Sutherland and Read Family Papers (MSS 468)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John M. Sutherland emigrated from Scotland with his wife Ann Cameron to Beech Fork, Nelson County, Kentucky. By 1780, he had built the first distillery in Nelson County, located about three miles south of Bardstown. Among the children of John M. and Ann Sutherland was William Sutherland (1795-1862), who in 1818 married Eliza Read (1803-1837), the daughter of Philip Read. William took over his father’s distillery business in 1824. Among the nine children of William and Eliza Sutherland was Henry Sutherland (1826-1916). Henry Sutherland spent his entire life in Nelson County, where he farmed and succeeded to the distillery business after his father was killed by a U. S. Army soldier in 1862.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains primarily correspondence, accounts, land and legal documents, and miscellaneous personal papers of members of the Sutherland and Read families of Hardin and Nelson counties in Kentucky. Most of the correspondence is related to business and financial matters, and the legal documents attest to the time spent by various family members in establishing the boundaries of, or title to, lands in which they were dealing. Materials relating to other families with which the Sutherlands and Reads were associated are also included in this collection. The collection was originally catalogued as “Nelson County Papers” (KY94-870-5320) in Barbara Teague, ed., Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Collections (Frankfort, Ky.: Public Records Division, Department for Libraries and Archives, 1988).

Box 1 contains mostly correspondence and other personal and business papers of John M. Sutherland, his son William Sutherland, and William’s son Henry Sutherland. John M. Sutherland’s sister Helen writes from England and Wales with family news, and a firm of solicitors writes in 1846 regarding the estate of Alexander Mackay, a then-deceased executor of John’s brother William (Folder 3). William, who died in Wales in 1834, had appointed John M. Sutherland and Mackay as his executors, but matters were complicated by a family decision to prove William’s 1832 will, then to distribute the estate according to the terms of an 1833 will which he had had drawn but never executed (Folder 2). Other personal papers of John M.
Sutherland include documents relating to his landholdings and the purchase of a slave (Folder 4). Letters to John’s son William Sutherland (Folder 5) include several from members of the Read family; one writes from Texas during the revolution of 1836, and another discusses the difficult economic conditions following the Panic of 1837 and speculates in 1840 about finding William a wealthy widow in Tennessee to marry. William’s son John also writes two letters from Tennessee discussing the banking business and state politics in the aftermath of Governor Andrew Johnson’s re-election in 1855. Other letters to William relate to various debt, land and legal matters. Additional personal papers of William Sutherland include deeds, surveys, contracts, and court documents relating to land (Folder 6); miscellaneous papers, primarily legal (Folder 7); accounts for various goods and services (Folders 8, 9); and tax and other receipts (Folders 10, 11). Papers of William’s son Henry Sutherland include tax receipts, accounts, correspondence and warehouse reports relating to his distillery business (Folders 12, 13). Also included in Box 1 are miscellaneous Sutherland family papers, mostly receipts, accounts and payment orders (Folder 14); materials relating to estate of Roderic Jewel, of which William Sutherland was executor (Folder 15); and materials relating to other Jewel family members, primarily the sons of Roderic Jewel (Folder 16).

Box 2 contains mostly correspondence and miscellaneous papers of members of the Read family. Correspondence of Philip Read (Folder 1) relates entirely to business and legal matters involving debt payments and land transactions; a letter from a nephew, James A. Read, includes comments on the contentious 1828 presidential contest between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams. Other papers of Philip Read (Folder 2) include notes, accounts, receipts, and documents relating to land transactions and disputes, as well as to the settlement of Read’s estate by administrators William Sutherland and Henry A. Read. Letters of Samuel P. Read (Folder 3) are written mostly from Brownsville, Tennessee to his uncle and guardian, William Sutherland; he writes of his need to raise money to establish a mercantile business, his difficulties in selling his Kentucky land, and of his move to Texas in 1855. Other Read family papers include a few accounts of Samuel P. Read (Folder 4) and miscellaneous deeds, correspondence, receipts and powers of attorney relating to the affairs of various family members (Folder 5). Contracts, surveys, and court and land title documents relating to Philip Read’s interest in a 30,000-acre tract of land in Hardin (formerly Jefferson) County, Kentucky (Folder 6) are notable because the lands, originally patented to one William Greenough of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, not only became the subject of much litigation over the years but included the future birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Also included (Folder 7) are accounts and contracts relating primarily to Richard Mather, who purchased part of the Greenough lands and whose estate was administered by Philip Read. The remainder of this box (Folder 8) consists of receipts and inventories, and miscellaneous deeds, surveys, bonds and contracts, most relating to land in Nelson County, made between parties other than Sutherlands and Reads.

**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sutherland and Read Family Papers</th>
<th>1785-1884</th>
<th>473 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and genealogical notes</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>William Sutherland, d. 1834 – Will and estate</td>
<td>1832-1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Dates</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>John M. Sutherland – Letters to</td>
<td>1833-1846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>John M. Sutherland – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1785-1827</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Letters to</td>
<td>1820-1861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Deeds and documents relating to land</td>
<td>1826-1857, n.d.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1829-1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Accounts</td>
<td>1817-1835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Accounts</td>
<td>1836-1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Receipts</td>
<td>1817-1858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>William Sutherland – Tax receipts</td>
<td>1817-1861</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Henry Sutherland – Business papers</td>
<td>1848-1883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Henry Sutherland – Warehouse reports on distilled spirits</td>
<td>1877-1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Sutherland family – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1816-1862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Roderic Jewell – Miscellaneous papers; Estate</td>
<td>1839-1853, n.d.</td>
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<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Jewell family – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1839-1858</td>
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**BOX 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Philip Read – Correspondence</td>
<td>1800-1828</td>
<td>20 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Philip Read – Miscellaneous papers; Estate</td>
<td>1796-1839, n.d.</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Samuel P. Read – Letters</td>
<td>1851-1855</td>
<td>17 items</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Samuel P. Read – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1848-1855</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Read family – Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>1809-1856</td>
<td>13 items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Folder 6  William Greenough lands – Hardin County, Kentucky  1784-1857  13 items
Folder 7  Mather family – Miscellaneous papers; Richard Mather estate  1783-1830  22 items
Folder 8  Miscellaneous surveys, deeds, etc.  1783-1859  40 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD
MSS  SUTHERLAND and Read  1783-1884
468  Family Papers

Correspondence, business, legal and miscellaneous papers of the Sutherland, Read and associated families of Hardin and Nelson counties in Kentucky. Includes records relating to the Sutherland distillery business, estate papers, and court and other records relating to land titles.

1½ boxes.  24 folders.  670 items.  Originals.
SC2013.3.122

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SEE and SEE ALSO

Jewell family
   See also:
       Jewel family

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 09/09/2013