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**FOSTER-WOODS PAPERS
1809-1908**

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INTRODUCTION

The Foster-Woods Papers consist of correspondence, accounts, and other documents of the Foster and Woods families of Middle Tennessee, spanning the years 1809-1908. The bulk of the papers are dated prior to the Civil War. The papers were obtained through gifts and by purchase. Miss Emmaline Cockrill, Nashville, Tenn., donated 35 Foster family letters on behalf of the National Society of Colonial Dames in America (NSCDA); Mrs. L.D. Maney, Nashville, Tenn., donated 15 items concerning the Woods family, also on behalf of the NSCDA; Dr. Alfred Leland Crabb, Nashville, Tenn., donated several items concerning the Foster family; Vernon M. Jones, Nashville, Tenn., donated 6 Foster letters; some 110 items concerning the Woods family were purchased from Mrs. Garnett Andrews; Rev. Paul B. Freeland donated letters and accounts; Murray Brosius, Nashville, Tenn., donated copies of 13 Woods family business letters; and Elizabeth Woods Walker, Memphis, Tenn., donated 12 Woods family letters.

The collection occupies .42 linear feet of shelf space and consists of approximately 225 items. Literary rights to the unpublished writings contained in the Foster-Woods Papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Foster-Woods Papers are divided into two series: Foster family papers (Series 1) and Woods family papers (Series 2). Although the families intermarried, the papers have been divided for ease of understanding. Correspondence makes up the largest part of the papers, but accounts, land records, legal documents, and sketches are also included. The Foster family series includes letters of Ephraim H. Foster, prominent in Tennessee politics in the 1830s and 1840s and one of the founders of the Whig Party in Tennessee. The papers also include letters written by the children of Ephraim H. and Jane Dickinson Foster, particularly Robert III, John D., Julia, and Sallie. The double connection between the Foster and Woods families comes in the marriages of Robert Coleman Foster IV to Julia Hannah Woods and Joseph Leonidas Woods to Francis (Fanny) M. Foster (see attached family charts). Julia and Joseph Leonidas Woods were children of Robert Woods and Sarah West, thus connecting the West family. Julia eventually became the owner of her parent's home, "Westwood." Featured in the Woods family series are letters of Julia's brother, James A. Woods, to his father, Robert Woods. There are also items in the papers relating to painter William E. West, brother of Sarah West Woods, and to Charles Armistead and his wife, Mary Robina Woods.

The Foster-Woods Papers not only shed light on the political activities of Ephraim H. Foster; they also document the daily lives of two prominent Middle Tennessee families.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ephraim Hubbard Foster

- 1794 Born September 17 at Bardstown, Ky., son of Ann Hubbard and Robert Coleman Foster.
- 1797 Moved to Nashville, Tenn. area.
- 1813 Graduated from Cumberland College, began study of law in John Dickinson's office.
- 1814-1815 Private Secretary to Andrew Jackson during the Creek War. Returned to law practice at end of war, became a partner of William L. Brown (later a Supreme Court justice).
- 1817 Married widow of John Dickinson, Jane Mebane Lytle Dickinson.
- 1827-1835 Three times elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. Twice unanimously chosen Speaker of the House. One of the founders of the Whig Party in Tennessee.
- 1833 Opposed John H. Eaton, John Bell, and Felix Grundy in contest for U.S. Senate. Grundy was elected on the 55th ballot.
- 1835 Broke with Andrew Jackson. Persuaded Hugh L. White to become candidate for President.
- 1837 Elected to the U.S. Senate to succeed Grundy, whose term expired in 1839.
- 1838 Appointed to succeed Grundy, who resigned to accept a seat in Van Buren's cabinet.
- 1838-1840 Served as Senator from Tennessee with Hugh L. White as his colleague.
- 1840 Foster and White resigned from the Senate because they could not follow the instructions given by the Tennessee legislature, which had become Democratic.

- 1840 Whig candidate for Elector for the state at large. Whigs were triumphant.
- 1843 Elected Senator for the second time, defeating William Carroll.
- 1845 Term as Senator ended. Ran for Governor as Whig candidate but was defeated by Aaron V. Brown.
Voted against annexation of Texas.
- 1854 Died Sept. 14.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Foster Family Papers

1. Accounts
2. Appointment--Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871)
3. Correspondence--Allen-Fogg
4. Correspondence--Foster, Ephraim H.
5. Correspondence--Foster, Francis Fogg-Foster, John D.
6. Correspondence--Foster, Robert Coleman (1769-1844)-Foster, Sarah C.
7. Correspondence--Henry-Otey
8. Correspondence--Pageot--Webster
9. Court Records--Law License--Foster, Robert Coleman (1796-1871)
10. Election Certificate--Foster, Robert Coleman (1818-1871)
11. Inventory, Personal--Booth, William
12. Land Records
13. Legal Documents--Affidavit--Foster, Robert Coleman (1769-1844)
14. Military Records--Order--Patterson, Robert, Maj. Gen.
15. Photograph--Foster, J.D.
16. School Records--Foster, Francis Fogg
17. Stock Certificate--Foster, Robert Coleman (1824-1879)

Series 2: Woods Family

18. Accounts--Armistead, Jane Foster
19. Accounts--Armistead, Robina Woods
20. Accounts--Foster, Julia Woods
21. Accounts--Woods, James Campbell
22. Accounts--Woods, S.B.W.
23. Auction Notice--Armistead, Robert Lewis
24. Correspondence--Abeel-Campbell
25. Correspondence--Foster-Handy
26. Correspondence--Layton-West
27. Correspondence--Wood, Frances Foster-Woods, Jane West
28. Correspondence--Woods, Joseph
29. Correspondence--Woods, Joseph Leonidas-unidentified
30. Diary Fragment--Woods, S.B.W.
31. Inventory, Household--"Westwood"
32. Land Records--Hay, Ann
33. Land Records--Woods Family
34. Legal Documents--Marriage--Woods, Robert
35. Legal Documents--Will--Woods, Robert
36. Miscellaneous Items

37. Obituary--Houston, Catharine C.
38. Sketches--West, William Edward
39. Sketches--Woods Family
40. Sketches--Woods Family Gardens
41. Veterinary Records--Diary Herd Health Certificate--Armistead, Carl M.

INDEX TO FOSTER CORRESPONDENCE

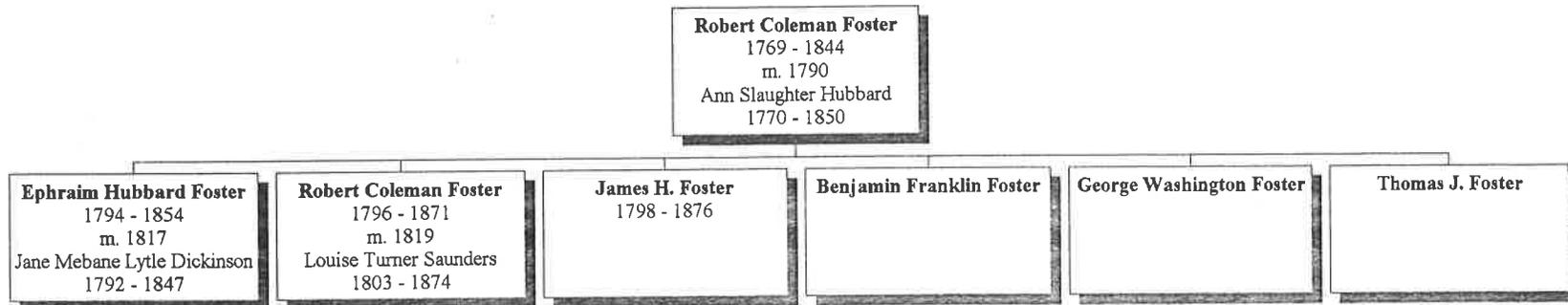
Allen, Y.D., to Foster and Fogg, 4-15-1852
Campbell, William B., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 8-23-1851
Caruthers, Jas., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 10-1-1853
Cheatham, Ellen Foster, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-5-1850
Crittenden, J.J., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 8-7-1845
Eve, Paul F., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-28-1853
Ewing, Andrew, to [Ephraim Hubbard Foster], 7-31-1850
Fogg, Ellen S., to [Ephraim Hubbard Foster], 2-15-1849
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Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Sarah Foster Cockrill, 8-8-1851
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Jane Dickinson Foster (2), 1847
Foster, Ephraim Hubbard, to Robert Coleman Foster (1796-1871) 12-20-1823
Foster, Francis Fogg, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1852
Foster, J.L., Mrs., to Jane Armistead, 5-8-1908
Foster, James H., to Robert Coleman Foster (1818-1871), 12-7-1837
Foster, John Dickinson, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (4), 1850-1852, n.d.
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Foster, Robert Coleman (1796-1871), to John Sommerville, 2-4-1832
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Hood, Julia Foster, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster (2), 1849, n.d.
MacGregor, George, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 12-6-1851
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Read, John, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 10-26-1852
Rogers, Th. H., to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 7-31-1850
Saunders, Turner, to Robert Coleman Foster (1796-1871), 12-15-1845
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Van Dyke, T. Nixon, to Ephraim Hubbard Foster, 9-17-1853
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INDEX TO WOODS CORRESPONDENCE

Abeel, Sarah, to Sarah Browne West Woods, 3-13-1843
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Branch, John Richard, to James Americus Woods, 2-17-1841
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Woods, Joseph Leonidas, to Francis Foster Woods (5), 1863-1864
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_____, to _____ Woods, 5-2-1840

FOSTER CHARTS



Ephraim Hubbard Foster

1794 - 1854

m. 1817

Jane Mebane Lytle Dickinson

1792 - 1847

Robert Coleman Foster

1818 - 1871

m. 1848

Martha Elizabeth Bradford

William Lytle Foster

1820 - 1889

m. 1841

Susan Long Cheatham

1822 - 1853

Jane Ellen Foster

1822 - 1851

m. 1841

Edward Saunders Cheatham

b. 1818

Ephraim H. Foster

1824 - 1827

John Dickinson Foster

1826 - 1867

Francis Fogg Foster

b. 1828

Julia Ann Foster

1831 - 1849

m. 1848

John M. Hood

Cornelia M. Foster
b. 1833
m. 1855
James Simpson

Sarah C. Foster
1834 - 1902
m. 1857
Benjamin Franklin Cockrill
1832 - 1903

Henry Foster
d. 1845

Robert Coleman Foster
1796 - 1871
m. 1819
Louise Turner Saunders
1803 - 1874

Turner Foster
m. Ann Eliza Wilson
m. Harriet Erwin

Ann E. Foster
Richard Hightower

Robert Coleman Foster
1824 - 1879
m. 1850
Julia Hannah Woods
1832 - 1890

William Foster

Francis M. Foster
m. 1854
Joseph Leonidas Woods
1828 - 1872

Louisa Foster
d. 1829

WOODS CHARTS

James Woods
1751 - 1817
m. 1776
Nancy Rayburn

Andrew Woods
b. 1777

Joseph Woods
1779 - 1859
m. 1806
Jane West
1785 - 1871

Margaret Woods
1781 - 1841

Robert Woods
1786 - 1843
m. 1818
Sarah Browne West
1792 - 1879

Martha Woods
1790 - 1824
m. 1806
Alexander H. Robertson

James Woods
1793 - 1875
m. Elizabeth A. _____
m. Penelope Porter

Elsy Woods
1795 - 1816

Archibald Woods
1797 - 1819

Agnes Greene Woods
1799 - 1849
m. 1820
Charles Clay Trabue
1798 - 1851

Robert Woods
1786 - 1843
m. 1818
Sarah Browne West
1792 - 1879

Josephine Imogene Woods
1819 - 1852
m. 1841
John Richard Branch
1819 - 1859

James Americus Woods
1820 - 1875
m. 1843
Elizabeth M. Campbell

Jane Theora Woods
1822 - 1842
m. 1842
Edward Smith Handy

Robert Fulton Woods
1824 or 1825 - 1883
m. 1848
Marina Turner Cheatham
d. 1891

Mary Robina Woods
1826 - 1897
m. 1843
William Blair Armistead
1811 - 1893

Joseph Leonidus Woods
1828 - 1872
m. 1854
Frances M. Foster

Julia Hannah Woods
1831 or 1832 - 1890
m. 1850
Robert Coleman Foster
1824 - 1879

James Woods
1793 - 1875
m. Elizabeth A _____
m. Penelope Porter

Martha Woods
m. 1829
Richard Arnett

Margaret Frances Woods
d. 1846
m. 1843
Edward Smith Handy

Josephine Imogene Woods
1819 - 1852
m. 1841
John Richard Branch
1819 - 1859

Theora Woods Branch
1843 - 1935

Eliza Forte Branch
1844 - 1925

John Branch
1846 - 1932

Sarah Woods Branch
1848 - 1927

Robert Woods Branch
1850 - 1932

James Americus Woods
1820 - 1875
m. 1843
Elizabeth M. Campbell

James Campbell Woods
d. 1844

Elizabeth Woods

Georgine Cheatham Woods
b. 1849

Julia Woods
b. 1850

Josephine Woods
1853 - 1903

Marina Turner Woods
1854 - 1931

Maria Kirkman Woods
1868 - 1959

James Woods

Robert Fulton Woods

Robert Fulton Woods
1824 or 1825 - 1883
m. 1848
Marina Turner Cheatham
d. 1891

Mary Robina Woods
1826 - 1897
m. 1843
William Blair Armistead
1811 - 1893

Roberta Sarah Armistead
1844 - 1925

Robert Lewis Armistead
1847 - 1924
Nancy Minor M. Humphreys
1852 - 1937

Robert Lewis Armistead, Jr.
1876 - 1897

Charles Meriwether Armistead
1877 - 1946
m. 1906
Martha Jane Foster
1872 - 1953

Ellen Barker Armistead
1879 - 1904

Nancy Minor Armistead
1881 - 1962

West Humphreys Armistead
1884 - 1962

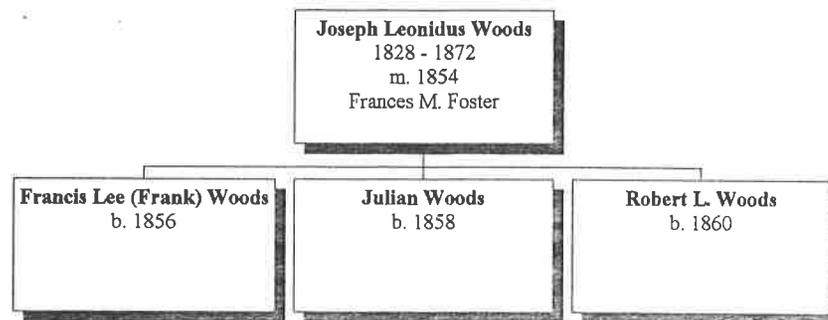
William Blair Armistead, Jr.
1849 - 1935

Julia Woods Armistead
1851 - 1923

Mary Theora Armistead
1854 - 1926

James Woods Armistead
1858 - 1946

William Cobbs Armistead
1886 - 1962



Julia Hannah Woods
1831 or 1832 - 1890
m. 1850
Robert Coleman Foster
1824 - 1879

Sallie Lou Foster
d. 1908

Joseph Woods Foster
b. 1854

James Levick Foster
1856 - 1922

Robina Armistead Foster
1859 - 1918

Edward West Foster
1860 - 1932

Robert Fulton Foster
b. 1864

Julia Theora Foster
b. 1866

Martha Jane Foster
1872 - 1953
m. 1906
Charles Meriwether Armistead
1877 - 1946

Rena L. Foster
d. 1870