

Collection #
M 0145
BV 1478–1495
BV 1865–1871
F 0227–0229

**W. R. (WILLIAM ROBESON) HOLLOWAY
PAPERS, 1795–1903**

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Processed by
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	11 manuscript boxes, 23 bound volumes, 3 reels of microfilm, 2 photograph folders, 2 OVA photograph folders
COLLECTION DATES:	1795–1903
PROVENANCE:	Irwin Library, Butler University, 4600 Sunset Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46208, 1 December 1970, 1 November 1977, 1 June 1980, 29 January 1981
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1970.1203; 1977.1107; 1980.0607; 1981.0207
NOTES:	Collection originally processed by Charles Latham.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Robeson Holloway (1836–1911) was born in Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. His father, David P. Holloway, was editor of the Richmond *Palladium*, U.S. Congressman (1855–57), and Commissioner of Patents (1860s). William Holloway began working for newspapers in Cincinnati and Richmond at the age of fourteen. In 1858 he married Eliza Burbank of Centerville, Indiana, whose sister was married to Oliver P. Morton. Holloway read law in Morton's office from 1858–60 and was admitted to the bar in 1860.

In 1861 Holloway served as Governor Morton's private secretary. He held that position for two years before leaving for private business ventures in New York. In 1864 he purchased a share of the Indianapolis *Journal* and in 1865 he was appointed state printer. In 1867 he sold his share in the newspaper and returned to his position as Morton's private secretary. One year later he again purchased the *Journal* and controlled it until 1872. In 1870 he published a *History of Indianapolis*.

In 1869 Holloway was appointed postmaster in Indianapolis. He retained this position through the presidencies of Grant and Hayes but was not re-appointed by Garfield. From 1880–86 Holloway ran the Indianapolis *Times*. It was not a success, and it was merged with the *Journal* in 1886. From 1887–89 he was involved with the Indianapolis Cable Street Railway Company, working closely with W. W. Dudley. The company was purchased by a competitor led by Tom Johnson of Cleveland, Ohio. In the early 1890s Holloway was on the board of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Co.

In the campaign year of 1896, Holloway worked hard before the convention to secure McKinley's nomination against Harrison. He mounted another campaign to be rewarded with a diplomatic position. After a frustrating wait, he was appointed consul in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he served until he suffered a stroke in 1904. From 1904–07 he held the less demanding post of consul in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He died in 1911.

Sources:

Indiana Biographical Series, Indiana State Library, Vol. 1, pp. 56–57 and p. 68.

Indiana Biographical Series, Indiana State Library, Vol. 19, pp.22–23.

Who Was Who in America, vol. 4, p. 454 (E 176 .w64 v. 4).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Holloway's general and political correspondence, business dealings, and his records while postmaster in Indianapolis. Also included are papers relating to Oliver P. Morton and his family and Holloway's attempts to secure political appointments.

Topics included in Holloway's correspondence are national and state politics, Republican Party affairs, newspapers, the postal service, and family. Among the chief correspondents is First Assistant Postmaster General J. N. Tyner regarding the political ramifications of the postal service, 1876–81; John C. New concerning the inner workings of the Republican Party in Indiana, 1881 and 1884; and William McKinley and Marcus Hanna on the subject of the presidential election of 1896.

Holloway's business dealings relate to his investments in whiskey and farm products in New York City, 1863–64; his newspaper connections with the *Indiana Journal*, 1864–72 and the *Indianapolis Times*, 1880–86; and records of the Indianapolis Cable Street Railway Company, 1887–88.

The largest portion of Holloway's papers deal with his position as Indianapolis postmaster, 1869–80. Among the items are correspondence, account books, and financial information such as cashier's statements, postage due, and mail bags and sacks.

The collection also contains papers of Oliver P. Morton and his family, 1857–1903. The Morton papers include personal and political correspondence; speech notes; a scrapbook containing official proclamations issued while he was governor; letters of condolence sent to his widow upon his death, 1877; letters regarding William Dudley Foulke's biography of Morton, 1899; the papers of his son, Oliver T., regarding his legal practice, 1889; and a recipe book.

Also included is a letter by Nils Nystrom about extinguishing fires, 1795; and papers relating to the estate of Thomas Brumfeld in Wayne and Delaware counties, Indiana, 1847.

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