

Collection #
SC 3458

**DAVID AND ELIZABETH BYERS
LETTERS, 1837, 1881**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1837, 1881

PROVENANCE: Gift of Lorenz G. Schumm, LaPorte, Indiana, April 1957.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1957.0419

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David Byers was born in Virginia in 1803, and died in October 1842. He is buried in Bell Cemetery in Carthage, Rush County, Indiana. His wife, Elizabeth Horne Byers (1804–August 1881), is also buried in Bell Cemetery. They married in April 1827 in Augusta County, Virginia. It is believed that they had six children: John, Rosannah, Samuel, Elizabeth, David, and William W. Most of the Byers children were born in Indiana, though David O. and Rosannah may have been born in Virginia. After David's death, Elizabeth married Thomas Snodgrass on 30 December 1845 in Henry County, Indiana.

David and Elizabeth's youngest son, William W. Byers, was born 30 November 1840. He died in October 1918 in LaPorte County, Indiana.

Sources:

1850 United States Census, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 3 July 2018.

1860 United States Census, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 3 July 2018.

1870 United States Census, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 3 July 2018.

Findagrave.com, accessed 3 July 2018.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains two letters. The first letter was written on 3 February 1837 by David and Elizabeth Byers to John Ott from Henry County, Indiana. Of the letter's recipient, John Ott, little can be determined other than his relationship as a cousin to the Byers. The letter mentions several different people: John and Mary Miller, Frederic Dices, Matthew and James Robinson, brother James, Samuel Young, as well as doctors Beaty, White, and Bell. Topics of interest to the writer were prices for land, goods, crops, and livestock. Mentions were made of a visit to Randolph County, Virginians in the area, farm work, an election for a local Justice of the Peace, and the legislature's discussions on canals, railroads, and state roads. Of particular note is the writer's stance on slavery and a prophetic notation that slaves "must have their liberty" and the likelihood there will be "much blood-shed."

A second partial letter is also included with the collection. It is written by an unknown person to William W. Byers in Rockville, Indiana, on 21 December 1881. This partial note makes reference to the letter written by William's father and specifically mentions the "prophecy" made within it.

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Letter, David and Elizabeth Byers to John Ott, 3
February 1837

Partial letter to William W. Byers, 21 December 1881

CONTAINER

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