

EPHRAIM BETTS DIARIES

(Ms. 3433)

Inventory

Compiled by

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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BETTS (EPHRAIM) DIARIES

1862-1864

Mss. 3433

LSU Libraries Special Collections

SUMMARY

- Size.** 4 items, 2 volumes.
- Geographic locations.** New York and Louisiana.
- Dates.** Sept. 2, 1862-Feb. 19, 1864.
- Languages.** English
- Summary.** Diaries kept by Sergeant Ephraim Betts, Company E, 114th New York Volunteers, mostly while he was stationed in Louisiana, along with military passes, and loose notes.
- Source.** Purchase, 1980.
- Access.** Photocopies must be made from microfilm.
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation.** Ephraim Betts Diaries, Mss. 3433, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Stack location.** J:13
Mss.MF: B

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Ephraim Betts was a sergeant in Company E of the 114th New York Volunteers. He enlisted on September 2, 1862, at Coventry, New York. He was taken by transport boat to New Orleans and was stationed in Louisiana until he was discharged, February 2, 1864, because of trouble with his eyes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The diaries describe Ephraim Betts' daily activities as sergeant of Company E of the 114th New York Volunteers. They illustrate his journey from New York to New Orleans by transport boat, describing the sunken ship *Cumberland*, near the mouth of the James River, where the *Merrimack* was sunk. Described are Betts' arrival in Camp Mansfield (January 3, 1863), routine camp life, marches, his participation in skirmishes, and details of an assault on Fort Bisland on Bayou Teche (April 13, 1863). The diaries relate that Bett's regiment joined General Weitzel's assault on Port Hudson (June 14, 1863), and detail the surrender of the Confederate forces. They describe the Sabine Pass Expedition (September 7, 1863) and the Federal failure to capture the Pass. Also described is the treatment of deserters caught on board the boat which took Betts back to New York after his discharge (February 14, 1864). The diaries include lists of men in Bett's command, personal cash accounts, and lists of letters sent and received. Loose papers include two military passes, and unidentified notes and accounts.

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INDEX TERMS

Betts, Ephraim.

Camp Mansfield (La.)

Desertion, Military--United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Fort Bisland (La.)

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Port Hudson (La.)

Sabine Pass, Battle of, 1863.

United States. Army. New York Volunteers, 114th. Company E.

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
J:13	1	--	2 Diaries
		--	4 items removed from diaries (two military passes, unidentified notes and accounts)
Mss.MF:B	--	--	Diaries