

Collection #
SC3683

**JOHN MYERS
CIVIL WAR LETTER, 27 JANUARY 1862**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 27 January 1862

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Myers (ca. 1828-?) was born in Ireland. Myers mustered into the Indiana 36th Infantry, Company H on 23 October 1861. He mustered out on 21 September 1864.

Sylvanus Cockefair (October 29, 1832-October 25, 1912) was born in Union County, Indiana to Elisha and Francis Cockefair. His father, Elisha, established a mill on Eli Creek in southwestern Union County near the town of Everton in 1822. The mill grew to employ between 20-25 men and Elisha Cockefair also acquired a “fancy” loom and a man from Scotland to operate it so the Cockefair mill could also produce tweed, scotch plaid, and other patterns that farmers could have woven from their own wool. It was said to be the first of its kind to be brought to Indiana. After the death of his father in 1864, Sylvanus and his brother took over operations, and the mill was then known as Eagle Mill. However, Cockefair found that he could not produce as efficiently as mills on the east coast and when the water wheel broke in 1888, he decided to cease production. The mill fell into disrepair over years of neglect but in 1930, Henry Ford was given the remaining machinery to outfit a mill that he wanted to erect in his antique village in Dearborn, Michigan.

Sylvanus was married to Mary Ann Brookbank (1845-1921) on 5 February 1863 and the couple had two children, Lafayette “Lafe” Cockefair and Alice May Cockefair Keltner.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

“103-Year-Old Union County Mill Will Be Rebuilt in Henry Ford’s Quant Village at Dearborn, Mich.” *The Indianapolis Star*, 26 October 1930, Page 64.

“When the Hoosier Farmer Grew His Own Clothes.” *The Indianapolis Star*, 27 August 1911, Page 49.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one letter dated 27 January 1862 and written by John Myers to Sylvanus Cockefair. In this letter, Myers thanks Cockefair for writing to him because he didn't think he had any acquaintances in America to direct his letters to. Myers also states his commitment to the Union and the Constitution even though he is not an American citizen, which he has proved by re-enlisting for another term of service in the 36th Indiana. Myers also reports that many of the officers of the 36th are sick and unable to report for duty and that he ran into a mutual acquaintance, Martin Evans, likely part of the 31st Indiana Infantry, who was being sent to Green River, Kentucky.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letter, 27 January 1862

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 1