

# Whitman, G. J., Letters

George J. Whitman Letters

1864



## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

<b>2020-08-25</b>	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
<b>2021-03-31</b>	LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1988.084

### Unit Date

1864

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Three letters from George J. Whitman, of the 2nd Pennsylvania Cavalry, written to his wife.

### Creator

Whitman, George J.

**Extent**

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

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**Source of Acquisition**

The George J. Whitman Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1988.

**Processing Information**

The processing and description of the George J. Whitman Letters commenced and was completed in May, 2021.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], George J. Whitman Letters, Ms1988-084, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Biographical Note

George J. Whitman, son of Peter and Sarah Bennett Whitman, was born in West Bainbridge (Chenango County), New York, on April 2, 1834. He married Ruth Hackett (1834-1918), and the couple would have six children. During the American Civil War, Whitman served in Company L, 2nd Pennsylvania Cavalry; Company G, 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry, and 2nd Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps. (Note: his name is recorded in pension records as George J. **Whiteman**.) By 1870, the Whitmans were living and farming in Potter County, Pennsylvania. George J. Whitman died in Pennsylvania on February 6, 1917, and was buried in Ulysses Cemetery, Ulysses (Potter County), Pennsylvania.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains three letters written by George J. Whitman, of the 2nd Pennsylvania Cavalry, during the Civil War. The letters, written to Whitman's wife Ruth, focus largely on personal matters. Whitman provides instruction on managing their personal financial/legal affairs and having work done on their farm but eventually concedes the impracticality of his long-distance advice, writing, "[Y]ou must do with things as you think best I leeve evrything in your care and what you think best to do with our thinges you moust do it dont wate to aske my advise about it becaus you no that it takes so long to get leters from home ...". Elsewhere, Whitman defends his decision not to request a discharge: "[Y]ou no that I can do beter hear torge geting a living than I can to work a farm ... you dont want me to make a hog of my self think I had or to do some duty fore our counery fore what I have had you no that our counery needs all that can be spared ...".

## 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** 1864

**folder** 1