



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312**

**FOSTER-WOODS PAPERS
1809-1908**

Processed by:

Harriett Chappell Owsley
Archives & Manuscripts Unit

Accession Numbers: 6, 7, 8, 151, 170, 194, 75-300, 94-139
Date Completed: September 15, 1960

Reprocessed by Cathi Carmack
April 14, 1997
Location: I-A-4
Microfilm Accession Number: 38 (correspondence only)

INTRODUCTION

The Foster-Woods Papers consist of correspondence, accounts, and other documents of the Foster and Woods families of Middle Tennessee, spanning the years 1809-1908. The bulk of the papers are dated prior to the Civil War. The papers were obtained through gifts and by purchase. Miss Emmaline Cockrill, Nashville, Tenn., donated 35 Foster family letters on behalf of the National Society of Colonial Dames in America (NSCDA); Mrs. L.D. Maney, Nashville, Tenn., donated 15 items concerning the Woods family, also on behalf of the NSCDA; Dr. Alfred Leland Crabb, Nashville, Tenn., donated several items concerning the Foster family; Vernon M. Jones, Nashville, Tenn., donated 6 Foster letters; some 110 items concerning the Woods family were purchased from Mrs. Garnett Andrews; Rev. Paul B. Freeland donated letters and accounts; Murray Brosius, Nashville, Tenn., donated copies of 13 Woods family business letters; and Elizabeth Woods Walker, Memphis, Tenn., donated 12 Woods family letters.

The collection occupies .42 linear feet of shelf space and consists of approximately 225 items. Literary rights to the unpublished writings contained in the Foster-Woods Papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Foster-Woods Papers are divided into two series: Foster family papers (Series 1) and Woods family papers (Series 2). Although the families intermarried, the papers have been divided for ease of understanding. Correspondence makes up the largest part of the papers, but accounts, land records, legal documents, and sketches are also included. The Foster family series includes letters of Ephraim H. Foster, prominent in Tennessee politics in the 1830s and 1840s and one of the founders of the Whig Party in Tennessee. The papers also include letters written by the children of Ephraim H. and Jane Dickinson Foster, particularly Robert III, John D., Julia, and Sallie. The double connection between the Foster and Woods families comes in the marriages of Robert Coleman Foster IV to Julia Hannah Woods and Joseph Leonidas Woods to Francis (Fanny) M. Foster (see attached family charts). Julia and Joseph Leonidas Woods were children of Robert Woods and Sarah West, thus connecting the West family. Julia eventually became the owner of her parent's home, "Westwood." Featured in the Woods family series are letters of Julia's brother, James A. Woods, to his father, Robert Woods. There are also items in the papers relating to painter William E. West, brother of Sarah West Woods, and to Charles Armistead and his wife, Mary Robina Woods.

The Foster-Woods Papers not only shed light on the political activities of Ephraim H. Foster; they also document the daily lives of two prominent Middle Tennessee families.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ephraim Hubbard Foster

- 1794 Born September 17 at Bardstown, Ky., son of Ann Hubbard and Robert Coleman Foster.
- 1797 Moved to Nashville, Tenn. area.
- 1813 Graduated from Cumberland College, began study of law in John Dickinson's office.
- 1814-1815 Private Secretary to Andrew Jackson during the Creek War. Returned to law practice at end of war, became a partner of William L. Brown (later a Supreme Court justice).
- 1817 Married widow of John Dickinson, Jane Mebane Lytle Dickinson.
- 1827-1835 Three times elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. Twice unanimously chosen Speaker of the House. One of the founders of the Whig Party in Tennessee.
- 1833 Opposed John H. Eaton, John Bell, and Felix Grundy in contest for U.S. Senate. Grundy was elected on the 55th ballot.
- 1835 Broke with Andrew Jackson. Persuaded Hugh L. White to become candidate for President.
- 1837 Elected to the U.S. Senate to succeed Grundy, whose term expired in 1839.
- 1838 Appointed to succeed Grundy, who resigned to accept a seat in Van Buren's cabinet.
- 1838-1840 Served as Senator from Tennessee with Hugh L. White as his colleague.
- 1840 Foster and White resigned from the Senate because they could not follow the instructions given by the Tennessee legislature, which had become Democratic.

- 1840 Whig candidate for Elector for the state at large. Whigs were triumphant.
- 1843 Elected Senator for the second time, defeating William Carroll.
- 1845 Term as Senator ended. Ran for Governor as Whig candidate but was defeated by Aaron V. Brown.
Voted against annexation of Texas.
- 1854 Died Sept. 14.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Foster Family Papers

1. Accounts
2. Appointment--Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871)
3. Correspondence--Allen-Fogg
4. Correspondence--Foster, Ephraim H.
5. Correspondence--Foster, Francis Fogg-Foster, John D.
6. Correspondence--Foster, Robert Coleman (1769-1844)-Foster, Sarah C.
7. Correspondence--Henry-Otey
8. Correspondence--Pageot--Webster
9. Court Records--Law License--Foster, Robert Coleman (1796-1871)
10. Election Certificate--Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871)
11. Inventory, Personal--Booth, William
12. Land Records
13. Legal Documents--Affidavit--Foster, Robert Coleman (1769-1844)
14. Military Records--Order--Patterson, Robert, Maj. Gen.
15. Photograph--Foster, J.D.
16. School Records--Foster, Francis Fogg
17. Stock Certificate--Foster, Robert Coleman (1824-1879)

Series 2: Woods Family

18. Accounts--Armistead, Jane Foster
19. Accounts--Armistead, Robina Woods
20. Accounts--Foster, Julia Woods
21. Accounts--Woods, James Campbell
22. Accounts--Woods, S.B.W.
23. Auction Notice--Armistead, Robert Lewis
24. Correspondence--Abeel-Campbell
25. Correspondence--Foster-Handy
26. Correspondence--Layton-West
27. Correspondence--Wood, Frances Foster-Woods, Jane West
28. Correspondence--Woods, Joseph
29. Correspondence--Woods, Joseph Leonidas-unidentified
30. Diary Fragment--Woods, S.B.W.
31. Inventory, Household--"Westwood"
32. Land Records--Hay, Ann
33. Land Records--Woods Family
34. Legal Documents--Marriage--Woods, Robert
35. Legal Documents--Will--Woods, Robert
36. Miscellaneous Items

- 37. Obituary--Houston, Catharine C.
- 38. Sketches--West, William Edward
- 39. Sketches--Woods Family
- 40. Sketches--Woods Family Gardens
- 41. Veterinary Records--Diary Herd Health Certificate--Armistead, Carl M.

Box 2

Contains photographs of James A. Woods and Elizabeth Campbell Woods

INDEX TO FOSTER CORRESPONDENCE

Allen, Y.D., to Foster and Fogg, 4-15-1852
Campbell, William B., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 8-23-1851
Caruthers, Jas., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 10-1-1853
Cheatham, Ellen Foster, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-5-1850
Crittenden, J.J., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 8-7-1845
Eve, Paul F., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-28-1853
Ewing, Andrew, to [Ephraim Hubbard Foster], 7-31-1850
Fogg, Ellen S., to [Ephraim Hubbard Foster], 2-15-1849
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Ellen Foster Cheatham (6), 1838-1850, n.d.
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Sarah Foster Cockrill, 8-8-1851
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Jane Dickinson Foster (2), 1847
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Robert Coleman Foster (1796-1871) 12-20-1823
Foster, Francis Fogg, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1852
Foster, J.L., Mrs., to Jane Armistead, 5-8-1908
Foster, James H., to Robert Coleman Foster (1818-1871), 12-7-1837
Foster, John Dickinson, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (4), 1850-1852, n.d.
Foster, Robert Coleman (1769-1844), to Robert Coleman Foster (1796-1871), 10-31-1817
Foster, Robert Coleman (1796-1871), to Robert Coleman Foster (1769-1844), 3-23-1819
Foster, Robert Coleman (1796-1871), to John Sommerville, 2-4-1832
Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871), to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 4-19-1847
Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871), to Jane Dickinson Foster (3), 1833, 1845-1846
Foster, Sarah C., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 11-20-1852
Henry, G.A., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1853
Hood, Julia Foster, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1849, n.d.
MacGregor, George, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 12-6-1851
Maxey, A.G., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1851-1852
Otey, James H., to Jane Dickinson Foster, 9-24-1845
Pageot, Mary Lewis, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 3-26-1851
Read, John, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 10-26-1852
Rogers, Th. H., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-31-1850
Saunders, Turner, to Robert Coleman Foster (1796-1871), 12-15-1845
Taylor, Jesse, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 6-6-1843
Van Dyke, T. Nixon, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 9-17-1853
Webster, Rom C., to _____, n.d.

INDEX TO WOODS CORRESPONDENCE

Abeel, Sarah, to Sarah Browne West Woods, 3-13-1843
Armistead, Peter F., to Jonathan Beckwith, 12-22-1851
Batey, J., to William D.V. Downing, 12-20-1842
Beckwith, Andrew B., to Jonathan Beckwith, 7-22-1835
Branch, John Richard, to James Americus Woods, 2-17-1841
Branch, Josephine Woods, to Sarah Browne West Woods, 6-23-1852
Campbell, Caroline B., to James Americus Woods, n.d.
Campbell, Catherine West, to Robert Woods, n.d.
Campbell, Catherine West, to Sarah Browne West Woods, 6-11-1818
Campbell, John A., to James Americus Woods, 2-21-1848
Foster, Julia Woods, to Joseph Leonidas Woods (4), 1845, 1871
Glasier, Anna and Elizabeth, to Mary W. Frost, 4-10-1836
Grier, Mrs., to _____, 189? [partial]
Handy, Edward Smith, to James Woods, 10-11-1845
Handy, Edward Smith, to James Americus Woods, 5-18-1843
Handy, Edward Smith, to Sarah Browne West Woods (2), 1849-1851
Layton, Thomas, to James Americus Woods, 7-19-1846
McGahan, T.R., to Welker and Key, 5-9-1861
Partrick, William and Elizabeth, to James Duff Partrick, 7-19-1808
Price, Maria West, to Sarah Browne West Woods, n.d.
Rotan, Ed, to Em Clenny, 6-18-1861
Thomas, J.H., to James Americus Woods, 3-6-1839
Wade, William, to Joseph and Robert Woods, 2-14-1839
Walker, M., to Sarah Browne West Woods, 4-8-1823
West, Patterson B., to Sarah Browne West Woods, 10-29-1858
Woods, _____, to Frank Woods, 7-30-1873
Woods, Francis Foster, to _____[mother] (2), 1860, 1866
Woods, Francis Foster, to Frank Woods, 9-26-1872
Woods, Frank, to _____, 7-30-1890
Woods, James, to Robert Woods, 8-30-1839
Woods, James Americus, to Robert Coleman Foster (1824-1879), 3-26-1866
Woods, Jane Theora, to James Americus Woods (4), 1839-1840
Woods, Jane Theora, to Robert Fulton Woods, 4-15-1840
Woods, Jane West, to Joseph Woods (2), 1818, 1826
Woods, Jane West, to Sarah Browne West Woods (3), 1818, 1843
Woods, Joseph, to Robert Woods (11), 1839-1842
Woods, Joseph Leonidas, to Francis Foster Woods (5), 1863-1864
Woods, Robert, to James Americus Woods (5), 1838-1841

Woods, Robert L., to Frank Woods, 7-30-1873
Woods, Sarah Browne West, to Joseph Leonidas Woods, n.d.
Woods, [Trina?], to Sarah Browne West Woods, 3-5-1851
_____, Susan, to James Woods, 3-13-1843
_____, to _____ Woods, 5-2-1840