

General Land Office
September 8th 1857

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note upon the papers of Henry C Fink and as directed report that Military Bounty Land Warrant No 77.739 for 160 acres in the name of said Henry C Fink late a private in Captain Knowlton's Company, 1st Regiment United States Artillery, was issued under the Act of February 11 1847, in his favor, April 2 1853, and forwarded to the address of George M Carpenter as his Attorney on the same date.

Said Warrant has been returned to this Office regularly located by John Watts of Chester County Penn, as assignee, upon the SW4 of Section 11, in Township 23 north, of Range 5 east, in the District of lands subject to sale at Danville (now Springfield) Illinois, and a patent for the same has been prepared; but has not as yet been delivered.

I have the honor further to state, that, to the original papers on file in the Pension Office, said Henry C Fink makes his mark, and to the assignment on the back of the warrant he is represented as writing his signature in a plain legible hand, which raise the suspicion at least, of fraud in the assignment.

It is proper to remark that the case is within the control of this Office for investigation as to the supposed fraud. Mr. Fink will be fully advised of the proceeding necessary to ascertain and establish his right to the warrant, if he has any. No Caveat has been filed against the issue of the patent to the assignee, but I have directed that the delivery of the patent be suspended until Mr. Fink can present in proper form his claim to the warrant.

I am Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Thos A Hendricks
Commissioner

His Excellency
James Buchanan
President of the United States

[Back of letter]

Commisioner General Land Office
Washington Sep 8 1857

Report on the papers of Henry C Fink referred by His Excellency. The warrant in Mr Finks favor has been returned to the office regularly located by Jno Watts of Chester Co Penn, and there being a Suspicion of fraud in the transfer, Mr Fink having made his mark to the original papers on file while on the back of the warrant he signs the assignment in plain legible hand, the issue of the patent is suspended until an investigation is had.

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