

SAM FLEMING PAPERS

MSS # 143

Arranged and described by Molly Dohrmann

Summer 2007

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library

Vanderbilt University

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Nashville, Tennessee 37240

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Biographical Note

Samuel Milton Fleming was born on April 29, 1908 in Franklin, Tennessee. He graduated from Battle Ground Academy in 1924 and from Vanderbilt University in 1928. Fleming served on active duty with the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1942-1945. After college he worked for a time in New York and then came to Third National Bank in Nashville in 1931. He was appointed president by 1950, and he continued to serve in this capacity until his retirement in 1970. He was active in many areas of business and commerce in Nashville and in committee, fundraising, and other charitable work.

He was elected to the Board of Trust of Vanderbilt University in 1952. He became Chairman of the Board in 1975 and served in this position until 1981, when he retired from the Board. He was Chairman of the Board of Trust at the time of the merger with George Peabody College for Teachers in 1979 and played an important role in bringing the two institutions together. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Owen Graduate School of Management in 1969 and for the creation of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt in 1981.

Sam Fleming held many civic memberships and served in leadership roles as community activist and philanthropist, in Nashville and nationally, and was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church.

He was honored at Vanderbilt with the dedication of the Fleming Yard on November 6, 1987.

He was married to Josephine Cliffe Fleming, who preceded him in death, and then to Valerie Ellis Fleming. He and Josephine had two children, Joanne and Daniel. Sam Fleming died on January 21, 2000. *Yours to Count On: A Biography of Nashville Banker Extraordinaire Sam M. Fleming* by Ridley Wills, II was published by Vanderbilt University Press in 2007.

Sam Fleming was a great patron of the Vanderbilt Library. In addition to donating a number of important Bibles from the late 16th and early 17th centuries (the Geneva version of the so-called “Breeches” Bible, reference to Genesis 3:7), his will made a bequest to Special Collections which established the Sam Fleming Southern Civilization Collection, a growing collection of books on the history, culture, literature, and biography of the South since 1865.

Scope and Content Note

These papers spanning five Hollinger boxes (2.1 linear feet) are made up primarily of materials relating to Sam Fleming and Vanderbilt and include items from his time as an undergraduate (1924-1928), his tenure on the Board of Trust (1952-1981), the Athletic program and building of the new stadium, speeches and remarks by Fleming and others, and the Merger of Vanderbilt with Peabody College in 1979, when Fleming was chairman of the Board of Trust.

This collection also includes nine items, historic documents or concerning historic documents, given by Stanley Horn to Sam Fleming, dating from 1617 to 1958. There are also typescripts of *Supper at the Maxwell House* with author's notes by Alfred Leland Crabb as well as an interview with Crabb in *Nashville!* magazine.

Box Listing

Box 1

1924-1928 Sam Fleming's undergraduate years at Vanderbilt

1. Pictures of environs of Nashville from the 1897 Exposition
2. Photograph of the football team (c. 192?)
3. Football cheers
4. *Vanderbilt Hustler*, Oct. 2, 1925, vol. xxxvii
5. Football program—Auburn vs. Vanderbilt at Birmingham, Alabama, Nov. 14, 1925
6. Program: "Know Tennessee" oratorical contest, 3-20-1926
Program: Annual Dialectic-Philosophic Debate, 12-3-1926
7. Paper—Debate—Tax-Exempt-Securities
8. Student papers by Fleming—Public Speaking 12-12-1926
History 4-15-1927
9. 1925 Rules for the Guidance of Students and Instructors; 1927 Football schedule; small felt VU pendant
10. 1924-1928 Student Records—schedule and fees
11. 1927 Athletic (Track) Record Book
12. Athletic Association—Requisitions of expenses for the Track Team, 1927-28
13. *The Vanderbilt Alumnus*, "Football Number" vol. XIII, Nov.-Dec. 1927, No.2
14. Program: City-County Boys Track and Field Meet, May 4, 1928
15. 1928 Commencement Program (5) and Commencement Day ticket
16. Official Blank Examination Book (192-)

Other Vanderbilt University events

17. Programs (2)—Fugitive Reunion May 1956—Poetry Reading—both are signed by Robert Penn Warren, Merrill Moore, Allen Tate, Donald Davidson, John Crowe Ransom
18. Dr. Alexander Heard—Correspondence Re: Chancellorship at VU, June 13, 1962 -- June 29, 1967
19. "Vanderbilt Names a New Chancellor"—N. Y. Herald Tribune—6-17-62
20. *Vanderbilt in Summer*, General Information 1975
21. Centennial of the University, Oct. 3, 1975—"Yale President to Speak at VU" from *The Tennessean*; Invitation
22. "Dinner Honors New President of VU Board," *Nashville Banner* May 3, 1975
"Vanderbilt Board Members and Wives Entertained at Parties," *Nashville Banner*,

- Oct. 3, 1975
23. Centennial of the University, Oct. 3, 1975—Programs; *Vanderbilt Gazette*, Oct. 1, 1975; *Vanderbilt Today*, November 1975
 24. Correspondence and materials re: Portrait of Chancellor Heard by Aaron Shiker, July 23, 1975—Nov. 6, 1975
 25. Memorabilia “Groundbreaking Vanderbilt University Hospital July 6, 1977”
Acrylic Paperweight
 26. Correspondence between Chancellor Heard and Anne Marie and Thomas B. Walker, Jr. concerning million dollar gift of the Walkers to Library Fund for the VU Owen School of Management, December 15, 1980
 27. Audio tape, Chancellor Heard, content and date?

Box 2

Other Vanderbilt University Events (con’t.)

1. “Sam Fleming is new Board of Trust Head. . .” *Vanderbilt Today*, Vol. 15, no.3, July, 1975
2. “New VU Divinity Head Sees ‘Exciting Times’”
3. Calendar “Vanderbilt A Century of Growth, 1974-75”
4. “Board President believes in VU” *Hustler*, vol. 87, no.5, Sept. 9, 1975
5. *The Vanderbilt Hustler*, Feb. 10, 13,17,1976
6. “Vanderbilt Picketed in Apartheid Protest” *N.Y. Times* Feb. 15, 1978
7. Articles from the *Vanderbilt Register* (5-21-1982) and *Hustler* (4-27-1982) on the Chancellor search
8. Neill Sanders, Dean of Admissions, August 4, 1989, articles and note
9. *Vanderbilt Medicine*, vol. 14, no. 1, Spring/Summer 1997
10. *Vanderbilt Magazine*, vol. 79, no.3, Summer 1997
11. Photocopy of a letter from Thomas F. Frist, Jr. to John R. Hall resigning from the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, September 17, 1997 and letters in reply Sept. 22, 1997; Sept. 23, 1997
12. “Stahlman Gives VU Scholarship”

Remarks, Speeches, and other notes

13. Speech by Sam M. Fleming at a convocation at Florida Southern College, March 9, 1962; letter from Madison Sarratt to Sam Fleming, Jan. 8, 1962
14. Remarks by Sam Fleming to open \$55 million VU campaign, July 1, 1966
15. Speech materials—*The Bulletin of Miss Porter’s School* (Farmington, Connecticut), Spring 1975
16. Speech materials for Sam Fleming—*Vanderbilt Hustler*, September 16, 1975; *Vanderbilt Gazette*, December 1, 1975
17. Sam Fleming for the Board of Trust opening remarks for the program for the Centennial of the University, Oct. 3, 1975
18. Remarks by Sam Fleming for Awards Luncheon honoring Dr. Frank Pittman, April 1979

19. Remarks by Fleming at Installation dinner for Joe B. Wyatt as Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Feb. 23, 1983; Program for the Installation of Joe Wyatt as Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Thursday, Feb. 24, 1983,
20. "Opportunity Plentiful Here: Fleming," *Nashville Banner*
21. Remarks by Sam Fleming, Chancellor Heard, Chancellor Wyatt, and others at the 1987 Dedication of Fleming Yard; *Vanderbilt Today*, vol. 27, No. 1, Winter 1988
22. Remarks by Chancellor Alexander Heard to the Consortium of Universities, Jan. 17, 1974
23. Remarks by Chancellor Alexander Heard at the Graduation Exercises, Southwestern at Memphis, May 31, 1975, "One Educational World"
24. Remarks of Chancellor Alexander Heard at Commencement, May 17, 1978 in the *Vanderbilt Gazette*, No. 103, June 2, 1978
25. "Remarks of Chancellor Alexander Heard at Commencement, May 11, 1979 in the *Vanderbilt Gazette*, No. 112, June 1, 1979
26. Remarks of Chancellor Heard to new students, August 25, 1979
27. Remarks of Chancellor Alexander Heard at Commencement, May 9, 1980" in the *Vanderbilt Gazette*, No. 121, June 1, 1980
28. Remarks of Chancellor Alexander Heard to the welcoming convocation for new students, Memorial Gymnasium, August 23, 1980
29. "A Statement by Chancellor Heard" in the *Vanderbilt Gazette*, Dec. 18, 1974
30. Speech by William S. Vaughn "A View of the Establishment" Baccalaureate Address at Vanderbilt, May 14, 1975
31. "Eliminating Racial Barriers at Vanderbilt University" by Harvie Branscomb with letter dated July 27, 1994
32. "My Story of Vanderbilt" by Ben Austin, typescript
33. Tribute to Dr. Josh Billings (Frederic Tremaine Billings) VU School of Medicine
34. "A Brief History of Vanderbilt University 1872—1982" by Robert A. McGaw and Reba Wilcoxin
35. *VUMC Reporter*, Friday Oct. 17, 1997
36. Guest List—Vanderbilt University Hospital Topping and Ceremony 1979
37. *Vanderbilt Register*, May 1, 1981 "Board of Trust Elects David K. Wilson as Chairman" (with photo of Sam Fleming)
38. Poems "The Roaring Twenties" by Charles E. Dobb; "To Our Nurses" Harvie and Margaret Branscomb, May 15, 1991
39. Battle Ground Academy Board of Trustees—Headmaster's Report, Nov. 11, 1993 to members of the BGA Board of Trust
40. "6 joining VU Board of Trust as new members..." *Tennessean* April 27, 1997 (Joanne Fleming Hayes)
41. Obituary—Sam Fleming—"Former VU board president Sam Fleming mourned" in *The Reporter*, Jan. 28, 2000

Box 3

Vanderbilt Athletics and the new Stadium

1. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Nov. 1971

2. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Nov. 1971
3. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Nov.-Dec. 1971
4. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Dec. 1971
5. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Jan. 1972
6. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, Feb. 1972
7. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, March 1972
8. Correspondence, papers, etc. concerning the athletic program, April 1972
9. Correspondence re: Vanderbilt athletic program, Nov. 1971 to Faculty: Winston L. King; R. Chris Hassel; John Gaventa; Harold G. Maier
10. Correspondence re: Vanderbilt Athletic Program—Karl Haury, Nov. 16, 1971; Joe and Joy White, Nov. 23, 1971
11. Correspondence re: Vanderbilt Athletic Program, November 1971—Chancellor Heard to Eugene Higgins; Jerry Watson; Arthur Earls; Carlin Rolfe; J. William Douglas
12. “Vanderbilt” in *The Tennessean* Monday 11/1/1971; “The Vandy Plan Intrigues Conference”
13. Athletic Program—Re: Meeting with students Dec. 2, 1971; Meeting of Executive Committee, March 7, 1972
14. Correspondence re: Physical Education curriculum, March 1972; Chancellor Heard to Harold Maier with replies (5 separate documents)
15. Preliminary Agenda, Board of Trust, May 5-6, 1972
16. Report from the Special Trustee Committee on Athletics May 1972
17. “Sidelines—A Major Breakthrough” by Fred Russell in the *Nashville Banner*, Friday May 5, 1972 with Preliminary Report Special Trustee Committee on Athletics
18. “NCAA Approves VU—Peabody Athletic Tieup” *Nashville Banner*, Friday May 5, 1972
19. Correspondence re: Athletic Program May 10, 1972 from John Bibb, Sports Editor, *The Tennessean*
20. Correspondence re: Athletic Program, May 17, 1972 from Lane Abernathy, President VU Alumni Association
21. Correspondence and document on VU Athletics, May 22, 1972—Vice chancellor Rob Roy Purdy to Sam Fleming
22. Correspondence re: Vanderbilt Athletic Program—Bill Pace, Director of Athletics and Head Football Coach, Dec. 19, 1972
23. “Clay Stapleton Gets Vanderbilt A.D. Post” by Fred Russell in the *Nashville Banner*, Feb. 8, 1973
24. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Energy Conservation Study and Report, 1977
25. Correspondence and Reports, 1977—Stadium Design and Construction
26. Memorandum, Sept. 26, 1977; Finch Heery Official Study—Vanderbilt Stadium, Sept., 1977; Drawings by the local firm of William Elliston and Assoc.—Feasibility Study for Additions, Nov. 25, 1976
27. Correspondence re: Vanderbilt Stadium, August, 29, 1977, William Elliston and Assoc.; Dudley Field Feasibility Study, Nov. 25, 1976

28. Minutes, Executive Committee; Board of Trust, VU, 9-13-1977; Possible Football Revenue Loss; Amortization Schedule; Letter re: Municipal Stadium Study Committee, Oct. 4, 1977

Box 4

Vanderbilt University/ Peabody College Merger in 1979

1. "Bruce Ryburn Payne and the New Peabody College" by A. L. Crabb, Professor of Education, George Peabody College. Reprinted from *Southern Association Quarterly*, November, 1937
2. "Brief Historical Facts about Peabody" in *The Peabody Reflector*, July, August, 1968, vol. XLI, no. 4
3. Warranty deed, September 30, 1976—University School of Nashville
4. Correspondence—February 22, 1979—April 27, 1979
5. Correspondence—April 1979
6. Correspondence— with Frank Mayborn, August 1979
7. Correspondence—about the School of Music
8. Correspondence—Chancellor Heard to others concerning the Music School with Statement, July 31, 1979
9. Draft—Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Merger of Vanderbilt University and George Peabody College for Teachers; confidential cover letter, April 23, 1979
10. Draft—Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Merger of Vanderbilt University and George Peabody College for Teachers, April 25, 1979
11. Remarks by Chancellor Heard of Vanderbilt to the Board of Trustees of George Peabody College for Teachers, April 27, 1979
12. Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Trust, April 27-28, 1979
13. Exhibit papers relating to the Merger in 1979
14. "Bragg Hits Peabody, TSU Plan" Jan. 15, 1979; "Peabody May Leave State if Merger Fails" in the *Tennessean*
15. "Vandy-Peabody Tie-up in Peril" in *The Tennessean*, February 14, 1979 by John Bibb
16. "Vanderbilt and Peabody to Merge" in *Vanderbilt Today*, vol.19, No. 1, April 1979; "Colleges told that survival will require some cutbacks "in the N.Y. Times, April 17, 1979
17. "Merger Promotes Music, Art Debate" in *Vanderbilt Hustler*, Tuesday April 24, 1979, Vol. 90, No. 56
18. "Hands Across the Street: Peabody –Her Bricks, Her People" by Terry Dugan, *Versus*, April 1979
19. "The Peabody Merger: Swiftmess Breaks Confusion" by Pat Willard in *Versus*, September 1979
20. Program for the Peabody College Roundtable Dinner, October 7, 1983

Photographs

21. Photocopies of pictures appearing in Vanderbilt publications requested by Charles Cook for his tribute to Mr. Fleming on March 2, 1982
22. Harrell Meadors, Charles Boyle, Frazer Edmondson in front of S.A.E House, 100 23rd Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, Spring 1928 with accompanying letter from J. Bayard Boyle, December 4, 1972
23. SAE Basketball team, Sam Fleming top row, center right, from 1927 *Commodore*, p. 269; Battle Ground Academy (Franklin, TN) team 1924, Sam Fleming, 3rd from left top row
24. Sam and Josephine Fleming, Liz and Anderson Spickard, 1950
25. Members of the VU Board of Trust, 1952-1953—identified on back of the photo
26. Class of 1928 taken May 20, 1978—50th Reunion, members identified
27. Alexander Heard and Walter Fields, III, Oct. 25, 1980
Alexander Heard and Sam Fleming, April 1981 upon Fleming's retirement
28. Class Reunion, Sam Fleming home, May 22, 1998—members present—Malcolm Gibbs, Florence Eskind Zucker, Grace Frierson Walker, Jack DeWitt, D.R. Lewis, William Hobby, Sam Fleming
29. Grace and Ted Walker

Historic Documents given to Sam Fleming by Stanley Horn (list included)

30. Legal Document with wax seal, 1617 (parchment) Charter (?) from Alexander Chalmer to Robert (?) Cargill
31. Receipt, July 19, 1806, signed by Andrew Jackson, to John Childress for \$400 and William P. Anderson for \$347 in settlement of a lawsuit
32. Land Grant, State of Tennessee (includes the embossed state seal), 1808, to James Robertson, assignee of Samuel Jackson, for 125 acres in Dickson County, signed by John Sevier, governor (fragile)
33. Invitation, June 25, 1827, to the Anniversary Ball to be held on July 4 in Nashville to celebrate the anniversary of American Independence. (invitation is addressed to "The Misses Greens")
34. Check, December 13, 1834, for \$3000 from H. R.W. Hill (?) to Andrew Jackson. presented by Jackson for payment on February 24, 1835.
35. Stock Certificate, October 22, 1867, for 100 shares in the Emory Iron and Coal Mining Co., Knoxville, Tennessee purchased by William Small for \$10,000.
36. Appointment, 1870, of New Trustees under Settlement and Marriage of Mr. Edmund Walker and Emma Eliza his wife, and Post-nuptial Settlement of Equity of Redemption of Freehold Premises at Leytonstone, Essex. (a very complex oversize legal document with details about land holdings, etc.)
37. Letter, typed, from Stanley Horn to Sam M. Fleming, February 20, 1958, summarizing the history of the seal of the Confederate States of America.
38. Typed note the history of the CSA seal (undated)

Box 5

Alfred Leland Crabb (1884-1979) Nashville author and Peabody College professor

1. Typescript—*Supper at the Maxwell House*, Book I, with author's notes
2. Typescript—*Supper at the Maxwell House*, Book II, with author's notes
3. *Supper at the Maxwell House*, 1943
4. *Nashville!*—“Crabb's Love Affair” by Dennis Loyd, October 1973

Box 6

Three prints (woodcuts of VU subjects signed by the Artists)

1. Old Gym
2. Kirkland Hall
3. Statue of Cornelius Vanderbilt