

Collection #
SC 0162

**EDWARD MANN BUTLER
LETTER, 22 FEBRUARY 1838**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 22 February 1838

PROVENANCE: Walter Benjamin, New York City, 17 March 1951

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *A History of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, F451.B98 1834;
Valley of the Ohio, F517.B88 1971

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1951.0339

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward Mann Butler (July 13, 1784-November 1, 1855) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He studied at St. Mary's College, District of Columbia, and earned degrees in both medicine and law. He briefly practiced law in Lexington, Kentucky, but gave it up in 1806. He married Martha Dedman (June 15, 1788-October 4, 1856) in August 1806, and they had two children, Wallace Clark (1833-1926) and Julia A. (1828-1900). Butler began his career as an educator, with various teaching positions at Versailles, Maysville, Frankfort, Jefferson Seminary, Kentucky Seminary, and Transylvania University. In 1829, he became principal of the first public grammar school in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1834, he published *A History of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*. This text is believed to be the first accurately written history of Kentucky and is still referenced to this day. Also in 1834, he resigned his position as principal, helped found the University of Louisville (formerly Jefferson Seminary), and became its first president. He may also have served as a Justice of the Peace and a notary public. Upon his death, Butler was researching a history of the Ohio River Valley. It is incomplete but is now included in editions of his original commonwealth text. He was killed in a train accident near St. Louis, Missouri. He is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Mann_Butler

Ancestrylibrary.com

"Biographical Note." Guide to the Reuben T. Durrett Collection of Mann Butler Papers, 1816-1874. University of Chicago Library.

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/src/findingaids/view.php?eadid=ICU.SPCL.BUTLERM>

Accessed 28 August 2020.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Edward Mann Butler writes from Louisville, Kentucky, to Reverend Peabody on 22 February 1838 inquiring about a location mentioned on a diary page from someone who was on a march with George Rogers Clark in 1778.

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CONTAINER

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