

Collection #
SC 0159

**BUTLER-COLE
PAPERS, CA. 1832**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** One manuscript folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** ca. 1832

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

**REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:** Ovid Butler Papers, M0036; Butler Family Genealogy
Materials, SC3094

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 0000.1285

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ovid Butler (February 7, 1801-July 12, 1881) was born in Augusta, New York, and his family moved to Indiana in 1817. Butler was mostly self-educated but did attend Vernon Seminary and studied law with a local Vernon, Indiana lawyer, William Avery Bullock. He then worked as an attorney in Shelbyville, Indiana from 1825-1836. He married Cordelia Dyer Cole (September 23, 1809-September 20, 1838) on April 26, 1827 in Shelby County, Indiana. Their three surviving children were Cordelia (Wallace) (1828-1866), Maria (Jameson) (1831-1911), and Ovid Dyer Butler (1837-1919). In 1836, Butler moved his family to Indianapolis and began a law practice, partnering with Calvin Fletcher, Simon Yanders and Horatio C. Newcomb. In 1849, he established an abolitionist newspaper called the *Free Soil Banner*. He also assisted in founding the Free Soil party in 1847, a political party that merged with the Republican party in 1852. After Cordelia's death in 1838, Butler married Elizabeth Anna Elgin (November 18, 1818-August 15, 1882) on April 2, 1840. Their eight children were Georgiana (Wells) (1838-1861), Demia (Townley) (1842-1867), Scot (1844-1931), Janet (Anderson) (1846-1868), Chauncy Bullen (1848-1937), Tommie (1853), Thomas McQuat (1854-1872), and Anne Elizabeth (Thomas) (1857-1937). In 1847, he worked with the Disciples of Christ to propose a charter to the Indiana General Assembly to establish North Western Christian University. It was approved in 1850. He donated twenty acres of his own land in Indianapolis as the site for the university. It was later renamed Butler University in his honor. He was an active member of the university until his death in 1881. He is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery on the Butler plot.

Sources:

Ancenstrylibrary.com

Childs-Helton, Sally. "Ovid Butler and the Founding of Butler University", 2010.

https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1049&context=librarian_papers Accessed 28 August 2020.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Ovid Butler and Cordelia Dyer Cole sent love poems to each other through a porter sometime around 1832. The exact dates of the correspondence are unknown. Also in this collection is a written will regarding the children before Cordelia's passing and an account of accrued debt in a hotel, name and location of which are unknown.

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Poems, written will and a detail of accounts from a hotel, ca. 1832

CONTAINER

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