11-2-2009

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

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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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>ANNIS, Lena Grey, 1897-1996 – Collector</th>
<th>1944-1972</th>
<th>263 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory, photos, and collection notes provided by the donor</td>
<td>1944-1972</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1944-1949</td>
<td>54 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1950-1954</td>
<td>54 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1955-1959</td>
<td>36 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1960-1964</td>
<td>31 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1965-1969</td>
<td>48 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Letters from Wendell Annis, her brother</td>
<td>1970-1972</td>
<td>37 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters from Charles Thomas and Lagrada Annis, her brother and his wife</td>
<td>1950-1973</td>
<td>22 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters from Maggie (Annis) Hill, her sister</td>
<td>1945-1961</td>
<td>34 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters from Maggie (Annis) Hill, her sister</td>
<td>1962-1974</td>
<td>17 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters from Linda Lou (Hill) Cannon, her niece</td>
<td>1948-1969</td>
<td>27 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters from Alice (Hill) Forgy, her niece</td>
<td>1950-1975</td>
<td>33 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters from Alice Forgy’s children</td>
<td>1970-1992</td>
<td>14 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Letters from J. Harry Annis, her brother, and his family</td>
<td>1917-1967</td>
<td>60 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters from Edward Annis, her nephew, and his family</td>
<td>1955-1990</td>
<td>27 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters from David Annis, her nephew, and his family</td>
<td>1955-1991</td>
<td>38 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOX 3**  
**ANNIS, Lena Grey,**  
1897-1996 – Collector  
1924-1994 | 221 items

| 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 |

**BOX 4**  
**ANNIS, Lena Grey,**  
1897-1996 – Collector  
1909-1995 | 122 items

| Folder 1 | Letters from family of Robert Prewitt, her cousin | 1978-1995 | 39 items |
Folder 2  Letters from cousins in Texas  1909-1992  15 items
   Arkansas, and Oklahoma
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

   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, 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

Lile/Jeffrey   11/02/2009