WHITEFOORD R. COLE, Jr.
COLLECTION
1818-1951

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INTRODUCTION

The Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr. Collection, 1818-1951, contains correspondence of Felix Grundy (1777-1833) and John M. Bass (1804-1878) and other ancestral papers. The Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr. Collection was a gift of Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr., Louisville, Kentucky.

The materials in this finding aid measure 1.26 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Literary rights in these papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr., may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr. Collection containing approximately 800 items, spans the period 1818-1951. The collection is composed of accounts, correspondence, diaries, genealogical data, indentures, wills, court and estate papers, land grants, stocks, receivership papers for the City of Nashville (1869), programs, writings, and some miscellaneous memoranda. The bulk of the material falls within the years 1818-1900 and deals with such important people as Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, Felix Grundy, John M. Bass, Jacob McGavock, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun.

The collection contains correspondence of Will White, 1818-1825, and The Rev. John W. Ogden, 1838, first and second husbands respectively, of Eliza Caroline Wharton. The letters of Will White give interesting descriptions of the country between Nashville and New Orleans in the early 1800s. He made a trip to Natchez in 1820 for the purpose of disposing of some of his Negroes. He complained that they had given him so much trouble he was almost ready to give them away to anyone who would punish them. Will White wrote one letter in 1825 from his home in Louisa County, Virginia. The Rev. John W. Ogden was the second husband of Eliza Caroline and there are several letters written by him in 1838. Eliza’s daughter, Jane, married Dr. Berry, and their daughter, Mary Wharton Berry, married John M. Bass, Jr..

The John M. Bass correspondence, 1839-1877, deals with Union Bank of Tennessee and State bonds. Mr. Bass was a wealthy financier and son-in-law of Felix Grundy. He had extensive property in Davidson County, St. Louis, Missouri, “Talla Bena” plantation, Louisiana and lands in Arkansas. In 1869, he was made Receiver for the City of Nashville.

The diaries of Mary Conner Bass include her trip to New Orleans in 1892 and her extensive European travels in 1889-1890. One little volume contains sample materials of dresses worn on important occasions. The wills of the Bass and Grundy families plus other estate papers contain information regarding financial conditions of the period from 1800-1870. Genealogical data for the Bass, Berry, Caldwell, Daughtery, Grundy, McGavock, Odgen, Rodgers, Wharton and White families make up the remainder of this collection.
### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**John M. Bass**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1804 | January 19, born the son of Peter and Anna Bass  
Attended Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky |
| 1826 | Appointed trustee of the University of Nashville by Philip Lindsley |
| 1829 | Married Malvina Grundy, daughter of Felix Grundy |
| 1831-1832 | Served as alderman of Nashville |
| 1833 | Elected mayor of Nashville |
| 1837 | President of the Union Bank of Tennessee during panic of that year |
| 1844-1848 | Chairman of commission for building the Tennessee State Capitol  
Succeeded by Samuel D. Morgan |
| 1850 | Appointed trustee of the University of Nashville when Lindsley resigned |
| 1851 | Removed from the University of Nashville Board of Trustees when his business took him to New Orleans |
| 1854 | Executor of Harry R. W. Hill’s estate |
| 1856 | Member of the Board of Trustees, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee |
| 1860 | Owned Nashville property worth $540,000.00, plus plantations in Arkansas and Louisiana |
| 1866 | Filed suit to annul Collins D. Elliott contract with the Nashville Female Academy in order to sell property |
| 1867 | Returned from New Orleans  
Again appointed trustee of the University of Nashville |
<p>| 1868 | Authorized to act as president of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company in absence of Cole the president who had gone to Washington, D. C., to negotiate settlement with the United States government |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Appointed Receiver for the City of Nashville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Remained on reorganized Board of Montgomery Bell Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Submitted written opinion on will of Montgomery Bell bequest for education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Voted against combining the Medical School of the University of Nashville with Vanderbilt University Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Died in New Orleans</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Felix Grundy

1777 September 11, the son of George Grundy an immigrant from England

1779 Family removed to Pennsylvania

1780 Moved to Kentucky
Instructed by Dr. James Priestley at Bardstown Academy
Studied law under George Nicholas

1797 Admitted to the Kentucky bar

1799 Member of Constitutional Convention of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
Married early in life to Ann P. Rogers

1800-1806 Served as a member of the Kentucky legislature

1806-1807 Appointed Associate Justice on Kentucky Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals and was almost immediately promoted to Chief Justice

1807 Moved to Nashville where he became an outstanding criminal lawyer

1811 Elected to Congress from Tennessee

1813 Re-elected to Congress and was a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

1815-1819 Abstained from office

1819-1825 Elected to Tennessee legislature and supported state-owned banks
He was opposed by Andrew Jackson, and the two men were never intimate after this time

1825-1827 Withdrew from public life

1827 Ran for Congress in Jackson’s home district and received the support of “Old Hickory” against John Bell, but lost the race
1829  Grundy was selected to fill vacancy in Senate created by John H. Eaton who became a Cabinet member

1833  Elected to the Senate after a bitter struggle with Eaton who was supported by Jackson
CONTAINER LIST

1. Box 1, folder 1 to Box 2, folder 2 – Diaries – Mary C. Bass, 1889-1890
2. Box 2, folder 2 – Diaries – Mary C. Bass, 1892 to Box 3, folder 16

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1
1. Accounts: Bills, Notes, Receipts, 1816-1841 – Bass, Grundy, McGavock
2. Accounts: Bills, Notes, Receipts, 1842-1878 – Bass, Grundy, McGavock
3. Biographical Data – John M. Bass
4. Biographical Data – Felix Grundy
5. Biographical Data – George Grundy
6. Civil War – Nashville
7. Correspondence - Asher, L. C. – Bass, Eli Everett
8. Correspondence – Baylor, O. W. – Boldrick, Samuel J.
9. Correspondence – Caldwell, W. C. – Clarkson, T. A.
10. Correspondence – Clay, Henry
11. Correspondence – Clay, Mary Rogers – Correy, James
12. Correspondence – 1863-1941 – Duncan, J. Tate – Gordon, Mrs. Nancy R.
13. Correspondence – Grundy, Felix – 1827-1838
15. Correspondence – Jackson, Andrew – 1832-1839
17. Correspondence – O’Conner-Overton – 1829-1923
18. Correspondence – Page-Pence – 1904-1934
19. Correspondence – Peyner-Porter – 1839-1919
20. Correspondence – Reed-Vaughan – 1820-1934

Box 2
1. Court Records – 1827-1903 – Bass’ appointment as Receiver of City of Nashville (1869), etc.
2. Diaries – Mary Conner Bass: European Trip, 1889-1890

Microfilm Roll #2

Box 2
2. Diaries – Mary Conner Bass: New Orleans, 1892
3. Estate Papers and will – Bass, John M.
4. Estate Papers – Mrs. Anna Russell Cole
5. Estate Papers and Will – Felix Grundy
7. Genealogical Data – Bass Family
8. Genealogical Data – Grundy Family
9. Genealogical Data – Miscellaneous – Berry, Caldwell, Hill, McGavock
10. Genealogical Data – Rodgers Family

Box 3
1. Land Grants, etc. – 1848-1865
2. Legal Documents – 1829-1870
3. Legal Documents – Deeds and indentures – 1827-1905
4. Newspaper Clippings – Whitefoord Cole data
5. Newspaper Clippings – Historic events and places
6. Newspaper Clippings – Felix Grundy data
7. Newspaper Clippings – Andrew Jackson data
10. Photographs – Felix Grundy, Mrs. Grundy, Albert Gleaves, etc.
11. Poems – Crabb, Dunbar, Moore, Bret Harte, Ogden
12. Programs and Notices
13. Schools – Nashville Female Academy – 1825
15. Sketches – Grundy County, Polk House, “Uncle Wash”
16. Wills – George Grundy – 1873
NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondents in the Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr., Collection, together with the dates of the letters and brief note of contents. The figures in parentheses immediately following the name denote the number of letters. All of the correspondence is in Box 1.

Asher, L. C. (1), 1896, re: John Caldwell, grandfather of John C. Calhoun; Flat Creek Church, Virginia
Bass, Eli E. (3), 1848-1927, re: St. Louis, Missouri, property and daughter, Sallie;
   Bass Family genealogy and 1927 and 1927 flood at Greenville, Mississippi
Bass, John M. (3), 1839-1877, re: Sale of lot at Beersheba, etc.
Bass, John M. Jr. (1), 1897, re: Rodgers and Daughtery Families in Kentucky and Indiana
Baylor, O. W. (2), 1936-1937, re: Elizabeth Grundy’s will; George Grundy’s will
Bender, I. L. (2), 1898, County Court Clerk, Berkeley County, Martinsburg, West Virginia, re: George Grundy’s estate
Boldrick, Sam J. (1), 1937, re: Biography of Felix Grundy
Buckner, Mrs. M. G. (1), 1935
Caldwell, W. C. (3), 1891-1897, to Supreme Court Justice, re: Genealogy
Calhoun, John C. (1), 1825, re: Family genealogy
Campbell, G. W. (1), 1818, re: Trip to St. Petersburg
Cannon, Jouett Taylor (1), 1933, Kentucky State Historical Society
Clarkson, T. A. (2), 1941, Secretary of Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad
Clay, H. (1), 1813, re: Stanford and Turner debt
Clay, Mary Rogers (2), 1897, re: Family history
Clayton, Alex M. (1), 1833, re: Trip to Arkansas
Clayton, Mrs. Robert B. (1), 1896, re: Genealogy
Cleaver, Mrs. Thomas F. (1), n.d., re: Grundy genealogy
Cole, Mrs. Whitefoord R. (4), 1941
Conway, Elias N. (1), 1847, re: Land in Jefferson County, Arkansas
Correy, James (1), 1853, re: Union Bank of Tennessee and sale of “Talla Bena”
Duncan, J. Tate (1), 1928, re: Incident in life of Felix Grundy
Duncan, Mary Kercheval (1), n.d.
Earle, Louise Maddin (1), 1941, re: Genealogy
Elliott, Mabel E. (1), n.d., re: Genealogy
Elliott, Lizzie P. (1), 1928, re: Grundy-Polk Home in Nashville
Enoch, Susan C. (1), 1932
Ewing, Albert G. (2), 1931, re: Felix Grundy
Ewing, Edwin H. (1), 1863, Executor of David M Harding
Farquharson, J. W. (1), 1933, Clerk, Goodspeed’s Book Shop, Boston, Massachusetts
Gillingham, A. H. (1), 1905, re: Lands
Gordon, Nancy Reed French (2), n.d., re: Rodgers-Grundy genealogy
Grundy, Felix (10), 1829-1838, re: Bass-Porter suit; Whig elections; James P.
Grundy’s appointment; the U. S. Banks; receivership of land at Pontotoc; Negro
insurrection in Nashville
Grundy, Mrs. G. W. (1), n.d. re: Grundy Family genealogy
Grundy, James B. (1), 1900, re: Grundy Family genealogy
Grundy, Margaret Ridgway (1), n.d., re: Grundy Family genealogy
Guild-Smith, (1), 1895, re: Rodgers genealogy
Hart, A. M. (1), 1839, re: Baptist Camp Meeting
Hunter, Nina Reid (1), 1928, re: Grundy burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Jackson, Andrew (5), 1832-1839, re: Bank bill veto; Kentucky elections; Virginia
election; Judiciary bill vs. Clay tariff; appointment of Grundy’s son
Jones, George W. (1), 1895, re: John M. Bass
Kinkade, Ludie J. (1), 1927, Louisville, Kentucky
Lea, John M. (1), 1901, re: Howard estate, bequest to Fiske, etc.
Lewis, M. M. (1), 1927, re: American Historical Society
Lewis, Sallie Stone (1), 1888, re: Stone genealogy
Martin, Mrs. Cyrus Griffin (1), 1951, Chattanooga, Tennessee
McChord, Nell G. (1), 1932, Washington, D. C.
McCormick, J. B. (1), 1836, re: Judgment in favor Grundy
McElory, Mrs. June M. (1), 1896, Paducah, Kentucky
Moore, Cath A. (3), 1895-1897
Moore, Mrs. John Trotwood (1), 1941
O’Connor, Charles A. (1), 1923, New York
Ogden, Eliza C. (3), 1845-1861, Personal
Ogden, John W. (4), 1838, Minister, re: Trip through Tennessee and Louisiana
Overton, J. W. (1), 1829, re: West Point appointment
Page, Thomas Nelson (1), 1904, President of the University of Virginia Alumni
Association
Payne, Bruce R. (1), 1923, re: John M. Bass Scholarship, Peabody College,
Nashville, Tennessee
Pelley, J. J. (1), 1934, President of the Association of American Railroads
Pence, Lafe Stiles (7), 1928, Attorney, Lebanon, Kentucky
Peyner, H. W. (1), 1851, Manager, “Talla Bena” plantation
Poinsett, J. R. (1), 1839, President of the Union Bank, Nashville, Tennessee
Polk, James K. (1) 1848, re: Purchase of Grundy house in Nashville
Porter, George C. (1), 1919
Reed, M. M. (1), 1820
Richards, Malvina Ewing (1), re: Genealogy
Rouse, Alice (1), 1933, Covington, Kentucky
Seymour, Charles M. (2), 1929, re: Will of Felix Grundy
Shoemaker, Floyd C. (1), 1927, State Historical Society of Missouri
Stewart, W. K. (1), 1934, Louisville, Kentucky
Stone, Miss S. Stephens (1), 1904, Louisville, Kentucky
Thomson, Belle M. (1), 1897, re: Wharton Family genealogy
Vaughan, D. C. (1), 1922, Brooks Brothers Clothiers, New York
Warden, Margaret Lindsley (1), 1946, re: Polk-Grundy house
Wharton, Lindsay (1), 1936, re: Wharton genealogy
White, McChord A. (1), 1828, Lexington medical student
White, Will (8), 1818-1825, Chickasaw Agency, Fort Pickering and West Tennessee, re: Lands
Williams, B. W. (1), 1833, Hardeman County

Notes
Wright, Silas (1), 1866, re: Politics
Yates, John L. (1), 1897, re: Caldwell genealogy