

Collection #  
M 1529  
OM 0781

**STOLER FAMILY  
PAPERS, 1860-1993**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** Four and one-half manuscript boxes, two oversized folders, 3 folders of photographs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1860-1993

**PROVENANCE:** The Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, 2007

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** The Jacob Stoler Civil War letters were filmed by the IHS in 1961 and accessioned as microfilm F0079.

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Abraham Stoler account books, 1829-1891 (F0022)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2007.0056

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Abraham Stoler (1803-1892) and Ann [Cypher] Stoler (1815-1882) brought their family, including son Jacob (1840-1892), daughter Malinda (c. 1842-1934) and four other children, to Whitley County, Indiana from Bedford County, Pennsylvania around 1848. There they worked a 160-acre farm near the town of Larwill. Malinda eventually married Sam Snyder and moved to Los Angeles, where she died at the age of 92.

Jacob Stoler served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. Back home in Indiana, he married Anna M. Rindfusz (1848-1936) in December 1866. Daughters Lorena (1868-1936) and Clara (1870-1947) were born to the couple before relocating to Fort Wayne in Allen County. There, sons Fred W. (1878-1968) and Albert E. (1880-1953) were born. The family would move to Iowa in 1881 but returned to Fort Wayne in 1884 due to Jacob's failing health.

In 1887, after she had completed the eighth grade, Clara began teaching at the Butler school in Washington township, Allen County. Fred would follow as a teacher after graduating from the Fort Wayne Central Grammar School in 1895.

In 1901, Fred married Bertha F. Bowersock, whom he met at a literary society meeting. The two moved onto Bertha's family farm. Their first daughter Mildred C. (1902-2001) was born there. In 1905 Fred sold his farm implements and moved his young family to Bloomington, Indiana. Fred earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Indiana University in 1908. That same summer, he accepted a position teaching science at Alexandria High School in Madison County.

In Alexandria, second daughter Velma M. (1909-1978) was born. At about the same time, Fred was promoted to principal of Alexandria High while still teaching physics, chemistry, botany, and geography. Mildred graduated from there in 1919. In 1923, Fred's career took him to Anderson High School.

Mildred went on to the Ball State Teacher's College in Muncie for two years, and then earned her bachelor's in history from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1926. She stayed at IU for her master's degree in History and International Relations in 1929 and then her PhD in American, Modern European, English, and Ancient History as well as Public Administration and Public Law in 1938.

Back in Madison County, Velma married Harry R. Smith in 1930. In 1931, the couple welcomed a son, Malcolm Smith (1931-2014).

One of Mildred's earliest teaching jobs was at Lawrenceburg High School in Dearborn County from 1926 to 1928. From 1930 to 1933 she arranged manuscript collections at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. In the late 1930s she worked as an assistant to two of her professors at Indiana University, F. L. Bennis and Prescott W. Townsend.

In 1937 Mildred moved to Washington, DC where she taught Ancient, Medieval, and Modern European History at the Wilson Teachers' College. After *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, this school merged with the Miner Teachers' College and became known

simply as the D.C. Teachers' College. By 1960 she was Director of Student Teaching. Mildred would teach there until her retirement in 1973. In 1968 her father Fred passed away at the age of 90. In 1983 Mildred moved to Florida, where she died in 2001 at the age of 98.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of family and professional material, mostly correspondence and schoolwork, saved by or created by Fred W. Stoler and his daughter Mildred C. Stoler.

Correspondence of Malinda Stoler's from the 1860s and 1870s was received mostly from friends and some family, such as cousins. Malinda was living in Whitley County at the time.

The bulk of the collection highlights Fred's and Mildred's careers in academia and Mildred's correspondence with her family and students.

The collection has been arranged chronologically with one exception. The diaries of Fred W. Stoler, which he kept throughout most of his life, have been placed at the end for their bulky nature and ease of access.

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