**James Preston Butler**

(1838-1918)

Researchers: John Capasso, Candace Summers, Doug Williamson

Year Featured: 2022

Visiting Voice—Burial location in Park Hill Cemetery

Materials Included in this Packet:

1. Summary of James Preston Butler (a.k.a James P. Butler, J.P. Butler, J. Press Butler, Press Butler) compiled by Candace Summers
2. Biography of James Preston Butler by John Capasso, edited by Candace Summers
3. City Directory Summary for James Preston Butler, compiled by Doug Williamson
4. Life Summary of James Preston Butler, compiled by Doug Williamson
5. Email correspondence between Bill Kemp and Candace Summers, re: cem walk character suggestion James Preston Butler, February 19, 2019
6. The Butler House Hotel chronology, compiled by Jana Kiefer and Jo Mink, 2019
7. Find-a-Grave.com entry for Patsey Devine, date accessed June 23, 2022
8. “Press Butler’s History,” *The Weekly Leader*, October 25, 1883
9. “Butler’s Death Recalls Master Stroke of Work,” *The Pantagraph*, January 29, 1918
10. “The End—J. Preston Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, January 29, 1918
11. “Commit to Earth Four of Family,” *The Pantagraph*, July 9, 1920
12. Burial information for Butler Family in Park Hill Cemetery
13. Four pages of newspaper clippings from Butler scrapbook
14. Advertisement for the Butler House, undated
15. Butler Scrapbook summary

Newspapers –Pantagraph articles can be found on Newspapers.com or Newspaper Archive.com

1. “At the annual meeting of the members of McLean engine company No. 2,” *The Pantagraph*, July 4, 1862
2. Advertisement, “A New Light! Septoline Oil!,” *The Pantagraph*, February 15, 1867
3. “Lost—pocketbook,” *The Pantagraph*, May 26, 1875
4. “For Constable,” *The Pantagraph*, March 10, 1877
5. “The Mayor made the following appointment,” *The Pantagraph*, May 8, 1877
6. “Miller’s Invitation,” *The Pantagraph*, July 3, 1877
7. “Bad Pills,” *The Pantagraph*, September 8, 1877
8. “A grand reunion of the Butler family,” *The Pantagraph*, January 3, 1879
9. “Deed of Dastard,” *The Pantagraph*, August 6, 1879
10. “Thirteen Hundred Dollars Reward,” *The Pantagraph*, August 6, 1879
11. “Murder’s Mystery,” *The Pantagraph*, March 31, 1880
12. “Captain J.P. Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, April 26, 1880
13. “Patsy Devine,” *The Pantagraph*, May 3, 1880
14. “The Big Three,” *The Pantagraph*, August 9, 1880
15. “Patsy Devine’s Special Guard,” *The Pantagraph*, December 11, 1880
16. “Doomed to Die,” *The Pantagraph*, December 24, 1880
17. “Police Affairs,” *The Pantagraph*, January 13, 1881
18. “Press’s Predicament,” *The Pantagraph*, January 24, 1881
19. “The Butler Investigation,” *The Pantagraph*, January 25, 1881
20. “Patsy’s Palaver,” *The Pantagraph*, February 5, 1881
21. “The Full List of Appointments,” *The Pantagraph*, May 2, 1881
22. “That Fine Point,” *The Pantagraph*, October 3, 1881
23. “The Mob,” *The Pantagraph*, October 3, 1881
24. “Clinton,” *The Pantagraph*, October 7, 1881
25. “Rays of Light,” *The Pantagraph*, October 12, 1881
26. “The Patsy Devine Case,” *The Pantagraph*, November 11, 1881
27. “McLean County Court,” *The Pantagraph*, December 14, 1881
28. “Last Day on Earth,” *The Pantagraph*, May 12, 1882
29. “Hanging Day in Clinton,” *The Pantagraph*, May 13, 1882
30. “The Climax and Conclusion of a Life of Sin and Crime,” *The Pantagraph*, May 13, 1882
31. “Patsey’s Period,” *The Pantagraph*, May 15, 1882
32. “Clinton—Watching Patsey’s Grave—Literary Social,” *The Pantagraph*, May 22, 1882
33. “A Ghastly Souvenir,” *The Pantagraph*, May 22, 1882
34. “After a Thief,” *The Pantagraph*, June 28, 1882
35. “Harry Williams, Again,” *The Pantagraph*, October 3, 1882
36. “M’Lean Circuit Court,” *The Pantagraph*, September 22, 1882
37. “Is It or Is It Not Blackmail,” *The Pantagraph*, October 9, 1882
38. “Trouble with Coons,” *The Pantagraph*, February 3, 1883
39. “Asburry Barnett,” *The Pantagraph*, February 21, 1883
40. “Miscellaneous Claims,” *The Pantagraph*, March 9, 1883
41. “Mr. James Stone,” *The Pantagraph*, May 12, 1883
42. “Harry Williams,” *The Pantagraph*, July 23, 1883
43. “A Watch Nipper Arrested,” *The Pantagraph*, September 15, 1883
44. “A Climax Reached,” *The Pantagraph*, October 22, 1883
45. “The Lincoln Horror,” *The Pantagraph*, October 22, 1883
46. “Since the detectives began,” *The Pantagraph*, November 3, 1883
47. “Out on Bail,” *The Pantagraph*, November 12, 1883
48. “The Carpenter Case,” *The Pantagraph*, March 10, 1884
49. “Wedding Day,” *The Pantagraph*, May 7, 1884
50. “Grace Courtland’s Jewels Sold,” *The Pantagraph*, May 21, 1884
51. “’Twas Only a “Cod,”” *The Pantagraph*, October 9, 1884
52. “A Close Call,” *The Pantagraph*, November 26, 1884
53. “Married,” *The Pantagraph*, December 10, 1884
54. “Quick Work,” *The Pantagraph*, December 24, 1884
55. “Esmond Squeals,” *The Pantagraph*, December 29, 1884
56. “A Valuable Dog,” *The Pantagraph*, January 15, 1885
57. “Rescued from Shame,” *The Pantagraph*, February 17, 1885
58. “McFarland not Badly Hurt,” *The Pantagraph*, August 17, 1885
59. “Facing a Mob,” *The Pantagraph*, August 17, 1885
60. “Not the Man,” *The Pantagraph*, August 21, 1885
61. “Patsy Devine,” *The Clinton Register*, July 16, 1886
62. “Harry Williams,” *The Clinton Register*, July 16, 1886
63. “Caught,” *The Pantagraph*, December 15, 1886
64. “Mr. J.P. Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, July 19, 1887
65. “Mr. J.P. Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, August 8, 1887
66. “Mr. G. W. Smith,” *The Pantagraph*, March 23, 1889
67. “Detective J.P. Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, August 3, 1891
68. “Was He Innocent?” *The Pantagraph*, February 6, 1891
69. “Another Sensation Spoiled,” *The Clinton Register*, February 13, 1891
70. “Patsey Arrainged It,” *The Clinton Register*, February 20, 1891
71. “Yesterday was the tenth anniversary,” *The Clinton Register*, May 13, 1892
72. “They Softened the Cistern Water,” *The Pantagraph*, May 20, 1892
73. “Mr. J.P. Butler went to Kappa,” *The Pantagraph*, September 8, 1892
74. “Mr. J.P. Butler returned home,” *The Pantagraph*, September 12, 1892
75. “Suit for $10,000 Damages,” *The Pantagraph*, October 18, 1892
76. “The Description is Suggestive,” *The Pantagraph*, April 11, 1893
77. “Is The Hunter,” *The Pantagraph*, April 11, 1893
78. “Believes It Is Hunter,” *The Pantagraph*, August 3, 1894
79. “The trial of Miss Cassams,” *The Pantagraph*, April 12, 1894
80. “Is Very Low,” *The Pantagraph*, July 24, 1895
81. “Another One Arrested,” *The Pantagraph*, January 11, 1897
82. “Painfully Injured,” *The Pantagraph*, November 4, 1899
83. “Death of an Ex-Sheriff,” *The Clinton Register*, May 18, 1900
84. “For Sale-On Account of Sickness,” *The Pantagraph*, August 28, 1902
85. “Magnolias From Arkansas,” *The Pantagraph*, June 19, 1909
86. “Firemen’s Record Run To Save City,” *The Pantagraph*, April 16, 1910
87. “Children of Late Major W.P. Butler,” *The Pantagraph*, August 4, 1910
88. “Favors Park Plan,” *The Pantagraph*, February 21, 1911
89. “Extract from Park Primer,” *The Pantagraph*, May 12, 1911
90. Advertisement- “Butler’s Detective Agency,” *The Pantagraph*, November 6, 1911
91. “With The Sick,” *The Pantagraph*, December 9, 1911
92. “To Celebrate the Golden Cycle,” *The Pantagraph*, February 3, 1912
93. “Celebrate Cycle of Gold,” *The Pantagraph*, February 5, 1912
94. “Tax Sale Notice,” *The Pantagraph*, March 23, 1912
95. Advertisement “For Sale- Last ‘Chicago & Alton Extension’ House and Two Lots,” *The Pantagraph*, April 14, 1914
96. “J.P. Butler Ill,” *The Pantagraph*, June 16, 1914
97. Advertisement “For Sale—Butler Hotel,” *The Pantagraph*, February 26, 1915
98. “Were Married Fifty-Five Years Ago Today,” *The Pantagraph*, February 3, 1916
99. “Here From Chicago,” *The Pantagraph*, July 2, 1918
100. “Major Butler Gives Up Home in the Butler House,” *The Pantagraph*, September 26, 1919
101. “Aged Resident Gone,” *The Pantagraph*, February 9, 1920
102. “Butler House Auction Called Off Yesterday,” *The Pantagraph*, March 1, 1922
103. “Butler Hotel is to be Torn Down,” *The Pantagraph*, April 22, 1922
104. “Butler House is Being Demolished,” *The Pantagraph*, July 20, 1922
105. “Passing of Historic Butler House,” *The Pantagraph*, August 2, 1922
106. “McLean County Records Show One Case of Legal Hanging,” *The Pantagraph*, January 7, 1945
107. “Owns Gun That Killed Six Men,” *The Pantagraph*, March 19, 1950
108. Bill Kemp. “Pre-Civil War Butler House survived into 1920s,” *The Pantagraph*, February 24, 2019

Information that can be found in Library and Archives not included in this packet

1. Scrapbook of Preston “Pres” Butler (SB-382 P-47) located in Archives Annex (see packet for description).
2. S.J. Clarke Publishing Co. *The Biographical Record of McLean County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1899) 139-140
3. William LeBaron, Jr. & Co. *The History of McLean County, Illinois, Illustrated*. (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron, Jr. & Co, 1879) 351, 407
4. Mark Dunn. “The Patsey Devine Affair”