

Collection #  
SC 0164

**WILLIAM W. BUTLER  
DIARIES, 1857-1876**

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

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1857-1876

PROVENANCE: G. F. Butler, Riverside, California, June, 1950

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Sale of Lands!!! Of the estate of Amos Butler, deceased, F534.M22 B88 1848; To Dr. Amos W. Butler with deep appreciation and esteem, HV8987.A53 1932;*

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1950.0632

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Wallace Butler (March 11, 1810-November 21, 1903) was born in Brookville, Indiana to Amos (1769-1837) and Mary (Wallace) Butler, who were the first white settlers to come to Brookville, Indiana. Amos Butler was instrumental in its beginning. He is a descendant of John Butler who traveled with William Penn to assist in the new colonial settlement of Pennsylvania in 1681. William Butler became a farmer and owned land in Indiana and Illinois. He worked as a land prospector as well in the Southern and Western states for some time. He also attempted to make a living as a merchant, banker, miller and manufacturer throughout his life. He married Isabella McCleery (1820-March 6, 1839) on June 14, 1838, but she died the following year on March 6th at just nineteen years old. He married Elizabeth Wright (1817-1855) in 1840 and she passed in the year 1855. He did not marry again until December 12, 1859 to Hannah Wright (1821-1890). They had their only son, Amos (1860-1937) the following year on October 1st. Amos went on to become an American naturalist. Amos Butler co-founded the Brookville Society of Natural History in 1881. He also assisted in founding the Indiana Academy of Science in 1885. His organizational memberships included the American Ornithologists' Union, Wilson Ornithological Club, the Biological Society of Washington, the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, and the Natural Study Club of Indiana. He authored and co-authored multiple texts throughout his life. In September of 1876, the Butler family had the opportunity to visit Washington DC and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Butler Homestead in Brookville, Indiana was sold to T.C. Steele and J. Ottis Adams. They were instrumental in the remodeling and renaming of the location as the "Hermitage", a place commonly frequented by artists in the summers. William W. Butler was blind for the last 17 years of his life. He had been in decline for three months before passing on November 21, 1903 in Warren Township, Indiana. He is buried in Hanover, Indiana.

### Sources:

"Funeral of Indiana pioneer held today" *Indianapolis News*, 23 November, 1903.  
Accessed via Hoosier State Chronicles on 9/1/20

*Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (June, 1917), pp. 146-150

Ancestrylibrary.com

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amos\\_Butler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amos_Butler)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

William Wallace Butler wrote almost daily in the diaries in this collection in the years 1857, 1874 and 1876. Included are a record of debts paid and owed, visits to friends and reports of the weather. He does include information from his father's family in the diary from 1876 along with receipts from taxes paid as well as a visit to Washington, DC and Philadelphia.

## **CONTENTS**

### **CONTENTS**

Diaries, 1857-1876

### **CONTAINER**

Folder 1 of 1