

Butler Family Papers

1844 - 1980; bulk, 1861-1864

MSS 684

Quantity: 3 boxes

Access: Open to Research

Acquisition: Gift of Gioia Ottaviano, Schenectady, NY

Processed by: Peter Runge, August 2002; revised in 2006 by Meaghan Heisinger and in 2011 by Abigail Stambach

Biographic Note:

William Butler was born in 1831 in New Castle, Ireland. He was the fourth-youngest son of Edmond Butler of Bohernagaul, in the County of Tipperary. At the age of thirteen, Butler was apprenticed to merchant James Leara, of Clonmel, for seven years. By 1859, Butler had immigrated to the United States and settled in New York City. Through his letters, it is known that he had two brothers and a sister also living in New York in the 1860s. On March 1, 1859, he enlisted in the 69th Regiment of the New York Militia as a lieutenant. He was discharged in August, but re-enlisted as a captain in November. He was discharged again in September 1862 but re-enlisted the following month. Butler eventually achieved the rank of a Major. He was wounded in a battle near Petersburg, VA on June 16, 1864. Butler died in August 1864 in a United States Hospital in Annapolis, MD.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection mostly consists of correspondence between William Butler and his family during the Civil War. His letters began in 1861 when he was sailing to Annapolis on a troop ship and continue until his death in August 1864. Some months he wrote almost daily while others he wrote sporadically. His letters document the everyday concerns of a Civil War soldier including life, death, health, clothing, money and liquor. The letters are organized chronologically with each letter having its own file. A transcribed copy of the letter is found in the folder. There are also a handful of undated letters in the collection as well as legal documents and deeds. The legal documents mostly date to the 1860s, though some date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They include William Butler's indenture agreement, discharge papers, military commissions and application for back pay filed by Edward Butler. There are also documents belonging to other family members including Edmund Butler's certificate of US citizenry, home owner's insurance papers, and material related to Cadastral dating from 1866 to 1947. Box 3 contains extra copies of the transcribed letters found in Boxes 1 and 2 and as well as transcriptions of a few of the legal documents. There are also some newspaper clippings discussing the collection. Finally, Box 1 and Box 2 hold some photographs. There is a photograph of William Butler in his military uniform and photographs of materials in the collection that were most likely taken for promotional purposes.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box Number	Folder Contents
1	Control Folder
1	Photographs
	Letters
1	William Butler to brother, Edmond Butler, July 16, 1859
1	William Butler to James Butler, April 25, 1861
1	William Butler to James, Edward and Margaret Butler, April 27, 1861

1	William Butler to James, Edward and Margaret Butler, May 4, 1861
1	William Butler to brother, May 11, 1861
1	William Butler to brothers and sisters, May 26, 1861
1	William Butler to brothers and sisters, June 7, 1861
1	William Butler to brother Ned, June 14, 1861
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 3, 1861
1	William Butler to brother Ed, January 12, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 18, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, June 1, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, June 13, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, June 27, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 4, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 7, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 11, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 15, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 16, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, July 26, 1862 (original letter is missing)
1	William Butler to brother Ned, August 11, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, August 18, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ned, August 25, 1862
1	William Butler to brother Ed, January 5, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, January 23, 1863
1	William Butler to Ned, January 23, 1863
1	William Butler to Mr. Delepaire, January 23, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, January 25, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ned, January 29, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, January 29, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 1, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 3, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 16, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ned, February 16, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 18, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 25, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, February 28, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, March 8, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, March 11, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, March 18, 1863
1	William Butler to brother, March 22, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, March 24, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 2, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 5, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 7, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 9, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 13, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 13, 1863, 7 pm
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 15, 1863

1	William Butler to Ed, April 17, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 19, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 19, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 22, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, April 23, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 26, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, April 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 5, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 11, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 13, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 18, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 24, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, May 27, 1863
1	William Butler to sister Margaret, May 28, 1863
1	William Butler to sister, May 31, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, June 5, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, June 11, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, June 12, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, June 19, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, June 21, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 10, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 18, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 19, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 21, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 23, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 27, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, July 29, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, August 6, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, August 31, 1863
1	William Butler to William, September 8, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, September 16, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, September 22, 1863
1	William Butler to Adams Express Company, September 25, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, September 28, 1863
1	William Butler to Ed, September 29, 1863
1	William Morrissey to William Butler, October 6, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, October 21, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, October 26, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, November 2, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, November 3, 1863
1	William Butler to brother Ed, November 12, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, November 13, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, November 22, 1863
2	William Butler to brother, December 2, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, December 12, 1863

2	William Butler to Ed, December 19, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, December 22, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, December 23, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, December 26, 1863
2	William Butler to brother Ed, January 12, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, January 22, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, February 3, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, February 9, 1864
2	William Butler to brother, February 17, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, February 18, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, March 2, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, March 5, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, March 12, 1864
2	John Dwyer to Officer's Of the 69 th Regiment, March 30, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, April 14, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, April 15, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, April 26, 1864, 3 pm
2	William Butler to brother Ed, April 26, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, April 29, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, May 8, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, May 13, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, May 17, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, May 19, 1864
2	John Keating to Edmund Butler, May 22, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, May 30, 1864
2	John Fahy to Edward Butler, June 4, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, June 11, 1864
2	John Fahy to Ed Butler, June 20, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, June 21, 1864
2	Matthew Wale to Edmond Butler, July 6, 1864
2	William Butler to brother, July 15, 1864
2	William Butler to brother Ed, August 11, 1864
2	Henry Treadway to Edmond Butler, August 17, 1864
2	A. Ambler to Edmond Butler, September 12, 1864
2	Matthew Murphy to Edward Butler, September 13, 1864
2	Edward Butler, December 29, 1864
2	William Butler to Friend Jones and Vilbig, 1862
2	William Butler, 1863
2	William Butler to brothers, n.d.
2	William Butler, n.d.
2	William Butler to brother, n.d. (partial letter)
2	William Butler, n.d.
2	William Butler to brother Ed, n.d.
2	William Butler to brother Ed, n.d.
2	Mrs. William Corcoran, n.d.
2	Edward Butler, n.d.

2	William and Edward Butler, n.d.
2	William Butler , n.d.
2	Unknown to Margaret n.d.
2	William Butler to Mr. Lacy, n.d.
	Documents
2	Application for the procurement of back pay and bounty, n.d./Application prepared for Edward Butler on behalf of William Butler's benefits
2	Cadastral Material, 1866-1947: Homestead certificates, deeds, quitclaim deed, tax deeds, certificate of termination of joint tenancy, certificate of heir ship and warranty deeds
2	Certificate of Citizenry, USA, Edmund Butler, October 30, 1865
2	Certificate of Death, Anastasia Butler, March 4, 1960
2	Commissions, William Butler, 1861-1863, Captain and Major (located in map case)
2	Commission, William Butler, May 20, 1865, 1 st Lieutenant
2	Expenses receipt, August 29, 1951
2	Home Owner's Insurance, Arthur Duffy, 1980
2	Indenture in the possession of William Butler, April 1, 1844
2	Inheritance Tax Receipt, 1954-1955
2	Isadore Butler, 1927-1936
2	Military patch
2	Petitions and certificates of heirship in the matter of real estate of Edward and Mria Butler, May 23, 1913
2	Photographs
2	William Butler receipts
2	Timeline of William Butler
2	Discharge, August 3, 1861
2	Discharge, September 3, 1862
2	General Orders Oath, September 21, 1862
	Transcriptions
3	Letters, transcriptions, July 16, 1859-February 18, 1863
3	Letters, transcriptions, February 25, 1863 – April 1863
3	Letters, transcriptions, May 5, 1863 – July 27, 1863
3	Letters, transcriptions, August 6, 1863 – February 18, 1864
3	Letters, transcriptions, September 16, 1863 – December 12, 1863
3	Letters, transcriptions, March 2, 1864 – September 13, 1864
3	Letters, transcriptions, undated
3	Legal documents, transcriptions
3	Newspaper clippings