

Collection #
SC 0163

**NOBLE C. BUTLER
PAPERS, 1897-1904**

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August 2020

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Two manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1897-1904

PROVENANCE: Mary Butler Bradley, July, 1959

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Noble C. Butler Papers, 1809-1933

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.0704

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Noble Chase Butler (1844-1933) was born in Salem, Indiana, the son of John H. and Mary Chase Butler. Both parents were of Quaker descent. After receiving his early education at Washington County Seminary and Salem Academy, Butler entered Hanover College in 1860. He stayed through his junior year, then enlisted as a private in the 93rd Indiana Infantry, where he served till 1865, mainly on special duty at headquarters. At the end of the Civil War, Butler studied law with his father. In 1866, the Butlers moved to New Albany and entered a partnership with Walter Q. Gresham. Noble Butler soon was appointed Register in Bankruptcy and Master in Chancery. In 1868, Butler married Annie Browning (July 6, 1843-September 26, 1917) of Louisville, whose mother had roomed with Mary Todd Lincoln in boarding school and whose uncle, Orville H. Browning, had served in Lincoln's cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. Together, they had two girls, Anne Browning (Sturgis) (1872-1947) and Mary Browning (Risk) (1870-1956). Annie passed in 1917 after falling into a diabetic coma. When his father retired, and Gresham went on the bench in 1869, Butler continued his practice in New Albany alone. In 1879 he was appointed by Judges Gresham and Drummond as clerk of the federal district and circuit courts in Indianapolis. He held this position until 1922, living all the while in what came to be known as the Morris-Butler house. One important legal assignment which Butler was given was the receivership of two-wheel companies, a \$1.5 million business which he ran for more than a year. He lectured at Indiana Law School from 1902 to 1922 and at Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington. He was one of the incorporators of the National Red Cross on its reorganization in 1905, just before the San Francisco earthquake. He was known as a writer of essays and as a speaker. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Indiana Biographical Series, Vol. 2 p. 319 and Vol. 12 p. 14 Encyclopedia of Biography of Indiana, Vol. 2 pp. 45-48 Materials in collections

Noble C. Butler Papers Collection Guide, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/noble-c-butler-papers.pdf>

ancestrylibrary.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These are responses to inquiries made by Butler to United States Navy personnel and officials. Most contain permissions for him access materials or board specific ships. There are three responses from Theodore Roosevelt while he was the assistant secretary of the Navy in 1897. There is one response from Horace Gray, a Supreme Court justice at the time, and Melville W. Fuller, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

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