

Collection #
M 0769

BUCKLEY FAMILY LETTERS, 1854–1909

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	5 boxes, 1 artifact
COLLECTION DATES:	1854–1909
PROVENANCE:	Charles Buckley Wise, 11176 Valeside Crescent, Carmel, Indiana, 16 October 2001
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0011

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Buckley family consisted of Isaac (b. ca. 1806 in England), his wife, Eliza (b. ca. 1820 in Virginia) and their children William (b. ca. 1833), John (b. ca. 1838), George (b. ca. 1843), Charles (b. ca. 1846), Mary (b. ca. 1853), and Emma (b. ca. 1857). The Buckleys moved from Miamisburg, Ohio, to Deer Creek Township, Carroll County, Indiana, in 1845. The two most prominent individuals in the papers are John and Charles Buckley.

John Buckley was a teacher in north central Indiana. He enlisted in the 41st Indiana Regiment (2nd Indiana Cavalry) in September 1861, and was mustered out as a corporal in October 1864. After his military service John Buckley, along with his brother George, attended Purdy's Actual Business College in Indianapolis. Purdy's was apparently a chain of business schools operated out of Albany, New York. John Buckley later directed similar schools for Purdy in Jeffersonville, Indiana, and Rockford, Illinois, 1865–68.

Charles Buckley was a farmer, stock raiser, and teacher in Deer Creek Township, where he also served as a deputy assessor for Carroll County in the 1870s. Most of the correspondence prior to 1866 was addressed to John Buckley. Most of the letters written after this period were sent to Charles Buckley.

Sources:
Information in the collection.
Terrell, *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Indianapolis: A. H. Connor State Printer, 1865–69. E 506.2 .I39 T4, 1865–69, vol. 5, p. 273.
History of Carroll County, Indiana. Knightstown, Ind.: Eastern Indiana Publishing Company, 1966. folio E 532 .C3 H4 1966, p. 349.
Research notes of Professor Donald Parman taken from 1860 Indiana census.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The letters in this collection are addressed to either John Buckley or his brother, Charles Buckley. John Buckley letters focus on the period from 1858–66 and come from friends and family in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri and are personal in nature. Many letters were written to John Buckley while he was serving in the Union Army, November 1861–October 1864. Much of the information centers around family news but there are many references to homefront activities such as making and sending clothing and other supplies to the troops, and descriptions of recruitment camps in Delphi (Carroll County) and Monticello (White County). Chief correspondents to John Buckley are his cousin and a Delphi schoolteacher, Mattie Saunderson, and his fiancé, Nellie Maxwell of the same town.

Although it is not clear in the letters, Buckley also may have had romantic interests with Saunderson. Letters often contain descriptions of local schools and teachers. Nellie Maxwell's letters are particularly romantic in nature.

John Buckley letters also cover the period he was attending Purdy's Actual Business College in Indianapolis and later as director of Purdy's schools in Jeffersonville (Clark County) and Rockford, Illinois, 1865–66. There are letters from William Purdy in Albany, New York, to Buckley while operating his schools in Jeffersonville and Rockford regarding financial matters and teachers. There also are several letters from a married woman in Indianapolis who had a romantic interest in Buckley; they were signed "LBT" (her actual name apparently was Lucy Hunter) and date from July–December 1865.

Charles Buckley letters cover the years 1864–80. Chief correspondents to Charles Buckley are his friend Ivan Barr; his family members in Indiana and Missouri; and his brothers, John with the Union Army and at Jeffersonville, Indiana, and Rockford, Illinois, and George, in Indianapolis and Rockford. Ivan Barr writes while serving in Company "M" of the 11th Indiana Cavalry (126th Regiment) in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kansas, 1864–65, and living in Missouri, 1866–68. Ivan Barr's letters are bawdy in tone and discuss women and events in the army, and farming and going to school in Missouri. George and John Buckley write regarding family news and their attending Purdy's business school in Indianapolis. George also writes of the Indianapolis' reaction to Lincoln's assassination in a letter dated 15 April 1865. Other correspondents to Charles Buckley discuss farming, finances, and teaching.

Other items in the collection are several handwritten poems, printed announcements for events and services and teaching licenses for John Buckley (1860) and Charles Buckley (1870 and 1878). There also are two boxes of envelopes (boxes 4 and 5) that contained the letters. An annotated calendar listing each letter or item in its original order prepared by Professor Donald Parman of Purdue University accompanies the collection.

A skin-covered wood trunk housed the letters and is part of the collection. The trunk measures 69x35.5x28 cm. and is stored as an artifact.

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Correspondence, Jan., March, Oct., 1861	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence, Nov. 1861	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, Dec. 1861	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, Jan. 1862	Box 1, Folder 8
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Correspondence, March–Dec. 1862	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence, Feb.–May 1863	Box 1, Folder 11

Correspondence, June–Sept. 1863	Box 1, Folder 12
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Correspondence, 1877	Box 3, Folder 10
Correspondence, 1878	Box 3, Folder 11
Correspondence, 1879	Box 3, Folder 12
Correspondence, 1880–1909	Box 3, Folder 13
Correspondence, dated, but without a year	Box 3, Folder 14
Correspondence, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 15
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Printed Materials, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 17

John Buckley Envelopes (1 of 7)	Box 4, Folder 1
John Buckley Envelopes (2 of 7)	Box 4, Folder 2
John Buckley Envelopes (3 of 7)	Box 4, Folder 3
John Buckley Envelopes (4 of 7)	Box 4, Folder 4
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Charles Buckley Envelopes (5 of 5)	Box 5, Folder 5
General Envelopes	Box 5, Folder 6
Skin-covered wood trunk (69x35.5x28 cm.)	Artifacts: Accession no. 2002.0011

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://157.91.92.2/>
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 0769).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.