Physical Description:
The objects in this collection were owned by William Arthur Rogers whose summer home, “Fairfields,”
was built at Kennebunk Lower Village in 1900. Rogers, a wealthy Buffalo, New York, industrialist and
one-time mayor of that city, sold his estate ca. 1926 to William Neal Campbell, head of the Goodall
Worsted Company of Sanford, Maine.

The collection includes a photograph album and guest book compiled during Rogers’ tenancy. The bulk
of the collection is travel diaries compiled by Rogers and members of his family. While these do not
shed details of Rogers’ life in Kennebunk, they do provide a telling glimpse of the lifestyle of people of
their ilk.

The collection is stored in one half box except for the albums and volumes which are not boxed. Its
accession number is 86.35.1-20.

Box and Folder Breakdown:
Box 1: Photograph album, William Rogers, Kennebunk Lower Village estate and surrounding area.
     Acq. #86.35.1

     Folder 1: Photocopies of some of the photographs in the above album with handwritten
               notes identifying photos, which were supplied by the donor.
Folder 2: Christmas card, 1937 with photo of “Fairfields” (W. A. Rogers’ house) from Mr. and Mrs. William Neal Campbell, who bought the estate from W. A. Rogers. Acq. #86.35.2

Collection also includes the following:

The Guest Book of William Arthur Rogers, Kennebunkport, Maine. Acq. #86.35.4

A Visit to Japan, Korea and China, 1917, by William A. Rogers. Typescript. Paper bind. Acq. #86.35.5


Acq. #86.35.7.a.
Carbon copy of above. Acq. #86.35.7.b.

Second Visit to Norway and Sweden, Summer of 1938, A few letters written by William A. Rogers to his children during the tour. Typescript. Paper binder. Acq. #86.35.8

Impressions and Experiences of Mr. & Mrs. William A. Rogers Gathered During a Journey in South American, January 29th to May 11th, 1921. Being a diary written by Mr. Rogers in the form of letters to his children: William & Margaret (Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Rogers), Alice & Dick (Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Hillis), Alden Rogers. Typescript in loose-leaf notebook.
Acq. #86.35.9

Miscellaneous letters of William A. Rogers to his children written on various trips, 1890 – 1828. Typescript in loose-leaf notebook. Acq. #86.35.10

Diary written by Mr. William A. Rogers for his Children Seventeen Years After the Recorded Events from Notes Entered in a Small Memorandum Book by Mrs. William A. Rogers During the Journey, February 6th to June 1st, 1917. Hawaiian Islands, Japan, Korea and China. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photographs. Post binding. Acq. #86.35.14

Letters from the Far East Written by William A. Rogers to his Children, William S. and Margaret T. Rogers, Richard D. and Alice Rogers Hillis, Alden Rogers. 1923 – 1924. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post binding. Acq. #86.35.15

Letters Written by William A. Rogers to his Children from the South Sea Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Papua-New Guinea, South Africa, South America, and Intermediate Points, 1927. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post binding. Two volumes. Acq. #86.35.16.a.b

Letters Written by William A. Rogers to his Children from Angkor, Bali, the Philippines, and Japan, 1929. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post bind. Acq. 86.35.17

Notes on an Eight Week Trip to England as Guests of William A. Rogers, August 29th to October 24th, 1934. Compiled by Alice Rogers Hillis. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post binding. Two volumes. Acq. #86.36.18. a & b

Diary of a Trip Taken to Southern California via the Panama Canal by William A. Rogers with his Daughter Alice and Husband Richard Hillis, 1935. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post binding. Acq. #86.35.19
To the Land of the Midnight Sun, North Cape – Russia Cruise, S. S. Franconia, June 26 – August 2, 1937. William A. Rogers Family. Two volumes. Typescript illustrated with postcards and photos. Post binding. Acq. #86.35.20.a & b

Photograph of Alice Rogers Hillis. In Rogers folder, Photographs of People Box. Acq. #86.35.3

Chronicles of Kennebunk, by William E. Barry, 1924. Maine A/H Shelf Acq. #86.35.11

Kennebunkport, Maine. Introduction by Booth Tarkington, no date. Pamphlet Box #9. Acq. #86.35.12

A Kennebunkport Album, by Joyce Butler. Maine A/H Shelf Acq. #86.35.13

Additions:

Box 2:

Folder 1: Correspondence. Letter to Mrs. Rogers, 1946, from Mrs. Dwight concerning death of W. A. Rogers, Correspondence with donor when contents of this box was received.

Folder 2: Letters from W. A. Rogers to wife from Mexico, 1890.

Folder 3: Photograph album with notes inserted by donor. (Note: With photocopies of those pages.)

Folder 4: Items pertaining to Louis Norton.

Folder 5: Genealogical materials: Rogers, Silliman, Trumbull, Hillis families

Box 3: Diaries as follows:

Kept by William A. Rogers, 1924 and 1929


Acq. #87.26

Other:

Postcard, Main Street, Kennebunkport, 1911. Acq. #86.35.2a
Reference Sources:
William A. Rogers estate at Kennebunkport, Me., purchased by William Neal Campbell. The Elizabethan style house of brick and half timber has 24 rooms. Previews, Inc., the National Real Estate Clearing House, was the broker.

"Fairfields," the William A. Rogers property at Kennebunkport, Maine, offered to the real estate trade under contract with Previews, Inc., the National Real Estate Clearing House, has been purchased by William Neal Campbell.

Mr. Campbell is head of the Goodall Worsted Company of Sanford, Maine, and plans to use "Fairfields" as a summer home.

This attractive property of 60 acres faces the Atlantic Ocean and borders the Kennebunk river. The well landscaped grounds are a perfect example of English planting. There is a tennis court and boathouse.

The residence of brick and half timber is in the Elizabethan style. It is noted for its detail and was sold completely furnished. There are 24 rooms, remarkable for their spaciousness. The outbuildings include a garage, gardener's cottage, stables and greenhouse. The property was held at $125,000.
FRANCISCANS BUY
KENNEBUNK ESTATE

The Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers, who have their Monastery at Mount St. Francis, Greene, have purchased the Campbell 40-room estate at Kennebunk, one of the most beautiful estates in New England.

The purchasing transactions were completed September 8 at the office of Attorney Homer Waterhouse, Jr. The Franciscan Fathers were represented by the Very Rev. Justin Vaskevicius, Provincial Superior of the Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers in U.S.A. and Attorney George C. Wing, Jr. of Lewiston.

The Franciscan Monastery will be established in the newly purchased Campbell estate where 25 Friars will reside. A seminary where young men will be prepared for religious life and future mission work in the United States, Canada, South America and Lithuania. The publishing office of the magazine "The Bell of St. Francis" which is edited by the Franciscan Fathers will be transferred there. The office of the Third Order of St. Francis, under whose care there are about 70 Fraternities of Lithuanian-American parishes in the United States, Canada and Lithuania, will also be housed there.

The Fathers of Greene will occupy the new monastery next week with religious ceremonies and the celebration of Holy Mass. The solemn blessing of the monastery will take place next summer after the chapel has been completely furnished. His Excellency of Joseph E. McCarthy, D.D., the Bishop of Portland diocese will officiate at the dedication services.

On this occasion there will also be arranged a Lithuanian-American National Day with folk songs and dances.

Refurbishment of the rooms in the home will be converted into a beautiful chapel. The monastery is to be enlarged and the first floor will be the center of activity in U.S. and Canada of all the Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers.

The Province - Commissariat of the Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers of St. Casimir in U.S. which was established through the efforts of Father Justinas Vaskys, O.F.M., is one of the twelve Franciscan Provinces of Friars Minor in the United States. Only two of the Provinces are independently governed by the Provincial Superior. The Minister General, Head of the Franciscan Order, under whose jurisdiction there are about twenty-five thousand Friars, lives in Rome, Italy.

Besides the work already undertaken by the Franciscan Fathers residing in Greene and Kennebunk, special attention is given to and every effort is made to help the Lithuanian refugees by giving all possible aid to the project which has been accepted by the legislature of the State of Maine. They are also making efforts that the Battle University, which at present is in Hamburg, Germany, would be transferred to Maine.

HISTORY OF FAIRFIELDS

Fairfields, in recent years property of Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell of Sanford and Kennebunk Beach, was originally a part of the estate of John Mitchell, who came from York in 1770 and bought 200 acres of land of Sir William Pepperell on the Kennebunk River. It extended to the inlet made famous in Kenneth Roberts' book, Arundel. Mr. Mitchell's garrison was standing when William A. Rogers, retired industrialist of Buffalo, N.Y., purchased the estate in 1909, but it was torn down to make room for an entrance drive.

Mr. Rogers built the present house and landscaped the "grounds". Fairfields, one of the most beautiful summer homes on the Atlantic coast consists of 60 acres on the river and until recently, 90 acres of pine on the westerly side of Beach Avenue, a manor house, garage and servants' quarters. The assessed valuation during Mr. Rogers' ownership was $100,000.

The residence, designed in true Elizabethan tradition, has a first story of brick construction and half timber above. The house may be used with equal ease for extensive entertaining or for family living.

The first floor woodwork and electrical fixtures are examples of the care lavished on all the decorative details; also on the first floor are a spacious oak paneled entrance hall, lavatory, reception and living room, library with built-in bookcases, den, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, garage, servant's dining room and laundry.

On the second floor are nine master bedrooms and seven baths. On the third floor are two servant's rooms. Original buildings include a gardener's cottage, a stable court with stables, garage and wagon shed, a green house and a boat house on the river. The grounds were laid out in English style. Sweeping lawns are bordered by masses evergreen, mountain laurel and other flowering shrubs. On the south or ocean side, the wild natural growth has been preserved producing an effect no planting could attain. There is a fine tennis court.
Kim Lovejoy has a file with clippings from News 50 years ago series that comment on the construction of the house.

Also, have copies of the extensive correspondence between Rogers and Olmstead Brothers, landscape architects, from the Manuscript Archives at the Library of Congress.

Maps & drawings would still be in the office records of Olmstead Associates, Brookline or uncatalogued at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Mass.

Built 1907-08, Green & Wicks, architects of Buffalo, N.Y. (Buffalo counterpart of McKim, Mead & White - large firm).

Manuscript Division of Library of Congress has booklet "An Estate at Kennebunkport, Maine," about 20 pages, with descriptions of the house, grounds and many photographs of the interior & exterior. Put out by Joseph P. Day.

We have a copy of this.

117 Main Street, Kennebunk, Maine 04043  •  (207) 985-4802
Note by Rogers that almost all of the furniture was designed and built for the house by Davenport & Co. of Boston (leading furniture makers). Much was acquired by him on his travels abroad to the Far East.

While in Buffalo a sign on plaque dedicated to Rogers in the First Presbyterian Church (by Green & Wickes) at Symphony Circle. Rogers was Mayor of Buffalo when the Olmsteads were brought in to design the city's park system.

The wealth of material on the estate suggests that a brochure or book could be written with chapters on Rogers's career, the architect, the Olmstead landscaping, and the story of the Monastery.

Kim Lovejoy
Architectural Historian

Please write back to the Museum if you'd like copies of the other materials. We would love to share in the response.
A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine

GREEN AND WICKS

"Fairfields," the William Arthur Rogers estate in Kennebunk, was designed by Buffalo, New York, architects Edward Broadhead Green (1855-1950) and William Sydney Wicks (1854-1919). The architects, who were in partnership from 1881 until 1917, are perhaps the most prolific ever to have practiced in Buffalo and are responsible for some of the most significant residences and public buildings to be erected there in the prosperous decades at the turn of the century. Their residence for William Rogers, designed between 1906 and 1907 and completed in 1908, is among the most elaborate domestic works produced by the firm (Figures 1 and 2). The Rogers project is one of several commissions the architects executed for Buffalo-based clients who owned country or vacation homes outside the city.

Both Green and Wicks were born in the Utica, New York, area and both attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, during the 1870s for at least part of their academic architectural training. Wicks left Cornell after two years to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1877. He served as an apprentice in the Boston office of architects Peabody and Stearns between 1876 and 1877 and subsequently returned to the central New York state region that had been his home, where he worked for Utica ar-

chitect Frederick H. Gouge. Green, who received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell in 1878, remained in Ithaca and was associated with architect William Henry Miller from 1880 until he left the area the following year.

Green and Wicks formed their partnership in Auburn, New York in 1881. While their office was located in that city, they obtained commissions for several residences and public buildings there and in the surrounding region. In 1884 Green opened an office in Buffalo, and Wicks joined him there the following year. Virtually from the time they established their Buffalo office, the architects commanded an impressive clientele, mainly composed of the community's business and industrial leaders. During the firm's tenure in Buffalo, the architects executed no less than eighty-five residences there and twenty-three in rural areas surrounding the city and outside New York state. Green and Wicks' residential work covered a wide range of stylistic interpretations reflecting the eclectic nature of American architecture at the turn of century. The largest homes of the firm drew their inspiration from the Late Medieval and Renaissance periods in England and the Renaissance in France and generally displayed an adherence to academic, Beaux-Arts models.

William Rogers, a wealthy industrialist, exemplifies the type of client for whom Green and Wicks designed elegant, grandscale residences. Rogers was born in
Berkshire, New York in 1851 and graduated from Yale University in 1874. Following graduation, he joined the Cincinnati, Ohio firm of L. R. Hull and Company, which was involved in cotton, peanut, and pig iron investments. Beginning as an invoice clerk, Rogers was made a partner in the organization within three years. He became especially interested in the pig iron industry and in 1880 formed a separate partnership entitled Rogers, Brown and Company, which specialized in this product. In 1890, Rogers and several associates acquired the Tonawanda Iron and Steel Company in Buffalo, and Rogers moved there to oversee the company’s operations. From the time of his arrival in Buffalo until his death in 1946, Rogers continued to be a dominant force in industrial circles in western New York and elsewhere, serving as the president or vice-president of a variety of iron companies and sitting on the Board of Directors of various Buffalo banks and civic organizations. He traveled extensively throughout his life, visiting such places as China, Siam, India, Siberia, and South America. Many of the artifacts Rogers collected during his travels were displayed in his Maine home.

Green and Wicks’ initial association with Rogers occurred when they undertook alterations to the house he purchased after moving to Buffalo. The choice of Green and Wicks to carry out this work indicates the extent to which the architects had become the accepted designers for Buffalo’s expanding industrialist class. The Rogers residence, now demolished, was located in a fashionable section of the city and had grounds landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted and Associates.

In 1900, Rogers purchased the tract of land which was to become the site of “Fairfields,” his summer home. The tract, consisting of 60 acres on the Kennebunk River and 90 acres of adjoining pine forest, was originally part of the estate of John Mitchell, who had acquired the land from Sir William Pepperrell around 1736. The site remained in possession of the Mitchell family until Rogers purchased it. When it was completed in 1908 at a cost of over $150,000, the Rogers complex consisted of the main house overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, a gardener’s cottage, garage, stable, greenhouse, and boathouse. The estate, described by a contemporary account as “one of the most distinguished on the Atlantic Coast,” featured extensive grounds landscaped in the English garden tradition by the Olmsted Brothers firm. The English theme was consistent with the architectural style of the house and was characterized by wide lawns bordered by ornamental shrubbery and a variety of evergreen trees. The native growth of bayberry, wild rose, juniper, and spirea was preserved on the south, or ocean, side of the residence. Rogers, who maintained an avid interest in horticulture throughout his life, cultivated a rare plant and shrub collection which complemented the professional landscaping.

Green and Wicks chose a fairly free interpretation of the Tudor mode for the Rogers residence, employing such elements as an asymmetrical, multi-gabled facade and oceanfront elevation, massive corbelled chimneys with diapering, a brick first story, and a stuccoed second story with half-timbering. The stable, garage, and gardener’s cottage were conceived as a single U-shaped unit (Figure 3). Its stuccoed walls, randomly-coursed stone foundation, and decorative brackets under the eaves were inspired by English Arts and Crafts designs. Although the architects produced a number of domestic designs with stylistic attributes similar to those of the Rogers home, the use of stucco and half-timbering for a structure of this magnitude is unique among their known work. Despite its grand scale, the Rogers house has a somewhat less formal aspect than Green and Wicks’ other major projects in-

Inventory of the William A. Rogers Collection - Collection #51
Brick Store Museum 117 Main Street Kennebunk, ME 04043 207-985-4802 www.brickstoremuseum.org
spired by English examples. These other residences were executed entirely in brick or stone and, because they were mainly intended for urban settings, they lacked the rambling quality of the Rogers design which is in keeping with the home’s purpose as a country retreat.

The 6,306 square foot interior, which has been greatly altered, featured fine woodwork and was almost entirely furnished with pieces designed and built for the house by the A. H. Davenport Company of Boston. The original first floor plan followed the design program seen in Green and Wicks’ most elaborate residential works, whereby a hierarchical relationship was maintained between the amount of space designated for the formal and service activities within the house. The spacious oak-paneled entrance hall (Figure 4), dramatic stair hall, and reception room clearly indicate that the home was intended to be used for entertaining, while the massive living room and flanking flower and writing rooms reinforce Rogers’ penchant for gracious living. The service wing, located at the eastern end of the structure, was effectively separated from the more formal part of the house. The hierarchical relationship was continued on the second floor, where the nine bedrooms and seven baths for the Rogers family were separated from the six servants’ rooms.

“Fairfields” remained in Rogers’ ownership until 1936, at which time it was sold, completely furnished, to Colonel William Neal Campbell, head of the Goodall Worsted Company of Sanford. The Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers, current owners of the estate, purchased it in 1947 and converted it into a monastery. Interior renovations were undertaken to adapt the home to its present use, and a chapel was added to the eastern elevation.

Although no longer a private home, “Fairfields” epitomizes the elegant country residence considered de rigueur for the wealthy in the early 1900s. In designing the Rogers complex, Green and Wicks furthered their reputation as Buffalo’s most sought-after architects and demonstrated their adept handling of a stylistic form recalling English country houses of the Late Medieval period. By creating a house similar to those belonging to the privileged class in England during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, the architects effectively allied their client with the equivalent of this class in America at the turn of the century.

Dana Mintzer
Preservation League of New York State
January, 1986
NOTES
The material in this article is based upon a master's thesis entitled “Green and Wicks, Architects: Residential Designs 1881-1913”, prepared by the author in 1983 for the Cornell University Program in Historic Preservation Planning. Information concerning the Rogers commission was received through Kim Lovejoy, who compiled an extensive file on the estate for the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk.

LIST OF KNOWN COMMISSIONS IN MAINE BY GREEN AND WICKS

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS
Elevations and floor plans on linen for the Rogers House are in the collection of The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, New York.

Picture of Edward B. Green
Courtesy of The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Picture of William S. Wicks
from The Architectural Era, December 1890.

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