

# A Guide to the Napoleon B. Brisbane Letters, 1864

Napoleon B. Brisbane Letters, 1864

1864

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A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00391

Virginia Military Institute Archives

2002

## History

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Napoleon B. Brisbane Letters, 1864

**Subtitle:** Brisbane, Napoleon B., letters

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from HTML. Machine-readable finding aid created by Diane Jacob. Date of source: 2002.

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**Feb 16, 2004** PUBLIC "-//Virginia Military Institute::Preston Library::Archives//TEXT (US::ViLxV::vilxv00023::A Guide to the Napoleon B. Brisbane Letters)//EN" "vilxv00023.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

**Feb 26, 2004** converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

mss 00391

**Language**

English

**Physical Characteristics**

The collection consists of two items filed in one folder.

**Repository**

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

## Administrative Information

**Access**

There are no restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Preferred Citation**

Napoleon B. Brisbane Letters, mss 00391, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, VA 24450

## Biographical/Historical Information

Napoleon B. Brisbane, Civil War soldier, was a Surgeon serving with the 2nd Ohio Cavalry Regiment. This unit was engaged in the fighting at Winchester, Virginia in August 1864, serving as a rear guard while the rest of the army retreated toward Harper's Ferry.

## Scope and Content Information

The collection consists of two Civil War letters written by Brisbane to his brother and sister. The items are dated September 16 and 24, 1864. In the first letter, Brisbane describes being held prisoner in Winchester, Virginia, where he was captured while caring for Union wounded. In the second, he describes the recapture of Winchester by Union troops and the Confederate retreat.

## Contents List

### Letter, 1864 September 16

**Scope and Content**

Written at Winchester, Virginia.

"The fates are again against me and I am once more a prisoner in this place. On our retreat down the valley it fell to the lot of someone to stay with our wounded at this place and that unfortunate one was your humble servant...."

### Letter, 1864 September 24

**Scope and Content**

Written at Winchester, Virginia.

"...Then commenced one of the greatest panic retreats I ever saw without any exception, and the horses, mules & men all went along with their tails up (excuse the last remark, the latter's tails were down). The old 8th Corps done wonders in that day and redeemed itself from all other stains. While the rebels were retreating through town a shell from one of our Batteries came through our Hospital, going over two beds and striking the third one smashing it to splinters, tearing the straw out of the mattress and disappeared through the other side of the house, not hurting a man. The bed was occupied by a man with a fractured thigh but was not hurt. Sheridan is a trump, and is just whipping them as they go...."