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## Green River Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company, 1858-1875 (MSS 221)

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Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 221 GREEN River Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company, 1858-1875**

1 box. 2 folders. 9 items. 1858-1875. Photocopies.

2006.149.1

***CORPORATE HISTORY***

Little is known about the Green River Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company (GRCIMC). It is likely that it was the continuance of an older coal mining operation on Mud River, simply known as the Mud River Mine. Otto Rothert, historian of Muhlenberg County, believed that the first mine opened here in 1830. The GRCIMC opened a mine on the river side of the hill in 1858; this mine was worked until 1864. The fourth mine on the river side of the hill, known as "The Old Shop Entry," was opened in 1864 and closed in the mid-1880s. Almost all of this coal was shipped out by barge via the Mud and Green Rivers to Rochester and Bowling Green, Kentucky. A "Coal Road" that led from Russellville to the Mud River Mine was also used to haul coal to that city. Using teams of oxen to pull the wagons, people freighting coal from Mud River to Russellville could expect a round trip to take three days. Subsequent coal mining at Mud River took place on the opposite side of the hill, where a railroad track had been laid from Penrod. This allowed the mine operators to ship the coal via the L&N Railroad rather than by barge. The coal from the Mud River mines was renowned for its high quality.

***COLLECTION***

This collection contains an account book (453 p.) which includes sales, barge reports, and individual accounts with miners. The miners' accounts include how much they were paid per bushel of coal mined, their purchases at the company store, and rent payments if they lived in company housing. The barge accounts include cost of shipping coal and sales made from those loads, typically at Rochester and Bowling Green, Kentucky. The "Rules of Mining Coal at the Green River Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company's Mines on Mud River" are listed on page 1 of the account book.

The collection also contains some historical notes on the mine and Mud River made by river historian Agnes Harralson.

**SHELF LIST**

|              |  |                  |                |
|--------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| <b>BOX 1</b> | <b>Green River Coal, Iron and Mfg. Co.</b> | <b>1858-1875</b> | <b>9 items</b> |
| Folder 1     | Descriptive inventory and collection notes | n.d.             | 8 items        |
| Folder 2     | Account book                               | 1858-1875        | 1 item         |

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS Green River Coal, Iron and 1859; 1905-1917  
221 Manufacturing Company

Account book (453 p.) for the Green River Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company located on Mud River in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. Includes records of sales, barge shipments, and individual accounts with miners listing company store purchases.

1 box. 2 folders. 9 items.  
2006.149.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Account books – Muhlenberg County  
Account books – Store accounts – Muhlenberg County  
Boats and boating – Green River, 1858-1875  
Boats and boating – Mud River, 1858-1875  
Coal mines and mining – Muhlenberg County  
Green River – Boats and boating, 1858-1875  
Mud River – Boats and boating, 1858-1875  
Muhlenberg County – Account books  
Muhlenberg County – Coal mines and mining  
Muhlenberg County – Store accounts  
Store accounts – Muhlenberg County

Jeffrey 06/14/2008