

# Guide to the Colonel John Brown and Major General Preston Brown Papers

MS 105



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

February 1984

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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(203) 432-1735  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 105

**CREATOR:** Brown, John, 1757-1837

**TITLE:** Colonel John Brown and Major General Preston Brown papers

**DATES:** 1763-1865

**BULK DATES:** 1763-1865

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Largely family correspondence of the Brown, Preston and Mason families received by Reverend John Brown of Virginia and his sons, John, Samuel and James. Most important are the eleven letters from John Brown, member of the Continental Congress and senator from Kentucky (1792-1805), which discuss the Constitution, the Missouri Compromise and the episode in Kentucky history known as the "Spanish Conspiracy". Letters from James Brown were written from Paris (1823-1833) when he was United States ambassador to France, while those from Samuel Brown describe events in Mississippi in the 1810s and 1820s. Margaretta (Mason) Brown is represented by a commonplace book, reading list and poems.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0105>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0105>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the heirs of Major General Preston Brown, 1948.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Colonel John Brown and Major General Preston Brown Papers (MS 105). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Brown: Senator, Kentucky legislator; studied at Princeton; one of the Rockbridge soldiers under Lafayette; continued education at William and Mary; studied law with Thomas Jefferson; active in the process of securing statehood for Kentucky; U.S. Senator for Kentucky, 1792-1805.

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## Scope and Contents

The Colonel John Mason Brown and Major General Preston Brown Papers consist of ten inches of letters, sermons, poems, photographs, and miscellaneous papers of the Rev. John Brown of Virginia (1728-1803); his sons John II (1757-1837), Samuel (1769-1830), James (1766-1835), and Preston (1775-1826); his son John's wife, Margaretta (Mason) Brown (1772-1838); and their sons Mason (1799-1867; Y. 1820) and Orlando (1801-1867). Colonel John Mason Brown (1837-90; Y. 1856) is represented by an incoming letter and a printed copy of a photograph; Major General Preston Brown (1872-1948; Y. 1892), by a single photograph. There are biographical sketches of John II, Samuel, and James in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. Mason Brown, John Mason Brown, and Major General Preston Brown appear in their respective Yale classbooks.

The letters in the Brown Papers were received mainly by the Rev. John Brown and by his sons John, Samuel, and James. They were written by members of the Brown, Preston, and Mason families and by various men who were prominent in national and regional public life, including James Monroe, Henry Clay, James Wilkinson, and Charles Ingersoll. The letters span from 1763 to 1865, but they are concentrated in the 1790s. Many of the letters from that decade deal with the episode in Kentucky history known as the "Spanish Conspiracy." Other letters deal with personal matters, with the development of Kentucky, and with such national issues of the day as the Constitution and the Missouri Compromise. The letters by James Brown include news from Paris, where he served as U.S. Ambassador between 1823 and 1833, and some of those by Samuel Brown contains news of Alabama and Mississippi in the 1810s and 1820s. A list

of correspondents follows the box list, and the letters are catalogued individually in the department's manuscript catalog.

The sermons are by the Rev. John Brown and by an unidentified Presbyterian minister of Virginia in the eighteenth century. The poems are by Margaretta (Mason) Brown.

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## List of Correspondents

American Colonization Society. Kentucky --- (1)  
Beale, Samuel --- (1)  
Beckley, John --- (5)  
Belli, John, 1760-1809 --- (1)  
Blackburn, [S]? --- (1)  
Bodley, Thomas --- (1)  
Bradford, Joseph N. --- (1)  
Breckenridge, James, [1768-1833]? --- (2)  
Brodhead, Daniel, Jr., 1736-1809 --- (1)  
Brown, James, 1766-1835 --- (33)  
Brown, Rev. John, 1728-1803 (1 folder of sermons) --- (2)  
Brown, John, 1757-1837 --- (11)  
Brown, J. P. W. --- (1)  
Brown, Margaretta (Mason), 1772-1838 --- (13)  
Brown, Mary (Yoder) --- (1)  
Brown, Mason 1799-1867 (Yale 1820) --- (4)  
Brown, Preston W., d.1826 --- (3)  
Brown, Samuel, 1769-1830 --- (27)  
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836 --- (1)  
Caldwell, Charles, 1772-1853 --- (1)  
Campbell, Archibald --- (1)  
Campbell, Arthur --- (2)  
Campbell, David --- (1)  
Capin, Nathaniel W. --- (1)  
Carondolet, Francisco Louis Hector, baron de, ca. 1748-1807 --- (1)  
Cartwright, Justinian --- (1)  
Clark, Elizabeth --- (1)  
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852 --- (7)  
Coleman, William --- (1)  
Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824 --- (1)  
Craddock, Robert --- (1)  
Craighead, Thomas Brown, -1825 --- (1)  
Crockett, Joseph --- (1)  
Croghan, George, 1791-1849 --- (1)  
Croghan, William --- (2)  
Dayton, Jonathon, 1760-1824 --- (2)  
Duncan, John M. --- (4)  
Edgar, John T. --- (1)  
Farnham,? --- (1)  
Gamble, Robert --- (1)  
Garrard, James, 1749-1822 --- (1)  
Gordon, A. G. --- (1)  
Green, Berryman --- (1)  
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804 --- (1)  
Hancock, George --- (1)  
Hart, Thomas --- (1)  
Henley, Sam --- (1)  
Hughes, James --- (1)

Humphreys, Mary (Brown) --- (2)  
Ingersoll, Charles --- (10)  
Innes, Harry, 1752-1816 --- (3)  
Jackson, Dr. Samuel, 1787-1852 --- (1)  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 --- (1)  
Knox, Major General Henry, 1750-1806 --- (1)  
Logan, Benjamin, 1743-1802 --- (1)  
McCraw, Samuel? --- (1)  
McIntosh, William --- (1)  
Madison, James, 1750/1-1836 --- (3)  
Mason, Catherine Van Wyck --- (2)  
Mason, Rev. John --- (1)  
Mason, John Mitchell, 1770-1829 --- (2)  
Monroe, James, 1758-1831 --- (5)  
Morehead, Charles Slaughter, 1802-1868 --- (1)  
Morrison, James --- (2)  
Mosby, John --- (1)  
Mosby, L. Jr. --- (1)  
Mosby, Robert --- (1)  
Mosby, Wade --- (5)  
Nicholson, Marie --- (1)  
Oneall, Abijah --- (1)  
Overton, John, 1766-1833 --- (1)  
P, O? --- (1)  
Percy, Thomas G. --- (1)  
Pindell, Richard --- (1)  
Pogue, George --- (1)  
Poussin, William Tell --- (1)  
Preston, Frank Francis, 1765-1836 --- (6)  
Preston, J. --- (2)  
Preston, William, 1816-1887 --- (1)  
Randolph, John, of Roanoke, 1773-1833 --- (2)  
Saidler, James --- (1)  
St. Clair, Arthur, 1736-1818 --- (1)  
Seitz, John A. --- (1)  
Shelby, Isaac, 1750-1826 --- (1)  
Smith, John --- (1)  
Speed, James, 1812-1887? --- (1)  
Steele, William --- (1)  
Swan, James, 1754-1830 --- (2)  
Templeton, Maria --- (1)  
U.S. Army. re John Belli --- (1)  
U.S. Army (Maj. John Adair, 1757-1840) --- (1)  
U.S. Army (John Belli, 1760-1809) --- (2)  
U.S. Army (Michael Rudolph?) --- (1)  
U.S. Army (Maj.Gen. Anthony Wayne, 1745-1796) --- (5)  
U.S. Army (Brig.Gen. James Wilkinson, 1757-1825) --- (17)  
U.S. Commissioners to negotiate with the Indians North of the Ohio [Benjamin Lincoln 1735-1810; Beverly Randolph; and Timothy Pickering, 1745-1829, Commissioners] --- (1)  
U.S. Senate --- (1)  
U.S. Treasury. Register's Office --- (1)  
Van Cortlandt, Charles --- (1)  
Varick, J. D. --- (1)  
Varick, Margaretta --- (1)  
Varick, Theodore V. W. --- (1)  
Virginia. Governor, 1776-1779, 1784-1785 (Patrick Henry) --- (1)

Virginia. Governor, 1792-1795, (Henry Lee) --- (1)  
Wallace, David, 1799-1859 --- (1)  
Warren, John --- (1)  
Washington, Bushrod, 1762-1829 --- (1)  
Watts, Edward and E. B. --- (1)  
Wilkinson, James Birg. Gen., 1757-1825 --- (39)  
Williamson, Hugh, 1735-1819 --- (2)  
Wilson, William --- (2)  
Winn, John --- (2)  
Woods, Archibald --- (1)  
Worthington, S.? --- (1)

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## Arrangement

Arranged in three boxes: Boxes 1 and 2 contain correspondence, sermons, poems, and miscellaneous papers.  
Box 3 contains Photographs.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1763-(1783-1841)-1865

b. 1, f. 1-32	Correspondence and miscellaneous papers A copy of some of this material may be available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1763-1809
b. 2, f. 33-61	Correspondence and miscellaneous papers A copy of some of this material may be available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1810-1865, undated
John Brown (1728-1803)		
b. 2, f. 62-63	Sermons	1752-1794, undated
b. 2, f. 64	Sermons of an unidentified 18th century Virginia Presbyterian minister	Undated
Margaretta (Mason) Brown		
b. 2, f. 65	Commonplace book and reading list	1798
b. 2, f. 66	Poems	1802-1817, undated
b. 3	Photographs	Undated



## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Armed Forces  
Missouri compromise  
Music  
Women poets

### Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1820  
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1856  
Yale College (1887- ). Class of 1892  
Yale University -- Students

### Geographic Names

Alabama -- History  
Kentucky -- History  
Mississippi -- History  
Paris (France) -- History -- 1789-1900  
Southern States  
United States -- Foreign relations

### Genres / Formats

Poems

### Occupations

Politicians  
Soldiers

### Names

Brown, John, 1728-1803  
Brown, John, 1757-1837  
Brown, Margaretta Mason, 1772-1838  
Brown, Mason, 1799-1867  
Brown, Preston, 1872-1948  
Brown, Preston W., 1775-1826  
Brown, Samuel, 1769-1830  
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852  
Dayton, Jonathan, 1760-1824  
Garrard, James, 1749-1822  
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826  
Madison, James, 1751-1836  
Mason, John M. (John Mitchell), 1770-1829  
Monroe, James, 1758-1831  
Preston, Francis, 1765-1835  
Randolph, John, 1773-1833  
Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825