

# Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers (MS093) MS093

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1863-1865



## Title Statement

Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers (MS093) MS093

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

717 Queen Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Business Number: 703-746-1791

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URL: <http://alexlibraryva.org/lhsc>



2022

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-08-08 11:01:09 +0000.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

MS093

### Unit Date

1863-1865

### Language

English .

### Creator

Pettit, Rufus D. , 1825-1891

### source

Rowe, DeAnn

### source

Pettit, Janice A.

### Extent

.69 Cubic Feet 1 legal box, 1 half-size legal box

### Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Fragile handwritten documents. Handle with care.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of DeeAnn Rowe, May 1, 1984.

## Preferred Citation

[item identification], Captain Rufus D. Pettit Papers, MS093, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia.

# Biographical / Historical

Rufus D. Pettit was born in Bridgewater, New York in 1825. Captain Rufus D. Pettit was Superintendent of Military Prisons (1864-1865) in Alexandria, Virginia during the last two years of the Civil War. He previously served as an artillery officer commanding Company B of the 1st New York Light Artillery, but after the Battle of Chancellorsville he resigned due to poor health on May 20, 1863. He then joined the Invalid Corps, which later became known as the Veteran Reserve Corps. This formation was a body of Union troops utilized for lighter duty than front-line fighting. In this unit Pettit oversaw Union prisons in Alexandria, Virginia. Pettit was appointed a Captain in the Invalid Corps by a letter from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton dated February 6, 1864. He died in 1891 in New York.

# Scope and Contents

This collection consists of hand-written letters to and from Captain Pettit regarding the prisons and prisoners in Alexandria, military orders, supply lists and ration orders, receipts, and prison reports Pettit drafted for his superiors. The five prisons in Alexandria were Alexandria Jail, Odd Fellow's Hall Prison, Slave Pen Guard House, Washington Street Military Prison, and Prince Street Military Prison. These prisons were used primarily to confine deserters from Union armies.

Topics include: military prisons, Union deserters, court-martials, supplies, rations, leave passes.

Items of note: There is a letter signed by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton dated February 6, 1864 to Pettit appointing him a Captain in the Invalid Corps.

# Related Materials

Papers of Rufus D. Pettit are also located at the Library of Congress and Onondaga Historical Association in New York.

# Keywords

Prisoners -- Alexandria (Va.)

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

Jails -- Alexandria (Va.)

Military life -- 1860-1870

Military deserters

Rowe, DeAnn

Pettit, Janice A.

# Accruals

Gift of Janice Pettit Anderson, 2019

# Custodial History

This collection was transferred to Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria Library from the Lloyd House (Alexandria, VA.).

## Digital Materials

[Click to view digital materials in this collection](#)

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Vouchers, letters, passes, receipts, 1864-1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-01

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Digital Materials**

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### **Papers, receipts, and letters, 1864-1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-02

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### **Digital Materials**

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### **Orders, letters, savings, and reports, 1864-1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-03

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

#### **Digital Materials**

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### **Prison Reports, July 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-04

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

#### **Digital Materials**

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### **Prison Reports, August 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-05

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

#### **Digital Materials**

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**Prison Reports, September 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-06

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Prison Reports, October 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-07

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Prison Reports, November 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-08

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Prison Reports, December 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-09

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Prison Reports, January 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-10

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

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**Prison Reports, February 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-11

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

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**Prison Reports, March 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-12

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

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**Prison Reports, April 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-13

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

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**Prison Reports, May 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-14

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

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**Prison Reports, June 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-01-15

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Inspection Reports, 1864**

**Unit ID** MS093-02-16

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Digital Materials**

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**Inspection Reports, 1865**

**Unit ID** MS093-02-17

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

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