

**Collection #  
OM 0592**

**CALVIN FLETCHER, JR.  
LETTERS, 1897**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 2 oversized folders

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1897

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Herbert Wagner, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1942

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: P 0120 Calvin Fletcher, Jr. Family Collection, ca. 1850–1977,  
Indiana Historical Society. (Several collections, most notably  
the Calvin Fletcher (Sr.) diaries that relate to the larger Fletcher  
Family.)

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1942.0802

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Calvin Fletcher Jr. (1826–1903) was the son of Calvin Fletcher Sr. and Sarah Hill Fletcher. Educated at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, he married Emily Beeler (1849). Two sons and three daughters were born to the couple, two of whom died in infancy. He worked his father's farm for several years, even after his marriage to Emily, but following the death of their son Calvin Beeler ("Toddy") who died in 1857, they moved into the city of Indianapolis.

In 1858 he and two other men established Western Commercial Nurseries. In 1868 he purchased land in Owen County where he built Ludlow Hall. Today the area would equal 6 city blocks. At the turn of the 20th century he sold the estate to E. Chubb Fuller, publisher of the *Agriculturalist Epitomist*. Fuller moved the *Epitomist* to Ludlow Hall. Thinking they would move to southern California, the family bought 4000 acres in 1872 there, but later decided they preferred Europe, where they spent considerable time. Living beyond their means led to insolvency in the late 1890s.

Mrs. Calvin Fletcher (Emily Beeler) (1828–1910) was the daughter of Joseph and Hannah Mathews and wife of Calvin Fletcher Jr. Emily's father Joseph willed her 160 acres of land in Wayne Township of Marion County—southwest of present-day Monument Circle. In the Civil War she worked as a nurse in hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In the Hoosier capital she helped to establish the Home for Aged Women. She died at her home on November 27, 1910. One of the couple's daughters was also named Emily, born October 4, 1857.

The daughter Emily, the recipient of the letters in this collection, never married. She lived with her parents for most of her life, was never employed, and later lived with Sarah Dickey (housekeeper who later retired) and Mary Dickey (housekeeper).

Sources:

Materials in the collection

P 0120 Calvin Fletcher, Jr. Family Collection, ca. 1850–1977, Indiana Historical Society.

Ancestry. "Emily Fletcher in the 1920 United States Federal Census." [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Accessed March 23, 2015.

Musselman, Seth. "Emily Fletcher." *Find a Grave*. Accessed March 23, 2015. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=45938978&ref=acom>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains two letters from E.J.D. to Emily (Feb. 1897). E.J.D. is possibly a seamstress because she writes about Emily coming to pick out fabrics and paying for items. The letters also discuss the weather, events in the community, and E.J.D.'s monetary problems.

The collection also contains several letters from Calvin Fletcher: one to daughter Emily (May 3, 1897) with enclosed letter for "Whid" and one for Buschmann.

The letter to Emily asks her to read over the letter to Mr. Buschmann, also discussing the weather, a birthday party, and other events. The letter to Buschmann asks him to look at the enclosed newspaper clipping about pheasant farms in the United States. There were pheasants living on the back of Fletcher's property and he was thinking of making his own venture into pheasants; therefore, he wanted Buschmann's opinion. The plat map was also addressed to Buschmann to illustrate Fletcher's organization ideas. The letter to "Whid" asks Whid to read over Fletcher's letter to Buschmann before sending it on to him. Whid most likely was a nickname for Calvin I, as Fletcher signs the letter "Pa" and discusses Horace.

A handwritten note about the contents of the collection, as well as a handwritten note concerning members of the family, are in the folder with the letters from E.J.D.

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Letters from E.J.D., 1897.

Letters from Calvin Fletcher, 1897.

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

## 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, OM 0592).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.