

FURMAN, THOMAS F.
Thomas F. Furman papers, 1827-1840

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Furman, Thomas F.
Title: Thomas F. Furman papers, 1827-1840
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 480
Extent: .25 linear ft. (1 box)
Abstract: Papers of physician Thomas Furman, consisting mainly of correspondence between family members.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Gift, 1966.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Thomas F. Furman papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by MRD, 1966.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Thomas F. Furman was a brother of James Clement Furman, (1809-1891), first President of Furman University (1852-1879), and a son of the Rev. Richard Furman, (1755-1825), for

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whom the University was named. Thomas attended the Medical College of South Carolina at Charleston and graduated there shortly before his marriage to Miss Ann McLees Armstrong (b. 1816) on April 3, 1833, in a joint ceremony with his brother James and Miss Harriet Davis in Monticello, SC. Ann McLees Armstrong lived with her uncle, the Rev. Jonathan Davis, a Baptist clergyman, after the death of her mother in 1827. Ann's half-brother, James Kincaid Vance (b. 1818) son of Elizabeth Armstrong and her second husband, Samuel Vance (1789-1868), was an ancestor of John Henry Dobbs, late husband of the donor. Ann's cousin, B. F. Davis, son of the Rev. Jonathan and brother of Harriet, was attending Yale College, 1832-1833, and although a loyal South Carolinian, States Righter, and Nullifier, was a strong supporter of the Union. Ann apparently had attended a sort of finishing school in Charleston run by a French woman, Madame Talvande, a refugee from the St. Domingo rebellion.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Thomas F. Furman including 38 letters dated between 1827 and 1840 and 6 miscellaneous items. All the letters-except the first, which was written by Susan Furman to her brother, Thomas, May 22, 1827-are addressed to Ann McLees Armstrong (after April 3, 1833, Mrs. Thomas Furman). Twenty letters were by Thomas F. Furman, May 3, 1831-March 27, 1833; six by H. D. Furman (a woman), April 20, 1831-May 23, 1832; two by B. F. Davis, October 24, 1832 and March 2, 1833; two by Mary Harrington, October 6, 1831, and April 20, 1833; and one each by the following individuals: S. P. Pressley, Ann Eliza Furman, A. M. McMahan (a woman), J. M. Young, and Mary, Maria, and Rosanna, whose surnames are not given. The letters are concerned with social and religious affairs and politics, particularly the question of Nullification. There is considerable discussion of illnesses, among which was the cholera scare in Charleston in 1831-1832. Thomas Furman, who wrote a thesis on "Dyspepsia," mentions the disagreeable aspects of dissecting under prevailing conditions of sanitation. There is no mention of slavery but Northerners are frequently referred to as "Yankees." Miscellaneous items include photocopies of family records from the Vance-Sims family Bible. Papers relating to Mary Ann Sims and James K. Vance.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Correspondence, 1827-1830
1	2	Correspondence, 1831
1	3	Correspondence, 1832
1	4	Correspondence, 1833
1	5	Correspondence, 1836-1840
1	6	Genealogical papers, Vance and Sims families
1	7	James K. Vance papers
1	8	Mary Ann Sims papers
