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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 41 LUCAS Collection

3 boxes. 8 folders. 55 items. 1831-1897. Originals, photographs, scrapbooks.

1952.4.3

Related Collections: [MSS 265](#); [SC 1419](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Wilkins Lucas (1786-1845) was the son of Nathaniel Lucas (1755-1807) and Sarah Rivers, who emigrated from Brunswick County, Virginia, and in 1807 were living in Warren County, Kentucky. Robert married Sallie F. Marshall, and their sons were Fidella F. (1811-1884), N. Perry "Bone" (1814-1875), Robert Wilkins (1818-1879), J. R. (1820-1889), S. N., W. C., and their daughters were E. A. Stone, Mary Ellen (1834?-1898), Martha Thomas (1837?-1897), and Sara Ann (1829?-1903).

The will of the younger Robert W. Lucas, dated 15 August 1875, left all of his estate to his sisters, Sarah Ann, Mary Ellen, and Martha Thomas. He also desired that an indenture that he had filed with the Warren County Court concerning two colored children, William (or Billy) and Fannie C. Lucas, be complied with until its expiration date. Fannie was reared by the sisters. There is a notebook of R. W. Lucas that indicates that he was engaged in the trading of slaves before the Civil War. There is also a reference to Lucas' involvement in slave-trading in *A Sesqui-Centennial History of Kentucky*.

In the 1859 will of Mary Ellen Lucas, the bequest was made to her sisters, Sarah Ann and Martha, that they were to receive income from the Lucas estate as long as they lived. Following their deaths, the estate was left to Fannie C. Lucas Penick (1866-1952), and her daughter, Bessie H. (1885-1931), for their kind care of Robert W. Lucas, who was an invalid in his later years.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Kentucky Library, Biographical Files.

Kentucky Library, Genealogical Files.

Wallis, Frederick W., ed. *A Sesqui-Centennial History of Kentucky*, 1945, Vol. I, p. 417.

Warren County, Ky. Burial Permits, 1877-1913.

Will Book 4 (E), Warren County, Ky. 1862-1889.

COLLECTION NOTE

Two-thirds or more of the collection is comprised of journals and scrapbooks. There are three journals which were kept by different Lucas family members. Robert Wilkins Lucas (1786-1845) is the author of two journals. The 1839 one records writings on various subjects, especially that of temperance. His other journal, dated from 1840 to 1843, also records writings on various topics: politics, religion, navigation, and local happenings. The 1854 journal of Ellen Lucas relates deaths and occurrences caused by cholera at Bowling Green and Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. An account book of Robert Wilkins Lucas (1818-1879) details a trip through Mammoth Cave on 15 June 1850, and also contains records of 1863 horse-trading transactions. A small 1846 notebook has writings of a fictional nature recorded by the younger R. W. Lucas. In addition, there is a book dated February 1859 which lists purchases and sales of Negroes. This book evidently belonged to the younger R. W. Lucas, too.

The three scrapbooks were compiled around 1860 to 1870 and chiefly contain Warren County and Bowling Green items as well as newspaper clippings pertaining to the Civil War in Kentucky and elsewhere. (The scrapbooks are indexed, but only for local events.) The miscellaneous papers, 1831-1897 (13), include receipts concerning illness and funeral expenses of N. P. Lucas in 1875 and for Martha Lucas in 1897. The photographs (5) include one thought to be of Fannie Penick and one of her house located at 732 College Street in Bowling Green. This house was obtained after Fannie sold the Lucas home which was in the eastern part of Warren County and then reinvested the money in this property as stipulated by the will of Mary Ellen Lucas. The last survivor (Fannie, or her daughter, Bessie) had the authority to will the estate to whomever she desired. Fannie died in 1952.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Scrapbooks	ca. 1860s-1870s	3 items
	No. 1 & 2 64p. & 122p. - 186p.		1 item
	No. 2 - Clippings are scattered throughout which pertain to the Civil War in Kentucky and elsewhere 124p.		1 item
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbooks	n.d.	1 item
BOX 2	Scrapbook No. 3	ca. 1860s-1870s	1 item; 300p.
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbook	n.d.	1 item

BOX 3	Journals, miscellaneous	1831-1897	51 items
Folder 1	Miscellaneous papers and photographs	1831-1897	22 items
	1a - Miscellaneous papers	1831-1874	5 items
	1b - Receipts, etc. Re: illness and funerals of N. P. Lucas, 1875, and Martha Lucas, 1897	1875, 1897	6 items
	1c - Printed items	1879(?)	2 items
	1d - Lucas family genealogy, etc. (xeroxed)	n.d.	4 items
	1e - Photographs	n.d.	5 items
Folder 2	Journal of Robert Wilkins Lucas, 1786-1845	1839	1 item; 45p.
Folder 3	Journal of Robert Wilkins Lucas, 1786-1845 (Original and typed copy)	1840-1843	2 items; 65p.
Folder 4	Account book of Robert Wilkins Lucas, (1818-1879) 1850, 1863 - 24p.; and notebook, 1846 - 28p.	1846, 1850,	2 items
Folder 5	Journal of Ellen M. Lucas	1854	1 item; 46p.
Folder 6	Negro book relating purchases and sales of Negroes	Feb. 1859	1 item; 6p.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 41	LUCAS Collection	1831-1897
	Journals, 1839, 1840-43, 1854, (3); scrapbooks, ca 1860s-1870s (3); African American account book which lists purchases and sales of slaves, 1859; receipts, 1875-1897, concerning illness and funeral expenses, etc., of the Lucas family of Warren County, Kentucky. 3 boxes. 8 folders. 55 items. Originals, photographs, and scrapbooks. 1952.4.3	

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Account books, 1859, 1863 B3,F4
Advertising cards B2
Artists – Kentucky B1;B2
Banks and banking, 1840-1843 B3,F3
Blackburn, Jennie Daviess, 1847-1929 B2
Bowling Green – Businesses, ca 1883 B2
Bowling Green – History, 1860s-1870s B1
Bowling Green – History, ca. 1884 – A Hundred Years Ago B2
Bowling Green – Marriages, 1869 B2
Bowling Green – Social life and customs B2
Cholera – Bowling Green, 1854 B3,F5
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Bowling Green, 1863 B1
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Destruction and pillage – South Union, 1863 B1
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Newspaper clippings B1,F2
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852 B3,F3
Essays, 1839-1845(?) B3,F2
Ewing, Presley Underwood, 1822-1854 B3,F5
Expositions and fairs – Louisville, 1884 B2
Funeral rites and customs, 1875, 1897 B3,F1
Green River – Navigation, 1840-1843
Hangings – Bowling Green B1
Horses – Trade, 1863 B3,F4
Houses – Penick, Fannie C. – Photo B3,F1e
Jacob, Richard Taylor, 1825-1903 – Relating to B1,#2,p.83
Journals – Lucas, Mary Ellen, 1854 B3,F5
Journals – Lucas, Robert Wilkins, 1839, 1840-1843 B3,F2&3
Locke, Jacob, 1768-1845 B3,F3
Lucas, Mary Ellen, 1834(?) -1898 B3,F5
Lucas, N. P. (Bone), 1814-1875 B1; B3,F1
Lucas, Robert Wilkins, 1786-1845 B3,F2
Lucas, Robert Wilkins, 1818-1879 B1; B3,F4
Lucas, Sallie B1
Mammoth Cave, 1850 B3,F4&5
Masons (Fraternal organization) – Bowling Green B1
McHenry, John Hardin, 1797-1871 B1,#2,p.9
McHenry, John Hardin, Jr., 1832-1893 – Letters to, 1862 B1,#2,p.9
Motley, Erasmus Louis, 1837-1918 B1
Navigation – Green River, 1840-1843 B3,F3
Odeon Hall – Theater – Bowling Green B1;B2
Ogden, Robert Wenn, 1796-1873 B1
Penick, Bessie Hammond, 1885-1931 B2
Penick, Fannie C. (Lucas), 1866-1952 B3,F1d
Penick, Fannie C. (Lucas), 1866-1952 – Houses – Photo B3,F1e
Penick, Fannie C. (Lucas), 1866-1952 – Photo B3,F1e

Pitts, James G B3,F3
 Politics, 1840-1843 B3,F3
 Religion – Bowling Green, 1840-1843 B3,F3
 Religion – Warren County, 1876 B1
 Scrapbooks, ca. 1860s-1870s B1;B2
 Shackelford, William S. B1;B2
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Destruction and pillage, 1863 B1
 Skiles, James Rumsey, 1799-1885 B3,F3
 Slave trade – Warren County, 1859 B3,F6
 Slavery – Warren County – Relating to, 1859 B3,F6
 Smoot, Richmond Kelley, 1836-1905 B1
 Speeches – Jacob, Richard Taylor, 1825-1903 B1,#2,p.83
 Temperance – Essays, 1839-1845(?) B3,F2
 Theaters – Bowling Green B1;B2
 Thomas, Richard Curd, 1838-1879 B1
 Warren County Bible Society, 1876 B1
 Warren County – Cholera, 1854 B3,F5
 Weather – Bowling Green, 1840-1843 B3,F3

SEE and SEE ALSO

Freemasons

See:

Masons (Fraternal organization)

Jeffrey 05/07/2012