



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Carl Myers Balloon Farm Collection, 1889-1910

Thomas Wildenberg

1995



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Carl Myers Balloon Farm Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1991.0075
Date:	1889-1910
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet (1 slim legal document box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>Carl Myers (1842-1925) was a meteorologist, photographer and balloonist. In 1875, Myers and his wife Mary ("Carlotta, Queen of the Air") began experimenting with balloons and made their first ascensions in 1880. Myers constructed and flew a variety of balloons and airships, and worked on the following technical advances: he developed a varnishing machine for producing fabrics impervious to hydrogen gas; he produced a portable system for generating hydrogen gas; he patented an apparatus for guiding balloons; and he made the first balloon ascension using natural gas as the lifting medium. Myers manufactured balloons for the U.S. Weather Bureau's rainmaking experiments and also supplied the United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) with twenty-one balloons for use in Spanish American War. Myers retired in 1910. The collection consists of 91 images of the following: balloons, airships, and aeronautical gear in various stages of construction and flight; interior and exterior views of the Carl Myers Balloon Farm; and a number of portraits taken of the family and visitors, including Thomas C. Benbow, a noted pioneering aeronaut. It also contains correspondence written by Myers to Professor Henry Allen (H.A.) Hazen, a meteorologist connected with the United States Signal Office, and one letter to George E. Curtis, head of the U.S. Weather Bureau.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lynn Fitzpatrick, gift, 1991, 1991-0075, NASM (images only)

Processing Information

The images in this collection were donated by the great-granddaughter of Mr. White, who worked with Carl Myers and who was the photographer of these images. The original glass plates were brought to the Museum, where they were copied by the NASM Photo Lab and returned to the donor. Captioning was done by Tom Wildenberg in accordance with the historical record and written comments that accompanied the images.

Finding aid prepared by Tom Wildenberg, 1995.

Finding aid encoded by Amanda Buel, 2016.

Preferred Citation

Carl Myers Balloon Farm Collection, Acc. 1991-0075, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Charles Edgar Myers (1842-1925) was a meteorologist, photographer and balloonist. He grew up in the town of Mohawk, New York, becoming adept at the use of all types of electrical, chemical, and mechanical apparatus.

Myers started working in 1861 when he was hired as a teller by the Mohawk Valley Bank, a position which soon led to his interest in developing, and the subsequent invention of, a comparison system for identifying bogus bank notes. In 1863, at the solicitation of the Bank's officers, Myers established the town's first telegraph office. He resigned his position at the bank in 1867 and purchased a photograph gallery in the village of Hornell (then Hornellsville), New York. Fascinated with the rapid technical advances then being made in photography, he constructed a portable photographic set up for taking wet process photographs in scenic, remote locations. Using this equipment he produced the first known series of stereoscopic views of the Adirondack Wilderness billed as "The Adirondack Series."

While living in Hornellsville he met Mary Breed Hawley, seven years his junior, whom he married in 1871. In 1875 Myers sold the photographic gallery and moved back to Mohawk where he and Mary began to experiment with methods of making fabrics impervious to hydrogen gas so they would be suitable for manufacturing balloons and airship envelopes. Myers' interest in ballooning appears to have arisen out of his continuous involvement in meteorological measurements and a desire to further his studies of the atmosphere. One of his earliest achievements was the development of an automatic self-recording mercury barometer which properly compensated for temperature changes and kept a continuous record of local barometric pressure.

In 1878, Myers constructed his first balloon, but did not make his first ascension until 1880. Mary, who would later win notoriety as "Carlotta Queen of the Air," made her first ascension a few months later. Their only child, a daughter whom they named Elizabeth Aerial, was born the following year in 1881.

During the ten years that the Myers resided in Mohawk, Carl constructed and flew a variety of balloons and airships. He also developed a varnishing machine for producing fabrics impervious to hydrogen gas, produced a portable system for generating hydrogen gas, patented an apparatus for guiding balloons, and made the first balloon ascension using natural gas as the lifting medium. Within this time period he also published the writings of his wife, *The Aerial Adventures of Carlotta*, and started *The Balloon Bulletin*, a four page illustrated periodical devoted to aeronautics. Mary, it is said, made more balloon

ascensions than any person in America and was one of the only balloonists of that era to attain a measure of navigational control during untethered flight.

In 1889 Myers purchased the property owned by Fred Gates in Frankfort, New York, renaming it the "Balloon Farm." When the Weather Bureau was transferred to the Agriculture Department in 1891, he visited Mr. George E. Curtis in Washington, D.C., to propose his services as a supplier of balloons for meteorological use. In the next few years Myers manufactured more than one hundred balloons for the Weather Bureau and personally participated in rainmaking experiments involving "exploding " balloons which he designed for this purpose. In 1898 the Balloon Farm supplied the United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) with twenty-one balloons for use in the Spanish American War. In 1904 Myers was appointed Superintendent of Aeronautics at the St. Louis Exposition where he was in charge of aeronautic exhibits and also arranged for, and supervised, such special features as balloon races and demonstrations of the latest airships.

Myers continued to operate the Balloon Farm until 1910, when he sold the farm and moved to his daughter's home in Atlanta, Georgia. His last known work on ballooning appeared in 1913 when he wrote an article for *Scientific American* titled "Half a Lifetime with the Hydrogen Balloon."

Scope and Contents

The Carl Myers Balloon Farm Collection spans the years 1889-1910 and contains photographs and documents produced at the property of that name in Frankfort, New York, owned and operated by Carl Myers. "Professor Myers" as he was called by the press in his day, was a pioneering aeronaut, inventor, and experimenter actively engaged in all aspects of ballooning during these years.

The bulk of the collection consists of ninety-one captioned photographs showing a variety of balloons, airships, and aeronautical gear in various stages of construction and flight. Also included in this material are several interior and exterior views of the main house known as the Gates Mansion (see note) along with a number of portraits, both individual and group, taken of the family and visitors - possibly including several of Thomas C. Benbow. The latter was another pioneering aeronaut who visited the Balloon Farm in 1903 in conjunction with the construction of an airship later identified in contemporary press accounts of the *St. Louis Exposition* of 1904 as the Benbow Airship "Meteor."

Other material in the Carl Myers Balloon Collection consist of correspondence composed between 1891 and 1894. Except for one unrelated item, all are copies of letters written by Myers to George E. Curtis, head of the U.S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, and Henry Allen Hazen, then Professor of Meteorology at the Weather Bureau. The contents of these letters contain proposals for, discussions about, and observations involving the use of balloons for meteorological research. Information documented in these letters includes material on balloon technology, economical aspects of ballooning, and the operational aspects of conducting aeronautical activities with balloons in the 1890s.

Detailed information on the life of Carl Myers can be found in the biographical files of the National Air and Space Museum's Archives Division. Additional correspondence between Myers and the Weather Bureau is purported to be located in the archives of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Materials concerning Henry Allen Hazen can be found in two locations: at the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, listed under the Aeronautical Archives, Institute of the Aerospace Sciences, and at the Smithsonian Institution Archives under the Office of the Secretary, Records of the Smithsonian Institution.

Further information on Thomas Benbow and the Benbow "Meteor" (which the donor referred to as the "Montana Butterfly") can be located in the biographical files held at the National Air and Space Museum's Archives. Additional photographs of the Benbow Airship can be found in the Museum's photographic collection, images 2B 2166-2179.

NOTE: Gates Mansion - The main building at the Balloon Farm was located on Cemetery Hill Road in Frankfort, New York. It was a large mansion constructed by William Gates, the inventor of the sulfur safety match, in 1878 at a cost of \$35,000. The property was sold to Carl Myers by Gates' son Fred.

Arrangement

The Carl Myers Balloon Farm Collection is organized into two series.

Series 1: Photographic Images of the Carl Myers Balloon Farm (1889-1910); 91 images

Series 2: Correspondence (1891-1894); 20 items

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- Exhibitions
- Balloon gases
- Balloonists
- Balloons
- Balloons -- Exhibitions
- Balloons -- Materials
- Meteorology
- Meteorology -- Research
- Meteorologists

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs

Names:

- Benbow, Thomas C.
- Curtis, George E. (George Edward)
- Hazen, Henry Allen, 1849-1900
- Myers, Carl, 1842-1925
- Myers, Mary, "Carlotta Queen of the Air"
- United States. Army. Signal Corps
- United States. Weather Bureau

Geographic Names:

- Carl Myers Balloon Farm

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographic Images of Carl Myers Balloon Farm, 1889-1910

91 Photographic prints

Box 1, Folder 1-2

This series consists of ninety-one black and white contact prints, negatives, and interpositives reproduced from the original (4" x 5") glass plates which are still in the donor's possession. All but one of these images are believed to have been taken by Mr. White.

The images in this series come in two formats. Folder 1 contains copy negatives; folder 2 contains contact prints. Because the photographic content of these folders is identical, only one digital representation (for both folder 1 and folder 2) has been added to the digital finding aid.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-17 | Early view of Carl Myers' Balloon Farm showing partially inflated balloons in the foreground. Balloons possibly being used for government rainfall experiments., circa 1892
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-18 | Early view of Carl Myers' Balloon Farm ca. 1892 showing partially inflated balloons in the foreground. Balloons possibly being used for government rainfall experiments.
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-19 | Three fully inflated balloons rest on the front lawn of Myers' Balloon Farm. Believed to be there to allow varnish to dry, as well as to verify air tightness.
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-20 | Front view of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm; dog in foreground.
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-21 | Partially inflated balloons, possibly recently varnished, drying on front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Inflation apparatus in foreground. These balloons may have been consigned to the U.S. Army Signal Service Balloon Corps.
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-22 | Obscured view of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm with what appear to be U.S. Army Signal Service balloons and windmill in background.
Image(s) |
| Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No.
95-23 | Distant view of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm, as seen from east side of Cemetery Hill Road with grass and crops in foreground. |

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-24 Distant view of captive balloon with basket over Myers' Balloon Farm. Gates Mansion, windmill, and workshop building in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-25 Distant view of captive balloon with basket over Myers' Balloon Farm. Gates Mansion, windmill, and workshop building in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-26 Distant view of captive balloon with basket over Myers' Balloon Farm. Gates Mansion, windmill, and workshop building in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-27 Distant view of captive balloon with basket over Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Portico of Gates Mansion in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-28 Distant view of captive balloon with basket over Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Portico of Gates Mansion with small bush in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-29 Rear view of Carl Myers Balloon Farm with Gates Mansion, windmill, and workshops in background., circa 1900-1905
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-30 View of ground floor living room of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Taken from the parlor.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-31 View of ground floor living room of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Taken from the parlor.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-32 Inflated balloons and small airship envelope in third floor loft of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' balloon farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-33 Portable gas lamp on table, attached via tubing to hanging fixture. Possibly used to fill gas envelopes for integrity testing.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-34 Portable gas lamp on table, attached via tubing to hanging fixture. Possibly used to fill gas envelopes for integrity testing.

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-35
View of parlor and office space on first floor of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-36
View of office space on first floor of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-37
View of office space on first floor of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-38
View looking north-northwest to cemetery from uppermost portion of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. A large group gathers for an unknown event.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-39
Unidentified apparatus, possibly part of a gas generator. Photographed in the basement of the Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-40
Front view of steam captive balloon, Chicago. A Brisbois photograph., 1892
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-41
Captive balloon with unidentified aeronaut in light hemp/wood bottomed basket.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-42
Partial view of captive balloon with unidentified aeronaut in light hemp/wood bottomed basket.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-43
Lightweight hemp/wood bottomed basket suspended on front porch of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Ease of packing and light weight were useful features when traveling to fairs and exhibitions for balloon ascensions.

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-44 Unidentified captive balloon viewed from below.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-45 Distant view of unidentified balloon in flight.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-46 Unidentified captive balloon, probably built by Carl Myers, at Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, 1904. View from hanger door shows small spindle shaped envelope, possibly the "Aerial Torpedo" in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-47 Unidentified captive balloon bearing the banner "Blannes Coffee" at Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis. Unidentified inflated envelope, possibly the Benbow airship "Meteor," in foreground., 1904
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-48 Unknown balloon with sand bag filled basket ready for ascent. Gas generator barrels can be seen in left background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-49 Unknown captive balloon awaiting ascent, tethering winch is in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-50 Unknown balloon being prepared for fair grounds ascent.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-51 Truncated view of unidentified balloonist, possibly Carl Myers, standing in open framework basket.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-52 Truncated view of unidentified balloonist, possibly Carl Myers, standing in open framework basket.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-53 Truncated view of unidentified balloonist, possibly Carl Myers, standing in open framework basket.

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-54 Slightly truncated view of unidentified balloon with open framework basket.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-55 Slightly truncated view of unidentified balloon with open framework basket. Unidentified men stand in front of framework.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-56 Unidentified balloon is inflated; gas generator to right.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-57 Unidentified balloon is inflated in center of town; group of unidentified men faces the camera.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-58 Several balloons, possibly for U.S. Army Signal Service, and spindle shaped envelope, possibly "Aerial Torpedo," rest in third floor loft of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-59 Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" with unknown pilot, most likely Myers himself, at the controls. Sail screw and side rudders in view. Side rudders alongside pilot indicate later model "Skycycle."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-60 Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" with unknown pilot, most likely Myers himself, at the controls. Sail screw and side rudders in view. Side rudders alongside pilot indicate later model "Skycycle."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-61 Far view of Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" with unknown pilot, most likely Myers himself, at the controls. Sail screw and side rudders in view. Side rudders alongside pilot indicate later model "Skycycle."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-62 Side view of Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" being inflated. Shows horizontal seams of envelope and rope netting.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-63 End view of Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" being inflated. Shows horizontal seams of envelope and rope netting.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-64 Airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," on lawn of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm; gas generator apparatus in foreground.

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-65 Airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," being inflated on lawn of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-66 Airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," being inflated on lawn of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm; workshop in background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-67 Airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," being inflated on lawn of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm; inflation apparatus to left, gas street lamp in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-68 View from porch of airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," being inflated on lawn of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-69 Side view of airship envelope, most likely "Skycycle," being inflated at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Gates Mansion is in background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-70 End view of airship envelope, most likely the "Skycycle," being inflated at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm; workshop in background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-71 End view of airship envelope, most likely the "Skycycle," being inflated at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm, with unidentified men standing in foreground; workshop in background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-72 Inflated airship envelope, most likely for the "Skycycle," beside Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-73 Car being attached to Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle" while the envelope is inflated.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-74 Crowd surrounds Carl Myers' airship "Skycycle."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-75 Unidentified airship envelope is surrounded by crowds at Gates Mansion on Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Windmill in background.

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-76 End view of unidentified airship envelope surrounded by crowds at Gates Mansion on Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Windmill in background.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-77 Thomas C. Benbow stands next to a large airship envelope, most likely the Benbow airship "Meteor," on the front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-78 Side view of inflated airship envelope, possibly of the Benbow airship "Meteor," sitting on front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-79 Three-quarter front view of inflated airship envelope, possibly for the Benbow airship "Meteor," sitting on front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-80 Side view of inflated airship envelope showing diamond fabric patch.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-81 Side view, partially obscured by large tree, of inflated airship envelope showing diamond fabric patch.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-82 Side view, partially obscured by large tree, of inflated airship envelope showing diamond fabric patch.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-83 Unidentified airship resting in field surrounded by crowds.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-84 Side view of net covered airship envelope, possibly for Benbow's "Meteor," sitting on front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-85 Side view of inflated airship envelope, possibly for the Benbow airship "Meteor," sitting on front lawn of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Two unidentified men stand in foreground.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-86 View from below of tethered, possibly motor powered airship. Possibly the Benbow airship "Meteor."

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-87 View from below of tethered, possibly motor powered airship. Possibly the Benbow airship "Meteor."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-88 Three-quarter front view of airship keel/car assembly with propeller and rudder.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-89 One-quarter view of airship keel/car assembly with propeller and rudder.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-90 Unidentified mansion.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-91 Unidentified sea shore.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-92 Unidentified building, possibly workshops on Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-93 Unidentified church or school building.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-94 Group portrait with Thomas C. Benbow (first from left); other men are unidentified.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-95 Unknown woman in light colored hat in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-96 Unknown woman in light colored hat stands in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-97 Unidentified children, adults, and two dogs sitt on the steps in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-98 Unidentified friend of Elizabeth Myers, flower in hair and facing right, stands in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Donor referred to her as one of the "Vassar girls."

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-99 Unidentified friend of Elizabeth Myers, in dark trimmed dress facing camera, stands in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Donor referred to her as one of the "Vassar girls."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-100 Unidentified friend of Elizabeth Myers, facing right, stands in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm. Donor referred to her as one of the "Vassar girls."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-101 Elizabeth (Bessie) Aerial Myers stands in front of Gates Mansion at Carl Myers' Balloon Farm.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-102 Unidentified woman stands in front of split rail fence.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-103 Group portrait on steps of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm. From right: Elizabeth A. Myers, one of the "Vassar Girls," unknown male, Mary B. Myers, unknown male, other "Vassar Girl."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-104 Group portrait, with dog, on steps of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm. From right: Mary B. Myers, unknown male, one of the "Vassar Girls," unknown male, Elizabeth A. Myers, the other "Vassar Girl."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-105 Group portrait on steps of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm. From right: Elizabeth A. Myers, one of the "Vassar Girls," unknown male, Mary B. Myers, unknown male, the other "Vassar Girl."
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-106 Standing group portrait in front of steps of Gates Mansion at Myers' Balloon Farm. From right: Elizabeth A. Myers, unknown male, Mary B. Myers, the two "Vassar Girls," and unknown male.
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 1, Folder 1,
Envelope SI Neg. No. 95-107 Unidentified monument of mounded rider bearing the inscription "Washington."
[Image\(s\)](#)

Return to Table of Contents

Series 2: Correspondence, 1891-1894

20 Documents

Box 1, Folder 3

[Image\(s\)](#)

This series consists of nineteen photocopy reproductions of handwritten letters composed by Carl Myers, as well as one handwritten letter received by Myers from Gustave Hermite. The folder includes eighteen letters, most on Balloon Farm stationery, written to Henry Allen Hazen, then Professor of Meteorology at the Weather Bureau, U.S. Department Agriculture, and one letter to George E. Curtis, head of the Weather Bureau. The subjects of these letters include proposals for, discussions about, and observations concerning the use of gas filled balloons for meteorological research. The last item in the series is a letter to Myers (written in French) from Gustave Hermite on *L'Aerophile* letterhead discussing the price and specifications for a barothermograph. A translation by a NASM staff member is attached to the reproduction of the original.

With the exception of the Hermite letter, which is the last item in folder 3, this series is arranged in chronological order.

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