

Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers (MS093) MS093

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1863-1865



Title Statement

Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers (MS093) MS093

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS093

Unit Date

1863-1865

Language

English .

Creator

Pettit, Rufus D. , 1825-1891

source

Rowe, DeAnn

source

Pettit, Janice A.

Extent

.69 Cubic Feet 1 legal box, 1 half-size legal box

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Fragile handwritten documents. Handle with care.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of DeeAnn Rowe, May 1, 1984.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers, MS093, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Rufus D. Pettit was born in Bridgewater, New York in 1825. Captain Rufus D. Pettit was Superintendent of Military Prisons (1864-1865) in Alexandria, Virginia during the last two years of the Civil War. He previously served as an artillery officer commanding Company B of the 1st New York Light Artillery, but after the Battle of Chancellorsville he resigned due to poor health on May 20, 1863. He then joined the Invalid Corps, which later became known as the Veteran Reserve Corps. This formation was a body of Union troops utilized for lighter duty than front-line fighting. In this unit Pettit oversaw Union prisons in Alexandria, Virginia. Pettit was appointed a Captain in the Invalid Corps by a letter from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton dated February 6, 1864. He died in 1891 in New York.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of hand-written letters to and from Captain Pettit regarding the prisons and prisoners in Alexandria, military orders, supply lists and ration orders, receipts, and prison reports Pettit drafted for his superiors. The five prisons in Alexandria were Alexandria Jail, Odd Fellow's Hall Prison, Slave Pen Guard House, Washington Street Military Prison, and Prince Street Military Prison. These prisons were used primarily to confine deserters from Union armies.

Topics include: military prisons, Union deserters, court-martials, supplies, rations, leave passes.

Items of note: There is a letter signed by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton dated February 6, 1864 to Pettit appointing him a Captain in the Invalid Corps.

Related Materials

Papers of Rufus D. Pettit are also located at the Library of Congress and Onondaga Historical Association in New York.

Keywords

Prisoners -- Alexandria (Va.)

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Jails -- Alexandria (Va.)

Military life -- 1860-1870

Military deserters

Rowe, DeAnn

Pettit, Janice A.

Accruals

Gift of Janice Pettit Anderson, 2019

Custodial History

This collection was transferred to Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria Library from the Lloyd House (Alexandria, VA.).

Digital Materials

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Vouchers, letters, passes, receipts, 1864-1865

Unit ID MS093-01-01

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Papers, receipts, and letters, 1864-1865

Unit ID MS093-01-02

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Orders, letters, savings, and reports, 1864-1865

Unit ID MS093-01-03

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Prison Reports, July 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Digital Materials

[Click to view digital materials in this collection](#)

Prison Reports, August 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-05

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Prison Reports, September 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-06

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Prison Reports, October 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-07

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Prison Reports, November 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-08

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Digital Materials

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Prison Reports, December 1864

Unit ID MS093-01-09

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

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Prison Reports, January 1865

Unit ID MS093-01-10

Text 1 (box)

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Prison Reports, February 1865

Unit ID MS093-01-11

Text 1 (box)

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Prison Reports, March 1865

Unit ID MS093-01-12

Text 1 (box)

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Prison Reports, April 1865

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Text 1 (box)

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Prison Reports, May 1865

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Prison Reports, June 1865

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Inspection Reports, 1864

Unit ID MS093-02-16

Text 2 (box)

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Digital Materials

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Inspection Reports, 1865

Unit ID MS093-02-17

Text 2 (box)

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