

Columbia Heights P.O.

J. L. BRISTOW

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L of '1/2/19'

P.O.

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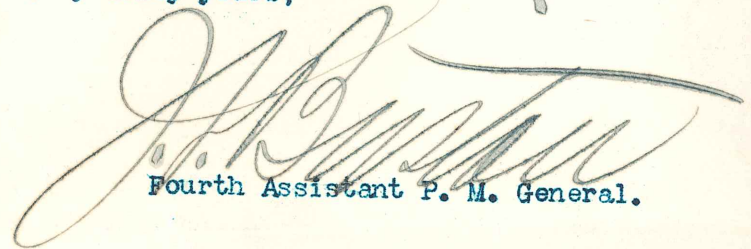
OFFICE OF
FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1900.

My dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I enclose herewith copy of letter written to you by this office on January 2, 1900, having under consideration the proposed change of name of the post office at Columbia Heights, Illinois, to Steger.

Very truly yours,



Fourth Assistant P. M. General.

Hon. Charles Dick,
House of Representatives.

(Enclosure)

Write to me

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CHICAGO HEIGHTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

270-12

(Copy)

PROPERTY OF
CHICAGO HEIGHTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Personal.

OFFICE OF
FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

270-12

January 2, 1900.

My dear Colonel:

As to the change of name of the post office at Columbia Heights, Illinois, to Steger, concerning which you called on me some days since, I beg to state that after a very careful and thorough examination I find that the village of Steger, formerly Columbia Heights, is made up of about seventy houses, two piano factories, one iron foundry, one implement works, one hotel and three saloons. Twelve of the houses are owned and occupied by employes of the Smith & Nixon Company, while nine of them are owned and occupied by employes of the Steger Company. Thirty are owned by the Steger Company and occupied by employes of that Company.

The principal support of the village is the two piano factories. The Steger Company employ in their factory about two hundred and thirty hands, and pay an average of \$12.48 each weekly, turning out about twenty five pianos a day. The Smith & Nixon Company employ about sixty hands, pay about the same wages as the Steger Company, and turn out about twenty five pianos a week. Each of these Companies have considerable money invested in their plants at Steger.

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In December, 1896, J. V. Steger, of the Steger Company, and J. H. Butler, who represented the Smith & Nixon Company, united their efforts for the purpose of incorporating their village. Committees were appointed to take the matter in charge. They set a date for a public meeting to take a vote of the people on the matter. Up to this time no mention had been made of changing the name of the village from Columbia Heights to Steger. The meeting was held, and during the discussion Mr. Steger informed them that if

they would call the village Steger he would donate four hundred dollars for municipal purposes. The Steger Company employing more hands than the Smith & Nixon Company, the result of the vote was in favor of the change of the name to Steger, and the village was incorporated under that name. Mr. Steger was elected President, and the other offices were filled by his employes and business men who thought they could not afford to oppose Mr. Steger.

In August of this year the railroad company changed the name of the station to Steger, through the influence of the Steger Company.

There are two petitions on file in the Department in the case, one in favor, and the other opposed to a change of name of the post office. The one in favor of the change is signed by one hundred and seventy-three names, composed of one hundred and fifty employes of the Steger Company, thirty-five of whom are not patrons of the office; eleven citizens, five boys, and four women. On the petition opposed to the change appear thirty-seven names, thirty-five of whom are employed by the Smith & Nixon Company and are patrons of the post office, one citizen and one unknown.

The Steger Company, who control their employes, insist upon the name of Steger; while the Smith & Nixon Company, who control their employes, do not want the name changed from Columbia Heights to Steger. Smith & Nixon say they are willing to change it to any other name than Steger, but contend that the name Columbia Heights is a patriotic one, and has been well advertised by them, and to retain it they claim will work no injustice to Mr. Steger, who has built up his business under that name; and for the Post

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Office Department to change the name now to Steger, the name of their competitor, would be a serious loss to their business, as well as a great advantage in point of advertising to their competitors.

Under these circumstances, I do not believe that it would be right for the Post Office Department to change the name of the office, and I greatly regret that I feel it a duty not to comply with your very urgent request, which certainly I would personally be very much gratified in doing.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Sig) J. L. Mustone

Fourth Assistant P. M. General.

Hon. Charles Dick,
House of Representatives.

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