



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

**WHITEFOORD R. COLE, Jr.  
COLLECTION  
1818-1951**

*Processed by:*

Archival Technical Services

Accession Numbers: 119, 1110, 1120, 1550, 91-089

Date Completed: June 26, 1965

Location: II-H-3

Microfilm Accession Number: 1144

**MICROFILMED**

## 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 Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Whitefoord R. Cole, Jr., may be made for purposes of scholarly research.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, Ogden, Rodgers, Wharton and White families make up the remainder of this collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **John M. Bass**

- 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
- 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

- 1869 Appointed Receiver for the City of Nashville
- 1870 Remained on reorganized Board of Montgomery Bell Academy
- 1873 Submitted written opinion on will of Montgomery Bell bequest for education
- 1874 Voted against combining the Medical School of the University of Nashville with Vanderbilt University Medical School
- 1878 Died in New Orleans

## 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
14. Correspondence – Grundy-Hunter – 1839-1928
15. Correspondence – Jackson, Andrew – 1832-1839
16. Correspondence – Jones-Moore – 1836-1941
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
21. Correspondence – Warden-Yates – 1818-1946

#### **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
6. Estate Papers and Will – Hill, H. R.W. - Andrew Rodgers
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
8. Newspaper Clippings – Obituaries – Bass, Dorsey, Ewing, McGavock
9. Obituaries and Funeral Notices – Bass, Grundy, McGavock, Ogden, Wharton
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
14. Schools – St. Joseph's College, Bardstown Kentucky – 1850-1852
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: Caldwells
- 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  
Kinkead, 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  
Whitley, Edna T. (1), n.d., Paris, Kentucky  
Williams, B. W. (1), 1833, Hardeman County  
Williams, H. C. (2), 1841-1843, Washington, D. C., re: Bank & Filmore Treasury  
Notes  
Wright, Silas (1), 1866, re: Politics  
Yates, John L. (1), 1897, re: Caldwell genealogy