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Green Family Papers (MSS 674)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Willis Green (1794?-1862) was an early Mississippi River trader engaged in shipping goods from Kentucky to New Orleans. In 1818 he married Ann Allen (1795-1877) of Shelby County, Kentucky, and they moved to Hardinsburg where he practiced law. Willis purchased land, formerly owned by Spanish conspiracy plot participant Benjamin Sebastian in 1823, at Falls of Rough in Grayson County. As time passed, he developed a farming operation, which included the construction of a sawmill and a gristmill. Willis served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1839 to 1843. He also was very active in Henry Clay’s 1844 campaign for the presidency. In 1859, Willis and his wife moved to Texas.

Nephews and nieces of Willis, children of his brother Morgan B. Green (b. 1805), were living with the Greens by 1845. The children were: Elizabeth “Lizzie,” who married Colonel William Short around 1853; Malvina, who married a man whose surname was Fleming, probably just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War; Napoleon, who was a railroad employee; and Lafayette (1835-1907), who was educated at Lexington and studied law under J. W. Bickers of Rumsey. In addition, Lafayette worked in various Louisville merchandising establishments, receiving training that helped prepare him to manage the Falls of Rough operations. Because of his uncle’s declining health, Lafayette became the family’s financial head. He also served in the State House of Representatives from 1859 to 1861. Following his uncle’s death in 1862 and while the Civil War was raging, Lafayette went to Texas to accompany his aunt back to Kentucky and to bring his uncle’s body back for reinterment.

In 1866 Lafayette married Rebecca Eleanor “Ella” Scott (1841-1896), daughter of Robert Wilmot Scott (1808-1884) and Elizabeth Watts (Brown) Scott (1811-1886) of Frankfort. The Greens had five children: Elizabeth (1868-1869), Willis (1870-1944), Preston Scott (1877-1945), Jennie Scott (1879-1965), and Robert Scott (1882-1943). Lafayette and his sons increased operations and began new ones at Falls of Rough, which included lumbering, flour milling, selling tobacco, raising Shetland ponies, a post office, a bank, and a general store. Because of their transportation needs for business purposes and to provide passenger service, a railroad line was extended to Falls of Rough in 1891. Their house, which was built of homegrown products (stone that was cut on the place and lumber that was cut and dressed at
the mill), was a beautiful manor dwelling. Ella and her daughter Jennie were gracious hostesses, entertaining many friends and acquaintances through the years.

The children were educated at home by teachers employed by their parents, and later attended various private schools in Louisville, Princeton, and Danville. All three sons were Centre College students; but Jennie, while in her teens, terminated her formal education and remained at home to assist her ailing mother with management of the house and family. None of the children ever married. After her brothers died, Jennie continued to oversee all the operations of the small empire until her health declined.

**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection relates almost exclusively to Lafayette Green, although there is correspondence and business papers for Willis Green, and there is correspondence with and references to Lafayette’s siblings and his children.

Boxes 1 and 2 contain correspondence, chiefly of Lafayette Green, from 1850 to 1908. The majority of the correspondence is related to Lafayette’s Falls of Rough business endeavors: flour and woolen mill, mercantile operation, lumber, livestock—which included a herd of Shetland ponies, and tobacco. This correspondence is arranged chronologically and also includes letters written to Lafayette by various family members (see the subject analytics below), letters written by sportsmen coming to Falls of Rough for hunting and fishing, and friends and acquaintances asking for political favors, loans, jobs, or for reference. The correspondence also includes information about a railroad established in Grayson County and a bridge being built at Rough River. Box 2, Folder 3 contains several letters and court documents related to Lafayette serving as guardian for three Rossdeutscher children.

Box 3 contains financial records, chiefly material purchased from Louisville suppliers for the mercantile store operated by Lafayette at Falls of Rough, from 1837 to 1890. These records include statements, invoices, receipts and order forms. Many of these records include decorative letterheads, and a number of them are included in the subject analytics below. Lafayette had long-time relationships with many of these vendors, so a number of them are represented throughout the collection. Correspondence with these vendors, when it occurred, is included in Boxes 1 and 2.

Box 4, Folder 1 includes postcards, generally of a business nature. Folder 2 includes an account book of lumber shipments and returns made from Rough River from 1887 to 1889 which runs for 39 pages. The remainder of the account book documents purchases made for the store at Rough River from 1895 to 1897. Folder 3 contains various insurance policies taken out by Lafayette between 1878 and 1883 for crops (hay, tobacco), barns and farm equipment, store and merchandise, houses, and personal property. Folder 4 includes business and court records related specifically to Willis Green. Of interest are partial depositions from Judith Sebastian and Anselm Watkins in 1831 in which they are asked about the indebtedness of William Sebastian and his business dealings with Willis Green. This is related to a complicated case, litigated for many years, that revolved around Watkins selling land to which Willis Green also had claim to.
**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1850-1890</th>
<th>283 items</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1850-1859</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1860-1879</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1880-1883</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1884-1886</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1887-1888</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1889</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>BOX 2</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1894-1896</td>
<td>18 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1897-1898</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1901-1908</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 3</th>
<th>Invoices</th>
<th>1837-1890</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Invoices and Statements</td>
<td>1837-1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Invoices and Statements</td>
<td>1866-1869</td>
<td>63 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Invoices and Statements</td>
<td>1870-1873</td>
<td>26 items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Folder 4  Invoices and Statements  1874-1879  63 items
Folder 5  Invoices and Statements  1880-1889  81 items
Folder 6  Invoices and Statements  1890-1898  57 items
Folder 7  Miscellaneous  1859-1890  16 items

**BOX 4  Miscellaneous  1831-1898  64 items**
Folder 1  Postcards  1885  26 items
Folder 2  Account Book  1887-1898  1 item
Folder 3  Insurance Policies  1878-1883  14 items
Folder 4  Business and Court Records  1831-1864  23 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

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Business and personal correspondence, as well as business records (chiefly invoices and statements from Louisville suppliers) for the Green family at Falls of Rough, Grayson County, Kentucky. Green operated a number of businesses, including saw mills, a grist mill, woolen mill, and a general store. He also operated a large farm raising tobacco and livestock, as well as a herd of Shetland ponies. Although his businesses are covered extensively in the correspondence and records, politics and local economic development is also discussed.

3 ½ boxes. 26 folders. 882 items. Originals.
SC2019.73.2

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Allen, Horace  B1,F7
Allen, Mary E.  B1,F6; B2,F7
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Letterheads – Boone Tobacco Warehouse – Louisville B1,F5
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SEE or SEE ALSO

Green, Elizabeth “Lizzie”
  See:
    Short, Elizabeth “Lizzie” (Green)

Green, Malvina, b. 1893
  See:
    Fleming, Malvina (Green), b. 1893

Jeffrey  08/31/2019