

Collection #  
SC 0805

**WILLIAM D.H. HUNTER  
PAPERS, 1880–1885**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Alysha Zemanek  
March 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1880–1885

PROVENANCE: John T. Gibson, Washington, D.C.; 1978

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: William D.H. Hunter Papers Addition SC 3400

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1978.0204

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William D. H. Hunter was born 8 January 1830 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana to James W. and Harriett Hunter. He attended local schools and in 1848 began taking classes at Asbury University in Greencastle, Indiana. In 1851, he moved to Mexico, Missouri where he studied medicine along with his older brother.

Hunter married Lucy Jane White on 7 December 1854. However, she died the next year, on 13 October 1855. He then married Francis A. Cauthorn on 15 October 1857. They had two children, Hattie and Bessie.

Hunter lived in Mexico, Missouri until 1871 and briefly practiced medicine there. For a time he was the editor of the *Mexico Weekly Ledger*. In 1857, Hunter bought the paper from John B. Williams. However, in 1862 a fire destroyed the paper's printing offices. At various times Hunter served as mayor, a member of the city council, and a clerk of the county court. In 1864, he was elected to represent Audrain County in the State Legislature. Two years later, President Johnson appointed Hunter an assessor of internal revenue for the Fourth District of Missouri. Hunter also represented the Ninth Congressional District of Missouri in the 1868 National Democratic Convention.

In 1871, Hunter returned to Lawrenceburg. He bought the *Lawrenceburg Register*, the town's Democratic newspaper, in 1877. He co-owned and managed the paper with his nephew and son-in-law, William H. O'Brien. In 1885, President Cleveland appointed Hunter collector of internal revenue for the Sixth District of Indiana. He held that position until 1889. Hunter was supported by William S. Holman, then a U.S. Representative from Indiana's Fourth District, who advocated for Hunter's appointment. Hunter's son-in-law, O'Brien, consequently assumed management of the paper. Hunter and his son-in-law also organized the Citizens' National Bank of Lawrenceburg together in 1890.

From 1880 to 1882, Hunter served as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. He was also instrumental in organizing the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association during the same period. The association included newspapers affiliated with the Democratic party.

Hunter died on 5 February 1898.

Sources:

Callaway County, Missouri, Obituaries, 1888-1910, via Ancestry.com

Collection guide. SC 0805 William D.H. Hunter Papers, 1880–1885. Indiana Historical Society.

Cumback, Will and J.B. Maynard. *Men of Progress, Indiana*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Sentinel Company, 1899.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=pVszAQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=pVszAQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

*History of Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana*. Chicago: F.E. Weakley & Co., 1885.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=b040AQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=b040AQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Library of Congress. "About Mexico Weekly Ledger." Accessed March 6, 2018.  
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89067274/>

McBirney, Connie. Collection guide. M 0368 Holman-O'Brien Papers, 1827–1893. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide completed 1982)

Missouri, Marriage Records, 1805-2002, via Ancestry.com

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current, via Ancestry.com

1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Federal Censuses, via Ancestry.com

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains correspondence to and from William D.H. Hunter from 1880 to 1885. Hunter's correspondents included William S. Holman, Ed E. Long, A.C. Downey, W.H. English, Joseph Brashear, J.L. Benham, and J.B. Stoll. The correspondence concerns Hunter's involvement in politics and the newspaper industry.

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Correspondence, March 1880

Correspondence, April–September 1880

Correspondence, June 1881–February 1882

Correspondence, March 1882–June 1882

Correspondence, July 1882–1885

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5