

Dec 18, 1863

your vicinity, if you will accept it, and it will in no wise interfere with your duties in the Revenue business, still it will bring you some income without any outlay. I named my desire to have you accept the appointment to Mr Long, who coincided with me in thinking it very proper that you should do so.

Please advise me that you will accept the appointment "immediately if you can consistently do so. Upon the receipt of such, to me, very welcome assurance, I will, at once forward to you a blank Bond, and make the appointment accordingly.

Very truly yours
William Small

P.S. I should have written you earlier but have waited hoping to meet you ere this.

W.S.

Dec 18, 1863

Dec 18/63
Mr Small Esq

Fort Fairfield Dec 18, 1863
Mr. A. S. Richards

Dear Sir, I have long since come to the conclusion that a sober man is quite as trustworthy as an habitual drunkard, for any office or position, if, perhaps, the office of gutter wiper be excepted. I have therefore been waiting somewhat impatiently, for the 20th of Dec. to come around (the limit allowed by law for the return of business &c done by Dept. Sheriffs during the year) to try and get a sober man to take the place of M. Ferrill as Dept Sheriff for your vicinity. I have felt no little chagrin at being cheated into such an appointment, by persons acquainted with the incumbent, and by persons who claimed to be my friends.

Will you not accept the appointment? Now please don't say "no". I shall make no other appointment in