



BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC **LIBRARY**  
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**MSS008**

**ANDREW T. PRATT CIVIL WAR PAPERS,  
approximately 1861-1864: Finding Aid**

**BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Archives & Special Collections**  
15 South Street  
Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

## **COLLECTION OVERVIEW**

**Reference Code:** MSS008, MBrid, US

**Title:** Andrew T. Pratt Civil War papers

**Date:** approximately 1861-1864

**Creator(s):** Andrew T. Pratt

    Otis L. Battles, contributor

    American Bible Society, publisher

**Extent:** approximately 0.42 linear feet (4 items)

### **Languages and Scripts**

Materials are in English.

**Abstract:** This collection contains four items relating to Andrew T. Pratt's service in the American Civil War.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Name and Location of Repository:** Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

**Preferred citation:** Item identification. Box #. Andrew T. Pratt Civil War papers (MSS008). Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

**Location:** Bridgewater Public Library Historical Room

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Physical Access**

There are no physical restrictions on this collection.

### **Technical Access**

There are no technical restrictions on this collection.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Archives & Special Collections staff.

### **Custodial History**

Unknown

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Gift, Mrs. Willard Gage.

### **Accruals**

Accruals are not expected.

### **Conservation Note**

The following conservation and preservation activities have been completed on this collection:

- Photograph was originally enclosed in Bible and has been removed.
- Bible has been placed in a box with buffered tissue.

**Processor:** This collection was processed by Allyson Sekerke 2022.

**Rules & Conventions:** This finding aid is DACS-compliant.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Andrew T. Pratt enlisted in the Union Army and mustered on December 2, 1861. At the time of enlistment his age was 21, his occupation was nailer, and his residence was Wareham, MA. He is also believed to have been married during or before the American Civil War. Andrew Pratt served in Company E of the Thirty-Second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He was listed as missing on December 13, 1862 in Fredericksburg, VA but was gained on May 17, 1863. He reenlisted on January 1, 1864 and died June 30, 1864 from wounds received on June 22, 1864 at Petersburg, VA. According to a letter written by Otis L. Battles, Andrew T. Pratt was struck by enemy shelling in the hip and bowels while crossing a field with his regiment.

Otis Lincoln Battles was born in Hingham, MA to Martin and Hannah (Lincoln) Battles on February 20, 1843. He enlisted in the Union Army and mustered December 2, 1861 at which time his occupation was shoemaker. He served as a Private in Company E of the Thirty-Second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry until he was mustered out of service on June 29, 1865. He was wounded on June 3, 1864 in Bethesda Church, VA.

On December 25, 1869, Otis Battles married Emeline L. Flint, daughter of Willard and Charlotte (Stodder) Flint. They had at least six recorded children between 1870 and 1882, all of whom were born in Hingham. Otis lived on Fort Hill Street in Hingham, MA, and died on May 26, 1882 at the age of 39.

### **Sources Used**

*Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War* (Vol. III, pp. 483-488). Norwood, MA.: Norwood Press.

Town of Hingham. (1893). *History of the town of Hingham, Massachusetts*.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains four items relating to Andrew T. Pratt's service in the American Civil War including a photograph of Andrew T. Pratt, a letter and envelope sent to his widow about Pratt's death in 1864, and a New Testament Bible carried by Pratt during his military service.

The letter reads:

Near Petersburg, Va.  
June 25th., 1864,

Mrs. A. T. Pratt,

Dear Madam: I have bad news to impart to you. Your husband has, doubtless, got through with the sufferings of this life, and gone to join his friends in heaven. Last Wednesday,

the 22nd, while his regiment was crossing a field, exposed to a very severe shelling from the enemy, Andrew was struck in the hip and bowels by a fragment of shell, that exploded in his company, and killed three of his comrades, and badly wounded two others, of which latter, Andrew was one. He was carried to the 2nd Corps hospital which being another Corps from ours, we have not learned his fate, but from the nature of his wound, he, probably, did not suffer long. After being wounded, he gave a companion his testament, ambrotypes, and an envelope directed, and requested that they be sent to his wife. He, also, said "Tell my wife, that I hope to meet her in heaven." He was conscious of his near approach to death, although he did not feel much pain at the time, his limbs being, doubtless, paralyzed. With this letter I send you his testament, pictures, as he requested. During Wednesday, before going into the fight, I observed Andrew, busily engaged in reading his testament (the one I send you) while lying under a tree.

It is hard to lose our friends in the full vigor of manhood, but, thousands today in the north are mourning some dear one slain in this fearful contest. There are but few families, but can sympathize with you in your deep sorrow at the loss you are now called to bear. But we must trust that these precious lives are not sacrificed in vain, and that we may meet them at no distant day, where peace and not war is triumphant.

Truly, Your sympathizing friend,  
Otis L. Battles

## **ARRANGEMENT**

### **Inventory and Box/Folder List**

<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Creator</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Box/ Folder</b>
MS008.01	Photograph of Andrew T. Pratt	Unknown	Photograph of Andrew T. Pratt. Back of the photograph reads "Howard, Parisian Photographer, 19 ½ –Purchase St.– 19 ½ New Bedford, Mass."	Approximately 1861	11 x 6 cm.	Box 1 Folder 1
MS008.02	Otis L. Battles letter	Battles, Otis L.	Letter from Otis L. Battles to Mrs. A. T. Pratt on the subject of her husband's death written June 25, 1864 near Petersburg, VA.	1864	7.8 x 14 cm.	Box 1 Folder 1
MS008.03	Otis L. Battles envelope	Battles, Otis L.	Envelope addressed to Mrs. Andrew T. Pratt in Marion, Mass. containing the letter describing Andrew T. Pratt's death. Envelope is stamped June 28 Washington DC.	1864	17.8 11.3 cm.	Box 1 Folder 1
MS008.04	The New Testament of Our lord and savior Jesus Christ	American Bible Society	New Testament Bible carried by Andrew T. Pratt during his military service and published by the American Bible Society of New York	1862	11.5 x 9 cm.	Box 1

## **RELATED MATERIALS**

### **Related Archival Materials at the Bridgewater Public Library**

The following materials may also be of interest:

- Lewis L. Simpson and Maria D. Simpson Civil War papers
- William H. Cornwell Grand Army of the Republic badges and cuff links
- John P. Townsend Civil War artifacts

## **ACCESS POINTS**

### **People:**

Battles, Otis L., 1843 February 20-1882 May 26

**Subject Source:** Local

Pratt, Andrew T., 1840?-1864 June 30

**Subject Source:** Local

### **Organizations:**

United States. Army. Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, 32nd (1862-1865)

**Subject Source:** Library of Congress subject headings

### **Subjects:**

American Civil War, letters and diaries

**Subject Source:** Library of Congress subject headings