

**The Filson Historical Society**

**George W. Vanvalkenburgh d. 1864  
Papers. 1861-1907**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg.

**Size of Collection:  
.33 cubic feet**

**Locator Number:  
Mss./A/V284**

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**Biographical Note**

Vanvalkenburgh was farming in Michigan when he enlisted in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. His wife had been there with him but returned home to Niagara County, New York before his enlistment. They had one living child, a daughter, while he was writing his letters. After his death at the Battle of Resaca, his widow Emily, remarried. She married Lafayette Riddle who died in the 1890's. After the death of her second husband she applied for a Civil War pension as Vanvalkenburgh's widow.

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**Scope and Content Note**

Letters written while Vanvalkenburgh is serving in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry in the Civil War to his wife, Emily, in Rapids, Niagara County, New York. Most of his enlistment is spent in Kentucky but he is also in Tennessee and dies at Resaca, Ga. From 28 Aug. to 13 Dec. 1863 he is an invalid at a hospital in Louisville, Ky. He describes daily camp life including duties, food, medical care and pay. He writes about skirmishes and comments on the countryside and the people's attitudes towards the war, including his own. He sees Perryville after the battle and has a second hand report on the battle of Knoxville. His friends write to his widow about his death and give a description of the battle of Resaca.

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**Folder List**

Folder 1: Correspondence May 1861 - Dec. 1862.

Folder 2: Correspondence Jan. 1863 - March 1863.

Folder 3: Correspondence April 1863 - May 1863.

Folder 4: Correspondence June 1863 - Sept. 1863.

Folder 5: Correspondence Oct. 1863 - Dec. 1863.

Folder 6: Correspondence Jan. 1864 - 6 May 1864.

Folder 7: Correspondence 21 May 1864 - 1907.

Folder 8: Miscellaneous.

Folder 9: Envelopes.