

Beninger, William Correspondence

William Beninger Correspondence
1864-1865



Title Statement

Beninger, William Correspondence William Beninger Correspondence, 1864-1865 Ms.1989.107

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-09-04	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2021-06-14	LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection (abstract, source, processing, bio), added FA title, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1989.107

Unit Date

1864-1865

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Three letters from William Beninger (or William Benninger), a private in Company H, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery during the American Civil War, written to his sister from points in Virginia, with general mentions of food, clothing, camp life, and Confederate guerillas and a prediction that the war will soon be over.

Creator

Beninger, William

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The William Beninger Correspondence was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1989.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the William Beninger Correspondence commenced and was completed in March 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William Beninger Correspondence, Ms1989-107, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Although the correspondent clearly signs his name as "Beninger," most records relating to this soldier spell the name "Benninger." William Benninger, 23, enlisted as a private for one year's service in Battery H, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery at Pittsburgh on August 29, 1864. He mustered out with his battery on June 13, 1865. The 1890 veterans census shows William Benninger of the 6th Pennsylvania living in Burell [Burrell] (Westmoreland County), Pennsylvania. According to a Pennsylvania veterans burial card, William Benninger of the 6th Pennsylvania was buried in Bethel Cemetery, Lower Burrell township; other records show that William Benninger (1840-1902), son of William and Sarah Spiker Benninger, was buried in Bethel Cemetery in Lower Bethel with wife Annie C. Woolslayer Benninger (1853-1899).

Scope and Content

This collection contains three letters written by William Beninger (or William Benninger) while serving in Battery H, 6th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery during the American Civil War, addressed to his sister. Writing from Fairfax County, Virginia on November 4, 1864, Beninger expresses thanks for a package of envelopes received, as those available locally "cost from 35 to 40 cts a package and will hardly hold a letter," and his hope that the regiment will soon move to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. ("And I ant a caring how soon for this is a rough place if it gits icy.") Beninger adds that "apple pearings ... are scarce out here" and that he recently sent his father a letter with a lot of pumpkin seeds. Bennett writes from Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia on November 27, 1864, to thank his sister for the gloves recently received and to request other clothing and food. In a letter written at Fort Bennett, Virginia on March 7, 1865, Beninger expresses his intent to send part of his pay home, then reports that "the boys are all Smoking sigars and all in a good youmour," and predicts that the war will soon be over. He writes that "there was Some few rebbles at Falls church and at Fairfax court house but it was only a few gurrillows and a drunk," then relays news of mutual acquaintances in his battery.

Keywords

Civil War

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

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Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-1865

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