

11-2-2009

# Annis, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 - Collection (MSS 275)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid)

 Part of the [Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Annis, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 - Collection (MSS 275)" (2009). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 988. [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid/988](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/988)

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 275    ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector**

3 ½ boxes. 28 folders. 878 items. 1909-1995.  
Originals, photocopies, and typescripts.

2009.125.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Lena Grey Annis was born 25 October 1897 at Borah's Ferry on the Green River in the Big Bend area of Butler County, Kentucky. Her parents were William Thomas Annis and his second wife, Alice Rhodes (Rock) Annis. In 1904 the family moved to a farm at Carson's Landing, to a house which would become her primary home for the next 82 years. The large family included three brothers and a sister, and two half-brothers and a half-sister from her father's first marriage. She graduated from Western State Teachers College in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1931. She taught school for 23 years in Kentucky and one year in West Virginia. In 1945 she moved to Arizona where she taught in Coolidge and Fort Huachuca. She returned to Butler County in 1976 and lived alone on the family farm until 1986. Lena never married. She died 13 August 1996 and is buried in Salem Cemetery, Logansport, Butler County.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists entirely of family letters written to Lena Grey Annis or collected by her. These letters were written chiefly by her large extended family, although some were written by friends. Many of the letters to her were written from 1945 to 1973 when she was teaching and living in Arizona but was still an interested share-holder in the family farm. The letters from her siblings, chiefly those of her brothers Wendell and J. Harry, reveal the hardships facing south central Kentucky farmers during this period. They write of crop failures and the problems caused by frequent flooding of nearby Green River; the weather is always a concern. Also, beginning in 1949 the letters comment on the electrification of this area of the state. Additionally, family members write of their children's successes and holiday celebrations, as well as their concerns about finances, health, and old age.

Doris Ann (Annis) Tichenor, Lena's niece, abstracted material from the letters and provided genealogical information about the family. Abstracts may be found in each box and the genealogical information may be found in the inventory folder.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector</b>	<b>1944-1972</b>	<b>263 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory, photos, and collection notes provided by the donor		3 items
Folder 2	Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother	1944-1949	54 items
Folder 3	Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother	1950-1954	54 items
Folder 4	Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother	1955-1959	36 items
Folder 5	Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother	1960-1964	31 items
Folder 6	Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother	1965-1969	48 items
Folder 7	Letters from Wendell Annis her brother	1970-1972	37 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector</b>	<b>1917-1992</b>	<b>272 items</b>
Folder 1	Letters from Charles Thomas and Lagrada Annis, her brother and his wife	1950-1973	22 items
Folder 2	Letters from Maggie (Annis) Hill, her sister	1945-1961	34 items
Folder 3	Letters from Maggie (Annis) Hill her sister	1962-1974	17 items
Folder 4	Letters from Linda Lou (Hill) Cannon, her niece	1948-1969	27 items

Folder 5	Letters from Alice (Hill) Forgy, her niece	1950-1975	33 items
Folder 6	Letters from Alice Forgy's children	1970-1992	14 items
Folder 7	Letters from J. Harry Annis, her brother, and his family	1917-1967	60 items
Folder 8	Letters from Edward Annis, her nephew, and his family	1955-1990	27 items
Folder 9	Letters from David Annis, her nephew, and his family	1955-1991	38 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector</b>	<b>1924-1994</b>	<b>221 items</b>
Folder 1	Letters from Ethel (Annis) Magan, her half-sister	1940-1958	35 items
Folder 2	Letters from Ethel (Annis) Magan's children	1924-1955	54 items
Folder 3	Letters from family of Lawrence Annis, her half-brother	1940-1992	27 items
Folder 4	Letters from J. Freeman Annis, her half-brother, and his family	1962-1990	21 items
Folder 5	Letters from Margaret Grey Rock, her aunt	1938-1964	38 items
Folder 6	Letters from Lillian (Rock) Cardwell, her aunt, and her family	1934-1994	53 items
Folder 7	Letters from Edward T. Annis, her uncle, and his family	1940-1982	7 items
<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector</b>	<b>1909-1995</b>	<b>122 items</b>
Folder 1	Letters from family of Robert Prewitt, her cousin	1978-1995	39 items

Folder 2	Letters from cousins in Texas Arkansas, and Oklahoma	1909-1992	15 items
Folder 3	Letters from Montez Thorpe Vinson Charlton	1935-1994	49 items
Folder 4	Letters from Elizabeth Taylor Cragon, childhood friend	1957-1970	10 items
Folder 5	Miscellaneous letters	1940-1969	9 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – 1909-1995  
275 Collector

Letters to Annis from family members  
and friends, chiefly related to farm and family  
life in Butler County, Kentucky in the mid- to-  
late-twentieth century.

3 ½ boxes. 28 folders. 878 items.

Originals, photocopies, and typescripts.

2009.125.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Annis, Amy M. (Gidcumb), 1893-1971 B,F1-7  
Annis, Charles Thomas, 1894-1988 B2,F1  
Annis, David Rhodes B2,F9  
Annis, Edward Harry B2,F8  
Annis, Edward Thomas, 1877-1947 B3,F7  
Annis family – Relating to  
Annis, James Freeman, 1884-1974 B3,F4  
Annis, John Harry, 1893-1967 B2,F7  
Annis, Lagrada (Allen) B2,F1  
Annis, Lawrence Elmer, 1878-1919 B3,F3  
Annis, Wendell, 1891-1982 B1,F1-7  
Butler County – Relating to  
Cannon, Linda Lou (Hill), 1943-1972 B2,F2,4  
Cardwell, Charlotte Lillian (Rock), b. 1871 B3,F6  
Charlton, Montez Thorpe Vinson B4,F3  
Cragon, Elizabeth Taylor B4,F4  
Green River – Relating to B1,F1-7; B2,F7  
Farms and farming – Butler County B1,F1-7; B2,F7

Forgy, Alice Nole (Hill), b. 1945 B2,F2,5  
Hill, Maggie Mae (Annis), 1905-2004 B2,F2-3  
Magan, Ethel Cora (Annis), 1881-1958 B3,F1-2  
Rock, Margaret Grey, 1874-1964 B3,F5  
Social life and customs – Butler County B1,F1-7; B2 F2-7,9; B3 F1,3-5  
Tichenor, Doris Ann (Annis) – Relating to B1,F1-7; B2,F3

***SEE and SEE ALSO***

Annis, Doris Ann

See:

Tichenor, Doris Ann (Annis)

Annis, Maggie Mae, 1905-2004

See:

Hill, Maggie Mae (Annis), 1905-2004

Annis, Ethel Cora, 1881-1958

See:

Magan, Ethel Cora (Annis), 1881-1958

Hill, Alice Nole, b. 1945

See:

Forgy, Alice Nole (Hill), b. 1945

Hill, Linda Lou, 1943-1972

See:

Cannon, Linda Lou (Hill), 1943-1972