



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

**GRUNDY, FELIX  
PAPERS  
1820-1840**

*Processed by:*

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## **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 Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Felix Grundy Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.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

- 1825-27                      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 was made a Cabinet member
- 1833                         Elected to the Senate after a bitter struggle with Eaton who was supported by Jackson
- 1838                         Became Attorney-General in Van Buren's Cabinet
- 1839                         Again elected to the Senate and gave up his Cabinet post to accept the place
- 1840                         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

1833-1837	Elected Vice President with Andrew Jackson and served four years
1837-1841	Elected President and served four years
1840	Elected President and served four years
1840	Unsuccessful candidate for President on the Democratic ticket
1848	Unsuccessful candidate for President on the Free-Soil ticket
1862, July 24	Died in Kinderhook, New York

## 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 – 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 Know 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

George Grundy

Felix Grundy  
1777-1833  
married  
Ann Phillips Rodgers

Louisa Caroline  
1798-  
married 1819  
Jacob McGavock

Eliza Burkham  
1800-  
married 1816  
Ramsey Mason

George C.  
(died in  
infancy)

John Rodgers  
1803-1836

Margaret Ann C.  
1805-  
married 1822  
Dr. Edward G.  
Rawlings

John Priestley  
1807-

Mary Malvina  
1810-1863  
married 1829  
John M. Bass  
1804-1878

Martha A. F.  
1812-  
married  
Van P. Winder

Maria Green R.  
1815-  
married  
Masterson

Felicia Anna  
1820-  
married  
1. William Eakin  
2. Dr. Robert  
M. Porter

Dr. William James  
1830-1862  
married  
Caroline Watkins

Margaret Ann  
1832-1892  
married  
Thomas J.  
Harding

Sarah Edwards  
1833-1882  
married  
John Overton  
Ewing

Maria Louise  
1835-1882  
married  
Vernon King  
Stevenson

Mary Van Winder  
1838-1922  
married  
Henry Workman  
Conner

Malvina Grundy  
1840-1848

Felicia Eakin  
1843-1904  
married  
W.N.R. Beall

John Meredith  
1845-1908  
married 1868  
Mary Wharton Berry  
1846-1932

John M. Bass III  
1869-1919

Jeanie Bass  
1871-1942  
married  
James Eakin  
Allison  
1865-1926

Mary Conner Bass  
1873-  
married 1901  
Whitefoord Russell Cole  
1874-1934

Whitefoord Russell Cole Jr.