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 in 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 and by 1950 was appointed president where he served 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 served on the Board of Trust of Vanderbilt University from 1952 until 1981 and as its Chairman from 1975 to 1981. He was Chairman of the Board of Trust at the time of the merger with George Peabody College for Teachers in 1979 and as such 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.

*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.

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.

Sam Fleming was a great patron of the Vanderbilt Library and 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), in his will he endowed the Sam Fleming Southern Civilization Collection in Special Collections, a growing collection of books on the history, culture, literature, and biography of the South since 1865.

Scope and Content Note

These papers five Hollinger boxes (2.1 linear feet), flat box and accompanying woodcut prints 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. There is a box of 28 official documents signed by Tennessee Governors during the years 1808 – 1930.

File 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
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
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
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
   “Vanderbilt Board Members and Wives Entertained at Parties,” Nashville Banner,
Oct. 3, 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
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
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,
    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
    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
22. Remarks by Chancellor Alexander Heard to the Consortium of Universities, Jan. 17, 1974
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
30. Speech by William S. Vaughn “A View of the Establishment” Baccalaureate Address at Vanderbilt, May 14, 1975
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)
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
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
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
24. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Energy Conservation Study and Report, 1977
25. Correspondence and Reports, 1977—Stadium Design and Construction
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**

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
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
18. “Hands Across the Street: Peabody—Her Bricks, Her People” by Terry Dugan, *Versus*, April 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, Tn, 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
25. Members of the VU Board of Trust, 1952-1953—identified on back of the photo
   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, Tenn. 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 all kinds of 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

28 Official Documents signed by Tennessee Governors, 1808 -1930

1. Signature of John Sevier, Governor of the State of Tennessee 1796 – 1801, 1803 - 1809; dated October 20, 1808

2. Signature of William Blount, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1790 – 1796, 1809 – 1815; dated December 18, 1813

3. Signature of Joseph McMinn, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1815 -1821; dated July 15, 1817

4. Signature of William Carroll, Governor of the State of Tennessee 1821 -1827; dated June 8, 1822

5. Signature of Newton Cannon, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1835 – 1839; dated September 1836

6. Signature of James C. Jones, Governor of the State of Tennessee,1841 – 1845; dated July 1, 1844

7. Signature of Neill S. Brown, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1847 – 1849; dated May 21, 1849

8. Signature of William Trousdale, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1849 – 1851, this is dated September 17, 1851

9. Signature of William B. Campbell, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1851 – 1853; dated July 18, 1853

10. Signature of William G. Brownlow, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1865 – 1869; dated September 10, 1867

11. Signature of DeWitt Clinton Senter, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1869 – 1871; dated May 11, 1870
12. Signature of John C. Brown, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1871 – 1875; dated September 3, 1874

13. Signature of James D. Porter, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1875 – 1879; dated September 28, 1878

14. Signature of Albert S. Marks, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1879 – 1881; dated November 24, 1880

15. Signature of Alvin Hawkins, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1881 – 1883; dated August 14, 1882

16. Signature of William B. Bate, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1883 – 1887; dated February 22, 1883

17. Signature of John P. Buchanan, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1891 – 1893; dated November 19, 1891

18. Signature of Peter Turney, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1893 – 1897; dated November 17, 1893

19. Signature of Robert Love Taylor, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1887 – 1891 and 1897 – 1899; dated October 10, 1898

20. Signature of Benton McMillan, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1899 – 1903; dated August 4, 1900

21. Signature of James B. Frazier, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1903 – 1905; dated August 22, 1903

22. Signature of John I. Cox, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1905 – 1907; dated August 27, 1906

23. Signature of Malcolm R. Patterson, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1907 – 1911; dated February 15, 1909

24. Signature of Ben W. Hooper, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1911 – 1915; dated March 30, 1912

25. Signature of Tom C. Rye, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1915 – 1919; dated November 15, 1916

26. Signature of A. H. Roberts, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1919 – 1921; dated May 7, 1919
27. Signature of Henry H. Horton, Governor of the State of Tennessee, 1927 – 1933; dated March 16, 1929


**28 Official Documents signed by Tennessee Governors, 1808 -1930**

Name index and folder number:

- Bate, William B., folder 16
- Blount, William, folder 2
- Brown, John C., folder 12
- Brown, Neill S., folder 7
- Browning, Gordon, folder 28
- Brownlow, William G., folder 10
- Buchanan, John P., folder 17
- Campbell, William B., folder 9
- Cannon, Newton, folder 5
- Carroll, William, folder 4
- Cox, John I., folder 22
- Frazier, James B., folder 21
- Hawkins, Alvin, folder 15
- Hooper, Ben W., folder 24
- Horton, Henry H., folder 27
- Jones, James C., folder 6
- Marks, Albert S., folder 14
- McMillan, Benton, folder 20
- McMinn, Joseph, folder 3
- Patterson, Malcolm R., folder 23
- Porter, James D., folder 13
- Rye, Tom C., folder 25
- Senter, DeWitt Clinton, folder 11
- Sevier, John, folder 1
- Taylor, Robert Love, folder 19
- Trousdale, William, folder 8
- Turney, Peter, folder 18

**Box 7**

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

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