

# Bentley, M. A. Letters

M. A. Bentley Letters

1863



## Title Statement

Bentley, M. A. LettersM. A. Bentley Letters, 1863 Ms.1990.015

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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

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

## Revision Description

<b>2020-09-08</b>	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
<b>2021-03-11</b>	LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title and filing titles, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1990.015

### Unit Date

1863

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Letter from M. A. Bentley, a soldier serving in the Confederate Army--possibly with a Virginia unit--during the American Civil War, written from hospitals in Liberty (now Bedford) and Richmond, Virginia, commenting on his health, his religious faith, the Confederacy's prospects, and church services in camp.

**Creator**

Bentley, M. A.

**Extent**

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

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**Source of Acquisition**

The M. A. Bentley Letters were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in two accessions: the September 2, 1863 letter was purchased in 1990; the April 2, 1863 letter was purchased in 2017.

**Processing Information**

The processing and description of the M. A. Bentley Letters commenced and was completed in August, 2022.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], M. A. Bentley Letters, Ms1990-015, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Biographical Note

M. A. Bentley served in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War, possibly with a Virginia unit. No further verifiable information could be found.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains two letters from M. A. Bentley, a Confederate soldier, possibly serving with a Virginia unit, during the American Civil War. The letters, both addressed to Bentley's father, John E. Bentley, were written from hospitals in Liberty (now Bedford) and Richmond, Virginia, on April 2 and September 2, respectively. Bentley's letters focus largely on personal matters, as he describes his health, his desire for more letters from home, and his religious faith. In the April 2 letter, Bentley writes at length with a prediction for dark days for the Confederacy: "[T]he cloud that is hovering over us looks veary dark and gloomey, it is the darkest cloud that ever over shadowed the eyes of this confederacy..." Bentley foresees a number of bloody battles, concluding, "[T]he hardest fighting that ever has bin done will be done this somer. The hills of the [saucy?] south will be full of wripling streams of blood." In the September 2 letter, he writes at length of religion and of religious services in camp.

## 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** 1863

**folder** 1