

The Filson Historical Society

**Pettis, Aetna B.
Letters, 1860-1864**

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Size of Collection:

0.33 cu. ft.

Locator Number:

Mss./A/P477

Pettis, Aetna B.
Letters, 1860-1864

Scope and Content Note

Pvt. Pettis, 23rd Michigan Inf. Regt., writes to his wife living in Saginaw Co., Mich., while stationed in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862-63. His letters describe many aspects of daily army life, especially health and economic aspects and provide details of casualties and movements of his regiment. He writes frequently of his concern for his wife's economic and social welfare and of his devotion to her and their young son. He also comments on political aspects of the war, particularly the Republican Party and emancipation.

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Biographical Note

Aetna B. Pettis was born in 1833, Cattaragus County, NY , the oldest child of Ira and Betsy Pettis. His family moved to Michigan in 1838, eventually settling in Fremont Township, Saginaw Co. in 1857. He married Julia Herrick, St. Charles, Saginaw Co., Mich. ca. 1861. They had one son, Eddie, born ca. 1862. Aetna enlisted in the 23rd Michigan Infantry Regt. as a private in Company E in Sept., 1862. He was reassigned as acting regimental ordnance sergeant in May, 1863. During intense fighting near Loudon, Tenn., in November, 1863, he was captured and imprisoned in Richmond, Va. He died in Libby Prison, Richmond, in the spring of 1864.

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Folder List

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1860-1862
- Folder 2: Correspondence, January 1863 – March 1863
- Folder 3: Correspondence, April 1863 – June 1863
- Folder 4: Correspondence, July 1863 – September 1863
- Folder 5: Correspondence, October 1863 – June 1864

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Subject Headings

Courtship - United States
Family in dreams
Family - Religious life
Kentucky - Description and travel
Kentucky - History - Civil War, 1861-1865
Letterheads
Libby Prison
Louisville (Ky.) - History - Civil War, 1861-1865
Love-letters
Love poetry, American
Michigan - History - Civil War, 1861-1865
Military discipline - United States
Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864
Mormon Church - History - 19th century
Nelson, William, 1824-1862
Patriotic poetry, American
Racism - United States
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
Slavery - United States
Tennessee - History - Civil War, 1861-1865
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Destruction and pillage
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Economic aspects
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Equipment and supplies
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Health aspects
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Hospitals
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Medical care
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Prisoners and prisons
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Transportation
United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Underground movements
United States – Race relations
United States. Army - Guard duty
United States. Army - Military life
United States. Army - Ordnance and ordnance stores
United States. Army - Recruiting, enlistment, etc.
United States. Army - Supplies and stores
United States. Army. Michigan Infantry Regiment, 23rd (1862-1865)
Wolford, Frank L. (Frank Lane), 1817-1895