



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

**HOWELL FAMILY PAPERS,  
1785-1941**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The family papers of banker Joseph Toy Howell, Sr. (1853-1929), his wife, Amanda Lindsay Howell, and son, Joseph Toy Howell, Jr. and father, Robert Boyte Crawford Howell, were given to the Manuscript Section by Joseph Toy Howell, Jr.

There are 1000 items in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writing in the Howell Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

For additional information, see also the Joseph Toy Howell, Sr., Papers, 1860-1918, accession number 1993.004.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Howell Papers containing approximately 1000 items, for the period 1785-1941, are composed of correspondence, genealogical data, school records, Masonic items, early Tennessee records, indentures, wills, five bound volumes of sermons of R.B.C. Howell, an autograph album and some writing and speeches.

The earliest items in the Collection are those dealing with the Tennessee pioneer Joseph Brown, who was captured while on his way to Tennessee from North Carolina. He was held for several years by the Indians and finally released. He was an ancestor of Mrs. Joseph T. Howell, Sr. These records contain the following items:

A Survey of Revolutionary Grant of James Brown, 1785; A listing of the property taken by the Indians, 1788 (photostats); An order for Joseph Brown to appear r as witness at a mutiny trial, 1814 signed by John Sevier; Letters of Joseph Brown to the President of the United States and Judge Grundy, 1822 (photostats); and a 24 page Navigator's Record kept by Joseph Brown for the trip from the mouth of the Ohio to New Orleans.

These are all original records with the exception of two marked photostats.

The correspondence includes copies twelve letters written by Joanna Rucker, a niece of Mrs. James K. Polk, to Miss Elizabeth Price while she was visiting in the White House 1845-1847. There are some genealogical items dealing with the Howell and Lindsay families.

One of the most interesting items in the collection is the autograph album kept by Samuel C. Pointer while a student at the University of Virginia, 1852-1853. The album contains pictures of the University at that time, its founder, Thos. Jefferson, and some of the professors. Many of the professors have written in the album opposite their pictures. The pictures include Gessner Harrison, M. Schele De Vere, Edward H. Courtenay, W. B. Rogers, R. E. Rogers, James L. Cabell, H. Howard, W. H. McGuffey, John B. Minor, and J. S. Davis.

There are five volumes containing sermons of R. B. C. Howell, a well known Baptist Minister of the nineteenth century who served churches in Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee. Each volume contains a table of contents listing the titles of the sermons. R. B. C. Howell was the father of Joseph T. Howell, Sr.

There is one letter written by Joseph T. Howell, Sr. dated 1864 and some other correspondence of members of the family, reports of Joseph T. Howell, Jr. from Duncan Preparatory School and Vanderbilt University, a scrapbook partly filled with clippings and partly a home made arithmetic, a few photographs, some writing, and memorabilia make up the remainder of the collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Joseph Toy Howell**

- 1853            May 26. Born in Richmond, Virginia; son of Robert Boyte Crawford Howell and Mary Ann Morton Toy Howell. His father was a Baptist minister.
- Schooling cut short by the Civil War. Taught by his father at home. Employed by Tavel, Eastman, and Howell Printing Company.
- 1868            Began his banking career as a runner for the Fourth National Bank of Nashville.
- 1876            Became Master Mason. Married Sue Grundy.
- 1886            Promoter to Cashier.
- Became Vice President and at Mr. Samuel J. Keith's death became President.
- 1898            Married Mannie Lindsay.
- 1908            President of Carnegie Trust Company.
- 1911            President of the Cumberland Valley National Bank.
- 1921-1929      Cumberland Valley merged with American National and he became Vice President of the combined banks.
- 1929            June 15. Died in Nashville.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Robert Boyte Crawford Howell

- 1801 March 10. Born in Wayne County, N. C.; son of Ralph and Jane Crawford Howell
- Received instruction from his mother.
- 1824-26 Entered preparatory department of Columbia Collage (now George Washington University).
- 1827 Accepted a call to the Cumberland Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 1829 April 23. Married Mary Ann Morton Toy
- 1834 Accepted charge of the First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1835-1838 Established and edited as a monthly Tennessee Baptist.
- 1844-1848 Revived and edited as a weekly the Tennessee Baptist
- 1850 Called to Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia.
- 1857 Returned to Nashville's First Baptist Church.
- 1861-1865 Outspoken in support of Confederacy and refused to take Oath of Allegiance.
- 1867 Forced by failing health to give up hid charge in Nashville.
- Author of several books: The Terms of Sacramental Communion (1841); The Deaconship (1846); The Way to Salvation (1849); The Evils of Infant Baptism (1851); The Cross (1854); The Covenants (1855); The Early Baptists of Virginia (1857)
- 1868 April 5. Died in Nashville.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Accounts: Bills, Notes, Receipts, Account Books
2. Biographical Sketch: Joseph Toy Howell
3. Brown, Joseph, *The Young Tennessean Whose Life was Saved by Prayer*. Edited by Thomas O. Summers.
4. Business Papers
5. Church Records: "Little Harpeth Church Book," (Copy) 1811-1863.
6. Clippings
7. Condolences: Mrs. H. P. Burruss, 1913
8. Condolences: Joseph Toy Howell, Sr., 1929
9. Congratulations: Birth of Joseph T. Howell, Jr., 1912
10. Correspondence: Carnegie Trust Company, 1911
11. Correspondence: Joseph T. Howell, Jr., 1924-1928
12. Correspondence: Joseph T. Howell, Jr., 1931-1932
13. Correspondence: Joseph T. Howell, Sr. & Wife, 1864-1927
14. Correspondence: Joseph T. Howell, Sr. & Wife, 1928-1941
15. Correspondence: "Joanna" to Elizabeth Price, 1845-1847.

### **Box 2**

1. Early Records: Joseph Brown, Navigator from the Mouth of the Ohio to New Orleans
2. Early Records: (1.) Property of James Brown taken by the Indians, 1788, (2.) Letters of Joseph Brown to the President of the United States and Judge Grundy, 1822
3. (1) Survey, 1785; (2) Order to appear as Witness at Mutiny Trial, 1814, signed by William Carroll
4. Garden Club Notes
5. Garden Club Notes, Flower Prints
6. Genealogical Data

### **Box 3**

1. Invitations and Journal of Richard Dallam Joy
2. Legal Documents: Wills, Indentures, etc.
3. Lindsay Family: Correspondence, Civil War Pass, etc.
4. Masonic Items
5. Medical Record of Joseph T. Howell Family, Sr., 1929
6. Memorable of Joseph Toy Howell Family
7. Miscellaneous Items: Poetry, etc.
8. Notes for Papers and Speeches.

#### **Box 4**

1. Organizations: Churches, Y.W.C.A., Brotherhood of St. Andrews, etc.
2. Photograph and Picture Postcards
3. Printed data
4. Resolutions Re: Joseph Toy Howell, Sr., 1929
5. School items: Joseph T. Howell Jr., 1921-1932
6. Sketch: Eugene O'Neill
7. War Saving Committee Items
8. Writings: 1. "Festivals of Christmas"  
2. "A Changing World – The Menace of Japan"

#### **Box 5**

Sermons of Robert Boyte Crawford Howell

1. Volume III – Sermons Listed and Indexed
2. Volume VIII – Sermons Listed and Indexed
3. Volume XI - Sermons Listed and Indexed
4. Volume XIV - Sermons Listed and Indexed

#### **Box 6**

1. Volume XV – Sermons Listed and Indexed
2. Samuel C. Pointer – Autograph Album, University of Virginia, 1852-1853
3. Scrapbook and Homemade Arithmetic – contains picture of Richmond Female Academy

#### **Box 7 (oversize)**

1. Diploma of Joseph Toy Howell, Jr., from Duncan Collage Preparatory School, 1928
2. Diploma of Joseph Toy Howell, Jr., from Vanderbilt University – 1932
3. Howell Family Tree
4. Certificate of Joseph T. Howell, Jr., from Christ Church School, 1927
5. Certificate of Joseph T. Howell, Jr., for completion of Courses of Study of American Institute of Banking, 1937
6. Certificate of Joseph T. Howell, Jr., for completion of Courses of Study of American Institute of Banking, 1938.
7. Masonic certificate of Joseph Toy Howell, 1911
8. Recommendation of R. B. C. Howell as Master Mason in good standing by the Naphtali Lodge in Borough of Norfolk, Virginia, 1834.
9. Certificate of Membership of Robert Boyte C. Howell in American Baptist Home Mission Society, 1841.

10. Certificate of appointment as Directress, Mary Ann M. Howell, American Baptist Home Mission Society, 1842
11. Certificate of Appointment as director, Robert Boyte C. Howell, American Baptist Home Mission Society, 1842.
12. Certificate of membership of Robert Boyte C. Howell in Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, 1850.
13. Life membership certificate of American Sunday School Union – Robert Boyte C. Howell, 1854.
14. Pictures of Governors of Mexico
15. Commission of Joseph Brown as Captain in the Militia dated 1804 and signed by John Sevier.
16. Animal Freezes print, n.d.
17. Floor plan and elevation of building, Deaderick Street, Nashville, n.d.