



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Butler family papers

1847-1996

Sc MG 728

Summary

Creator: Butler family

Title: Butler family papers

Date: 1847-1996

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Purchase from Charles Apfelbaum, September 2003.

Abstract: The Butler family papers relate to two Pennsylvania families: the Butlers of Washington County, specifically, William N. Butler, a graduate of Geneva College and a practicing lawyer, and his son William F. Butler, a graduate of Geneva College and Howard University Law School; and the Carters of Beaver County. The elder Butler worked as recording secretary of the Civilian Defense Department, and he was a probation officer for the Beaver County courts. In 1964 and 1969, he was appointed to the Probation and Parole Board and was designated its acting chairman in 1974. Butler died in 1977. The Butler family papers include letters written by William N. Butler to his son, William F., while the latter was a student at Howard Law School, 1930-1931. Many of these Depression-era letters discuss the loss of jobs and bank closures in the family's hometown of Washington, Pennsylvania, as well as his own financial difficulties; Butler, Sr., gives advice to his son as well as relates family news. A file containing letters to William F. Butler signed "Aunty" speak of family matters. Additionally, the collection contains a notebook of a clergyman named Peters from Uniontown, Pennsylvania, with notes taken from the Bible, 1847. Printed material includes ephemera (1917-1920) and news clippings (1954-1996) related to the Butler and Carter families.

Preferred citation: [Item], Butler family papers, Sc MG 728, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

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Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: sashes

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

The Butler family papers include letters written by William N. Butler to his son, William F., while the latter was a student at Howard Law School, 1930-1931. Many of these Depression-era letters discuss the loss of jobs and bank closures in the family's hometown of Washington, Pennsylvania, as well as his own financial difficulties; Butler, Sr., gives advice to his son as well as relates family news. A file containing letters to William F. Butler signed "Aunty" speak of family matters. Additionally, the collection contains a notebook of a clergyman named Peters from Uniontown, Pennsylvania, with notes taken from the Bible, 1847. Printed material includes ephemera (1917-1920) and news clippings (1954-1996) related to the Butler and Carter families.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American families -- Pennsylvania -- Washington County
African American lawyers -- Pennsylvania -- Washington County
African Americans -- Employment -- Pennsylvania -- History
African Americans -- Pennsylvania -- Washington County
Depressions -- 1929 -- Pennsylvania

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Names

William N. Butler
Butler family

Container List

Letters

- b. 1 f. 1 Butler, William N. to William F. Butler 1930-1932
- b. 1 f. 2 "Aunty" to William F. Butler 1931
- b. 1 f. 3 Miscellaneous 1931-1932
- b. 1 f. 4 Notes
- b. 1 f. 5 Notebook of Clergyman Peters 1847
- b. 1 f. 6 A.M.E. Church meeting tickets 1848-1849
- b. 1 f. 7 Ephemera 1917-1920
- b. 1 f. 8 News clippings 1954-1996