INTRODUCTION

These photostats of the correspondence of Felix Grundy, lawyer; member of the Kentucky legislature, 1800-1806; member of Congress from Tennessee, 1811-1815; member of Tennessee legislature, 1819-1825; member of United States Senate from Tennessee, 1833-1838, 1839-1840; Attorney General in Van Buren’s Cabinet, 1838-1839; are copies made from Library of Congress holdings and were transferred from the State Library Division. Eight letters are from Martin Van Buren Papers but all of them are about Mr. Grundy. One original letter, the gift of Miss Margaret Warden, Nashville, Tennessee, has been added to the collection.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Felix Grundy Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These papers, composed of 34 letter (33 photostats and one original) of Felix Grundy (1777-1840) for the period of 1820-1840, were written primarily to James Knox Polk and are concerned with Tennessee and national politics. The letters deal with running the boundary between Tennessee and Kentucky, federal and state elections, assumption of state debts, the tariff, political campaigning, and the national banks. Names prominently mentioned include John Bell, William Carroll, Ephraim Foster, Andrew Jackson, Cave Johnson, S. H. Laughlin, Martin Van Buren and others.

In addition to the above letters of Felix Grundy there are eight letters written to Martin Van Buren by William Carroll, A.C. Flagg, Andrew Jackson, Amos Kendall, James Knox Polk, S. Penn, Jr., and Martin Van Buren. These letters all deal with politics and Felix Grundy’s qualifications for office. The originals of these photostats are in the Library of Congress.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Felix Grundy

1777, September 11  Born in Virginia; son of immigrant from England, George Grundy

1779  Family removed to Pennsylvania

1780  Moved to Kentucky

  Instructed by Dr. James Priestly at Bardstown Academy

  Studied law under George Nicholas

1797  Admitted to the Kentucky bar

1799  Member of Constitutional Convention of the State of Kentucky

  Married early in life to Ann P. Rogers

1800-1806  Served as 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 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 bank. He was opposed by Andrew Jackson and the two men were never intimate after this time
Withdrew from public life

Ran for Congress in Jackson’s home district and received the support of “Old Hickory” against John Bell, but lost the race

Grundy was selected to fill vacancy in Senate created by John H. Eaton, who was made a Cabinet member

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

Became Attorney-General in Van Buren’s Cabinet

Again elected to the Senate and gave up his Cabinet post to accept the place

Died in Nashville, Tennessee
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Martin Van Buren

1782, December 5  Born in New York, near Albany, son of Abraham and Maria Hoes Van Buren, Dutch descent

1796  Graduated from the village schools with a fair knowledge of English and a smattering of Latin

Became a clerk in the law office of Francis Silvester, a Federalist

1801  Became a clerk in the New York law office of William Peter Van Nees, a devotee of Aaron Burr

1807  Married his kinswoman, Hannah Hoes

1808-1813  Appointed Surrogate of Hudson, New York

1812  Elected New York State Senator on Anti-Bank platform

1815  Chosen regent of the University of New York

1813-1820  Served as State Senator of New York

1815-1819  Attorney-General of New York

1821  Delegate to the State Constitutional Convention

1821-1828  Elected to the United States Senate and served until December 1828

1829  Elected Governor of New York and served from January 1 to March 12, 1829

1829-1831  Appointed by Andrew Jackson as Secretary of State and served two years

1831  Commissioned minister to Great Britain but the United States Senate rejected his nomination
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1833-1837</td>
<td>Elected Vice President with Andrew Jackson and served four years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1837-1841</td>
<td>Elected President and served four years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Elected President and served four years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Unsuccessful candidate for President on the Democratic ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Unsuccessful candidate for President on the Free-Soil ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>1862, July 24</td>
<td>Died in Kinderhook, New York</td>
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CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Felix Grundy Correspondence

1. Outgoing – to Gabriel, Daughter, January 24, 1820
   Outgoing – to Congress of the United States, January 24, 1820
   Outgoing – to George M. Bibb and John J. Crittenden, February 21, 1820
   Outgoing – to George Poindexter, January 30, 1825

2. Outgoing – to Lewis Cass, September 9, 1831
   Outgoing – to Cave Johnson, August 29, 1833
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, October 21, 1833
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, May 11, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, May 28, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 5, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 7, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 9, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 18, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 21, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 25, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 26, 1835
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, November 15, 1835

3. Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, September 11, 1836
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, October 4, 1836
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, April 25, 1837
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 18, 1837
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, August 4, 1837
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, October 17, 1837
   Outgoing – to Colonel Holeman, January 18, 1838 (original letter) (also facsimile)
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, September 18, 1839
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, October 17, 1839
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, December 1, 1839

4. Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, February 3, 1840
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, February 9, 1840
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, March 2, 1840
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, April 15, 1840
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, April 23, 1840
   Outgoing – to James Knox Polk, June 1, 1840

5. Extracts from a letter from the Board of Navy Commissioners to Benjamin Crowninshield, Secretary of the Navy, February 11, 1817

6. Martin Van Buren Papers – William Carroll, November 11, 1833

7. Martin Van Buren Papers – A.C. Flagg, April 12, 1838
8. Martin Van Buren Papers – Andrew Jackson, December 4, 1838
9. Martin Van Buren Papers – Amos Kendall, July 30, 1838
10. Martin Van Buren Papers – James Knox Polk, November 11, 1839
11. Martin Van Buren Papers – S. Penn, Jr., April 12, 1836
12. Martin Van Buren Papers – Martin Van Buren, 1838