

R Wetzel, Aaron Miles, Papers, 1864
1340 1 folder

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INTRODUCTION

The Aaron Wetzel papers consist of photocopies of two letters written during the Civil War by Aaron Wetzel, a Union soldier.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Sherman and Reva Baker on 27 November 1984 (Accession No. RA259).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Aaron Miles Wetzel was born June 9, 1832, to David Wetzel (1792-1867) and Regina (Foltz) Wetzel (1791-1850) in Lewis County, Virginia. He married Sidney "Jane" Smith (1830-1905) on February 5, 1854, in Lewis County, western Virginia. Jane and Aaron bore eight children, five of whom survived into adulthood. The last child, a daughter, was born one month after his death in 1864.

Aaron enlisted in the Union army in February of 1861, where he attained rank of First Sergeant in Co. G, 9th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry. The 9th West Virginia organized in western Virginia between November 28, 1861, and April 30, 1862. It is possible that Aaron wrote the undated letter while in Winchester during the summer of 1864. In November 1864 the 9th Infantry was a part of Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign from August 6 to November 1, 1864. They were stationed at Halltown, near Harper's Ferry, August 24-26, where a skirmish took place. At this location Aaron penned the last letter to his wife. At 4:00 pm the afternoon of August 26, 1864, he died of wounds sustained in the battle. Originally buried at Harper's Ferry, his remains were later reinterred in the National Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia. His widow lived with a son and his family in Johnson Township, Oregon County, Missouri, where she passed away in 1905.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These are photocopies of two letters written by Aaron Miles Wetzel, Co. G, 9th Regiment, West Virginia, Infantry, to his wife, Sidney "Jane", in Ohio. The first letter is undated but may have been written at Winchester, Virginia, and fleetingly mentions Richmond and Grant, his concern for family health, financials, and hopes of making it home. The second letter, dated August 26, 1864, describes a skirmish on the previous day, more financial advice, and his concern for the health of his wife.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1 Correspondence, n.d.; 1864

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