

Bentley, M. A. Letters

M. A. Bentley Letters

1863



Title Statement

Bentley, M. A. LettersM. A. Bentley Letters, 1863 Ms.1990.015

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-09-08	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2021-03-11	LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title and filing titles, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1990.015

Unit Date

1863

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Letter from M. A. Bentley, a soldier serving in the Confederate Army--possibly with a Virginia unit--during the American Civil War, written from hospitals in Liberty (now Bedford) and Richmond, Virginia, commenting on his health, his religious faith, the Confederacy's prospects, and church services in camp.

Creator

Bentley, M. A.

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 M. A. Bentley Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in two accessions: the September 2, 1863 letter was purchased in 1990; the April 2, 1863 letter was purchased in 2017.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the M. A. Bentley Letters commenced and was completed in August, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], M. A. Bentley Letters, Ms1990-015, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

M. A. Bentley served in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War, possibly with a Virginia unit. No further verifiable information could be found.

Scope and Content

This collection contains two letters from M. A. Bentley, a Confederate soldier, possibly serving with a Virginia unit, during the American Civil War. The letters, both addressed to Bentley's father, John E. Bentley, were written from hospitals in Liberty (now Bedford) and Richmond, Virginia, on April 2 and September 2, respectively. Bentley's letters focus largely on personal matters, as he describes his health, his desire for more letters from home, and his religious faith. In the April 2 letter, Bentley writes at length with a prediction for dark days for the Confederacy: "[T]he cloud that is hovering over us looks veary dark and gloomey, it is the darkest cloud that ever over shadowed the eyes of this confederacy..." Bentley foresees a number of bloody battles, concluding, "[T]he hardest fighting that ever has bin done will be done this somer. The hills of the [saucy?] south will be full of wripling streams of blood." In the September 2 letter, he writes at length of religion and of religious services in camp.

Keywords

Civil War

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

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1863

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