

Collection #
SC 0084

**JOHN A. BERGER
PAPERS, 1861-1865**

Collection Information	1
Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

Processed by

Kyle Wertz
October 2019

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1861-1865
PROVENANCE:	Loaned for copying by Ruth Berger Blake, Tama, Iowa, 1969
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1969.1041
NOTES:	Entirely photocopies

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John A. Berger was born in Pennsylvania on October 15th, 1840. His family moved to York Township in Steuben County, Indiana in 1850. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Berger enlisted in the 29th Indiana Infantry Regiment in August 1861 with his brother Dan. Both John and Dan were eventually discharged due to disability, Dan in 1862 because of illness and John in 1863 due to a gunshot wound to the elbow suffered at the Battle of Stone River. John Berger also participated in the Battle of Shiloh and the Siege of Corinth. After being discharged, he moved west to Iowa in 1864, where he married Minerva Hockensmith in 1866. The couple had eleven children. Berger died on March 21, 1928 at the age of 87 in Tama County, Iowa.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

Caldwell, J.R. *A History of Tama County, Iowa, Volume 2*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1910.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains typewritten transcripts of twenty-nine letters written by John A. Berger during his time in the Union Army and his move to Iowa after the war. The letters describe conditions in camp, the wellbeing of himself and his fellow soldiers from York, and their experiences in the Battle of Shiloh and the Siege of Corinth. Several of the later letters were written while Berger was in the hospital recovering from his gunshot wound. There are photocopies of five of the original handwritten letters and of Berger's discharge papers. The letters are compiled in chronological order and interspersed with a running historical narrative of the 29th Regiment's role in the war written by Berger's descendant Ruth Berger Blake. Blake compiled and transcribed the letters in the 1960s.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letters, 1861-1865

CONTAINER

Folder 1