

Collection #
M 1125
OM 0562

**CONLEY AND BLAKE
CIVIL WAR ERA AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS,
1841–1951, BULK 1841–68**

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Processed by

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August 2014

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half size manuscript box, 5 oversized manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1841–1951, bulk 1841–68

PROVENANCE: Jo Anne D. Wuensch, Williston, Vermont, August 2009

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2009.0222

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hugh H. Conley was born in Vermillion County, Indiana on January 14, 1843. He never received a college education, choosing instead at the age of 19 to join the Union Army, enlisting in 1862. He was honorably discharged in May 1865.

After the Civil War, he was a teacher for a time until he was elected County Superintendent of the Vermillion County Schools. He read law for a time and was admitted to the bar in 1877. For more than 25 years he was one of the foremost lawyers in Vermillion County. Four of those years were spent as the Prosecuting Attorney of the twenty-first judicial circuit composed of Warren, Fountain, and Vermillion counties. He died in 1919.

He was married to Margaret A. Conley, with whom he had four children: Carl H., William B., Edith E., and Margaret.

Captain William McMahan Blake was born in Oldham County, Kentucky in 1819[?]. When he was 8 years old he moved with his parents to Indiana, but they both died soon after. He lived with an older brother in Kentucky for a time, apprenticing as a tailor. He later returned to Indiana, settling in Danville, where he married Mary Ann Matlock. He fathered seven children, three of whom survived him at his death: Anna Fry, George E. Blake, and James W. Blake.

He kept a tailor shop in Danville, apprenticing both A.O. and J.S. White. Eventually he traded in the swamp lands of northern Indiana, after which he ran a dry goods store. It was known as "The Swamp Land Store" because the goods had been bought with swamp lands.

During the Civil War he engaged in the queens ware business. Around 1866 he established an insurance agency and took his son, George, into partnership, naming the firm W.M. C. Blake & Son. He commanded the first Militia Co. in Danville, from which he gained the title "Captain." He died on January 1, 1884[?]

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Most of the papers in the collection belong to either Hugh H. Conley or William M. Blake.

Papers belonging to Conley include documents associated with his time as a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War, including a transfer request, pension documents, and honorable discharge papers. There are also death memorial documents, as well as Indiana State Board of Education licenses for Phoebe (Conley) Diedrich.

William M. Blake's papers mostly consist of financial transactions, such as deeds pertaining to his acquisition of swamp lands. There is also correspondence, as well as a biography. His son, George Blake, is also represented among the papers in his business with the Central Trust Company of Greencastle.

Other names of interest include Sallie Rand and Pauline Hurst; the collection contains an 1867 letter from Sallie Rand to her aunt, as well as 1915 mortgages of Pauline Hurst.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1125).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.