



PLEASANT READINGS FOR OUR SOLDIERS - 2ND MASS CAV

Small red book, "Pleasant Reading for our Soldiers." This book was sent to Massachusetts soldiers at the front, after its approval and publishing by the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society in Boston. In script ink on inside flyleaf is written "*California Hundred No. 9.*"

The Chaplain of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry, Charles Humphreys was known to keep a library for use by the men. It is possible that the number was a call number for his inventory of books. Also written on the inside cover in period ink is "*From California One Hundred to Miss Anne Ferris, Vienna, Fairfax Co Va. 1863.*"

In 1849, William Ferris and his brother Caleb relocated to Vienna, Virginia from Saratoga, New York. William owned a large 58.5 acre farm. In 1861 he was one of Vienna's few citizens to vote against secession. In 1871 he filed a claim with the federal government for compensation for materials taken by the 2nd Mass Cav who had been camped nearby. The items included nails, chestnut ties, a "small house or kitchen" and cedar posts. William and his wife, Catherine, had one daughter, Anne, age 20 who was living at home in Vienna in 1863. It appears that members of the Cal Hundred made her acquaintance, and possibly gave to her this book as a token of their friendship.

Sources: This Was Vienna & LDS Family Search.

