

Original of Lincoln Endorsement

A valuable document has been filed in the Iowa State department of History & Archives, consisting of a hand-written endorsement by President Abraham Lincoln in approval of the appointment of Lieut. Thomas Drummond of the regular army, to the position of lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Iowa Regiment of volunteer Civil War cavalry. This action was upon the recommendation of Governor Kirkwood, Senator Harlan, Treasurer Jno. W. Jones, Auditor J. W. Cattell, Registrar of Land Office A. B. Miller, and Col. A. B. Porter of the Fourth Cavalry.

The endorsement of approval accompanied by the original letters of officials supporting and attached to same, reads as follows:

Camp Harlan, Iowa, Dec. 3, 1861

Hon—Simon Cameron, Sec of War

Dear Sir—I most sincerely request that Lieut Thos Drummond now of the Regular Army—be transferred to my Regt —Gov Kirkwood of our State has intimated that he would appoint him Lieut Col—of the Regt—an appoinment that most cordially meets my approbation as well as the Governors Senator Harlans & a great many others—he Lieut Drummond having been appointed from our State in the Regular Army

Very Respectfully

-----Your obt Servant

Signed/ A B PORTER

Col—4th Regt I. C.

Executive Office Iowa Dec 12, 1861

Hon Simon Cameron Sect of War

Washington City D.C.

Dr Sir:

Col. Porter of the 4th Iowa Cavalry is very anxious to have Lieut Drummond appointed during the present year to the regular army from this State, detached to serve as Lieut Col, of his regiment.

I wish you to back this request of Col. Porter. Lieut Drummond is an Iowa man, would as I am informed be glad to take position in an Iowa regiment and would I am well satisfied sustain the reputation of Iowa troops.

To detach him, would confer a favor on Col. Porter and on

Your Obt Sev

Signed/SAMUEL J KIRKWOOD

To the Secretary of War,

Sir: I still hope you may find it possible to allow Lieut Thos. Drummond to accept the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the 4th Iowa Cavalry, without requiring him to resign his position in the regular army. The public service requires the transfer. To make a requirement of him not made of so many others would have the appearance of injustice.

Your obd't Serv't
Signed/ JAMES HARLAN

Des Moines Iowa Oct 28th 1861

Hon Simon Cameron Sec of War

Dear Sir—We desire and very respectfully ask the temporary release of Lieut Thomas Drummond from the Regular Army to take a position for the time in the Volunteer Service from this State, as we believe that this branch can be rendered much more efficient by having one or more experienced army officers in each regiment—

Hoping you may grant our request we remain With Much
Respt

Your friends & Obt Servts
Signed/ A. B. MILLER Reg State Land Office
JNO. W. JONES State Treas
J. W. CATTELL Auditor of State

THE LINCOLN APPROVAL

543D — 1861

Thomas Drummond, Lieut in 5th Cavalry, was appointed last April from Civil life, and without Military education—The Governor of Iowa now wishes to appoint him Lieut. Col. of a Regiment of volunteers—Senator Harlan wishes it done, and if the Sec. of War & Adjt. General, deem it admissible, consistently with the public service, let it be done.

Signed/ A. LINCOLN

Dec. 14, 1861.

(1) Enclosure

S. O. 337 A.G.O.

Recd. (AGO) Dec. 24/61

Drummond's military career was brilliant, as was his previous service in the Iowa senate and as an editor at Vinton, Iowa. After the organization and drilling of the Iowa cavalry regiment he returned to the regular army. At the very close of the war his career was cut off by his being mortally wounded in a charge at the head of a cavalry regiment in the battle of Five Forks, Virginia, April 1, 1865.

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