

October 23, 1940

Mr. Gaylord McCluer
Crawfordsville, Indiana

Dear Mr. McCluer:

In the matter about which you spoke to me some months ago, I wish you to know that I have not forgotten and that I have indeed been working on it. I am only in here two days a week and it has been very difficult locating anything on it. But at long last I can answer your questions.

The commission which you have is one of eleven issued by Gov. Morton at the request of the Secretary of War, E. M. Stanton and all were issued to detectives of the U. S. War Department. When Col. H. B. Carrington made numerous requests for assistance in the detection of treasonous elements in Indiana the U. S. War Department was inclined to think that he was over estimating the danger. But certain events (which are not here important to enumerate) occurred which convinced Col. L. C. Baker of the U. S. Secret Service that he should send some of his detectives to investigate. Six detectives were dispatched here with a request from Secretary of War Stanton that they be furnished with military rank by Gov. Morton. This was necessary, it was stated, so that in the event that they were captured they could be exchanged instead of being shot as spies. It was also (in my belief only and not so stated) to give them more recognition by the military. Commissions were issued to:

Andrew Potter	Lt. Col.
Francis Wilson	Major
Samuel P otter	Major
W. R. Bernard	Major
Luther Potter	Major
Joseph Wade	Major

It must be understood that these men were all assigned to the A.G.s office and while they were listed as cavalry officers, they were not assigned to units nor took military positions with Indiana units. All were War Department detectives and were being paid by the U.S. Government before they came here and after they arrived. Therefore, no benefits in Indiana accrued as a result of their service as Indiana Officers. It is further demonstrated by the fact that, as you stated, Andrew Potter received a pension of \$41 a month until his death in 1932, not for duty performed as a military officer, but as a detective, a civilian position. This fact along would indicate that the estate of Andrew

Potter could not receive benefits from the State of Indiana. It is also indicative that Potter was not buried in Indiana but in his native Virginia.

As for Joseph Wade, we have no records on him except the single line notation that a major's commission was issued to him.

As a matter of interest, the five other such commissions were issued in March of 1864 and were issued to detectives investigating the contraband trading in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. There had been treasonous surrender of several posts in these states in connection with contraband trade and five additional detectives were commissioned as captains in the Indiana Cavalry at the request of the Secretary of War. At first glimpse it seems odd that Secretary Stanton should have asked Gov. Morton to commission men when he could have done it himself. But in fact, a commission from Indiana was as good as any other commission and could be done with absolute secrecy while a commission from Washington could not.

If I were you, I would hold onto that commission as it one day before long be a collectors item as only eleven such documents were issued.

If I can be of further service to you do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

R. B. MOORE
Research Assistant