

THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE STORIES OF KENTUCKY

WHAT'S MY STORY?

I'M A PHOTO OF AN "ENEMY" OF THE UNITED STATES WHO BECAME A FRIEND TO A KENTUCKY FAMILY.

Reimar Stelter, a German prisoner of war, was imprisoned in Kentucky. For one week in 1945, he helped the Fister family of Fayette County harvest tobacco. Stelter and the Fisters corresponded starting in December 1945 and continuing after Stelter returned to Europe. In 1948 he wrote, "Isn't it funny one can be as fond of people one hardly knew for more than a week? I think it's because you showed us what real Americans are like and because you tried to forget we were supposed to be your enemies. You always found a friendly word. You understood our worries, and I think, acting like you did, you did a better service to your country than many people that just regarded us as prisoners without hearts and just good enough to be laborers. ..."

Access this photo (SC1538_001) others, and Stelter's letters through the Kentucky Historical Society's [digital collections catalog](#) and learn the stories of Kentucky.



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