Collection #
SC 3094

BUTLER FAMILY GENEALOGY MATERIALS, CA. 2010-2015

Collection Information

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Contents

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	7 manuscript folders
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 2010-2015
PROVENANCE:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	M 0036/BV 1011, Ovid Butler Papers
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2014.0107
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

This genealogy researches back to 1150 in Norfolk, England. It follows Theobald FitzWalter Le Botiller to Ireland with Prince John, son of King Henry II and identifies Theobald's brother, Hubert, as the Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury. The Irish suppression in 1649 by Cromwell and the Ormond/Butler family began to move. In 1653, James Butler arrived in America. James' great-grandson, Joel Butler, served in the American Revolution in 1776.

Demia Bullen Butler (1778-1812), the first Demia in a long line of Butler women, gave birth to Ovid Butler (1801-1881) in Augusta, New York. Ovid lived in Shelby County, Indiana from 1825-1836. He was an Indianapolis, attorney; owner of the *Free Soil Banner* (1848) and the *Indianapolis Journal* (1854); and was president of the Board of North Western Christian University from 1852-1871 and chancellor from 1872-1881. Though chartered by the state legislature in 1850, the school did not open until 1855. It was later named Butler University in his honor. Ovid Butler sold twenty acres of his property for the original site of the university, located at 13th and College Avenue (then considered the near northside of Indianapolis).

In 2004, Barbara Butler Davis, along with Scot Butler, published a book, *Affectionately Yours: The Civil War Home-Front Letters of the Ovid Butler Family*. Both are descendants of Ovid Butler.

Sources:

Materials from Collection

Portions of this sketch are also borrowed from the Ovid Butler Papers, 1841–1893, M 0036 collection guide.

Bodenhamer, David and Robert G. Barrows. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the background information of the chief researcher and donor of the materials, Melina Ann Fox. Melina, four generations removed from Ovid Butler, pursued this research in order to become part of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as the Magna Carta Society of Dames and Barons.

Included is a timeline for the Butler Family from 1150-1881, showing the family's connection to the Magna Carta and ending with Ovid's death. There is a more extensive lineage of the Butler family starting with Hervey Walter, born ca. 1124 and ending with Melina. Also, there is research information about James Butler and his journey to the American colonies. Included also is a section devoted to the women in the Butler family named Demia, a name passed down starting with Ovid's mother, Demia Bullen Butler.

Finally, there is a list of corrections to Barbara Butler Davis and Scot Butler's book, *Affectionately Yours*, a compilation of Ovid Butler family letters during the Civil War.

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