



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**JOHN G. DECKER (1840-1921)**  
**PAPERS,**  
**1861-1950, bulk 1861-1863**

*Prepared by:*

Gwynn Thayer  
Archival Technical Services

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John G. Decker Papers include a small collection of letters written by Private John G. Decker, Second Division, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment, Army of the Ohio, to his family in Evansville, Indiana. John Decker and his twin brother Phillip joined the volunteer German unit organized in 1861 by Captain William Schnackenburg. The men were mustered in at Camp Nevin in Indianapolis and after training, headed south towards Louisville. John Decker's letters were written to his family back home, and provide interesting details about life as a soldier during the Civil War. Most of the letters are in English, but several are in German.

Decker survived the war and returned home to start a family, but his brother Phillip died on July 26, 1864, at the Confederate prison in Andersonville, Georgia. The collection includes supporting materials about the Decker family genealogy, the family business (a wagon factory), family photographs, and other related military records. The John G. Decker Papers were provided to TSLA for microfilming by a family descendant during the *Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee* project in 2010.

## CONTAINER LIST

1. Background essay on Private John G. Decker
2. Decker Family Genealogy charts
3. 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry data
4. Decker discharge papers, POW records, casualty sheet, G.A.R. recitation
5. Assorted Photographs related to Decker Family
6. Decker & Sons Advertisement, Photograph, and supplementary information

### **Letters: (originals and transcriptions)**

7. Letter to parents from J. G. Decker, April 27, 1862, RE: Camp Shiloh
8. Letter to Fred from J. G. Decker, January 24, 1862, RE: Camp George Wood
9. Letter to brother from J. G. Decker, May 5, 1862, RE: Field of Shiloh
10. Letter (not translated) from J. G. Decker, May 18, 1862, RE: Camp near Florence
11. Letter (not translated), to Christian Decker, May 1862 RE: Shiloh
12. Letter to parents from J. G. Decker, May 22, 1862, RE: Camp Shiloh
13. Letter to Phil from J. G. Decker, July 24, 1862, RE: stabbing at Camp Battlecreek
14. Letter to Fred from J. G. Decker, Dec. 26, 1862, RE: Christmas at Camp  
Dennison
15. Letter to brother from J. G. Decker, Jan. 4, 1863, RE: Camp Dennison
16. Letter to Phil from J. G. Decker, Jan. 15, 1863, RE: stay at Hospital No. 3, Ward I  
in Louisville, KY
17. Letter to John G. Decker from Herman Fielich (?), April 10, 1863, RE: Camp near  
Hallmouth & Abe Lincoln
18. Letter to Phil Decker from J. G. Decker, May 9, 1862, RE: Camp Shiloh and  
Corinth
19. Letter to brother, December 11, 1861, RE: Camp Nevin and Rebels
20. Letter to Fred from J. G. Decker, November 7, 1861, RE: Camp life and family  
matters
21. Letter to parents and family from John G. Decker, October 30 (?), 1861, RE:  
Camp Willich
22. Letter to parents from John G. Decker, October 4, 1861, RE: Camp Pitick