

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
**Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society**  
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**COLLECTION GUIDE**  
**MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPT FILE**

**Ellen Afto Collection**  
**Collection Number: 810 WFCHS MMF**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated August 2023.

**EXTENT:** 1 page

**CREATOR:** Letcher, John, Governor of Virginia (1813-1884).

**DATE:** January 10, 1861

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** Miscellaneous Manuscript Files (MMF) are small collections typically containing only a folder or two of materials. This folder contains a pardon issued by the John Letcher, Governor of Virginia, to Ellen Afto, a Frederick County woman.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** The pardon shows that Ellen Afto had been condemned by the Circuit Court of Frederick County to be sold into absolute slavery as punishment. John Letcher, Governor of Virginia from 1860 to 1864, issued her a pardon. The circumstances of the punishment are unknown.

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gift of Ben Belchic.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**Folder 1**

Pardon by Governor John Letcher to Ellen Afto, January 10, 1861