

# Myers Family Papers

This small collection contains letters written between members of the Myers family in the time period just before and during the Civil War. One of the letters found in Folder 9 gives a very gripping description of what it meant to be a soldier and in the military during this crucial time in American history.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Myers Family  
**Title:** Myers Family papers  
**Dates:** 1854-1864  
**Size:** 1 box, 14 folders  
**Location:** SC15-4

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Additional physical form available:** All letters have been photocopied and encapsulated.

**Acquisition information:** Unknown.

**.Citation note:** Myers Family papers (SC15-4), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Scope and content note**

This small collection contains primarily correspondence written to and from members of the Myers family between the years 1858 to 1864. Family members include Father [Martin] and Mother Myers, and their sons Louis A. Myers, Luther M. Myers and wife Anna and Ireneus C. Myers. From the content of the letters it can be determined that two of the brothers, Louis A. and Ireneus., fought in the Civil War for the Union side. Louis A. Myers was in the cavalry in West Virginia and Ireneus C. served in a Kansas unit in Arkansas and Missouri. The early pre-Civil War correspondence was sent from Phillippi, Virginia, probably to Luther and Anna Myers who were living in Kansas.

The first two folders contain addresses made by Luther M. Myers in 1854 at Bentonsport, Iowa and in 1856, probably in Kansas. The earlier address is very pro-Southern and gives support for the endorsement of slavery. The second address is patriotic in content and proclaims a pro state's rights attitude. Luther Myers, according to a biographical sketch found on p.434 in the book *Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas*, 1890, resided in Jackson County, Kansas beginning in the summer of 1856. It states also that he had control of the Whiting Exchange Bank since 1882. He was born in 1828 in New Market, Virginia.

The Civil War letters are well written, easily read with good grammar for the day. It is believed that this Louis A. Myers was a member of the 3rd West Virginia Infantry and the 6th West Virginia Cavalry attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and of Captain and fighting for the Union side. His descriptions of what it meant

to be a soldier and in the military are very revealing and his description of what it was like to be in battle reveal, in a small way, the horror of war. A typescript has been made of his letter of November 23, 1862, folder 9, in which he mentions the Battle of Bull Run. It appears that Ireneus Myers was a member of the 11th Kansas Cavalry and the Army of the Frontier and was a Lieutenant 1st class.

### Collection Inventory

- **Folder 1** – [Address made by L. M. Myer at Bentonsport, Iowa, July 10-1854], within brackets written in pencil at top of address. Handwritten, 55 p., 4" x 6". Pro-southern content that supports slavery.
- **Folder 2** – [Address delivered by Luther M. Myers, July 4-1856], within brackets written in pencil opposite first page. Handwritten, 17p., 4" x 6" Whiting Exchange Bank booklet. Patriotic speech touching on states' rights.
- **Folder 3** – Correspondence, Phillipi, Va., July 18th, 1858, addressed to Dear Brother and signed L[ouis] A. Myers, 3 p., handwritten. Also includes one page enclosure giving data on Louis A. Myers written sometime later.
- **Folder 4** – Correspondence, Philippi, Va., August 20th, 1859, addressed to Dear Brother [Mr. Luther M. Myers] and Sister [Mss. Anna A. Myers] and signed Lew: A. Myers, 3 p., handwritten. Letter appears to have been sent to the recipients living in Kansas.
- **Folder 5** – Correspondence, Philippi, Va., January 15th, 1860, addressed to My dear Sister [Mrs. Annie A. Myers] and signed Lew: A. Myers, 4 p., handwritten. Letter appears to have been sent to the recipient living in Kansas.
- **Folder 6** - Correspondence, Clarksburg, Va., February 3rd, 1861, addressed to My dear Sister [Mrs. Anna A. Myers] and signed Lou: A. Myers, 4 p., handwritten. Letter appears to have been sent to Cedar Creek, Kansas.
- **Folder 7** – Correspondence, Head Quarters U. S. Army in the field, Camp near Franklin, [Va.] May 17th, 1862, addressed to Dear Father [Mr. Myers, Esq.] and signed Louis A. Myers, 8 p., handwritten. Contains descriptions of combat with Rebel Army and conditions soldiers suffered.
- **Folder 8** – Correspondence, Mount Jackson, Shenandoah Co., Va., June 13th, 1862, addressed to Dear Father and signed Louis A. Myers, 8 p., handwritten. Describes a soldier's life and battle action with the Rebel Army.
- **Folder 9** – Correspondence, Buckhannan, West Va., Sunday, Nov. 23, 1862 addressed to My Dear Brother [Luther] and Sister [Anna M.] and signed Louis A. Meyers, 6 p., handwritten. Vivid description of the war, battle scenes, soldier's life, etc.
- **Folder 10** – Correspondence, Cane Hill, Ark., Dec. 26th, 1862 addressed to Dear Brother [Luther?] and signed I. C. Myers, 4 p., handwritten. Details battle fighting the rebels at Cane Hill, Arkansas.
- **Folder 11** – Correspondence, Elm Springs, Ark., Jan. 8th, 1863 addressed to Dear Brother [Luther] and signed Ireneus C. Meyers, 2 p., handwritten on the backside of the Arkansas Traveler, V. 1, no. 2, Cane Hill, Ark., January 1, 1863. Details the Van Buren, Arkansas area maneuvers. The "Arkansas Traveler" contains correspondence between General James Blunt and General T. C. Hindman.
- **Folder 12** – Correspondence, Crane Creek, Mo., Feb. 8th 1863 addressed to Dear Brother [Luther] and signed I. [Ireneus] C. Myers, 3 p., handwritten. Writing 28 miles from Springfield and 18 miles from the old battlefield of Wilson's Creek. Details internal regiment issues.
- **Folder 13** – Correspondence, Beverly, Va., Sept. 2nd 1863 addressed to Dear Father and signed Louis A. Myers, 4 p., handwritten. Short detail on a 27-hour battle at White Sulphur Springs in Greenbriar County. Brigade was almost captured.
- **Folder 14** – Correspondence, Head Quarters, Cavalry Division, Camp near Lewisburg, West Va., Sunday, May 29, 1864 addressed to My Dear Father and

Mother and signed Louis, 8 p., handwritten. Recalls a campaign against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

Processed initially by Craig Hannasch, 1989; additional processing by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, 2002.