State of Tennessee
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403 Seventh Avenue North
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HOWELL, MORTON BOYTE
(1834-1909)
FAMILY PAPERS
1799-1960

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INTRODUCTION

The Morton Boyte Howell Family Papers, 1799-1960, teacher, lawyer, Mayor of Nashville and Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court, are centered around Morton Boyte Howell (1834-1909) and other family members. The Morton Boyte Howell family papers are a gift from his grandchildren, Morton B. Howell III and Maude Howell (Mrs. Gerald) Henderson.

The materials in this finding aid measure 2.52 linear feet. Single photocopies of Morton Boyte Elliott Howell family papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Morton Boyte Howell Family Papers, containing approximately 1,200 items, spans the period 1799-1960. The collection consists of accounts, clippings, correspondence, diaries, estate papers, genealogical data, legal papers, school notes memoirs, photographs, reports, wills, and writings.

The largest portion of the papers is composed of family correspondence. Morton was the second son of Robert Boyte Crawford Howell, a Baptist minister of distinction during the mid-nineteenth century, and Mary Ann Morton Toy Howell. There were ten children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. They were Alfred, Morton, Fannie, Jane Anna, Robert, Serena, and Joe. There are approximately 600 family letters of which the largest portion was written by Alfred, the eldest child in the family. Alfred's letters began with those written while he was in school at Murfreesboro, Tennessee in 1843, and while in school at Lebanon, Tennessee and the University of Virginia. The bulk of his letters were written after he went to Texas in 1852. The letters written by Alfred while living in Texas are full of descriptions of the area and the people. Alfred Howell practiced law in Clarksville, Texas, a year before moving to Greenville in Hunt County April 1853. The letters are especially rewarding to those seeking information about Texas at this early date.

The collection includes the correspondence of Robert Boyte Crawford Howell, a minister, 1843-1862; his pastor's book with the records of baptisms, deaths, and membership records for all his charges in Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee, 1820-1867; his marriage book containing a list by year of all marriages performed by him from 1827-1868; and a number of his published and unpublished writings. An item of great interest is a transcript of a letter written by Robert Howell to Andrew Johnson while he was military governor of Tennessee explaining why he could not take the oath of allegiance.

There are twenty-four letters written by Morton Howell's cousin, Crawford H. Toy, who was educated at the University of Virginia and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, South Carolina. After graduation he taught at Richmond College, University of Alabama, Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Harvard University.

Twenty-six letters from Morton to his parents and other members of the family are in the collection together with Morton's memoirs begun in 1905 and left incomplete at his death in 1909. Also there are some account books, school notebooks, and reports of Morton while at the University of Virginia.

Among other Morton correspondents are some Nashville friends and a number of his University of Virginia friends. They include J. B. Budwell, E. S. Costin, A. R. Courtney, Jesse W. Culpepper, Elias Edmonds, George R. Garrett, Augustine Gattinger, W. A. Gunter, C. S. D. Jones, George W. Keesee, John C. Long, Basil Manly, Jr.,
F. McCarthy, James McCollum, John Meigs, John B. Minor, W. A. Percy, Albert H. Sneed, John M. Strother, W. E. Tanner, George B. Taylor, Edward P. Walton, John F. Webb, and Thomas C. Wright. These letters contain information concerning courses,

professors, and other data about the University of Virginia; political events during the 1850s; law practice in Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia; Baptist Church matters; and secession. A few letters extend into the 1860s and contain some information about the Civil War. One letter written by Augustine Gattinger contains a list of trees that grow in Tennessee.

The twenty-five letters by John Meigs' contain valuable information about Nashville in the 1850s. He described the buildings under construction; discussed political happenings and the many changes taking place in the city at that time. Meigs illustrated his letters with numerous drawings.

In addition, there are diaries of George B. Elliott (Morton's brother-in-law), kept on his trip to Europe in 1875; Isabel Howard Elliott (later Mrs. Morton B. Howell) 1853-1854; and Richard Dallam Toy (Morton's grandfather) 1799-1811, kept while at sea just prior to the War of 1812.

Estate papers, indentures, invitations, photograph, programs, and wills make up the remainder of the collection.

Included in this collection are the Alfred Howell Letters. The letters for the dates 1843-1866 are part of the Morton Boyte Howell Collection. Alfred (1830-1909) and Morton (1834-1909) were sons of The Rev. Robert Boyte Crawford Howell (1801-1868), a distinguished Baptist minister, who served pastorates in Norfolk (1827-1834), Richmond (1850-1857), and Nashville (1834-1850; 1858-1868). Alfred and Morton were both lawyers who attended the University of Virginia.

Alfred wrote regularly to his brother Morton until his marriage to Sarah R. Dickson in 1856. There are a few letters to his parents and other members of the family in the collection. After his marriage the letters are not so frequent. Letter writing in the Howell family was always encouraged by the parents. Alfred's letters are full of interesting descriptions of Texas during this early period of settlement. The last letter was written in January 1866, and is a summary of happenings during the period of the Civil War.

The letters were given to the Tennessee State Library & Archives by Mr. Morton B. Howell and Maude Howell (Mrs. Gerald) Henderson, grandchildren of the collector. A chart showing the family relation is included.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Boyte Crawford Howell

1801	March 10, born in Wayne County, North Carolina, son of Ralph Howell and Jane Crawford Howell and grandson of Henry Howell and Rachel Boyte Howell
	Attended "Old Field" schools in North Carolina
	Joined the Baptist Church
1824	In the fall of the year went to Washington and entered the Preparatory Department of the Columbian College in the District of Columbia. The name of this school was changed in 1904 to George Washington University
1826	Dismissed from Theological Department of Columbian College at his own request
1827-1834	Minister at Cumberland Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia
1834-1850	Minister at First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee
1844	Published *Howell on Communion*
1846	Published *The Deaconship*
1850-1857	Minister at Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia
1852	Published *The Evils of Infant Baptism and The Way of Salvation*
1857-1867	Minister at First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee
1857	Published *Early Baptists of Virginia*
1868	April 5, died in Nashville

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Morton Boyte Howell

1834	October 2, born in Norfolk, Virginia, son of Robert Boyte Crawford Howell and Mary Ann Morton Toy Howell
1842-1849	Attended schools in Nashville run by Preston, Davis, Mason, Graves, Chamberlin, and Gossett in the order given
1849-1850	Attended school at Union University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
1851-1852	Taught at Botetourt Springs, Virginia
1854-1856	Attended University of Virginia and received LLB degree
1856-1858	Taught at Richmond Female Institute
1858	Married Isabel Howard Elliott. She died ca. 1866 or 1867
1865-1871	Clerk and Master of Chancery Court
ca. 1868	Married Patty Curd who lived one year
ca. 1870	Married Betty Curd
1874	Mayor of Nashville
1875-1905	Practiced law in Nashville
1909	January 23, died in Nashville

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Crawford H. Toy

1836	March 23, born in Norfolk, Virginia, son of Thomas Dallam Toy and Amelia Ann Rogers
1856	Graduated from the University of Virginia
1856-1859	Co-founded and taught at the Albemarle Female Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia
1859-1860	Studied at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, South Carolina
1861	Professor of Greek at Richmond College, Virginia
1861-1863	Served in the Confederate Army
1864-1865	Professor at the University of Alabama
1866-1868	Studied at the University of Berlin
1868-1869	Taught at Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina
1869-1879	Taught Old Testament Interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and removed with it to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1877
1877	Edited a translation of Erdmann's Commentary on Samuel in *Lange Series*
1879	Resigned from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary because of change in theological opinions
1880	Hancock Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental languages and Dexter lecturer on Biblical Literature at Harvard
1882	Published *History of Religion of Israel* Fifth Edition published in 1887

1884 Published *Quotations in the New Testament*

1890 Published *Judaism and Christianity* and numerous magazine articles

1919 May 12, died

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll#1

Box 1

1. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – 1843-1849
2. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – 1850-1851
3. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Jan. – July 1852
4. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Aug. – Dec. 1852
5. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Jan. – July 1853
6. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Aug. – Dec. 1853
7. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Jan. – June 1854
8. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – July – Dec. 1854
9. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – Jan. – May 1855
10. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – June – Dec. 1855
11. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – 1856
12. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – 1857
13. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred – 1858-1866
14. Correspondence – Family – Adams, Sue Howell - 1922
15. Correspondence – Family – Elliott, George B. - 1861
16. Correspondence – Family – Elliott, George W. – 1858-1861
17. Correspondence – Family – Howell, A. C. & Finis, Henry – 1859, 1908
18. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Alfred E. – 1875-1922
19. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Anna & Rene – 1855-1856
20. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Crawford – 1907-1908
21. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Fanny (Mrs. A. N. Nelson) – 1851-1875
22. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Jenny – 1854-1856

Microfilm Roll#2

23. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Joe & Robert -1855-1907
24. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Luther Burleson – 1907-1908
25. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Mary Ann Morton Toy – 1843-1858

Box 2

1. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Morton B. – 1846-1852, 1908
2. Correspondence – Family – Howell, Robert Boyte Crawford – 1843-1858
3. Correspondence – Family – Howell, R. B. C. to Johnson, Andrew - 1862
4. Correspondence – Family – Toy, Crawford H. – 1852-1907
5. Correspondence – Family – Toy, Jane – 1849-1854
6. Correspondence – Family – Toy, Richard H. - 1857
7. Correspondence – Family – Miscellaneous – 1907-1960
8. Correspondence – General – Ashford-Budwell – 1850-1860
9. Correspondence – General – Clapp-Culpepper – 1852-1859

10. Correspondence – General – Darden-Foster – 1850-1859
11. Correspondence – General – Garrett-Gildersleeve – 1851-1880
12. Correspondence – General – Gunter-Gwaltny – 1856-1859
13. Correspondence – General – Harmon-Jones – 1851-1858
14. Correspondence – General – Keesee-McCollum – 1851-1864
15. Correspondence – General – Meigs, John – 1849-1856
16. Correspondence – General – Minor-Percy – 1851-1861
17. Correspondence – General – Sands-Sikes – 1846, 1858
18. Correspondence – General – Snead, Albert H. – 1855-1858
19. Correspondence – General – Starke-Strother – 1856-1860
20. Correspondence – General – Talley-Tanner, W. E. – 1854-1861
21. Correspondence – General – Taylor,-Wyatt – 1851-1860
22. Correspondence – General – Unknown authors – 1851-1861
23. Account Book – Howell, Alfred E.
24. Bills – Howell, Morton B.
25. Clippings
26. Church Records – First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee - 1858

Microfilm Roll#3

Box 3

1. Church Records – Marriages performed by Howell, R. B. C.
2. Church Records – Pastor's Book – Howell, R. B. C.
3. Diary – Elliott, George B. - 1875
4. Diary – Howell, Isabel Howard Elliott (Mrs. M. B.) – 1853-1854
5. Memoir – Howell, Morton – 1834-1909
6. Diary – Toy, Richard Dallam – 1799-1811
7. Estates – Elliott, George B. - 1890

Box 4

1. Estates – Gleaves, J. E. – 1857-1872
2. Estates – Howell, R. B. C. - 1868
3. Genealogical Materials – Howell Family
4. Indentures – 1865-1869
5. Invitations – Programs, Notices, etc. 1844-1903
6. Law Courts – Early Clerks of Circuit, Chancery & Criminal Courts
7. Legal Papers
8. Legal Papers – Securities on Bond
9. Photographs – Howell Family
10. Lecture – Intermediate Law – University of Virginia – 1854

Microfilm Roll#4

11. Lectures – Equity – University of Virginia – 1856
12. School Notes – Elliott, Isabel Howard – Richmond Female Institute
13. School Drawing Book – Elliott, Isabel
14. School Notebook, Toy, Thomas D.

Box 5

1. School Records – 1851-1856
2. Wills
3. Diploma
4. Writings – "Grundy" – Abernathy, W. C.
5. Manuscript – *Early Baptist in Virginia*

Microfilm Roll#5

6. Manuscript – *Christology of the Pentateuch*
7. Manuscript – *The Family*

Microfilm Roll#6

Box 6

1. Writings – Howell, R. B. C. – Address at the University of Nashville
2. Writings – Howell, R. B. C. – *Howell on Communion*
3. Writings – Howell, R. B. C. III – *Daniel Boone*
4. Writings – Toy, Richard Dallam – *History & Adventures of Selas, An African Prince*
5. Poems – Toy, Richard Dallam

Box 7

Photographs

1. Family of Mr. & Mrs. Morton B. Howell September 1904
2. Alfred E. Howell, Morton B. Howell (back), Morton B. Howell, Sr., Alfred Howell (front)
3. Rev. Robert Boyte Crawford Howell (1801=1868)
4. Alfred E. Howell, Morton B. Howell (back), Morton B. Howell, Sr., Alfred E. Howell (front)
5. Alfred E. Howell
6. Alfred E. Howell, Robert Boyte Crawford Howell, Jr., Morton Boyte Howell, Jr.
7. Mr. & Mrs. Anson Nelson
8. Alfred Thomas Howell & Sarah Rebecca Dickson
9. Joseph Toy, Morton Boyte, Alfred Elliott, Robert Boyte Crawford, Jr.
10. Sue Howell?
11. Morton Howell
12. #27 West Lawn, University of Virginia – Charlottesville

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the correspondents of Morton Boyte Howell who were not members of his family. They are in Box 3. The numbers in parentheses denote the number of letters written by the correspondent if more than one. The dates of the letters are given and the folder number.

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Clapp, Nathan B. (2), 1859, taught with Morton in Virginia, f. 2
Corbin, S. Wellford, 1857, f. 2
Costin, E.S. (2), 1856, f. 2
Courtney, A.R. (2), 1852-1858, f. 2
Culpepper, Jesse W. (2), 1855, f. 2
Dardin, J.C., 1859, f. 3
Eaton, J.H., 1850, f. 3
Edmonds, Elias (5), 1855-1856, f. 3
Ford, Reuben, 1858, f. 3
Foster & McEwen, 1861, re: Virginia law, f. 3
Garrett, George R. (2), 1851, f. 4
Gattinger, Augustine, 1880, re: trees in Tennessee, f. 4
Guildersleeve, B., Jr., 1858, f. 4
Gunter, W.A. (7), 1856-1859, f. 5
Gwaltny, John R., 1852, f. 5
Harmon, Richard, 1858, f. 6
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Woolfolk, L.B., 1860, f. 14
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Wyatt, S., 1859, f. 14

Ethelred Howell (emigrated to Virginia)

Henry Howell
(1693-)
married
1. ?
2. Rachel Boyte (Hugenot)

Ralph Howell
married
Jane Crawford (daughter of Robert and Anna Cogdell Crawford)

- Elizabeth married Standifer
- Ferebee married Edward York Giles County near Elkton
- Edith married Z. Howell
- Rigdon (1798-1878)
- Robert Boyte Crawford (1801-1868) married 1829 Mary Ann Morton Toy (1808-1871)
  - Alfred Thomas (1830-1909) married Sarah R.Dickson
    - Robert B.C. (1857-) married Lula A.Dyer
    - John Bennett (1859-) married Minerva Harris
    - Morton T. (1865-)
    - Mary Charlotte (1868-) married J.H.Washington
    - Sarah Isabella (1871-) married E. Bryan
    - Fanny Serena (1873-) married Nils M.Akeson
    - Alfred T., Jr. (1876-) married Mary W.Murray
  - Richard C. (1832-1835)
  - Morton Boyte (1834-1909) 1.Isabelle Elliott 2.Patty Curd 3.Betty Curd
    - Susan E. (1859-) married A.G.Adams
    - Robert B.C. (1861-1863)
    - Alfred E. (1863-1930) married Jennie Thompson
    - Morton B. (1865-1939)
  - Charles T. (1836-1839)
  - Fannie D. (1838-) married A.Nelson 1821-1892
    - Pattie C. (1871-) m. W.C.Pollard
    - Mary Toy (1873-) m. Tom Weaver
    - Haiden C. (1875-1876)
    - Elizabeth M. (1876-1907)
    - Robert B.C. (1878-1955) married Ellen Jackson
    - Annie Haiden (1880-) married Robert Orr
    - Margaret H. (1882-) married M.C.Butler
    - Joseph Toy (1884-) married M. Craig
    - Frank G. (1887-1888)
    - Rachel B. (1889-) married Hooper Love
  - Jane Crawford (1841-1895) Married D.W.Gwin
  - Anna Cogdell (1843-1895) married F. Hollowell
  - Robert Henry (1846-) married L.Washington
  - Mary Serena (1849-) married A.S.Grigsby
  - Joseph Toy (1853-1929) married 1.Sue Grundy 2.Mannie Lindsey
- Sarah married 1.Jernagin 2.Alford
- Serena married 1.Spencer 2.McAulay 3.Smith
- Alfred (1808-1862) B. Minister Jackson County, Ala.
  - Crawford (1834-) B.Minister
  - Ralph (1850-) B. Minister
- Ralph (1813-1846)