannot say. The resignation of Purnace certainly our people think, gives color to these charges. These denunciations are hurled indiscriminately against all connected with Mr. Courtin's Administration, but so far as I have heard them here and elsewhere I have made it my business to defend you. I hope there is no truth in the reports, but if true those engaged in these hostilities may be brought to justice. —

I learned last week and have the best reasons for believing that the State worked hard against me with Coarney at Washington whilst I was applying for a Stated appointment. And this too, whilst he was sending a man to me occasionally to say how glad he would be to aid me and see me successful. —

Some of the most prominent and respectable men here have recently got up and sent to the Secretary of War a letter recommending me for an appointment of Paymaster in the Army. I do not intend to take any action in the matter.



myself but I shall leave ~~the~~<sup>it</sup> ~~matter~~ rest where  
it is. If any of my friends in the State who  
have, in the past manifested so much interest  
in my behalf, feel disposed to take it up and  
push it through well and good. —

I desire to say to you privately that the men from this  
County whom Mr. Austin took to his house and on whom  
he conferred his honors, are as long as any in defending  
him. I have heard it said that \$5000 would buy  
any appointment from him. Let him look to those  
men for his defenders. —

My little boy has been very ill with the  
Croup. Last night I thought he would struggle to  
death. —

Truly Yours

H. Fricks.

Love to Sister }  
}

J. A. Fricks  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1861



Pottsville, May 27, 1861.

Dear Col:-

Inclosed I send you a couple of extracts from the Miner's Journal and one from the Sunbury American, in regard to a supposed wrong perpetrated upon our soldiers. There seems to be a great deal of indignation throughout the state against the State Administration, though how far it is just I cannot say. The resignation of Purviance certainly, our people think, gives color to these charges. These denunciations are hurled indiscriminately against all connected with Mr. Curtin's administration, but so far as I have heard them here and elsewhere, I have made it my business to defend you. I hope there is no truth in the reports: but if true those engaged in these rascalities may be brought to justice.-

I learned last week and have the best reasons for believing that Joe Cake worked hard against me with Carmen at Washington whilst I was applying for a Philada appointment. And this too, whilst he was sending a man to me occasionally to say how glad he would be to aid me and see me successful.\_

Some of the most prominent and respectable men here have recently got up and sent to the Secretary of War a letter recommending me for an appointment of Paymaster in the Army. I do not intend to take any action in the matters

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myself but shall leave ~~the matter~~ it rest where it is. If any of my friends in the State who have in the past manifested so much interest in my behalf, feel disposed to take it up and push it through well and good.\_

I desire to say to you privately that the men from this county when Mr. Curtin took to his business and on whom he conferred his honors, are as loud as any in defaming him. I have heard it said that \$500 would be any appointment from him. Let him look to those men for his defenders.\_

My little boy had been very ill with the croup. Last night I thought he would strangle to death.\_

Truly Yours  
J. G. Frick

Col E. Slifer



Pittsille, Oct, 9<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Dear Col:

Col. Lake never authorized any body to ask Donovan's appointment. He would not be acceptable to the Regiment, even though he was qualified for the place. —

In my absence to Philadelphia Col. Lake had my name entered in the Field and Staff Muster Roll and when the Companies that were ready were being mustered by a regular Officer, my name was called with the other Field officers. The Colonel did everything to obtain my consent to go with him, and one day when I was away from home came to my house to see Kate, with whom the objections rested. He told her it would not be necessary for me to be away from home long at a time and if her health was bad still later in the Fall, he would arrange it so that I could be at home. I mention these things to show how anxious he was to have me as Lieut Colonel. Of course I would not avail myself of all



his promises. I want to do my duty as  
near as I can. —

We expect to be able to fill up soon after  
we get our uniforms. The great draft for arms  
for Kentucky and the West has delayed the order  
for our arms. The Secretary of War says, however,  
that we shall have them before long.

Very truly  
yours

J. G. Fricks.

Col. Eli Sifer,  
Harrington, Pa. }

1891

J. G. Fricks

Pottsville, Oct. 9th, 1861.

Dear Col:-

Col. Cake never authorised anybody to ask Donovan's appointment. He would not be acceptable to the Regiment, even though he was qualified for the place.\_

In my absence to Philad'a Col. Cake had my name entered in the Field and Staff Muster Roll and when the companies that were ready, were being mustered by a regular officer, my name was called with the other Field officers. The Colonel did everything to obtain my consent to go with him, and one day when I was away from home, came to my house to see Kate, with whom the objections rested. He told her it would not be necessary for me to be away from home long at a time, and if her health was bad still later in the Fall, he would arrange it so that I could be at home. I mention these things to show how anxious he was to have me as Lieut. Colonel. Of course I would not avail myself of all

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his promises. I want to do my duty as near as I can.\_

We expect to be able to fill up soon after we get our uniforms. The great draft for arms for Kentucky and the West has delayed the order for our arms. The Secretary of War says, however, that we shall have them before long.

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick

Col. Eli Slifer.  
Harrisburg, Pa.



Puttsville, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Dear Col:

That vagrant, Jewman is still giving currency in the newspapers and on the public streets and thoroughfares of Philad<sup>a</sup> & Washington to the story that he is to be appointed Lieut Col. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. And I do not question for a moment what you wrote me in regard to my appointment to the same <sup>place</sup> but it is exceedingly annoying to me to have this thing thrust in my face every day or two, and I do think it would be but just to have the story contradicted from Harrisburg by authority as publicly as it has been given to the public. This will stop the turmoil and difficulty raised in the Regt, and be satisfactory not only to myself but to the people.

We have not received our uniforms yet but must certainly I think this week. We have about 800 men (independent of Company Officers) including the band in camp, and still receiving additional recruits.

Truly Yours

J. G. Fricks.

Pottsville, Oct. 15th, 1861.

Dear Col.:-

That vagrant Donovan is still giving currency in the newspapers and in the public streets and thoroughfares of Philada & Washington to the story that he is to be appointed Lieut Col. of the 25th Regt. Now I do not question for a moment what you wrote me in regard to my appointment to the same place, but it is exceedingly annoying to me to have this thing thrust in my face every day or two, and I do think it would be but just to have the story contradicted from Harrisburg by authority as publicly as it has been given to the public. This will stop the turmoil and difficulty raised in the Regt. and be satisfactory not only to myself but to the people.\_

We have not received our uniforms yet but must certainly I think this week. We have about 800 men (independent of commissioned officers) including the band in camp, and still receiving additional recruits.

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick



Pottsville, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Dear Col:

Col. Lake came home last night and he says that the "Home Guard" of Kila<sup>ca</sup> are turning in their rifled muskets and accoutrements—2000 in number. Could you not obtain an order for me for 1000 of these, for by the time you could get them here and distributed we will have all our clothing and then we could march at once. We have men enough now—more by some fifty than I had when he left Harrisburg. All we want is our clothing and equipments—the former we must certainly have by the middle of next week, and the latter we can't march without. If these muskets are as represented I would like to have them—I want our Regt to have good arms.— If you send an order direct to me, as I have been in Command of the Camp (Schuylkill) for the last three weeks and will be for a few days yet, the Col being absent constantly to hurry up our units

Wm. B. Smith  
Oct 18/64



=forms. — In view of the fact that we are so near ready to march could you not assign us the number of our Regt. We ought to know it. The men have their Knapsacks to mark and the officers would like to get their numbers for their Caps &c.

I was mustered into the Service on the 23<sup>d</sup> of Sept. with the other Field Officers by Sient Balliaferris of the Regular Army who has been specially assigned for mustering our Regt. As you will see by the little slip I cut from a paper, herewith inclosed, I am entitled to a Commission now, and of course I expect to be paid from that date. You can therefore send me a Commission now dated Sept 23<sup>d</sup>, if you are disposed. The Rolls deposited at Harrisburg & Washington will show the facts as I state them. Rev. Samuel F. Holt is our Chaplain and was mustered into the Service. He would be gratified to receive his Commission before starting. Please send him one. If I were to go to Harrisburg with the names of all the officers could I obtain Commissions for them? — Don't forget the No. of our Regt. — By an order of the War Dept a Sient Col. can be mustered in with 4 Companies. We had more mustered when I was mustered in.

Saml Bums      G. B. Bick



Pottsville, Oct. 18th, 1861

Dear Col:-

Col. Cake came home last night and he says that the "Home Guard" of Philada are turning in their rifled muskets and accoutrements \_ 2000 in number. Could you not obtain an order for me for 1000 of these, for by the time we could get them here and distributed we will have all our clothing and then we could march at once. We have men enough now \_ more by some fifty than Nagle had when he left Harrisburg. All we want is our clothing and equipments \_ the former we must certainly have by the middle of next week, and the latter we can't march without. If these muskets are as represented I would like to have them \_ I want our Regt to have good arms. \_ If you send an order direct to me, as I have been in command of the camp (Schuylkill) for the last three weeks and will be for a few days yet the Col being absent constantly to hurry up our uni-

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forms. \_ In view of the fact that we are so near ready to march could you not assign us the number of our Regt. We ought to know it. The men have their knapsacks to mark and the officers would like to get their numbers for their caps &c.

I was mustered into the service on the 23d of Sept. with the other Field Officers by Lieut. Talliaferro of the Regular Army who has been specially assigned for mustering our Regt. As you will see by the little slip I cut from a paper, herewith inclosed. I am entitled to a commission now, and of course I expect to be paid from that date. You can therefore send me a commission now dated Sept. 23, if you are disposed. The Rolls deposited at Harrisburg & Washington will show the facts as I state them. Rev. Samuel F. Colt is our Chaplain and was mustered into the service. He would be gratified to receive his commission before starting. Please send him one. If I were to go to Harrisburg with the names of all the officers could I obtain commissions for them? \_ Don't forget the No\_ of our Regt. \_ By our order of the War Dept a Lieut. Col. can be mustered in with 4 companies. We had more mustered when I was mustered in.

Truly Yours,  
J.G. Frick

WILLARDS' HOTEL,  
SYKES, CHADWICK & CO.

Washington, D. C. Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Col:

I wish you would send me my Commis<sup>s</sup>ions. I see no reason for withholding it. What is the trouble with the Company officers Commis<sup>s</sup>ions? Is it because after the muster by a United States officer, some were in direct contravention of the Army Regulations, unceremoniously left off the copies of the Rolls sent to Harrisburg and others substituted? —

We are encamped about a mile and a half from the city. As usual I am in command and have nearly all the work to do. Our Colonel has not spent a day or night with the Regt since it has been formed. — To-day is very wet and unpleasant and I am in town to buy a stove for my tent. Our camp ground is wet and muddy and very disagreeable.

G. S. Sifer, Esq.

Very truly  
Yours  
W. B. Smith

Washington D. C. Nov. 15th 1861

Dear Col:-

I wish you would send me my commission. I see no reason for withholding it. What is the trouble with the company officers commissions? Is it because after the muster by a United States officer, some were, in direct contravention of the Army Regulations, unceremoniously left off the copies of the Rolls sent to Harrisburg and others substituted?\_

We are encamped about a mile and a half from the city. As usual I am in command and have nearly all the work to do. Our colonel has not spent a day or night with the Regt since it has been formed.\_ To-day is very wet and unpleasant and I am in town to buy a stove for my tent. Our camp ground is wet and muddy and very disagreeable.

Truly Yours [one word illegible],  
J. G. Frick

E. Slifer, Esq.

Dear Cousin

Camp Franklin,  
Near Alexandria, Va., Dec. 3, 1861

Dear Col:

I fear we will not be paid  
early enough to enable me to meet  
my draft on you. There is no sign  
of a Paymaster being assigned our Regt  
as yet. I supposed I could take  
my commission to any Paymaster  
and get my pay as can officers of  
the Regular Army but I find we  
are by no means placed on an equal  
footing with them as the late law  
of Congress declares we shall be.  
We must wait till a general pay-  
ment of the Regiment is made. I  
regret this very much for I did hope  
I would be prepared to meet the draft  
you accepted for me. Will you be  
kind enough to take it up for me  
and I will send you the amount by



Express. I do not want the draft  
protected for anything. —

We have been placed in Gen. Slocum's  
Brigade (7th) of Gen. Franklin's  
Division. So far as I know they are  
superior officers. I believe a number  
of Regiments have been ordered to pre-  
pare for winter quarters, others not.  
As we are one of those who have  
not as yet received orders to that ef-  
fect I suppose we go to the front  
with any forward movement that  
may take place. —

We have had a great deal of very  
unpleasant weather. Yesterday evening  
it snowed and this morning it is very  
cold. Bents are by no means the proper  
housing for cold weather. I find I can-  
not sleep as soundly here as at home,  
But as my comforts are so much  
greater than <sup>those of</sup> the private, I do not  
complain. —

If I can get a furlough sometime

this month, I may on my way to a  
few home stops to see you.

Paul Jones

J. H. Fruits

Col. Eli Sifer,  
Harrisburg, Pa.



[Two words illegible]  
Camp Franklin,  
New Alexandria, Va., Dec. 3d, 1861

Dear Col:-

I fear we will not be paid early enough to enable me to meet my draft on you. There is no signs of a Paymaster being assigned our Regt as yet. I supposed I could take my commission to any Paymaster and get my pay, as can officers of the Regular Army, but I find we are by no means placed on an equal footing with them as the late law of Congress declares we shall be. We must wait till a general payment of the Regiment is made. I regret this very much for I did hope I would be prepared to meet the draft you accepted for me. Will you be kind enough to take it up for me, and I will send you the amount by

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express. I do not want the draft protested for anything.\_

We have been placed in Gen. Steven's Brigade (7th) of Gen. Franklin's Division. So far as I know they are superior officers.\_ I believe a number of Regiments have been ordered to prepare for winter quarters; others not. As we are one of those who have not as yet received orders to that effect I suppose we go to the front with any forward movement that may take place.\_

We have had a great deal of wet unpleasant weather. Yesterday evening it snowed and this morning it is very cold. Tents are by no means the proper housing for cold weather. I find I cannot sleep as soundly here as at home. But as my comforts are so much greater than those of the privates I do not complain.\_

If I can get a furlough sometime

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this month, I may on my way to or from home stop to see you.

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick

Col. Eli Slifer  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Jacob S. Smith  
Dec 13/61

Camp Franklin, Va., Dec, 13<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Dear Col!

Your letter of Dec 4<sup>th</sup> inquiring  
the whereabouts of your acceptance, only came  
to hand this day, just nine days after being  
mailed at Harrisonburg. I am sorry I did not  
receive it sooner. Mr. Hentzinger I believe held  
the draft, which I had hoped to provide for  
but every single note I held was protested be-  
fore I left home, and I was thus prevented  
from taking it up. We have not been paid  
yet and I learn today that we will not be  
-til the early part of January. -

We are getting along pretty well, and I am  
well pleased with Gen. Slocum, and I have  
the best reasons for knowing that he is high-  
ly gratified with my knowledge of military  
matters, and the instruction I have afforded  
the Regt. He was wounded at Bull Run. There  
is no doubt of his military ability, he having been  
educated at West Point.

Our whole Division (Gen. Franklin's) was



out today to witness the execution (shooting) of a  
deserter from the 2<sup>nd</sup> N. Y. Cavalry (a part of our  
Division.) He was intercepted by a detachment  
of A. O. Vols who were lying in ambush near  
the Enemies lines whilst he was making for them  
as hard as his horse could carry him. He took them  
for Rebels and earnestly to give them information  
that would insure, as he told them, the capture  
of our outposts. The criminal was placed on his  
coffin and twelve men within five paces of him  
fired a volley into his breast, killing him instantly.  
I saw him fall off his coffin. The whole Di-  
vision was marched by him as he stretched in  
death on the ground. I examined him closely and  
found him well riddled from his forehead to his  
breast. He was a native of New Orleans and  
evidently enlisted in New York with a view to des-  
ertion and giving information to the Enemy. —

I will not be able to get home perhaps  
this winter. Kate is determined to come to  
Washington for a while. I can get boarding at a pri-  
vate house I think pretty cheap. —

Truly Yours

J. G. Fries

Camp Franklin, Va., Dec. 13th, 1861.

Dear Col:-

Your letter of Dec. 4th inquiring the whereabouts of your acceptance, only came to hand this day, just nine days after being mailed at Harrisburg. I am sorry I did not receive it sooner. Mr. Huntzinger I believe held the draft, which I had hoped to provide for but every single Note I held was protested before I left home, and I was thus prevented from taking it up. We have not been paid yet and I learn today that we will not until the early part of January.\_

We are getting along pretty well, and I am well pleased with Gen. Stevens, and I have the best reasons for knowing that he is highly gratified with my knowledge of military matters and the instruction I have afforded the Regt. He was wounded at Bull Run. There is no doubt of his military ability, he having been educated at West Point.

Our whole Division (Gen. Franklin's) was

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out today to witness the execution (shooting) of a deserter from the 2nd N. Y. Cavalry (a part of our Division). He was intercepted by a detachment of N. J. vols who were lying in ambush near the enemies lines whilst he was making for them as hard as his horse could carry him. He took them for Rebels and commenced to give them information that would insure, as he told them, the capture of our outposts. The criminal was placed on his coffin and twelve men within five paces of him fired a volley into his breast, killing him instantly. I saw him fall off his coffin. The whole Division was marched by him as he stretched in death on the ground. I examined him closely and found him well riddled from his forehead to his breast. He was a native of New Orleans and evidently enlisted in New York with a view to desertion and giving information to the enemy.\_

I will not be able to get home perhaps this winter. Kate is determined to come to Washington for a while. I can get boarding at a private house I think pretty cheap.\_

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick





Camp Franklin, Va., Dec. 19, 1861.

Dear Col:

There is considerable complaint among some of our Officers in regard to the date of their commissions, and I must speak with some justice. For instance the commissions of Captain Hipple, Sients Ruyer and Martz of Co. H, are dated Oct 14<sup>th</sup> thus allowing every other officer in the Regiment of their ranks (except one 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut) to outrank them, when it is notorious that they were the third Company in the Regt that was full and are to-day third in point of numbers, whilst others are not even up to the minimum and never was. All of the other commissions are dated Sept. 23<sup>d</sup>, with one or two exceptions (the Col's being dated Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> before there was one man recruited.) Captain Hipple's muster Roll was dated at the top Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> which was the day his Company was full (though under the proper heading you will see that the date of muster the first time was Sept 23<sup>d</sup>) and



which was honest, whilst every other Captain who were not full antedated their Rolls so as to bring them under pay from the 23<sup>d</sup> of Sept. Some of these officers and men were not known as Soldiers for more than a month after that date. This is some of the rascality that I so often hinted at privately to you, and which will cost the Government from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. But this is but one item in our Regt.

Now the point Captain Ripple and his Lieutenants make is this:— If the Commissions of other Officers are dated Sept. 23, theirs should be also and their honesty should be no bar to their being so dated. Mes. Ripple and Royer are both Lawyers of our Unit and are good intelligent officers and we can ill afford to lose them. Yet if the dates of the Commissions are not made to correspond with the others I fear we shall. Captain Ripple has his resignation already to send in, and has only refrained for the present because I have promised I would get you to make things right for him. These men are friends of mine and as I said before I would regret to see them leave the Regt.



If the corrections are not made they are either  
compelled to leave the Regt. or submit to being  
entranced by several ignorant Irish officers  
one of whom at least cannot read or write.  
So far as I am concerned I believe I was the  
only Field Officer (See advs from War Dept) that was  
legally mustered into the Service Sept 23. All  
of the others, as well as the Staff was in viola-  
tion of general Orders. I shall perhaps never de-  
-velope what I know of the misconduct, or rather  
misdemeanors of my Superior Officer to anybody else  
unless circumstances compel me for my own  
protection. —

Please let me know whether you will  
if the gentlemen I refer to, return their An-  
-niversaries, have corrected ones sent them. I  
hope you will, because they <sup>are</sup> invaluable friends  
of mine here and I should regret to lose them.

Believe yours

Jacob G. Fries

Col. Eli Slinger

Camp Franklin, Va., Dec. 19, 1861.

Dear Col:-

There is considerable complaint among some of our officers in regard to the date of their commissions, and I must confess with some justice. For instance the commissions of Captain Hipple, Lieuts Royer and Martz of Co. H. are dated Oct 14th thus allowing every other officer in the Regiment of their rank (except me 1st Lieut) to outrank them, when it is notorious that they were the third company in the Regt that was full and are to-day third in point of numbers, whilst others are not even up to the minimums and never was. All of the other commissions are dated Sept. 23rd, with one or two exceptions (the Col's being dated Aug. 18th before there was one man recruited.) Captain Hipple's muster Roll was dated at the top Oct. 14th, which was the day his company was full (though under the proper heading you will see that the date of muster the first time was Sept 23rd) and

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which was honest, whilst every other Captain who were not full ante-dated their Rolls so as to bring them under pay for the 23d of Sept. Some of these officers and men were not known as soldiers for more than a month after that date. This is some of the rascality that I so often hinted at privately to you, and which will cost the Government from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. But this is but one item in our Regt.

Now the point Captain Hipple and his Lieutenants make is this:— If the commissions of other officers are dated Sept. 23d, theirs should be also and their honesty should be no bar to their being so dated. Mess. Hipple and Royer are both Lawyers of our court and are good intelligent officers and we can illy afford to lose them. Yet if the dates of the commissions are not made to correspond with the others I fear we shall. Captain Hipple has his resignation already to send in, and has only refrained for the present because I have promised I would get you to make things right for him. These men are friends of mine and as I said before I would regret to see them leave the Regt.

[page break]

If the corrections are not made they are either compelled to leave the Regt. or submit to being outranked by several ignorant Irish officers one of whom at least cannot read or write. So far as I am concerned I believe I was the only Field Officer (see orders from War Dep't) that was legally mustered into the Service Sept. 23d. All of the others, as well as the Staff was in violation of general orders. I shall perhaps never develop what I know of the misconduct, or rather misdemeanors of my Superior Officer to anybody else unless circumstances compel me for my own protection.—

Please let me know whether you will if the gentlemen I refer to, return their commissions, have corrected ones sent them. I hope you will, because they are invaluable friends of mine here and I should regret to lose them.

Truly Yours,  
Jacob G. Frick



Col. Eli Slifer

Camp Franklin, Va., Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Dear Col:

I received your letter last night, and I have submitted its contents to Captain Shippee. With him I cannot for my life see why the Governor should require evidence of the fact that he and his Company Officers were mustered into the Service of the United States on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of September, than is presented in the Muster Roll of Co. H. now on file in the Adjt Genl's Office at Warrenton and duly certified to by an authorized officer of the United States Army. This is really the only guide the Governor has or ought to have in fixing his Commissions. Col. Baker has no more right to say what the date of an officer's Commission should be than you have. There are certain rules and regulations prescribed for the government of the Armies of the United States, and if they have been ignored entirely by Col. Baker, it does seem to me



that his conduct should not be silently acquiesced in by higher Officers. My Commission with the same propriety might have been dated wrong to suit the purposes of the Col. or Captain Whipple and his Officers. Again Can you tell me what right our Col. had to dictate to Governor Austin that his Commission should be dated Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>? when there was no such Regiment Raised and not a man enlisted for it. Why not permit me to draw pay from that time? I was legally mustered into the Service of the U.S. Sept 23<sup>d</sup> and I would seem to ask pay from a date prior to that date. —

Please refer to the Company & Roll of Capt. Whipple's Co. N.Y. and you will find that opposite his name and Lieut. Rizer's you will find that they were mustered into the Service on the 23<sup>d</sup> of Sept. and that Lieut. Talliaferro U.S. Army do certifies. This I take it is the only evidence which should be required and as I said before is the only guide by which the Commission should be fixed. Can more be required? I might, with other certificates to



the fact of the matter, but this would not  
be necessary, so long as written evidence is before  
the proper authorities. —

I would like very much to see you here.  
Perhaps you could facilitate our pay by seeing  
the proper authorities. Thus far we have had  
none but when the Cashier was here, and he  
benefit plenty of Barnes and Jones Banks, Shaw-  
monin and like character do. to loan the  
Officers through the Suttler at from 2 to  
5 per cent discount. This in a sort of a way  
relieve the necessities of some of the Officers  
but the men still suffer. The Colonel told  
my wife, and this operation which has been  
going on for sometime confirms it that he  
had proposed stopping the pay of the Regt.  
I believe it of course. He will be paid in return  
Breasury notes or gold. Quite a nice operation  
— interest and par funds! — Bare with me; I  
only want to give you an insight to some of the  
deviltry that ~~we~~ must put up with. — I never  
told you the half. — Can the commissions be re-  
turned. Let me know after you examine the Rules.  
Truly Yours  
J. S. Frisco.



Camp Franklin, Va., Dec. 24th, 1861.

Dear Col:-

I received your letter last night, and I have submitted its contents to Captain Hipple. With him I cannot for my life see why the Governor should require other evidence of the fact that he and his company officers were mustered into the Service of the United States on the 23d day of September, than is presented in the Muster Roll of Co. H. now on file in the Adj. Gen's Office at Harrisburg, and duly certified to by an authorized officer of the United States Army. This is really the only guide the Governor has or ought to have in issuing his commissions. Col. Cake has no more right to say what the date of an officer's commission should be than you have. There are certain rules and regulations presented for the government of the armies of the United States, and if they have been ignored entirely by Col. Cake, it does seem to me

that his conduct should not be silently acquiesced in by higher officers. My commission with the same propriety might have been dated wrong to suit the purposes of the Col. as Captain Hipple's and his officers. Again can you tell me what right our Col. had to dictate to Governor Curtin that his commission should be dated Aug. 18th?\_ when there was no such Regiment known and not a man enlisted for it. Why not permit me to draw pay from that time? I was legally mustered into the Service of the U. S. Sept. 23d and I would scorn to ask pay from a date prior to that date.\_

Please refer to the Company ~~of~~ Roll of Capt. Hipple's Co. H. and you will find that opposite his name and Lieut. Royer's ~~you will find~~ that they were mustered into the Service on the 23d of Sept. and that Lieut. Talliaferro U. S. Army so certifies. This I take it is the only evidence which should be required and as I said before is the only guide by which the commissions should be issued. Can more be required? I might, with others certify to

the fact of the muster, but this would not be necessary, so long as written evidence is before the proper authorities.\_

I would like very much to see you here. Perhaps you could facilitate our pay by seeing the proper authorities. Thus far we have had none, but then the Cashier was here, and he brought plenty of Farmer's and [one word illegible] Bank, Shamokin and like character do. to loan the officers through the Sutler at from 2 to 5 per cent discount. This in a sort of a way relieves the necessities of some of the officer but the men still stuffer. The Colonel told my wife, and this operation which has been going on for some time confirms it, that he had purposely stopped the pay of the Regt. I believe it of course. He will be paid in return Treasury notes in gold. Quite a nice operation \_ interest and par funds!\_ Bare with me; I only want to give you an insight to some of the deviltry that we must put up with \_ I never told you the half.\_ Can the commissions be returned. Let me know after you examine the Rolls.

Truly Yours,  
J. G. Frick