

The Filson Historical Society
Fleming-Edmonds Family
Papers, 1762-1938 (bulk 1762-1811)

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg

Size of Collection:
1 cubic foot

Location Number:
Mss./A/F597

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Scope and Content Note

The Fleming-Edmonds Family Papers include extensive correspondence from eighteenth century Kentucky and Virginia. Most of the letters are either to or from Col. William Fleming, a Virginian who was an early visitor to Kentucky and a member of the state's land court. Many of the letters discuss land acquisition but others describe Indian raids, life on the frontier, and journeys to Kentucky. Some also discuss the Revolutionary War. Three of Judge William B. Fleming's diaries are also part of the collection. Fleming kept them while traveling Europe first in 1868 and then again in 1891. During Woodrow Wilson's administration, Fleming served in the Department of State and the collection contains correspondence between Fleming and Wilson, including three letters from the President. Later material is mostly genealogical in nature including correspondence related to genealogy as well as family trees and printed material. The collection also includes photostats of a small series of letters from members of the Armstrong family, particularly J. N. Armstrong and William McNeil Armstrong.

Photographs of the Fleming family were transferred to the Filson's photo collection. Some of the printed material in the collection was transferred to the Filson Library.

Another collection of William Fleming's papers is held by the Special Collections department at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

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Biographical Note

The Fleming-Edmonds Family is descended from Col. William Fleming (1729-1795), who settled in Virginia ca. 1755 after emigrating from Scotland. A land speculator and soldier, Fleming served in the French and Indian War, Lord Dunmore's War and the Revolutionary War. Col. Fleming's papers include extensive correspondence from his parents, Leonard (ca. 1700-1775) and Margaret, who remained in Scotland, and Leonard Israel Fleming (1764-1845), who settled in Kentucky around the turn of the nineteenth century. Judge William B. Fleming (1843-1918), a grandson of Col. Fleming, was a judge and diplomat. His daughter, Mary Fleming (1880-1974), married Henry M. Edmonds (1878-1959) and moved to Alabama. This collection of papers comes from her descendants.

See genealogical materials in the collection for more information.

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Folder List

Box 1

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1762-1764
- Folder 2: Correspondence, 1765-1767
- Folder 3: Correspondence, 1768-1776
- Folder 4: Correspondence, 1778-1780
- Folder 5: Correspondence, 1783-1785
- Folder 6: Correspondence, 1786-1792
- Folder 7: Correspondence, 1793-1798
- Folder 8: Correspondence, 1801-1811
- Folder 9: Correspondence, undated
- Folder 10: Correspondence, 1867-1927
- Folder 11: Correspondence, 1928-1929
- Folder 12: Correspondence, 1931-1938
- Folder 13: Correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, 1917
- Folder 14: Correspondence regarding the DAR
- Folder 15: William B. Fleming Journal, 16 August – 13 September 1868
- Folder 16: William B. Fleming Journal, ca. October 1868
- Folder 17: William B. Fleming Journal, 1891
- Folder 18: Genealogy
- Folder 19: Genealogy – William Fleming
- Folder 20: Genealogy – Miscellaneous
- Folder 21: Photostats – Anderson family correspondence, 1832-1852
- Folder 22: Photostats – Miscellaneous
- Folder 23: Printed material
- Folder 24: Scotland tour guides
- Folder 25: Miscellaneous

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Subject Headings

Centennial Exhibition (1876: Philadelphia, Pa.)
Dueling - Kentucky
Europe - Description and travel
Fleming-Edmonds family
Great Britain. Stamp Act (1765)
Indians of North America - Wars
Kentucky - Discovery and exploration
Louis Philippe, King of the French, 1773-1850
Louisville (Ky.) - Description and travel
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Religion and culture - Kentucky
Slavery - United States
United States - History - French and Indian War, 1755-1763
United States - History - Revolution, 1775-1783
United States Naval Expedition to Japan (1852-1854)
United States. Navy