

Collection #
P0063

BUTLER MUSIC COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1880–CA. 1920

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder of contact prints

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1880–ca. 1920

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.0940

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

In 1878 Thad W. Butler, born 1858 in Laketon, Indiana, age 20, drove into Marion, to work in a carriage factory. So began Thad W Butler's long and successful relationship with Marion, Indiana. When the plant was moved to Logansport in 1879, he moved with it. A year later it burned, and Butler relocated to Marion opening his own carriage factory, which became Indiana's largest.

After the discovery of gas in Grant County, Marion grew rapidly and Butler sold his carriage business to pursue real estate. He and two friends bought 500 acres of land on the west side of Marion, financed and planned an industrial park, and erected the York Inn. Once a landmark, the economic recession of 1893 brought its demise. .

Meanwhile Thad opened The Butler Cycle and Music Company in 1897. It handled musical instruments, sheet music and recording machines, pianos with accompanying benches/stools, and cameras. Within a few years, he was selling pianos at the rate of more than one a day. The models, among them Kimball, Emerson and Chute-Butler, commanded substantial prices. Over time, Butler opened music stores not only in Marion but in Kokomo, Wabash and Peru, and brought several factories to Marion, including Sweet and Clark Malleable Rolling Mills from Troy, NY.

Sources:

Bunish, Steve, *Golden Age of Marion* (no city, publisher or date noted);

Esarey, Logan, *History of Indiana*, 2 vols. (Indianapolis: Hoosier Heritage Press, Inc., 1970);

Grant County and Who's Who (Marion, IN: Special Company, 1909?); no editor/author noted;

Simons, Richard, ed. *Century of Development: Grant County, Indiana* (Marion, IN: Grant Country Junior Historical Society, 1937)

Whitson, Rolland L., *Centennial History of Grant County, Indiana*; 2 vols. (Chicago, IL: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains approximately 100 copy photographs printed on 24 contact sheets. The photographs mostly

document the business activities of the Thad W. Butler family of Marion, Indiana between ca. 1880 and ca. 1920. Views of the Butler music Company storefront and interior photographs of pianos, gramophones, and other merchandise on display dominate the collection. Each image is numbered with a copy negative number.

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Duplicate

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by Larrimer

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0063).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.