

Collection #
SC 3015

JOSEPH BUTLER
PAPERS, CA. 1866–1884

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Processed by

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May 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: ca. 1866–84

PROVENANCE: J. Stanley Blumin, Pembroke Pines, Florida

RESTRICTIONS: None

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REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: Annual Reports of the Commissioners and Superintendent of
the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, to the General Assembly.
General Collection: RC445.I6 I6; Report of Committee of the
House of Representatives on the Management and Affairs of
the Indiana Hospital for the Insane. General Collection,
RC445.I6 I62 1887.

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2008.0387

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The primary people whose names appear in this collection—Joseph Butler, Oliver Butler, and M. C. Binford—haven't been positively identified, but the Binford and Butler family names appear frequently in histories of Hancock County.

The Indianapolis “Insane Asylum” Oliver Butler refers to is the Indiana Hospital for the Insane. Founded in 1844, its name changed in 1889 to the Central Indiana Hospital and then in 1929 to Central State Hospital. Until 1888 it was Indiana’s only psychiatric hospital. When Oliver Butler resided there in 1884, the institution employed a variety of methods, including “moral therapy,” domestic and farm work, sedatives, and restraints. At various points throughout its history, the hospital suffered from lack of funding, overcrowding, and allegations of abuse. Central State Hospital closed in 1994.

Sources:

Binford, John H. *History of Hancock County, Indiana, from its earliest settlement by the “pale face” in 1818, down to 1882*. Greenfield, Indiana: King & Binford, 1882.

Bodenhamer, David J., and Robert G. Barrows, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Richman, George J. *History of Hancock County, Indiana: Its People, Industries and Institutions*. Greenfield, Indiana: William Mitchell Printing Co., 1916.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This short collection consists of a handwritten 1866 receipt for three large payments from M. C. Binford to Joseph Butler; an envelope addressed to Joseph Butler in Westland, Hancock County; and an 1884 letter from Oliver Butler to his brother Joseph Butler.

The letter states that Oliver feels “as sound in mind as I ever was” and would like either to be picked up and taken back to Westland, or to be sent money to make the return trip on his own. He also includes instructions to “redeem my property, Riverside.”

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Envelope addressed to "Mr. Joseph Butler / Westland
PO / Hancock Co / Ind," n.d.

Receipt for three payments from M. C. Binford to
Joseph Butler, dated 27 February 1866, 30 June 1866,
and 7 January 1867

Letter from Oliver Butler to Joseph Butler, 11
February 1884

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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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, SC 3015).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.