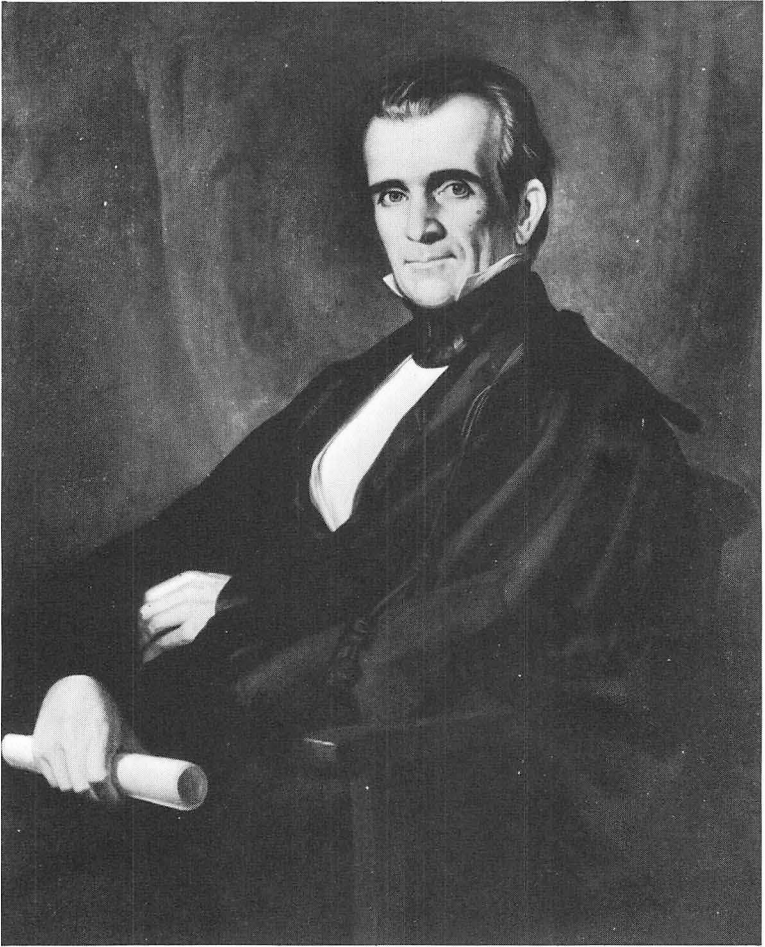


Correspondence of James K. Polk

VOLUME I, 1817-1832



JAMES K. POLK, 1795-1849

Correspondence of
JAMES K. POLK



Volume I
1817-1832

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To Blanche Henry Weaver

PREFACE

The nomination of the first "dark horse" candidate for the presidency by the Democrats in 1844 elicited from the Whigs the derisive query, "Who is James K. Polk?" While the question was a politically motivated effort to promote the candidacy of the highly popular Henry Clay, it was not nearly so foolish as Polk's subsequent victory made it appear. Polk had served seven consecutive terms in Congress and had been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives twice; but when the sorely-tried Democrats at Baltimore decided upon him as their standard-bearer, he had been out of the Washington limelight for five years.

In 1839 he had left the capital city to try to reunite his faltering party in Tennessee; he was initially successful, being elected governor for one term. But he was ingloriously defeated in the gubernatorial contest in 1841, and again in 1843, and his political career seemed to be ended. He slipped into the political shadows for the first time since 1823, the year he had begun a two-year term in the lower house of the Tennessee General Assembly.

The exciting presidential campaign of 1844, which was followed by a remarkably eventful term in the White House, brought Polk out of relative oblivion. His death in 1849 was followed by a bitter sectional quarrel climaxed by a bloody civil war. After this catastrophe, Polk, and to a lesser extent Andrew Jackson, went into eclipse. Not until the dawn of the twentieth century did historians begin to place the sectional conflict into a more proper perspective and take a second look at some of the national leaders who had been ignored, or at best rather scornfully treated.

When Milo Quaife edited and published Polk's presidential diary in 1910, it became obvious that this persistent, stubborn, hard-working, somewhat colorless Tennessean had been grossly underestimated. As chief executive he had been an exacting taskmaster who achieved every one of his main objectives. Among his accomplishments, he had settled the Oregon question, conducted a successful war with Mexico, and acquired a vast amount of territory, including California. In 1962, Arthur M. Schlesinger Sr. revealed the results of a poll of seventy-five historians who had been asked to rank the various presidents of the United States. To the surprise of many Americans, Polk ranked eighth, falling into the category labeled "near great." More than a century after the scornful Whig question had been asked, historians had finally answered it.

This Volume

Included in this volume are all Polk letters thus far located that bear dates prior to the end of 1832. The earliest one found was written in 1817, but less than two dozen were penned before Polk's first election to Congress in 1825. All together there are 664 letters, of which Polk wrote only 96. Many of those written to him are brief missives from clerks in Washington offices, replying to his inquiries about pensions, land claims, jobs, and other affairs of his constituents. The routine nature of this part of the correspondence has influenced the editors to present 138 of the letters in summarized form. Because so few letters that Polk himself wrote have been recovered, all of them have been published in full.

Family letters make up a significant segment of Polk's correspondence, yet few of the letters are of a personal nature. There is only one letter from his mother, and it concerned the settlement of her husband's estate. The single letter to his wife apparently was written to overcome sheer boredom, since Polk expected to reach her before the letter did. No letters that his wife wrote during this period have been turned up. Only one short note from Jane Polk Walker to her older brother is included here,

although her husband, James Walker, carried on a regular correspondence with him. Incomplete as this part of Polk's correspondence obviously is, however, it clearly reveals the extent to which his family depended upon him. With James Walker he bore the burden of settling his father's fairly large and complicated estate; as the oldest son he looked after the affairs of three brothers who died within a few months of each other in 1831; the two youngest brothers were like foster children to him. Polk was also drawn into the eventual settlement of the estate of his father-in-law, Joel Childress, although Childress had died several years before Polk's marriage to his daughter Sarah.

Not yet a figure of national importance, Polk had few regular correspondents at this time, except political supporters or personal friends in Tennessee. Twenty letters to or from Andrew Jackson presage the political and personal ties that were to bind them together later. A scattered exchange of correspondence with Cave Johnson indicates that the long friendship between them had already been cemented. Numerous letters from the colorful Archibald Yell are interesting and revealing political documents, although no letter from Polk to Yell seems to have survived.

Perhaps the most important revelation of this early exchange of letters concerns the relationship between the congressman and his constituents. There is no doubt that Polk was servant and the voters sovereign. Letters from his congressional district contained requests of all sorts. Although some of them asked forgiveness for taking up the time of a busy man, they clearly expected him to accommodate them. One of the most common chores that Polk was asked to do was to enter a subscription to a Washington newspaper in the name of a constituent and pay for it, to be reimbursed upon his return to Tennessee. If he ever considered any request by a constituent as improper or presumptuous, there is no evidence of it in his letters.

Editorial Method

Under the assumption that their chief function is to collect and make available in usable form the significant correspondence

of a man of national importance, the editors have included incoming and outgoing letters, arranged in chronological order. They have tried to reproduce the original text of each letter as accurately as possible: original spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar have been retained except where alterations were required for the sake of clarity. These changes have generally been made silently rather than risk cluttering the pages with editorial props that divert attention from the meaning or spirit of the writers. In the few instances where excessive editorial license was practiced, that fact has been noted. Reliance on the ever-useful *sic* has been severely limited.

As all the letters printed are either to or from James K. Polk, his name will seldom be included in the headings that appear above them. Regardless of their position in the original manuscript, the salutation, provenance, and date will ordinarily appear on a single line just below the heading. Except in rare instances, complimentary closings have been omitted. An unnumbered note at the end of each letter gives the place to which the letter is addressed, place and date of previous publication, if any, and information as to significant markings such as "confidential" or "private." The present location of each letter is also given unless it is in the Polk Papers, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. All items are presumed to be autograph letters signed unless otherwise noted.

Numbered annotations follow the unnumbered note. Ordinarily, a brief explanation or identification is given upon the first mention of a person, place, or special subject. Later appearances of such persons, places, or subjects are not usually accompanied by editorial comment. To identify everything is, of course, impossible; some items have been identified only tentatively. The editors thought, however, that as policy, giving even the slightest information was desirable. The names of some persons are marked "unidentified" either because of unavailability of information or because of some uncertainty as to which of two or more persons by the same name was intended. Unusual cases have been explained briefly. The index will be helpful in seeking the location of the original explanation or identification.

The information included in a footnote has often been as-

sembled from several sources, while other footnotes have been composed from sources that seemed too obvious to need citation. These and other considerations have led to the decision to omit the citation of sources except in rare instances.

Bibliographical Note

An admirable multivolume biography of Polk by Charles G. Sellers is nearing completion. The two volumes that have already appeared clearly demonstrate that this work will take the place of Eugene I. McCormac's once-standard work, *James K. Polk: A Political Biography* (1922), and will be the definitive biography for years to come. Sellers's first volume, *James K. Polk: Jacksonian, 1795-1843* (1957), contains a bibliography so comprehensive that it seems unprofitable for the editors to do more here than note some additional materials or special aids.

Of inestimable value to this project is the work of a small, determined band of Maury County women who have made abstracts from old newspapers, written historical sketches of county residents, and compiled records of marriages, burials, and court actions. In seeking information on obscure persons, the editors have also turned repeatedly to various county histories. The Goodspeed publications, now some eighty years old, have presented pitfalls as well as rewards. Other studies used frequently include: William Bruce Turner, *A History of Maury County, Tennessee* (1955); Carlton C. Sims, editor, *A History of Rutherford County* (1947); James McCallum, *A Brief Sketch of the Settlement and Early History of Giles County, Tennessee* (1928); Emma Inman Williams, *Historic Madison: The Story of Jackson and Madison County, Tennessee* (1946); and W. W. Clayton, *History of Davidson County, Tennessee* (1880). Because of Polk's contacts with persons in North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi, the editors have also consulted state and county histories of those three states.

Some of the elusive figures of the past have been tracked down by examining the holdings of various courthouses in Middle Tennessee. Of special aid and comfort from time to time have

been the files of Dr. Daniel M. Robison, who is preparing a comprehensive biographical directory of the Tennessee General Assembly. The frequency with which reference was made to the pages of Charles A. Miller, *The Official and Political Manual of the State of Tennessee* (1890), attests to its value. A survey of extant Middle Tennessee newspapers often yielded annotative material. *Niles' Weekly Register* was used extensively for affairs of national interest. A handy guide on pensions is *Senate Documents, Pension Roll*, 1st Sess., 23d Cong. (Serial 251). This volume, published in 1835, provides convenient listings of pensioners under the different acts of Congress for the years covered herein. Not surprisingly, the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961*, has been a constant companion.

Among scholarly havens, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives have been most fruitful. In the first two, various reference materials, as well as general book collections, were consulted with much profit. For this volume, however, the National Archives, with its vast collections of manuscripts and records dealing with various branches of the government, was vital.

This brief bibliographical note is intended to be suggestive of a few avenues of research traveled by the editors, but it, of course, omits many other valuable aids. Only when this sampling is combined with the Sellers bibliography does a comprehensive survey of sources begin to emerge.

Acknowledgments

The editor would like to express appreciation individually to all persons who have helped to bring this volume to completion, but limitation of space makes it advisable to restrict himself to only a very few. Two native Tennesseans are singled out for special thanks for their role several years ago in persuading the editor to undertake the project: Dr. Philip M. Hamer, executive director of the National Historical Publications Commission, and Dr. Daniel M. Robison, chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Both have retired from the posts they held then, but they have continued to extend every possible encouragement

in furthering the work. Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, who has succeeded Dr. Hamer, has been no less generous with his support. Dr. William T. Alderson first, and then Dr. Samuel B. Smith, who succeeded Dr. Robison on the Tennessee Historical Commission, have continued his policy of unflinching encouragement.

In the beginning, financial support for the undertaking consisted of an annual grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission and the provision of work space and limited teaching loads for the editor and associate editor by Vanderbilt University. Subsequently, through the good offices of Dr. Holmes, the project has received for four years generous grants from the National Historical Publications Commission.

The editors are indebted to the staffs of the National Archives and the Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress, for a multitude of favors. Personnel of the Tennessee State Library and Archives have been uniformly co-operative, especially Mrs. Frank L. Owsley and Miss Kendall Cram and their staffs, who have so often gone beyond the call of duty. Our gratitude goes in full measure to those Maury Countians whose compilations have saved us so many tedious hours: Jill Knight Garrett, Marise P. Lightfoot, Evelyn B. Shackelford, Virginia Wood Alexander, and Rose Harris Priest. The persons involved in typing and in minor research are too numerous to include here, but this volume stands as testimony to their faithful labors. Personal appreciation of the editor is due to Dr. Paul H. Bergeron for his willingness to join the team and speed up the editing process. Through his editorial eye and sound judgment he has made untold contribution to the over-all work. We both are grateful to Miss Mary Lee Tipton and Gary G. Gore of the Vanderbilt University Press for their meticulous editorial work and valuable advice.

Last of all, Blanche Henry Weaver, to whom this volume is dedicated, has not only provided encouragement, yea, nudging, but has pitched in and worked at almost every step. Unmindful of the fact that such tasks were inappropriate for one of her professional training, she has done countless exacting chores that have been vital to the success of the undertaking. Whatever merit this book may have will be in a great part a monument to her patience, understanding, and hard work.

July 1969

H.W.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece: Copy of George P. A. Healy's portrait of James K. Polk (1846), painted by Thomas Casilear Cole by order of the Tennessee Historical Commission and presented to the United States Naval Academy in 1945 on the occasion of the Academy's hundredth anniversary

Facing page 298:

Map of Middle Tennessee, 1832

Letter from Andrew Jackson to James K. Polk, May 3, 1826

Letter from James K. Polk to Andrew Jackson, June 29, 1828

Letter from Archibald Yell to James K. Polk, March 6, 1828

Letter from James K. Polk to Sarah Childress Polk, March 2,
1831

Letter from Cave Johnson to James K. Polk, August 17, 1831

Letter from Aaron V. Brown to James K. Polk, November 23,
1832

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND JANE KNOX POLK

Samuel Polk *m* Jane Knox
(1772–1827) (1776–1852)

James Knox Polk *m* Sarah Childress
(1795–1849) (1803–1891)

Jane Maria Polk *m* James Walker
(1798–1876) (1792–1864)

Lydia Eliza Polk *m* Silas M. Caldwell
(1800–1864)

Franklin E. Polk
(1802–1831)

Marshall T. Polk *m* Laura T. Wilson
(1805–1831)

John Lee Polk
(1807–1831)

Naomi Leetch Polk *m* Adlai O. Harris
(1809–1836) (1800–1862)

Ophelia C. Polk *m* John B. Hays
(1812–1851) (1796–1868)

William H. Polk *m* Belinda Dickinson
(1815–1862) *m* Mary Corse
m Lucy Williams

Samuel Washington Polk
(1817–1839)

Correspondence of James K. Polk

1817-1822

FROM SAMUEL THOMAS HAUSER¹ TO OWEN
HOLMES,²
JAMES K. POLK, AND WILLIAM MOSELEY³

Mr. Owen Holmes

Bethany⁴ July 8th 1817

I am confident that many of my friends, who are informed that I have not yet replaced the money your kindness prompted you to lend me, have not blamed only, but made accusations of a more serious nature against me. If so rebuke them I can not, as sacred is the obligation under which I was bound, to replace it previous to this. But sacred as it was, yet owing to peculiar circumstances and those of a domestick nature, and wounding to my feelings circumstancially at this time, do relate. I beg of you to except this as I my candid reasons of not conforming to my promises. That out of the time I should have spent at home feasting on the smiles of friends, relations and affectionate parents, I have by a complication of business, been forced to spend not more than twice twenty four hour, since I left the U. at home. And this as reason sufficient for my non-performance I can not expect will be received. Yet I earnestly hope that you and others will do me the justice to beleave that could I possible have avoided delaying the payment so long I should certainly have done it &c &c.

Write me an immediate answer to this and in it state freely, if you please, your impression and also that of other's as regards the twenty Dollars, for let them be what they may, I can not blame you, if unfavourable to me yet I wish [to] know them.

You will also write me concerning the collegiate news, and that honourable body of which I was a member.

SAM. T. HAUSER

NB I shall direct this letter to you Mosely & Polk.

Addressed to Holmes, Polk, and Moseley, or the Dialectic Society, Chapel Hill, Orange County. This letter is in the University of North Carolina Archives, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Samuel Thomas Hauser, A.B. 1817, from Stokes County, North Carolina, was president of the Dialectic Society at this time.

2. Owen Holmes, A.B. 1819, from Clinton, North Carolina, became a lawyer and served as a university trustee, 1834-40.

3. William Dunn Moseley, A.B. 1818, from Lenoir County, North Carolina, was Polk's roommate. He served as tutor in the university, 1817-18, and later as one of its attorneys. He was also a trustee. After a political career in his native state that resulted in his being speaker of the state senate and lieutenant governor, he became the first governor of Florida.

4. In Davidson County, North Carolina.

FROM WILLIAM HOOPER¹

The President & members of the Dialectic Society

Gentlemen

[Chapel Hill] August 4, 1817

The severe loss which your treasury has recently sustained, reminds me of an expedient for replenishing it, suggested to me by Mr McPheeters² when I was in Raleigh last. He proposed that the honorary members of your society should each contribute a small sum: a thing which he, as one of them, would cheerfully do & which he thought many others would do with pleasure. A proposition of this kind will best come from one of the honorary members, & I dare promise that Mr McPheeters will be active & successful in carrying it on, if applied to.

I would therefore, gentlemen recommend that a committee be appointed to make out a list of your transient members & forward it to Mr McPheeters with thanks for his friendly suggestion, & a solicitation in behalf of the society, for his agency in procuring the contributions proposed.

W. HOOPER

Addressed to Polk, who was president of the society at this time, and apparently delivered by hand. This letter is in the University of North Carolina Archives, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Hooper was a stepson of Joseph Caldwell, who was for some years president of the university. After taking the A.B. in 1809 and the M.A. in 1812, Hooper took an advanced degree at Princeton and was for a long time on the faculty at Chapel Hill. He also served as minister to various Baptist churches in the state and was president of Wake Forest College, 1846-49.

2. William McPheeters, a Presbyterian minister, was head of Raleigh Academy and a trustee of the university where he received a D.D. degree in 1818. At this time he was an honorary member of the Dialectic Society.

FROM [HARDY L. HOLMES]¹

My Dear Polk

November the 12th 1817

Great as the gratification of receiving a letter from one whom I esteem, must ever prove, more especially from Chapel Hill yet the cause which led to the receipt of your letter was, I confess, productive of a concomitant sensation of regret. Not indeed, from any anxiety that ungentlemanly (I may say villainous) conduct should remain undetected, or that it should not in all cases meet with condign punishment, but purely from the zeal which I shall ever feel for the honor and prosperity of the D. Society & its members, I assure you. I much regret that, that respected body should have indulged in so promiscuous an admission of persons to the privilege of being its members. Regarding reputation of character as the most inestimable of blessings in this life, nay looking upon it as worthy of almost an idolatrous attachment from its fortunate possessors, it has ever been an object of material importance with me, to say nothing derogatory from the good name or character of any individual, unless called on by imperious necessity. It was upon this principle Polk, that I was induced to withhold from the world, certain occurrences which came within my knowledge regarding James H. Simeson,² and even now from the heinous, the verily black nature of those occurrences, I should not be prevailed on to make them publick, were it not that my duty as a member of the Dialectic Society and my regard for the feelings of my old associates in

that body necessarily urge me to the disclosure. I relate to you the following circumstances only on condition that you will not resort to them in the impeachment, unless you should deem the knowledge of them in society, indispensably requisite to Simeson's expulsion. This caution is necessary lest I should be reduced to the necessity of defending myself against a charge of slander at law. Make use of the following however if necessary. During the last session of my senior year in Colege I lost a pair of tongs and a shovel; a short time previous to the last examination of my class at Chapel Hill, I was in the room then occupied by James H Simeson and [. . .] seeing in that room a shovel, which from a [. . .] mark on it, I knew to be my property & [. . .].³

Addressed to Chapel Hill. The postmark is so faint as to be illegible, and if the point of origin was given at the close of the letter it has been torn away. This letter is in the University of North Carolina Archives, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Hardy L. Holmes of Wilmington had been graduated from the University of North Carolina only a few months before this letter was written. He is not to be confused with Hardy Holmes of Clinton, North Carolina, who was graduated in 1824.

2. Like Hardy L. Holmes, he had already been graduated from the university. He was from Virginia.

3. The letter is torn at this point so that the remainder is incomprehensible. Simeson was expelled from the Dialectic Society for stealing the tongs and shovel mentioned. Two names, Stokely D. Mitchel and T. C. Bradley, can be made out in the remaining remnant of the letter. They were students at the university when the theft took place, and both were from Tennessee.

FROM JOSEPH DELAPLAINE¹

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia April 30 1818

I am honoured, this day, with your obliging favour of the 23d. instant, enclosing Twelve Dollars, which I receive in full for the first volume of the Repository which I now Send by this mail elegantly bound in calf.

The 3d. half vol. is preparing for the press. Nothing was ever Sent to Campbell of Petersburg.²

JOSEPH DELAPLAINE

Addressed to Chapel Hill, this letter is in the University of North Carolina Archives, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Delaplaine had a bookstore in Philadelphia for many years. In 1813 he began publication of *Repository of the Lives and Portraits of Distinguished Americans*, which is mentioned in the letter.

2. Unidentified.

FROM JESSE W. EGNEW¹

Dr James

Columbia June 1820

I red yours by the hand of Col Anderson² accompayned with the message of his ex[cellency],³ also have seen a letter you sent to Mr Walker⁴ &c. In compliance with your request & also in perfect accordance with my own wishes, I will give you a brief of the neighborhood occurrences. [. . .] Jack Hays⁵ has been playing the ambidexter with us all. Instead of a deadsite[?] at his dad-ls it is at his mama-in-laws. I would wager, casualties excepted, that he marries M_____ L_____ before Christmas. Mr Blackburn⁶ preached here on yesterday, which drew out his dulcinea, which drew from his many sighs & nasal Hums, which induced me to believe that his heart was smitten, which was demonstrated by his leach adhesion to her &c. all of which matters & things will more fully appear by the time of your return. Catherine is now in this place. She appears in the greatest immaginable plenitude of perfection in every respect. She walks gracefully, talks flippantly, prettily & fluently, laughs loudly, harmoniously &c. And says *James* with her wonted sweetness. If you could but hear how many pretty things she speaks of you, it would wring sighs from you—nay you would belch them out from the bottom of your *belly, alias—the [in]most recesses of the heart. *ab imo pectore.

Roenah has given me a kick, that is flat, altho I have not been to see her since the Frierson Sacrament. It was not a very bad one. I expect in future that I shall be as cautious in entering upon the premises of a shift-tail as the Irishman of stepping on the pavement. Times are squally. The girls kick before they are spurred. There was a wedding on Bigby⁷ on Thursday last. I expect to eat out for dinor this evening—not Hickman.

J L Walkers⁸ little girl is growing well. He calls her name Eve. I have given instructions for the building of your office. Josiah Alderson⁹ is converted, or on the high-road to christianity. All's well. Hay's[?] Jack tender[?] &c. but says he hopes you will have the pleasure of a good *long* session. But if the little L_____ takes such a deep hold upon him you may suppose K_____t safe. Caruthers¹⁰ is well &c; all are well.

The people are waiting auribus inclinibus to receive some information from the legislature. If I should conjecture many will not approbate the report of the Committee. They think, that there is no virtual necessity for convening the Legst., unless they digest some method to alleviate the present distresses.¹¹ The Govns. messg. is looked upon as a popalur effort rather than an effusion of a benevolent heart. People of late view him as a suspicious man, & of Course with a jaundiced eye. I confess I have been somewhat disappointed with the message myself. I expected nothing extraordinary, but yet I looked for something common, & in some degree original. But upon the whole, it's prolixity supplies its imperfections &c. Sir, I could wish that we had something afloat of interest, but barrenness of news pretty nearly corresponds to the unparraled embarrassment of the times. If convenient make a comely bow to the Miss Henderson for me.

J. W. EGNEW

Addressed to Murfreesboro.

1. A young lawyer at this time, Egnew later represented Maury County in the lower house of the General Assembly, 1827-29.

2. Perhaps Samuel Anderson, a prominent political figure in Rutherford County.

3. Governor Joseph McMinn's legislative message, issued from Murfreesboro on June 26, 1820, at a called session of the General Assembly.

4. Probably James Walker who married Polk's sister Jane Maria in 1813. Walker moved from Kentucky to Nashville where, as an apprentice to a printer, he was permitted by his master to try his fortune in Columbia. In 1811 he began publishing the *Western Chronicle*, Columbia's first newspaper. Later he was involved in various business endeavors and became a wealthy man.

5. Unidentified.

6. Gideon Blackburn, a prominent Presbyterian and teacher who, in 1811, organized the first Presbyterian church in Columbia.

7. A creek west of Columbia flowing into the Duck River.

8. Probably James L. Walker, nephew of James Walker.

9. Unidentified.

10. Probably Madison L. Caruthers, Polk's law partner, 1820-22.

11. The state was still suffering from the effects of the Panic of 1819. The special session called by McMinn to devise some ameliorative legislation finally agreed upon a state bank that was essentially a loan office.

TO SAMUEL HOUSTON¹

Dear Sir

Columbia Ten. Sept. 27th 1820

Yours of the 25th Inst. enclosing a transcript of the record of the Superior Court of law for Martin County State of N. Carolina has been received. On examination I think it will be found that this record is incomplete, & not authenticated in the manner required by the act of Congress in order to entitle it to that "*faith and credit*" in the Courts of this State, which would be necessary to enable the plaintiff to sustain an action on the judgment. I think the record incomplete in this, that it does not seem to be a literal transcript of the proceedings in the cause in the superior Court for Martin County, but only the substance in brief. The names of the jurors who tried the matter in controversy & rendered a verdict on it, are not contained in this record. The judgment of the Court is not set forth at length. Nor does it appear from any thing on the face of the record, whether a *feri facias* or *capias ad satisfaciendum*² was issued. From any thing that here appears to the contrary a *feri facias* may have issued & been returned by the sheriff "satisfied." I think this record also defective in its authentication, inasmuch as it wants the certificate of a judge, that the attestation of the Clerk is in due form, which is expressly required by the act of 1 Cong. Session 2nd ch. 11th. I think it therefore advisable for the reasons stated, not to commence an action on this record; but if Mr Slade³ will have a regular transcript of the proceedings in the cause made out, and authenticated according to law & forward it to Mr

[Madison L.] Caruthers & myself or either of us, we will attend to it. I know the defendant—he lives near this place & is worth more than the amount of the demand. If I should see Mr Cherry⁴ shortly I will endeavor to get his note for the amount & sue him on it.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Sam Houston had begun the practice of law in 1818 and at this time was adjutant general of Tennessee.

2. A *feri facias* is a writ empowering a sheriff to levy on the goods of a debtor. A *capias ad satisfaciendum* directs the sheriff to take into custody the person named therein and to hold him until the judgment against him is satisfied.

3. Alfred M. Slade of Martin County, North Carolina, was a student at the University of North Carolina in 1815 and was probably personally known to Polk.

4. Probably Jeremiah Cherry, an early settler in Columbia, who died in 1821. His son, also named Jeremiah, later became postmaster in Columbia.

FROM JOHN S. WILLIAMSON¹

Dear Sir

Nashville Dec. 30th 1820

I am two unwell to rite you myself but am in hopes it will make no Difference as I have receivd yours of the 29th of this instant. I request you to send by Mr. William Phillips² the one thousand Dollars you have colld. in Bank for me.

JOHN S. WILLIAMSON

January 4th 1821³ Received of James K. Polk nine hundred and ninety dollars for John S. Williamson it being the amount of a note deposited in the Branch Bank at Columbia by said Polk for 1000 dollars on Edwd. B. Littlefield⁴ to John S. Williamson, the said James K. Polk retaining \$10 dollars as his fee.

WILLIAM H. PHILIPS

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Williamson had lived for at least ten years in Maury County. He had moved recently to Montgomery County and had engaged Polk to clear up his affairs in Maury County.

2. Unidentified.

3. This note, in Polk's handwriting, was appended to the letter and signed by Philips. Note the discrepancy above in spelling this name.

4. Edward B. Littlefield was of a prominent pioneer family in Columbia. He was engaged in extensive business enterprises, practiced law, and was active in politics. He was twice elected to the state senate, 1829-31 and 1833-35. Later he was prominent in the anti-Polk faction in Columbia.

FROM WILLIAM POLK¹

Sir.

Columbia Febr. 17. 1821

Herewith you will find a Note on Clemen[t]s & Martin² for \$105 which bears interest from this date in consequence of the want of a prompt payment, which if he does not pay on being presented, I wish suit to be brought immediately. This Note together with three Chambers & Clements³ already in suit, for my account, I wish you to press payt. for as fast as the *Law* will admit & when the monies are had to advise me thereof at Raleigh.

I also send you with the Note the return list for taxes in Giles for 1821 which I beg the favor of you to have so placed as shall not involve me in double Tax &c. and whilst at Pulasky to rent the Land where Clements did live, if it is not occupied by any one taking a Note for the rent as well as a Note from David Graves,⁴ for the present years rent should he remain on the Land if not to rent this also.

Upon the rect. of monies from those whom you have brot suit against viz Miller Harwell⁵ &c. be good enough to place the sums in Bank, sending me a Deposit Check for the amount, after deducting your fees.

WILL POLK

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in Elizabeth Gregory McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters from North Carolinians to Polk," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI (1939), 54-55.

1. He was a wealthy resident of Raleigh, North Carolina, at this time visiting Tennessee where he had extensive business interests. He served in the legislature of his state, was president of the State Bank of North Carolina, and was a trustee of the University of North Carolina. Sam Polk, James K. Polk's father, was his first cousin.

2. Probably a business partnership in Giles County. The exact identity of these men has not been ascertained.

3. This seems to be another Giles County firm, and in spite of the variation in spelling, the man named Clements was probably in both partnerships.

4. Unidentified except as a tenant on William Polk's land. This name was read "Groves" in the earlier publication of this letter.

5. Unidentified. In the previous publication of this letter this name was read "Howell."

FROM JOHN S. WILLIAMSON

Dear Sir Montgomery [County] Tennessee Mar 2d 1822

I am sorry to trouble you so often but I am inantious[?] to hear the situation of my business, intrusted to your care and wish to hear from you on the reption of this whether you have got judgment against [Edward B.] Littlefield at your last term or not, and when the money can be made, likewise the [*sic*] when the whisky money will become due or whether you sold the ballance. If not sold, make sail at some price. Advise me whether I should come over with respect to money matters or could make any arrangements with Littlefield for Negroes. As to the whisky money you will if Collected forward by mail. Cut the notes in two send half each mail as there has been some robry in that way.¹ Your attention will much Oblige.

JOHN S. WILLIAMSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Polk made the following notation on the letter: "March 15th 1822. In pursuance of the directions contained in this letter I have this day enclosed by mail to Jno. S. Williamson half of a Nashville Bank note paybl to S. Decatur at Nashville Bank, letter A. No. 980 dated 4 Apl. 1814."

TO SAMUEL H. LAUGHLIN¹

Dr. Sir Columbia March 15th 1822

Since the receipt of yours of the 25th Feby I have seen the Revd. Peyton Smith,² who has arranged his business with Black-

man.³ The Supreme Court at this place adjourned on yesterday. Our mandamus case stood at the heel of the docket and was the last case argued. [John] Haywood⁴ was clearly of opinion for us, [Thomas] Emmerson⁵ against us, and [Robert] Whyte⁶ signified that under present impressions he thought the peremptory writ ought to issue but would prefer taking an [. . .] in order to examine authorities. He said that as his brethren differed so widely it was a circumstance well calculated to make him pause. So that the case is continued over until next Term when the [. . .] be greatly in our favor, as Emmerson will [. . .] resigned previous to that time—and another [. . .] in his stead whose opinion may be different.⁷ As the case stands what will you give or take for the whole interest? [William] Davidson⁸ has procured one affidavit identifying the Bluffs contended for as the Charcoal Bluffs⁹ as far back as thirty seven years ago.

JAMES K. POLK

N.B. The celebrated occupant question has been determined by the Supreme Court on an application for a peremptory mandamus to the Surveyor to receive an Entry covering occupant entries made under the law of 1819.¹⁰ The Court unanimously refused the writ, but on different grounds. Whyte & Emmerson were of opi[ni]on that the law of 1819, giving a preference was no violation of the compact. Haywood considered the law of 1819 void, so far as it gives an occupant preference, as being an express & direct violation of the compact but was of opinion that the Court possessed no power to grant this writ. Old Yancey¹¹ is rejoicing, & will be a candidate again.

J. K. P.

Addressed to Murfreesboro.

1. At this time Laughlin, whose home was McMinnville, was practicing law in Murfreesboro. Subsequently he was editor of an influential newspaper, served in the state senate, 1839–45, and was one of Polk's loyal supporters.

2. A Baptist minister in Rutherford and adjacent counties for many years.

3. Probably Blackman Coleman, Rutherford court clerk, 1813–24.

4. One of Tennessee's leading jurists as well as one of its most famous historians. In the first decade of the century he moved from North Carolina, where he had enjoyed a distinguished legal career. He sat on the Tennessee supreme court from 1816 until his death in 1836.

5. Born in Virginia, he moved to Tennessee in 1800. He was a law partner of Pleasant M. Miller and became the first mayor of Knoxville. He served on the supreme court from 1819 until 1822 when he resigned.

6. Born in Scotland, where he was educated for the ministry, he studied law in Virginia, practiced for a short time in North Carolina, and moved to Nashville in 1804. He served on the supreme court from 1816 until 1834.

7. A portion of three lines has been blotted out at this part of the letter.

8. Wealthy planter and politician in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He owned large tracts of land in Tennessee.

9. Unidentified.

10. An old law in both North Carolina and Tennessee gave title to an occupier of land if he had been undisturbed in his occupancy for seven years and could show some legal claim to the land. In 1816, with Haywood dissenting, the state supreme court ruled that an occupant must be able to trace his deed back to the original grant. Since this ruling would cast doubt on the legality of so many titles, the General Assembly in 1819 passed a law, not retroactive, however, that affirmed the old rule that an occupant should be protected even though he could not trace his claim back to the original grant. Much still depended upon the interpretation of the law by the court. Ultimately, with the author of the 1819 law sitting on the supreme court, that body upheld the rights of the occupier.

11. William Yancey represented Maury County in the General Assembly, 1819-23. In 1823 Polk defeated him in his try for re-election.

FROM JOHN S. WILLIAMSON

Dr. Sir Montgomery [County, Tennessee] March 25th 1822

I recd yours of the 15th Inst. with the enclosed half twenty Dollar note. You will pleas forward the other half on the recpt of this. I wish you to make sail of the whisky as soon as posable and to the best advantage, and forward the money as soon as convenient, likewise that of [Edward B.] Littlefields. I wish you to make as erly as posable the money, I am owing in part for my Land. I also wish you to give me some information with respect to Mjr. Porters¹ business and mine as there is a ballance due me on that score. I left 25 dollars with Mr. D. Martin² for the purpose of satisfying the sherriff. You will pleas make the nesery enquiry and informe me in your next.

JOHN S. WILLIAMSON

NB Oppertunity offers and I send this to Nashville. You will direct yours as usual to Port Royal.³

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This refers either to Nimrod Porter, who was sheriff of Maury County, 1818–41, or to Joseph B. Porter, who served as county court clerk in Maury, 1807–28.

2. David Martin, a Columbia merchant.

3. Located on the Red River in the northeastern part of Montgomery County. It is about fifteen miles from Clarksville, the county seat.

FROM SAMUEL R. RUCKER¹

Sir.

Murfreesboro May 5th 1822

Please to send the money² you have collected for Lawson H. Alexander³ by Majr Graham.⁴

S R RUCKER

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Murfreesboro lawyer of prominent Rutherford County family. He was mayor of the town in 1826 and was elected to the General Assembly in 1827.

2. An endorsement in Polk's handwriting reads, "Saml. R. Rucker's Order \$161.25." A second endorsement dated May 8, 1822, and signed by Polk reads, "Paid to Daniel Graham \$161.25 in pursuance of the within order—that being the amt. by me collected after deducting my collection fee."

3. Unidentified.

4. Daniel Graham of Murfreesboro, who was secretary of state for Tennessee, 1818–30, and state comptroller, 1836–43.

TO WILLIAM POLK

Dr. Sir

Columbia Ten. Sept. 24. 1822

A few days since I deposited in the Bank at this place one thousand & seventy two dollars and ten cents to your credit, that being the balance collected on the judgments in Giles Circuit Court in [. . .]¹ against Harwell & Co. and Clements,² after [. . .] my collection fees at the rate of 2½ pr. Ct. [. . .] \$38.88. The amt. last recd. I learned [. . .] to the Clerk of

Giles Court had been [. . .] him in vacation in payment of the judgments, and had remained in the office, and had been used by him, of which circumstance he gave me no information—He refuses to pay interest for the time he has been using the money. I shall endeavor at the next term to compel him to do so, and if I [. . .] will place the amt. recovered to your credit and advise you of it. The balance due from the Clerk is of small amt. being a remainder of interest accruing after the rendition of the judgments.

Judgments were recovered in your favor at the [. . .] Williamson Circuit Court against the estate of [. . .] Miller^s amounting to \$3677.99 $\frac{2}{3}$. I have made the necessary endorsements and saw the executions issued. I suppose from what I can learn, there is little doubt but they will be enjoined at least in part, untill the cause in Equity now depending between Craig⁴ and yourself is determined. So soon as the whole or any part is collected I will advise you of it. Mr. Cobbs⁵ of this town owns a bond for about \$900. on a solvent man, who resides in Person County N. C. but whose name I have forgotten. He requests me to [. . .] upon what terms you would be willing [. . .] him Tennessee money at this place in [. . .] the bond. N. Carolina money is at present [. . .] at 15 pr. Ct. in Tennessee money. Mr. Cobbs states that he has little doubt from the character of the debtor, that the money will be paid without suit.

JAMES K. POLK

NB. I am a candidate for the H. Rept. in the Tennessee Legislature and am opposed by the former representative *Yancey*.

J. K. P.

Addressed to Raleigh, North Carolina. This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library.

1. This letter has been torn in several places along the margins. This and the following ellipses represent perhaps two or three missing words.

2. Positive identifications were not made, but these are firms, probably in Giles County, against which William Polk had claims. See letter from William Polk, February 17, 1821.

3. Unidentified.

4. Unidentified.

5. Probably Robert L. Cobbs, a prominent Columbia lawyer.

TO HENRY CHARLES CAREY AND ISAAC LEA¹

Gentlemen

Columbia Tennessee Nov. 4th 1822

Yours of 12th Sept. is recd. enclosing my Bill for one year's subscription of the Journal of Jurisprudence. I enclose you \$5.00 the amt. thereof. I wish to continue to take the work. You will therefore be so good as to forward me all the numbers after the expiration of one year which have not been forwarded & draw on me for the amt. that may be due at the end of the next year.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Philadelphia. This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

1. Son and son-in-law of Mathew Carey. They were partners in a famous Philadelphia publishing house.

1823-1825

FROM WILLIAM F. BROWN¹

D Sir

Kingston² August 11th 1823

I take the liberty of saying to you that I am a candidate for the office of assistant clerk to the House Representatives. Should you think me qualified for that office I should be happy in having your support.

WILLIAM F. BROWN

Adressed to Maury County.

1. Brown was not elected on this occasion but was elected engrossing clerk during the next General Assembly.

2. County seat of Roane County, adjoining Knox County on the west.

FROM PLEASANT M. MILLER¹

Dr. Sir

Knoxville August 18th 1823

You will be called on in your Legislative capacity during the ensuing session of the Legislature to elect a Senator in the Congress of the U. States to supply the vacancy in that Body occasioned by the expiration of the term of service of our late Senator John Williams.² Having determined to become a candidate for that appointment, I deem it proper to state that my political creed is decidedly Republican and that should I be chosen by the Legislature my best exertions shall be used to

promote the election of Andrew Jackson to the office of President of the United States and for the advancement of the prosperity of our common Country.

P. M. MILLER

Addressed to Lawrenceburg.

1. Knoxville lawyer who had served in the United States House of Representatives, 1809–11, and in the General Assembly for three terms. He was a strong advocate of preferential rights of land occupants and debated with Felix Grundy on this issue. He married a daughter of William Blount and in 1824 moved to Jackson in West Tennessee.

2. Of a remarkable political family, Williams had been in the United States Senate since 1815. He had served under Jackson but was critical of Jackson's actions in the Seminole expedition. He was a conspicuous opponent of the Blount–Overton faction which was determined to defeat him in his bid for another term in the Senate. When Miller and others failed to attract enough support to challenge Williams, Jackson entered the contest and beat him by a narrow margin.

FROM ISHAM G. SEARCY¹

My Dear Col [Murfreesboro] November 25th 1823

I hope if through chance my name should be neglected to be announced, you will do me the favour to announce my name as a candidate for Surveyor in Rutherford County, where I have for a long time been Surveyor, when the Surveying was very inconsiderable, and now something more is to be made, I am to be put out of office because my Representation in the Senatorial branch² is opposed to me. This you can account for. I hope the members will not forget the Services I have rendered both branches heretofore without compensation apart of two sessions.

I. G. SEARCY

Addressed to Polk at the house of representatives and apparently delivered by hand. The General Assembly was in session at Murfreesboro at this time.

1. Searcy served the General Assembly in the capacity of special clerk and general scribe for the members. In 1824 he went to Florida as a clerk to the newly appointed Surveyor General, Robert Butler. There he became an

important leader in business and political affairs. He had a reputation for fine penmanship, and this letter was beautifully done.

2. Robert Jetton was the newly elected member of the state senate from Rutherford County, succeeding William W. Searcy. Jetton had come to Rutherford County about 1800 and had been prominent in local politics. He operated a tavern in Murfreesboro and had served in the War of 1812. Isham G. Searcy's father and one of his brothers bore the name William W. Searcy. It is not clear which of these Jetton succeeded.

FROM HENRY CRABB¹

Dear Sir, Murfreesborough, September 2d [1824]

I feel considerable concern in being under the necessity of saying, that I cannot get off to your court before Saturday or Sunday the 9 or 10th inst—*when* I shall come, if informed by Thursday's mail, (next), that the court will sit until Monday the 11th. Prior engagements here will not admit of my absence; and a law, passed *since* my employment by Maj. Davidson,² altering the time of the session of this court, creates the interference. I can be there by the 11th. Perhap judge Haywood³ will be accomodating. I send you some most material papers should it come on in my absence. I consider it not very material however what may be the result in the equity court. For in the Court of appeals doubtless must the matter be decided in the last resort. Perhaps it may be best to put things *industriously* into such a state, as to have a decree at this term, and thus promote an early final determination.

With a past & present disposition to desire your abundant welfare & success. (Paper & pens scarce)

HENRY CRABB

This letter bears no address and was probably delivered by hand. Moreover, the date was given merely as September 2.

1. A prominent member of the Nashville bar and a partner of John Bell. He was elevated to the state supreme court in 1826 at the age of 33 and died the next year.

2. William Davidson of Charlotte, North Carolina.

3. Crabb was appointed to fill the vacancy created by John Haywood's unexpected death in 1826.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dear Sir Charlotte [North Carolina] January 22d. 1825

I recievd. your letter together with the answer you Prepard. to which I was qualified agreeable to your instructions And have forwardd. it to the Clerk in Equity at Columbia as you directed.

I was somewhat longer in forwarding my answer than I Could have wishd. Mr Wilson¹ my atto. Here was absent at Raleigh and did not return until within a few days. I had a wish to see him before I sent On the answer &c. The answer I believe Contains all the material Facts of the Case.

Those persons to whom I sold land, and Who are also partners in the Suit, ought to feel an interest In the Case. I Sold to them under the belief that the Decision of our Court was full and Conclusive, and that I had full and ample authority to sell. I will thank you to mention to them that they must not omit their Share of attention to the Suit.

I Should be Glad to hear from you When Convenient, And Should also be Glad when you have Reflected fully on the case that you would Give me your Opinion as to the final disposition of the Case in your Court. The Case is of importance to me in several respects. I sold Under the belief that I had an honest legal right to do so & I feel myself persecuted in some degree by the opposite party From whom I had a right to Expect a different Course.

I want your serious attention to the Suit and Should I succeed as I have some reason to think I will, you may Expect a liberal addition to what you have Recd.

I Should like to Know where your Court Comes on, and whether my presence will Be necessary.

I Should be Glad to get you to Settle my business with David W McGee.² I calld. On him at Florence, but he was unprepared to settle, Said that some papers were in the hands of the Late Judge Trimble³ which were necessary for him on Settlement. I have Just understood that Mr McGee Drew a draft upon me which has not as yet been presented. I do not know the Amt. and Mr McGee never mentioned The subject to me. I had a note of

his in my hands for Collection, on which the draft was probably grounded. This Note I returnd. to him at Florence. I will write you again on the Subject And Send on Some papers or Accounts necessary for me on Settlement.

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 55-56.

1. Probably James W. Wilson.

2. Davidson wrote this name McGee throughout his correspondence, but no person by this name has been located in Maury County. There was a David W. McRee in the county, and possibly this is the person mentioned by Davidson. McRee later migrated to central Alabama. Moreover, this man's family had lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and presumably was known to Davidson personally. Whatever the spelling of the name, he was a representative of William Davidson in Middle Tennessee and engaged in finding buyers of some of the extensive landholdings Davidson had there.

3. James Trimble died in July 1824. He had represented Knox County in the General Assembly before he moved to Nashville in 1813. His reputation as a fine lawyer attracted a number of law students to his office. Among them were Sam Houston and Aaron V. Brown.

FROM ANDERSON CHILDRESS¹

Dear Col.

Murfreesboro, Tenn Aug. 6th 1825

Inclosed I send you Some [. . .] which I wish you to acknowledge the Service of & Send them to me, before our court which Sits next week. Bring them to Franklin with you. I will See you there. I have nothing new, to Say to you, but hope that you have been Successful in your Election. I am beat & in fact we are all beat. Here McC.² is the Senator, Brady the Rep.³

John⁴ will give paticulars. Give my love to Sister.

A. CHILDRESS

No address is available, but this appears to have been sent to Columbia.

1. A Murfreesboro lawyer, who was at this time administrator of the estate of his father, Joel Childress, who had died August 18, 1819. When Joel Childress died, none of his four children had married. By the date of this letter Anderson had married Mary W. Sansom, Susan had married Dr. William R. Rucker, and Sarah had married James K. Polk. The other son, John W.

Childress, was still unmarried. Anderson Childress mismanaged the Joel Childress estate and became involved in much litigation that might have been avoided, including suits in which he was opposed by the other heirs. At the time of his death in 1827 the estate was still unsettled.

2. Matthew McClanahan. He was a pioneer in the county and had been Rutherford's second sheriff. He served only one term in the General Assembly.

3. William Brady, a lawyer, served five successive terms in the lower house of the General Assembly, 1821-31, and was elected speaker during the next session after this letter was written. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1833 and died two years later during a cholera epidemic.

4. John W. Childress, younger brother of Anderson Childress and a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina, was admitted to the bar in 1826 and practiced in Murfreesboro. Later he was a planter and banker in Rutherford County.

FROM JOHN McLEAN¹

Washington, December 2, 1825

Instructions have already been sent to mail contractors to time their arrivals and departures at Shelbyville in accordance with suggestions made by Polk earlier in the day. To insure the execution of these instructions they will be repeated.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. Ohio lawyer who had served as Commissioner of General Land Office. He had been appointed Postmaster General by Monroe and had recently been reappointed to that position by Adams. He resigned in 1829 and served on the United States Supreme Court, 1829-61.

FROM [WILLIAM M. STEWART]¹

[Washington] Bounty Land Office, 3d Decr. 1825

W. M. Stewart has the honor to enclose the printed regulations for the Heirs of James Shirley late a soldier in the 7th Infantry, who was killed in action on the 17th of Decr. 1817, & to inform Mr. Polk, that when a Certificate of Heirship is produced, a Land Warrant will issue.² The name of Nichs. Meeks³ cannot be found on the rolls of the Infy. or does it appear that a Land Warrant has been issued. His Discharge should be produced, or if

lost, the enclosed regulation will direct. Enclosed also are brief notifications of Warrants issued for Heny. C. Helmes & Elias Highsmith⁴ late of the 7 Infy. for information respecting their Patents, & for a Copy for Joseph Holmes⁵ of the 20 Inf, application is [to] be made to the Commissr. of the General Land Office, to whom a memorandum was this day refered respecting the *three* last claims.

Addressed to Washington. This message was not signed.

1. Native of Virginia, who was a long-time employee of the War Department in Washington.

2. A notation in Polk's handwriting dated December 9, 1825, said that he had written to Col. George Bumgarner at Elkton, Tennessee, in relation to the James Shirley case and that he had enclosed some printed blanks.

3. Another notation by Polk on the same date stated that he had enclosed to Peter Swanson of Giles County the printed regulations setting forth the manner and form in which proof of the loss of his discharge must be made out in order to entitle him to a land warrant.

4. Helmes and Highsmith both served during the War of 1812. Since their service records indicate that they were not then in the 7th Infantry, it is likely that they had also served at some later date. Still another notation by Polk says that a warrant had been granted to Helmes in January of 1824 and given to John Williams. Highsmith had also been issued a patent that was delivered to Newton Cannon. This information, according to Polk's notation, had been passed on to James Davis of Wayne County.

5. No War of 1812 service record was found for Holmes. He had probably served after that time.

FROM THOMAS L. MCKENNEY¹

Washington. December 3, 1825

Satisfactory explanation of delay in presenting the case is the only deterrent to favorable action on the Ragsdale claim.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

1. A native of Maryland, McKenney had edited and published the *Washington Republican and Congressional Examiner*. From 1824 to 1830 he headed the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His later publications, including his memoirs, shed much light on Indian affairs of this period.

FROM THOMAS L. MCKENNEY

Washington, December 10, 1825

In reply to letter of yesterday. Information asked regarding delay in filing Ragsdale claim is merely a precaution. Regulations require that the information be provided.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

FROM AARON McWHORTER¹

Dir Sir State Tennessee Lincoln County December 20th 1825

This is to inform you that I attended in Fayetteville on the days of both our last circuit and county courts, and was disappointed in [not] seeing you and have now wrote to Col Douglass² of Wilson County to transmit my certificate for my services in the revolutionary war. And if he should fail to send it on be so good as to examine the war office and there you will find that I served under Col Henry Hampton and Capt. John Foster in the State of North Carolina, for the term of Ten months altho I enlisted for only nine. And the reason why I could not draw my pension was there was some deficiency in the certificate owing to my not Serving as a continental sold[i]er and only for the State of North Carolina altho we done duty in South Carolina also. You will confer a lasting obligation on me by attending to this for me as my circumstances is low and I am not able to work for a support my self and family and for Thirty years have thought it my duty to support the everlasting gospel and have always done the same untill now I am no longer able to do it. Therefore pray for assistance from that government which when young I so willingly hope[helped] to establish. And if any more is wanting to establish my clame be so good as to inform me of it and I will try to obtain it.

AARON McWHORTER

Addressed to Washington.

1. McWhorter appears on the Revolutionary War pension rolls, his payment commencing March 4, 1831. He died in January 1837.

2. Probably Burchett Douglass, whose legislative career included representing Wilson County in the lower house of the General Assembly for three terms and then serving as speaker of the senate, 1831-33. Afterwards he moved to Fayette County and established a bank; he was elected to two terms in the lower house from that county. In 1840 he served as a Whig presidential elector from Fayette County.

FROM PETER HAGNER¹

Washington. December 21, 1825

Money due ~~Asa~~ Thomas who died in the service in 1815 was paid to one William McCullagh who took out letters as curator of the estate at New Orleans.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. A native of Pennsylvania, Hagner served for many years as Third Auditor in the Treasury Department. Earlier he had been an accountant in the War Department.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 21, 1825

Widow of James Jones not entitled to pension since he died after discharged and his death was not due to wounds received in service.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1826

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 18, 1826

All pay due Richard McGee as forage master was paid. He is due rations while in that post and the pay of a private after he resigned as forage master.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM ROBERT H. McEWEN¹

Col. Polk.

Fayetteville² 20th January 1826

To serve a neighbour and a very poor man,³ I have taken the liberty of Troubling you with the inclosed package. The object of this is to intrude on your goodness so far as to get you to draw the definit sums of money, & when you draw the same please deposit the money in the Branch Bank of the United States & inclose me the certificate of deposit. On examination should any of the papers be wanting let me hear from you, so that I can have them corrected in time. Your attention to this buisness will much oblige me & greatly oblige & serve a very poor man, who has a large family to raise, & they are getting old & feeble.

R. H. McEWEN

Addressed to Washington.

1. A prominent Fayetteville merchant who was elected alderman in 1823. In 1836 he became the first superintendent of public instruction for Tennessee

and was subsequently charged with misappropriation of state funds. It appears, however, that there was no dishonesty involved.

2. Fayetteville was the county seat of Lincoln County, which was for some years in Polk's congressional district. It was at this point that Jackson's forces gathered to begin their campaign against the Creeks in 1813.

3. This is probably the Mr. Kent who is mentioned again by McEwen in his letter to Polk, December 2, 1826.

FROM THOMAS WASHINGTON¹

Dear Col,

Nashville, January 22d, 1826

Your letter addressed to me from McMinnville, I received in due course of mail. I should have answered it immediately, but was called off in a few days after it came to hand, to the special session of the Chancery court at Franklin, before I had time to examine the papers in the case of Betts vs Childress's exr.,² and was detained there three weeks. The Supreme court commenced its session here immediately upon my return, and as the case of Betts vs Childress's exr. was so near the front of the docket, I concluded to defer writing until the decision might take place, when I should have something more satisfactory to write about. I gave to the papers a thorough examination, and argued the case, which came on about the latter end of the first week of the session. On the day before yesterday, three of the judges gave their opinion against Childress, upon the principles of the interlocutory decree which had previously been made in the cause. That is, such parts of the land as fall to Betts, by a voluntary division once made by him and Childress in his life time, the title to which yet remained in Childress's heirs, was decreed to Betts. The part in possession of Miller³ was also decreed to Betts, upon the ground, that it was included in Childress's bond to Betts for a conveyance, that that bond constituted a preferable lien to Childress's bond of a subsequent date to Miller for the conveyance of the same land; and, that as Childress's deed to Miller for the land, was executed after the filing of the bill, *lis pendens*⁴ was notice. There was still a portion of the land included in the bond on Childress which Betts held, which was conveyed by Childress

to Elam,⁵ before the commencement of the suit, and at a time when Betts's lien did not attach. For this portion, the three judges aforesaid, decreed compensation in damages. Whyte has not yet pronounced his opinion, but has strongly intimated, that Betts must be sent to a court of law to recover these damages. The other three judges take a distinction, between damages, and compensation, where there can be specific performance in fact. The principal difficulty was, so far as you were concerned, whether this compensation should be decreed against all the heirs, or against the executor. It was decided that the decree must be made against the executor; that he had not, when the suit was revived against him in that capacity, insisted upon the defence of fully administered, and that the other heirs were only before the court for the purpose of being divested of title to such portions of the land as their executor had not sold in his life time. The execution, therefore, will go against the executor, to be levied of the goods and chattels which were of the testator in his life time; and should there be none of that description to be levied on, the question will then be presented, whether the creditor's recourse is against the sureties in the administration bond, or against the heirs generally. That question is not disposed of in this case, but is involved in another case which stands for trial this term, and probably will be settled before there is a necessity for deciding it either in this case, or that of Childress exr vs The Legatees of Childress, depending at Franklin. Dr. Rucker was with me two days at Franklin, and I gave him full memoranda and instructions about getting ready, & he promised to attend to it.

THOS. WASHINGTON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A Nashville attorney, formerly of Wilson County, who achieved eminence in his profession.

2. This case had its origins in the purchase by Joel Childress and Zachariah Betts of a tract of some 1450 acres, originally a part of a grant made to a Revolutionary War veteran named William Mitchell. In 1804 Betts and Childress had the land divided, and thereafter Childress sold most of his part. Subsequently it was learned that the Mitchell grant overlapped previous

grants and that under the Betts-Childress division Betts would be deprived of much more than would Childress. In order to get an equitable settlement Betts brought a friendly suit against Childress, but before the case was decided both Betts and Childress died. The Betts heirs continued the suit against Anderson Childress, executor of the Joel Childress will. Shortly after the court decision in this case Anderson Childress also died, leaving the Joel Childress estate unsettled. Much of the litigation in which Anderson Childress had involved himself was settled out of court by the other heirs.

3. Andrew Miller had bought from Joel Childress a part of the Mitchell grant after the original suit had been filed by Betts.

4. The doctrine of *lis pendens* gives the court control over property involved in a suit until a final judgment has been rendered. The established rule is that *lis pendens* is notice to a purchaser, and he is bound by the final decree.

5. On January 30, 1813, Daniel Elam of Murfreesboro had bought from Joel Childress a part of the Mitchell grant.

TO JAMES BARBOUR¹

Sir

Washington City Jany. 26th 1826

By the last mail I recd. from Tennessee, the enclosed certificates of Dr. Joel B. Sanders² & Dr. John B. Hays,³ in support of an application of John V. Thorp⁴ at the War Department, for an increase of Pension. I am personally acquainted with Dr. Sanders and Dr. Hays. The[y] are both graduates of medicine and stand deservedly high in their profession. The utmost confidence may be placed in their statements. When the application of Mr. Thorp for an increase of Pension is decided on, be so good as to inform me of the result.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Princeton University Library.

1. Former governor of Virginia and United States senator, who was at this time Secretary of War.

2. A Columbia physician.

3. Columbia physician who later married Polk's sister Ophelia Clarissa.

4. Among Polk's papers is a statement by John Thorp, dated January 14, 1817, that he had enlisted in the 20th Regiment under Edward B. Randal and had been discharged at Plattsburg. The dates of his service were not given. Another paper dated October 28, 1826, makes reference to a land patent issued to John Thorp for war service. Although Thorp has not been definitely

identified, it seems likely that he was a resident of Polk's congressional district and probably a resident of Maury County.

FROM THOMAS L. MCKENNEY

Washington. February 2, 1826

The Second Auditor has been instructed to pay the claim of Peter Ragsdale to Polk as attorney for the claimant.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS¹

Sir

H. Repts. Feby. 16th 1826

A few years ago I understand an application was made to the war Department by Nathaniel Laird² for a pension. The pension was not allowed. At the present Session of Congress he has petitioned for relief, and his case is now pending before a committee of the House. If consistent with the regulations of the Department, I wish to obtain the original papers on file in your office, together with the causes of rejection, with a view to have them referred to the same committee that has his case under consideration. If necessary I can return the papers so soon as his case is finally disposed of. If the original papers are not suffered to leave the Department be so good as to furnish me copies.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

1. A native of Virginia, Edwards was a clerk in the office of the Secretary of War. Later he became Commissioner, Pension Office of the War Department.

2. Laird had served with Pennsylvania troops during the Revolution and was placed on the pension rolls January 12, 1827, retroactive to August 21, 1826. He appeared on the census records as a resident of Maury County, but the pension list showed him a resident of Bedford County. He probably lived in a neighborhood along the boundary between the two.

FROM [PETER HAGNER]

Washington. February 23, 1826

Note and enclosures relative to application of William McCurry's¹ widow for a pension are received. If irregularities in the papers can be explained the settlement will be made.

Addressed to Washington. The letter is unsigned.

1. Service records of two men by this name were found, but no positive identification has been made.

FROM JOHN McLEAN

Washington. February 27, 1826

Mr. Brewster's letter about sending mail by Mt. Pleasant has been noted and the mail contractor instructed to carry out his suggestions.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

FROM FRANCIS PORTERFIELD¹

Dr Sr

Fayetteville March 2d 1826

I received your letter of the 17th Decr. and respond to your sentiments on the Presidents message at the opening of the session and believe me dear sir, when I say that I feell a deep interest in your success in the station which you now occupy, and am pleased to find that you are pursuing the course which will qualify you to act a conspicuous part hereafter. I learn from the newspapers and from a pamphlet for which I am indebted to your kindness, that, the select committee of the senate to which was refered the several resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution, have reported an amendment altering the mode of electing a President and Vice President of the U States. Your constituents admit the necessity of a change, and will submit to any alteration that will keep the election out of the house of representatives. They appear to acquiesce (but perhaps without much reflection) in the report of the committee of the senate. As

to myself, after a carefull perusal of the report and bestowing on it all the reflection I am capable of doing, I cannot discover how it can be altered for the better, but I fear, that, for the purpose of reconciling the small states and getting them to adopt amendments the vote in the second election instead of being by districts, will have to be given by states, which would be giving them influence far above what they now possess or ought to have in the appointment of this officer. The subject which next most interests your constituents in this part of your district is a canal around the Muscel Shoals² in the Tennessee river. As all this state is not directly concerned in the making it, nor possessed of the teritory through which it must pass, and Alabama is divided into sectional parties which have lately become more hostile to each other on account of the removal of the seat of government from Cahawba to Tuscaloosa,³ it is believed that but little can be effected towards making it among ourselves, and unless something is done by Congress toward accomplishing this work it must remain undone. How far it may be politic to urge such a measure before the present session, you will be best able to Judge but it does appear to me that at a proper time and when the this [*sic*] subject comes fairly before Congress that it will appear to be a work worthy the patronage of the nation. The following [are] some of the reasons which make me entertain this opinion.

It will open an almost uninterrupted communication between N Alabama, E Tennessee, and a part of W Tennessee and the great emporium of the west, N Orleans, which is now rarely open more than three weeks in the year, and then the passage is dangerous.

It will open a more direct communication with the same sections of country by way of the Ohio river & the Ohio and Chesapeake canal (when it is made) with the middle & eastern States.

The expense will be trifling compared with the magnitude of the object to be effected.

It will be expending monies amongst us, who, altho we pay as much indirect tax as any other portion of the Union, never have the satisfaction of having (except for carrying the mail) one cent of it spent amongst us.

We may fairly claim it as our right when the treasury is opened to lavish out the money for public improvements, to thrust in our hands and take a little to smooth the road to the market, where our surpluss produce (which is not a little) has to be caried to be disposed of.

When I began this letter I intended pursuing this subject further by giving you the probable estimate of produce that now yearly passes the M Shoals, and what would be the probable quantity, was the navigation improved by a canal, and it might also be shown, that it would increase the revenue of the U States, through the increased consumption of foreign goods which would naturally follow any new facility of getting produce to market to pay for them. But I find that I cannot say all that I intended in the limits of a single letter and no doubt all this and many other circumstances in favor of the measure will present themselves to you, should it become necessary for you to act on the subjects.

Before I close this I must beg leave to mention one other matter. I understand that a new Federal circuit is about to be organised including Tennessee & Alabama. If it will not interfere with your feelings on the subject I would wish George W Campbell⁴ to have the appointment of Judge. You know him and it is not necessary for me to say anything about him. You are more capable of Judging who should fill this office than I am. You will therefore not consider me as wishing you to support Judge C_____ against your better Judgment or inclination.

A[ndrew] A Kincannon⁵ is Elected Lieut. Col. over R H McEwen, Majority 182 votes. Your friend Fulton⁶ is lying very low at Shelb[y]ville.

F PORTERFIELD

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler in Fayetteville. He was a merchant and was sheriff of Lincoln County, 1822-26.

2. Using funds obtained from the sale of lands lying within the state that the federal government turned over to the state for this purpose, Alabama undertook the building of a canal around Muscle Shoals in 1831. The sale of lands did not bring sufficient funds to carry out the project as originally planned, and the curtailed project, put into use in 1836, proved of little value and was abandoned during the next year.

3. The bitter political fight resulted in moving the capital to Tuscaloosa in 1826, and a similar fight ended by removal of the capital to Montgomery some twenty years later.

4. A Nashville resident, he had a long career of public service, holding posts in both houses of Congress, as judge on the state supreme court, as Secretary of the Treasury under Madison, 1814, and as minister to Russia, 1818-21. After that time, except for 1831 when he was one of the commissioners on the French spoliation claims, he held no public office. He died in 1848.

5. He moved to Tennessee in 1818 and was a farmer, merchant, and finally a lawyer in Lincoln County. He served as sheriff of the county and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1834.

6. James Fulton, who has been styled the "father of the Fayetteville bar." He moved to Lincoln as a young man, and except for serving one term as attorney general and serving as a member of the constitutional convention in 1834, he devoted his time to the practice of his profession.

FROM TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO [POSTMASTER GENERAL]¹

Washington March 13th. 1826

The undersigned Senators & Representatives from the State of Tennessee, present for the appointment of Postmaster at Nashville Mr. Benjamin F. Curry. They are induced to this course from a consideration of his merits, having acted as Deputy in that Office for several years past, but essentially for the reason that he has been recommended by nearly the entire population of the town of Nashville and its vicinity whose wishes, whatever our own might be, should be attended to and regarded. But over and above their knowledge and the recommendations respecting him, the undersigned from their own acquaintance had by some of them and information by others, present Mr. Currey as aptly qualified and as one who will be entirely and altogether acceptable to the citizens of Nashville and its vicinity.

HU. L. WHITE
JNO. H. EATON
J. C. MITCHELL
JAMES K. POLK
J. C. ISACKS

JNO. H. MARABLE
ADAM R. ALEXANDER
ROBERT ALLEN
SAML. HOUSTON
JOHN BLAIR

Presumably addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Received by Office of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

1. This letter apparently went first to the Post Office Department. When Currey failed to get the appointment for which he is here recommended, the letter was apparently sent on to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Some years later he was appointed to superintend the emigration of the Cherokees. See Currey to Polk, January 24, 1829, and Polk to John McLean, March 6, 1829.

TO ANDREW JACKSON¹

My Dear Sir: Washington City April 3rd 1826

I should have written you at a much earlier period of the Session, but for the consideration, that you were probably much perplexed by troublesome correspondents, and from the belief that I could not communicate to you any thing which you did not already know, or which could at all, interest you.

On Saturday evening the 1st Inst. after a long and laborious discussion, the testing vote was taken on Mr. McDuffie's propositions² to amend the Constitution, and stood in favor of taking the election from Congress 139 and against it 52. In favor of the District system 90 and against it 102. There being a Constitutional majority in favor of the first resolution the subject was referred to a select committee of 24 to draw out the details of a plan of amendment, embracing the object of the first resolution and report it to the House. You have no doubt seen my views at length upon this subject. I prefer the district system to any other, but if it cannot be established as the Uniform mode throughout the Union, such are my well settled convictions from short observation here, of the absolute importance, not only to the purity, the honor and the dignity of Congress, but it is to be apprehended to the duration and harmonious operations of the Government itself, that this important election should in no count devolve upon Congress, that in order to attain that desirable end, I am ready to do, as the venerable conventionists did, to compromise—to meet in a spirit of conciliation on middle ground, and in order to obtain an important principle, surrender all minor considerations. At the close of the discussion of this subject on Saturday, there was some sharp shooting in the

House. Mr. McDuffie in his speech of Friday, in illustration of the importance of the plan of amendment by him proposed, took occasion to review the course pursued by the present Secretary of State³ in the last Presidential election. The friends of the Secretary were quite sensitive, and after having slept and reflected upon the subject, and no doubt consulted with the prime minister himself, Mr. Trimble⁴ of Ken. & Vance of Ohio⁵ appeared on the floor on Saturday as his champions and the common defenders of the Secretary and themselves. Mr. Trimble took occasion in attempting to justify himself for the vote which he had given in that election, to refer to your report in relation to the conduct of a portion of the Kentucky troops at New Orleans and assigned that as the reason why he had voted against you. The first charge was promptly met and spiritedly repelled by Messrs. Moore⁶ and Henry⁷ of Kentucky. Both T. & V. were indirectly abusive & personal towards McDuffie, who rose after they had done to inquire more distinctly what they had said, and whether the allusions were to him, & being evaded, though evidently much excited, yet he (McD) firmly addressed the Chair in Substance as follows. "I understand the game Sir: that is going on, and I know the dastardly individual who skulks behind the screen and works the wires, & if the Secretary of State wishes *me* to notice his tools & understrappers he must send *gentlemen*, or if he will shew himself I will recognize *him* as a *gentleman*. I will not call on his minions here, but if called on by them, I will for once forget that they are not gentlemen, & will notice them as such." The question was immediately taken, and this is the last that we have heard upon the subject. What course they will take is unknown. The general impression is that there will be no fighting. Your Tennessee friends will sustain McD. in any extremity. In relation to Mr. Clay he (McD) boldly upon the floor told a plain unvarnished story, and one so true as to make all concerned in the transaction feel it most sensibly.

The *Panama Mission*⁸ will probably be taken up in the House today, upon an application for an appropriation to defray the expenses of the Mission. It will be firmly met and opposed in every stage, and will probably give rise to an animated and lengthy discussion. It involves as it seems to me a total departure

from that uniform course of policy pursued by the Government from its foundation to the present hour; and is a total abandonment of the sound political measures laid down by Washington, and upon which the country have acted ever since, viz—that our policy is peace, that a strict neutrality should be observed by us between belligerent powers, that we should court friendly relations with all, but entangling alliances with none &c. I am opposed to the Mission in every view which I have been enabled to take of it. It cannot possibly do any good. It may and probably will do much harm if we engage in it. If it is perfectly convenient & you are not oppressed by your numerous correspondents I should be happy to hear from you. Present me to Mrs. Jackson and accept assurances of high regard & esteem.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

1. Jackson had resigned from the Senate during the previous October and was already engaged in a campaign for the presidency, which he had so narrowly lost early in 1825.

2. George McDuffie, a member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina. His proposal concerning a change in the method of electing the President arose from the election of 1824 in which the House of Representatives chose Adams over Jackson despite the fact that Jackson had won more popular votes as well as more electoral votes than had Adams.

3. Henry Clay, whose appointment to this post gave rise to the charge that through a "corrupt bargain" he had supported Adams in return for appointment as Secretary of State.

4. David Trimble was in the House of Representatives from Kentucky, 1817-27.

5. Joseph Vance of Ohio served in the House of Representatives, 1821-35 and 1843-47. A Whig, he was governor of Ohio, 1836-38.

6. Thomas Patrick Moore of Kentucky was a member of the House of Representatives, 1823-29.

7. Robert Pryor Henry, a Kentucky lawyer, served in the House of Representatives from 1823 until his death in August 1826. John Flournoy Henry, a physician, was elected to finish out his term.

8. Called by Simon Bolivar to discuss problems common to American Republics, it met in June 1826 and ended in almost complete failure. Persuaded by Clay, Adams nominated two delegates only to meet serious objection in both houses of Congress by Jackson partisans. After long, acrimonious debate, the delegates, John Sergeant and Richard C. Anderson,

were confirmed and the money for their expenses appropriated. Anderson died en route, while Sergeant failed to reach Panama before the convention adjourned. It was during these debates that Clay and John Randolph became involved in controversy that resulted in their famous duel, which took place less than a week after this letter was written.

TO JAMES BARBOUR

Sir

H. Repts. April 14th 1826

By yesterday's mail I recd. from William Moore¹ of Tennessee, recently appointed a Cadet, the enclosed letters addressed to you, purporting I presume the acceptance of the appointment. He requests me to forward them to you, and says he will be at West Point at the time required.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Cadet Application Papers, United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1. No person by this name was graduated from West Point during this period. It appears that Moore never actually entered.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dear Sir

Hermitage May 3rd 1826

Having on my return from a vissit of business to Florence Alabama,¹ the pleasure of receiving your favour of the 3rd ulto. for which receive my thanks. Although at all times it afords me pleasure to hear from my friends in Congress, still I know their situation too well, to require any apology for not writing to me.

I have been leisurely viewing the passing scenes at Washington, and your speech on the amendment on the constitution I have read with much pleasure, and I can assure you is well received by all your constituents, and gives you a strong claim to their future confidence.² I agree with you, that the District System is the true meaning of the constitution, but as this cannot be obtained any uniform System ought to be adopted instead of leaving the election of President to Congress. We have seen enough to be convinced, that it will lead to the destruction of our

happy republican system if left to the House of Representatives. And every friend to the perpetuation of our happy system ought to meet upon this question with the true feelings of conciliation and compromise. And if we cannot obtain what we believe the best, let us for the welfare of our country and perpetuation of our happy government adopt what we may deem the next best. Let it be uniform throughout the United States, and it will be beneficial compared to leaving it with the Representative branch. I have viewed with deep regret the warmth that I have seen displayed in the House of Representatives. In that august body nothing but decorum ought to exist. Every member is secured by the constitution the freedom of debate, and the conduct, and public characters of all public men, are of right the Just subjects of investigation, and whilst the Speaker confines himself to facts, he is within the pale of his constitutional duty. Hence I am pleased to see the Tennessee delegation determined to support Mr. McD.[uffie] in his constitutional course.

I am happy to see that this dangerous project, the Panama Mission, will be met fully in debate; to my mind, it is one of the most dangerous, and alarming schemes that ever entered into the brain of Visionary politicians. One from which many and multiplied evils, & dangers, may, & must result, without the promise of any real benefit that could not have been obtained in a different way without endangering our safety or our national faith. By persuing the policy of the father of our country, which he had acted on with success, and had bequeathed as his last best gift to his prosperous country there was much safety, we are in peace with all the world, our commerce spread over the ocean, and great prosperity at home. To abandon a policy so wise in itself, and so beneficial an experiment to our country displays a weakness or wickedness not paralleled in the history of any country. It is a bold game of ambition, that puts at once to hazzard our peace, our happiness, and for what is known may lead to the destruction of our liberty at last, and all this without the least apparent cause for a departure from that wise policy recommended by Washington, "peace with all nations entangling alliances with none." The South America's had our friendship, our sympathies & good wishes. We have ministers with them to form

commercial treaties, on the broad basis of reciprocity. In our neutral situation we could serve them more & better than any other way. The moment with them, we become beligerant, we raise up all Europe against them, & us, & thereby endanger the safety & independence of all. When alone & united, we put at Defience all invaders—and by the proposed mission we lay a foundation of disagreeable colision & dispute with these republics themselves. I can see in it nothing but great evils, & I hope the firmness of Congress will defeat this wild project. The eyes of the people are opened upon this subject, & it is unanimously disapproved here. The Documents has given them light and it is condemned.³

I called at your fathers on the last day of April, he had been very sick, was still weak but better. I hope he will be able soon to travel to the Warm Springs. The ballance of your family enjoy health. I had the pleasure of seeing your lady. She enjoys good health, but as you may expect complaining of your absence. I write in haste for your own eye. I have not time to correct it, and you will excuse errors & this hasty scroll. I have Just got home, and have many letters to acknowledge. I was glad to see the resolutions you have offerred; they will bring every member to the true constitutional point. We will see the republicans of 98 and those who have sailed under false colours. These will prove the touchstone of political faith. I wish to see the yeas & nays, and on which side my friend Livingston⁴ records his vote. See the Journals of former times how it may comport therewith. I am called by company and must close this hasty scroll.

ANDREW JACKSON

Marked "Private," this letter was addressed to Washington.

1. At this time Jackson owned a plantation near Florence, as well as lots inside the town.

2. Polk's first major speech in Congress supported McDuffie's proposal to take the presidential election out of the hands of the House of Representatives in case there was no majority in the electoral vote. Polk proposed the abolition of the electoral college, advocating a system that would allow the people to vote directly for the presidential candidates.

3. It is generally conceded that much of the opposition to the Panama meeting was rooted in a desire by Jacksonians to embarrass the Adams

administration, but there was real concern that participation would lead to foreign entanglements. Many southerners were reluctant to send representatives to a convention where slavery would almost surely be discussed.

4. Edward Livingston, at this time a congressman from Louisiana. He voted in favor of appropriating money to have a mission appointed to the Congress of Panama.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. June 16, 1826

A claim is made from Maury County by one Samuel Hyde Saunders¹ for a pension for the widow of Thrasher McCollum.² A man named Saunders is suspected of defrauding ignorant clients. Requests that Polk investigate.

Addressed to Columbia. This is a clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.
2. Other than that he had died while serving with the Tennessee militia, he has not been identified. See Hagner to Polk, August 17 and 19, 1826.

FROM WILLIAMSON SMITH¹

Sir, [Maury County] 18th July 1826

By my Brother Gabriel I send you the Negro Girl and Man which I have levied upon by virtue of my deputation. I have also levied on a Carding Machine and also a set of bellowses, and some other little things of little importance. I am obligd to start on to Nashville in the morning or I should have come down. I wish you to see to the advertising &c. as it will be necessary for me to be there. I wish the sale not to be appointed sooner than next Munday week. There is a claim on the Negro Girl and also on the Man but I do not think either sufficient to hold the property and to evade the payment of Wood Just debts. I shall be in Columbia next Munday.

WILLIAMSON SMITH

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Resident of Maury who became a strong political supporter of Polk. He served in the General Assembly on two occasions, first finishing out a term of

Terry H. Cahal when he resigned and then being elected to one full term, 1839-41.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. August 17, 1826

The part of the pension of Thrasher McCollum, deceased private in Tennessee militia, that is due his widow is \$120 and will be sent to Polk for her.

Addressed to Columbia. This is a clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. August 19, 1826

The part of Thrasher McCollum's pension due his seven children is \$170 and will be forwarded when a guardian is appointed.

Addressed to Columbia. This is a clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dear Sir

Charlotte N.C. Sept. 18th 1826

I expected to have been in Tennessee this fall Otherwise I should have wrote you before this Time. It is probably that my Suit in Chancery will be Tryed At your fall Term. I Know of nothing new to commun[ic]ate To you in relation to the Suit. I believe you and Col. Crab¹ are in possession of all the evidence in the Case And of the disposition of Sundry Suits in N. Carolina Brought by the Same parties. You mentioned in your Last letter that Some proposition of Compromise had Been made by the Council on the opposite Side. They have Said nothing to me on the Subject, And if they had It would have been unavailing. I Shall be Governed Entirely by your Judgement, And will do nothing without your advice. Indeed I Should prefer Trying the Case On its Merits. I Still flatter myself and feel much encouraged By your opinion that the final issue of the case will not be

against me. If however we Should be unfortunate in the Chancery Courts I hope we Shall be more Successful In your Supreme Court. The Suit is One of importance to me As well as to the persons in possession of the Land.² I feel Extremely anxious that they Should not be disturbed in Their Just rights, for I never Should have Sold any Part of the Land, if I had not been advised by the Best Council in N. Carolina that I had a full and Just Right to Sell, & agreeable to the desission of the Supreme Court of N.C. my title to the Land would be good To the purchaser. And as I before observed the Case Is One of importance will require Considerable attention & Labour On the part of my Council and in case we are Successfull I will do as I have heretofore Said a liberal part by my Council.

I have been neglectfull in not Making Some arangement to Settle with David W McGee. It was his request I Should do So, and desired that I Should get you to make the Settlement. You advised Me however that your public duties would render it Inconvenient for you to attend to it, but that your Father would probably do me that favour. I intended To have wrote him On the Subject, but believe I Never did. I have understood that Mr McGee Has left Alabama and is now living in Columbia And probably will continue to attend to my business. If however he Should wish a Settlement, I hereby Authorise you to make it with him, and in Case you Can not attend to it, be so good as to Speak To your father to oblige me So far as to Settle with Mr McGee in Such way as he may think Just and Equitable, And Take the notes and papers into his Possession.

I intend if I live to be in Tennessee next Spring. I Should have been out this fall, if I Could have Collected as Much money as I wanted to have brought with Me. Money however is very Scarc. We in truth have had and have Still pretty hard times in this Country in the money way. And indeed we have Tough times this Summer as to bread and meat. Corn Has Generally Sold at One Dollar or One Dollar 25 cent pr Bushel and much of the Corn brought from and Beyond the mountains. The oats Crop has entirely faild. There is not Seed in Country. We Shall have to depend on the upper Counties for our Seed.

Be so good as to write me as Soon as Convenient.

W. M. DAVIDSON

P.S. You feel Some interest in the next Election for president. Very little is Said on that Subject in N.C. The public papers have not Taken their Stand. Genl. Jackson got the State before and it is more than probable that he will get the State again. That will however depend on circumstances. I will write you more fully on this Subject at Some other time.

W. D.

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 56-57.

1. Henry Crabb.

2. The case mentioned grew out of the will of Thomas Davidson, whose widow William Davidson married. Nieces and nephews of Thomas Davidson, led by John H. Davidson, were attempting to recover lands in Maury County that William Davidson had assumed were his as heir of his wife, who had died in 1813.

TO ROBERT L. CARUTHERS¹

My Dear Sir

Columbia Sept. 25th 1826

Brother *Marshall*,² informs me that he will be a candidate for the assistant Clerkship in the Senate, at the approaching Session, in the event the office should be vacant, as it is rumored it will, in consequence of the removal of the present incumbent (Mr. Bradford)³ to the State of Alabama. He is wholly unacquainted with many members of the [body and] of course must rely on the opinion entertained of him, by his friends, for a suitable recommendation. You know him, and his qualifications, and if it should be your pleasure, to commend him to your Senator (Mr. Hughes)⁴ and such others as you may have it in your power to see, you will render him an essential service, and confer a lasting obligation on me. I regret that it was not in my power to spend more time with you when you were at Columbia. I had many things to say, and no doubt much to hear, *de publico bono*, as you know *we politicians* always have. Possibly I may have an opportunity of seeing you at Nashville at the meeting of the Legislature. Commend me in the kindest maner to my friend Col. *Allen*⁵ and his good lady.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee. This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library.

1. A native of Smith County, he was in the mercantile business briefly before becoming a lawyer. He served as clerk of the lower house of the General Assembly and as clerk of the chancery court of Smith County. He moved to Lebanon in Wilson County about 1827 and afterward served as state attorney, as a judge in the state supreme court, in the United States Congress, and as a Whig presidential elector in 1844. He was professor of law at Cumberland University.

2. Marshall Tate Polk, who was just over twenty-one years old. He was unsuccessful, if, indeed, his name was ever put in nomination. On the first day the senate balloted several times without electing an engrossing clerk, but the names put into nomination are not known. On two successive days the names in nomination were listed in the *Journal*, and Marshall Polk's name never appeared. On the third day, after more than forty ballots had been taken, John H. Morgan was chosen.

3. Benjamin M. Bradford.

4. Littleberry Hughes represented Smith County in the lower house of the state legislature, 1815-21, and in the senate, 1825-27.

5. Robert Allen was at this time a colleague of Polk in the House of Representatives, where he served, 1819-27. Born in Virginia, he had moved to Smith County in 1804 and had been clerk of the county for many years. During the War of 1812 he had commanded a regiment under Jackson. Sam Houston's divorced wife was his sister.

FROM THOMAS KERCHEVAL¹

Dear Sir

Fayetteville 23rd October 1826

I have sent my Claims on to Nashville since I saw you. The persons that Examined them say they see nothing wanting to draw the pay. I therefore inclose them to you to present for payment, if you please. You have the discharge of Wm Phelps² with a blank power. If it is necessary you can fill it up to yourself or any other person. If the papers should want any further proof on presentment you will please let me know.

THO KERCHEVAL

No address is available, but this letter was probably sent to Washington.

1. A Lincoln County lawyer who later moved to Nashville.
2. Service records of several persons by this name have been examined, but no positive identification has been made.

FROM CHARLES BOYLES¹

Sr. Fayetteville 6th November 1826

I have been requested by a Mr Ezekiel Falkner² to enquire about the claim of the heirs of Jonathan Hall who died in the service of the United States in the Creek war. He belonged to Col. John William's Regt. of Regular troops.³ This man Falkner is the grand father of the children (the heirs) and is very old & poor. He says that he employed a gentleman of the name of Hutchins some years ago to attend to it, since which time he can hear nothing of it. I imagine he, Hall, died from wounds recd. in the service. Probably his heirs are entitled to something I do not know. If convenient I wish you would examine & inform me if there is any trace of it to be found in the proper office at Washington.

C. BOYLES

Addressed to Washington.

1. Prominent lawyer of Fayetteville. He served as county clerk, 1836-40.
2. Except that he was a resident of Lincoln County, he is unidentified.
3. He also served in Benton's Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers during the War of 1812, and it was probably during that period, rather than in the Creek War, that he died.

FROM CHARLES W. WEBBER¹

Dr. Sir Columbia, Tennessee Decr 1st 1826

I am induced to write you under considerations much of a private or personal nature, and probably may be imposing on you trouble and difficulty, without the possibility of my being benefited. As preliminary to a disclosure of the object of this letter it may be well enough to remark that two years ago through two of the Kentucky delegation in Congress I made application to the general government for an appointment of Consul to a port on the Pacific in the Republic of Mexico, and then having some assurances of obtaining one, but not being enabled to procure the one I felt the most solicitude to obtain I declined any others. My object now is to renew my application for such an appointment,

and as there are one or two vacancies of the description in South America, by recent deaths, I would be glad to obtain one or the other of those appointments. They may already be forestalled by assurances from the executive to particular individuals. If such be the fact, you may be apprised of other vacancies of which I have no knowledge, probably as lucrative as either of those I have named, if so you can use your own discretion in making the application for me.

I have nothing to present to the executive as claims upon their patronage, neither do I fancy from their distinguished talents and obvious impartiality that any thing I could urge would avail me. I am too humble an individual and situated so remote as I am from the seat of government, ever to have been known to them either personally or politically. My political sentiments however are well known by you, and if known by the heads of departments probably would not present any obstacle in the way of my appointment.

I have addressed you under the belief that you would be disposed to render me any assistance within your power, notwithstanding our difference upon political subjects, and of our respective opinions in relation to the administration, and any service you may be enabled to render me will ever be gratefully remembered.

CHARLES W. WEBBER

P.S. Please answer my letter as soon as you can ascertain whether I will succeed or not.²

C. W. WEBBER

Addressed to Washington. In Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. A lawyer in Maury County who had lived there about three years. In 1829 he was chosen recorder of Columbia.

2. See Webber to Polk, January 23, 1827.

FROM ROBERT H. McEWEN¹

D Sir

Fayetteville 2d Decr. 1826

I must once more request of you to attend to the papers of Mr Kent.² Your immediate attention will be greatly acknowl-

edged. Mr Kent (as I before observed to you) is a very poor man & needs the money & so soon as I hear it is collected I will pay over the money here. I hope you will meet with no difficulty in drawing the money, as I have endeavored to procure sufficient evidence to explain away the inconsistency in the former evidence of Mrs. Kent as to the back pay. I believe Mr Kent has concluded it will cost more trouble & expense to administer on the Estate of Mr. _____ than the pay will be worth. When you draw the money you will please deposit the same in the Branch Bank of the United States at Washington, to the credit of our frinds Messrs. Robert A. Taylor & Co. merchants Baltimore, & take a certificate of deposit and enclose the same to our said frinds in Baltimore, or manage it in the most easy way so that they get the money. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time. Our Legislature is still in session, we have not had any late interesting news from them.

ROBERT H. McEWEN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Enclosed in this letter is a copy of a letter from McEwen and Gilliland to Messrs. Robert A. Taylor & Company in Baltimore, asking that they send the papers of Mr. Kent to Polk in Washington. It states that these papers were left with that firm by Mr. Gilliland. Samuel E. Gilliland, McEwen's partner in a mercantile business at this time, was prominent in business affairs of Fayetteville for some years. He served as trustee of Lincoln County, 1828-36.

2. Unidentified.

TO ANDREW JACKSON¹

Dear Genl.

Washington City Decr 4th 1826

Congress has just convened, organized & adjourned until tomorrow. The message has not yet been recd. There is considerable anxiety among Mr. Adams's political friends as well as among the *factions opposition*, (as you know the printers by authority term us) to know what its complexion will be. Will the President still press the ultra federal policy which has heretofore marked his administration, or will he *from policy* recede? If he takes the former course, he has I think had abundant testimony that the

great body of the people of the Union will not sustain him; and if the latter he subjects himself to the charge of inconsistency. It is possible he may give us an *electioneering* negative sort of thing, the main object of which may be to promote his own views and those of his *dear Secretary*.² I have not since I saw you collected any political information, which would interest you, but what you have had an opportunity of seeing in the newspapers, and do not now address you for the purpose of communicating any, but merely to intimate to you, what may possibly occur, & of which it may be important for you to have early information. On my way through Virginia, to this place, I learned from a source in which I place confidence, that it was contemplated by some of the leading men of that State, about Richmond, to address you soon, for the purpose of ascertaining your opinions at large, in relation to the construction which you place on the federal consti[tu]tion, and more especially in relation to the power of making internal improvements, through the territory of the States, by the General Government. Your opinions on this subject I have no doubt have long since been settled, and when called on in a proper way I have as little doubt will be given independently and regardless of consequences. Virginia you know is exceedingly sensative on this subject, and the only object I at present have in writing you is, that you may not be taken unapprised, and be called upon for a hasty opinion. Without great care in the phraseology employed to convey our ideas, you know the plainest sentiment in the English language may be perverted, and by the uncandid made to mean any thing but what it was intended to mean. It may be that the call may never be made; but whether it should or not, I hope not to be deemed obtrusive in making the suggestion. It can do no harm. The information though not given to me in confidence, I presume was not intended to be made public; I feel however unrestrained in communicating it to you and for your greater satisfaction, will state it to you confidentially as I recd. it. At Abingdon in conversation with Dr. *McCall*,³ he stated to me that such a call would certainly be made on you; that he had learned it from *Col. Campbell*⁴ a very intelligent gentleman of that vicinity and one who was well acquainted with the views of the leading politicians

of the State, and particularly of those in Richmond and its vicinity. Whether the call will proceed from the *friends* of the administration, or from the lukewarm, I am unable to say. That it will not proceed from your friends I am satisfied, 1st because they have had ample opportunities in the whole tenor of your public life of understanding and knowing your opinions upon this as well as all other great National questions, on which it has become necessary for you to either speak or act, and 2nd because in Virginia, your friends have now, no occasion to make such a call, for Virginia, from information recd. from all qua[r]ters is now as determined in her opposition to the present administration, as Tennessee, Pennsylvania or any other State in the Union. Whatever therefore may be the design of some in Va. who have suggested this plan, with a view as I believe to injure you in that State, the effort must be wholly *abortive*. I must close this communication already swelled to a much greater length than I anticipated when I commenced it. It is written with the best design, and if the suggestion contained in it should possibly be of any service I shall be amply rewarded. In the progress of the Session if any thing of interest should occur, which does not appear in the Newspapers, I will take great pleasure in communicating it, and shall be happy at any time you can find leisure to hear from you.

JAMES K. POLK

N.B. Our foreign friends here rejoice with us at the success of our friend Majr. Eaton.⁵ We consider it a great point gained.

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. It has been published in John Spencer Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson* (7 vols.; Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution, 1926-35), III, 321-322.

1. Jackson was involved in preparing for the approaching presidential election, having resigned from the Senate more than a year before.

2. This is an obviously sarcastic reference to Henry Clay, Secretary of State.

3. Dr. Alex McCall was a prominent resident of Washington County, Virginia. He was involved in King Salt Works, owning considerable stock in the company.

4. David Campbell was born and reared in Washington County, Virginia. After service in the War of 1812 he returned to Abingdon. He served four

years in the state senate, then became its clerk. After holding this post for several years, he was elected governor of Virginia.

5. John H. Eaton had recently been re-elected to the United States Senate.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. December 7, 1826

Since James Sykes¹ did not serve nine months during the Revolution his claim under the law of March 18, 1818, cannot be allowed.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Lynchburg, then in Lincoln County, Sykes was granted a pension under new legislation. It was granted in 1833, retroactive to March 1831.

FROM THOMAS L. MCKENNEY

Washington. December 8, 1826

The claim of William Smith¹ for property lost on federal road in Cherokee country is rejected for lack of conclusive evidence.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

1. It is not clear whether or not this is the same person who later received a Revolutionary War pension. See Isaac Southworth to Polk, November 27, 1832.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 9, 1826

Signature on William Phelps' application for back pay differs from that on muster roll. Depositions identifying him as the person who actually served will be required before payment can be considered.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 9, 1826

Denial of a pension to Jonathan Hall's widow in 1820 was based on an erroneous entry of the date of his enlistment. The pension will be allowed upon receipt of proper testimony concerning the widow and children.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in *Miscellaneous Letters Sent*, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM CHARLES WORTHINGTON¹

Sir

Washington Dec. 11th 1826

Altho. a stranger to you, I am bold to ask the favour of a loan of \$20 until my remittances reach me, which will be in a few days. The extreme emergency of the present occasion must be my apology. Your compliance will very much oblige.

CHARLES WORTHINGTON

N.B. Your answer is respectfully requested to be left at Browns Hotel.

Presumably this letter was addressed to Washington, although the page containing the address is missing.

1. Unidentified.

TO SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD¹

Sir:

Washington City, H. Repts. Decr. 13th 1826.

Enclosed is a letter addressed to you, which was handed to me, by my friend Mr. Littlefield, in Tennessee, with a request that I would have it safely conveyed to you. It contains, he informed me, letters addressed to his kinsman Mr. [Grey] Skipwith² a mid-shipman of the navy, and now as I understand in the Pacific, and is conveyed to you with a hope that an opportunity will occur to enable you to send the enclosure to him, earlier in all probability than to any other person. Your attention to his

request will render a singular favor to Mr. Littlefield and will confer an obligation on me. When at perfect leisure, you will confer an additional favor by informing me when a probable opportunity of sending the letters will present itself, that I may advise Mr. Littlefield of it.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Miscellaneous Letters Received by Secretary of the Navy (RG 45), National Archives.

1. A native of New Jersey, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy by Monroe in 1823 and retained that position until Jackson acceded to the presidency. He was governor of New Jersey, 1832-33, and was a member of the United States Senate, 1821-23 and 1833-42.

2. His exact relationship with Littlefield has not been ascertained. Littlefield married a widow Skipwith, who had two sons, George G. and Peyton. Grey was probably a son of one of these. After he was out of the navy, he lived in Maury County, marrying there in 1836.

TO WILLIAM POLK

My Dear Sir: Washington City Decr. 14th 1826

I hope to be pardoned for not having written you earlier, and more especially for not having acknowledged the receipt of your kind letter of last spring. My only apology is the want of matter which could by possibility interest you. I saw *Lucius*¹ on the day I left home, he was in fine health, seems to be much devoted to his farm, and is I think much pleased with a *bachelor's life*. My father's health when I set out continued bad; I am happy however to learn since my arrival here, that it has improved, and that he is in better health than he has been during the summer.

As to news political, or of any other kind, I have but little to communicate but what you have doubtless seen. The President's Message you will have recd.; it is comparatively a plain matter of fact communication; a negative electioneering sort of thing; very different from the towering [. . .] communication at the commencement of the last Session of Congress. His eulogy of *Alexander*² does not comport with our mode of thinking in reference to the sovereigns of Europe, and is I think at all events

misplaced in a State paper like this. His logic in having been "confirmed", "in the, conviction of the expediency to the United States of being represented at the Congress" of Panama, because the absence of our Ministers, "deprived us of the opportunity of possessing precise and authentic information of the treaties which were concluded at Panama" (at the former meeting of the Congress) is I confess to my mind not very conclusive.³ But the subject of our colonial trade, with the British West Indies, and the possessions of that power on this continent; the recent order in Council &c. &c. is a source of much more vexation, at this moment to the President and his Cabinet, than any other. The present awkward situation in which we are placed in relation to that trade, however they may attempt to plaster it over, and attribute it to other causes, is and must be attributable to the administration. At the last session of Congress, an attempt was made in the Senate by Mr *Tazwell*⁴ of Va. and some other very intelligent members of that body to legislate on the subject and thereby, (as would have been the case had Congress done so) prevent the present state of things, which they very prudently foresaw might be the result of an omission to do so. But the friends of the administration no doubt *advisedly*, opposed the passage of any law on the subject. The object was to place another feather in Mr. Adams's cap, by having the subject adjusted by negotiation. The Senate were induced to believe, or at least many of the members of the Senate were so, that Mr. *King*⁵ our then Minister at *London* had instructions to negotiate on the subject, and that in all probability the negotiation might then be going on. The fact turns out to be on the publication of the documents that Mr. *King* had no instructions from the Government, to negotiate on the subject at all. So it is, the "*factious opposition*," as you know we are all called, by the hireling prints of the Government, who do not send in our adhesion and render a passive obedience to the powers that be, were overruled, as they were upon the Panama Mission, Governor *Branch's*⁶ resolutions & several other important subjects; no law was passed. It now appears the administration have failed to settle the matter by negotiation; the British order in council took effect on the 1st of the present month. That Government *now* refuses either to nego-

tiate on the subject or to extend to us the benefit of her act of Parliament, as we failed to avail ourselves of its provisions previous to the 1st of the present month. No candid mind, it occurs to me, can take a fair view of this whole subject without coming to the conclusion, that whatever injury may be sustained by the country, or any portions of our citizens, is attributable wholly to the administration. The "*factious opposition*" as they are termed, who really consists of the friends of the Constitution, & who do not support upon the fashionable doctrine of *faith*, every measure emanating from the administration, merely because it is an administration measure, are to the extent of the power of the administration and its friends literally proscribed. In the selection of all the important committees of the Senate, in which body the administration have a small majority, (the same they had on the vote on the Panama Mission,) they have all been arranged for effect. Studied majorities in favor of the administration have been placed on each, regardless, it would seem in some instances, of qualifications, talents, or experience. The selections were no doubt made, in conformity to a previous secret understanding, among the favorites at Court, an understanding made either in secret caucus, or by some other mode of communication, which was unknown to others. Among other remarkable changes which have been made, Mr. *Senator* Macon,⁷ has been removed from his situation as Chairman of the Committee of Foreign relations, and Mr. *Tazwell* and himself have been placed in a minority as members of the Committee. The reason of this is obvious. The Committee of Foreign relations at the last Session, did not suit the views of the Secretary of State. They were independent enough to entertain their own opinions, even when they differed with the President or his Secretary of State, and they had talents to sustain those opinions by arguments, which have never to this day been refuted. This however was a sufficient offence, to turn them out or to place them in a situation, where they would be in a minority, and therefore be comparatively harmless. And so, to some extent of all the other important committees. In the H. Repts. too, some remarkable changes have been made in the Committees by the Speaker. They too have all been arranged for

effect. All this ought perhaps not to surprise us, when we remember, that every administration of the American Government, since it went into operation, have with short intervals of exception, had a majority of Congress in their support. Such has been the influence of *their* immediate proximity to Congress, and such has been the influence of power. The influence of power too became much greater, when the great lever of public patronage, is corruptly used, for party purposes, & to sustain an administration, who never came into power by the voice of the people. But I fear I have already fatigued you by the length of this communication, already swelled to a much greater length than I anticipated when I commenced it. It is hoped there is yet a redeeming spirit in the people. One word *confidentially*, on another subject and I close. I know you are the sincere friend of *Genl. Jackson*, and in being so are as I conceive, the friend of the sovereignty of the people as expressed in the last Presidential Election, and likewise the friend of the Constitution and of the country. Your Legislature will I understand convene, late in the present month, and will probably be in session on the anniversary of the Memorable 8th of January 1815. I would suggest for your consideration, would not that be an appropriate occasion, to give some public expression of opinion on the part of your Legislature, in relation to that distinguished individual, the "Hero of N. Orleans." If unanimity could prevail in the Legislature, and a respectful but firm & decided opinion, in reference to the course of the administration, the manner they came into power, and in support of *Genl. Jackson*, it might & I think, would effect much in other sections of the Union. If considerable division should be found to exist in the Legislature, perhaps, it would be well not to attempt it. But of this, you can best judge. I merely make the suggestion, supposing it possible it might not have occurred to your mind.

Present me kindly to Mrs. Polk, and to Judge Badger^s who I understand is now a distant kinsman; I am but very partially acquainted with him, never having seen him except, at Commencement, when I graduated at the University, but am happy to recognize him as a kinsman & should be gratified to hear from

him. Mrs. Polk spends the winter with me in Washington. She is in good health; accept renewed assurances of regard and esteem; I shall expect to hear from you soon.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Raleigh, North Carolina. This letter is in Correspondence of the Polk Family of North Carolina, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

1. Lucius J. Polk, son of Colonel William Polk. He had moved to Maury County in 1823 and represented the county in the state senate for one term, 1831-33.

2. Alexander I of Russia had died December 1, 1825. While minister to Russia, Adams had been friendly with the Tsar, whom he always considered a friend of the United States, even though he was involved in the Holy Alliance.

3. Adams thought it unfortunate that the United States delegation had not arrived in Panama before Congress adjourned, and he made it clear that he would try to have representatives of this country at future gatherings of the kind.

4. Littleton W. Tazewell served in the Senate, 1824-32.

5. Rufus King of New York served as minister from May 1825 to June 1826. He had held the same post some years before.

6. John Branch, United States senator from North Carolina, 1823-29. He later served as Secretary of the Navy in Jackson's Cabinet.

7. Nathaniel Macon, United States senator from North Carolina, 1815-28. He had served in the House of Representatives for several terms and had been Speaker, 1801-07.

8. George E. Badger of Raleigh had recently married Mary B. Polk, daughter of Colonel William Polk. He was later elected to the United States Senate and was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President William Henry Harrison.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dr. Sir,

Columbia Dec. 15th 1826

I this morning executed contracts for carrying some mails, and their having come out differently from the way agreed on by the Post Master General, induces me to request that you will call on Mr. [John] McLean, and particularly understand his present views & wishes upon the Subject. I am willing to carry the mail according to the contract I have executed. They are filled up according to the proposals & to my bids and if Mr. McLean is not

under a mistake I have nothing more to say, and will carry them as the contracts have come out until directed differently.

When I was in Washington I mentioned to Mr. McLean that Waterloo should be included in the route from Hardinsville to Florence, & bid for that route as advertised \$300. to take in Waterloo \$375. and another days time. I thought Carrolsville ought to be included in the Route to Lexington and, mentioned to Mr. McLean that the Route from Lexington to Jackson might be dispensed with by extending my route to Huntingdon or Jackson, and a saving to the department of 34 or 6. miles, as the mail from Nashville to Jackson would intersect it there, and furnish Huntingdon with a mail.¹ I proposed to Mr. McLean the Schedule enclosed for that Route to embrace Nos. 51 & 52. The PM-Genl will find by referring to his pamphlet of proposals for these Routes, memorandums corresponding with these I enclose and probably some memo. on the Book in which the bills are registered and by referring to my bids the matter will be fully understood. I wish you to call the attention of the PM-Genl to the Subject and request him to advise me how he wishes me to proceed. If he intends the contracts to be executed as they are returned to him, it is useless to say any thing to me upon the Subject, as I have concluded that it is my duty to execute them as I have bound myself to do, until otherwise authorised & directed. It is however to be understood that I am to have an additional day on Route No. 56 as agreed on & stipulated in my bid.

There is no local news of importance. Bramblett² has declared himself a candidate for Congress, and him and his friends will doubtless make great exertions. There is no doubt of his coalition with Andrew Erwin,³ and although delicacy will prevent my being much known in it, I will see that it is pretty well understood in the district. More of this when I find out better how the wind blows. Naomi⁴ has a fine daughter. Your Father is still in very bad hea[l]th and with this exception all the Kin are well.

I am just starting to the Western District—will write you again when I return. Your letter to yr. Father [from] Washington has been recd. this morning.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Waterloo is located in northwest Alabama along the north bank of the Tennessee River. It was only slightly off the direct route between Florence and Hardinsville. Hardinsville was located near the present site of Savannah, Tennessee. Its name was changed to Oldtown, but neither name appears on recent maps. Carrollville is on the Tennessee River in the northern part of Wayne County. Lexington (Henderson County), Huntingdon (Carroll County), and Jackson (Madison County) are all west of the Tennessee River. Walker's suggestions were not incorporated in the legislation of March 2, 1827, which created some new post roads in this area.

2. Lunsford M. Bramlett of Giles County had run third in the congressional election of 1825 when Polk won. He was a popular lawyer who held several judicial posts during his professional career, but he was a poor speaker and did not do well as a candidate. Polk defeated him again in the race mentioned here. This name is often misspelled, as indicated in this letter.

3. A resident of Bedford County, who also had been beaten by Polk in the election for Congress in 1825. Polk, Erwin, and Bramlett ran a close race, finishing in that order. A coalition between Erwin and Bramlett obviously would be dangerous to Polk's ambitions to succeed himself. Erwin was a seasoned politician, having served in the state legislature of North Carolina before he moved to Tennessee.

4. Polk's sister, who had married Adlai O. Harris of Columbia about a year and a half earlier. The daughter's name was Amelia.

FROM SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Washington. December 15, 1826

The letter sent on the 13th has been forwarded to Baltimore to be sent to the Pacific at first opportunity. Mr. Littlefield should send letters directly to this office.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Letters Sent to Congress and Its Members, Naval Records Collection (RG 45), National Archives.

FROM ROBERT A. TAYLOR & CO.

Dear Sir

Baltimore December 19 1826

Enclosed we beg leave to hand You a Letter received this day from Messers McEwen & Gilliland, Fayetteville Tennessee, and in compliance with their instructions, we also hand You three

Documents relating to Mrs. Kents claim for Pension, being the papers mentioned in the same as having been left in our hands by Mr Gilliland.¹

ROBT A TAYLOR & Co

Addressed to Washington.

1. This obviously refers to the letter attached to McEwen's letter to Polk, December 2, 1826, but the enclosure has not been located.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 19, 1826

Steps being taken to determine if the William Myers in whose behalf Polk has inquired is the same man who recently applied for back pay through Congressman Blair. The case of George Lovell cannot be settled until he sends discharge papers and files his claim under oath.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. December 20, 1826

Certified copy of patent issued in name of Henry Roberson¹ is enclosed as requested. Original may be obtained from the Register of Land Office.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, General Land Office (RG 49), National Archives.

1. Unidentified. It is probable, however, that this is the same person who wrote to Polk from Fayetteville on February 4, 1827.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dear Sir

Hermitage Decbr. 4th[24?] 1826¹

I feel greatly obliged to you for the information contained in your letter of the 4th Inst, which is just recd, and I duly appreciate those feelings of friendship which dictated the communication.

I have no disguise with my friends, but am not in the habit of gratifying enemies. I have nothing in my political creed to keep secrete, it was formed in the old republican school, and is without change. I have no secretes nor have I, nor do I wish to conceal my opinions on the powers of the general Government, and those reserved to the states respectfully, as it respects internal improvements, I never have withheld them when I spoke upon this subject, and I am sure the general government has no right to make internal improvements within a state without its consent first had & obtained.

I have seen the presidents message, glanced my eye over it, and find it quite a modest thing. It shows clearly he has felt the lash for his former & winches under it. He still urges the wise policy of being represented at the National Congress in Spanish America² without daring to give us his reason why at this late day it is so. He will *nominate now*, not appoint & commission as was his language last year, *happy change*, but he answered[?] the invitation last year three days before the meeting of Congress, & our minister sails just three days before its meeting, this year. Despatch, after such long delay, was necessary particularly as Mr. Seargent³ & Mr Rochester⁴ had failed in their elections and the sickly season had passed by.

The election of Eaton has produced a political calm in our state, and am happy it is hooted[?] abroad by the Republicans; I am sure at home its political benefits will be long felt.

It will afford me much pleasure to receive a line from you when leisure will permit, tho, this I am aware cannot often happen. You must attend to your constituents. I saw your father on my rout to Alabama, he was better, other friends all well. Judge Haywood is buried today.

Mrs. Jackson Joins me in kind salutations to you & Mrs. Polk with the request you will present us to Eaton, White, Houston⁵ & all the Tennessee delegation and other friends.

ANDREW JACKSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. Since the death of Judge Haywood mentioned in this letter took place on December 22, the date written by Jackson is obviously wrong.

2. Adams had said that it would be desirable for the United States to be represented in future Latin American meetings.

3. John Sergeant, a lawyer who had served four terms in Congress from Pennsylvania. The reference to his political failure was premature, since he was seated in spite of the fact that his election was seriously challenged. He was one of the two delegates chosen to attend the Panama Congress.

4. William B. Rochester. He had served two terms in Congress from New York but had failed in his candidacy for governor in 1826. It will be remembered that he was secretary to the delegation accredited to Panama.

5. Hugh Lawson White was a member of the Senate, and Sam Houston was in the House of Representatives.

FROM JOHN C. WORMELEY¹

Dear Sir

[Columbia], December 27th 1826

Before you left here I spoke to you on the subject of there being pay due Mr. Albion Throckmorton² for his services during the Revolutionary war. I will now thank you to make the necessary examination at the war office. Mr T. was attached if I have been informed right, to what was called Lee's Legion which served in the Southern Army unde[r] Green. It is probable the Secretary of War knows something about it; he is I am told a distant relation of Mr Throckmorton. Albion Throckmorton died in 1795 or 6 and I think it is highly probable never received the pay allowed by Congress to the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution. At all events it can do no harm to make the inquiry. If he did be it so, if not why his Children of whom my Wife is one may as well have it as Government. I have nothing new to communicate; our circuit court is in session and Briscoe has been put on his trial but the jury can't agree there being six for guilty and the remainder for manslaughter. Bramblet has opened the campaign in high Stile. Accept for yourself and Mrs Polk my congratulations of the season with my sincere wishes that a residence at the City may prove felicitous in *more ways than one*.

JOHN C. WORMELEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Wormeley was one of the original purchasers of land in Columbia and was one of the early settlers in Maury County. He served as a trustee of the Woodward Academy.

2. See Peter Hagner to Polk, January 27, 1827.

FROM JAMES R. WHITE¹

DR Col.

Shelbyville² December 30th 1826

I have delayed writing to you this long with the hope of having something of importance to communicate. But as yet nothing either strange or opposing[?] strange has occurred. As was expected your friend Mr Bramlett is *officially announced* as a candidate for the next Congress. He has also been nominated by a grand Jury Caucus of Bedford County; a part of whom were of the most zealous adherents to the "Radical faction." This is Just as it should be; already the unwelcome clamour of *Coallition* is heard in the land and before it subsides the good man may well curse the day that gave him a friend on that side of the question. I shall not be surprised if you beat him in this county, Though this would be too Sanguine a calculation to rely upon much; and as that many headed Sovereign the publick are so susceptible of change as we know it be. It will be well for you during the present session of Congress to look well to the west. In as much as our little press is somewhat tardy in giving publicity to any thing having any relation to your self you had better perhaps let your personal communications be as generally dif-fused amongst the people as may be advisable. This will put it out of the power of your enemies So far to practice upon the Ignorance of the people as to charge you with *inefficiency*. Which owing to the too general ignorance that now prevails with regard to your course during the last session, they have done in some instances and perhaps with some success.

You cannot be too industrious in endeavouring to offer the object contemplated in your Report of the last session on the subject of those government lands.³ To get this matter through is a consumation devoutly to be wished, for it will in a great measure disarm the opposition. When *Haynes*⁴ "Bankrupt bill" comes before your body (which in all probability will be this session) go against it might and main, Make a speech, a thundering speach against it. I do not know what your sentiments are on this subject but I think I know what your *interest* is, and that is something which in all our doings we ought not to forget entirely.

I hope you will pardon me for this dictatorial manner of writing. I know it is rather rude, but the motive which induces it is a good one. I have seen the Presidents message. Pray what do our friends think of it at Washington? For my own part I think it neither praise nor blame worthy; A mere matter of fact document or an epitome of the Reports from the several departments. His concluding paragraph it is true is a right pretty little thing but then he says it about his own *dear dad*. That Spoils it. "From gloom to glory." How will that apply to him it[?] Said? Ask Randolph^e—I should like to know what he has to say about it. It will be time enough for me to tell you about our home politicks after a while when more is known about them. It is however pretty certain that old Jonathan^e will take the field against Theo F B.⁷ And if no other person offers, It will be like choosing between the devil and a witch to vote for either of them. But as it is probable that old Jonathan and his influence will be with us in the next race, we must once make the most we can of him. He will go for Genl Sam⁸ too I think and so will a great many others that are not now suspected. That is a contest already so well settled that little if anything need be said about it. Evry body knows that Houston will be elected. I am not personally acquainted with Genl Houston. I know him from character only and intend doing all my little do for him, cost what it may.

I believe I have nothing more to say. Excuse me for the present and I will write more when I have more time. My Compliments to Genl H.

JIM R. WHITE

Addressed to Washington.

1. For several years he operated a tavern in Shelbyville. He was much interested in politics and gave evidence of considerable political acumen. About 1830 he moved to Lexington, Henderson County.

2. Shelbyville was the county seat of Bedford County. Lying east of Maury and at this time adjoining it, Bedford was in Polk's congressional district. The 1830 census revealed that these were the two most populous counties in the entire state.

3. Polk spent a great deal of his time during his first four years in Congress trying to get the United States to cede to Tennessee all claims to unappropriated lands in the state as an endowment for education.

4. In 1826 Senator Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina introduced a bill for the establishment of a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the country. After considerable debate, it was defeated on February 1, 1827, with Eaton and White of Tennessee voting against the bill.

5. Senator John Randolph of Virginia was a consistently cynical critic of Adams.

6. Jonathan Webster, who represented Bedford County in the General Assembly for six terms and was speaker of the senate for one term. A farmer, he owned thousands of acres of land. He was a delegate to the constitutional convention in 1834.

7. Theodorick F. Bradford, at this time a member of the General Assembly, where he served four terms, had published the first newspaper in Shelbyville. After posing as a Jackson man, he finally became a Whig. He served as a Whig presidential elector in 1836.

8. Sam Houston was a candidate for governor at this time and was successful in his campaign.

FROM THOMAS WASHINGTON

Dear Polk,

Nashville Dec 30th 1826

Judge Haywood is dead, and Mr. [Henry] Crabb has succeeded him by executive appointment. This leaves the office of Atty Genl. of the U. States for this district vacant, for which I am a candidate.¹ Will you have the goodness to state to the president what you may know of my character, qualifications, and habits of business? You will perhaps receive others communications on this subject, in my behalf, which you will have the goodness to lay before the president.

THOS. WASHINGTON

Addressed to Washington.

1. The appointment went to Thomas H. Fletcher of Nashville in February 1827.

1827

FROM JAMES WALKER¹

Dear Sir

Bedford County January 6th 1827

You will please to excuse me for troubling you with this Epistle. I wish you to see H. L. White and know of him whether the Suit carried up from Nashville to the Supreme court has been tryed or not. I mean the Suit Hollensworth and Cane against Henry McNite and others. The plaintiffs succeeded befor Judge McNarey² on a new Demise in the name of Benjamin Spencer. It is thought by Some that Spencer was dead befor the Demise was laid in his name. Of this matter proof has never been made but common report says now that he is Dead. If it would opporate in favour of the Defendants I am of opinion that if time was given it would not be hard to prove the fact. I do not think he died in Tennessee. I am informed that Judge White was employed by Collonel Erwin.³ I do not know whether [he] is employed or not but that is the understanding among the Defendants. But they made an agent and he apployed[applied] to Erwin and Erwin said he would employ White. This is the way that there rights are at stake. If White is employd and the suit is not tryed the Defendants wishes you to make known to him the circumstance of Spencers death. They do not know whether it could have any baring on the suit but think that it would to there prophett[profit]. They wish you to communicate to me how the matter is and if it should so happen that White is not employed it is there request that you should under take for them. The times here are oppressive owing to the reduced prices of produce.

Christmas has roled round and the waters still continues low and no outlet yet for the surplus.

As yet Bramlett⁴ is your onley Competter known to me. There are various conjeters[conjectures] about the matter. Some opinions are given that Erwins interest will go for you but the best Judges say that the contrary will be the fact. Some have gone so far as to say that Bramlett is Identifying himself with Erwins men. We have no new hobbies that I know of and the old ones get leave to slumber as yet and I suppose will through the winter for evary man is oppressed about his money matters more or less. The distress has got the ascendancy and leaves no time for pollaticks. I suppose those deformed things called Hobbies will appear in the Spring in fine order having passed the winter in the Hands of faithfull grooms.

JAMES WALKER

P.S. Please to renew my subscription for the U.S. Tellegraph. Tel General Green⁵ to hit him again. I think long to here from you.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Aside from the fact that he once held a commission in the Tennessee militia from Bedford County, little has been learned about Walker. He is not to be confused with the James Walker of Maury County who was Polk's brother-in-law.

2. John McNairy of Nashville had been a United States District Judge since 1797. There is no record that this case went up to the supreme court.

3. Andrew Erwin of Bedford County.

4. Lunsford M. Bramlett had been defeated by Polk in 1825.

5. Duff Green was the editor of the *United States Telegraph*, a strongly anti-Adams Washington paper.

FROM JOEL WALKER¹

Dr Sir

Centreville² 6th Janry. 1827

At lenth I have time to drop you a line which will give you the news in my persesion. You have seen the proceedings of the legislature of this state before this time and I am proud to say that we laid out Theo. F. Bradford as cold as Iron.³ And I believe he quit the senate chamber the last two weaks and became a member in the other house. In every circle and corner I see

among the administration keen displeasure at the Election of Mr. Eaton to senate⁴ and when I left Nashville it was under the solace that I had closed my political life. But on reaching home was menaced by my enemys and without hesitation or consulting my friends took the field for the next Election and declair in favour of Electing Mr. [Hugh L.] White at the next sesion although 18 months before his time expires. This is a bitter pill to some of the puny polititions of Tennessee.

It is possible they may not let me have the pleasure of a voice on that subject though will Give them a good race. The time is certainly arive when Tennessee should look well to her Interest. That is if she is not willing to yield to yankey influence and national supermacy.

Give my respects to the Tennessee delegation.

JOEL WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Born of Scottish parents, he had studied medicine and practiced in North Carolina before he moved to Tennessee. An early settler in Hickman County, he was a member of the commission to set its boundaries and locate its seat of government. He became Centerville's first postmaster and was elected to four terms in the state senate, serving as speaker during the last one. In 1830 he moved to Williamson County and was subsequently elected to the lower house of the General Assembly for one term. Pleasant Walker and Elijah Walker were his brothers.

2. Centerville was the county seat of Hickman County, which adjoined Maury County on the west. It was not in Polk's congressional district.

3. This is probably a reference to Bradford's unsuccessful attempt to postpone the election of a United States senator. Walker was incorrect, however, in his belief that Bradford quit the state senate after his defeat. He was present and voting until the end of the session.

4. Eaton's re-election was pushed through during a special session of the legislature, although a new legislature would convene many weeks before a new United States senator would have to take his seat.

FROM JOHN McLEAN

Washington. January 8, 1827

The letter from James Walker submitted by Polk¹ and one received directly from Walker have been considered and an answer sent him with hope that it will prove satisfactory.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. See Walker to Polk, December 15, 1826.

FROM JAMES R. WHITE

Dr Col

Shelbyville Janry 9th 1827

My reason for intruding upon you thus early after the date of my last letter is simply to say a word to you on the Subject of a post rout Concerning which Col [Jonathan] Webster has already written to you and which he has or will have explained to you eer this reaches you.

It would Certainly be a matter of some moment for us to have a mail rout from McMinnville to this place provided we could get our eastern intelligence by it. If our eastern papers Could Come directly on to us from McMinnville we would get them at least a week sooner than we do. Situated as things now are we are always a week behind hand on the score of news owing to the mail going round by Nashville and then having to wait Several days the departure of another mail for this place. Should this rout be established Col Websters being about the half way ground would be a proper place for the location of an office. But he does not wish to be appointed the post master as it would disqualify him from the accomplishment of some ulterior views on political matters. Indeed he is already a Candidate for the Senate and could not therefore take upon himself the responsibility of a post master. He would therefore recommend the appointment of Capt Hart¹ who lives with him and with whom I presume you are acquainted.

I have Just returned from Nashville where I spent several days. There is very little said about political matters there at this time except it be Concerning the already begun Contest between Grundy & Bell.² This seems to exite some interest and Judging from present appearences it would seem that Bells prospects are the most flatering of the two. With regard to the Governors Election the opposition have Nothing to say. Indeed they acknowledge themselves already beaten. Matters in our own dis-

strict move on in *status quo* [. . .] developing new evidence that we have nothing to fear. You will have already heard of the unlooked for death of Judge Haywood. But you may not have heard of the appointment of Henry Crabb to supply his place. An appointment this which I presume will give pretty general satisfaction. Messers Fletcher,³ [Thomas] Washington and Fogg⁴ are applicants to supplie the place of Mr Crabb. I suppose as Mr Fletcher is perhaps the only Administration man amongst them he will be the successful applicant. And for my own part I have no objections. He can probably do less harm in that situation than in some he might get if [he] were unsuccessful on this occasion.

I have nothing more to say. Write to me soon.

JAMES R. WHITE

Addressed to Washington.

1. Moses Hart was appointed postmaster at Noah's Fork, located on a tributary of the Duck River by the same name, in the eastern end of Bedford County.

2. Felix Grundy and John Bell contested for a seat in Congress which Bell won.

3. Thomas H. Fletcher, a prominent Nashville lawyer, replaced Crabb as United States District Attorney. Earlier he had served with Jackson in the Creek War and had represented Franklin County in the state legislature. He was Tennessee's secretary of state, 1830-32, and was president of the Nashville branch of the Bank of the United States.

4. Francis B. Fogg was born in Connecticut and admitted to the bar in Rhode Island. As a young man he moved to Columbia but soon moved to Nashville, where for almost twenty-five years he was in partnership with Ephraim H. Foster. He avoided involvement in politics, though he was a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1834 and served one term in the state senate, 1851-53.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Columbia Jan. 15, 1827

I wrote you about a month since, on the subject of my mail contracts, and then advised you of Brambletts having announced himself as your opponent. There has nothing worth communicat-

ing yet transpired on that subject, except that Bramblett is very industrious, making speeches on nearly all the [. . .] in our county—that him and his friends are quite sanguine—that in consideration for kindness &c. shown by a *particular* party, the Briscoes, Worthans¹ &c. are *expected* to go against you—and that it seems by Bramblett's friends to be taken for granted that the *whole* Erwin vote is to be given to Bramblett.

I have seen no evidence to induce me to believe that Bramblett has more strength in this county than was to have been expected. There is however very little said upon the subject, which I think favorable to you, as it is evidence of general satisfaction with your political course and that your enemies can make no impression against you. If any thing was g[i]ving way I think some of us would certainly hear of it. I think Bramblett's great industry at this time will operate against him, as it will be considered that he is taking an advantage of you whilst engaged in your public duty. I am told he speaks much of management and misrepresentation of your strength having elected you before. This however I think will not *take*, as your friends stated nothing more than was the fact—that you were the man to run against Erwin—and never overated your strength at home, nor in any county but Giles. All which you can at present do, is to give your constituents *generally* as much *information* and *attention* as in your power. It is certainly good policy to do all you can with propriety, to get a good vote in Giles.

Genl Williams² [is] talked of in opposition to Reynolds.³ Craig⁴ has declared himself against Thomas,⁵ and Hite⁶ is expected to come out. Our Quorum Court law has gone into operation—Mathers, Miller & Black, the Court.⁷ Briscoe⁸ has been convicted of Manslaughter—Branded and sentenced to 9 mo. imprisonment. John Hammond⁹ has been fined and imprisoned 2 mo. for stabbing a man.

I should like to hear from you occasionally, but think it is of much more importance that you should write to those characters in your district who *require* attention. Bramblett talks so high and strong, that it is desirable to have him beat *as far as possible*, and to be certain to beat him.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. The Briscoes and Worthams were families in the Mt. Pleasant area of Maury County.
2. Samuel H. Williams, early settler in Maury County who had been sheriff of the county, 1810-12.
3. Benjamin Reynolds was currently a member of the state senate where he served three terms. He later moved to Franklin County, Alabama, and served in the legislature of that state.
4. Probably David J. Craig of Mt. Pleasant.
5. Isaac Thomas was at this time a member of the lower house of the General Assembly.
6. This name is indistinct and could be Hite or Hill. No person named Hite achieved prominence in Maury County at this time, but William K. Hill, a farmer and merchant of the Columbia vicinity, became clerk of the state senate and was secretary of the constitutional convention of 1834.
7. John Matthews, John Miller, and James Black.
8. George Briscoe killed John F. Fry in a fight at Mt. Pleasant on June 23, 1826.
9. Not positively identified but probably a member of the Hammond family that resided at Spring Hill.

FROM CHARLES W. WEBBER

Dr. Sir

Columbia Tennessee January 23d 1827

I have this day received your letter, and with pleasure return you my thanks for your efforts in aiding and promoting the object of my letter. Also I feel much indebted to Genl. Houston for his trouble and services in relation to it, and shall ever remember with unfeigned gratitude your joint exertions.¹ And if ever an occasion should present itself by which I may have it in my power to discharge the obligation you have thus placed upon me, with self-satisfaction and delight will I endeavour to do it.

You manifest considerable interest relative to your cases, and wish to learn the fate of them. A minute detail of the result of all that was tried in the Circuit court, would not only be tedious but uninteresting. You were always represented by some of your friends of the bar and whenever a cause could be tried without prejudice to the interest of your client, it was done, and in no case was the interest of your client Compromitted by your absence. Notwithstanding Judge Kennedy² used indefatigable in-

dustry in discharging his duty as Judge, and held court for the term of four weeks, yet he was only enabled to get through the common law Docket, leaving the chancery docket untouched in a great measure, unless by taking some preparatory steps in some of the causes. And even then about the Conclusion of the term the Judge was near reinstating the half of the cases he had tried by granting new trials.

Upon the whole I conjecture the interests of your clients has not materially suffered by your absence. Briscoe was tried and only Convicted of Manslaughter. It is said him and his relatives are Complaining of you very much, and are determined to vote against you at the approaching election. The cause of Complaint I cannot distinctly understand. Bramblet was here during the Circuit Court, and used a great deal of industry in electioneering, and is Said met with great encouragement, in fact, he Seemed to be gaining strength. You are to be more closely run than you fancied, from my best Conjectures as to the probable result. In Bedford he will, as is conceded by all, obtain a large majority. You will have to use much industry upon your return, otherwise you may be beat.

I have nothing more of consequence to inform you. Your relatives with the exception of your father, are all well. He I understand is thought to be gradually improving in health.³

If it would not be thought too importunate I wish you would again press the executive upon the Subject of my former letter. However use your own discretion.

Please present my Compliments to your lady, and receive yourself assurances of my high regard and Sincere friendship.

CHARLES W. WEBBER

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Webber to Polk, December 1, 1826.

2. William E. Kennedy, elected in 1825 to represent Lincoln and Giles in the state senate, resigned the post to take the position of circuit court judge, which he held until 1833. He lived in Fayetteville until he became judge and then moved to Columbia.

3. Samuel Polk fell ill in 1821 while on a trip to West Tennessee and never completely regained his health. During 1827 he grew steadily worse and died in November of that year.

TO SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Sir:

H. Repts. Jany. 25th 1827

Enclosed is a letter¹ from a young friend at present a Student of medicine, in the Pennsylvania University, requesting a situation as Surgeon's Mate in the Navy. He will probably be a candidate for graduation at the next commencement. He is a citizen of the State of Tennessee, sustains a good moral, character, possesses an ordinary portion of talent, and I have no doubt, if he should obtain the appointment which he desires, he would be entirely competent to discharge its duties, with entire satisfaction to the Government. I am informed that applications of this character are properly made at your Department; if so will you be so good as to inscribe his name as an applicant for the first vacancy. Will you give me the necessary information, as to the time, manner, and place, of making application, and likewise the probable prospect of obtaining the situation, that I may communicate it, to Mr. Chairs?² I think it likely he is the only applicant from Tennessee.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Connecticut Historical Society.

1. Letter not found.

2. This name probably should be Cheairs, a name borne by a prominent family in Spring Hill, Maury County.

FROM N. S. HARTIN¹

Dear Sir

Elkton Ten Jany 27th 1827

Enclosed I Send you the Sertificates required by law, going to shew that the heires of Henry Fargison[Ferguson]² has a right to a pension which has hitherto been neglected.

They are now in a state of suffering for the want of Food & ra[i]ment as well as education. My heart was made to bleed for them. Therefore forgetting my own pecuniary imbarisments I

have undertaken to do something for them and, I trust you will feel an intrust[interest] in attending to the buisness.

Be asured I have spent considerable time and money to procure the Sertificates and I hope you will do your utmost for their releaf.

Dear Sir please to write me as soon as it is asertained what can be don.

N. S. HARTIN

Addressed to Washington.

1. At this time Hartin lived in Giles County. Earlier, however, he resided in Sumner County.

2. Henry Ferguson, of Robertson County, had married Jenny Hartin, obviously a relative of the writer of this letter. There was no question about Ferguson's military service, but proof was required that he died while in military service. His pension file includes conclusive evidence that he died in Columbia, Tennessee, while en route to his home from service in New Orleans, before he was mustered out. Late in 1815 his widow married Anderson Overby.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 27, 1827

Albion Throckmorton served until the end of the Revolution and has received all pay and emoluments due him. His claim to land is being investigated.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM JAMES E. HEATH¹

Sir

Richmond Va. Jan 27 1827

At the instance of one or two friends of mine who are desirous of emigrating to your State I take the liberty of enquiring of you at what rate Lands of Superior quality may be purchased and whether Lands of that description can be obtained in healthy situations and convenient to good society. I understand that the State of Tennessee is offering large bodies for sale. Will you be pleased to state in what section of the State they lie and upon

what terms they can be procured. Any additional information you can give touching West Tennessee—its advantages to Emigrants—its climate—soil & productions &c. &c. will be thankfully received.

J. E. HEATH

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was auditor of public accounts in Richmond at this time. Later he was in Washington as Commissioner of Pensions.

FROM SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Washington. January 27, 1827

Letter and enclosure received and filed. A Board of Surgeons examines all candidates for Surgeon's Mates, but as there is no vacancy in that class of officers, a meeting of the Board in the near future is unlikely.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent to Congress and Its Members, Naval Records Collection (RG 45), National Archives.

TO ALFRED FLOURNOY¹

Dear Sir: Washington City Jany. 31st 1827

I know you are solicitous to learn the progress of your Bill.² The Bankrupt Bill has engrossed the whole attention of the Senate, almost ever since the committee of the Senate reported your Bill, of which I informed you in my last. *Eaton, White & McKinley*,³ promise to call it up at the earliest practicable period, and I will give you immediate information of its fate. I have no news. Accept my best wishes.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Pulaski, Tennessee.

1. One of the first physicians in Giles County.
2. Flournoy, a lieutenant, had lost a leg in action against the Spanish at Pensacola and was applying for compensation.
3. Eaton, White, and McKinley were all United States senators; Eaton and White were from Tennessee, McKinley from Alabama.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 31, 1827

Pension claim of the widow of Miles Eason is settled and \$330 will be remitted to Edward H. Chaffin, her attorney.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dear Sir

Charlotte N.C. Feb 4th 1827

I addressd. you a letter last fall in Tennessee. I presume however that it had not come to hand Previous to your leaving home otherwise I Should Have heard from you. I feel Some Solicitude in Regard to my Suit And Should be glad to be informd How the case now Stands. I am also desirious to know Something of Mr [David W.] McGee. I have understood that he had Removed from Alabama And had again located himself in Columbia. When I Saw him in Florence he was unprepared for Settlement And requested me to get you to Settle with him. I wrote you to that effect and Received your answer. You informed me that your public duties rendered it inconvenient for you to attend to it But Stated that you had mentioned the Subject to your Father who Said he would do me that favour (if not too troublesome). I have neglected the business and Presume it Still Stands unsettled. In my letter last Fall I authorised you to make the Settlement (if not already done) and if not Convenient for yourself, to appoint some Person to do So. I Should prefer your father and believe I will write him on the Subject. Indeed I made choice of him when I Saw Mr McGee. But I thought he Seemd. rather to object but made Choice of you and Seemd. Very desirious you Should make the Settlement &c.

In your last letter which is Some Considerable time ago you mentioned that the Opposition party had made Some proposition of compromise. They have Said nothing to me on that Subject And if they had, I Certainly would do nothing without your

advise, And your Sanguine opinion as to the final outcome of the Case gives me every Incouragement to hope for the best. If however we Should fail in the Court of Equity I wish the Case Taken as far as there is ground to go upon. I think however if any Respect is paid to the desires of our Court That the Case must ultimately terminate in my favour, in which event I Shall be enabled To Tender you Satisfactory Compensation &c.

I observe from the papers that Judge Haywood has recently died, and that Col. [Henry] Crab[b] has been appointed a Judge in his Place. I do not know what effect this will Have as regards my Suit, or who will Succeed To Col Crabs practice.

I Should like to hear from when you hav leasure to write. I observe that the vice president has got into Troubles And I should think rather prematurely. I Should like to know from a private Confidential Source whether there is or was any Corrupt design On Calhoun by the war department &c.

The Subject of who Shall be our next president is very little Spoken of here. Indeed the Country is too much embarasd In their pecuniary affairs to think much about political matters. The result of the vote of N. Carolina will very much depend On the friends of Mr. Crawford.¹ They were Considered the Strongest party at the last Election and if they Should hold Together Can Turn the Scale of Election. The time however is too remote to say anything with Certainty on that Subject.

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 57-59.

1. William H. Crawford of Georgia, unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1824. Although Jackson won a narrow victory in North Carolina, Crawford had run a strong race in that state.

FROM JAMES HOUSTON¹

Dear Sir.

Maury Co. Feb 4th 1827

I have the pleasure to inform you that myself and family are in good health and that I saw your Father eight days since rideing in his cariage and said he was gaining health slowly. The

people of this Country and likewise the western district the last account ware healthy. I intended seeing you before you set out from Columbia but it felout that I didnot. Not that I expected to be able to instruct, yet I was willing to suggest some ideas as a single individual. Some time before you set out I saw a sketch in one of the Kentucky papers which amounted to a complaint of foreigners bringing Land claims of oald dates and bringing suits at Law against numerous citizens who have held their Lands 30 or 35 years. I expect if this is fact their will be petitions before you this cesion on that subject. My mind says Congress Should take these claims into consideration and after examining if they are good claims, give the holders vacant Lands. Another subject more interesting to myself and you and evry man in the state and I think the principal part of the states is the Banks. The failure of the Nashville Bank² has done the state more damage than you can imagine. It has made money a half scearser than it was when you left us, and there is scearsely a day without a Constables sale near this place and poor mens cows and calvs and all kinds of property selling for allmost nothing. I havenot seen the county half so much distressed before. How to remedy this I cannot tell, yet I think if we had a branch of the United States Bank in evry state and all other money put down, which never should have existed, I think we would be in a way to remedy this desperate situation provided all notes issued from either of the banks should be made payable at either of the other banks threout the Union. This might perhaps give counterfitters more power to impose yet I dread them less than the brookers. At present a large part of our distress arises from the brookers. At this time the specie paying banks of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama are passing here at a discount of from 5 to 8 per cent under our paper, cotton seling from one to one and twenty five[?] cts per hundred in the seed. The water has continued two low for botes to move until a few days past and not very full yet. I might say a magority of the farmers not able to pay for rope and baging. Rope is 20 cts a pound, baging 30 pr yard.

Give my compliments to your friend Col Alexander.³

JAMES HOUSTON,

Sir

Since writing the within I have written a sketch on philosophy and enclosed⁴ which if you please you may transcribe and put into the hands of some better judges of its accuracy than we have in our part. If anything is found unnoticed before on the subject, any American who is in the habit of writing on such subjects is welcome to it, as I want neither profit or praise. Having examined several authors on Earthquakes and found as I thought a laxness I was induced to write the within. My reason for requesting you to transcribe it is that it is in a very awkward stile. Better could not be expected from the pen of an unlearned farmer.

JAMES HOUSTON.

I am doubtful that there would be a number against the Bank which I have preposed.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident and farmer in Maury at this time, Houston had represented Blount County in the First General Assembly.

2. As a long period of depression ended, the banks of Nashville were able to resume specie payments in the fall of 1826. The Nashville Bank, however, was weak, and in November a long run on it drained off its specie and forced it to close.

3. Adam R. Alexander of Madison County had earlier represented Maury County in the state senate. At this time he was in the United States House of Representatives, where he served two terms. He is considered the founder of Jackson, Tennessee, but he moved to Shelby County after he left Congress and was prominent in political affairs there.

4. The enclosure is a brief discussion of the comet and earthquakes of 1811.

FROM HENRY ROBERTSON¹

Sir

Fayetteville February the 4th 1827

Your favour Inclosed a copy of the grant of the land Spoken of by me to you which will answer Every purpose. Mr Bramblett is make Every Effort in lectionering that is in his power. The Grand Jury of Bedford county Recommended him to the people as I am informed. There is a colt Race to be Run at this place in

May next. Bramblett has loned two colts to the citizens of this county to Run. It is believed that he will hold a much better poles by your friends, and your Enemies says he will be Elected without a doubt. However you know I am one of those unbelievers. He is not Elected yet. It will Require you to mix amongst the people when you Return. Should there be any appropriations made for Repairs or opening of Roads please in the west please to let me know. [A]lthough I failed I am a stand[ing] candidate for labour and the only way to get Rid of me is to get me to work. I do not take any newspaper printed at Washington City. The Editors has stoped it for non payment. Be please to call at the National Intelligencer office and pay my account. I will settle with you and sir send the paper that all the public acts [. . .] and [ad]vertisement publishd in.

H. ROBERTSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. Probably the same Henry Robertson who represented Lincoln County in the General Assembly, 1835-37.

TO JAMES CARUTHERS¹

Dear Sir

Washington City Feby. 5th 1827

Your letter of the 15th Decr. has been recd. and referd to the Treasury Department for the information which you desired. Inclosed is the answer of the Third Auditor of the Treasury,² containing all the information, which I have been able to obtain, on the subject. I forward it to you for your information. You will discover on reading it, that there was both a *William* and a *Gilliam* Moseby, in Capt. Kirk's³ company, and that a claim of the precise amt. of \$105. was paid to *William Moseby*, in March 1823, for a horse & equippage lost in the Seminole War. From this circumstance the Department refuse to settle the claim of *Gilliam Moseby* for the same amt., without some further explanation, going to show that, both lost horses & equippage, and are both entitled to compensation. If Capt. Kirk is still alive, and within your reach, he can probably explain the difficulty, so as to

satisfy the Department as to its justice. If Capt. Kirks explanation cannot be had, perhaps that of some of the officers or men of his company, can be procured, so as to satisfy the Department that the claim ought to be paid. Any aid I may hereafter be enabled to render you, in the case, either here, or at home, will be most cheerfully given. I have no news of interest to communicate, but what you have seen in the newspapers, to which I refer you for Congressional proceedings.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Lincoln County, Tennessee.

1. A Lincoln County resident and veteran of the War of 1812. He represented Lincoln and Giles counties in the 22nd General Assembly. He was a second cousin of Robert L. Caruthers and Abram Caruthers.

2. Peter Hagner.

3. Hugh Kirk was a captain in the Regiment of Volunteer Mounted Gunmen of West Tennessee, commanded by Colonel R. H. Dyer. His company was mustered in on January 31, 1818, and mustered out on June 30, 1818, at Camp Blount. Both Gilliam and William Moseby were in the company on both dates.

FROM DAVID LOVE¹

Dear Sir.

[Columbia, Tenn.] Feby the 7th 1827

A Judgement Was Recoverd against me by Jones. I was about to file a bill When Smith agreed to let the Execution ly over till Next Court till see whether you and Jones Could affect a Compromise. Try and have it Done and the sute Drawn out of Court and I will pay up what you and him will agree on. Times is tuff here. Warrants is [. . .] ab[o]ut thicker than the bufflow nat in Haywood County. The sute of Eaton was Calld last Court and no person present. A New tryal granted as there was a jud[g]ment by default. Tell Mr Eaton to consider the Value of mony and let me pay him \$100 and have it Dismist.² Cotton is on the Rise \$8 in Nashville, pork \$8 in [. . .] and not to be had. Your friends is all well. I beleve Mr. Bramblett of Giles County is a Candidate against you but I hope he will Come out as he Did before.

DAVID LOVE

Addressed to Washington.

1. One of the first settlers in the Culleoka community in Maury County. For many years he operated a mill on Fountain Creek.

2. The nature of this suit has not been ascertained.

FROM JAMES R. WHITE

Dr Sir

Shelbyville Fbry 8th 1827

I recd yours of the 18th Jany last night and proceed to answer it as soon as possible. We have heard of *Randolphs defeat*¹ and the Administration people here are glorying in it. Asserting at the Same time that *Gov. Tyler* will be for the administration "For Say they it is as natural for a man to go for the party by whom is Elected as it is for a stream to run downward. *Gov Tyler* has been Elected by the friends of the Administration. Therefore notwithstanding his positive assurances to the contrary, he will go over to them for it is not in the power of human nature, nor of human virtue, nor of human principles to withstand such a potent claim as has *Mr J Q. Adams* on *Gov Tyler*". Thus saith his *Oracular higness* T. F. B.² and the Rest of them. Now is this a fact? Have the friends of the administration Elected *Gov Tyler* because the[y] believe him to be a man of such doubtful virtue and of so little stability of character that they can buy him up more easily than they could any other man in Virginia? If it is, what immortal honour do they pay to the political honesty and invincible patriotism of *John Randolph*. But Sir we do not believe a word of it. We believe *Gov Tyler* to be what he says—the admirer of *John Randolph* and of his political course. *Benton* is Elected and so is *Ellis* and Now it only remains for *Van buren*³ to succeed in order to bring about the desired end, a majority in the Senate.

The County Court is now Siting in this place and the people begin to talk a little about politicks, Elections &c. Some of your friends think it will be absolutly necessary for you to be here at the begining of the May Court, prepared to make an impression from the Stump. It is a fact that great exertions are making by

the Ultras, to Raise the hand for Bramlett and some of your friends are a little alarmed at the prospect, though I am not one of them. The sooner however that you can be here the better.

I have strong doubts of *Websters*⁴ sincerity. He is now a Candidate & professes to be Silent But tells the people from a distance that Bramlett will double you in this County. This in my opinion is not the truth and if it was it comes very improperly from him for he must know that it will have a very injurious effect out of the County. Be careful how you correspond with him for I fear he is not to be trusted. Bramlett was at Columbia during the whole Session of the Circuit Court which was 4 weeks and was very busy with the people all the while. His friends say he made a strong *impression*. I do not know whether he did or not. They say Booker & Littlefield⁵ will go for him. Perhaps you know more about that than I do. If they do they are only men and will only count two votes.

We have an idea of running Yell for the House of Representatives against Kincaid.⁶ There is considerable talk about amongst the people and if he runs he will certainly be elected, should he have no other opponent than Kincaid. I have no News. Try and Come through this place on your return.

JAMES R. WHITE

Addressed to Washington.

1. Running for re-election to the Senate, John Randolph had been defeated by John Tyler, then governor of Virginia.

2. Theodorick F. Bradford.

3. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, Powhatan Ellis of Mississippi, and Martin Van Buren of New York were all elected.

4. Jonathan Webster. On December 30, 1826, White had expressed doubts as to Webster's trustworthiness.

5. Peter R. Booker and Edward B. Littlefield, prominent businessmen in Columbia. Booker had served in the General Assembly, 1813-15.

6. Archibald Yell and Joseph Kincaid contested for the place in the lower house of the state legislature with Yell winning. Kincaid, a physician, was the incumbent, having served two terms in the General Assembly. He represented Bedford County in the constitutional convention in 1834. Yell became one of Polk's closest friends and remained his loyal political supporter for the rest of his life. He moved to Arkansas and became one of its most powerful political figures.

FROM ALFRED M. HARRIS¹

Dr Sir

Pulaski² 10th Feby. 1827

Richard McGhee³ a citizen of our county, a Squirre & a very respectable man, has sent you a power of attorney to draw for him what is owing him as forage Master and private in the late war.

I hope you will attend to it. He is a very respectable & influential man.

ALFRED M HARRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Harris was the presiding judge when Polk was admitted to the bar in Columbia in 1819. He lived for a time in Lincoln County and then moved to Giles, where he was prominent among the early lawyers. He was a supporter of both Jackson and Polk.

2. Pulaski was the county seat of Giles County. This county joined Maury on the south and extended to the Alabama border. It was for some years in Polk's congressional district.

3. McGhee was one of the early magistrates of Giles County. This name is sometimes written McGee or McGehee.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 10, 1827

Before remittance was made to Edward H. Chaffin for settling claim of Barthena Eason, widow of Miles Eason,¹ Hon. Lewis Williams² presented a new power of attorney in his favor, revoking that to Chaffin. The pension will be paid to Williams and Chaffin has been notified.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See Hagner to Polk, January 31, 1827.

2. Long-time member of the House of Representatives from North Carolina. He was a brother of John Williams, former United States senator from Tennessee, and of Robert Williams, former member of the House from North Carolina.

FROM COLLIN S. TARPLEY¹

Dr. Sir

Pulaski Feby. 11th 1827

I am indebted to the Editors of the Intelligencer for my last years subscription. I have the Eastern funds to pay them but dislike to enclose it at my own risk. If you will be so good as to settle with them for me, I will inclose the amt. to Columbia immediately upon your return.

C. S. TARPLEY

NB Your friends in this County are doing will[well]. Nothing of importance has transpired of late. Present my most cordial well wishes to Genl. Houston & receive the same yourself.

TARPLEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Tarpley had studied law in the office of Polk and Aaron V. Brown and was practicing in Pulaski. In 1831 he moved to Florence, Alabama, and in 1836 to Hinds County, Mississippi, where he rose to eminence as a jurist.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 15, 1827

Letter concerning claim of Francis Wright¹ is acknowledged. A claim by Wright in 1819 was returned for further information and nothing was heard from him until recently. Records indicate that he enlisted and collected a bounty but there is no evidence of his having served.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

TO SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Sir

H. Rept. Feby. 15th 1827

I must ask the favor of you, to forward the enclosed letter to Midshipman Grey Skipwith by the first vessel that goes out. The letter is from his brother in Tennessee.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Miscellaneous Letters Received by Secretary of the Navy (RG 45), National Archives.

FROM SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Washington. February 16, 1827

The letter for Midshipman Skipwith has been forwarded to the Pacific.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent to Congress and Its Members, Naval Records Collection (RG 45), National Archives.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir: H. Repts. 17th Feby. 1827

I have just recd. the enclosed letter of N. S. Hartin,¹ and the accompanying documents in support of the claim of the widow & children of Henry Ferguson late a soldier in the army of the U. States to five years half pay pension. If the evidence is sufficient, will you remit the amt. due to them in a draft or drafts on the Bank of the U. States, directed to the care of N. S. Hartin, Upper Elkton, Giles County Tennessee. If the evidence is not sufficient, specify what is wanting and give me the necessary instructions. When you have examined the case, please return Mr. Hartin's letter, *and* let me know the result of the examination.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Service Records of War of 1812 (RG 93), National Archives.

1. See Hartin to Polk, January 27, 1827. Ferguson served in Cocke's Regiment of West Tennessee militia.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 21, 1827

Henry Ferguson was listed on the muster roll of his company when it disbanded on May 13, 1815, although he had died sometime before. Company officers must explain this discrepancy before a pension can be allowed his widow. Letter of N. S. Hartin being returned.¹

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Apparently Hartin's letter to Polk, January 27, 1827.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir: Ho. Repts. Feby. 22nd 1827

Enclosed are two declarations forwarded to me, with a request that I would present them to the proper Department for the purpose of obtaining pensions. The names of the applicants as you will see are *Wm. Lingo & Silvester Chunn*.¹ When their cases are examined advise me of the decision.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File S39314 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. Both men were residents of Maury County and were placed on the pension rolls soon after this letter was written. Lingo died about the time his pension was approved.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. March 1, 1827

A patent has been made out to Mr. Flournoy but an error in describing the tracts of land is such that the President declines to sign. Correction can be made by attaching a section to some land bill now before the house.¹

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, General Land Office (RG 49), National Archives.

1. See Polk to Alfred Flournoy, March 20, 1827.

TO ALFRED FLOURNOY

Dear Sir: Columbia, March 20th, 1827

I arrived at home on yesterday in good health. Some time before the adjournment of Congress, I advised you of the passage of an explanatory law for your relief.¹ Subsequent to that time it rec'd the approval and signature of the President. On application

for the patents, it was discovered that some of the quarter sections were incorrectly described. This, however, it was discovered in time to attach an additional section to a bill for the relief of John Beardmon² which became a law, was approved and signed by the President the day before Congress adjourned. The commissioner of the Genl. Land office had not made out the patents when I left the City on the 4th inst. and of course I could not bring them. So that there is now no difficulty. You can obtain them and have them forwarded by mail or otherwise as you may direct by writing to Wm. Graham.³

Before I left Washington, I published a circular letter and forwarded a number of them to several of my friends and among the rest to yourself, with a view to have them distributed among the people.⁴ They contain a brief outline of my views in relation to the present state of things. I find matters as favorable here as I have always supposed and indeed know them to be.

Say to my friends I shall enter the contest as usual and will be found at my post. I feel in no danger and confidently submit my public conduct to the candid examination of the people of the district. The Circuit Court is sitting in Lincoln, and I expect to be in Fayetteville on Saturday. As soon as practicable, I will be in Giles. At the Batallion Mustering[?] I will probably be in Bedford or Lincoln. If you should hear of any public assemblages of the people in Giles, you will confer a favor by advising me of it. Present me to my friends generally.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Pulaski. The original of this letter has not been located. Both the Library of Congress and the Louisiana State University Archives have typescripts, but in neither case is there any indication of the location of the original. There are minor discrepancies in the two copies, and where they occur the Library of Congress version has been followed.

1. By a statute of May 22, 1826, Flournoy had been awarded a pension of fourteen dollars per month with the option of discharging the pension in full by taking up two sections of land then available for sale in Alabama and Mississippi. He chose this option and entered eight quarter-sections at the land office in Huntsville, Alabama.

2. Although both typescripts use the spelling given here, the proper spelling is Boardman. He was a resident of Madison County, Alabama, where Flournoy hoped to receive land.

3. It is believed that this transcription should have been Mr. Graham instead of Wm. Graham, and that the person intended was George Graham, at that time Commissioner of the General Land Office. There was a William Graham in Alabama, however, who was a brother of Daniel Graham, long-time secretary of state in Tennessee. William Graham held public offices including that of state treasurer and was also clerk of the circuit court of Montgomery County, Alabama.

4. Dated March 4, 1827, and addressed to the citizens of the Sixth Congressional District of the State of Tennessee, this is both a report on his term in Congress and an explanation of his views on some of the issues of the day.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. April 24, 1827

Enclosed is copy of letter of December 9, 1826,¹ in which the course to be pursued in establishing the claim of William Phelps was set forth. David Armstrong's claim for transportation was returned in December for additional information.

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See letter from Hagner for this date.

FROM JOHN McLEAN

Washington. May 25, 1827

Information in letter of the 8th is appreciated. The law requires that proposals be published three months before entering into contracts for carrying the mail. The proposals will appear in a few days but because of the preparations to be made by the contractors, the contracts will not go into effect until next January 1.

Addressed to Columbia. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives. The clerk actually copied the address Columbia, South Carolina, instead of Columbia, Tennessee.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. May 27, 1827

Claim of Richard McGee has been settled and \$171.18 due him will be remitted to Pulaski as requested.¹

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy, Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See Alfred M. Harris to Polk, February 10, 1827.

FROM GEORGE LOVELL¹

Dear Sir

Hickman County Augt. 16. 1827

I take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you, relative to the business I put into your hands to transact for me in Washington.² I wish you to inform me, as soon as possible what you have done in it (if any thing). If you have not been able to do any thing for me I should be glad for you to take the papers on with you again the ensuing Session and try what you can do.

GEORGE LOVELL

P.S. You can direct a letter to Willis Davis' Mill, Lick Creek, H.C.³

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified.
2. Lovell was trying to obtain bounty lands for military service.
3. In northeastern part of Hickman County.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dear Sir

Charlotte N.C. Augt. 30th 1827

I am desirous of knowing the situation of David W. McGee. I have wrote to him Several Times And have received no answer. I will Thank you to inform me where he lives at this Time. His brother Winslow is dead, and his Widow And Sons have requested me to inform Wilson of the fact. I wrote to Wilson but as I before Stated have received no answer.¹ Winslows family Is poor and needy. His Sons are tolerably Smart Boys And with proper management might make useful citizens.

I am also desirous of Knowing what disposition Mr McGee has made of my business, as regards Settlement, &c.

I Suppose my Suit in Equity will probably be tryed this fall, if not, I presume there will be no tryal before next fall as your

public duties will prevent your attendance In the Spring. And I Should not wish the Case tryed unless you were present.

I have not understood who Succeeds to Judge [Henry] Crabbs business. Perhaps I Should forward Some Small fee to this person who Succeeds to his business.

You will please advise me of any Thing you think necessary for me to do.

I will thank you to mention To your father that I Should be glad he would write me, And let me Know to whom I am to make title for his part of 1000 acres of Land in Carroll County or whether he would Commute the land for money and at what price.

When Convenient I Shall Be Glad to hear from you.

WM DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 59.

1. Since Davidson generally formed capitals merely by enlargement, his intent is often difficult to ascertain. Hereinafter where any doubt exists, modern usage will be followed.

TO HENRY CLAY

Knoxville, September 5, 1827

From the character sustained by Mr. Churchwell¹ as a gentleman and in his profession, I take pleasure in concurring in his recommendation, for the office to which he aspires. I have examined the letter of Mr. Lea & have every confidence in the correctness of his statement.

JAMES K. POLK

This is a postscript, in Polk's handwriting and signed by him, to a letter of Pryor Lea that recommended Churchwell for a federal post in Tennessee. Lea's letter was written from Knoxville and addressed to Washington. The letter is in Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. George W. Churchwell was a young lawyer from Knoxville who was an applicant for the position as United States attorney for East Tennessee. The appointment went instead to John A. McKinney of Hawkins County.

TO SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Sir

Columbia Tenn. Sept. 6th 1827

Mr. *Wright W. Elliott*¹ a young gentleman resident in this vicinity, is desirous of obtaining the situation of Mid-shipman in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Elliott's age is twenty two years; he sustains a fair reputation, has a good English education, & I have every confidence, that he would, if appointed, discharge his duty with credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of the Government. If no vacancies at present exist, he wishes to be enrolled on the list of applicants and to be apprized when a vacancy does occur. Please inform me what the prospect of his appointment may be.²

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Connecticut Historical Society.

1. Unidentified.

2. A pencil notation on the envelope gives instructions to write to Polk that the age of Elliott excludes him from consideration since twenty is the age limit. See Southard to Polk, March 29, 1828.

FROM NAVY DEPARTMENT

Washington. September 25, 1827

The name of [Wright W.] Elliott has been placed on list of applicants for appointment as midshipman. Currently no vacancies exist.

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent by Secretary of the Navy (RG 45), National Archives.

TO ALFRED FLOURNOY

Dear Sir

Columbia Oct. 11th 1827

When I last saw you at Pulaski you promised to furnish me a memorandum of the names of certain persons in your County. During the last two winters at Washington, I was often pre-

vented from making communications of the public proceedings, that I would otherwise have done in consequence of not being able to remember the *Christian* name of the individual, having but a partial memorandum with me. Majr L. H. Brown¹ and yourself will confer a singular favor by furnishing me such a memorandum before I set out. Be so good as to note the Post office of the individual. Forward it to me by mail. I shall leave this place on next Saturday two weeks and will set out from Nashville on the 1st day of Nov. in company with *Bell, Desha & probably Marable.*² We will travel the Ohio Route. I have no news that you have not seen. Let me hear from you when convenient during the winter.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee.

1. Lewis H. Brown, an early settler on Richland Creek, was sheriff of Giles County at this time. He was a man of considerable property and as early as 1810 was principally responsible for building a Methodist Church at Rehoboth.

2. John Bell, Nashville, Robert Desha, Gallatin, and John H. Marable, Yellow Creek, were colleagues of Polk in the House of Representatives. Bell was a member of the House, 1827-41, served as Secretary of War, and later was elected as a Whig to the Senate in 1847. He defeated Polk for Speaker of the House in 1834, and thereafter they were bitter enemies. Desha, a merchant, served two terms in Congress and in 1831 moved to Mobile, Alabama, where he resumed his mercantile pursuits. Marable had served in the state senate. After two terms in Congress he returned to Yellow Creek, where he resumed his medical practice.

FROM JAMES CARUTHERS

Dear Sir [Lincoln County] October 17th 1827

The best Evidence I Can procure [. . .] of What has Already Been furnished Is the Affidavid of William Moseby A Brother of Gillam Moseby.¹ I Rode through Rutherford County; the Neighbours of Gillam Moseby All Say he lost his [horse] as was understood on his Return But cannot Give Evidence of the fact. But Sir I Believe there is no Doubt of the fact. If you will be good Enough to take Charge of my Business take this affidavit of

William Mosebys and I will Direct Lucas of Baltimore² to Send you my papers Relative to My Claim. Write me so soon as you see the situation of My Claim.

JAMES CARUTHERS

Probably addressed to Washington, but no address is available.

1. William and Gillam[Gilliam] Moseby both appear on the muster rolls for the Seminole War, but there is no indication that they were brothers.

2. This is probably a reference to Fielding Lucas Jr., who was a bookseller and publisher in Baltimore. He was noted for the publication of several atlases.

FROM JAMES WALKER¹

DR Sir

Columbia Nov. 21 1827

I received yours from Nashville and now comply with your request in sending you a copy of your Fathers Will. The copy may in some immaterial places be not exact, but it is entirely or very near the original. The attached papers are put on in the same manner and the interlineations as near as can be immitated. You ask me to inform whether there will be a contest or the *probabilities*. I do not yet certainly know what course Dr. Caldwell² will pursue. A day or two after you left here Franklin³ went to Franklin to see Nicholas P Smith⁴ and as is understood retained him and informed Dr. Caldwell that he was authorised by *you* to act and to *use your name*. In a few days after Dr. Caldwell went to Nashville to see W. E. Anderson⁵ and I suppose retained him. Dr. Caldwell says that he will spend a considerable part of what he is worth to get what his wife is justly entitled to and if *you interfere* he will spend the ballance in a way you might not like so well. I will not repeat what has been said upon this subject, except what is necessary to give you a caution, as to whom you may communicate yourself to.

You will see that the probabilities are strong that there will be a contest, and that there is probability of excitement growing out of it that will forever sever the family. Your own prudence will dictate to you the course to take, and the necessity (if you do take sides) of communicating your views & instructions to those

who will act prudently. For my own part I have always been in the habit of thinking that all a man's children are *alike* to him, and that the *law* makes the best and fairest of all Wills. I well know that your Father was *not* of sound mind & memory, and that for two weeks or more before he died that he was very unhappy about his will, and spoke of difficulties which might exist as to property willed to Maria & Eliza^o—that my wife has had less benefits from him in his life time than any of his children, and come off amongst the worst in his Will. I know too, that I have rendered him more business service than any child he has—but notwithstanding these reasons I am *willing to execute his Will* if it proves practicable to put it to Record. I think that every reasonable exertion ought to [be] made to preserve the peace of the family, and if a Law suit is inevitable as I think it is, if it is possible for it to be a *friendly one* it is much to be desired. The *Law* and the *testimony* ought to settle it, and all ought to acquiesce. I think you can by your influence do much to preserve harmony and I think you have much to loose by excitement—for when a house is divided against itself ALL FALLS. I intend, if I can be *permitted to do so*, to preserve a neutral and impartial course but the conduct of others may change my determination.

You will upon reading the Will carefully find it very unequal (if you are a judge of his property) between all, even between Wm. & Washington⁷ a considerable difference. I believe it the result of inability of mind to do what he wanted to do. You will find if the Will is sustained that several Law suits may grow out of it—for instance what is to be done with the \$1500 directed to be placed as Stock in trade in the Mercantile concern of Harris & Polk?⁸ Frank undoubtedly thinks it a legacy to him, but I can find no words that will authorise it to be paid to him. All the calls[?] as to Lots &c. on Lot No 1 are defective and calculated to produce strife. What the witnesses will say about the No. & appearance of attached pieces & interlineations is yet unknown. It is certain that nothing was read to them, and appearances is all they can speak of. My own opinion is, that it would be better for the family for an equal division to take place than for angry & lengthy law suits to be the consequenc[e] and that the best way would be for the testimony to be submitted to a Court &

Jury in a friendly manner & let them decide. Your own judgment will dictate to *you* what is the proper course for *you* to pursue. Marshall⁹ has not yet reached home. All are well except Frank, who is in a *bad frolic*.¹⁰ I expect to rent your House to Herndon¹¹ from 1st. of January until you reach home. Cooper has bot out McGimpsay.¹²

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. James Walker and James K. Polk were co-executors of Sam Polk's will.
2. Dr. Silas Caldwell, husband of Polk's sister Lydia Eliza.
3. Franklin Ezekiel Polk, Sam Polk's second son. He is referred to below as Frank.
4. A practicing attorney in Williamson County, who had been admitted to law practice on the same day Polk himself was admitted.
5. William E. Anderson, a prominent Nashville lawyer who had moved from Knoxville about 1825. After serving as chancellor of the western circuit and as a member of the General Assembly, he eventually moved to Mississippi.
6. Jane Maria and Lydia Eliza, whose husbands were James Walker and Silas Caldwell.
7. William Hawkins Polk and Samuel Washington Polk, Polk's youngest brothers, twelve and ten years of age. The latter was sometimes called Wash.
8. This seems to have been a partnership between Adlai O. Harris and Franklin Polk. Harris had been a partner with James Walker for some years.
9. Marshall Tate Polk, another son of Sam Polk, was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1825 and was living in that state when his father died. He had recently married Laura T. Wilson.
10. Franklin Polk was drinking heavily.
11. Probably Joseph Herndon, a Maury County lawyer.
12. Dr. John W. McGimsey had sold his home to M. D. Cooper, a wealthy Columbia merchant.

TO ALFRED FLOURNOY

Dear Sir

Washington City Dec. 6th 1827

When at Nashville on my way here Dr. Camp¹ handed me five dollars to pay your next year's subscription to the Telegraph. Enclosed you will receive Genl. [Duff] Green's receipt.

The tables are turned. Of our success in electing the Jackson candidate for Speaker you will hear before this reaches you.² The election turned on the Presidential question, and is therefore a fair test of the strength of parties in the House. We had to fight some undisciplined militia against well drilled regulars, and yet the victory was ours. It was a great triumph; a triumph of principle over power and Governmental patronage. The strength of parties was tested in the Senate on Tuesday on the question of the election of Genl. D. Green as printer to that body—and which was decided by a vote of 25. to 19 in his favor, so that the “factious opposition” as the partisans of the administration have been pleased to call those who have decid[dared] to oppose this administration, it would seem all in power[favor] with the people, however unpopular they may be with the ruling powers.³ The extraordinary fact now exists for the first time since the days of the elder Adams (and even then he retained a majority of the Senate in his support) that a majority of both branches of Congress, are against the Executive Magistrate and opposed to the policies of his administration. This is conclusive testimony, if we had none other of public sentiment. No administration can be sustained under such circumstances. The political careers of those now in power must close at the end of this present term.

I shall expect to hear from you as often as you may find it convenient to write during the winter, and I will as heretofore with great pleasure communicate any thing of interest that may occur here.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Pulaski. This is a typescript in the Louisiana State University Archives. The location of the original has not been determined.

1. John Hamlin Camp studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and began practicing at Elkton, Giles County, in 1817. He served three terms in the General Assembly, 1821–27, and died in 1829. Three Flournoy brothers, Alfred, Silas, and William C., married three of Camp’s daughters.

2. Andrew Stevenson of Virginia.

3. The two bracketed words are offered as alternative readings to those in the typescript. Without access to the original, of course, they can be mere suggestions.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Columbia Dec. 7th 1827

After considerable talkings &c. about the best way for our family to get along in peace harmony & good Will and to avoid a bitter lawsuit, the five children here of age have met together and agreed upon a compromise which you will see and fully understand from the enclosed paper. You will see that an exact equality has not been agreed on, but as my wife gets the smallest portion and she is satisfied, the good feelings produced will be the same as if all were equal. You will also see that what you have heretofore got, and that devised to you in the Will makes you one of the best in the 6 and that you have to give up a small portion, but we suppose you want peace and good will in the family and all things nearly fair and equal, and will give your assent to the arrangement upon the assurance that if there is any error in calculation, you shall not in any event get less than a full average of the 6. Jack and Ophelia¹ will still be better than some of us and not so well as others, so that by the compromise there will be 8 nearly upon an equality, or as nearly 10 as the enclosed paper will show. The two young boys² will get a good deal the best Estate of any, but they are yet to be raised, and we think it better to give it to them than to loose it upon Lawyers, waste in the estate &c. They can do as they please as to *equality* when they become of age.

It has been pretty well ascertained that after all the legacies are paid that there will be a surplus of Cash and property amounting to between \$10. & 15000. which by law is to be equally divided between all the heirs. That this sum will be much greater by the compromise cannot be doubted. The \$2000. agreed to be given from the 3 boys to the girls will be payable out of their share of this surplus or in property at fair valuation.

It seemed to be considered by Franklin, Marshall & the doctor [Caldwell], that if there was a contest it would take 4 or 5 years to settle it. If there was obstinacy and determination on both sides this might be the case. In the way agreed on the whole estate will be kept in the family. We cannot be reproached with

squabbling about our ancestors estate &c. I need not however tell you the advantages of this arrangement for I have no doubt that you will not only be satisfied, but rejoice in it, and that nothing can now prevent harmony and good will amongst all. You will of course immediately write to some of us upon this subject, and give your assent if possible before the county Court.

JAMES WALKER

P.S. Jacks share we estimate to be worth \$9880. which is all. As you will see he is not entitled to any share of the surplus of Western lands. It is thought that he ought and will pay a part of the 1,000[?] allotted to be paid by EF^s & you to Caldwell.

Addressed to Washington.

1. John Lee Polk and Ophelia Clarissa Polk, younger brother and sister of Polk. In 1829 Ophelia married Dr. John B. Hays.

2. William Hawkins Polk and Samuel Washington Polk.

3. Since there are no punctuation marks here, just what Walker meant is not clear. Possible interpretations are that he meant Eliza and Franklin, or that he inadvertently reversed the initials of Franklin Ezekiel.

FROM TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION TO [HENRY CLAY]

Sir,

Washington Decr. 7th 1827

From some intimations given, in West Tennessee, during the last summer, we have reason to fear an attempt may be made to induce the President of the United States to supersede Colonel Robert Purdy, the present Marshal of West Tennessee, at the expiration of the current four years, by the appointment of another person in his stead.¹ He was long a faithful, and valuable, officer in the army of the United States. Upon the reduction of it, after the late War, he was deranged from the service, has held his present office for a number of years and discharged, as we believe, all the duties attached to it, to the entire satisfaction of every person. He is now advanced in life, the perquisites and salary which he receives furnish him the means of living; and to deprive him of them, while his fidelity and capacity cannot be questioned, would be very unpleasant to society. We therefore

respectfully, but, earnestly, recommend him, to the President for reappointment.

HU. L. WHITE
 J. H. EATON
 JAMES K. POLK
 JNO. BELL
 ROBERT DESHA
 PRYOR LEA

JOHN BLAIR
 DAVID CROCKETT
 JNO. H. MARABLE
 J. C. MITCHELL
 J. C. ISACKS

Presumably addressed to Washington, the letter bears the actual signatures of the congressmen. It is not written in Polk's handwriting. In Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. This is obviously a reference to Theodorick F. Bradford of Bedford County. Purdy, however, was reappointed.

TO [DEPARTMENT OF WAR]

Sir

H. Repts. Decr. 8th 1827

I enclose to you the memorial of David Dodd¹ to Congress praying that he may be allowed the arrearages of his pension from the time he was stricken from the pension roll, until he was reinstated. Possibly it may be within the power of the Department of War to grant it to him, without an application to Congress. I am not conversant with the rules and regulations established by the Department, nor have I examined the law particularly. Mr. Dodd is a very worthy old man and in very indigent circumstances, and if such a claim in any case is allowed, I should think it due to him. If his application cannot be allowed by the Department, be so good as to return to me his petition, and be pleased likewise to state, when he [was] stricken from the pension roll, and the reasons therefore and when reinstated, to the end that his application may be presented to Congress.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Virginia Historical Society.

1. See James L. Edwards to Polk, December 17, 1827. Dodd, a private in the North Carolina line during the Revolutionary War, was removed from the

pension roll by virtue of the congressional act of May 1820. He was, however, reinstated with the annual pension of \$96.00, retroactive to April 1823. He died in Lincoln County in January 1829.

TO [DEPARTMENT OF WAR]

Sir

Washington City Decr. 10th 1827

I enclose to you the amended declaration of *Silvester Chunn*¹ a soldier of the revolution, who prays to be re-instated on the pension roll. Attached to his declaration is the affidavit of James N. Smith² to which your attention is invited. I know Mr. Chunn personally. He is an honest, worthy, but a very poor man and I think merits the pension allowed to other soldiers of the revolution. If his pension is allowed, enclose his certificate to me that I may forward it to him.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Morrell Collection, New York Public Library.

1. Having served as a private in the Virginia continental line, Chunn was awarded a pension of \$96.00 per year and placed on the pension roll in January 1820, with the pension retroactive to January 1819. Although the pension was suspended under act of May 1820, it was continued again in January 1828. In 1840 Chunn was reported living in Marshall County and still drawing the pension.

2. The affidavit has not been located. Smith, a resident of Columbia, had once taught in a small school in Maury County where Polk was a pupil.

TO JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Washington City Decr. 11th 1827

I have recd. by this morning's mail your letter of the 21st Nov. enclosing to me a copy of my father's will, and lose no time in answering it. It is a source of deep regret to me, that anyone concerned should entertain unpleasant feelings towards me, in relation to the course which they may apprehend I have or may take, for I am not consious of having merited it. My first and

great object before I left home was to render the old lady as comfortable and happy as the nature of circumstances would permit, and to preserve by all possible means harmony in the family.¹ For this purpose you know I labored for the short time that I was permitted to remain at home. Before I set out, it was intimated in a way that rendered it probable that the will would be contested, though it was not certain. It was likely from appearances, that if the will was contested at all, it would be by some of the older members of the family, who would be able to manage it for themselves, who could procure counsel, arrange their proof &c without any assistance from others. The younger children who from the tender age of some of them would be incompetent to look to their own interest, over those who were most interested in establishing the will. I then thought and still do, that if there be a contest that sides should be fairly represented by counsel, that the proof on both sides should be heard, and that a jury would divide according to the law and the testimony. Being the oldest member of the family, and being supposed to know something more of the nature of legal proceedings than others, I was applied to by brother *Frank* and *Jack*; (the old lady too desired my opinion, for she did not wish the Will to be contested or broke) for my advice as to the manner in which it would be proper for the younger children to act, in order to have a full and a compleat hearing. That advice I felt it my duty to give. I informed them, that in the event of a contest, there would probably be able counsel employed against them, and that it would be proper for them likewise to have such, and said to them that Nicholas P. Smith Esqr would be as competent as any other. My advice was likewise asked as to the testimony which it would be necessary or proper to adduce, which I likewise felt it my duty to give. I understood from you that being an Executor named in the Will, you would present it for probate to the County Court, and if contested suffer it to be tried according to the law and the testimony. Being also an Executor in the *will* I said to brother Frank that my name likewise as Executor could be used if necessary for the purpose of having a fair trial. I did not presume that it would be necessary nor do I desire to be a party in the contest, but should it be necessary as Executor I

would not shrink from it, nor do I suppose you would. The course I have taken is one that I believe to be correct in reference to the wishes of the old lady, and the interest of the minor children, and is one that I conceive none can with propriety except to.

As to myself, you know that I receive as small a portion by the *will* as any other, but if it be my fathers *will* I have ever said and now repeat, that if he had not left me a farthing it should never be disturbed by me. I hold his memory in reverence, as the best and kindest of parents. It would be my individual interest as you know, if the will was broken, or if it is established my portion would be much less than that which the law would allow. How it will be possible therefore as you suggest may be the case for any one concerned to think hard of me, I cannot conceive. My name may have been imprudently used for aught I know, and things may have been erroneously attributed to me. How this is I know not. As to *taking sides* as you mention in your letter, I have to say, my brothers and sisters are all equally near to me, and I am conscious of having given no cause of offense to any. What I have done has been from a sense of duty and with the best of motives and against my individual pecuniary interest. It has been to the end, that the case on the part of the minor as well as the elder children should be fairly presented to a jury of the county, that they might divide it, according to the law and the evidence. Certainly none either old or young could desire any thing but a full & fair investigation on all sides & on the part of all concerned. What I have done has been from a sense of obligation to the wishes of the old lady, and of duty to the minor children, who have no one to attend to their interests for them & who might otherwise, when they arrive at full age complain that their interest had been neglected. I do most ardently hope, that if it is contested, it will be done without excitement. Let it be a peaceable friendly investigation. Warm feelings will effect nothing either way. The law will settle it at last. I hope the elder members of the family will look over the indiscretion of the younger, if they should commit any, and do what may be in their power to preserve harmony. I will write to the old lady to-morrow and to the boys as soon as I have leisure afterwards and will urge upon them the necessity of preserving peace. If any one or

more of their heirs wish to contest the *Will*, the law guarantees to them that right and should be no cause of difference between them and those who wish to establish it, for the law equally guarantees the right to the latter to attempt to establish it, if they choose to do so.

I approve of your renting out my house. Dr. [Silas] Caldwell promised me to hire out my negroes *Jim* and *Coy*. If he should not do so, I would thank if you have an opportunity to do so. We are in good health. Remember us to *Maria* and the family generally.

JAMES K. POLK

This is a copy in Polk's handwriting of a letter he sent to Columbia. The original has not been found.

1. Obviously this letter crossed in the mails the one from Walker of December 7 informing Polk that a compromise had been achieved amicably.

FROM FRANKLIN E. POLK¹

Dear Brother

Columbia Tennessee Decr. 12th 1827

You will perceive by Mr. Walkers letter that a compromise with respect to the estate has been agreed on between five of us here that are of age and nothing remains but your assent to Join in with us, in order to adjust the whole matter in a peaceable & amicable manner. I feel pretty well assured that you will agree to it when you take into consideration the vast expense, trouble & disagreeable feelings that would necessarily be attendant on a tedious lawsuit of this kind. You, Marshall, and myself would be looser by this compromise, but not so much as would justify a lawsuit. We have been as particular as was within our power in making out a correct schedule of property that has been received, and that which is devised in the will, and in estimating the comparative value of each ones estate we may have erred, but I presume not very materially. Mr Walker pledges himself that you shall at all events be made equal with himself, the Doctor, Harris,² Marshall & myself. Mr. Walker writes you fully on the

subject and will explain every thing to your satisfaction. You will of course write to some of us immediately.

Marshall & his wife arrived at home about two weeks since. We are all very much pleased with her indeed, she is a modest, plain & sensible lady, & I have no doubt but you & Sarah will be well pleased with her. They live in the house with Ma. All are well except Jack who is confined with rheumatism in his right knee. It is very much swollen and painful.

No news of importance, the legislature was over Monday last. You have heard I suppose of the death of the Hon Henry Crabb. Remember me to Sister Sarah.

FRANKLIN E POLK

Addressed to Washington.

1. In a codicil signed May 3, 1827, Samuel Polk had put in trust Franklin's share of his estate. The executors of the will, James Walker and James K. Polk, were to be trustees. The reason given was that Franklin was at that time "addicted to intemperate habits which disqualify him from the prudent and careful management of property." This codicil was probably removed from the will before Sam Polk died.

2. Doctor Silas Caldwell and Adlai O. Harris. Harris married Naomi Polk in 1825. He was a business partner with James Walker for a while and became one of the leading businessmen in Columbia.

FROM WILLIAM DUNLAP¹

Dear Sir

New York Decr. 13th 1827

You know that I rely principally for subsistence upon that remuneration for my labour which I receive from exhibiting my pictures, painted for that purpose & as I always flattered myself, answering the purposes of difusing information & a taste for the fine Arts.

My picture of The Christ Rejected has been for months in the Western States & has been well received. It was last exhibited at Columbia Tennessee & knowing that there was a balance in my Agents hands, I received with joy this morning a double letter from him, anticipating a draft, but in its stead found the following acct.

James Creighton²To the Corporation of Columbia (Tene.)
Dr.

1827 Novr 20th	To Corporation Tax for Exhibiting	
	Dunlap's painting	20.50
	Officers fees	3.50
		<u>\$24.00</u>

Novr 20th 1827 of James Creighton twenty four dollars in full of the above a/c.

JEREMIAH CHERRY

Recorder of 3d Corporation

James Creighton

To Joseph B. Porter³ Clerk of Maury
County Court Dr.

1827 Novr 20th	To State Tax for Exhibiting Dunlaps	
	painting in	
	Maury County	51.00
	& Clerks fees	
	Clerks fees for writ . . .	4.52½
	Sheriffs fees	1.—
		<u>\$56.52½</u>

Recd Novr 20th 1827 of James Creighton fifty Six Dollars 52½ Cents in full of above account

THOS. NORTON⁴

Depty Sheriff M.C.C.

My agent arrived at Columbia the 13th Novr. and obtained permission to Exhibit my picture in the Presbyterian Church. This was common, Churches & Court houses having been cheerfully given & never before a Tax spoken of. He exhibited 3 days in Columbia and departed at 1, oclock P.M. for Col Browne's⁵ (12 miles distant). He had just arrived when 3 men rode up & seized him, saying they had a writ of warrant, and demanded 80.52. It being night they staid there guarding him & threatening to take him back to Jail. In the morning, rather than go back, he paid the money.

I have thought that this disgraceful transaction should rather be stated to some Gentleman from the Neighbourhood, and thus

advice asked, than to take any other step, and I have made this representation to you as my friend & a friend to the fine arts, hoping that you may have it in your power so to represent the fact to gentlemen from Tennessee, or to serve others, if there should be no remedy for me.

WM DUNLAP

Probably addressed to Washington although the address sheet has not been found.

1. Dunlap, of New York, was an artist, playwright, theatrical manager, and historian. In 1821 he began a series of large show pictures which were sent on tour, a common practice of that period.

2. Dunlap's agent.

3. Porter held this office from 1807 until 1828. He was also engaged in various business activities in Columbia.

4. Not otherwise identified.

5. This refers to Colonel Joseph Brown, although the distance from Columbia seems to be inaccurate. He was a prominent figure in the early history of Columbia and Maury County. As a boy he had been captured by Indians and had spent several years in captivity.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 14, 1827

Papers relating to Noah Ward's¹ claim for team hire are returned. The exact time of service must be established.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. An elderly resident of Lincoln County. This claim was not settled for many months.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 14, 1827

The claim of Rachel Turner for pension as the widow of Peter Turner¹ was rejected in 1819 and in 1822. It is again denied because there is no provision for a pension if a soldier died after discharge from disease contracted while in service.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. On May 20, 1820, a private act granting Rachel Turner a half-pay pension for five years passed Congress.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 14, 1827

John Goff,¹ a private in Tennessee volunteers, was recorded as present in April 1813, after the date of the furlough during which he was supposed to have died. This discrepancy must be explained before a pension can be considered.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Not otherwise identified.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 14, 1827

Papers on file show that the widow of Jonathan Hall married Ephraim McLaughlin and applied for a pension under that name. A more recent application is from Sarah Reed, widow of Jonathan Hall, without reference to McLaughlin. Her marriage to Reed must be proved and conclusive evidence provided that Ezekiel Falkner is still guardian of the children.¹

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See Charles Boyles to Polk, November 6, 1826.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir, War Department Pension Office, December 17, 1827

The papers which you sent to this Office a few days since in support of the claim of James L. Crawford¹ have been examined. I find the name of James Crawford on the rolls, reported sick on January 1814, but I do not discover from the rolls that he was wounded. No objection, however, will be made to the claim, on

his producing such evidence as is required in such cases. The enclosed printed sheets marked A. will shew what is wanting. The Captain, in addition to the oath prescribed in the printed rules, must assign a sufficient reason for not reporting the claimant as a wounded man. All the evidence must be taken under oath, and must be authenticated as the regulations direct, and the Surgeons must draw up their statement according to the form enclosed.

William Hood's² papers are also incomplete. The printed regulations marked B. must be particularly observed in drawing up the affidavit and having them authenticated; and the name of the Captain to whose company he was attached must be mentioned; otherwise it will be impossible to effect the necessary examination of the muster rolls.

Abraham Parker³ must amend his declaration, by setting forth therein the time of his entering the service, and the time and manner of his leaving it; and he must also account for the land and other property which he has disposed of since the 18th. of March 1818, in the manner printed out in the enclosed printed sheet. The Clerk's certificate must be drawn up according to the form thereto annexed. The claimant must also give a satisfactory reason for omitting to mention the land which he disposed of when he rendered his first schedule of property.

In the case of David Dodd, I have merely to remark to you that under the act of May 1st. 1820, his property, which amounted to \$201, was deemed sufficient by the Secretary of War to exclude him from the benefits of the act of March 18th. 1818. His name was accordingly dropt from the roll after directing him to be paid to the 4th. of March 1820 in conformity to the aforesaid law of 1820. In 1823, he proved by the testimony of respectable persons that his property was valued too high, and that he was very poor and unable to support himself. His name was then directed to be restored to the roll, to take effect, according to the act of March 1, 1823, from the time of completing the evidence upon which the Department acted when his name was restored. That evidence was completed on the 25th. of April 1823. Hence from the 4th of March 1823 to said month of April he received no pay, nor can he, consistently with the provisions

of the last clause of the 3d. section of the act of March 1, 1823. A considerable number of cases of this kind have been presented at this Department, but under the construction given to the law, no arrears have been allowed. I take leave respectfully to refer you to a report made to the House of Representatives, on the subject, of the 17th. of February 1826.

Sylvester Chunn's papers are still imperfect. He has failed to assign any reason for not making earlier application for a continuance of his pension, as requested in the letter of the 28th. of February last, addressed to you from this Office.

All the papers in these cases are herewith returned.

J. L. EDWARDS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Having served as a sergeant in the Tennessee militia, Crawford was placed on the pension roll as an invalid pensioner in April 1828. He received an annual allowance of \$48.00 in Maury County.

2. Hood's application for a pension was not acted upon favorably at this time. He had a finger shot off at a camp in Michigan and was undoubtedly partially disabled. The injury came while he was in the service, but there was some doubt that the injury was suffered in the line of duty and that Hood was honorably discharged. The final outcome of the pension request is not known.

3. Having been a private in the North Carolina line, Parker was eventually placed on the pension roll in January 1833. A resident of Maury County, he died and was buried there.

FROM JOHN McLEAN

Sir,

17th Decr. 1827

Your application on behalf of the post master at Columbia Te. for additional compensation, has been duly considered. I am perfectly aware that the compensation to post masters, does not in all cases, bear an equal ratio to the amount of their labors; but no principal could be adopted more satisfactory than that of the percentage system which Congress has established. The postmaster at Columbia now receives all the compensation which the law will authorize. Any thing farther would require a special act of Congress. Should it be granted in this instance, the claimers of numerous applicants of the same nature would be urged with

equal propriety: and an increased allowance in all cases where the amount of labor bears more than an ordinary proportion to the compensation, would so exhaust the resources of the Department as to paralyze its operations. Aside from the compensation to postmasters, the privilege of franking, [ex]emption from military and jury duty survive & the convenience of receiving the earliest intelligence of passing events, have so far conspired to render the office of post master desirable, that no difficulty has been found in obtaining the services of suitable characters, even where the compensation would of itself be deemed the most inadequate remuneration for the labors performed.

J. McL.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 20, 1827

Records confirm that James Carter¹ died in the service on July 27, 1819, and that bounty land has been granted. The claim for pay is referred to the Second Auditor.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM D. BEALL, JR.¹

Sir, Augusta [Georgia] Decr 22d 1827

In answer to your letter enclosing the roll of Capt John McKenzie's Compy of Militia to the agent of Georgia Mil[itary] Claims, (who has left this place for Washington City,) I have the honor to inform you that the name of Capt M. does not appear on the Estimates made by Constant Freeman for services performed by the militia of Georgia, in the years 1792, 3 & 4. The claim, therefore, cannot be allowed as the law provides for such troops only as are included in said Estimates.

Owing, probably, to the neglect of Capt McKenzie in omitting to furnish the agent of the war Department, who visited Georgia at an early period with the view of obtaining from the Officers the rolls of the troops, with the necessary vouchers, his name was not placed on the Estimates.

The papers forwarded by you are herewith returned.

W. D. BEALL JUNR

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of Rhode Island, he was for several years a clerk in the Paymaster General's Office in the War Department.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 26, 1827

The name of Blake Moulder¹ does not appear on the rolls of the regiment mentioned. When his discharge and other papers are received the case will be re-examined.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

FROM GREEN PRYOR¹

Honb Sir West Monticello near Bolivar Tenn. Dec 27 1827

Enclosed you have a Statement from Geo Graham Esqr directed to the Honable A R Alexander concerning F[r]actional section 2 Township 14 of Range 5 East in Claibo[r]n County Miss. with a statement of purchase &c. On the 29th July 1818 I purchased said Fraction from Mr. Isham Arther who had entered it and since have paid him for the same, and also have paid the Govt. the whole amt demanded for the same on the 22nd day of March 1822. When I became the purchaser I relied on the Faith of Government for a Patent for sd Land when the then amt. of money due for it was paid up. I have paid said dues and since it has been by some means ascertained that the Fraction contains moore Land than the Surveyor had reported or that the surveyor

had made a mistake and it appears from Mr. Grahams Statement I must either relinquish a part or pay for all over 440 acres before a Patent will be Granted. I consider that I have paid for the whole Fraction whether moore or less than 440 a. You will confer a singular favour on me by Giveing my Respects to Colo. Thos. H. Benton and request him to join you and make a trial at the Genr. Land office to procure a Patent for the above mentioned Fraction of Land in the name of Green Pryor & The Heirs of Peter Pryor² Decd. And if you should fail to procure a Patent you will please lay the accompanied Petition or memorial before the Honable members of Congress. If Granted I wish you to bring the Patent and I will pay the Fees to you for it on sight after being apprised that you have procured the Patent.

This leaves us in good health with the exception of the whooping Colf among the Children &c. tho all appear on the mend and out of danger. Your Relations in this Section of Country are generally well. I wish to hear from you as soon as you can ascertain what disposition is made concerning my Claim. Friend James remember you have to die.

GREEN PRYOR

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was a son of John Pryor, who had died some years before while residing in Williamson County. Green Pryor was a planter in Hardeman County and owned more than twenty slaves.

2. Green Pryor's brother. The date of his death has not been ascertained.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir, War Department Pension Office December 31, 1827

Since my letter to you of the 19th. instant I have received an answer to my letter to the Secretary of the State of North Carolina, respecting the case of James Sykes.¹ The Secretary's statement throws no additional light on the subject. It does not appear from the rolls that James Sykes ever belonged to Col. Lytle's regiment, in which he says he served; nor does it appear from the rolls that there ever was a Captain William Rayford in the service. He says that he was attached to Rayford's Company.

In order to bring the case more clearly to your view, I now enclose a copy of my letter to you, dated on the 7th. of December 1826, and I have merely to add, that I think it very doubtful whether he entered the service at so early a period of the war as to entitle him to a pension.

J. L. EDWARDS

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Edwards to Polk, December 7, 1826, and May 20, 1828.

1828

TO JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Washington City Jany. 1st 1828

Your letter of the 7th and likewise one from brother Frank of the 12th Decr. were recd. this morning. Their contents were wholly unanticipated by me. My answer to your letter of Nov. 21st explains my wishes in relation to the peace of the family, in the distribution of my father's estate and need not be here repeated.

From the abstract of compromise which you have sent to me, I am not certain that I fully understand all the terms which have been agreed on by the older children, but the general outlines I believe I comprehend. As to the estimate of the value of property recd. by the older members of the family before my father's death, I can only speak as to myself. Of the value of that recd. by others you have more correct information than I have. In your estimate I am stated to have recd. 1150 acres of western land. It should be 1180 acres instead of 1150 acres. The circumstances were these. My father first gave me a title bond for 1000 acres of the Muddy Creek tract, which was intended to be of average value with the whole tract. When Mr. Jarrett¹ came to run it off for me (you and myself being in company) he was of opinion that it was the inferior part of the tract and that 1180 acres laid

off where it was, was about equal to 1000 acres, of average value with the whole tract, and accordingly so represented. When my father made the deed, he included in it 163 acres, which I purchased from you, but the legal title to which was in him. The deed itself is therefore for 1343 acres. You estimate its value at \$3. pr. acre. Mr. Harris sold a part of the same tract, better land than mine at \$2.50 pr. acre. Estimating mine at the price he sold his for it would amount to \$2950.00, which would be \$500 less than your estimate. I have heretofore not wished to sell my land but preferred retaining it (unless I could exchange it for a plantation near Columbia) with the expectation that it might hereafter be more valuable, and have therefore said that I would not take less than \$4.00 pr. acre for it, but if I had sold it for what it would bring, I could not have gotten in all probability, more than the price for which Harris sold his. If however you should be of opinion that it should be estimated at \$3. pr. acre, it would be equally right to estimate Mr. Harris's land which he has sold at the same price. The town lot on which Mr. Harris now lives is estimated at \$600, whereas it should be \$500. that being the price for which I sold it to my father, after he had made me a deed for it, making a difference of \$100, on that item. In your estimate is 200 acres Maury land at \$2000; it should be 206 acres at \$9. pr. acre, the price for which I sold it, making a difference in that item of \$146. My law library is estimated at \$500. whereas it should be somewhere about \$140. Shortly after I commenced the practice of law, I purchased from Moses F. Roberts a part of the old library of his brother Elijah Roberts² to the amount as well as I remember of about \$140. which was paid by my father, making a difference in this item if I am correct as to cost of Roberts's books of \$360. The precise price they cost can however be easily ascertained. This is the only part of my law library paid for by my father. The balance I purchased and paid for myself, most of them from Simpson Walker,³ having made a contract with him to buy them in Philadelphia. I made the money and paid for them myself according to our contract in cash notes. The following recapitulation in relation to those items, will exhibit the difference between your estimate and mine if I am correct—
to wit

Your estimate	My estimate
1150 acres Western land	1180 acres Western land
say \$3 pr. acre . . . \$3450	say \$2.50 pr. acre . . . \$2950
1 Town lot . . . \$ 600	1 Town lot . . . \$ 500
200 acres land in	206 acres land in Maury
Maury \$2000	at \$9. per acre . . . \$1854
Library supposed . . . \$ 500	Library \$ 140
<u>\$6550</u>	<u>\$5444</u>
<u>\$5444</u>	
<u>\$1106</u> Difference	

Deduct this difference from your aggregate amount & it will leave \$7969. It is proper however to add to this one item which I remember and which you have omitted. About the time I commenced the practice of law, my father gave me my office, I mean the house itself and not the ground on which it stands. I think he paid for it to George [. . .]⁴ \$220. Add this to the above and it will make \$8189., supposing your estimate in relation to the other items to be correct. If Mr. Harris's land which he has sold, be estimated at the same price with mine, the amt. recd. by him, would be \$8486, which is a greater sum than that recd. by me, and it would seem therefore that nothing should be paid to him, he having recd. more than me, and his being greater and mine less than the average you have stated. But it was perhaps useless for me to have given you this detail. I have only done so for your information and satisfaction. No doubt you have estimated my property according to the best information or knowledge you had of it. You know when I return I will do whatever is right. I was under the impression from a slight examination of the *Will*, and so remained, until I recd. your letter this morning, that the portion allotted to me, was as small if not smaller, than that to any other of the children, having no accurate knowledge of what had been recd. either by Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Harris or yourself before my father's death. I think when Mr. Harris sees this letter and ascertains the errors in estimating my property which I have stated, he will think with me that I ought not to pay anything to him. When I return and we all talk together I will do whatever I think is right. I have some apprehensions that the old lady is not

liberally provided for, but trust to the liberality of all the children, to see that she shall never want for any thing, which may be necessary for her comfort. I must request your particular attention to her interest. In furnishing her the carriage horses, for instance, which are willed to her, if you do so before I return, give such as are valuable. If they do not belong to the estate, you will be authorized by the terms of the will, to procure them for her. She determined I believe before I left home not to dissent from the *will*. I leave this however to her own free will and to the advice of yourself and her other children. If she were to dissent the legal effect you know. If she were to do so it must be done within six months.

I have written so lengthily I shall not attempt to give you any of the news. It is now later at night than I am in the habit of sitting up. We are in good health. Remember us to all.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Columbia. On the outside of this letter Polk made the following notation: "Copy of letter written but not sent, retained as memorandum."

1. Probably David Jarrett of Madison County. Jarrett had helped Sam Polk in surveying lands in the Western District.

2. They were early residents of Maury County.

3. A cousin of James Walker, who was at one time his partner in a Columbia store where Adlai O. Harris was employed as a clerk. He married Mariah, an older sister of A. O. P. Nicholson. He died in 1835.

4. Several words are blotted out. It appears that the writer intended to smear over several words and inadvertently blotted out a part of the name.

TO PETER B. PORTER

Sir Washington City Jany. 3rd 1828

At the request of Mr. *E. C. Frierson*^t a young gentleman residing in Maury County Tennessee, I have the honor to present his claims for admission into the Military Academy at West Point, and to request that he may be considered among the applicants from that State. Enclosed I send a certificate from his last teacher. He is a young gentleman of good character and respectable family. His age as he informs me is nineteen years—or rather he will be nineteen on the 21st Inst. My intention in

presenting his name is to place him fairly before the Department, and not to give him a preference over others who may likewise be applicants—deeming it proper so far as any recommendation of mine is concerned, to give no preference to one over another in my immediate section of Tennessee; but leave it to the appointing power to decide on their relative claims.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Cadet Application Papers, United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1. Not otherwise identified. He did not receive an appointment.

FROM JANE POLK TO
JAMES K. AND SARAH POLK

My Dear Children

Columbia Jany 5th 1828

I received your letter of the 12 of December one from Sarah a few days before.¹ Your kind and friendly advise will be attended to on my part as nothing would be so distressing to me as family disturbance. I suppose you have heard before this time how your brothers and brotherinlaws have fixed the business. Whether it is best or not I do believe they acted from the purest motives to preserve peace and save your fathers name from being canceled in court as you know many things would have been said about his mind not being rite and every little action exposed that he done when under the influence of the lodnam[*laudanum*]. The very thought of such a thing appea[re]d as it would have been more than I could a borne up under. I long to hear what you think about the matter. Your brother Marshall and sister Laura is living with me. I think Laura is a very fine agreeable girl. She is kind and good to me. She is none of your high dashers. She is mild and modest, converses sencibly and loves to go to Church. Mr Walker thought it was best to hire out the negroes before the will was proven. It was so long before court and they were all idle. The[y] are all hired out, yours with the rest except your brother Jack who has taken four[?] and is now preparing for farming. I do hope he will do well, he seems so intent upon it. He has just come home this evening. It does me good to see him so study[*steady*]. Franklin is now gone to the western district to

view his lands and rent some of it out. I feel great unasiness about him as he has had a spell of drinking since you went away which had like to a killed him. He was worse than ever he was before. He was very much alarmed about himself. He promised me he would not drink any while gone. William & Washington are going to school. We live much retired, Just visit in the family circle. Our neighbours have been kind and attentive to us but still my dear children there is such a vacancy which no one can supply but when we consider the hand that done it we must say surely it is the Lord. Let him do whatsoever he will, holy Just and true are thou O God. It is thou that has a rite to every Creature thou hast made. It is the Lord that can raise our comforts high or sink them in the grave as he pleases. Be still then my soul let not a murmuring sigh arise. I trust this close visitation of providence will not soon be forgotten. May it please the almyty out of his mere goodness to sanctify it to myself and all my dear children. It is a loud call to prepare for death. We have received a letter from docter [Gideon] Blackburn. He states that he cannot be here before July which time I think will do very Well as you do not expect to be home much before that time and I wish all to be presant. He also sent an inscription for the tomb stone which will be attended to. It is now tin oclock at night. My three youngest children are now sleeping in the room by my side. Laura and Ophelia join with me in sending their love to you & Sarah. Ophelia says shee will write to Sarah soon. She has made several attemps but always failed as usual.

JANE POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter, with a few omissions, has been published in Charles Grier Sellers Jr., *James K. Polk: Jacksonian, 1795-1848* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1957), pp. 115-116.

1. These letters have not been found.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 11, 1828

The claim of John H. Bills¹ for hauling arms to Baton Rouge in 1821 cannot be approved without his affidavit that no payment has been made to him or his agent.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Former resident of Maury County, who was a merchant at Bolivar, Hardeman County. He served as postmaster for some years and married Prudence Tate McNeal, Polk's first cousin.

FROM JOHN LOWRY¹

Dear Sir

Mouth Tellico² 11th January 1828

Your favor of the 25th November last is now Before me. I would have answered you much earlier but have been absent from home, and have but very Recently Reced. your letter. And altho I never have engaged very deeply in the politicks of the day, I feel it my duty to answer your Request touching the debated Resolutions introduced by Mr. Rogers³ into the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Tennessee. When the Resolutions were first introduced, and before there was the least possible opperturnity for the interchange of opinions on the subject the Idea seemed unanimously to prevail amongst the friends of General Jackson that it was a contrivance of his Enemies, to injure him abroad. As for Mr. Rogers he never was so much as suspected for being his friend, and for the best of Reasons, because he was most generally, to be found in the Ranks of his Enemies. But I think better proof will not be Required, of the estimation in which the Resolutions were Regarded by the House of Representatives than their vote on the Journals. They were introduced some short time after Browns Resolutions⁴ had been adopted, and the very few indeed, who were opposed to them, are those, (with few exceptions if any) who voted for the impeachment Resolutions. Thus it appeard somewhat strange that those who so shortly before, were too concientious to vote for those introduced by Mr. Brown would now without hesitation vote for the Resolution of Mr. Rogers.

JOHN LOWRY

I do not sufficiently Recollect the conversation of Colo. Williams⁵ to detail it.

JOHN LOWRY

Addressed to Washington.

1. At this time Lowry represented Monroe, Blount, Sevier, and Cocke counties in the state senate.

2. Point where the Tellico River flows into what is now called the Little Tennessee River.

3. John A. Rogers of Hawkins County introduced into the lower house of the General Assembly a resolution urging the impeachment of President John Quincy Adams. It failed to pass.

4. Aaron V. Brown of Giles County offered a resolution in the state senate favoring the election of Jackson as president and proposing a constitutional amendment to provide for the direct election of the president by the people.

5. Probably John Williams, who was in the state senate at this time. He had served under Jackson in the Creek War but was an anti-Jackson man. In 1823 Jackson had defeated him for the United States Senate.

FROM JOHN McLEAN

Hon. James K. Polk [Washington] 12th [January 1828]

I have the honor to acknowledge, thro' you, the receipt of the memorial of William Newsum,¹ Late PM at Norfolk Va.

Agreeably to your request, I have caused the subject to be fully investigated. From the records of the Dept it appears that the PM at Norfolk, from 1813 to 1819, received the full amt of credits to which the law entitled him, or which the Dept was legally authorized to allow. Except for wrapping paper, sealing wax & twine, no allowance was ever made to post masters beyond the regular commissions on postages; and these allowances to the full extent of the law, were uniformly made to Mr. Newsum. The extra allowance which he claims, for clerk hire, office rent, fuel, candles & servant, has never been made, nor could legally be made, to any P. Master. When the commissions exceed two thousand dollars per annum, that excess may be applied to those objects; but in no case, can the allowance exceed the commissions, without a special law of Congress. To authorize the claim which he now makes, would introduce a principle, which, if pursued, would nearly absorb the resources of the Dept. The result of the investigation has been communicated to Mr. Newsum. The memorial, with the accompanying documents is herewith enclosed.

J. McL

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. William Newsum was a veteran of the Revolutionary War who had moved to Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, from Norfolk, Virginia, where he had served as postmaster. Although this letter has an air of finality about it, Newsum persisted. See Polk to Newsum, January 12, 1831, and Newsum to Polk, February 26, 1831. Newsum was placed on the military pension roll in 1833.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Col

Shelbyville Janury the 20th 1828

I shall leave here tomorrow morning for Fayetteville Court from which place I will again write you. I have this evening nothing to do and therefore have set down to give you a history of things in geniral. Tho of not much importance yet to you they may be new and some of them interesting. As to politicks they are as you would suppose not much in use. The hardness of the times has engrossed everything. For the difficulties of many I have to bear the blame. They say we have done no good, have not got a single individual out of Debt, and so we go.¹ But upon the whole I have done as much as my friends (the knowing ones) expected, and much to their sattisfaction, whilst my enemies lavish their abuse upon me in no ordinary degree. But of them I never asked any favors, and while I keep my proper sensies I never shall. A few days ago I was informed that my *pritty* Brother i[n] law Samma. Phillips Esqr² is a candidate for the lower branch of the Legislature at the next election. This you will not be suprised at when you reflect that it is the same *Tool* of T F Bradford that was a candidate two years ago, and who is now made a *catts paw* of by that party to privent my becoming a candidate. Its an unplesent matter for a man to be unfriendly with his kin, much less to be in opposition as a candidate. I shall therefore in all probibility be managed out of the next *race*. If I am they shall rue it before they get through, I think.

T F. Bradford has left here a few weeks ago for Washington, I suppose to make some arrangmts about the appointmt of *Marshall*. If he succeeds he will be out of the way, if not my own

impresion is that he will not be a candidate at the next election if at all. He may give you a pull. *ha-ha*. I wish he would try that. No body is as yet spoken of in opposition to you, and if your friends rise in other Counti[e]s as they have been in this for the last four or five weeks you can beat old Jackson. I will here remark that since you left here there has been *Six* Regt. made in Bedford, and that your old and warm friend Bill Lemmons³ arrived in this County about 20 days before the election, became a candidate for Col commandnt again[s]t *John* Worthum Capts. Cooper & Wilson,⁴ and that his interest was so good that he backed out Worthum & Cooper on the morning of the election, and was elected *Colonel* by a majority of about 300 votes. So much for Bill Lemons who is still yo[u]r frind as warm as evr. (Send him a dockumt). On yesterday the election took place in Col Orrs⁵ Regts. for Liet. Col. & two Maj. which terminated in a most glorious manner for our folks and a complete "Watterloo" defeat to the enemy. Majr Ephrim Hunter was elected Liet. Colonel over our good friend Sam J. Niell.⁶ *ha-ha-ha*. Your warmest friend little Whitthrone⁷ is elected first Majr by a large majority, and a Mr. Harden⁸ of Rock Creek 2d Mjr—all first rate. In the upper end of the County your friend Coffee⁹ is elected Col. commandant over Mr. Brown, a Bramblett man and the land lord of a certain Doct. Eplenior[?] ¹⁰ who you once saw. [. . .] Capt. Parker 1st Majr of the same Regt—son of old E. Parkers¹¹ Esqr. all for you. Col Whiney¹² and his office[r]s was elected before you left here &c &c.

I am sorry to say that Cols Parrish & Runnolds[Reynolds] are both candidates for Maj Genl of this Division (Col. Simpson¹³ also). The contest will be between the two first; the result very doubtful, tho my own impresion is that Parrish will be elected. You know how I stand with both of them men. I shall therefore have to be perfectly Silent. The votes in this Cou[n]ty will be divided I think pritty equally between them. If you succeed in geting a relinquishment to the Lands in the Western District you must write me imediately upon the subject. Also the prospect of a Treaty with the Chickasaws Indians. I have received your *House* Dockumt, read it in part and give it away in

your name. Will you be so good as to present me to my frinds Messrs. White & Eaton; Isaacks, Bell, Desha and my Ky. friend Genl McHatton &c.¹⁴

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Yell had been a member of the recently adjourned General Assembly.
2. Samuel Phillips was Yell's brother-in-law. Marriage records of Bedford County during this period have been destroyed, but it is likely that Phillips married a sister of Yell's first wife, Mary Scott.
3. William Lemmons was a colonel in the militia for several years.
4. John Wortham was sheriff of Bedford County. George C. Cooper had been commissioned as a lieutenant two years before. Wilson is not identified.
5. John Orr had held the rank of colonel in the militia for at least two years.
6. Ephraim Hunter had opposed the Erwin-Bradford political faction. Samuel Neill moved to Mississippi within a few months and later was a member of the legislature of that state. It is not clear why Yell was so jubilant over his defeat.
7. Probably William J. Whitthorne, who was a merchant in the Farmington community.
8. Unidentified.
9. Probably Henry B. Coffey, who was still a colonel in 1833.
10. Brown and Eplenior are unidentified.
11. Elijah Parker had been an officer in the militia for several years. Jonathan Parker was elected colonel in 1836, but it is not certain that this is the son mentioned here.
12. Probably either Absalom Whinney or Abraham Whinney, both of whom held commissions in the militia.
13. Joel Parrish, Benjamin Reynolds, and John W. Simpson. In 1816 Simpson ran for Congress and during the campaign killed the incumbent, Thomas K. Harris, in an affray at Shell's Ford, between Sparta and McMinnville. This seems to have ruined his political future.
14. Robert Lytle McHatton was a member of the House of Representatives from Kentucky.

FROM WILLIAM C. CROSS¹

Mountalban[Montalban] Mississippi

Sir

Jan'y 23rd 1828

Being personally acquainted with you I have thought it not improper to address you on a subject of much notoriety to

myself and this community, this place being immediately on the road from Vicksburg to Jackson the seat of government of this state. There was a Post Office established here last year and the appointment was given to Dr R A Irions. The Doctor has moved to the state of Louisiana and depotised myself as assistant P.M. and proposed to resign recommending myself as his successor. But in consequence of an extraordinary press of business of various kinds, he failed to comply. It therefore will be discretionary with the postmaster Gel. whether it is continued or not. I pray you will co-operate with Mr. Haile² and make the circumstances known and if possible to have a Commission sent to me. Perhaps you may have forgotten me but on reflection you will recollect that I was a medical student of Dr John B Hays of Columbia, T. a year or two ago. I have settled here for life. I have but little acquaintance with Mr. Ha[i]le having never seen him but once in Cincinnati last spring. I am devoted to the duties of my profession. Any Documents or intelligence which you may please to send me occasionally will be a benefaction, calling for my candid consideration.

WM. C. CROSS

Write to me at the earliest opportunity. Genl Jackson passed up by Vicksburg³ a few days since accompanied by Gov. Houston, Judge Overton,⁴ and a few others. I should like to know of you the prospect of his success in that quarter. The people in this state and Louisiana worship the Hero as a god on earth.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Aside from the information he gives in this letter, little has been learned about Cross. In addition to having lived in Maury County, he probably lived at Somerville for a time. He did not get the position as postmaster.

2. William Haile was Mississippi's only member of the United States House of Representatives at that time.

3. Jackson had accepted an invitation to return to New Orleans to celebrate the thirteenth anniversary of his victory there. He was accompanied by Mrs. Jackson and an assortment of war veterans and politicians.

4. John Overton was one of Jackson's closest friends. He had already enjoyed an illustrious career as a jurist, having served on the state supreme court, 1811-16.

FROM PHINEAS BRADLEY¹

Washington. January 24, 1828

In December the postmaster at McMinnville was ordered to direct the carrier to pursue the route described. The office at Noah's Fork was notified.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. Assistant Postmaster General. He had a brother, Abraham Bradley, who was an Assistant Postmaster General at the same time.

FROM EDMUND DILLAHUNTY¹

My dear Sir

Columbia January 25th 1828

Had I consulted my own inclination, I should have written to you long since. We have had court here ever since the third Monday of last month. The county court is still in session, but as I have my business pretty well in advance, I will devote a little time to the fulfilment of my promise to you previous to your departure from this place. You will not understand that I am endeavouring to convey the idea that I have been all the time so full of business that I had no time to attend to any other matters. I have had small intervals of leisure, but they have always succeeded hours of professional exertion, and you know from experience that these spare moments during the performance of the active duties of our profession, are generally attended with a state of feeling—an enervation of intellect—little calculated to superinduce a quick and lively recognition of the social duties or to give a high relish for the enjoyments of social intercourse. At such moments as these, much better would it be for the poor sinner to whom I write, that I had not written at all. But enough of this, and to the purpose of writing, and in discharging my duty in this I will try to give you such information as I myself would wish, were I as you are, from home.

During the session of the Circuit Court there was an information filed by E. E. Davidson² against C. M. Smith Esqr.³ contain-

ing three charges, the first of having accepted a challenge in the county to fight a duel, the second of having fought and slain his adversary, and the third that the Grand Jury of Simpson Co. Ken. had found a true bill for murder, which bill was yet unanswered. There was a demurer put in to the information, and the cause was argued at much length. N. P. Smith & D. Craighead⁴ appeared on the part of the prosecution, R. Cobbs, Mack, Bramblet, Field, Egnew⁵ and myself for Majr. Smith. The Demurer was overruled, and Majr. Smith by sentence of the court was stricken from the rolls. The court, as it is often the case, from the love of being thought original, or from having a deeper insight into the matter, decided the cause on the first charge, it being the one in which some of his counsel I know, apprehended the least danger. This decision was thought to be erroneous, both by Majr. Smith & his counsel, and an appeal in the nature of a writ of error was taken to the Supreme Court. We anticipate with great confidence the reversal of the opinion.⁶ It will be soon known though what the result will be, the Supreme Court being now in session, & the second having been immediately sent on. A man hereafter if he "goes across the line" from these parts should take a sufficient bond of indemnity to keep him harmless in the event his adversary should be slain. For in addition to the "information" a Bill of indictment has been found under the duelling act, for accepting a challenge, and as the court has also decided that Col. Pillow⁷ although in legal contemplation was "particeps criminis" yet that he cannot be protected under the ancient maxim of the common law that no man shall be bound to accuse himself. It is [. . .] by Smiths men I suppose that they will bring down upon him also the pains and penalties of the statute. How this prosecution will come out, remains yet to be determined. I trust however that there yet remains public virtue sufficient to prevent the holy purposes of this law to be prostituted to the base ends of private revenge.

There has been no change, as I am aware of, in the politics of this county. Since the election of Mr. [Andrew] Stevenson as speaker of the House of Representatives, the election of Genl. Jackson has been looked upon here almost as a matter of course.

But I would here make this caution. Minorities are always active and generally energetic, because concert of action is much more easily obtained among the few, than the many. Clay is not going to give up his hopes of the presidency without a mighty struggle. He has united his destiny with that of Adams, and conjointly, they are yet capable of making a powerful effort. That every nerve will be strained, we have every right to expect. The sentinels should therefore be on the alert. The enemy is as much in need of being watched at this time as ever. The body of our army should be still kept in motion, not suffered to slumber too much, lest they should be taken by surprize, and defeated. I doubt not that you may have thought of these things yourself, but being one of your constituents, and feeling much interested in seeing the administration of our government brought back to its first purity, I have taken the liberty of making these suggestions. Col. Jos. Brown is again a candidate for Jackson Elector in this District. Alfred Flournoy is a candidate in the Giles district. They will be elected I have no doubt. Col. B. Reynolds is a candidate for Majr. General in this division, and it is thought by himself and those of his friends that have made inquiry on the relative strength of each of the candidates, that his chance of success is pretty good. I will send you the "Columbian" in which you will see his address, and other little matters which will perhaps afford you some gratification.

We heard, a few days ago, the disagreeable intelligence of the death of George M. Egnew Esqr.⁸ his wife, and two of his children. Poor fellow! It was an unfortunate move [for] him.

Your friends here are all well. There have been no deaths here lately. General good health prevails. There has been an abundance of wet, warm weather this winter, and I anticipate a very healthy summer for there will be scarcely *meat* enough saved to raise a *fever*. There has been thousands of pounds shipped "from these parts" to New Orleans during the high water without cost or freight.

You have heard long since no doubt of the hurt Mr. M Caruthers⁹ got by a fall into our "City Cistern." He is recovering as fast "as might be expected."

Mr. Rhea¹⁰ is still engaged at his Map of this state. He does not know when it will be completed, but is determined to finish it.

In your business in the Circuit Court, Maj. P.¹¹ and Judge [Robert] Mack were your most regularly representatives. Whenever I thought I could do any good, I lent a helping hand, as did other of your brethren of the bar. As far as I am informed, your clients are satisfied. I have heard no complaints.

Excepting as above, I know of no matter that would be worth putting down. Things at present are moving along in that every day sort of fashion, which is best perhaps, for the interests of society. There is nothing remarkable, nothing to draw the mind out of the common channel of thought, or observation. We have changed the "quorum dynasty." We have now Wormley, Alex Johnson, & Squire Mack.¹² They carry on business very well and will I think have a popular reign. Write to me soon and although you cannot be as tedious as I have been, I want you to be equally lengthy. Mrs. D. desires me to express her wishes for the health & prosperity of yourself and lady.

EDMUND DILLAHUNTY

My little son's health is still very bad. He has been much worse since you left here, but seems to be recovering a little again.

I have a cousin John Dillahunty, belonging to the Engineer department I think. If he falls in your way, I wish you would get acquainted with him. I do not know him myself, but as there are few of my name, I should like to see them succeeding well and therefore feel some interest about him.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Prominent Columbia lawyer. He was county solicitor, 1831-36, and judge of the eighth circuit, 1836-51.

2. Ephraim E. Davidson, an early settler in Maury County.

3. Calvin M. Smith, a Columbia lawyer, had accepted a challenge from Robert H. Brank, another local attorney, and had killed him in a duel which took place in Simpson County, Kentucky. Brank had married a Davidson, probably a kinswoman of E. E. Davidson. For an account of the duel see Henry S. Foote, *The Bench and Bar of the South and Southwest* (St. Louis: Soule, Thomas and Wentworth, 1876), pp. 146-147. Foote, however, incorrectly gave Brank's initial as "M" instead of "H." The dispute apparently arose from an incident in a trial in which the two attorneys were opposed to each other.

4. David Craighead, of Davidson County, and Nicholas P. Smith, of Williamson County.

5. Robert L. Cobbs, Robert Mack, Lunsford M. Bramlett, William H. Field, and Jesse W. Egnew were well-established lawyers of the region.

6. On this point the writer was mistaken. The higher court refused to set aside the decision of the lower, while in the decision, written by John Catron, it was ruled that killing a man in a duel was, in fact, murder. Calvin M. Smith died some months later, without having been readmitted to legal practice.

7. Gideon Pillow, father of General Gideon J. Pillow of Mexican War and Civil War prominence, apparently was a participant in the affair, probably as Smith's second. The records of the circuit court during this period have disappeared.

8. Although several references to this tragedy have been found, details remain in a shadow. George M. Egnew was a kinsman of Jesse W. Egnew, who later moved to New Orleans.

9. Madison Caruthers was formerly Polk's law partner.

10. Matthew Rhea Jr. completed in 1832 a famous map of Tennessee.

11. Probably Gideon J. Pillow.

12. The quorum court that had been long dominated by James Black, John Miller, and John Matthews had recently changed to John C. Wormeley, Alexander Johnson, and John Mack.

FROM ADAM R. ALEXANDER

Dear Sir: Middleburg [Hardeman County], January 26, 1828

Yours of the 24th ultimo has been received and is now before me, in which you request from me some opinion as to the probable value of the unappropriated land in the western district. To this subject my mind has been turned for a considerable time past, and in particular for the last summer and fall. During that period I have travelled in almost every direction through the district, and from the strictest observation, as well as the opinions of various gentlemen of respectability and information, I am irresistibly brought to the conclusion that if a relinquishment should be made to the State (at the price she will be able to sell these lands) she will not realize $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per acre on an average for one half the land; and even in making this calculation I take into view considerable quantities of land which could not be sold for that sum, but in consequence of their being situate so convenient to many small tracts as to afford outlet, timber, &c. But, sir, if the whole amount of unappropriated land could be sold for

to me to be as much in want as almost [any] person that I have seen lately. Her story is as follows, that her Husband Andrew Larimore² went to go [to] Winchester about the first of June 1812 and there enlisted with whom she Knows not. His letter to her of the 3d of June 1812 Directs her to write to him at Nashville as orderly Sergeant in Capt. Francis Armstrongs³ Company. His letter of Augt. 1812 states the same thing and that he Died in October 1812, that she went to Nashville in company of a Mr. James Larimore who had undertaken to have her Business about his pay settled, that he applied Mr Alpha Kingsley⁴ as paymaster from [whom] she received a few Dollars as the Balance due him at his Death, it being stated to her that [he] had Drawn his pay not long before his Death. Two or three others from the same neighbourhood listed who are now removed from this County. Francis Armstrong lives near Mobile if alive. I will apply as soon as I can to Mr. Kingsley to obtain a certificate of him respecting her Claim for surely she wants it. She says that my Brother⁵ was to have pay for his trouble. Cant it appear from the enlistments in 1812 and the pay rolls that this man was in the service and died in it? When you Know What proof is wanting please to write me.

JOSEPH GREER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Greer was a veteran of the American Revolution who had received considerable publicity when he bore the news of the victory at King's Mountain to Congress in Philadelphia. A very large man, he was the son of Irish-born Andrew Greer, who is thought to have accompanied John Sevier on his first trip to Tennessee. In 1814 Joseph Greer moved to Lincoln County and took up lands granted him for his war service.

2. He was apparently a resident of Lincoln County and might have been known personally by Greer. Several years after Larimore's death, his widow, Sarah, married William Logan of Lincoln County. She was probably illiterate, since her signature appeared as a mere cross mark more than once.

3. He had been at one time a resident of Franklin County.

4. After he was mustered out of the service, he returned to Nashville, where he engaged in various business enterprises. Shortly after this letter was written, he was elected city assessor by the Nashville board of aldermen.

5. This is probably a reference to one of his two half-brothers who lived in the same region. Thomas Greer lived in Shelbyville, while Vance, mentioned in a later letter by Joseph Greer, was living in Lincoln County.

Gentleman Mr. Creighton payed his tax before he left the place. He answered me by saying that Creighton was a Gentleman and would pay all demand. So the affair rested for some days. Mr. [Joseph B.] Porter the Clerk observed that as Mr Creighton had never paid County tax before he would not compell him to pay for this County, as he was not compelled to enforce the law. On the day that Mr. Creighton left this place I went to Nelson's Tavern³ and asked his barkeeper when Mr. Creighton intended to leave this place. He sayed that evening that he had just stepped out to bid his friends farewell and intended to go as far as Col. [Joseph] Brown that evening. I waited there for at least two hours. About that time Mr. Hitchcock came into the house and asked me if Creighton had paid me. I told [him] no but directly he came in he should for I understood that he intended to leave the place that evening. He laughed and Said that Mr. Creighton was Several miles on his way. The barkeeper being present denied it and Said his waggon was Still in the lott. We all three went into the lott and behold the honest Yanke was off & gone. Leas, Nelsons hostler told me Creighton asked him if there was no other way for him to get out of Town but the Main Street. Leas pointed by William Voorhies⁴ and the honest Christ Rejected made his escape as he thought. I took out a warrant for him in the name of the Corporation, and got Mr. [Thomas] Norton & Majr. [Joshua] Guest to go with me. About the time we were Starting Mr Porter came up and on hearing how the honest man had acted, he observed that he would have the County tax likewise & Sent his witness[?] &c. When we arrived at Col. Browns we met Mr Creighton in the yard. Majr. Guest & myself he recognized & spoke to. Mr. Norton the Officer on taking him by the hand told him that he was his prisoner on a writ & warrent. Mr Creighton invited us into his room and wanted us to explain the nature of the writ &c. and after talking Sometime on the Subject he declared that he would pay five hundred Dollars Cost rather than pay one Cent of the tax, and demanded to be taken immediately back to Columbia. Guest and myself agreed but Norton observed to him I have rode dam hard to overtake you and am tired so I shall stay her[e] all night. It was then dark. We continued in the same room with him untill late bed-

time not at all guarding him for Col. Brown promised[?] us his home Should be kept Safe untill morning. That night we Slept in different rooms. In the morning we ordered our horses. He proposed a compromise. I told him that he had better go back to Columbia as perhaps he might be released from the payment of the County Tax, and for my part I could only compromise the Corporation warrent and that I did not wish to do. He Solicited Col. Brown to Speak to me on the Subject. He did so, and from Col. [Brown's] request I told the Yank that he was bound to pay 41.\$ but that I wanted only the \$20.50 and for him to pay the officer his Cost which he agreed & Seemed thankful, for he Seemed willing to have paid the whole rather than go back after leaving it as he did. He sett[1]ed with Norton for the Cost, and requested me to draw up the [. . .] that you saw, as it would answer him as a voucher. Norton and Creighton came to the Same Compromise taking fifty one & Cost instead of 500\$. Mr. Creghtons appoligy for not coming back to Columbia was it would injure his friend Dunlap—that he wished to arrive at Orleans as quick as possible and get rid of the Western Savages—that he had traveled from hell[?] to Halifax, or some Such a place had made \$18000. and had never met with Such treatment.

I have Spoke to Several Lawyers on the Subject. They say that all shows that receive pay are bound to pay a tax. I will get Some one of them to write to you on the Subject. Col. Brown I requested to inform you of the Circumstances that transpired at his house. Your friends & relatives generally well.

J. CHERRY

Mrs. Dale⁵ is dead. Reynolds⁶ is ahead yet from all the counties I have heard.

Probably addressed to Washington, but the address sheet is missing.

1. This letter has not been found. Obviously it pertains to Dunlap's letter to Polk, December 13, 1827.

2. Not otherwise identified.

3. This establishment was run by Pleasant Nelson. He served as Columbia's recorder, 1830-32, and as clerk of the Maury County circuit court, 1840-44.

4. He was a young lawyer in Columbia. It appears that the hostler pointed in the direction of the Voorhies home as a way that Creighton could escape without being seen.

5. Mrs. Ann Lewis Dale, wife of Edward W. Dale, a Columbia businessman, died on February 15, 1828.

6. This is a reference to Benjamin Reynolds and his candidacy for the position of major general in the militia. This election was held in late February; see Yell to Polk, February 10 and March 2, 1828. Because of the information about Mrs. Dale and Reynolds, it is surmised that Cherry retained his letter until sometime late in the month, added the postscript, and then mailed the letter to Polk.

FROM PHINEAS BRADLEY

Washington. February 6, 1828

Hurt's¹ letter, returned herewith, was the first intimation of contract failure on Columbia-Lebanon route. Postmaster at Columbia has been directed to make contract for the route if failure has actually occurred.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. Burd S. Hurt, long a resident of Maury County, was postmaster at Hurt's Cross Roads along the route mentioned. His letter has not been found.

FROM NATHANIEL LAIRD¹

Dear Sir.

Hurt's Cross Roads² Feby. 8th. 1828

I take the liberty to address you again, on the subject of my revolutionary Claim.³ I wish for you sir to make inquiry whether there is any provision made for the soldiers of the Pennsylvania line to draw land or not. I would expect that that discription of troops should be intitled to draw land the same as other troops who performed services at the same time. I wd. refer you to your promise in respect to obtaining my papers, particularly my Oath of Allegiance. Also my Shelbyville ticket & badge. I would inform you, that myself & family are in health at present & I trust these lines may find you & yr good Lady injoying the same blessing. I wd. add further that so long as you conduct yourself well Old Laird & his folks will support you & no longer.

NATHANIEL LAIRD SENR.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Laird had been receiving a pension since January 1827, but there is no record of his having received additional benefits. He died in 1832.

2. Hurt's Cross Roads was in the northeastern part of Maury County not far from the point where Williamson, Bedford, and Maury counties had a common corner. Laird was listed as a resident of Maury on the census records of 1820 and 1830, but the pension record indicates that he lived in Bedford.

3. See Polk to J. L. Edwards, February 16, 1826.

FROM LESTER MORRIS¹

Dear Sir

Pulaski Feby. 9th. 1828

I recd. yours of the 15th ult. informing me that my memorial was rejected on account of insufficient testimony. I have Since the reception of your Letter by using Some Exertions been able to obtain an affidavit from Doctr. Simms² which I think will be Sufficiently explicit for me to be able to obtain my pension. The affidavit referrd to is herewith inclosed.

LESTER MORRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler in the Elkton vicinity of Giles County, where in 1810 he established the first cotton gin in the county. He had received a pension from June 1818 until it was suspended under an act of Congress passed May 1, 1820. He was restored to the pension list in 1832.

2. A Dr. Simms of Fayetteville was long remembered for his courageous attention to the sick and dying during the first cholera epidemic there. This is perhaps the same man.

FROM JONATHAN WEBSTER

Dear Col

Noah's Fork P.O. Feby. 10th 1828

I snatch my pen in haste to give you a line by this days mail acknowledging the receipt of your favour a few days since containing the Hon. S. D. Inghams¹ deposition of the political character and princils[principles] of John Q. Adams, a work well calculated in every respect to luminate the Republican course, and leaves that politition who supports Mr. Adams with but little, or no just claim to Republicanism. Mr. Clay's relatives and their very few satelites in this county continue feebly to lead on their coalition corps without effect. The people will, they are

determined to be free, the intrigues of monarchists and federalists notwithstanding, poor souls. They are dying with the spasms and the famous Clay plaster sent on by Mr. Senator Eatons modern Alcibiades give them no relief nor will it dim the republican's sight, ha, ha, ha. Hall and the King will both die. They must go. Dr. Darby cannot save them.²

I wrote you a few days since that I wished you to enter me for the trie weekly Telegraph. I should have said during the session of congress, and the weekly paper afterwards. I hope you will get for it in that way.

I am glad to here that I am the sole inventor of my new mill, and shall make some improvments before I sind on for a pattent. Dr. Dabney Ewell³ wishes you to Enter him as a subscriber for the weekly Telegraph and send it to this office.

Jonathan Clark inlisted in the U.S. service at Knoxville under George W. Sevier⁴ about the year 1807 or 8 died in the lower country, about the year 1810 or 11. His legal representative impolyed Thos. F. Bradford⁵ to obtain the warrant, or grant for his bounty land. They have not got it & Mr. B. pretends he cannot git it for them. The Rev. Stephen Clark⁶ begs that you would make search in the war office and ascertain the present situation of the matter, & write to me what has been done, or what can be done. He thinks all is not right therefore we wish to know.

A report is in circulation here (but from what sorce I know not) that [Robert] Purdy is Martial again. Good news if true, for I expected another postmaster business of it. I should like to know who was recommended besides Gen. Purdy. It might be of use to some folks here in a coming day.⁷

J. WEBSTER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Pennsylvania political figure who served many years in the United States House of Representatives, 1813–18 and 1822–29. He was appointed Secretary of the Treasury in Jackson's first Cabinet.

2. This jesting commentary is open to so many interpretations that none is attempted here.

3. Unidentified.

4. Son of Governor John Sevier and his second wife, Katherine Sherrill. He served for many years in the army and in 1814 achieved the rank of colonel.

5. "Thos." is an incorrect abbreviation for Bradford's first name, Theodorick.

6. Unidentified.

7. This cryptic remark indicated that Webster probably knew more than he was admitting. Theodorick F. Bradford was an applicant for the job as marshal. While Bradford claimed to be a Jackson man, the persons who recommended him certainly were not. When Polk obtained copies of their recommendations of Bradford, he was able to make effective use of them in his campaign against Bradford in 1833.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Feby the 10th 1828

When I wrote you last I promised to write you from Fayetteville where I was then going in a day or two to Court but finding nothing of much interest there I deferred it untill I returned. Your friends in that County are well pleased with your course in Congress and speak of your future success as certain. I have no hesitation in saying that you would get a majority over any man that could be started either in or out of the County. Our friend A. V. Brown was there and I think has determined to quit politicks for a while except the emergency of the occation requires it. I mean that it is important at the next regular session to have our friends there to attend to the Congressional districts. An effort will be made to make a change in this District so as to suit the purposis of a certain *Dinasty* in this County. How we shall be able to stand them here I am not at this time able to conjecture. Who will be my successor I cannot tell.¹ I hope tho. we shall be able to succeed. If I am not a candidate there will be at least one dozen, and I fear several of my friends. If we divide we are beaten. Old *Jonathan Webster*² will be out for the Senate and I have no doubt Bradford will since his *disappointment*.³ If he is not there will in all probability be severl Candidates none of them tho. as strong as Tho. Bradford though he has lost much of his strength by his opposition to the reelection of our old friend H. L. White. Upon that subject grate excitement has been produced between the friends of Bradford and *Myself* each claiming to be right. We are tho. two strong for them at present &c.

Clays Book⁴ has arrived hear but seems to have created no

change in any way and but little said about it in this State. It can have no effect and I hope it will have no more effect else where.

I see from the papers that my friend Genl. Desha is about to get into a scrape with a *knave* from Louis[i]ana.⁵ You must write me the issue of that matter. If *Brent* wants a fight there is no doubt but he will be accomodated and tis with grate cheerfulness. Desha has my constant prayers for his wellfare & success. I expect some of you will have to fight before you leave the *City*. Upon that as well as all others subjects our friends are not found wanting.

I am fearful that the Ky Legislature is to spile[spoil] all our prospects in that state tho. I hope for the best and waite with anxiety to hear the result.

Write me often and all the political news you have. Your Brother M. T. Polk left here on yesterday for home. Your friends at Collumbia were well and nothing of much interest a doing there. The elections for Maj Genl of this Division will come on the 22d but the contest will be between old Benj. Runnolds[Reynolds] and Parrish.⁶ Between them I am not at liberty to say one word. Please present my respects to White & Eaton, Desha, Bell, Isaacks &c. and except for yourself my best respects.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. This is a more positive statement than he had made about his candidacy in his letter to Polk on January 20, 1828.

2. Yell shared James R. White's uneasiness about Webster's political reliability.

3. News had been received that Robert Purdy had been reappointed marshal, a post sought by Bradford.

4. In spite of the deprecating attitude of the Jacksonians, the Clay document apparently aroused considerable interest. Note that Webster also referred to the Clay "plaster" in his letter to Polk on February 10, 1828.

5. At a dinner in Washington on the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, Desha had offered a toast to Edward Livingston as "The first and only honor in the Louisiana political pack." He also referred obliquely to William L. Brent, member of Congress from Louisiana, as a knave. Brent published a letter in reply, and Desha promptly published a rejoinder, but nothing came of it.

6. To the great surprise of most of the people in Bedford and Maury counties, the third candidate, John W. Simpson, was elected.

FROM JAMES WILLIAMS¹

Dear Sir. Civil Order² Tennessee February the 11th 1828

I Received your faver of the 18th January which informed me that you wanted some information Respecting the mail Rout from Nashville to Webbs³ and to Shelbyville passing the Harpeth Settlement.⁴ I can inform you that Webbs is on the Rout which I wished Established from Nashville to Fayetteville and about 26 miles from Nashville which would be that much already Established and would make the new Rout that much shorter and I have lately been informed that there is a Rout Established from Franklin, Williamson Co. to Fayetteville passing the Fishingford⁵ and if that be a fact, the new Rout which I wish Established from Webbs to Fayetteville would answer the purpose of the Rout from Columbia to Fayetteville passing Hurts Crossroads. And the Rout from Franklin to Fayetteville could stop at Civil Order as the Rout from Columbia to Murfresborough could Deposit all the papers from Columbia Directed to Fayetteville or any where South of that Rout at Evins's [Evans] Crossroads⁶ which is Directly in the Way from Franklin to Fishingford and could be brought on to Civil Order by that mail which would render the mail from Columbia to Fayetteville ussiss. And the new Rout could carry all the papers from boath Columbia and Franklin from Civil Order to Fayetteville. And therefore the whole Rout from Columbia could be dispenced with and so much of the Rout from Franklin as would be between my office and Fayetteville if that Rout should be Established from Franklin. It is only Reported that there is or is to be a Rout from Franklin and if there is not one Established and there should be one hereafter Established the above Direction may perhaps be of some use. As I believe the mail from Nashville to Fayetteville will answer all the Demands of all quarters by the help of the Cross mails.⁷ Will be much less Expence to the publick which Expence I think ought to be Regarded in a proper Degree so as to have the publick funds layed out to best advantage. Which I have no doubt you will attend to in the strictest manner.

JAMES WILLIAMS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Except for the fact that he was postmaster at Civil Order, Williams has not been identified.

2. Located in the northwest part of Bedford County (now in Marshall County), Civil Order was at about the midpoint on a direct line from Nashville to Fayetteville. It was also almost equidistant from Columbia and Murfreesboro, lying slightly south of the direct line between the two. On the Rhea map of 1832 its name seems to have been changed to Gidionville. On a map published by David H. Burr in 1839, however, Civil Order reappeared just north of Chapel Hill, a village that had not appeared on the earlier maps.

3. This does not appear on any of the early maps available, but it apparently lay in the southeast corner of Williamson County.

4. In the eastern part of Williamson County. Both Webbs and Harpeth were located on or near a road that appears on Rhea's map, extending from Nashville through Nolensville, Civil Order, Fishing Ford, Farmington, thence to Fayetteville.

5. Fishing Ford was on the Duck River in western Bedford County. It was just south of Civil Order.

6. This place does not appear on Rhea's map but lay in Williamson County.

7. The plans that Williams presented seem to have been reasonable and probably would have brought more efficient delivery of the mails in his region. At the same time, however, it appears that they were devised in part to enhance the importance of the post office at Civil Order.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Washington City Feby. 11th 1828

After the receipt of your letter of the 17th Decr. last in relation to the application of *Sylvester Chunn* to be reinstated on the pension list, I wrote to the applicant and informed him that you required him to assign the "*reason for not making earlier application for a continuance of his pension*". I have today received from him an additional statement assigning the reason, which I enclose to you together with the other papers. I presume the evidence will now be satisfactory. Advise me when you decide on his case.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Pension File 39314 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM JAMES N. SMITH¹

Dear Sir,

Columbia February 13th 1828

I received your letter of December 7th some time past, for which mark of friendship and esteem permit me to offer you the thankful acknowledgements of a grateful Heart. True and genuine regard centre'd in a noble and Generous Soul ought never to be divested of its meritorious intentions but when respect and natural benevolence act independent of old acquaintance, and the once familiar converse of the parties, then Oh Dissimulation thou detestable enslaver of modern excellence and [. . .] equanimity take up thine abode in some far distant clime far, far removed from the benovolent heart. Altho' our acquaintance for a number of years past had contracted between us the most familiar intimacy yet for you to have recollected me and settled the small private business which I requested you so soon after your arrival at the city whilst Sorounded among the great men of the nation, and all thoughts occupied upon the Subjects of the Session which had just commenced, I say for you to have reccollected and attended to the small request so soon after your arrival, was and is to me a confirmed manifestation of your sincerity and faithfulness. I had intended to have written you before this time but have continually evaded it. I make no doubt but you have frequent information from this county on all transactions which would be any way interesting to you from some one of your numerous acquaintances. We have had a very rainy season, indeed in this country more so than I have ever seen. The Creeks and River have never been so full since the great freshet in 1808. We have had a longer session of the Circuit Court than we ever had. It lasted until Saturday night before the County Court commenced which also lasted Two weeks. Consequently we have had 7 weeks continually occupied in forensic declamation. There was one criminal case but the criminal had no Idea that it would terminate seriously with him. It was a Mr Rogers who lived near Mt Pleasant, by occupation a gambler. He was found guilty of high way Robbery and condemned but has taken up his case to the Supreme Court. I have not heard how it was

terminated there. He took a horse from Mr Samuel Luckie by force in connection with 2 more men. He made his defence that Luckie gambled away his horse with one of the other men and he swapd for it. The fact was one of them wished to get Luckies horse and proposed a swap. They changed horses to try their gaits. This man and Rogers rode on faster than Luckie and when he over took them Rogers had his horse and would not give him up. Luckie seized the Bridle, Rogers drew a Dirk cut the Bridle and galloped off. Altho we believe that we are progressing in Civilization Morality and Religion yet Our Jail has never been so crowded since it has been built as it was during the Circuit Court. A Mr. Rankins near Major Campbells on Carters Creek had nearly killed his wife on Christmas Eve by cutting her throat with a chisel. She has since recovered, he is imprissioned 6 months. A Mr Riggs on Carters Creek was stabbed in 7 places by his father-in-law whose name I do not now recollect. He is also in Jail at this time. It was thought that Riggs would not recover.² Swan Hardin Esqr. has had his sentence confirmed by the Supreme Court and is now in Jail at Nashville.³ But Sir I tire you with these cases of aggravated Crime. The Rainy weather still continues and it is very bad travelling, indeed almost impassable from Nashville to Columbia. I never before so forcibly saw the necessity of turnpike roads if our financial resources would Justify them. I am led to believe that as bad as the Roads are in this part of the world, yet they were still more difficult in ancient times Especially from Babylon to Jerusalem.

I have still one small request to make of you. I see by the receipt you sent me that I am charged for the Telegraph⁴ commencing 1st Feby 1826. I think it must be a mistake [. . .] got you to send it on to me and if I mistake [not] it was the last time you went on previous to the last Election. I have filed my papers but do not know whether I have the first one received but the first on file is dated the 30th December 1826, which cannot be far from the time I sent on. I had taken the City Gazette⁵ for several years and ceasd taken it in 1824 in May the date of my receipt. I think it must have been in Decr. 1826 that I commenced taking the Telegraph. Perhaps you can satisfy yourself whether it was the last session of your first Election that you sent it on. I do not

like to trouble you in business of so small a nature, but if you will attend to it it will be thankfully received by me. Should your session continue late in the spring I should be exceeding glad to hear from you. Your relations in Columbia are generally well as far as I know.

JAMES N. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Polk to War Department, December 10, 1827.
2. Since the circuit court records for this period are missing, it has not been possible to follow details of the many cases here mentioned.
3. Hardin and his four sons lived a short distance north of Columbia. On October 1, 1825, he and his four sons had been involved in an affray on the streets of Columbia in which Isaac N. Porter and William Williamson had been killed. The four sons escaped trial by fleeing to Texas, but the father was tried for murder even though it was clear that he had not fired either of the fatal shots. The trial was held at Murfreesboro, and Hardin was convicted of manslaughter. His sentence consisted of branding and imprisonment for three months. See the exchange of letters between Polk and Henry Clay during April 1828, on the subject of bringing the sons back for trial.
4. The *United States Telegraph* of Washington.
5. This Washington paper appeared under several names and ceased publication in 1826.

FROM LEROY HAMMONS¹

Dear Sir.

McMin[n]ville² 14th Februy 1828

A[t] the Request of Sam'l Ragsdale³ I send you this letter exp[lanatory] of the business which by power of att you are authorised to transact. In the year 1814 Decr. 12 I purchased a waggon and Team of Allen Taylor⁴ which I kept in the service of the United States untill the 15 March 1815. A few days before the discharge at Camp Mandeville I was Satisfied by a certain John O Davidson⁵ that the property of said Waggon and Team was clearly in him and that said Allen Taylor had no right to sell said waggon and team. I therefore believing it Just and right to relinquish to the said Davidson all my claim upon the United States for the services of said Waggon & Team, he having satisfied, and promised to satisfy me for all my trouble, I did execute all the papers which will be before you on this occasion.

LEROY HAMMONS

No address is available.

1. A respected resident of Warren County, who had served as a colonel in the militia during the campaigns of 1814–15 around Mobile and New Orleans.

2. McMinnville was the county seat of Warren County, which joined Bedford County on the northeast. It was not in Polk's congressional district.

3. He engaged in hauling freight for the army during the Creek War and the War of 1812. He moved about a great deal and seems to have lived in Fayetteville, Tennessee, and Florence, Alabama. Later he moved to Monroe County, Mississippi, and served in the legislature of that state, 1838–41.

4. Unidentified. He seems to have been hired to drive the team. See Peter Hagner to Polk, March 31, 1829.

5. Davidson appears to have been a resident of Maury County at the time of the campaigns.

FROM WILLIAM P. SMITH¹

Dear Colo, Beech Grove, Bedford County, Feb. 15th 1828

I was glad to receive the Presidents message which came to me through your instrumentality—not that I concur with John Quincy Adams in all of his extravagant views relative to internal improvements &c &c; but that I am always glad to know what measures are recommended by our Cabinet men. I am the decided friend of Genl. Jackson and the two reasons of my writing this letter are, first, to inform you that I shall thankfully receive any national intelligence that you may be pleased to transmit during the Sessions of Congress. Secondly, that I want your opinion, and the reasons for it, relative to the Next Presidential election. Direct to Beech Grove Post Office.

WILLIAM P. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified. A notation on the outside of the letter places Dr. before his name. No physician by this name has been located in Bedford County at this time.

FROM WILLIAM HENRY¹

Sir Lawrenceburg² Tennessee Feby 20th 1828

I take the liberty of encloseing a note of hand on Colo Crocket³ that I want you to colect for me as you are the Only

member that I am acquainted with. You will please Direct your letter to Lawrenceburg Tennessee.⁴

WM. HENRY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified except as a long-time resident of Lawrence County.
2. Lawrenceburg was the county seat of Lawrence County, which bordered Maury County on the southwest. It was not in Polk's congressional district.
3. David Crockett of West Tennessee was serving in Congress.
4. The following endorsement by Polk appears on this letter: "The note above alluded to is for \$12.75 dated 10th Oct. 1822, due one day after date, payable to Moses Pennington. This day enclosed the said note to Wm. Henry, Lawrence County Tennessee. March 10th 1828. J.K.P."

FROM MARSHALL T. POLK

My dear Brother

Columbia T. Feb. 20th 1828

I have written you twice neither of which letters you had recd. when you wrote a short time since to some of the family that you had not heard a word from me. I requested you in one of them to write Col. Wmsn[Williamson] Smith¹—which if you have not done, do it for particular reasons needless to be stated.

No new Occurrence of interest and I have not one word to say. I recd. the balance of the Evans judgement yesterday to wit \$44.00, Mr. Harris² having recd. previously the other part of the \$170 I believe unpaid when you left home.³ I hold it subject to your order. My love to sister Sarah.

M. T. POLK

Addressed to Washington.

1. The letters mentioned have not been found. The reason for writing to Williamson Smith remains obscure.
2. Adlai O. Harris.
3. Marshall T. Polk was practicing law in Columbia at this time. A short time after this letter was written, he formed a partnership with Jesse W. Egnew and S. D. Frierson.

FROM JESSE W. EGNEW

Dear Sir,

Columbia 21st Feby 1828

We have no local news here, except what you see in the papers. You have warm times at the Capital, it seems. Really,

Sir, I have been amused at seeing the squabbles of your grave body. It seems that your speaker is continually up on the [. . .] to keep order. Wont you stand in need of one or two assistant speakers before the [. . .]? One cannot, certainly, Keep order.¹ It amuses me because I was sincerely ashamed of our squabbling but compared to yours, they were as diminutive as our body is when compared to the Grand Legislature of this dashing empire!!

I was again greatly amused with the twist which Mr Sparhawk's name received by the hand of Genl Duff [Green].² We have just heard here that John C Williams³ has written a letter to some one in Richmond Va stating that Gen Jackson offered him, Williams, an office in Burrs army &c &c. I dont believe God ever created such a scoundral as he is. His genius for lying far outstrips Gullivers, or Munchausins. In his circular he exhibited more gall & bitterness than I ever have seen exhibited in the same space. He made the most illiberal attack upon Chancellor Green,⁴ that could have made.

Home matters as usual.

Inclosed is ten dollars for Genel Duff Green. Tell him to alter my address. He addresses his paper to J. W. Egrum. I do not know Mr. Egrum. He is not a citizen of this vicinity and I will not pay his debts, but if he will send them to J. W. Egnew, I will be responsible.

I have not seen that any thing has been done in relation to the Western lands. I hope our memorials have not had any bad effect on that subject. I should greatly regret if we should have thrown any difficulty in the way in that matter, but such rank injustice has been done us that we cannot submit longer.

Your relations are well.

J W EGNEW

Addressed to Washington.

1. Probably a reference to disturbances on the floor during the debates on the tariff.

2. Green, editor of *The United States Telegraph*, had attacked Edward V. Sparhawk in a committee room, saying that he had written a letter to a New York newspaper that contained untruths about John Randolph. Sparhawk presented a memorial to the Senate asking that action be taken against Green. The memorial was tabled and no action taken.

3. Egnew seems to have confused the actions of John C. Williams and Nathaniel W. Williams. The latter wrote such a letter and was obliged to admit it. See an exchange of letters between him and Jackson in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson*, III, 391-393. See also Jackson to Polk, March 23, 1828.

4. Nathan Green was chancellor for East Tennessee, 1827-31.

FROM JAMES L. WALKER¹

Dear Sir

Columbia Feby 21st 1828

Enclosed please find a letter from My wife to Mrs Polk. You say you want the home news. I have none to give you worth relating except the Death of our mutual Friend Mrs [Edward W.] Dale who died last week. Business is mild money scarce and times hard. We expect to be in Washin[g]ton about the 20th March. Mr [Adlai O.] Harris left here on Sunday last for Phila. Mr James Walker is now in the western District and on his return we will set out. When I see you at Washington I will give you the Little occurances of our Town. At present the mail is waiting.

JAMES L. WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Nephew of James Walker, Polk's brother-in-law.

FROM CHARLES BECKET
AND WILLIAM P. MARTIN¹

Dear Sir

Fayetteville 25th Feby 1828

Enclosed is my petition. You will please to do what you can with it. If any thing is wanting please to write to Wm P Martin. The Chairman of the County Court is absent & therefore his Certificate Cannot be obtained.

C BECKET

NB All is well. I should like to hear from you. I see that Congress is playing the devil upon the Subject of Retrenchment &

the Six Malitia Men.² I was in Columbia a few days since. You[r] friends & relations [are] well. I am anxious to hear from you. In haste.

W. P. MARTIN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Charles Becket was a resident of Lincoln County. The petition mentioned was not found, but Polk's note on the envelope said that it was an application for a pension which he turned over to the Committee on Military Affairs. William P. Martin, a lawyer in Fayetteville, was serving as Becket's agent. Martin later moved to Columbia, where he continued his law practice. In 1851 he became judge of the eighth circuit court.

2. Late in January, Thomas Chilton of Kentucky introduced resolutions calling for general retrenchment that would make possible the payment of the entire national debt. In the months prior to the presidential election of 1828, Jackson's opponents frequently brought up the matter of the militiamen who were executed during his campaigns of the War of 1812.

FROM JAMES RAINEY¹

Dr. Polk.

Caswell Cty No. Carolina [Feb. 26 1828]²

I calculate that when you see the postmark of this You will have very little idea from whom it comes. I left Giles on the 3rd Jany. & am now at my fathers, but expect to start home two weeks from this day. I write you now in haste and my main object is to learn from you the substance of the late law of Tennessee with regard to the importation there of slaves & whether or not a resident of the State stands on a footing different from other persons in that particular. I have not heard from Giles since I left home. *Old Hickory* is far ahead in this part of No. Carolina although he has here some violent Enemies. I must beg of you my Dr. Sir to let me hear from you immediately on the reception of this. Direct your letter to Red House P.O. Caswell. If convenient please forward me by the same mail 1 or 2 nos. of the "Telegraph."

J. RAINEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Other than that he was a resident of Giles County who had emigrated from North Carolina, Rainey is unidentified.

2. The date was taken from the envelope, which also revealed that the point of origin was Milton, North Carolina. It is a town in Caswell County, quite near the Virginia border.

FROM ROBERT HARRIS¹

Dear Sir

Harrisburg Pa. Feby. 27th 1828

The enclosed letter I will thank you to enclose to your friend Mr. Clark² at Nashville. He was to receive some money for me in Jany. last. If so I have requested him to inform you of it & perhaps I might have it so arranged that I might thro[ugh] some of your members receive the money at Washington on their having an assurance that it would be repaid to them on their return to Nashville. I have read the Debates and proceedings of Congress this winter with a good deal of interest & often pleasure & find that you are cutting & thrashing away at a great rate. I suspect the Coalition party must feel rather sore under the lash for a whole long session. Please remember me to all my former acquaintances in your Dellegation & that I am glad to find they are still in the land of the living. As for the event of the Presidential Election I feel quite easy on the subject. I think Genl. Jacksons Election quite safe. We shall give the Jackson Electoral Ticket a majority of about 20 or 30,000 in this State to the contrary notwithstanding. Let me hear from you. I am being at work every day and find it fully as agreeable employment as to be at Washington helping to make laws.

ROB HARRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Pennsylvanian who had served in the House of Representatives, 1823-27.

2. James P. Clark served for several years as one of the directors of the Nashville branch of the Bank of the United States.

FROM BENJAMIN W. WILSON¹

Dear Sir

Mt Pleasant² Feby 29th 1828

Permit me to Call your attention to the removal of John M Daniel³ from office by a letter from the Gen Postoffice depart-

ment. He is ordered to give up the office to L D Brewster.⁴ Their is some management in this that is not understood by the good people at this place for I assure you that the office has been as well Conducted as enny office in the State & as he Daniel bore the burden & performed the labour of the office when it was not worth enny persons attention he thinks hard that it should be taken out of his hands with out some reasons assined for so doing. Pleas lend your attention to the subject. He wishes also to refer you to Messrs Cock[e] & Isaacks.⁵ You know what a strange Creature Brewster is & that if his head ached on the arrival of the mail that he would put the key in his pocket & walk off. This is the true Carecter of the man. The people are dissatisfied & wishes it to remain as it is.

BENJ W WILSON

P.S Pleas send on to me the Telegraph also the one in pamphlet form and I will pay you.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A businessman in Mt. Pleasant.
2. Located some twelve miles southwest of Columbia, Mt. Pleasant was the second largest town in Maury County.
3. Daniel operated a store at Mt. Pleasant.
4. Brewster had opened the first store in Mt. Pleasant. He served only a short time as postmaster.
5. John Cocke and Jacob C. Isacks served in the House of Representatives with Polk. At this time Cocke was no longer in Congress, but it seems likely that the writer of this letter was not aware of that fact. After leaving Congress, Cocke remained active politically, serving in the General Assembly, 1837–39 and 1843–45.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 29, 1828

Papers relating to the claim of Noah Ward are again returned. The testimony requested in our December letter¹ has not been sent.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See Hagner to Polk, December 14, 1827.

FROM NATHANIEL STEELE¹

Dr Sir

Bolivar Ten the 2 March 1828

I shall feel under Obligation to you to be favoured with Clays Pamphlet.²

I would also be glad to know the probable Result of the Bill before the House Relative to the vacant Lands in the Wtn Dist. of this state. Should that bill pass Relinquishing those lands to the State Crockett will be invincible, whether he aids in the cause or not. I hope it may pass. Great Reliance is made on you by the people of the W[es]t in that cause.

Your friends are well in this C[o]unty at present.

N. STEELE

Addressed to Washington. This letter was actually posted at Middleburg, a few miles west of Bolivar.

1. An early resident of Hardeman County and one of its early justices of the peace. He served on the commission that decided on the location of the county seat, Bolivar.

2. This is the same document that is mentioned in several others letters to Polk.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Colo.

Shelbyville March the 2d. 1828

As this is a leasure day (Sunday) and feeling a little iratable in my temper I have set down to write you. Our days are "checkerd with good and evil" and it appears that many of our evils are about to crowd on us at once. I never felt more dejected than at present, tho. not disponding, for I have a *hope* (though not as strong as *old Pauls* that cast out all fear) that in the end all will be right. First about home affairs. You will no doubt, as well as all creation be astonished to learn that Colo. *Simpson* is elected Majr General over Runnolds¹ & Parrish. All the Countys are herd from except those composing Genl Smarts² Brigade where

Simpson will get all or nearly so, and the vote stands Parrish 45, Runnolds 45, Simpson 43, so that his election is certain by a large majority. But you will be more astonished and confounded when I tell you that in Maury County Simpson had 12 votes and Runnolds 7. Account for that if you can. In this County old *Bej.* had 10, Parrish 4, and Simpson 2—to wit *Bob & Minos Cannon*.³ “Birds of a feather” &c. I never was more mortified at any election. I am angry with old *Jackson, Parrish & Runnolds*; at *Jackson* for giving Simpson a certificate about his good conduct at *New Orleans* where he commanded as a Lieut. Colo and at *Parrish & Runnolds* because while this other fellow was traversing the Division going to the house of every officer in it, they were at home, perfectly contented relying upon their merits alone to elect them. It was a duty they owed their friends after they would both run in opposition to the wishes of all their friends to have made some exertion to have been elected and not been so shamefully beaten by a *Jackass* Administration fellow. Those expressions may be too harsh but they are my sentiments. So much for the Major Generals election.

I am not a little displeas'd at our friend *John* of Roanoke and who stands as high with me as any man on our side. Yet I have a feeling for *Duff* [Green] that makes me resent such an attack as was made on him by *Randolph* even if it had been true as stated which by the by I have my doubts whither *Duff* was not perfectly Justifiable in his remarks.⁴ He had Just pulled the *ears* and *rung* the *nose* of a chap about this same *John*, and at all times and in all ways has stood by *Randolph*. And he was ungrateful in my view to make such statements. Tho. I can forgive him yet I think *Duff* ought not, and if it was me I never would publish a single remark that fell from him tho. it should make Genl *Jackson* Prest of the U.S. From this letter you will believe that I am either *Insane Mad* or as Genl. *Smyth* of Vig. said to Mr. Dorsy I am “*Drunk*.”⁵ I will acknowledge that I am behaving under strong excitement. growing out of the disappointment of my friends which I bear with as little fortitude as I do my own misfortunes. Once I have commenced an attack upon my friends I will not stop untill I give my friend Col [John] *Bell* a going over. In this

I may be mistaken, and I hope I am. My fears are that he "holds to the *hares* and runs with the *hounds*." I judge this not from his speech for I have not seen it. Perhaps if I had I should not have any doubts but from the *Compliments* and *puffing* of the Administration Members & Presses &c. If that is his course I shall regret it tho. I must acknowledge that I shall not be much disappointed.⁶

The melancholly news reached this place a few days ago of the Death of *De Wit[t] Clinton*. A grate man indeed has "fallen". His loss to New Yourk is irreparable, and the U.S. will feel his loss. He was truly a grate man. He had done more for his State, than he ever got credit for, but now his services will be properly appreciated. If he had of lived he was destined for higher honors than that of *Govr of New Yourk*. I fear *we* shall feel his loss in New Yourk tho. we have a *Van Buren* left.

I have now gone through with the dark side of the picture, and if it was not for the cheering intelgence from Kentucky & *New Yourk* I should give up the ship. What are your views on some of those subjects &c &c. Our home polititians are very quiet. I here occationly from Nashville. [Sam] Houston is getting along about as you would imagine. He will lay about Nashville, neglect his frinds just enough to get himself beaten deasently at the next election. This prediction dos not flow from any wish that I have that it may be so, but from a belief that some exertion *should* be used by him to sustain himself, though he has grate confidence in himself. But if he has to pull against Billy Carroll' he will find that he has to deal with a *Little Military Chieftain*. If [Newton] Cannon should run also, I think the contest doubtful. How Carroll and Cannon may arrange that matter I am not able to conjecture. I think that Cannon will be a Candidate at all events.

You will have no opposition except *John Quincy*, should he be elected. In that event I think Old *Andrew Erwin* will be a candidate tho. without much prospect of success. Should it ever hapen that Adams is elected & Erwin to Congres from this [district] I shall make my way to some free State or Territory. "He has returned to the bosome of his family." I mention this supposing it would be a matter of some gratification to you. The

triumverate *Erwin, Bradford & Armstrong*⁸ and a supernumary, W. S. Watterson, are all at work poisoning the minds of the people as much as possible against old Jackson and all his friends and particularly those that have been in their way. Th[e]y appear to have great ambition at me, and for what the Lord only knows but I am to be beaten at the next election at all events. Poor fools if they only knew it they might spare much pains, for I am certain that I shall not be a candidate. But I can find a hand that can beat them with ease &c. The people are getting very tired of both Bradford and Webster and if we could start some strong man they could at this time both be beaten. But it is hard to get out a man of strength, and pomeys are two easy started. What we are to do I know not. But upon the result of the *Prest* election depends our fate. In this hope I may not be mistaken if things should turn out bad.

You must write me as often as your official duties will permit you. I am getting to believe that you are possessed of a rare quality, which I heretofore somewhat doubted, that of *Modesty*, for I have seen but very little from you this Session. I hope you are holding back for some great occasion.

Please present me to my good friend Judge White and Mssr. Eaton, Genl Desha, Isaacks &c. And for yourself and good Lady except the best wishes of Mr. & Mrs. Yell.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Benjamin Reynolds. Yell consistently spelled it Runnolds.
2. William Cheek Smartt of Warren County.
3. Brothers of Newton Cannon, future governor of the state.
4. John Randolph and Duff Green had exchanged recriminations. Randolph had apparently set off the dispute by castigating Green on the floor of the House of Representatives, saying that Green had reported inaccurately remarks made earlier by Randolph.
5. The significance of this reference is obscure.
6. Yell obviously believed that it was only a matter of time before Bell went over to the opposition.
7. William Carroll had served as governor of Tennessee, 1821-27, and was again elected to that office in 1829.
8. Dr. James L. Armstrong of Bedford County, one of the bitterest anti-Jackson men in the county.

FROM JOHN ABERNATHY¹

Dr Sir.

Pulaski March 3d 1828

I feel a disposition to take some paper printed at Washington that will give me some information about the proceedings of our national legislature and having learn'd the United States Telegraph is as good a Jackson Paper as any I will be thankful to you to have my name put on his list of Subscribers for the paper that comes 3 times during the session & twice a week during th[e] recess. I would enclose the mony but at present cannot spare it and will prefer paying Six Dollars at the end of the year at which time you can tell the Editor the mony shall be forwarded. Have the paper directed to Bradshaw² P. Office, Giles County.

JOHN ABERNATHY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified except as a resident of Giles County.
2. Bradshaw was located a few miles east of Pulaski, near the boundary line between Giles and Lincoln counties.

FROM GEORGE W. TERRELL¹

Dr Sir

Nashville Ten March 5th 1828

Majr Cooke,² I believe, has informed you that Dr Dewitt of Paris³ is an applicant for the appointment of physician to the delegation of whitemen who are to accompany the Chickasaw tribe of Indians to the Westward for the purpose of examining the country in order to the selecting of a home. My friend Majr Allen⁴ wishes to obtain the appointment of delegate in the same expedition. That Majr Allen is as well calculated for such an enterprise as any man who can be selected, I have no hesitation in saying, and that his services for his government render his claims as strong as those of any other man is equally certain. He served in the late war as a soldier, and by his gallantry & good conduct raised himself to the rank of Majr. As a proof of his merit, after the conclusion of the war he married the adopted child of Gen Jackson. He was doing very well, and fixing himself

to live comfortably in the world, when by some fatal accident, a cotton gin with a great deal of cotton belonging to him took fire and the whole was consumed. He has claims upon that score on his government, for the services he has rendered it. This appointment tho emanating from the War Department, will probably be bestowed according to *merit*. If so none will be presented whose claims are stronger, on the score of qualification, merit & services, than Majr Allen. Any service you may think proper to render, or any facilities in forwarding his pretensions will be thankfully received & gratefully remembered by him as well as by your constant friend.

G W TERRELL.

P.S. I wrote to Mr. Blair⁵ a few days since for Dr Dewitt; be so good as to speak to him of Majr Allen also, and enlist him, if possible, in behalf of his pretensions also and oblig yours.

G W T

Addressed to Washington.

1. Prominent lawyer in Paris, Henry County. He later became an important figure in Texas.

2. Unidentified.

3. Dr. W. J. DeWitt was a practicing physician in Paris who also moved to Texas at a later date.

4. John L. Allen, who had served under Jackson and was personally known to him, was appointed subagent to the Chickasaw Nation. He did not go with the Indians to explore lands west of the Mississippi.

5. John Blair, a Jonesboro lawyer, served several terms in the state legislature before being elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served six consecutive terms, 1823-35.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Colo.

Shelbyville March the 6th 1828

I am very much like a Quaker, write when ever the spirit moves me. You must therefor indulge my whims. I have nothing political to write you in this letter. I have set down to pester you with a few enquiries for my own satisfaction. First write me the prospect of getting your Bill through relinquishing the lands in this State. If it [. . .] write me immediately. Is there any

probability of making a treaty with *Chickasaws* shortly. Write me what you know about it.

Pray where is this Count[r]y, where you propose forming a Territory Calld. *Huron*?¹

I have just this evening recd your speech upon *Slons* Resolution² about the *Six Militia Men*. I am much pleased with the result. It appears that our folks are beginning to *pull* pritty well.

Write me long letters and often &c.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The name *Huron* was applied to the region west of Lake Michigan that was later made into Wisconsin Territory.

2. John Sloane of Ohio introduced into the House a resolution calling for documents and other information pertaining to the trial and execution of the militiamen in 1814.

FROM EZEKIEL P. McNEAL¹

D Sir.

Columbia March 7th 1828

Pa² has concluded to bring Jane³ home, after several weeks deliberating. Your letter would have been answered sooner had my Parents have come to a final conclusion about the matter. Pa wishes you to bear Janes traveling expense to Columbia & he will refund the money to you on your arrival home. You will please write to Jane advising her of what time you will be in Baltimore. If you write her direct to the care of Mr. James Armour.⁴ I am in hopes we will have the pleasure of seeing you and Cousin Sarah in the District next Summer.

All are well here. My compliments to Mrs. Polk.

E. P. McNEAL

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was the son of Thomas and Clarissa Polk McNeal and first cousin to James K. Polk. He grew up in Maury County but moved with his family to Hardeman County in 1822. At this time he was a United States deputy marshal for the Western District. Later he carried on a mercantile business in Bolivar and engaged in extensive farming.

2. Thomas McNeal, prominent farmer and early leader in Hardeman County.

3. Jane Frances McNeal, Ezekiel's sister, was in school in Baltimore. After her return to Bolivar, she married Dr. David Franklin Brown, and in 1838 they moved to Texas.

4. Polk made a notation on the outside of this letter saying that he had written to Jane McNeal on March 30. James Armour has not been identified, although it is probable that he was related to William Armour, a prominent resident of Madison County, Tennessee.

FROM ADLAI O. HARRIS

Dear Sir

Phila[delphia] 9 Mch 1828

I arrived here today after a very tedious and disagreeable journey of three weeks. I intended coming through Washington, being anxious to See all the *Great* folks. But Shepard of Columbia¹ and Some Gentlemen from Nashville were in company and insisted on coming direct to this place. I shall probably be detained here three weeks, and if Congress has not adjourned will perhaps return home that way.

There was nothing new in Columbia when I left home. All was well, & moving on very agreeably. Mr James Walker started the morning I left home to the Western District. Would be gone perhaps two weeks and on his return Simpson & his Lady,² with Ann Hays³ would start to the East (via Washington I suppose) as the Cities Style &c. are all that the Ladies are coming for.

The Election for Maj. General came on the day I left Nashville. It was thought then that the result would be favourable to Parish though I think myself that if the Friends of Reynolds in the other Counties used much industry that he is Elected for only about half of the voters of Davidson came in while I was there & it was feared that no others would come in.

The stock of Goods in this place has improved very much in the last two weeks. I should be able to enlist a splendid assortment. I'll scratch that out. *I know I shall.*

I collected all of your money from Evans to about \$40 or \$50. This he was to pay in this month.

Mrs Polk—I have two or three fine Black Dresses to purchase. Is there any article in Washington *except silk* that is very Elegant? Any thing new—or is there any particular new fashion there? You know I must be very partickular in these matters. I

should be very glad to hear from Col Polk & yourself of course and hope he will write me in a few days to this place. Direct to care of Richd. Ashhurst, Phila.⁴

A. O. HARRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.
2. This probably refers to Simpson Walker and his wife, who was a sister of A. O. P. Nicholson.
3. Ann Hays was a daughter of Andrew Hays of Nashville, a brother of Dr. John B. Hays. Andrew Hays of Nashville is not to be confused with Andrew C. Hays, postmaster at Columbia, who was a cousin of Dr. John B. Hays.
4. A dry goods merchant in Philadelphia with whom Harris was accustomed to doing business.

FROM DARREL N. SANSOM¹

Dear Sir, Baltimore 12th March 1828

I have untill now been undetermined whether to comply with your friendly request that I should visit Washington City. There are so many considerations which would induce me to spend a few days with you on my return but after an absence of a month from my family my desire to see them is so strong that I am constrained to decline my visit to the City.

Your surprise on hearing that I had entered upon a new vocation was not greater than has been expressed by many other friends. Whether my course has been wise can only be tested by experience. I think however I shall be able to show you a handsome assortment of goods when you return to Columbia.²

D N SANSOM

Addressed to Washington.

1. A physician in the Mount Pleasant vicinity of Maury County.
2. He was launching a general mercantile business in Columbia. It is not clear whether he deserted his medical practice or not.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Sir, Third Auditor's Office March 13, 1828

I have the honor to inform you that in addition to the papers forwarded in support of the claim of Sarah Larimore as the

widow of Andrew Larimore decd. late a private of Captn Armstrong's Company 24th Regt. Infy, it is necessary that she should make a statement under oath as to her marriage and of her still remaining the widow of the said Andrew Larimore, accompanied by a certificate of her marriage or its absence should be accounted for; also the depositions of other persons who are acquainted with her that she still remains the widow of the decd.

It will require her deposition to any authority which she may give to receive the Pension, that it is for her sole use and benefit, no sale, transfer or mortgage thereof having been made to any person.

It is desirable that she should state at what time she received the pay which is stated in Mr. Joseph Greer's letter¹ to have been obtained by her of Pay-Master Kingsley.

The letter of Mr. Greer is returned.

PETER HAGNER AUD.

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Joseph Greer to Polk, February 1, 1828.

FROM WILLIAM FITZGERALD¹

Sir Fort Sullivan Eastport Maine March 15, 1828

I Received your letter of 22d of Feby & it gave me much plesear indeaed to hear of my farther² as i had allmost give up all hopes of hearing of him this Side of the grave. I feale myself under untoled obligation to you for your Kindness and pirticler in hearing [from] you that has so long Known me from My childhood. I have acted bad by intering the Sirvece when I did but I hope I Shall one day or other enjoye the pleaser of Seeing all of Friends once more. I have agreeable to your request enclosed a letter for my parants in yours which I hope to be able to congratulat you for your Kindness. I am well at present and hope your enjoying the Same Blesing. Pleas to faver me with an answer.

WILLIAM FITZGEARLD [FITZGERALD]
Sergt 3 Arty

Addressed to Washington.

1. Fitzgerald's home was in Giles County. It appears that he had run away from home and enlisted in the military service.
2. Langford Fitzgerald of Giles County, himself a veteran of the War of 1812.

FROM R. E. C. DOUGHERTY

Dear Sir:

[West Tennessee] March 15, 1828

I received your favor of the 24th of December, 1827, on the 12th instant, and hasten to give you as much information on the subject as I am able. The section represented above contains more vacant land than an average one does.¹ There is, I think, about four or five hundred acres of vacant land in this district, and it is my honest opinion that if this State had a right to the vacant land she could not in fifteen years make it average ten cents per acre. There are not more than three or four thousand acres that could be sold for fifty cents per acre, and the balance, in time, people might enter at the present prices of entering land east and north of the reservation line, which is one cent per acre; but for the United States or the State of Tennessee to undertake to bring this land into market in the common way that the United States make their lands ready for market, I am certain the amount of sales would not half pay the expenses of making the lands ready for market, as the vacant land lies in such detached parcels, and that part that is most valuable is in the smallest bodies; where there are three hundred acres in one body that is so compact as to justify any person to settle on it, it is not worth anything. All the lands in this district that appear to me to be fit for cultivation are lying in narrow strips, from ten to sixty acres, and from ten to seventy or eighty poles wide. Wherever you find a body of land in the western district vacant, you will universally find it not worth the taxes.

R. E. C. DOUGHERTY, P. Surveyor of the
12th Surveyor's District, Tennessee

Presumably addressed to Washington, though this information is not available. Letter appears in published form in *American State Papers, Public Lands*, VI, 358. The original has not been found.

1. The letter is accompanied by a drawing of a section of land, showing those parts that have been left unsold.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dear Sir

Hermitage March 23rd 1828

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant. I assure you, there was no necessity for an apology for not writing me earlier in the session. I am well aware of your situation. A representative of Congress who attends to his legislative duties, has but little time for corresponding with his friend. I sincerely thank you for the communication before me & will always feel honored by your letters, altho I do not expect many from you.

I have read today the report of the Committee on Military Affairs on the 6 Militiamen that you had the goodness to forward me. My thanks are due to them for the justice done me. The Sec. of War¹ must surely hang his head and blush, when he finds he is detected in the dishonorable course he has pursued on this occasion, while justice will approve the detection of this *vilany* to tarnish innocence when he ought to have been its protector. And an honest public will approve the exposure of this *vile trick* by this high minded, honorable Committee. The Sec being thus exposed, will he not go & hang himself? He must have great impudence indeed, if ever after, he can look an honest and honorable man in the face.

When I forwarded the Documents to Col Mitchell² I was going to certify them myself, but thought it was best that they should be certified by one who had once acted as my aid de camp. You may safely vouch for their correctness. They were compared with the originals all now on file in my office, by myself.

I send you one bond & five more Documents to which I place my own certificate—a Duplicate of letter from Major Genl Thomas Pinckney³ to Governor Blount⁴ dated 23d Decbr 1813. 2d Genl Pinckneys order to me of 21st April 1814. 3rd his letter of instructions referring to his order 22nd April 1814. 4th Extracts from Genl Pinckney letter to & requisition on Gov Blount of 16th of January 1814. These to Gov Blount will shew the

construction which Genl Pinckney gave the Act of Congress "that all requisitions must be for six months unless sooner discharged by the president of the U. States." Genl Pinckneys instructions & order enclosed of date 21st & 22d of April 1814, shew that the posts in the Creek nation were by him ordered to be maintained & garrisoned by the troops under my command. They were so garrisoned, and Col Bunch⁵ left in command, and agreeable to his order the ballance of the troops mustered & discharged. When my command & services ceased being discharged with the Troops. The time at which the services of Col Bunch & his men would expire, was reported to Gov Blount, & Genl Pinckney, & it was left to Genl Pinckney who remained in command, to give the necessary instruction for relieving Col Bunch. The[y] were given & Col Pipkin⁶ was ordered into the field with 1000 men in pursuance of Govr Blounts order to me of the 20th of May 1814 and my order of the 24th of May 1814, as Major Genl of the 2nd Division Tennessee Militia being the legal organ thro which the order of the Govr could be made known to my Division.

Should there be any debate upon this subject I want some of my friends to call for all communications between me & the Sec. of War upon this subject, from Novbr. 1813, the end of the Creek War, and all correspondence between Gen Pinckney & myself, & between the Sec of War & Genl Pinckney, upon the subject of requisitions. The history of the South cannot give one instance where milita were called for under the act of Congress, for less time, than six months. The act itself was declarative of the length of service "six months unless sooner discharged, by the president," and all Governors on whom requisitions for militia were made under it, was bound to order them for six months, unless specially directed otherwise by the president, and this was the uniform practice under the act of Congress of 1812.

Judge Nath'l Williams,⁷ from what I hear, is on the stool of repentence, and has wrote to his friends in Virginia not to permit my friends to get a copy of his letter. I enclosed Judge [Hugh L.] White some time since a copy of my letter to his Honor & his reply, & a copy of Judge Stewarts⁸ letter. These compared with his letter to his friends in Virginia, will forever dam him, as a vile living va[r]let & slanderer. My friends has written for a copy of

his letter. If it can be obtained, all will be published, & I expect at our next Legislature he will be impeached⁹ for misbehaviour. [. . .] on the same ground could not an impeachment be sustained against some of the Virginia Judges that composed in part the Adams Richmond meeting?

I have recd some communications from New York since the death of the much lamented Clinton. His death it is said, will not add to the strength of Mr Adams in that state. Note I only write when called upon by the Legislature of a State. Indiana by resolve of its Senate enjoined on the Governor to address me on my *political faith*, & he sent me a string of Interrogatories, as long as a bill in chancery, to which I replied in a laconic stile, referring him to my letter to Dr Coleman¹⁰ & my votes in the Senate. He was ordered by the resolution to publish the resolution, his letter, & my reply, if I made one. I saw in the whole transaction the finger of Mr Clay and met it. Whether this foolish proceeding will be published or not I cannot say. But if there is anything said about it in the news papers, I mean to publish the whole.

ANDREW JACKSON

P.S. I have thought on reflection it would be well to send enclosed, a copy of Blounts order to me of 20th of May 1814, certified by myself. It is important that this order should be spread on the record with the other documents. It is enclosed.

J.

Addressed to Washington. The letter is marked "Private."

1. James Barbour, Secretary of War, 1825–28, was strongly anti-Jackson. When Jackson wrote this letter, Barbour had been succeeded by Peter B. Porter, but it is unlikely that the news had reached the Hermitage.

2. Samuel Mitchell was with Jackson at New Orleans. He lived in Bedford County and was a trader in blooded horses. He represented his county in the General Assembly, 1829–31 and 1837–39. Later he moved to Arkansas.

3. Pinckney was commanding the Department of the South during Jackson's involvement in the Creek War of 1813–14.

4. Willie Blount, half brother of William Blount, was governor, 1809–15.

5. Samuel Bunch of Grainger County. He was twice elected to the United States House of Representatives as a Whig, 1833–37.

6. Col. Philip Pipkin was commanding the First Regiment of West Tennessee militia.

7. Nathaniel Williams was judge of the third circuit in Tennessee, 1809–18, and from 1819 until his death in 1833. He had written an anti-Jackson letter to a kinsman named Kerr in Richmond, saying that Jackson had offered him a commission in Burr's army. Jackson heard of the letter and wrote to Williams about it. Williams replied that the letter had been a private one to a relative and that, while he could not support Jackson for the presidency, he still held him in great esteem.

8. Thomas H. Stuart was a resident of Williamson County and served as judge of the fourth circuit, 1809–13. This name is frequently spelled Stewart, but the judge himself spelled it Stuart.

9. As Jackson predicted, impeachment proceedings against Williams brought about a long trial in which he escaped removal by a single vote.

10. Littleton H. Coleman, a physician in Warrenton, North Carolina, in 1824 had asked Jackson for a statement of his views on tariff. Upon receipt of the statement, he requested and received permission to have it published. It was republished several times and was widely circulated.

FROM FIELDING LUCAS JR.

D Sir

Baltimore March 27 1828

The box you forwarded me for Mr. Jonathan Currin¹ of Murfreesborough arrived safe this day and will be delivered to Mr. C on his arrival here.

F. LUCAS JR

Addressed to Washington.

1. A merchant in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County.

FROM JOSEPH H. WALLACE¹ AND WILLIAM P. MARTIN

Dear Sir.

Fayetteville March 28th 1828

Before you went to congress I requested you to attend to a claim of William Stedman² for the loss of two or three waggons & teams—to the amount of \$2,700. The papers I am informed are all sent on sometime since properly authenticated. You will please to examine into the situation of this claim & write to me as soon as you can receive information on this Subject. The papers were presented by Gabriel Moore³ as I am informed. I have the interest in this claim & stand in great need of it. If

anything is necessary to be done, please inform me as soon as convenient. Your attention to this business will accommodate me much. The family of Stedman is now living in want & poverty in consequence of this loss & will continue to untill they can obtain some relief from Congress. I shall expect soon to hear from you.

JOSEPH H WALLACE

I add my solicitations that you will examine into this business mentioned above. I Know that Stedmans family are in want—or at least I am so creditably informed & such interest as Mr Wallace has in the claim I Know he greatly needs & I would really rejoice if he succeeds in obtaining relief. Your attention will oblige me. No news. All going on well. No opposition spoken of & I expect there will be none. Why Do you not let me hear from you?

W. P MARTIN.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified except that he was a resident of Lincoln County.
2. Stedman carried on an extensive hauling operation for the army during the Creek War and during the War of 1812. At that time he was apparently a man of some substance.
3. Prominent lawyer and political figure in Huntsville, Alabama. He served in both houses of Congress and as governor of Alabama. Madison County, Alabama, in which Huntsville is located, adjoins Lincoln County, Tennessee.

FROM SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Washington. March 29, 1828

The department has adopted a rule not to appoint as midshipmen applicants who are more than twenty years old. Mr. Elliot is twenty-two and consequently cannot be appointed.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Letters Sent to Congress and Its Members, Naval Records Collection (RG 45), National Archives.

TO HENRY CLAY

Sir

Washington City April 1st 1828

I have the honor to present through you to the President of the U. States, the accompanying documents forwarded to me for

that purpose by Joseph B. Porter Esqr. a respectable citizen of the State of Tennessee. He solicits the Government of the U. States to aid him, in having surrendered to justice, the murderers named in the enclosed judicial record, who have fled from the U. States, and taken refuge in the Province of Texas, within the Mexican dominions. The names of the murderers as will be seen by an inspection of the record, are *Benjamin F. Hardin*, *Benjamin W. Hardin*, *William Hardin* and *Augustine B. Hardin*.¹ *Swan Hardin* has been taken and is now in confinement in Tennessee.

Mr. Porter whose son was one of the unfortunate persons slain, and at whose instance I make this application—employed an agent during the last year to go to the Province of Texas, for the purpose of taking the offenders into custody, to the end that they might be delivered over to the judicial tribunals of the State of Tennessee for trial. That agent ascertained in what part of the Province they had taken refuge, but was unable to take them into custody, for the reasons assigned in the enclosed correspondence between him and the commandant of the military division in that part of the Mexican dominions.²

Mr. Porter has abandoned all hope of bringing them to justice, unless he can obtain the favorable interposition of his Government in his behalf.

He therefore through me respectfully requests the President of the U. States, if in his opinion consistent with the laws of Nations, and the obligations of the Government to its citizens to cause a demand to be made of the Government of *Mexico* to surrender these offenders to the authorities of the U. States that they may be dealt with according to law. Mr. Porter will at any time when advised that it is proper to do so, send an agent to identify their persons. Any communications to him on the subject can be made through me. I will only suggest that the offenders have a numerous family of friends in the U. States, and if measures should be taken for their arrest, it will be prudent that it should remain secret, lest they should be informed of it, and be thereby enabled to escape.

When the President shall determine on the course proper to be pursued be pleased to advise me of it.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Miscellaneous Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. This is a correct listing of the Hardin brothers according to the court records. The two named Benjamin apparently went by their middle names. The last named, Augustine Blackburn, has been called Austin and Augustus in various records.

2. The enclosed correspondence has not been found.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Washington City April 13th 1828

I have received your letter of the 23rd. of March with its inclosures. I thank you for them as they may be of service should we have a discussion on the subject of the "six-militiamen," of which there is yet no certainty. I received a note a few days since from the Editor of the Baltimore Republican,¹ stating that the Adams men continued to use the idle story of the "six-militiamen" as their principal weapon to your prejudice in the State of Maryland, and requesting me to furnish him with any additional information in my power. I have answered his letter, summing up in as concise and clear a manner as I could the prominent facts connected with their service and execution. It will be published with my name. I think the great error on our part has heretofore been, that the communications to the public on this subject have been too voluminous and too much encumbered with documents to be readily comprehended by the casual reader. Hamilton's² report is very clear, but could not go minutely into the circumstances. I have promised a statement from Mr. Livingston, fixing the precise time at which the rumour of peace reached you at N. Orleans, in order to put to flight the statement that has been often made, that the execution took place after the news of peace arrived. I have likewise obtained from Majr F. W. Armstrong,³ now at this place, and who was an eye witness at the execution, a statement containing important facts, as to the situation of the army at the time and the importance of the example. Judge White and myself have obtained from Genl. Gaines⁴ a statement of other executions which took place during the War, and his views on the subject. All these will be published. Governor Blount's order to you and your order to your

division I have vouched to be correct. On consultation with friends it has been concluded that it will not be expedient to publish Genl. Pinckney's order of the 10th of January 1814, as it would require explanation to show that Col. Pipkin's argument [. . .] the troops embraced in that order. Such is no doubt the fact, but Pinckney's order is dated in January 1814 and calls for 1500 men to be *immediately* called into service. Gov. Blount's order was not issued until May and is for 1000, and not 1500, men. At first blush therefore there might seem to be some discrepancy. Another main consideration is, that it is not necessary to make out the case. Should there be any debate on this subject I will make a call for the other documents you suggest.

I have heard nothing recently of Judge Williams and his *Burr* story. The Coalition I think will not venture to use it. They have as yet said nothing about it in their newspapers. I would suggest as my own and the opinion of our friends here, that it would not be necessary for us to give publicity to the refutation of the calumny, until they shall attempt to use it. It will then be time enough. I am satisfied it has done no harm and can do none. It is the evident policy of the administration to keep us constantly on the defensive. My opinion is we should "carry the War into Africa." Not by asserting falsehoods as their habit is, but facts, many of which exist to their prejudice. We should defend only when necessary, and assail when proper, and when supported by truth. The Adams leaders have manifested such an utter disregard for truth, that they have in a great degree destroyed the effect of any thing they can now say.

Your friends here highly approve the course you have taken in answer to the Indiana resolutions. It was a political measure intended if possible to ensnare you. No doubt Clay was at the bottom of it. We have not yet seen it published, and Majr. Moore and Mr. Wickliffe⁵ of Kentucky doubt whether Gov. Rhea[Ray]⁸ (being disappointed in its contents) will publish it until the meeting of the Legislature next winter. They think as I do that it may be important in the Western States, that it should be published, after giving sufficient time to the Governor to publish it if he intends to do so. They request me to suggest, should you prefer that course, that you should transmit copies to some of

your friends here, to be in their discretion published at the proper time, if from circumstances they should deem it desirable to do so. You will think of it, and do as you think best.

The Report of the Committee on retrenchment has not yet been made, but will I understand be a valuable document. It will furnish the administration during the summer, employment in defending and explaining. If I am not wrongly informed it will exhibit a most profligate expenditure of the public money, out of *contingent funds &c.*

All is yet well in New York, and our friends from that State, say no change can take place there to your prejudice. Notwithstanding all we have recently seen in the administration papers, of a [. . .]⁷ there it turns out to be a mere delusion. In the local elections [. . .] supervisors and term[?] officers, which have just taken place, [. . .] anti-masonic district, the republican ticket has prevailed by increased majorities.

We must expect an excitement during the summer never before witnessed by the country. The administration will make a last desperate struggle to retain their ill-gotten power. We must be prepared to meet it. Your friends are alive to your interest, and will be upon the alert in every part of the Union.

God knows when we will finish the tariff. Thus far in the discussion they have effected nothing politically by it, nor will they. We will not probably adjourn before the last of May, or first of June.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. In Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson*, VI, 497-499, appears what the editor termed a copy of this letter. It was instead a draft. Comparison of the texts of the two versions shows that this letter is considerably longer than the Bassett version, and it contains whole paragraphs not included in that draft.

1. Dabney S. Carr.

2. James Hamilton Jr., a lawyer from Charleston, South Carolina, was chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the House of Representatives. He served as governor of South Carolina, 1830-32, and later moved to Texas.

3. Francis W. Armstrong had been a resident of Franklin County when the Creek War broke out.

4. Edmund Pendleton Gaines.

5. Thomas P. Moore and Charles A. Wickliffe were currently representing Kentucky in Congress.

6. James Brown Ray, governor of Indiana, 1825-31. Pursuant to a resolution passed in the Indiana senate, Ray addressed a letter to Jackson, asking him to state his views on tariffs and internal improvements. Jackson replied that his views had been published in letters to Littleton Coleman of North Carolina and that these views were unchanged.

7. A smudge on the manuscript has obscured perhaps one word on each of three successive lines.

FROM HENRY CLAY

Sir, Dept. of State, Washington 15 April 1828

I have received and submitted to the President your letter of the first instant, stating that certain persons of the name of Hardin, having perpetrated a murder within the state of Tennessee, had fled from justice, and taken refuge in the province of Texas, one of the United Mexican States, and requesting the interposition of this Government with that of Mexico, to procure the surrender of the fugitives. Your letter is accompanied by a transcript of judicial proceedings which have been instituted against the accused, and by a correspondence which has taken place between an agent sent for the purpose of obtaining the custody of the fugitives, and a Magistrate in the province of Texas, who appears to have declined causing them to be delivered up.

We have no right, by the law of nations, to demand the surrender of these persons, and such a demand would, probably, not be complied with. Nations sometimes reciprocally bind themselves, by treaty, to deliver up fugitives from justice; but we have no treaty by which the Government of the Republic of Mexico is now bound to surrender persons of that description. The mutual surrender of fugitives from justice, in cases of murder and forgery, has formed a subject of negotiation between the United States and Mexico, and has been provided for in a treaty which has been recently concluded at Mexico; but the treaty has not yet been ratified by the Governments.

Under these circumstances, the desired application would be probably, fruitless. The Executive has no power upon an application from Mexico, to surrender any persons escaping from that country and taking refuge in ours. But, if it be desired, I will direct Mr. Poinsett¹ to request the surrender of the accused, and take the chances of the application.

H. CLAY

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Domestic Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. Joel R. Poinsett of South Carolina was the first United States minister to Mexico, serving 1825–30 and returning when the Mexican government requested his replacement because of alleged meddling in local affairs. He was Secretary of War in the Van Buren administration.

TO HENRY CLAY

Sir

Washington City April 21st 1828

I have received your note of the 15th in answer to mine of the 1st Instant, in which you express the opinion, that in the absence of any treaty stipulation between the U. States and the Government of Mexico, we have no right by the laws of Nations, to *demand* the surrender of offenders against our laws, who have fled from justice, and taken refuge within the Mexican dominions. You express a willingness however, "if it be desired" to "direct Mr. Poinsett to *request* the surrender of the accused, and take the chances of the application." The crime of the Messrs Hardins, the persons named in the judicial record which I had the honor to enclose to you, in my former note, was one of an aggravated character, and I therefore respectfully ask, that such *request* may be made through Mr. Poinsett, and that the result of the application may be communicated to Mr. [Joseph B.] Porter, through me, as soon as it is known to you.

Be pleased to inform me whether Mr. Poinsett will be instructed on the subject at an early period.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Miscellaneous Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. April 25, 1828

The petition of Charles Reese¹ has been examined and rejected. Records indicate that he was never in a regiment of the continental establishment.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Lincoln County whose military service was attested to by several men of good standing in both Lincoln and Giles counties. A certificate was finally issued, but Reese died before he received it.

FROM HENRY CLAY

Washington. April 28, 1828

Agreeable to request, proper instructions have been sent to Mr. Poinsett to ask Mexican government to surrender the Hardins who are charged with murder in Tennessee.

Presumably addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Domestic Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dr Sir

Hermitage May 3rd 1828

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 13 & 15th ultimo, which has this moment reached me. I am happy to learn that mine of the 23rd of April¹ was safe to your hands with its enclosures. I had some solicitude on this subject.

The six militiamen appear to be the little hobby of the coalition. They will ride it, so long as they can impose upon the credulity of the ignorant, by false colourings, & mistated facts. This was the great object of that *degraded man*, the Sec. of War, in the arrangement of the papers communicated to Congress. This act alone is sufficient to consign him to the everlasting contempt of all just, highminded, & honorable men, & for which, the President, if he had possessed virtue, would have removed him from office. But it really appears to me, that the members of

the administration are lost to all sense of justice, honor, & magnanimity, or respect for their own, or our national character. The plan therefore that you have suggested is the only one that can fairly meet, and effectually put down their *hobby*. When you carry the war "into affrica," truth, & principle, must be the *watchword*. This alone, is what ought to be relied on for success. This will give it. The people only want light. Give it them, and they will hurl the present rulers from their confidence, & on their "native dunghills set them down." It is certainly true my friends have acted thus far on the defensive. This was right. But from the unprincipled course pursued by the coalition, it is time to carry the *war* into *africa*, and by adhering strictly to facts, they cannot cry persecution. I expect Clay intends to visit Kentucky this summer. He will endeavour to raise this cry to enlist in his favour his old friends. But he will be met with argument founded in truth, that must prostrate him. The report of the committee which you sent, & I have recd. will be a mountain in his way. The people will see with what profusion the public mony has been spent, & taught to know, that a great part has been given to such wretches as John Benn, Hammond,² &c. This, with a virtuous people, will have its effect.

I think your reflections on the subject of the Burr business is correct. No defense, without a charge, ever ought to be attempted. Richey,³ is in possession of the documents. He will move when it is thought necessary. *He is prepared*, as I am advised.

Before this reaches you, you will have seen my reply to the Governor of Indiana, published in the various papers, the Louisville Advertiser & Cincinnati Advertiser &c. The moment I saw it, I saw plainly the finger of Clay in it. Altho he possesses some cunning, he has not common [sense] to mask his intrigue so that he is free from detection. [He] knew, he expected, I would not permit myself to be thus interrogated, & they would wield my silence against me. I answered am happy it meets the approbation of my friends.

I have been seriously affected with a return of my old bowel complaint, from which I am just recovered, but am much debilitated. Mrs. J. joins me in kind salutations to your lady. Have the

goodness to present us to Mr & Mrs. Ha[. . .]⁴ Mr. & Mrs. Livingston, & daughter & to all our delegation.

ANDREW JACKSON

P.S. Present me to Mr Calhoun, Hamilton & McDuffie, and say to my friend Eaton I have not heard from him for some time. Mrs J. & myself tender our kind regard.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Jackson was in error. The reference obviously is to his letter of March 23.

2. John Binns of the Philadelphia *Democratic Press* and Charles Hammond of the Cincinnati *Gazette* were two of the most rabid anti-Jackson editors in the country. Binns printed the original Coffin Handbill that was used against Jackson in the campaign of 1828. Hammond published the story of the irregularity of Rachel Jackson's divorce as well as one that claimed that Jackson was the son of a prostitute.

3. Thomas Ritchie, a supporter of Jackson and Polk, edited the Richmond *Enquirer* from 1804 until 1845, when he became editor of the Washington *Union*.

4. The manuscript is torn so that identification cannot be made with certainty. It is believed, however, that this refers to Robert Y. Hayne, United States senator from South Carolina. Jackson was solicitous concerning political leaders from that state as the reference to John C. Calhoun, James Hamilton Jr., and George McDuffie in the postscript indicates.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. May 20, 1828

Regulations will not permit the papers requested to leave this office. Enclosed, however, are certified copies of the papers of James Sykes¹ which should answer the purpose.

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Edwards to Polk, December 7, 1826, and December 31, 1827.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

DR Sir

Charlotte N.C. May 21st 1828

I have authorised Doctor [Silas] Caldwell to settle with D W McGee (provided he has not already settled with you) and to

take into his possession all the notes that Mr McGee has recved for land. The Doctor is interested in the land and in the settlement, and I will thank you to render him any assistance that may be convenient, and also any information you deem necessary in relation to my law suits.

John H Davidson¹ and I have been talking something about compromises, but have not yet done any thing.

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Maury County. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 59-60.

1. John H. Davidson was the son of John Davidson and the grandson of Thomas Davidson, whose will had brought on the contest over the land.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Columbia June 29th 1828

I take pleasure in introducing to you *Samuel F. Sneed Esqr.*¹ of Granville N. Carolina. Mr. *Sneed* is a member of the *bar*, and is on a tour of observation through the Western Country, with some view of selecting a place of residence. He desires to visit the *Hermitage* before his return, & I take pleasure in saying to you, that although heretofore personally unknown to me, that he is a gentleman whose family are highly respectable, and is the kinsman of an old College friend highly esteemed by me, from whom I have received an introductory note.²

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

1. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1824 and had only recently begun the practice of law.

2. This note was not found.

FROM JOSEPH WATSON¹

Military and Genl. Land & tax Agency

My dear Sir

Washington City 12th July 1828

Your letter of the 26th ult. has this day been received and has reminded me of a subject from which my mind had been diverted

by the pressure of a political correspondence, which as an active Member of the Central Committee, has become widely extended. I proceed to acquit myself of my duty to you and to Richard Lewis,² by enclosing a check No. 652 in his name in the bank of the U. States at this place for \$567

The amount allowed for the three slaves was . . .	\$840.
from which deduct 25 per cent ordained by the Board of Commissioners which is to be paid, hereafter in whole or in part according as the specific fund may justify	210.
from which sum of	\$630.
the commissions of A Noule[?] Esq and myself being deducted	63.
Leaves the amount of the check	\$567.

I would add that a like deduction of 25 per cent was made from Mr Adams[?] claim.

Allow me Sir, to congratulate you on our political prospects throughout the Union and especailly in New York, and to impart to you the assurances of my friend A. C. Flagg Esq.³ the Secy of State of New York, in a late letter, that whilst the Coalition is frittering away its strength in frequent Conventions the *republicans* have determined to have but one, which is to take place on the 24th Sepr next. And that relying upon the good sense and virtue of their fellow citizens, they have not the least doubt that victory will consecrate the standard of the people, and give a death blow to the hopes of the federalists and those who have dared to set at defiance the sovereign will of the Nation.

JOS. WATSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. An operator of a land agency in Washington, who enjoyed good relationships with the General Land Office. Later he became an inspector of land offices.

2. Unidentified.

3. Azariah C. Flagg was an important leader in the New York political faction often called the "Albany Regency."

FROM DANIEL BRENT¹

Sir, Dept. of State, Washington 22 July 1828

In the absence of the Secretary, I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter, from Mr. Poinsett to this Department, and a copy of the correspondence between him and the Mexican Minister of foreign affairs, concerning the surrender of the four Hardins, charged with murder in the State of Tennessee, and fugitives from justice to the Mexican province of Texas; for whose surrender you solicited the interposition of this Government, during the last session of Congress. The good offices of Mr. Poinsett were accordingly employed upon the occasion, under the instructions of this Department, and I am glad that the result, as disclosed by the correspondence which is enclosed is such as was desired, on your part, for the furtherance of justice.

D. BRENT

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy in Domestic Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. Chief clerk in Department of State.

FROM PHINEAS BRADLEY

Washington. July 29, 1828

The postmaster at Nashville is directed to give the accommodation you request, provided the mails from McMinnville shall have arrived and been sorted.

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

TO [ANDREW JACKSON]¹

Maury County Tennessee August 1st 1828

The undersigned have resided for more than fifteen years in the same County and within a few miles from the residence of the Revd. James W. Stephenson, D.D., Thomas Stephenson, Nathl Stephenson and Dr. Samuel Mays.² They know them per-

sonally, and know the reputation they sustain in society. They have no hesitation in stating that they are all highly respectable, are men of exemplary morals, and sustain as fair a reputations as any men in the county in which they live. Their character for veracity stands unimpeached; any statement they may make is entitled to full and entire audit. One of them the venerable Dr. Stephenson has for a great number of years, had charge of a congregation in the Presbyterian Church, and we believe no man was ever more revered and esteemed, for his exemplary piety and correct deportment than he is. To those who know the above named persons, no statement of their General character or veracity can be necessary. It can only be so to those at a distance, to whom they are personally unknown, and who are strangers to their character and standing in society.

JAMES K. POLK, J. W. EGNEW,
BEN REYNOLDS, M. D. COOPER

No address is available, but this communication was probably sent to the Hermitage. In Polk's handwriting, it is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.

1. During the heat of the presidential campaign of 1828, the anti-Jackson forces circulated a rumor that Andrew Jackson's mother had been a prostitute. There seems to have been an effort made to obtain statements of people who knew Mrs. Jackson to refute this claim. Statements as to her good character written by Thomas Stephenson, Dr. Samuel Mayes, and Nathaniel Stephenson may be found in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson*, III, 416-417. They were dated July 30, 31, and August 1, 1828. Since the date on this document is August 1, 1828, it seems likely that it accompanied the above statements and that they were all sent to Jackson to be used as he saw fit. No statement by James W. Stephenson has been found.

2. All four of these men had moved from South Carolina to the Mount Zion community in Maury County. The Rev. Stephenson was pastor of the Mount Zion Church. Dr. Mayes was a Revolutionary War veteran. He practiced medicine in the Mount Zion neighborhood and was an elder in the Mount Zion Church. The relationship among the three Stephensons has not been determined.

TO [DEPARTMENT OF WAR]

[Columbia, Tennessee ?] August 10th 1828

At the request of Langford Fitzgerald the father of William Fitzgerald—now a soldier in the army of the U. States—I state

that I knew Wm. Fitzgerald when a boy, and before he entered the army, that his father and himself at that time resided in Maury County Tennessee; that his father, the above petitioner,¹ now resides in Giles County Tennessee. He is a poor man with a large family, and has always as far as I know been considered an honest man. He is desirous that his son should return home, if he can be *honorably discharged*, consistently with the regulations of the army, by furnishing an able bodied substitute in his place. I make this statement at the request of the father and submit to the proper authorities to act on the subject as they may think proper.

JAMES K. POLK

This note was written at the end of a letter from Langford Fitzgerald to the Department of War. It is in Letters Received, Adjutant General's Office (RG 94), National Archives.

1. See William Fitzgerald to Polk, March 15, 1828, and Langford Fitzgerald to Polk, January 15, 1829.

TO DANIEL BRENT

Sir Columbia Tennessee August 16th 1828

I have received and submitted to the inspection of Joseph B. Porter Esqr. the communication with its enclosures which in the absence of the Secretary of State, you were pleased to make to me, bearing dated [*sic*] July 22nd 1828. I am instructed by Mr. Porter to say, that he is much gratified that measures have been taken, and that there is now a prospect of having surrendered to justice the Messrs Hardins—the murderers of his son.

In the Letter of Mr. Poinsett to Mr. Clay—dated Mexico 9 June 1828—he says—“*I shall write to the Governor of that State*” (Texas-Coahuila) “*to have them detained in custody, and respectfully suggest, that some persons should be sent from the United States to receive & tran[s]port them to Tennessee.*” Mr. Porter requests me to say, that he will on the shortest notice, send to any point that shall be designated by the Government of the United States, a confidential agent to identify the persons and receive into custody the offenders. He suggests, that possibly

it may be necessary to have the aid of a small part of the military force stationed on that border, to enable him securely to transport them to Tennessee for trial.

You will be pleased without delay, to cause the necessary instructions to be given on these points, as Mr. Porter will await the arrival of specific instructions from Washington before he despatches an agent.

Any communications on the subject can be made either through me or directly to Joseph B. Porter Esqr at this place.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In *Miscellaneous Letters, Department of State (RG 59)*, National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

D. Sir,

Charlotte N.C. Augt. 19th 1828

Mr John H Davidson and me have come to an understanding of compromise of the suit now depending in your court between us. We have agreed upon the sum and conditions of compromise. He would not agree to indemnify against all the others but would agree to relinquish the suit and let the court decree the land to me. He has wrote to his counsel to this effect.

Our understanding is this. I have agreed to give a certain sum which he had agreed to terms provid[ed] there is a final termination of the suit as regards all the claimants. He was unwilling to indemnify but was under the impression that by giving up the suit and permitting a decree in my favour it would be the same as a final decision.

Both parties being anxious to terminate the controversy between us have agreed on the terms above mentioned. This agreement however will be void unless as I before stated the suit shall be fully and finally settled so that I shall hereafter have no further trouble from the same parties. Whether the court would, by their withdrawing their pleas, give a decree in behalf of me and the purchasers in such way as to put a final end to the

controversy was what neither of [us] knows. Consequently we made a conditional agreement. Should the court however make such decisions as will put a final end to the business then everything between us will be settled. If the suit should go off in any other way it is not probable that it would be revived by any other person.

I will therefore rest the matter with you. I am anxious to settle the dispute, but want it done in such way as not to be trouble hereafter. If a disposition of the case can not be made under the circumstances above mentioned I suppose we had better let the suit go on upon its merits. Should you however deem it necessary you have further instructions perhaps it will be better not to press the case this court.

Our agreement has just been made and I write in hast as the mail is waiting. I will write you again next week.

WM DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 60.

FROM DAVID JARRETT¹

Dear Sir

Denmark² August 26 1828

Yesterday morning I received yours of 15 ult. making many enquiries about the estate of your father &c. I have Joanses deede and Robinsons. John Coons lives in Montgommery Cty. The lines of this division is made and he is allways ready to make the deede. W Brawly died in Franklin County about two years ago. The Brank tract belongs to E. E. Davidson.³ Thos. Harris lives in N or S Carolina. Robb lives in Sumner Cty and I think has settled in some way for this location.⁴ I know no other Cobb but R. L.⁵ He has settled with Maj Polk. The Taylor who married the daughter of W Polk⁶ is authorised to make the Taylor division. Irwin A Alexander Maj Polk informed me had settled giving some land in Maury County some 4 or 5 years ago. I understand the land to be on Duck River below Columbia and as

for the Huggins the division is made and I have the deede. William Alexander⁷ lives near the NE Corner of Giles County, not far from where Cockral lives. As you come down come by for Scurlock and examine the 640 on which he lives. I dont want you to be there before the 5th of Octr at which time I will try to be ready to go with you, and at which time (if I am well) I will be able to give the whole of your questions full satisfaction, but Cannot do it at this time, for I scarcely know what I am about.

I have been in bad health ever since I returned from N Orleans and for the 8 last days have beene confined to bed with a rising on my knee joint, which time has beene without rest. It was opened yesterday & I am something better. My indisposition is my apology for the [. . .].

D. JARRETT

NB C Joanses agent lives within 2 miles of Jackson. His brother Atlas Joans.⁸

D J.

Presumably addressed to Columbia.

1. Jarrett was an early settler in Madison County, moving there from Murfreesboro. He had been associated with Samuel Polk in surveying and locating lands in the Western District. He was a member of the first court organized in Madison County.

2. Denmark was in Madison County, a few miles southwest of Jackson.

3. Coons and Brawly are unidentified. Ephraim E. Davidson was a resident of Maury County. See Edward Dillahunty to Polk, January 25, 1828, for relationship of Davidson to the Branks.

4. This probably refers to Thomas Harris of Anson County, North Carolina, for whom Samuel Polk had located a tract of land lying along the Tennessee River. See Sidney J. Harris to Polk, October 22, 1828. Robb is not identified.

5. Probably Robert L. Cobbs of Columbia.

6. William W. Polk, Samuel Polk's brother, who married Elizabeth Dodd. Their daughter, Clarissa Polk, married a man named Taylor.

7. Irwin A. Alexander is unidentified. William Alexander was a Revolutionary War pensioner.

8. Calvin Jones of North Carolina, who founded and edited the Raleigh *Star*, was a physician. He owned large tracts of land in Tennessee and in 1832 moved to a large plantation near Bolivar, Hardeman County. At the time of this letter his brother, Atlas Jones, was still handling his affairs in the Western District.

FROM JOHN T. BROWN¹

Dr Sir Covington [Tennessee] August 26 1828

Yours of the 12 of this instant has been recd. in due time. Your deed from Jno O Davidson has been recorded and is now in my possession. I will be at Columbia about the 25 of Sept next & will bring it to you. There is no opportunity of selling of your land at present but if an opportunity should open I will advise of it. I think you gave me the deed when at Columbia last fall. The taxes for the last year has been paid by James Brown.²

JOHN T BROWN

NB I have a deed from Mr Alexander³ to your Father for 100 acres of land in this County. I will bring that up also.

J T BROWN

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Sheriff of Tipton County in West Tennessee. Covington was its county seat.

2. Prominent citizen of Jackson, Madison County, who was one of the earliest surveyors in the Western District.

3. Sam Polk had land dealings with several Alexanders, but the size of the tract involved strongly suggests that this was William Alexander, otherwise unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

D Sir Charlotte N.C. Augt. 26th. 1828

I wrote you last week that John H. Davidson and myself had come to an understanding of compromising our law suit in Tennessee. We are both very desirous of putting a final end to the controversy and our agreement is to that effect. He was however unwilling to give a bond to indemnify me against all the other claimants but said he would do so as to the most of them. He was however of the opinion (and it seemd. to strike me in the same way) that if he gave up the bond and suffered a decree in my favour that it would put a final end to the case. He had written to his counsel and I presume there will be no difficulty in the disposition of the case, unless it should arise in the legal mode of

doing it. If however there should be any difficulty in the way in disposing of the case in the manner I have mentioned and which we desire, perhaps in such case it might be well to give further time for settlement of the arrangement which we have made, unless you should still be of the opinion that the merits of the case is with us, and the chance of success equally clear. Be that however as it may I am very desirous of disposing of the controversy agreeable to the understanding between us. Each one agrees to pay their own costs. I am extremely anxious that the purchasers of these lands should be quietted in their Titles.

I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient.

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Coln.

Murfreesboro, August 26th 1828

We send the Boy as was contemplated to bring up Joe and the notes for Miller.¹ I likewise send a horse for Coy or such other of the negroes as you may send with the following propositions. You may take Coy & my interest in Matilda for five hundred Dollars (this amount including the \$29 Rents for which you are *responsible to me*) giving your note payable 25th Decr. 1828. Or you may send me Jim in place of Coy. Or Elizabeth and Old Sarah in place of Coy and I will settle with you the difference of their appraisment. I would prefer that you keep Coy, and especially if you retain his wife Matilda.²

Mr Miller told me yesterday that he had received Leah and her children from the man to whom she was hired and he appeared to be well satisfied.

We send you our power of Attorney to compromise our difficulties with John W Cooke.³ Any thing that you will do on that case will be satisfactory to me. I think however that he ought to release the property & rent, and pay \$1500, or at least 1000 Dollars. If you should be at Jackson make special inquiries about the Barfields⁴ and the proofs that can be made down there in relation to these sent below.

We are tolerably well. Susan⁵ is in the same situation as when you left here.

W R RUCKER.

P.S. I had written this letter to send by Isaac but my *friends* were not good enough to let me know when he was to start and thereby enable me to send this letter and the horse. However if you should agree upon any of the propositions named you can inform me by letter. Should you determine that matters shall remain as they are you may suffer Coy to continue with the man to whom he is hired until the end of the year at which time the hirer must pay me a [. . .] proportion of the years hire.

John⁶ will come through your town in a short time and will carry with him a power of Attorney for you to settle with Cooke. It will be right to give him a power of Attorney to sell some of the land in Alabama.⁷

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Andrew Miller was in possession of land assigned to the Betts heirs in the Betts-Childress case. Since this land had been sold to him by Childress, the estate had to remunerate him.

2. These were slaves whose names appear in an inventory of the property left by Joel Childress. Leah and Isaac, mentioned below, were also included in that inventory.

3. A man of prominence in the Western District who later became judge of the ninth circuit. In May 1818, Joel Childress sold to Cooke a house and lot in Murfreesboro for which Cooke executed notes totaling \$3,000 to be paid over the next three years. The first note was overdue when Joel Childress died, and for some reason none of the notes was paid, although Cooke freely acknowledged the debt. Joel Childress had kept a lien on the property, and this lien fell to Anderson Childress, who took possession of the property after the three years had lapsed. This was one of the many affairs in litigation at the time of the death of Anderson Childress.

4. Frederick Barfield, who had moved from Rutherford County to the Western District in 1820, owed Isaac Hilliard some money, and Joel Childress had stood security for Barfield, receiving a mortgage on two of Barfield's slaves. In 1832, after Barfield died, Jesse W. Egnew obtained payment from a man named Hewlett in Louisiana who was in possession of the slaves. The money was then divided among the surviving heirs of Joel Childress.

5. Susan Childress Rucker, sister of Sarah Polk.

6. John W. Childress, surviving son of Joel Childress.

7. The power of attorney was dated September 3, 1828.

FROM JOHN H. CAMP

Dear Colo.

Pulaski 31st. Aug. 1828

I recd your letter by Claiborne & was highly gratified at your information on the subject of the McNairy letters.¹

It is somewhat uncertain about the time I shall go to Madison & if you have engagements with Judge Isaacs,² you had better go that way—but if you conclude not to go by Fayetteville, & will write me by Mr. Field³ that you expect to come this way, I will make my arrangements to accompany you. I should like to get to my Brothers on the 15th (as the Dinner is on the 7th) to give time to get an invitation.

What will be done with my law suit? I have not been able since last Court to attend to the examination of the papers, nor have I had any notice from the Clerk & Master to attend for that purpose. You will if possible have the suit put off. Should they come on you & Mr. Bramlett will do the best you can for me. Mr. Brown⁴ says he would go on there if he thought there was any probability of them coming on.

I have nothing new. I think my health has been better this week than any week for some time.

JNO. H. CAMP

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Letters published by Dr. Boyd McNairy of Nashville, in an effort to hurt Jackson politically by implicating him in the Burr conspiracy.

2. Jacob C. Isaacs was a circuit judge before being elected to Congress.

3. Probably William H. Field.

4. Probably Aaron V. Brown.

TO WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Sir

Columbia Ten. Sept 4th 1828

Your letter of the 26th August was not received until yesterday. The man to whom your boy Coy is hired is willing to give him up to you at any time on application, or to keep him until Christmas as you may direct. I spoke to him immediately on my

return, and if you had sent for him by Isaac, as you expected to do, he was in readiness to go up. On reflection I do not think it will suit me to accede to any of the propositions you have made to sell him to me, or to exchange him for other negroes. [. . .]¹ On receipt of the power of attorney I will endeavour when I go to the District to arrange the matter with *Cooke*; and will when at Jackson as you suggest make some inquiry for the *Barfields* and their knowledge of the suit in New Orleans, and will advise you of it.² As to the testimony in that case at Murfreesborough I hope you and John will attend to it immediately according to the instructions given by the counsel there, as contained in the papers in Johns possession. I will give John a power of attorney on his way to Alabama.

Sarah has been very sick with the *measles* since my return, but has entirely recovered. *Mary*³ has likewise got well & is now in very good health.⁴

Addressed to Murfreesboro.

1. A tear in the manuscript at this point makes it impossible to read the next five lines.

2. See Rucker to Polk, August 26, 1828.

3. *Mary* was the orphaned daughter of *Anderson Childress* and his wife, *Mary Sansom Childress*, and was reared by her grandmother *Childress*.

4. The remainder of the manuscript has been torn off.

FROM EZEKIEL P. McNEAL

D Sir.

Bolivar Sept. 8th 1828

All the title papers of your fathers that I had, I handed over to Mr. [James] Walker except the Platt & Certificate of 25 acre of land. Said land your father sold during his lifetime to Mr *Boyte*¹ & authorized me by power of attorney to make the title. I have not done so and wish you or Mr Walker to convey the Platt when you come down.

The deeds from *Robertson*² for 333 $\frac{1}{2}$ and from *Jones*³ for 1392 acres I know nothing of. I have a list of your fathers lands in the district, though I furnished Mr Walker with a copy thereof. I

wish to have a settlement with the estate when you come down.

E P McNEAL

P.S. Say to Franklin,⁴ Mr. Hardeman⁵ will pay him the amt. I owe him in a few days.

McNEAL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified.
2. J. C. N. Robertson was Sheriff of Hardeman County, where Sam Polk had owned much land.
3. Calvin Jones speculated extensively in West Tennessee lands. He became chancellor for West Tennessee in 1834.
4. Franklin E. Polk.
5. Thomas J. Hardeman, prominent in the early days of West Tennessee, married a daughter of Ezekiel Polk. Hardeman County was named for him. In 1830 he moved to Texas.

TO ANDREW JACKSON¹

Dear Sir

Columbia Sept 8th 1828

Since I saw you I have reflected some on the policy of your appearing at this time before the public, under your own name, in vindication of your character, from the numerous falsehoods, forgeries and misrepresentations which have been circulated against you, and have come myself to the conclusion that it would not be proper to do so, and for the following reasons. First, I deem the result of the election as things now stand entirely certain, and no publication from you can make it more so. Second, the high and dignified ground you have taken, neither to "solicit or decline high public office;" and the ground taken for you by your friends throughout the Union, that you live in retirement on your farm, calm and unmoved by the excitement around you, taking no part in the pending canvass for the Presidency, but committing yourself into the hands of your country, would seem to superficial observers to be inconsistent with any appeal to the public made by you at this juncture of time, just on the eve of the election, and would I have no doubt be so used by your enemies. Third, as long as you remain silent, the public

sympathies are with you, for your worst enemy, if he would speak candidly must admit that you deserve better of your country than the abuse you have received; and in the present highly excited state of parties, nothing that can be said will be believed or can injure you. I think my observation warrants the opinion too, that every publication and every speech made by the Secretary of State, since the last Presidential election, has operated an injury to the administration, and has impaired its popularity. And lastly, your motives for making any publication at this juncture of time, would be misrepresented in an hundred ways, your language would be distorted, and in fine it would be made to be any and every thing but what it really was.

When I last conversed with you I doubted whether it might not be proper for you to make a dignified, but cautious & well prepared address to the public, but when I look over the Union and see that all that has been said against you has been said by heated partisans and hirelings of "the powers that be," and that all the base means that have been employed have not detracted from your fair fame, or injured your popularity with the great body of the people of the U. States, and that your prospects of success are flattering, and indeed certain, I am constrained to come to the conclusion that the course heretofore pursued by you is still your true policy. It was the course pursued by *Jefferson* when assailed by the minions of the elder *Adams*. Treat every thing that has or may be said, with silent contempt. Any notice from you would only give importance to their slanders. Leave it as heretofore to your friends, at least until the election is over.

Those are the views which I entertain, and which from the conversation held with you at our last interview, I thought I could take the liberty freely to communicate to you. Do not however, let any opinion of mine influence you to do otherwise than your own judgment may dictate or your better informed friends may advise.

On yesterday I procured and forwarded to Majr. Eaton by my brother a statement [made by] Lucius J. Polk, of a conversation lately held to him and several other gentlemen, by Col. Wm. P. Anderson² in relation to Dr. [Boyd] McNairy's *Burr* communication in which Col. Anderson stated that he knew Dr.

McNairy could not sustain the accusation, and that the letter without date or address, about boats &c, had reference to an entirely different object, and had no relation to *Burr* or his plans. This I conceive will be important, as it is now certain from Col. Erwin's communication to Binns³ on the same subject that the letter was addressed to Col. Anderson and was furnished by him for publication. I have likewise procured and forwarded to Eaton a statement on the same subject from Dr. McKethen[?]⁴ (an Adams man) containing in substance the same that Lucius Polk's statement does, to be used if necessary. You need not give yourself any uneasiness on this subject. From the notice taken of it by the newspapers at a distance, even without minute information, I am perfectly satisfied it is not credited, and even if left unanswered could do no harm. *Eaton* writes me the committee will report this week. It was perhaps better to prepare the report well, than to do it hastily.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in private possession.

1. At the bottom of the last page Jackson wrote, "My friend Col Polk's letter to be kept as a token of his real friendship."

2. William Preston Anderson, brother of Jackson's close friend Patton Anderson, was an aide to the general before 1812 and had remained on good terms with him for some years. Exactly when and why they broke with each other is not clear, although it has been suggested that it concerned the settlement of an estate. Within a few days after this letter, Jackson and Anderson exchanged through newspapers the most bitter recriminations.

3. John Binns, harshly anti-Jackson editor in Philadelphia, said in his memoirs that several Nashville merchants, presumably including Erwin, had provided him with all sorts of anti-Jackson material for use in his paper.

4. Unidentified.

FROM DANIEL BRENT

Sir,

Dept of State, Washington 12 Sept 1828

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of August,¹ and to transmit to you copies of Mr. Poinsett's last despatch to this Department, under date the 12th of July, and its Enclosures, concerning the Hardins.² I send likewise

the copy of a letter which I addressed to the Department of War on the 6th instant, requesting, at your instance, the aid of such portion of the Military force of the United States stationed upon our Southern border, as might be necessary for the safe and secure custody and transportation of these fugitives, till they should be delivered over to the proper civil authority, for trial, to which is added the copy of a letter of Instructions, which has just been communicated to this Department from Major General Macomb to the commanding officer of the cantonment of Jessup, at Na[t]chitoches, directing that officer to furnish the aid required, and, in every other respect, to comply with the wish of Mr. Joseph B. Porter, as explained in my letter to the War Department, above referred to, and the copy enclosed.

I have thought that it might be satisfactory to Mr. Porter, thus early to be put in possession of these papers, in anticipation of a further notice from Mr. Poinsett, which may be expected, that he is officially informed of the arrest and detention of the Hardins, as I am at a loss to know from the tenor of your communication, whether it is not the intention of Mr. Porter to go forthwith upon the projected expedition himself, or to set it on foot immediately.

D. BRENT

Addressed to Columbia. Clerk's copy in Domestic Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. This is probably a reference to Polk's letter of August 16, 1828.
2. The enclosures were not found.

FROM CHARLES BECKETT¹

Sir [Lincoln County?] September 14th 1828

After my best compliments to you the last time I saw you in town you could not tell me the Reason why you did not git me on the pention list. You said you had forg't the Reson. You likewise Said you had Rote the Reason Why you didn't Succeed. I Want you Sir to Send me Word by the barer and if not by the first oportunity. It is not, in power to com to town. Sir I wish you to

write how to perseed So that I can no how to perseed. And if you
Cant Rite by barer When you do Rite Direct your letter to New
Hope.²

CHARLES BECKETT

No address is available. Since it was delivered by hand, however, it was presumably delivered to Polk in Columbia.

1. Beckett was a resident of Lincoln County and was able to produce affidavits showing that he had served with General Anthony Wayne in the Fallen Timbers campaign. Under existing legislation, however, he was not eligible for a pension.

2. A settlement in the northwest part of Lincoln County. Later it became a part of newly created Marshall County.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

Dr. Sir

Hermitage Septbr. 16th 1828

Your very kind & friendly letter of the 8th instant, has been received some days. It would have been replied to on its receipt, but being surrounded with company, & my attention in part drawn to an unfortunate stranger brought sick to my house, & who died on yesterday, has prevented me from replying sooner.

I have read your letter with great interest & attention. The reasons therein contained leaves no room to doubt of the correctness of your conclusions. It is such, as I had long since concluded to pursue, & upon which I had acted. Your conclusions are strengthened by other friends at a distance who have wrote me upon the same subject, & admonish me *strongly* to continue to the end, the course I have hitherto pursued. It is too late to take any other.

I receive my Dr. Sir, your letter as the highest evidence of your sincere friendship, & as such have treasured it up.

Mrs. J. unites with me in a tender of our kind salutations to your amiable Lady, mother & family.

ANDREW JACKSON

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM JOEL PINSON¹

Col. J. K. Polk.

Lincoln [County] Sept 20th 1828

I have to inform you that I have not yet employed any additional Counsel in the suit R. J. Nelson.² I find the Def[enden]ts as Penurious as the U.S. Government, and I very much fear we shall be crushed at a Blow by the Gigantick force arrayed against us.

Suits in Ejectment were originally commenced vs. about 26 persons. By consent of parties and a Rule of court the whole was consolidated into three suits. And I think 12 defts are concerned in the suit in which you are interested, about one half of whom dont care which way the suit goes, and it was with difficulty I could prevail on them to Join in a fee of \$100. to Mr. Hayes³ in the Supreme Court. And I have no Idea they can be brot. to give any thing to any other atto. The other defts had consented to employ me to manage the suit and had instructed me to employ additional counsel. But when they were informed that a strong stand was taken by the pl[ainti]ff in our suit in the Supreme Court, they at once perceived the necessity of our renewing our strength in order to meet the plff & of course that the main pull will be made in our suit, & that probably theirs may remain untouched in the Circuit Court till ours is disposed of, and for this reason they Back out and will do nothing more till they are driven to it. Now I Know Mr Hayes will not be able to resist the overwhelming force vs him and still think somebody else ought to be employed but I dont Know what to do. You will consider what ought to be done. Your Int in the result is more than any other individual (that is the Int you represent). I am anxious the suit should be tried upon its merits & not be lost for want of ability to manage it, and will individually contribute my part. Let me hear from you.

JOEL PINSON

PS. Since writing the above Mr Hayes has assured me that P M Miller⁴ will attend the Supreme Court & recommends him to be employed.

J P

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Joel Pinson, for whom Mount Pinson in Madison County was named, was a resident of Lincoln County who had for some years engaged in surveying in the Western District. The land involved in the suit mentioned seems to have been land once owned by Sam Polk.

2. Unidentified.

3. Probably Oliver B. Hayes, prominent Nashville lawyer.

4. Pleasant M. Miller had been prominent in legal and political affairs of the state for many years. At this time he was living at Jackson, Tennessee.

FROM JOSEPH B. PORTER¹ TO JAMES WALKER
AND JAMES K. POLK

Gentlemen, Poplar Grove² September 24th 1828

On Conversing with Mr. Chism³ and reflecting on the subject, I am of Opinion that any information given by the Mr. Chisms which we used was to be accounted for to them for their interest.

We had a quantity of Mr. Jones⁴ warrants in our hands which we recd. of Majr. Chism & Company, and were paid as locators for locating such warrants.

During the time of making entries, there was a friendly exchange of Sentiments and information between this Company & us, for which no compensation was asked or required. Towards the close of business when locations were scarce—when a large warrant had to be located information was sought by comparing our notes with notes of others who had passed through the same neighbourhood, & by means of all the notes to situate the tracts to the best advantage.

I have a recollection that when I was recovering from a severe illness at Alexanders⁵ office, during the entering in that office, and before I was able to attend to business that Majr. Polk felt unusual interest in situating some tracts near the South West Corner of Madison County, and that he had the benefit of the notes and assistance of Mr Chism, in making certainly one, & I believe two locations for which Majr. Polk was under obligations to Majr. Chism & Co, to what precise amount of land or remuneration I am not now certain—I believe 640 acres in the name

of James Walker & a tract in the name of Butler, McNeary^e & others, the last of which tracts was only in part located from the notes of Chism & Company, as I recollect to have gone to the Genl. plan & compared my own notes with the place where it was to be situated, and found my notes were the whole length of the west boundary of the tract. Mr. Chisms notes were on the eastern or interior of the tract. Whatever compensation was to be made by Majr Polk was to be out of the locative interest held in the warrants given us by Majr. Chism & Company. I recollect in our division Majr. Polk took that interest as he had made the understanding with Mr. Chism & best understood the matter how to settle it.

Mr Chism requests me to say whether the information afforded was not so understood as to balance so much information used by us in locating of the warrants procured of them. Or in other words, was or was not Chism's entitled to the locative interest of such quantity as was located from their notes to be taken out of the tracts as named as recd from them?

In answering this I cannot say positively the understanding as to the amount. I recollect Mr Chism was to be paid for his information, and to be paid out of the locative interest in the warrants recd. of them, and it is reasonable that any interchange would be reciprocal and equal. Not having it in my power to go to town today I at the request of Mr. Chism drop you this information.

JOSEPH B. PORTER

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Porter, with his son T. J. Porter and nephew James Brown, had engaged in the business of locating land warrants and establishing North Carolina grants in West Tennessee.

2. In western Gibson County.

3. This is perhaps James Chisum, who had formerly lived in White County. The spelling of this name seems to vary widely. See John H. Bills to Polk, November 15, 1832.

4. Possibly Calvin Jones.

5. Adam R. Alexander, who had been register in the land office for the 10th surveyor's district.

6. Dr. William E. Butler and Judge John McNairy both owned land in Jackson. Madison County's seat of government.

FROM JAMES BROWN¹

Dear Sir

Jackson October 20th 1828

I am informed by Col. Jones² that the Calvin Jones 274 acre tract of land was sold for \$830, three hundred dollars payable first of January 1829, the like sum January 1830, and two hundred & thirty dollars in January 1831.

JAMES BROWN

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Nephew of Joseph B. Porter, mentioned in letter of September 24, 1828.
2. Probably Atlas Jones, brother of Calvin Jones.

FROM SIDNEY J. HARRIS

Dear Sir

Lincolnton N.C. Oct 22, 1828

According to a bequeathment made me by Majr. Thomas Harris,¹ my Grandfather, I have an interest in a tract of land, located by your father lying on Tennessee river in Record's Bend.² At the death of my Grandfather your father's agency expired. Dr. George F. Graham³ who married a legatee (of whom there are four) was then appointed our attorney. I regret to state that he also is dead, a fact with which I presume you are acquainted. Not having acted as agent before he died, the business remains precisely as it was at your fathers death.

Be good enough to let me know before you set out for Congress, what you know about this land (from your fathers papers) and if it will suit your convenience to act as agent for the legatees.

SIDNEY J. HARRIS

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 61-62.

1. He was appointed first major in the militia of Anson County, North Carolina, in 1776. On February 19, 1825, he received a grant of land from Tennessee, consisting of 500 acres lying along the Tennessee River in Hardin County. Sidney J. Harris is not otherwise identified.
2. McPherson has read this as River's Bend.

3. A native of Lincoln County, North Carolina, he was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1815. Subsequently he studied medicine and became a practicing physician.

FROM EZEKIEL P. McNEAL

D Sir.

Bolivar. Oct. 22d 1828

Inclosed. is Wm Leetchs' letter to Thos. G. Polk.² Also a Platt. of the 823 acre tract of land Entered in the name of Polk & Leetch & a representation of the division.

E. P. McNEAL

P.S. The taxes for the present year are yet unpaid on the 288 Acres out of the Polk & Leetch, tract.

McNEAL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. William Leetch and Samuel Polk were co-owners of a considerable tract of land in the Western District. McNeal was paid a small fee for running a dividing line between some of their holdings in Fayette County. This name is variously spelled, but the version used by McNeal is the one used in land records and is probably correct.

2. Thomas G. Polk was the first son of Colonel William Polk of North Carolina. The letter mentioned here has not been found.

FROM JOHN W. CHILDRESS

Dear Sir,

Murfreesboro Nov. 4th 1828

I intended all along to have visited your house before you set out for Washington, but being very much engaged at present, I have concluded to send Isaac. You promised Mah that you could leave her one hundred dollars untill your return, which will be a very great accommodation, as we have to pay cash for all the necessaries we buy for the next year and she had paid out all she had in purchasing her farm, and has none due her untill Christmas. Under these circumstances she is compelled to draw on your liberality and if you can with convenience let her have \$100. she can replace it when you return, or to your order, in your absence, any time after Christmas. Corn is very scarce and dear, and not

to be had, except for cash. I have borrowed so far and promised payment next Monday, with the expectation that I would have seen you ere this, and by your assistance been enabled to return it. If you can spare the amount, you will much oblige us by sending it by Isaac. It will be safe in his hands. Col. Bell has executed the deed to us for the land he purchased, and the Dr. & myself obligated ourselves & you to pay him about \$100. for fees due him & the firm of Crabb & Bell.¹ There are claims due the Estate of Col. Crabb from Anderson Childress about \$300. which was not known to Bell before he made the Deed, or that would have been included also. Laughlin² wants to buy, but has not yet made an offer. There is about 160 acres of the land & 100 first rate. The lot adjoining the one we live on, on the South can be sold in a short time. Dr. Rucker is now on a trade with the man that wants it badly. I have had several applications to rent the house we live in, but have deferred doing so until I learned whether or not you had made any arrangement with Cook.³ Please inform me upon this subject. If you will suggest any thing to be done in relation to the land in Alabama, it can be attended to.

I shall be happy to hear from you often during the winter and tell Sarah she must give me the news regularly. Mah & Mary join in respects &c.

JOHN W. CHILDRESS

Mary say[s] howdy to both of you & cousin Ophelia, Jane, Eliza. & all the rest, and says you must not stay so long at Washington as you did last year, for she will be very anxious to see you &c. Please start Isaac early that he may get home in one day.⁴

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Henry Crabb and John Bell had been in partnership in Nashville. Crabb had recently died.

2. John R. Laughlin, clerk of the Rutherford County court of pleas and quarter sessions.

3. Probably John W. Cooke. See William R. Rucker to Polk, August 26, 1828.

4. An endorsement by Polk, written on the outside of this letter, reads, "Answered Nov. 6th—and enclosed \$100.00 by *Isaac*, according to the request in the above letter. Delivered the letter to Isaac enclosing the \$100.—in presence of J. L. Walker."

FROM WILLIAM B. SUTTON¹

Col Polk

Shelbyville 6th November 1828

I wrote you by mail near a week ago. I now understand from Col Sanford² that you expect to start on Saturday next which will not allow of my receiving and answer from you time enough to visit you myself. I therefore enclose by Col Sanford the one hundred and twenty dollars, the amount coming to Col Charles P. Tutt³ near Leesburg Virginia. Col Tutt has directed me to send the money by you when you went on to Washington this fall. You no doubt will confer a considerable favour on Col Tutt and also on me by attending to this matter. If you will take the trouble to attend to it, you will please inform and then I can inform Col Tutt so that he may apply at Washington without any futher trouble to you.

WM B SUTTON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A lawyer in Bedford County.
2. James T. Sandford, a wealthy Columbia planter. While the two spellings were used almost interchangeably, Sandford seems to be the correct version.
3. He served under Jackson during the War of 1812 and was quartermaster in the 57th Virginia militia.

TO ANDREW A. KINCANNON⁴

My Dear Sir

Louisville Ky. Nov. 15th 1828

I arrived here on Thursday evening on my way to Washington, was detained on yesterday waiting for a Steam Boat and spent the day very pleasantly I assure you with our political friends here. It is impossible to describe their joy at the result of the late election. They have fought, as they say the battle of the 8th of January and the victory is theirs. The majority for Jackson in Ky. from the latest information received is now estimated at between 7,000 and 8,000 votes. Enough has been heard from *Ohio* and *Indiana* to render it entirely certain, in the opinion of the best informed, that both states have given their votes to the

General. As far as *Illinois* and *Missouri* have been heard from, large majorities were given for Jackson. These states are certain. The Sheriffs of *Ohio* composed the polls at Columbus on Tuesday last the 11th Inst. and I expect to meet the official return at Cincinnati. As soon as I get it I will send it to you.

The vote in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia is the only information received from Pennsylvania. In both there is a considerable gain for Jackson, since the late election for members of Congress in October. In Philadelphia his majority was over 1,000 votes—making an increase of more than 500 votes since the election for Congress between *Hemphill* and *Sergeant*.² A gentleman has just arrived here, who left the City of New York on the 2nd day of the election, who states that on the first day of the election, the Jackson men—were marching through *Broad-way*, bearing with them a stout Hickory-tree, and that the Jackson majority in the City was said to be very great. An Adams newspaper published in the City on the 2nd day of the election complains that the Jacksonians had taken almost exclusive possession of the polls on the first day. They vote in N. York by ballot, and of course the actual vote is not given.

I have given you all the Presidential news, as I have received it here, believing that it would be gratifying not only to yourself, but to our friends in Tennessee generally, to receive the earliest intelligence of the triumphant success of their own distinguished fellow-citizen. I feel proud as a citizen of Tennessee, that the state has furnished a citizen upon whom so great a portion of the people of the U. States have been willing to confer such distinguished honour. Though slandered and abused more than any man of the age by his political adversaries, the intelligence and gratitude of his country have at length awarded to him a [. . .] reward for his patriotic and important public service.

The Adams men here are dreadfully distressed, but give up the contest, and admit that Genl Jackson [is] elected by an overwhelming majority.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Fayetteville, Tennessee. This letter is in the Ford Collection, New York Public Library.

1. Kincannon became one of Polk's staunchest political friends. His own

political efforts in Tennessee were largely unsuccessful. He moved to Mississippi, however, and was elected to the state legislature in 1844. He is considered the founder of the Columbus Female Institute in his new home town, Columbus, Mississippi.

2. Joseph Hemphill, a lawyer of Philadelphia, ran as a Jackson Democrat and defeated John Sergeant, who was to be a vice-presidential candidate in 1832.

FROM JOHN M. DANIEL

Dear friend Mount Pleasant Maury County T Nov. 20th 1828

These lines will be accompanied by a Petition of all or most all of the mail [*sic*] inhabitants of Mount Pleasant^t praying for Mr Benjamin R Harris² to be appointed Post Master of this place. He is a young man I have been long acquainted with having lived with me five or six years and is now my deputy. I know him to be an honest Correct upright man, and there is no other that I would be willing to resign the office as Post Master to have appointed. I want to be of some service to him and there is now no other way to assist him but by having him appointed Post Master of Mount Pleasant. I want you to carry the Petition to the Post Master General and if he will appoint Mr Benj R Harriss as Post Master have it done. But provided that he cant be appointed dont let any other for I will continue myself. But if Post Master General will commission him let it be done but if not I will still hold it.

You will be so good as to use your influence in the matter.

JOHN M. DANIEL

Addressed to Washington. In an endorsement Polk stated that this was a copy of a letter that had been handed to the Postmaster General. The copy is not in Polk's handwriting.

1. The petition was dated November 3, 1828, and contained over forty names.

2. Harris received the appointment and served for several years. See Harris to Polk, November 21, 1828.

FROM BENJAMIN R. HARRIS

Mount Pleasant Nov. 21 1828

I have enclosed to you Petition from the citizens of this place to the Post Master General to have me appointed Post Master.¹

All the Citizens have subscribed their names to it with the exception of L. D. Brewster,² who is at this time in Philadelphia or Baltimore, and will not be at home until some time in December. If necessary, I have no doubt but I can forward a recommendation from him, on his arrival at home.

If you will attend to this business, Present the P.M. General the Petition and show him Daniels letter directed to you,³ you will oblige your friend. If the P.M. Genr. should have any objections, you will please inform me of them, that I may have an opportunity of satisfying him before you leave W. City. I am well apprised that the P.M. Genr. has been troubled a *good deal*, by the contentions of part of the Citizens of this place, but this being a Petition signed by every citizen in the Vilage and a recommendation from the present P.M. I have no doubt he will be satisfied with it.

BENJN. R. HARRIS

Addressed to Washington. In an endorsement Polk stated that this was a copy of a letter that had been handed to the Postmaster General. The copy is not in Polk's handwriting.

1. The petition was the same as the one mentioned by Daniel in his letter to Polk, November 20, 1828.
2. Brewster had been mentioned as a possible appointee to the position sought by Harris. See Benjamin W. Wilson to Polk, February 29, 1828.
3. See letter dated November 20, 1828.

FROM MATTHEW WOOD¹

D Sir

Giles County 24th November 1828

I am at a loss to know wether or not you Have started to Congress. In that case I have directed my Letter to Washington.

If you please you can apply at the [. . .] War for any information which may Intitle me to the benefit of the Last act of Congress Relative to pention officers. I do not see wherein Congress can Leave me out of the benefit that amt. pass Last session & I am not In the Compact made by the officers of the army about the Time of being discharged. I give you answer that

about that Time I was with a number of Soldiers furlowed home, As you will See by Reading Crenshaws History of the United States. And In that Case it appears I ought To be Intitled to any contract other officers Is Intiled to by the Late act in this year. Will lay me under Singular Obligations by Taking some paines for me and Rite to me by the first maill to Pulaska [Pulaski].

MATT WOOD

In spite of the statement in the first paragraph, this letter was addressed to Columbia.

1. Wood had been on the pension rolls since 1823, and there is no record of his having received an increase in the benefits. As a captain he received \$240 per year and drew more than \$2200 before his death in 1832.

FROM LESTER MORRIS¹

Dear Sir,

Pulaski 28th Novr. 1828

I have thought proper to request you to attend to my pension matters in Congress so soon as you may deem it advisable. If Congress will not give me the land to which I feel myself entitled as specified in my petition I hope they will not refuse to grant the pay mentioned in said Petition. Should a total refusal of the relief above named be made, I shall be glad to procure a pension, to obtain which I shall solicit your aid to procure the foregoing relief, if you should think proper to assist. I shall always feel myself under obligations to you.

LESTER MORRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Morris to Polk, February 9, 1828. On March 28, 1828, the Committee on Revolutionary Claims again turned down Morris's petition because it contained no proof that he served until the end of the war.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Washington City Decr. 1st. 1828

On my way here and since my arrival, many enquiries have been made, and I have heard many conjectures as to the time

you would probably set out for Washington, and the route you would travel. In one thing *all* your friends with whom I have conversed concur, and that is, that you should be here several weeks before the inauguration. Some of your friends have in conversation, suggested the propriety of changing the period of counting the votes, by a modification of the existing law, so as to enable a committee of Congress to visit your residence and inform you officially of your election in time for you to reach Washington by the 4th of March. The suggestion merely, but no formal proposition has been made. That such a course would be respectful all agree, but many of your discreet and intelligent friends (and I think I may safely say a majority of those with whom I have conversed on the subject) think that your election being a matter of notoriety known to yourself and conceded by your political adversaries, it would be inexpedient to do so. They think that your election having taken place under peculiar circumstances and the triumph being complete, there should be as little of ceremony and parade as can properly be dispensed with; that you should come on to Washington in anticipation of the result, and then immediately on the counting of the votes be ready to receive the official communication through a committee of Congress. If there was no other objection, it is apprehended that any attempt now to change the existing law might and probably would in the present excited state of parties, elicit a discussion (perhaps a protracted one) which might result in no good to the cause which we have so long laboured to sustain. I do not think it probable therefore, that any change will be made in the existing law. The votes will be counted on the second Wednesday in February, and by that time your friends will expect you here, or at all events in convenient distance to receive the official notice of your election. If however contrary to my present impressions a different course should be resolved on, it will be within a very few days, and you shall be immediately advised of it.

I have given you according to my promise when last at the Hermitage, the views of your friends here, as far as I have ascertained them. I will write you again at furthest in a week and can then speak with positive certainty. When you have come to a

determination, your friends here would be gratified to know when you will leave home and the route you will travel.

Mrs. Polk and Ophelia¹ were much fatigued by the journey but are in good health, and join me in a tender of their respects to Mrs. Jackson and yourself.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. It has been published in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson*, III, 447-448.

1. Polk's youngest sister spent the winter in Washington. The following September she married Dr. John B. Hays of Columbia.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Washington City Decr. 5th 1828

When I wrote you a few days since, I ventured to express to you the opinion, that your friends here would not deem it expedient, at this time and under existing circumstances, to attempt any modification or change of the existing law, fixing the period for counting the votes for President and Vice President, and that it would be desirable with them, as I then thought, for you to be here some time before you would have to enter on the duties of the high station, to which you have been called by the voice of your country. Upon further consultation that opinion is confirmed, and I can now speak with certainty. To relieve you from any possible difficulty or doubt, you might have on the subject, a letter has been prepared, which has been already signed by many of your friends in Congress, and will be by others, announcing to you (though unofficially) the entire certainty of your election, and suggesting to you, the importance of being here, earlier than you could be, if you remain at your residence to receive the official communication. That letter will be mailed as soon as the signatures are complete, probably on tomorrow or the next day, and you may expect to receive it by the mail immediately succeeding that which will take you this.¹

It is already rumoured that you will probably visit Philadelphia before the 4th of March. Letters have been received here

inquiring if there be any foundation for the rumours. They have been promptly answered, that there is not, as far as any of your friends here know.

I know you will attribute it to the proper motive, when I suggest to you to be cautious how you expose your person on your journey, for such has been the excitement, and such is the deep mortification of some of your political enemies who have so vindictively and bitterly assailed you, that many have become reckless and almost desperate in their feelings, and I often hear among your friends some concern expressed for your personal safety.

Genl Desha and lady, Judge White, Mr Tazwell of Va; Mrs Polk and myself and two or three other friends have formed a mess and taken quarters for the Session in the same boarding house, and will be much pleased in common with your other friends to see Mrs. Jackson and yourself on your arrival here.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in the Papers of Andrew Jackson, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. It has been published in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson, III*, 448-449.

1. In the Jackson Papers there are two copies of the letter Polk mentions here. One is in Polk's handwriting and is unsigned, suggesting that Polk composed the letter. The other is in another handwriting and bears the signatures of 57 members of Congress plus one delegate from Arkansas Territory. There are no signatures from the Tennessee congressmen; Polk himself did not sign. It seems possible, however, that another page of signatures has been lost.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIS¹

Dear Sir

Lawrenceburg December 7th 1828

*William McBride*² enlisted under *Capt Baker*³ in the Town of Columbia in the year 1813 for the term of five years & *died in Detroit, Canada*.^{*} The heirs of McBride are entitled to 160 acres of bounty land and to eight months pay. The heirs are Francis McBride, Mary Harper, Samuel McBride, Elizabeth McBride, Thomas J. McBride & Agnes McBride⁴ some of whom reside in the County of Maury & some in the County of Wayne. It is

nearly out of their power to produce a certificate of William's enlistment & death & at their request I write to you in hopes that the war office will show all that is necessary. Pleas to make the necessary examination & write to me the result. The result of the presidential election has swallowed up all other news, so great & so glorious is the victory.

WILLIAM DAVIS

* That evidence to be produced, with date of death, as the rolls are imperfect.

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was serving his first term in the General Assembly as a member of the lower house, representing Hardin, Lawrence, and Wayne counties. He was re-elected to the next General Assembly and in 1831 was elected to the state senate, representing Hickman, Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, and McNairy counties.

2. He had been commissioned as an ensign in a regiment of Maury County militia in 1810.

3. A marginal notation states that McBride enlisted with Captain Isaac L. Baker in the 24th Infantry on June 23, 1813.

4. Francis McBride was commissioned in the Rutherford County militia; Samuel McBride served as an officer in both the Rutherford and Maury militias. The other heirs are not identified.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. December 11, 1828

Enclosed is certified copy of patent in the name of John Thorpe.¹ Thorpe's note is returned.

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Polk to Secretary of War Barbour, January 26, 1826. John Witt, of Maury County, had acquired the patent and had asked Polk to obtain the description.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 12, 1828

The widow of Tennessee militiaman, Merrill Little,¹ has received a pension. The arrears of pay about which she inquires were paid to Rebecca Little,

Administratrix. There is no record of a sale of guns or clothing as the widow represents.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Sir; Treasury Department December 15th, 1828

The letter which you addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury under date of the 10th inst., has been referred to this office.

The payment to Mrs. Chitwood¹ under the Act of the 24th May last will be made through this office. This can be done by a remittance of the amount as it becomes due, in a draft on the Nashville Bank on an application from her, after the expiration of each term, with proof of her continuing unmarried agreeably to the terms of the law. For the 1st six months payment will be made by a remittance as you have requested, if you have it in your power to state that the widow was living on the 1st July last and was then unmarried.²

PETER HAGNER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Mrs. Sarah Chitwood, widow of John Chitwood, late a captain in the Tennessee militia, was awarded by an act of September 1, 1828, a pension of \$20 per month under the terms of an act passed by Congress on May 15, 1828.

2. The story of this case is clarified in various notations that Polk made. On December 16 he noted on this letter that he had written to Hagner requesting him to remit to Mrs. Chitwood her half-year pension due on July 1 in a draft on the branch Bank of the United States at Nashville. It was to be directed to her in care of her son, Major Stephen C. Chitwood, at Fayetteville. On December 22 Polk noted that the pension from January 1 to June 30, 1828, had been settled and the amount of \$120 remitted.

FROM LUNSFORD M. BRAMLETT

Dr Sir! Columbia 23 December 1828

I had hoped to have seen you again before you set out for Washington City and have placed in your hands the receipt of

Mr [Benjamin F.] Forrest.¹ But I will now inclose it to you with a request that you will have the goodness to see Mr Forrest present it to him and receive and receipt for whatever sum you can get paid on it. Dr friend! I will not in this or any other address undertake to say to you what to do as to the mode in obtaining my money but hope you will act from your own judgment, upon circumstances as they may be presented in the settlement of this claim. I perceive in copying the receipt (which I have done to gard against accidents) that no amount is stated as to the *Bond* but you will look in the office at Montgomery Courthouse and see the amount, and the situation in which the business now stands. Do just as you would if it were yours. In all matters nece[ssa]ry to be done I am content. I do earnestly entreat you to attend to it for me as, *You Know* I could not come myself. All jesting aside, I do not desire to put you to all the trouble and expense which will be necessary without compensation. Whatever sum you get retain it until you come home. Please write me as early as you can see Mr Forrest & ascertain the situation of the business. We are greatly rejoiced in Tennessee at the downfall of Federal influence.² Tomorrow Gen Andrew Jackson is to have a splendid entertainment given him in Nashville.³ Your friends here I believe are in health &c.

LUNSFORD M. BRAMLETT

Addressed to Washington.

1. A member of a prominent family of Montgomery County, Maryland. The nature of the business affair between him and Bramlett has not been ascertained.

2. In spite of their earlier political rivalry, Polk and Bramlett seem to be on friendly terms. Bramlett here seems to declare himself a Jacksonian.

3. The writer was obviously not aware that Rachel Jackson had died on December 22, 1828.

FROM SAMUEL RAGSDALE¹

Sir Flawrence[Florence, Alabama] December 25th 1828

I have prepared the testamony requested in the case of my claim for a boat load of corn recd by Lut Joseph Black an agent

authorised to receive and contract for the same by Major John Chiles² of E Tennessee. I have sent to the 3d Auditor the original receipt of Lut Black and the Deposition of Chiles and Black and another certificate of Major N B Rose³ and Genl Coffee. You will call and see the claims and additional Evidence and procure the payment if you can of the creditor on this claim for corn for \$1850 Dollars with legal Interest from the time I in justice ought to have recd the money. And in the Event that you find the auditor will reject the claim with the additional testamony you will suspend his making a dicission[decision] and inform me if any further testamony will alter his dicission. The principle ground of objection were that Major Chiles was unauthorised to make sutch a contract and of course had it not in his power to make an agent. I wish you to take the trouble to examin the deposition of Major Chiles and also the different orders he has recd from Genl Jackson and others and you see that Major Chiles was nearly the whole of the time he was in servis on detachment and had to make arangements himself for forage for his Batalion. Now is it not unreasonable that the Government should scruple his authority in this single transaction and recognise it in every other. I also wish you to examin the testamony of Joseph Black who recd the corn and the original receipts I got of Black on receving the corn and the statement and explanation of Major Rose and Genl Coffee why that in 1815 and 1816 he rejected the claim and are now in favour of it. It is the proof I have afforded these officers that has changed them. All the objection was at first because N B Rose refused to adjust the claim which remark was plased on the back of the draft and forwarded and on rept of those remarks not paid and Major Tatum⁴ did arase the remarks himself by the dirction of Major Rose after he was satisfyed of the correctness of the claim and now certainly the evidence of Genl. Coffee is quite suffitient to remove all distrust or objections that arose in consequence of the letter written Major H. Tatum 23rd of September 1816 and the strong grounds of objection was certainly raised in consequence of that letter. And said letter formed the strongest objections that could be raised to the claim. Now certainly the affect of that evidence should cease as the Genl dos frankly acknowledg that he is now thoughtly convenced

of the justice of the claim. Next objection is that the magnatude of the purchase could not fail to give rise to distrust for the suppling a single batalion and them on the line of mar[c]h. The[re] were in Chiles Batalion upward of 500 hundred horses and Colberts ferry upward of one hundred miles distant from Huntsville and Hunstville being the nearest or in the neighbourhood of the neares point where the[y] could get supplies. If there have bean no other but Chiles Batalion the purchase was not more than sufficcient to have forageed them while crossing the river and then to Huntsville the point where the[y] could calculate to get supplies & would with the means the[y] then had to cross the Tenessee. And the stage the river was in it would take several days to cross the river and then from three to four days to march to Huntsville whith horses and men who had previously marched through the extent of a [. . .] or wilderness country between Tenessee and Baton Rouge and that the corn was not necessary for publick use. I prove it was the first supplies landed at Colberts in the month of Aprill 1815 and that it was certainly necessary for in consequence of a part of the corns being lost the Quartermaster had to procure other supplies and I hope you and Mr Hale[William Haile] will take the trouble to urge the justice of the claim and in evry respect exercise your discrction.

[. . .] you in the fourpart of this instant the claim of both Leroy Hammons and John O Davidson with Hammons deposition proving the claim and also his power of attorney for \$693 Dollas and I think all the proof the 3rd Auditor required in that case.

In the case of William Johnston^s the grounds of objection are the claim has been previously paid by the same quarter masters certificat from 29th November 1814 to 15th March 1815. Now my claim bears date 19th day of January 1815 to 23 of March inclusive 1815. It cannot be the same draft and perhaps the auditor may alter his objections to that claim for \$320. I have written him and pointed out the varienc of dat[e]s as being a strong reason that it is not the same draft as the same William Johnston may have had two teams or there may be two William Johnstons though I have lernt where William Johnston now lives and shall se him as soon as practable. You will addrs me at

Jackson Mississippi as I shall be in the legislatur untill some time in Feebruary.

SAMUEL RAGSDALE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. See letter from Leroy Hammons, February 14, 1828, and another from Peter Hagner, March 31, 1829.

2. During the War of 1812 Chiles commanded a battalion of East Tennessee Volunteers, and Black was a 3rd lieutenant under him.

3. Neil B. Rose served as a regimental quartermaster under John Coffee and also as a brigade quartermaster in Jackson's Division of Tennessee Volunteers.

4. This is probably Major Howell Tatum who was principal engineer in Jackson's Division of Tennessee Volunteers.

5. The number of persons by this name enrolled in the various units mentioned in this letter makes positive identification virtually impossible.

FROM LESTER MORRIS

Dear Sir

Pulaski T. Decr 27th 1828

Since I wright to you I have procured the within affidavits to viz Whites & Bakers which I thought would stranghen the petition I sent you and I hope these will be sufficent.¹ If you will now try and arrage it so as for me to receve what is comming to me through your influance, I hope you will doo you best for me. If there is any thing more that [is] wanting that [is] in my powour to get that will be nessary for me to send wright me word and I will procure it as soon as posiable and send it on. I am now in my old age and if you can procure anything for me it shall be long remered[remembered] by me. It is true I have bin some trouble to you but I hope the day will come when you shall be rewarded for you trouble. I am sorry to have to trouble you so much but as there is no other channel in which I could have my business done I hope it will be appolgy for my pesterration to you.

LESTER MORRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Morris's effort to get restored to the pension list was finally successful. See Morris to Polk, February 9, 1828.

TO SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Sir

Washington City Decr. 27th 1828

I beg leave to present to your consideration the name of *Daniel Dwyer Junr.*¹ of the County of Lincoln and State of Tennessee, who desires to obtain the appointment of Midshipman in the Navy. I desire to be informed whether there are at present any vacancies, and whether if the proper recommendations are procured, he can be appointed. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Dwyer but know his family to be highly reputable.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Connecticut Historical Society.

1. Unidentified.

FROM JOHN W. CHILDRESS

Dear Sir

Murfreesboro. Dec. 28th. 1828

I have thus long neglected writing you, because I have been engaged and because I have wished to inform you whether or not, we had disposed of the land belonging to us in this County. Dr. Rucker & Mr Laughlin have been upon a trade some time and have at length agreed. He gives us \$8 per acre, pays 600. down and the balance in 6 & 12 months. He has applied 240\$. to the lifting the note in favor of Connell.¹ 100 will be settled by Maj. Ledbetter² in the way of costs we owe him. We recvd. the hundred dollars you sent by Isaac and I should have settled your part of Connells note had we not effected the sale of the Land. I will be ready to settle so soon as you arrive at home. The balance of the money we will receive from Laughlin at this time. Dr. Rucker designs applying to the settlement of costs against us in different courts. He has [not] yet sent for Coy and thinks you ought to have sent him up. From late information from Alabama I learn that unless our lands there are cleared out of the office before the 1st March they will be forfeited.

We have no news here of any consequence, except that Mrs. Jackson died on the night of the 22nd. inst the day before a Ball and dinner was to have been given to the Genl.

JOHN W CHILDRESS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Enoch P. Connell, a resident of Davidson County, was the administrator of the estate of Zachariah Betts, who, before his death, held claims against the estate of Joel Childress. A decree of the supreme court of errors and appeals dictated the payment of \$300 by the Childress estate to settle the claim.

2. William Ledbetter, a farmer, was the first recorder of Murfreesboro. Later he represented his county in the constitutional convention of 1834 and thereafter served three terms in the General Assembly, 1835-39 and 1841-43.

1829

FROM SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD

Washington. January 5, 1829

Letter proposing Daniel Dwyer for appointment as midshipman received. One appointment will probably be made from Tennessee but there are previous applicants with strong claims.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Letters Sent to Congress and Its Members, Naval Records Collection (RG 45), National Archives.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. January 5, 1829

Enclosed is patent for bounty land in Arkansas in the name of William Williams, Sr.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. Before his death he had lived at Pleasant Grove, Maury County. Polk noted that he should write to Amy Williams, mother of William, and to John Campbell, administrator of the estate.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 5, 1829

Returns Noah Ward's affidavit for incorporation into papers returned to Polk on February 29, 1828. When the entire file is again received the case will be re-examined.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Coln

Murfreesborough 8th January 1829

I have not heard from you since you got to Washington except the notice taken of you in the papers. We are well pleased to receive a letter from you whenever you may find leisure to write. I received a few lines a few days ago from Mr [Eli] Talbot¹ Clerk of the Chancery Court at Franklin requesting to know if you & my self did not hold ourselves responsible for the whole of the costs in the cases of Childress vs. Rucker & ots., Rucker and others vs. Childress, Exr., & Childress vs. John W Cooke amounting in all to nearly \$160.² He said he had been informed that by our compromise with the Securities of Anderson Childress we had agreed to pay the above costs. I wrote to him that we had not agreed to pay them and that we did not intend to pay any thing more than we were legally liable for. The Suits were dismissed at the last session of the Ct. We sold the land which you, John & myself own near Spences³ place last week to John R Laughlin for Eight Dollars per acre Six hundred Dollars to be pd in this month and the balance in Six & twelve months. We do not know exactly how much there is but will ascertain in a few days. The Sum will amount to something more than a thousand Dollars. Laughlin paid two hundred Dollars (part of the 600\$.) to me a few days ago with which I discharged our bond to Mr [Enoch P.] Connel our part of the Betts debt. Mr Connel sent the Note to Mr [Jonathan] Currin⁴ some days before it was due & said that you informed him that you sent yr part to this place before you left home to lift the note. If you did it must have miscarried for neither John or myself have ever heard any thing of the money. I presume he must have misunderstood you. With the money I shall receive from Mr Laughlin I shall settle our costs as soon as possible. I am a little afraid that Talbot will issue an execution for our costs in short time if it is not paid. I wrote to him that we were making arrangements to pay our part, that it would be settled in a short time.

John W Childress was taken on new years day with a spitting of blood with which he has been a good deal alarmed. He con-

tinues to spit more or less Blood every day. He and his mother have been staying at my house for some days on that account. I suspect there must be a rupture of a branch of the pulmonary artery. I am in hopes there is no immediate danger from the loss of Blood but there is a good deal of danger that it may lay the foundation of pulmonary Consumption. However we are taking every precaution to have it arrested. Susan continues to complain of her old pains but looks as well as usual. She has a good appetite. Our Children are all well. The youngest grows very fast & you may tell Sarah that she has gotten to be a right *good child*. Mrs. Childress & Mary enjoy very good health.

W R RUCKER

P.S. Coy has not made his appearance here yet. I wrote to Mr Walker about him but have not yet recd. his answer.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Eli Talbot died in the late summer of 1832, and Joseph H. Talbot, then of Jackson, Tennessee, was appointed to fill his place.

2. These cases, in which Anderson Childress was involved, were either compromised or merely not further prosecuted.

3. Probably a reference to Joseph Spence, who lived about two miles from Murfreesboro.

4. Connell was administrator of the estate of Zachariah Betts. Currin was a Murfreesboro merchant.

TO JOHN CAMPBELL¹

Dear Sir

Washington City Jany. 10th 1829

In my letter of 11th Decr. I informed the mother and administrator of Wm. Williams decd., late a soldier in the army of the U. States, that her claims had been adjusted in the War Department, and a balance of \$63.84 found in her favour, which I directed to be forwarded to her by the Department in a draft on the Bank of the U. States. I have now the pleasure to inform you and through you to inform the mother and heirs of the decd. that I have since obtained and now have in my possession a patent for the bounty land to which Mr. Williams was entitled for his services.² I will bring it home with me when I return. I expect to

reach home between the 20th & last of March when I will deliver the patent to those entitled to it.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Pleasant Grove, Tennessee.

1. An early settler in Maury County, Campbell had been a member of the first county jury.
2. See George Graham to Polk, January 5, 1829.

FROM GEORGE W. BARNETT¹

Dear Sir.

Williamson County Jan. 15th 1829

With pleasure I take my pen to communicate to you a few things and ask your friendship. When I last had the pleasure of seeing you, I was settled on the place I now reside on, which I purchased as a temporary home. I have for some years had it in view to purmanently settel high up in the Arkansas. And accordingly my attention was turned towards Lovelesses[?] purchase and intended waiting till the lands were brought into market, that being given up in exchange with the Indians. I next determined on settleing in the Cherokee Charter. I have ever been opposed to John Q Adams as a polition, as such I never sought any appointment, the gift of which came under his controll. I accompanied my Father to Nashville & was there when the Electoral vote of the State was given. We were by our Distinguished fellow Sitizen, who I contend occupis the highest stand of any other man alive specially invited to breakfast with him & Lady at Major McLemores² & also to dine with him & the Electors at the same place & on the next day to Dine with him at the Hermitage. The high toned feelings that were felt by us republicans I shall never forget. The Generals high regard for my Father was so often expressed boath in words & actions that I have been led to hoap if the appointment of Surveyor General should not be made by President Adams, in the country before alluded to that I shall have the good fortune to receive it. An application was made through my Father to that effect. I hoap on the receipt of this you will write to me & in so doing you will

please give me the moast prominent fetures of the exchange & say what progress the Country is making towards its organizing & letting of its land and whether or no the appointment alluded to is given, if not given when it will be. Should the General have the nominating the person, I hoap you will make mention of my name on the occasion as I am well aware of the high stand you occupy with the General. In making this request I hoap you will not deem it as impertinance as I am well assured I can be as strongly recommended and my pretentions as well authenticated as any Man. I have ever wished to be serviceable to my self & Country. I have never asked an appointment but it was granted. To receive on this occasion your friendly influence will raise[?] in me feelings of gratitude never to be forgotten. I do not expect you will have any opposition next August. Capt Yancy^s is again before the publick as a Representative Candidate. I shall wait with impatience your answer.

G. W. BARNETT

NB. You will please direct your letter to Springhill Maury Cty.

G. W. B.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Little has been learned about Barnett. He was known to be living in Williamson County at least as early as 1820.
2. Probably John C. McLemore of Nashville, who had married one of Rachel Jackson's nieces.
3. Probably William Yancey, whom Polk had defeated in 1823 in an election for the General Assembly.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Ho. Repts. Jany. 15th 1829

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the pension papers of *James Sykes*,¹ and will enclose you the receipt which you desired in a day or two. I have presented the papers to the House of Repts. and had them referred to the proper committee. I desire you to furnish me on tomorrow morning, with a copy of two letters written by you to me, one of them during the last Session, and the other perhaps at the Session previous, containing the

reasons why his application was rejected by the War Department.

I desire these copies tomorrow morning because a bill upon the subject is now under discussion in the House.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

1. Efforts of Sykes to qualify for a pension had begun in 1826. In 1833 he was allowed an annual pension of forty dollars.

FROM LANGFORD FITZGERALD¹

Dear Sir

[Pulaski, Tenn.] Janry 15th 1829

I wrote you a letter some time ago Concerning my business and have never recd an answer. I want you to get a plat & Certificate for my Land.² You told me I must let you know when I enlisted. It was on the 4th day of September 1814 under Capt Benjamin Jones in the 24th Reg[i]ment and then transferd to Capt Steward 7th Regt, then transfered to Capt Allison same Regt from Capt Allison to Capt Newlengburg the 4th Regt and there was discharged by Major Cutler on the 11th day of May 1819. My son in the United States Service wrote me a letter since I wrote to you and says he will send some money to you for me. If he does I want you to keep it in your hand until you see me, and not let any person have it by order nor any other way. I want you to write to him and let him know when Congress will Rise so as to give him time to send the money to you. My family & self are all well.

LANGFORD FITZGEARLD [FITZGERALD]

Addressed to Washington.

1. See William Fitzgerald to Polk, March 15, 1828. He is apparently the one who is mentioned as having said he would send money.

2. In February 1829, Polk was notified that a land warrant had been issued for Fitzgerald. An endorsement by Polk on the notification said that he had delivered the warrant to Dr. John H. Camp, who would deliver it to Fitzgerald.

TO DAVISON McMILLEN¹

My Dear Sir

Washington City Jany. 16th 1829

We have again had up the Bill to relinquish to Tennessee, the vacant lands in the Western part of the State, & as you will see from the newspapers, after having undergone considerable discussion, it has been laid upon the table. At the commencement of the Session we had some little hope of succeeding in the measure, and the cause of its defeat is to be attributed in a great degree to the course taken by our man *Crocket*, who I regret to say opposed the very Bill at this Session, which he himself had agreed to in committee and supported and voted for in the House at the last Session of Congress. He associated himself with our political enemies, and declared in presence of Mr Blair of Ten. and others, that he would vote for any measure any member wished him to vote for, provided he would vote for his foolish amendment and against the original Bill.² He took a course directly opposed to the interest of the State, opposed to the whole of the balance of the delegation, and in direct violation of instructions given by our Legislature, (although he himself had been in the Legislature and voted for similar instructions) and one as we believed and so advised him before hand, well calculated, if not certain to defeat the whole measure. The result has been the one we feared. You may suppose that such a man under no circumstances could do us much harm. In ordinary cases, such would be the fact, but in this instance, many of the *Adams men*, not having forgotten the violence of the recent political struggle and feeling more than willing to disappoint Tennessee and her delegation, seized upon the opportunity to use *Crockett*, and to operate upon him through this measure, for their own political purposes, and hence you see such men as *Buckner* of Ky., *Woods* of Ohio, *Mallery* of Vermont, *Culpepper* of N.C.³ making speeches for his proposition absurd as it was. The balance of the delegation took their stand against him and his new friends. They supported the State, her character & her interests, against the attacks made upon them; and finding an arguement, either that they could not vote for his absurd proposition, or that it could not be carried, a Yankee (Mr *Bartlett* of N. Hampshire)⁴ moved to lay the whole subject on

the table and thus with their forces, added to those opposed on principal to the whole measure, the quietus has been given to it for the present. I forbear to comment in detail, on the disgraceful and disrespectful terms in which *Crockett* was in the habit of speaking of his own State and her Legislature, further than to say that the whole delegation feel humiliated and can but regret that any one from our own country, should have Cooperated with some of our bitterest and most vindictive political enemies, men, some of them of "Coffin handbill" and "six militiamen" memory, and joined them in denouncing the Legislature of his state on the floor of Congress. Gales and some of the *Adamsites* during the whole discussion, were nursing him, and dressing up and reporting speeches for him, which he never delivered as reported, & which all who know him, know he never did. Rely upon it he can be and has been operated upon by our enemies. We cant trust him an inch. It is whispered that he intends to vote for *Gales* and *Seaton*,⁵ for public printers, against *Duff Green*. I have given you this statement to the end, that if any false impressions should be attempted to be made, you may have the fact to put the matter right. I have understood and think it probable that he may have a letter dressed up by some of *his friends*, and send home, to save himself if he can. If so and any thing he writes requires correction in my absence you have the facts by which to do it. If it shall hereafter become necessary in consequence of any thing he may write or say, the balance of the delegation will notice him, under their own signatures. We do not wish in advance to do so, for that would give him consequence, and might have the appearance with those unacquainted with the facts of an attack upon him, and thus excite a sympathy in his behalf which he does not deserve. This letter therefore is not written for publication in the newspapers but is addressed to you as a known friend, to furnish you with the facts, to meet any thing that may be said, until we can have an opportunity of meeting him personally, and exposing his conduct if necessary. I have no room in this letter to give you any political news. I will however write you shortly of the movements here, which are not without interest.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Fayetteville, Tennessee. This is a copy. Neither the letter nor the signature is in Polk's handwriting.

1. Unidentified. In an endorsement of this copy Polk noted that the substance of this letter had been sent also to Dr. John H. Camp at Pulaski, Archibald Yell at Shelbyville, and Andrew C. Hays at Columbia. Since these were all strong supporters of Polk and were of political importance themselves, it would seem that McMillen, too, was of some political consequence. The letters mentioned by Polk have not been found, but a letter from Yell to Polk, dated February 14, 1829, indicates that he had received one.

2. Polk's bill was an effort to get the United States to cede to the state the unappropriated Western District lands as an endowment for education. Crockett had supported the bill at first, but in the short session, January-February 1829, he introduced an amendment providing for a donation of 160 acres to each occupant in the District. This is the foolish amendment of which Polk was speaking here. Polk's bill was finally tabled, and its supporters placed much blame on Crockett for its failure.

3. Richard A. Buckner, John Woods, Rollin C. Mallery, and John Culpepper were anti-Jackson men. Buckner, Woods, and Culpepper were lame ducks: Buckner and Woods had been defeated, while Culpepper did not run for re-election.

4. Ichabod Bartlett was another anti-Jackson lame duck in the House of Representatives.

5. Joseph Gales and William W. Seaton were associated for some years in publishing the anti-Jackson *National Intelligencer* as well as *Annals of Congress*, *Register of Debates in Congress*, and *American State Papers*. Gales was mayor of Washington at this time, and Seaton served in the same capacity some years later.

TO BENJAMIN F. CURREY¹

Dear Sir

Washington City Jany 24th 1829

I have received your several communications on the subject of the anticipated vacancy in the Post office at Nashville. Your last of the 28th ult. reached me about a week since.² I have not yet presented the letter which you committed to my discretion, addressed to the P.M. Genl., and enclosed to me in an envelope, mailed at Louisville Ky. but will do so if circumstances should seem to make it necessary or proper. The reasons why I have not done so are, 1st that no communication of which I am as yet advised, has yet been made to the P.M. Genl. on the subject; 2nd

because it is my opinion that the P.M. Genl. will not dismiss the present incumbent,³ during the continuance of the present administration, without orders from the President, which are not likely to be given; 3rd because I conceive any application for the office premature until a vacancy occurs, unless accompanied by an application to dismiss the present incumbent, which did not accompany your communication & 4th because your communication seemed to be intended to counteract another application which you apprehended would be, but which has not yet been made. For these reasons, which I am sure you will approve I have withheld it. At the proper time if necessary it shall be presented and your claims for the office fairly laid before the appointing powers.

I have conversed with Col. [John] Bell on the subject, who informs me, that his course will be governed by the expressed wishes of the people of his district. I should have written you earlier but that your friend Col. *Owen*⁴ informed me he had done so. He informed me that he had advised you to procure a new recommendation from your friends at home. This I think highly proper & necessary. In your last letter you inform me that a public meeting of the people had taken place on the day before its date, on your behalf. I suggest that such recommendations as you may procure, should be here by the 4th of March. The delegation in Congress have not yet taken any measures on the subject, for the reasons I suppose that I have suggested. As one of those who was here and joined in your recommendation three years ago, I am frank to say to you, that I considered the appointment of Mr. Erwin a great outrage, and that I then thought and still do that you have strong claims to the appointment, and for myself I shall not be disposed to withdraw that recommendation, or to take other ground than I then did, unless the public view as now expressed in Tennessee should indicate that it would be proper to do so, or unless upon consultation, with the delegation, it should for sufficient reasons be thought to be their duty to do so. This however I do not anticipate. Your friend Col. *Owen*, fully concurs with me in the course I have taken, & in the opinions herein expressed.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Nashville in care of General Houston. This is a copy in Polk's handwriting and signed by him.

1. He was probably a near relation to Robert B. Currey, but no firm proof of this relationship has been found.

2. Neither this letter nor the one mentioned immediately below has been found. See Polk to John McLean, March 6, 1829, and letter from Tennessee Congressional Delegation, March 13, 1826.

3. John P. Erwin had been appointed postmaster in 1826, succeeding Robert B. Currey, who had held the post since 1811.

4. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Coln.

Murfreesboro. 27th Jany 1829

I received a letter from you a few days since enveloping one to Mrs Rucker from her Sister. Susan writes one in answer to her sister which I enclose in this. She has probably given her all the news of which however I do not know, not having read it. I am glad to be able to say that John has gotten to all appearances as well as ever, he was here last night and looks very well. My Boy Coy came home a few days ago with a very bad *felon* on his finger. He says he has *another* wife in Columbia belonging to a man named Webb¹ who wrote to me that he wished to purchase on a Credit of 12 months. Please in yr. next inform me of Webb's situation.

W R RUCKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. This is perhaps a reference to William Webb, who was constable for the grand jury in Maury County, 1810.

FROM MATTHEW RHEA

Mr Polk

Columbia Jan. 31st 1829

I do suppose you have been looking for some time with apprehensive dread for this epistle of mine. I would think so from the circumstance of my having heretofore been a tedious

correspondent of yours asking all but having nothing to offer in return.¹ I believe I have not failed during every Session of your period in Congress to send after you an epistle of enquiries stirring up old matters that happened many years ere either of us were born and this epistle will convince you that my importunity is not expired yet.

I would undertake a detail of local news to you if I did not suppose that your previous correspondents here had left nothing untold. The house of Representatives has lost none of those attractions that used to call out candidates for its honours, when you struggled for the prize. Besides Egnew, Thomas, [. . .] and Yanc[e]y & Colo Dobbins² more are Spoken of and with some authority. David C. Mitchell³ [is] one of that number. But I am probably relating what you have heard. Therefore to my own business which you may truly say is of Auld lang syne.

After the Revolutionary war my father as well as all those who had arrears of pay due them from the government received certificates of the money due them, which certificates were called final Settlement certificates. An act of Congress was soon afterwards passed establishing the Loan offices, and requiring the holders of these certificates to have them funded as Stock in said loan offices. My father had been many years a lieutenant in the Virginia line in Continental establishment and had at the end of the war a very considerable amount of pay due him all of which was funded in the Loan office of Virginia except one final Settlement Certificate of about \$140[?] which was taken in the hands of Mayo Carrington⁴ of Virginia, with whom my father had left it for the purpose perhaps of purchasing a negro or negress. Colo Carrington continued to hold it unsold for many years as appears from a letter written by him shortly before his death and soon to be produced. The certificate was never sold by my father nor ever funded as the others but has always been considered a good claim which the government would settle in some way if proper application were made. The certificate itself is not to be found, as Genl Carrington of Richmond the executor of his father informed me.

Now Sir the substance of this request is that you be so good

as to ascertain from the proper person at Washington, whether or not, there be a record of these final Settlement certificates, anywhere to be found, and whether or not (evidence being had of the certificate) it would be settled in any way by Government.

Mr Smith^s agent for settling such claims would no doubt be the most suitable person to apply to for information on this subject.

I have Sir but one other request of much importance to urge, but one in which I feel disposed to be entirely serious. My map is beginning to look towards a termination. The expenses of postage have always been considerable, but they are becoming much more so on account of the large packets which are sent and received, to and from distant parts of the State. Would it be reasonable or proper for me to ask of the post office department an exemption from postage for 12 months? This period would I think be sufficient or almost so to complete the publication and wind up my correspondence with the numerous patrons and subscribers to the work. I suggest this as a very desirable object with me, but one which I submit entirely to your discretion. I would not make this application because I live in Tennessee but because I am a map maker. On the subject of my last request, be so good as to write to me as soon as possible

MATTHEW RHEA

P.S. Dear Sir, do not omit writing to me on the subject of the postage. I will defer a part of my correspondence with my [. . .] until I hear from you.

M. RHEA

Addressed to Washington.

1. No earlier letters from Rhea have been found.
2. Jesse W. Egnew, Isaac J. Thomas, and William Yancey had all served in the lower house of the General Assembly. James Dobbins was elected in 1829 and re-elected in 1831.
3. See Mitchell to Polk, February 23, 1829.
4. Mayo Carrington served with Virginia troops from 1776 until May 1780, when he was captured at Charleston. The highest rank he achieved seems to have been that of captain. The title of "colonel" used in this letter was probably honorary.
5. Unidentified.

FROM NASH LEGRAND¹

Dear Sir

Richmond [Virginia] Feby 9th 1829

Yours of the 5th Inst. was received on last Saturday, too late in the day for me to execute the Commission connected with the papers enclosed. I have found no difficulty however in transacting the business in the way you have indicated. I herewith return you the power of Attorney with a receipt endorsed which it is necessary you should sign which being again placed in the possession of the Auditor which will be done through me the money will be forwarded to you without delay. The pension for the present year will not be due untill June next, when the pensioner² will be entitled to \$40 more. I cannot suppress the expression of a wish that the contingency had happened which would have rendered your personal presence here necessary. Of course it would have been a source of great pleasure to me, but you would have received a cordial greeting from two of your contemporaries at College, I mean Dromgole[Dromgoole]³ and Mason⁴ who have frequently united with me in expressing their pleasure at the success which has distinguished your political career. As I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you however, I am happy to find that absence and lapse of time have not changed your feelings. I too recur with pleasure to the period of our early association, and the disinterested attentions which you bestowed upon me when a sojourner in that wild country of yours & will never be erased from my mind. Since my return to Virginia I have been more fortunate than I had any right to expect, if uniform success in any effort I have made to acquire political distinction may be so considered. I have been in the Executive Council for the last five years, an honorable, but very unprofitable station. For this I was induced to abandon my profession for which after a trial of one or two years I had no predilection. I should not have taken that step, however if I had foreseen an event which is likely to take place. I mean the reorganization of the Executive Council by the Convention which will shortly meet. There is no doubt that the other officers of government will be substituted for the present Council so that I shall be entirely at sea again, and my future

prospects uncertain. I have not the constitution or the inclination to commence anew if I can avoid it. My friend Mason who is acquainted with my circumstances suggested the propriety of my seeking for some employment under the general government. I should not now obtrude my personal matters upon you, but he informed me he had written to you upon the subject & I should not now allude to it but to say that I do not wish you to move it if it is not perfectly agreeable, and in no event will the confidence which I have in the sincerity of your feelings be impaired. I have no doubt if I pursued the usual course of solicitation that I should succeed if big names should have any influence but there are a variety of considerations which deter me from this course. If you think proper you may converse freely but confidentially with Mr. Tyler of the Senate on this subject.

N. LEGRAND

Addressed to Washington.

1. A schoolmate of Polk at Chapel Hill, Legrand joined the navy before graduating. After that he engaged in political affairs for a while and then obtained an appointment as an agent of the Navy Department. He was stationed at Norfolk.

2. In a notation on the envelope, Polk stated that the pensioner mentioned was Frederick Fisher, who later drew a pension while residing in Marshall County, Tennessee.

3. George C. Dromgoole was a Brunswick County lawyer who later served as congressman from Virginia, 1835-41 and 1843-47.

4. John Y. Mason also served as a Virginia congressman, 1831-37, and later held cabinet posts under both Tyler and Polk.

TO ANDREW A. KINCANNON

Dear Sir

Ho. Repts. Feby 10th 1829

The election for public Printer of the Ho. Repts. has this moment taken place, and stands thus

For Duff Green——107 votes

For Gales & Seaton——95 votes

Scattering——6.——

So that Green is elected printer of the House for the next Congress.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Fayetteville, Tennessee. This letter is in the Ford Collection, New York Public Library.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir Shelbyville Feby the 14th 1829

I acknowledge the receipt of two or three of your letters of a late date in one of which you gave me a history of the fate of your Land bill and the part which *Davy Crockett* took in it.¹ It is a misfortune to the state that such a man should be one of her delegates. But it is so and I fear will so continue for a while at least &c.

As this is the last letter that I shall write this Session I will now inform you that I shall start to *Arkansas* in Company with Col McKisick² in about ten days. If I like the Country I shall settle there. Necessity drives me from this place. I am poor and must make a support some where. And if any office in the Territory should become vacant which my friends might think me qualified to fill, I should thank them very much for their aid in procuring it. Will you be so good as to mention this matter to my friends Mrs[Messrs] H. L. White & Eaton, who with yourself could be of infinite service to me in that matter. I hope to see you at home on my return from the Territory which will be about the 2nd. of April. To you I need not say more upon this subject. Attend to it as you think our friendship deserves. In grate hast I am as every your friend.

A. YELL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This is obviously the letter mentioned in Polk's notation on his letter to Davison McMillen, January 16, 1829.

2. James McKisick, formerly county clerk of Bedford County, was a close friend of Yell. Included in Yell's will was a bequest to McKisick—Yell's saddle horse.

FROM FIELDING LUCAS JR.

D Sir Balt[imore, Md.] Feb 16 1829

Looking over some old papers today I accidentally discovered the papers Mr [Robert H.] McEwen of Fayetteville directed me

to hand you, which I now do and hope they will be in time for the purpose for which they were intended. Please acknowledge the receipt of them and oblige.

F. LUCAS JR

Addressed to Washington but delivered by hand.

FROM BURD S. HURT¹

Dear Sir. Hurt's Cross Roads Ten. Feby. 16th. 1829

We feel grateful to you for your polite attention, in sending out Communications on publick matters, to your Constituents in this part of your District. We trust therefore, you will still keep us in remembrance.

I have nothing to communicate to you, of any importance. We have a host of Candidates, for the Legislature. Mr. Littlefield, & Col. Reynolds, are all I know of for the Senate—Mr. Egnew, Doct. Thomas, Col. Daubins[Dobbins], and old Capt. Yancy for the House Representatives. We enjoy good health, in this part of the Country generally—except old Captn. Stratton² is very ill.

I notice in the papers Col. Crocket appears to be a Conspiracy Character amongst you.

We are anxious to hear from the Inauguration of the Genl. We trust to hear from you on the subject.

Our Mail route from Franklin to Robertsons Post office,³ Giles Cty. is in operation. I understand also the route from Doct. Webbs[?] on the Fishingford road to Fayetteville is in operation. I trust you will use your influence to have a part of the Sanford route (as we call it) from Columbia to Fayetteville discontinued as it is of no use to us at present. It is an expense to the Department without profit.

In respect to what I wrote you, not long since, about the time of the departure of the mail from Franklin on our new route, I have Consulted the P. Master in Nashville & Franklin and they are of opinion, that Sunday morning will be the best time to leave Franklin. We request you therefore, not to interfere in that

matter if you have not done so and let them arrange it, as they think proper.

B. S. HURT

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. He was postmaster at a crossroads store on the line between Columbia and Lebanon, where it intersected a postal route between Nashville and Fayetteville.

2. Not positively identified but probably William Stratton, who was certainly known to Hurt.

3. This was at one time called Henderson's Post Office. It eventually became known as Cornersville.

TO PRYOR LEA¹

Dear Sir

Washington City Feb. 17th 1829

My attention has been called to the communication of Col. Crockett, which appeared in the Telegraph of this morning, and to which you allude in your note of this date. I have examined your letter of the 17th of January, published in the Knoxville Register, and so far as the facts come within my knowledge believe it to be strictly true. That Col. Crockett did vote with the administration men to lay on the table, the resolution of Mr Wickliffe, which proposed that all elections in the Ho. Rept. should hereafter be *viva voce* and not by ballot, the Journal of the House will show. That he was the only member from Tennessee who did so vote the Journal will likewise show.

It is a matter of notoriety that during the discussion of the Tennessee Land Bill and afterwards many of the Jackson members of the House, entertained serious fears that he had been operated upon through that measure, by our political enemies, & from his conduct, his associations, and apparent intimacy with some of them, fears were entertained that he had gone over to them and would vote for Gales & Seaton for Public printer. This was a matter of conversation among many of the Jackson men at that time. That he was the principal cause of having the Land Bill laid on the table I have no doubt. Whether we could have succeeded or not at the present Session in passing the Bill if he

had harmonised and acted with the ballance of the delegation, I do not pretend to say, but after he took the course he did, all hope of success was lost. Before he offered his amendment, he showed it to several of the Tennessee delegation, of whom I remember yourself, Judge White, Genr. Desha and myself were of the number. We all expressed our decided disapprobation of his project, as being well calculated, if not certain to defeat the whole measure, and our regret that any member from the state should take a course which was likely to produce that result. He was reminded that the Legislature of Tennessee, had instructed their Senators and requested their representatives in Congress, to procure the relinquishment to the state, for the purposes of common schools. He was reminded that he himself had been a member of the Legislature and voted for their instructions. He was reminded too that at the last Session of Congress, he had supported the very Bill, that was before the House at this Session, and which he then avowed his intention to oppose. He was admonished that his proposition, would probably have no other tendency, if he persued in it, than the rejection of the whole measure. No importunities would avail any thing, and in answer to an inquiry made by Judge White, he distinctly said that his object was to *kill the Bill* if he could and carry his amendment. Even after the Bill had been so amended as to make ample provision for the occupants, he still (as we suspected under the influence of others) pertinaciously adhered to his proposition, and opposed the Bill even with the provision in it for the benefits of the occupants. That he was estranged from his colleagues, and associated much with our political enemies all who were here known. That he spoke in terms of abuse and great disrespect of the Legislature of his own state, both in and out of the House, he can not deny. I know nothing personally of his declaration, that he would do any thing that any member wished him to do, provided he would vote for his amendment, and against the very Bill he himself at the former Session, had voted for and supported. But the fact that he did make such a declaration in the presence of Mr Blair of Tennessee, and others, was communicated to me shortly afterwards, and I suppose will be remembered by them. Col. Crockett several times, in conversation upon

the subject of his amendment, said that he did not expect any member from his own state to vote for it because they had been instructed by the Legislature to procure a relinquishment to the State for common schools. I avail myself of the occasion to express my deep regret of the necessity, which renders it proper to make this statement. I had ever as I believe the whole delegation had, treated him with the utmost kindness, and was more disposed to conceal than to expose his folly. But when he separated himself from us and took council from some of our most rancorous political enemies, associating with apparent intimacy with them and joining with them in slandering and abusing his own state, we would have been [. . .] to our duty if we had not vindicated the honour of that state and sustained the measure which she had instructed us to support. Opposed as he was to the whole of his Colleagues, and as we conceived to the interest not only of the state, but of his own immediate constituents, there was but one course left for us to pursue. It was to discharge our duty, and to communicate to our constituents what we had done, and the causes of the failure of the measure. That you have done, and if in telling the truth, any one feels its force & is the more sensitive because it is the truth, that is a matter for himself and his constituents. I have no other feelings towards Col. Crockett, than those of pity for his folly and regret that he had not consulted *better advisers*, when he suffered himself to give his sanction to the rude and very intemperate publication of this morning.

JAMES K. POLK

P.S. I further add, that when pending the discussion on the Tennessee land Bill, you moved a postponement of its further consideration for a few days. I know Col. Crockett did acquiesce with the balance of our delegation in the propriety of [the] motion, and agreed before the motion was made, that it was proper to make it. Since I understand he has complained of the postponement.

J. K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter and its signature are copies by someone other than Polk. The postscript, however, is in Polk's handwriting and was signed by him.

1. Successful lawyer from Knoxville who served two terms in the House of Representatives. He was a states-rights Democrat and admired Jackson. He repudiated Jackson's proclamation during the nullification crisis and was not re-elected to Congress. In 1836 he moved to Mississippi, where he worked hard, but his health failed. In 1846 Lea moved to Texas, where he enjoyed an illustrious career.

FROM JONATHAN WEBSTER

My Dear Col. Noahs Fork P.O. Bedford Cty. Feby. 20th 1829

I have a few days since returned from the State of Virginia, after an absence of over six monnths. Consequently know but little of the movements of political parties in Tennessee. But have it from good authority that the Adams folks are making great efforts, by way of petition, for the continuation of the Nashville post Master in office. I feel confident that the new administration, will harken to, and conform to the petitions of the people, who were disregarded by Mr. Adams and his party, even in the appointment of above office. It was conduct like this, that so fully excited the people to resistance, and will I doubt not, ever be remembered by the man of their choice. In this question all personal, and private considerations aside, whilst, I do confidently trust that the great *Republican cause will* be supported.

So far as I can learn your enemies are silent, and your friends satisfide. A line from you when convenient. Please present my respects to the Hons, H. L. White, J. C. Mitchell, and Joel Yancey,¹ and inform these gentlemen that their favours have been received.

J. WEBSTER

P.S. Please preserve these lines as I have not time to copy.

J. W.

Addressed to Washington, then forwarded to Columbia.

1. James C. Mitchell and Joel Yancey were members of the House of Representatives from Tennessee and Kentucky respectively. Both of them were born in Virginia and were probably known to Webster before the three moved from that state. Mitchell became judge of the eleventh circuit after being defeated for re-election to Congress in 1828. He moved to Mississippi

about 1837 and later ran unsuccessfully for governor on the Whig ticket. Yancey, from Barren County, Kentucky, failed of re-election to Congress in 1830. He died in Barren County in 1838.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 21, 1829

The money due Paul Chiles¹ for use of a horse will be transmitted to him directly, according to most recent instructions.

Addressed to Washington.

1. He had been an officer in the Anderson County militia as early as 1811. At this time he was a resident of Pulaski, Giles County.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 21, 1829

Letter of Matthew Rhea inquiring about money due his father for service during the Revolution is being returned. It appears that nothing more is due but it is suggested that Rhea write to Richmond to inquire of possible benefits due from the state of Virginia.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM DAVID C. MITCHELL¹

Dear sir,

Mount Pleasant February 23rd 1829

I am aware that the press of business on your hands at this time with your anxiety to return home requires of me some apology for thus intruding on your time and patience but sir excuse the liberty I have thus taken. From examining the papers I learn that you have had a resolution passed requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain information respecting the vacant land south & west of the Congressional reservation line and report to the next congress the situation, quantity, quality and value. To do which I presume he will necessarily have to appoint some agent or agents to examine the land particularly and make their report to him previously. Therefore from my

genl. acquaintance with the districts and my habits of life being of that character to make me a tolerable competent Judge of the relative value of land I conclude that it would suit me very well to have an agency in the business and that perhaps I would be as competent for the task as any one else. Moreover I think it would suit me very well for the insuing summers employment as I am yet a Bachelor and not particularly engaged at present. Now as you are the only particular acquaintance which I have at Washington permit me to ask of you the favour to say something for me on that subject. Should there be any probability that an agency will be given to a Tennessean your acquaintance with me and Influence at the city I make no doubt will enable you to set my claim to the confidence of the Secretary on equal ground with other aspirants or applicants should there be any, which I will consider as a special favour conferred on me. Majr. Eaton & Col. Crocket are partially acquainted with me as a surveyor. If you think there will be any advantage resulting therefrom you may communicate my wish to them. President Jackson also has some acquaintance with my pursuits of life and probably can do something for me provided any thing is to be done, to whom I wish you respectfully to tender my compliments. This I communicate to you in confidence and leave the course to your better Judgment.

D. C. MITCHELL

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. A man of some prominence at Mt. Pleasant, Maury County. If he had political aspirations as Matthew Rhea implied in his letter to Polk dated January 31, 1829, he was not completely committed, as this letter clearly indicates.

FROM SAMUEL D. SANSOM¹

Sir

Lincoln County Feby 28th 1829

Hearing of a couple of gentlemen lately arriv'd from England, professing infidelity, & aiming to propogate their system, in America, & having, also, banter'd[?] our continent, on their plan, & the challenge being taken up, by Mr. Campble² of Kentucky, to meet at Cincinata on the 15th of April, where, & when.

they aim at proving that, there is neither, god, devil, heaven or hell.

Now sir, my views in transmitting this line to you, is, in order, to enquire, whether it would infringe on our constitution, to forbid the proceedings & not suffer it to go any further. Is not our constitution founded on the belief of a supreme being, & notwithstanding, they would be put to it to establish their plan? Yet have we not infidelity enough in our land already & will not, even, the bear naming it, give latitude to such as would be fond of it? Now sir if our government can prohibit such, it must, probably, be through the presidency. If so I make choice of you, in my freedom, praying you by what means you may, in your wisdom, think proper, to communicate the matter to the president in time for orders to be issu'd to forbid the debate. I have made this free from the confidence I repose in you & submit it to your wise reflection.

SAML. D. SANSOM

Addressed to Columbia but apparently delivered by hand.

1. Unidentified except that Polk made a notation referring to him as Rev. Samuel D. Sansom.

2. Alexander Campbell, theologian and one of the founders of the Disciples of Christ, engaged Robert Owen in debate. According to a great segment of the press, Campbell more than held his own in the argument.

FROM SUSAN DECATUR¹

George Town, D.C.

My Dear Colonel Polk,

March 4th 1829

Although overwhelm'd with distress and mortification at the failure of my claim, I am not the less grateful to you for the support you were so good as to give it, and I beg you to accept my warmest thanks, and best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and Mrs Polk.

S. DECATUR

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. Mrs. Decatur, widow of Stephen Decatur, was seeking financial relief on the basis of her husband's service in the war with Tripoli.

TO JOHN McLEAN

Sir

Washington City March 6th 1829

About three years ago Mr. John P. Erwin was appointed Post Master at Nashville Tennessee. This appointment was made as it was understood & avowed at the time by the direction of the late President [Adams] of the U. States. At that time I considered the appointment of Mr. Erwin a gross violation of the expressed wishes of the people immediately interested in the office.¹ I still consider it so, & believe the appoint[ment] to have been made from political association alone. Understanding that an application has been made to remove him I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion he should be removed and believe it to be the wish of much the largest portion of the people of the district which I have lately had the honor to represent. A sufficient reason for dismissing him if there were none other, is to be found in the manner of his appointment and the circumstances that existed at the time. At the time he was appointed, I joined with the balance of the Tennessee delegation in Congress (one excepted) in recommending Mr. Benjamin F. Curry for the office.² That recommendation I presume is still on file in the Genl Post office. Nothing has since occurred to change my opinion of the merits of Mr. Curry nor which in my opinion would justify me in withdrawing that recommendation, unless the public voice as now expressed in Tennessee should indicate some other as their choice of those interested in the office of which I cannot know as much as the Post Master Genl. himself in whose possession all the recommendations are or will be. So far therefore as I have any interest as one of the Representatives from the State, in the appointment to be made in the event of Mr. Erwin's dismissal, I submit it to the Post Master Genl. to decide from all the facts and recommendations before him upon the person whom he shall consider to be the choice of the people interested, and best qualified to discharge the duties of the office. I have thought it proper for me to say thus much, desiring as I do, that Mr. Erwin should be dismissed from the office, and understanding that some of my late colleagues in Congress have believed it to be their duty to

express their opinions on the subject. At the same time that I entertain the same high opinion of Mr. Curry, that I did three years ago when I joined in his recommendation for the office, it is proper to add that I entertain also a high opinion of Col. Armstrong³ & Mr. Shelby⁴ both of whom I understand have been recommended for the office.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This is a draft, written in Polk's handwriting and signed by him.

1. It was Erwin's appointment that had led to the Houston-White duel.
2. See Polk to Currey, January 24, 1829.
3. Robert Armstrong, who had served with Jackson in the Creek War and at New Orleans, received the appointment and served until 1845.
4. It is not clear which Shelby this is. It appears that Polk's earlier recommendation of Currey was somewhat embarrassing in view of the candidacy of the other men, particularly Armstrong.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. March 6, 1829

The claim of Abraham Parker has been allowed and his pension certificate will be forwarded to Columbia as soon as the new Secretary of War signs it. The claim of Isaac Eoff is rejected because he did not serve in the continental establishment.¹

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Parker was a resident of Maury County, but Eoff seems to have been living in Rutherford County at this time. Both men were placed on the pension roll in 1833. See Edwards to Polk, March 14, 1829, for an explanation of the delay in Parker's case.

FROM THOMAS J. HODSON¹

Solicitors Office for claims on the U. States

Sir;

Washington City 13th March 1829

I have after much delay, been enabled to obtain the evidence of the claim against your friend and constituent *Wm. Alderson*,² which document I now enclose to you for the purpose of exhibit-

ing it to Mr. A. after which I will thank you to return the same to me with his instructions. I request its return, because it is the same upon which the money of Mr. A. was first attached in the hands of Col. Watson.³

With many & sincere wishes for your personal and *political* prosperity, I have the honor to be with much respect,

THOS. J. HODSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified.
2. Probably one of the numerous Aldersons of Maury County.
3. Probably Joseph Watson.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. March 14, 1829

Full investigation of Abraham Parker's case shows that he has not accounted for property disposed of since March 18, 1818, and has never been placed on the pension list.

Addressed to Columbia. This letter is in Pension File S3640 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Sir

Treasury Department 31st March 1829

A few weeks since in consequence of applications from Mr Samuel Ragsdale I had the honour of addressing a letter to you with the view of having, in accordance with his desire, certain rejected claims preferred by him & afterward submitted to Congress, again presented to me for examination in connexion with additional evidence transmitted by him to this office.

Subsequently the Hon. Thomas Hinds¹ to whom you appear to have referred my letter, has delivered to me the claims alluded to, & on re-investigation it is found that the new testimony is insufficient to warrant their admission. Two of the claims are in

the names of Wm. Johnston & Leroy Hammons & appear to have been purchased by Mr Ragsdale; and learning that Br. Qur. Mr. Thomas P. Winn & Mr John O. Davidson who may be able to furnish material evidence relative thereto are residents of your county I take the liberty of troubling you with a description of the cases, and of soliciting your aid in obtaining testimony whereby their merits may be judged of.²

The account in the name of Wm Johnston is for services of a wagon & team of four horses described as having been employed in transporting baggage in Genl Taylor's brigade from the 19th January to the 23rd March 1815 at \$5 per Day, amounting to \$320, & has at foot thereof an order for its payment from Br. Qur. Mr. Thomas P Winn directed to the Asst. D.Q.M.G. at Nashville, dated 6th September 1815. On search it was found that the government had already paid an account of the same Wm Johnston for services of a wagon & 4 horse team from the 29th November 1814 to the 15th March 1815 stated to have been employed in transporting the baggage of Genl. Taylor's brigade, & having thereon an order for its payment from Br. Qr. Mr. Winn, also dated the 6th September 1815 & directed to the same A.D.Q.M.G. Hence clear evidence became necessary that the two accounts did not both apply to the same wagon & team, and for the purpose of supplying this Mr Ragsdale has obtained a deposition from Mr. Johnston wherein he testifies that in 1815 Br. Qr Mr Winn drew two drafts in his favour on the government, the amount whereof he does not recollect, nor their dates, but one he thinks was about \$320; that he thinks both were given for services rendered by his wagons & teams to the army in the service of the United States in 1814 & 1815; that the circumstances which induced the giving of the two drafts as well as he recollects were that he entered his wagon & team at Fort Montgomery in Genl Taylor's brigade about the 1st. November 1814 under Wagon master Vance that the same were taken to Camp Lance Mandeville near Mobile, that the wagon was then taken by David Tiles ADQMG & put into the regular service under Wagon master Alexander to transport the baggage of the 3rd U.S. Infantry to efect a forced march to New Orleans, that the wagon was engaged as he was informed & believes in transporting the baggage

of said regiment as far as Tchfuncha & as well as he recollects remained in the service at Tchfuncha until some time in March 1815, that when his wagon was thus taken into the 3rd regt. he placed another wagon under said Vance in Genl Taylor's brigade which continued in service as he believes until the 12th March 1815; that he had thus two wagons in service at the same time on account whereof said Alexander certified the time that the wagon was under his command & said Vance certified the time in which the wagons were under his command, making the two accounts upon the certificates of which the drafts were given, one of which as well as he recollects he sold to Benjamin Cash & the other to Samuel Ragsdale; that he thinks the one for \$320 was sold to Mr Ragsdale, & that for it he (Mr Johnston) never received any compensation from the government. The certificate of service connected with the account purchased by Mr Ragsdale is from Wagon master Alexander, is dated on the 20th August 1815, & represents the wagon & team for which it relates to have been employed in transporting the baggage of the 3rd U.S. Infantry from Mobile to Tchfuncha, & not the baggage of Genl Taylor's brigade as stated in the account prepared by Brig. Qur Mr Winn. The certificate accompanying the paid account is from Messrs Vance & McCorkle the principal & assistant wagon masters of Genl Taylor's brigade and expresses that Wm. Johnston's wagon & team which entered at Fort Montgomery had been from the 29th November 1814 to the date of the certificate (15. March 1815) "employed in the service of the United States." It will be seen by this that Wagon master Vance has not certified to services performed for Genl Taylor's brigade alone, nor yet to such as were limited to Wagon master Vance's command, as Mr Johnston seems by his deposition to suppose; and that the employment of the wagon & team to which the paid account relates was not confined to Genl Taylor's brigade, but was of a general nature is manifested by an accompanying deposition of Mr. Johnston himself (containing no allusion whatever to any other team of his in service) wherein he testifies that the wagon & team were entered at Fort Montgomery were kept in service for sometime about the Fort, were thence taken the Escumbia route with Major Blue and back to the Fort, & thence to Mobile, &

wherefrom as his last deposition shows, the same were taken with the 3rd U.S. Infantry to Tchfuncha. It being thus evinced that the services to which Wagon master Alexander's certificate applies, as well as that of Wagon masters Vance & McCorkle, were performed by the identical wagon & team of Mr Johnston which he entered at Fort Montgomery & for which the hire has been paid, it follows that the account purchased by Mr Ragsdale is left destitute of what is requisite to justify its admission, namely the evidence of service of a distinct wagon & team of Mr Johnston, during the period specified in that account, given by the officer under whom the same were employed. The information contained in Wagon master Alexander's certificate led to a search in the accounts of J. T. Ross, the Quartermaster of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, & where evidence was found showing that the regiment had arrived at New Orleans as early as the 7. February 1815 (more than 6 weeks before the termination of the period mentioned in Wagon master Alexander's certificate) and also a voucher for the expenses of the march defrayed by the Quartermaster amounting to \$617 25/100 whereon the Lieut. Colonel has testified that the subordinate vouchers were examined by him, & to the best of his recollection after ascertaining the amount were destroyed, that to his knowledge it was correct, & included the *whole expense* of the regiment on the march from *Mobile* to *New Orleans*, & that the vouchers were for *Wagon-hire*, forage for the teams, ferriage, & other contingent expenses. Wagon master Alexander's certificate does not show the team to which it relates to have proceeded on the march with the 3rd regiment beyond Tchfuncha, nor yet that any other service was thereby performed between the time of arrival at that place, & the 23rd March. Had his certificate therefore have been shown to be applicable to a distinct team of Mr Johnston it would not have been sufficient to sustain the account. Its date too shows that it was not procured while the team was employed under his direction, nor till several months afterward. It is not expected that Br Qr Mr Winn can furnish testimony which will obviate all the difficulties in this case, but it may be in his power to give such as will enable me to determine whether or not they be surmountable. Why he should have been resorted to at all in this instance, or why he should

have undertaken to prepare an account & order its payment, cannot be perceived. Wagon master Alexander was not attached to the brigade wherein Qr. Mr. Winn served, but to the regular army, & the service to which the former has certified was performed for part of that army—consequently the transaction was one entirely out of the line of Br. Qr. Mr. Winn's duty. In the evidence he may give it will be desirable that he should as fully as he can explain this matter & all he knows relative to the services of any team or teams of Mr Johnston, who by a comparison of signatures appears to have been the Captain of a company of Lt. Coll. P. Perkins's regiment of Mississippi militia in service at the time. The wagon & team to which the paid account relates are shown to have been originally entered by Wm Steel, & who having died on his way to Fort Montgomery, the same were on reaching that place put up to sale by auction & were bought by Mr Johnston & then re-entered by him.

The account in the name of Leroy Hammons is likewise for services of a wagon & 4 horse team employed in the transportation of baggage of Genl. Taylor's brigade, from the 12th December 1814 to the 15th March 1815 at \$5 per day, for 40 days more hire thereof at \$3 a day allowed for returning home, & for 103 days forage at \$1 a day, & at foot thereof is an order of Br. Qr. Mr. Winn dated 4th September 1815 directing the payment of its amount being \$693. This account appears to have been lodged with Major Tatum in June 1816 & to have been by him in the following month transmitted amongst numerous others to the then Accountant of the War Department for examination prior to payment. In a variety of instances the accounts thus transmitted were accompanied by statements prepared by Maj. Tatum from information he had collected concerning them, and with the one now under consideration there was a statement representing on information in which he placed confidence, given by an officer of the regiment whereof Mr Hammons was the Lt Colonel, that one Taylor wagoned the baggage of a company of the regiment from Fayetteville to Pensacola & back to Fort Montgomery at the customary wages of \$3 a day & which had so reduced his team as almost to render it incapable of service; that it would have been discharged but for a general order forbidding the discharge

of any not rendered useless, there being a great scarcity of wagons; that about the 10th or 11th Decr 1814 the Colonel purchased this wagon & immediately re-entered with a Mr Young then Genl Taylor's Brigade Quartermaster at \$5 a day & forage, had her discharged as Taylor's, & continued her on his own, loitering about Fort Montgomery & Camp Mandeville near Mobile until the time of her discharge as stated in the account, & when but little activity was required in wagoning at the post; & that the business appeared to be entirely one of accomodation between the Quartermaster & the Colonel. In this representation I endorsed a note on the account as follows, "Cannot be paid the circumstances stated justify the rejection of the account" and it was with the others returned to Maj. Tatum in July 1816, & since when until last year, it cannot be found to have been re-exhibited. At the latter period it was accompanied by a certificate of Wagonmasters Vance & McCorkle expressing that Leroy Hammons's wagon & team had been employed in the service of the United States from the 12th Decr 1814 to the 15th March 1815, that the same entered at Fort Montgomery & had been furnished with 61½ bushels of corn & 626 lbs of fodder; and also by a deposition purporting to have been made on the 22nd September 1818, before John L. Alderson, justice of the peace for Maury county Tennessee, by John O. Davidson wherein the latter testifies that in September 1814 he entered a wagon & team in the U.S. service at Fayetteville for transporting baggage & provisions for the troops under command of Br. Genl Taylor destined for Mobile, that he hired Allen Taylor at \$15 a month to drive & take care of the team, that the wagon & team were taken to Fort Montgomery & thence to Pensacola & back to Fort Montgomery where one horse died, that the wagon & remaining horses were then sold without his knowledge or consent by said Taylor to Col Leroy Hammons then in command of a regiment at Fort Montgomery in Genl Taylor's brigade; that said Hammons so soon as he purchased said wagon again filled up the team and re-entered her in his, said Hammon's, own name, that he (Mr Davidson) having been made acquainted with the situation in which his wagon & team were placed, went down to Mobile, where he arrived the day after the discharge thereof; that he

demanded the wagon & team & the discharge for the services from Mr Hammons, who had them in possession, & refused to give them up; that some days afterward, a compromise took place between them, wherein it was stipulated, that Mr Hammons should render up to him the wagon master's discharge, & that he should relinquish to Mr Hammons, the wagon & remaining horses, for and in consideration of the trouble & expense he had been at in keeping the team fit for service; that these stipulations were performed, & that he (Mr Davidson) applied to the Br. Qur. Mr. of Gen. Taylor's brigade and obtained a draft on the United States founded on the Wagon masters discharge for services performed by said wagon & team in the name of said Hammons, and which draft had never been paid but had been returned rejected in toto. In a deposition recently obtained by Mr Ragsdale from Coll Hammons the latter testifies that while in United States service he purchased a wagon & 4 horse team of a Mr Taylor then in service, that on the 12th December 1814 he entered the same in his [Col H's] own name, that on or about the 15th March 1815 a Mr. John O. Davidson claimed the wagon & team and said that Taylor had no authority to sell the same, that as the team before the 12th December 1814 had been in service in the *name of Davidson* and believing that Taylor had no authority to sell it he [Col H] agreed to give said Davidson the hire then due & the allowance to return home being 24 days at \$5, 40 days at \$3, & 103 days forage at \$1, making in all \$693; that said Davidson was to give him the wagon & team & \$70 out of the hire; that the charges in the account are just & duly owing to said *Leroy Hammons & said Davidson*; & that the charges for subsistence and forage are also due & unpaid. Mr Ragsdale in the letter which enclosed this deposition states that he has long since paid Mr Davidson for all the interest he had in the claim, but neither a transfer of the claim nor a power of attorney from Mr Davidson to Mr Ragsdale has been exhibited—of Mr Davidson's having had any interest in the team or in the account for its services Major Tatum does not appear to have been ever apprized. In Major Tatum's abstract the account is noted as having been filed in his office not by either Mr. Hammons, Mr. Davidson, or Mr. Ragsdale but by a person of the

name of A. V. Brown. For the services of the wagon & team prior to the entry thereof in the name of Coll. Hammons the account (which was also presented to & settled by Maj. Tatum) is made out in the name of Allen Taylor & not of Mr Davidson, and the receipt for the money (not dated till nearly two years after the alleged compromise before noticed) has to it the signature of Taylor witnessed by Pat. Maguire.³ It seems extraordinary that the owner of a wagon & horses wrongfully sold by his servant could have been induced to accept as a consideration for their relinquishment, a voucher whereon to obtain their earnings, which if justly due, he must have had as good a right to, as to the property itself; and that he should not only have done this, but should also have neglected to guard against an after payment to the servant for the previous services of such property, by notifying Major Tatum of the circumstances. As before appears the account contains a charge for hire of the team for 40 days after the 15th March 1815, allowed for returning home from the vicinity of Mobile. The wagon masters certificate makes no provision for such an allowance; the 40 days terminated just about the period at which the troops under Lt Coll Hammons's command appear to have reached home after discharge. That the team ever returned to Tennessee is not alleged & that it did not so return with the troops is manifested by a report on file in this office furnished by Lt. Coll. Hammons for the purpose of sustaining the accounts of himself & other officers for a money allowance for the transportation of their baggage, & wherein he has declared that from Mobile to Fayetteville the primary place of rendezvous no wagons or teams were furnished or used. There would seem therefore to be no adequate foundation for this charge, nor consequently for a considerable portion of the charge for forage; & the remaining part of the latter charge requires explanation, it not appearing how (including the 40 days) there could have been 103 days forage due. With regard to the first charge if the difficulties in the case were removed the rate of hire would have to be reduced to \$3 a day at which the wagon & team appear to have been originally engaged & Taylor paid. It was at this rate according to information furnished by Major Tatum that hire of the teams which went from Fayetteville with the regiment com-

manded by Lt. Col. Hammons was stipulated to be paid, & when the destination was known to be Mobile or its neighbourhood, & the team of service to be for 6 months; and hence various accounts made out by Br. Qr. Mr. Winn at the increased rate of \$5, were reduced on settlement & the owners paid accordingly.

In the new testimony which Br. Qr. Mr. Winn & Mr. Davidson may give in this case it will be desirable that each should be as explicit as possible as well respecting the circumstances related in Major Tatum's statement, as the others herein before detailed.

PETER HAGNER AUD

Addressed to Columbia.

1. At this time a member of the United States House of Representatives from Mississippi, he had distinguished himself during the Battle of New Orleans.

2. The many names of obscure persons and places have been passed over with a minimum effort at identification. See Leroy Hammons to Polk, February 14, 1828, and Samuel Ragsdale to Polk, December 25, 1828.

3. Patrick Maguire was a wealthy businessman and civic leader in Columbia.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Fayetteville Tenn. April 22nd 1829

Col. Archibald Yell of Shelbyville, late a member of our Legislature, designs shortly to remove and settle permanently in the Territory of Arkansas, and has mentioned to me that he would be much pleased, in the event of a vacancy, to receive the appointment of Secretary of the Territory. The term of Mr. *Crittenden*, the present incumbent, I understand will expire some time during the ensuing fall, and I beg leave to present to your consideration, Col. Yell as his successor. Col. Yell has recently returned from a visit to the Territory, and will as he informs me, some time during the next summer be a citizen of it. Col. Yell is known to you personally, and I need say to you nothing of his character and standing. He is a high-minded, honorable man, of unbending integrity, and I consider him well qualified to discharge the duties of such an office. He is the man

more than any other who has thwarted the views and kept in check, some of our bitterest and most vindictive political enemies in Bedford, for the last three years, such as *Andrew Erwin, Armstrong & Co.* He is a young man of highly respectable talents, and of much promise, and I am sure a more worthy man could not be selected for any office. If he should receive the appointment, I have the most entire confidence, that he will discharge the duties assigned him with honor to himself and entire satisfaction to the Government.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

FROM ADAM R. ALEXANDER

Sir

Huntingdon [April 25]¹ 1829

On Monday last (as I am Informed) Col. C.[Crockett] Addressed the people at this place in which he used your name very freely on the subject of the land Bill in which he charged me with a Transfer of my business as the former representative of the Western District to you as I believe you more competent &c to the discharge of the duties devolving on me and [. . .] you still claimed under this Transfer as being entitled to a preference under the first occupant (or representative).

You will please enclose to me a copy of the Bill by you reported at the first session of the Congress together with the report made by the Committee, but If you have not the report you [. . .] copy of the Bill at hand please say to me by letter either the relinquishment was to be confined to the benefit of Common Schools or to be appropriated as might be directed, at the discretion of the Legislature subject to Colleges &c. If they might deem it expedient.²

You will also please say whether Mr. Culpepper³ or any other person proposed an Amendment to the latter part of the fourth section of Mr. C. Amendment providing *that the government*

should not be bound to the occupant If their land should be taken by better Title.

Anything that you may deem necessary in addition you will please suggest as all will be necessary for me to meet the powerful objections and strong efforts of my personal & political enemies all of whome are paradeing in full relief before the people but If I am not mistaken I will ultimately be able to Triumph over my unprincipled enemies and again find my friends in Congress in support of the peoples President.

ADAM R. ALEXANDER

Please direct to Mount Comfort⁴ [. . .].⁵

Addressed to Columbia.

1. The date at the top of the letter was blotted out. It was posted on April 26, but it is obvious that this is the letter of April 25 that Polk mentions in his letter to Alexander on May 1, 1829.

2. See Polk's letters to Davison McMillen, January 16, 1829, and to Pryor Lea, February 17, 1829. A good account of the action in Congress on the Tennessee land question may be found in Sellers, *James K. Polk, Jacksonian*, pp. 122-128.

3. John Culpepper of North Carolina served six nonconsecutive terms in the House of Representatives, first entering that body in 1807 and finally retiring in 1829.

4. Post office in Fayette County, near the Hardeman County line.

5. This letter was blotted badly in several places. Here a large blot has rendered illegible perhaps two or three words.

TO ADAM R. ALEXANDER

Dear Sir

Columbia May 1st 1829

By this mornings mail I received your letter of the 25th ult. written at Huntingdon, and herewith enclose to you the papers which you desired. I enclose you likewise a certified copy of the Proceedings in the House of Representatives at the last Session on the subject of the land Bill from which you will discover that on my motion as amended by Mr Wickliffe of Ky., amendment was adopted to the original Bill making ample provision for the occupants—"without charge"—and yet Col. Crockett opposed the Bill, as thus amended and adhered to his own amendment.

The Bill which you requested, and a printed copy of which I send you, was reported at the first Session of the last Congress—by a committee of which Col. Crockett was a member. Col. Crockett agreed to the Bill in Committee and in the House supported it by speech and by his vote, having voted with the balance of the delegation against laying on the table. At the last Session he opposed the very same Bill without a letter or syllable in it having been altered or changed, and even with the additional amendment attached to it making provisions for the occupants. I felt as friendly to the occupants as anyone and therefore proposed the amendment making ample provision for them. The Report of the Committee which I send you made when Col. Crockett was a member of the Committee & to which he agreed, you will discover adopts the report made by a former Committee of which you were a member. They are the same and the Bills reported when you and he were respectively members are substantially the same. Not having a copy of the Journal of the late Session before me, it not having been printed & bound before the adjournment, and not remembering with sufficient distinctness I cannot answer your question whether “Mr Culpepper or any other person proposed an amendment to the latter part of the fourth section of Mr C. amendment, proposing that the *government should not be bound to the occupants, if their land should be taken by better title.*” As to the charge which you say you are informed Col. C. made at Huntingdon, that you transferred your “business as the former Representative of the Western District” to me, it is due to say it is wholly gratuitous & without foundation. When you were in Congress we harmonised, as indeed I believe the whole delegation did and voted together upon the subject of the land Bill, a measure in which the State felt a more immediate and local interest than in any other.

5. January 1829. The House proceeded to the consideration of the Bill (No 27) to amend an act entitled “an act to authorize the State of Tennessee to issue grants, and perfect titles to certain lands therein described, and to settle the claims to the vacant and unappropriated lands within the same” passed on the 18th of April 1806. Whereupon Mr McLean¹ withdrew the

amendment proposed by him on the 30th of April 1828. Mr Crockett then proposed to amend by striking out the whole bill & inserting his amendment.

A motion was then made by Mr. Polk to amend the original bill by adding thereto an additional section as follows. Sect. 3rd, and be it further enacted that the State of Tennessee in appropriating said Lands, as a condition on which the cession herein contained is made, shall grant a preference of entry to all persons who shall have made improvement on, or shall be in the actual occupation or possession of any of the vacant lands herein ceded, on or before the first day of April next or their lawful assignees by transfer or otherwise, for a quantity of such vacant land, not exceeding each one Hundred & sixty acres, which shall in all cases include their improvements or settlements. Provided that when two or more persons are settled on vacant lands so contiguous to each other, as not to allow of a grant of one hundred & sixty acres to each, the surveys shall be made in such a manner as to give an equal proportion to, quantity & quality being considered unless the settlers shall agree upon a dividing line, in which case the surveys shall be made in conformity to such agreement.

When a motion was made by Mr Wickliffe to amend the amendment proposed by Mr. Polk, by inserting the words "without charge" after the words "preference of entry," a motion was then made by Mr Woods of Ohio that the said bill, with several amendments proposed thereto be committed to the committee on the Public lands. And the question therein being put, it was decided in the negative. The question was then put on the amendment proposed by Mr Wickliffe to the amendment proposed by Mr Polk to the original Bill, And passed in the affirmative.

The question was then put on the said amendment proposed by Mr Polk as amended. And also passed in the affirmative

I certify that the above are part of the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the U States on the aforesaid bill.

Attest Mw. St Clair Clarke² Clerk Ho. Rept. US. 6.

March 1829.

I will write you again in a few days on business.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Mount Comfort, Hardeman County. Neither the letter nor the signature is in Polk's handwriting.

1. William McLean represented Ohio in the House of Representatives from March 1823 to March 1829.

2. Matthew St. Clair Clarke, a native of Pennsylvania, served for a number of years as the House Clerk.

FROM JOEL PINSON

Sir

Nashville May 13th 1829

The suits of R. J. Nelson &c have been called and the death of three of the Defts suggested, to wit Robt Abernathy, John Devin & William Butler, in the case in which you are Interested. In the other cases several other deaths have been suggested, and I think I may say that the causes are all *continued*.¹ However Craighead was not present & Judge Brown would not agree that the causes should be considered as finally disposed of for the term & said that Craighead might wish to separate them & try with those who were not dead. Abernathy & Devin however are the principal cases that concerns you & they are certainly laid over till they can be revived against the Representatives of those persons. Mr Hayes considers it of the utmost importance to see Mr Cheat-ham & get his title. I hope you will not fail to attend to this business. I am on my way now to New Orleans &c.

If I had room & time I would like to say a word on the *Tarif* or rather in relation to what will be the course of the present administration in regard to that measure. I am willing to be numbered with the friends of the protective system. I know that some of the southern friends of the President, hope to see him change the policy of the Government in regard to what has been called the American system & I cannot altogether banish my fears on this subject—whether it be Right or wrong the decree

has passed that it shall progress. It is a subject on which the Judgment of the nation has passed & it would be fatal for the present adm. to attempt to turn against it. I will predict that if it does, a counter revolution will be produced & H Clay will, with his Black legs & all his other crimes be the next president. All nations have undergone these changes & nothing has been more common than to banish a man one day & recall him next. I am led to these silly remarks because I feel great solicitude for the honor & success of the present adm. It would be painful to me to see any course pursued that would cause the nation to repent the result of the late struggle. I know the president is placed in a delicate situation. The south looks for a change & the north, a majority of the nation, fears one. However my hope is that Jackson will leave this subject entirely with the nation to manage it and not interfere with it in any shape.

It is not a matter of much importance to me what policy the Government pursues, but it would be painful to see the sentiment of the nation return to the line of safe precedents & consequently look with disgust & Horror upon the man—the men, & the measures that have so lately been believed to be the rallying point of Republican Reform &c. Enough.

JOEL PINSON

P S. Speaking again of the suit. I think the causes will not be seperated, but that all will be continued.

J P

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This seems to be concerned with one of the many land cases stemming from the estate of Sam Polk.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. June 10, 1829

In reply to letter on behalf of relatives of Philip Tinsley.¹ He served as a musician in 1812–13 and received all pay due him. Full information is enclosed in a letter written to J. H. Marable on the subject last August.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Not otherwise identified. He was probably a resident of Montgomery County at one time, since Marable had been interested in his case.

TO DANIEL GRAHAM

Dear Sir

Columbia June 12th 1829

At the last Session of Congress on my motion a resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to, "procure information and report to the House of Representatives, at the next Session of Congress, what quantity of vacant land belonging to the United States, yet remains in that part of Tennessee, lying South and West of the line established by the act of Congress approved April 18th 1806 commonly called the Congressional reservation line; what quantity of the land South and West of said line has been appropriated to the satisfaction of North Carolina claims; what portion of the land now vacant South and West of the said line, is of any, and what value, whether it is in compact bodies, or in detached parcels, or small pieces, and whether the same could in his opinion, be surveyed and brought into market, according to the present land system of the United States, so as to defray the expense of doing so, or so as to yeild any profit from the sales." A verbal amendment not materially changing the substance of the resolution was proposed by John Wood[s] of Ohio & adopted as a modification.

The object of the resolution will be readily perceived by all who have heretofore observed the course of the debates in Congress, whenever an attempt has been made to procure a relinquishment of the title of the U. States to these lands to Tennessee. Although the delegation from the state have been enabled to give general and as they believed satisfactory information, or at best such as should have been satisfactory, in relation to the probable quantity, true situation & value of these lands, yet they did not possess that minute & statistical knowledge which seemed to be required by some, and hence the difficulties which we have always had to encounter, whenever the subject has been touched in Congress. The object of the resolution is to supply as

far as practicable that official information which must be satisfactory to all.

After the resolution had been adopted, I was consulted by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, (*Mr George Graham*) the officer connected with the Treasury upon whom the duty will devolve of carrying the object of [the] resolution into effect, as to the proper mode of doing, & the Officers in Tennessee to whom he should apply for the information required; and I took the liberty of referring him by a written memorandum to you and to the several surveyors South & West of the Congressional reservation line. I informed him that the papers & records of the commissioners of adjudication of land claims in that part of the State were deposited in your office, and that you could I presumed without difficulty furnish him with the aggregate amount of acres of land warrants which had passed the board and were subject to be located and perhaps the aggregate quantity which had actually been located S. & W. of the line; that I supposed you could procure from McLemores¹ Office (the copies taken in N.C. by Overton) the aggregate quantity granted S. & W. of the line by N.C. and that by deducting these two classes of claims from the whole area of the country, the quantity vacant could be shown. I informed him too, that my impression was, (but I was not sure) that you had in your office a general plan or map, from which you would be able to state whether the lands vacant were in detached peices of irregular sizes & shapes or in compact bodies & of regular formes and that you could probably give him (if called on) some general information, of the probable value of the lands remaining vacant, and the practicability of ever bringing them into market by the U. States under the present land system, or any other so as to defray expenses.

If properly called on, I have no doubt, you will take pleasure giving the information desired, and which may be in your possession. Mr. Graham informed me, that any reasonable expenses or compensation accruing would be paid by the Department, out of the contingent fund, as is usual in complying with calls for information made by this House. Feeling some solicitude upon the subject, is my apology for desiring to be informed by you on receipt of this whether you have yet been applied to, by the

Commissioner of the Land Office, for the information. If you have not, I will immediately write to him, lest in the multiplicity of public business, it may [. . .]² pleased to answer me as [. . .].³

Addressed to Nashville. This letter is in private possession.

1. John C. McLemore was surveyor general of Tennessee.
2. One whole line is missing at this point.
3. The manuscript seems to have been cut away at this place, removing the latter part of the letter as well as the signature.

TO WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dear Sir

Columbia Tenn. June 12th 1829

It was not until since my return from Washington that I was enabled to learn any thing definite from Mr. Balch,¹ upon the subject of the compromise agreed on between John H. Davidson and your self, although I had several times written to him before I left home last fall. A short time since I accidentally met him at Murfreesborough, where he informed me that the cause of his long delay in answering my letters was, that he had not sufficiently correct advices from his client (John H. Davidson) to enable him to answer satisfactorily but that he had now heard fully from him, and was authorized to close the compromise according to the understanding between you. He promises me to be at the Chancery Court at this place, in which the cause is pending, at the next term, which commences on the first Monday in September, and then to have the cause disposed of according to the understanding between you.

You say in your letter of the 26th of August last that he (speaking of Jno. H. Davidson) was however "unwilling to give a bond to indemnify me against all the other claiments but said he would do so as to the most of them." Out of abundant caution I think it would be well, and indeed advisable, to obtain from him a release or quit claim deed for his interest in the land, and likewise an indemnity against as many of the other claiments as he is willing to give it for.

In the final disposition of the cause I will endeavour if the

chancellor will permit to have the record as full as necessary that it may appear to be (so far as the record speaks) a final decree between the parties, upon the Bill, answers, replications and proofs, in fact it is intended to be by the parties to the compromise. If the cause should be simply dismissed or go off in any other way the statute of limitations wont protect the purchasers, who have registered deeds and *perhaps* even those who hold by title bonds, for our Supreme Court have gone great lengths in support of the Statute of limitations. If the cause goes off in either of these modes, it would still be in the power, of any of the Complainants who are not parties to the compromise and who are not privies to the final disposition of the cause, upon a proper case shown, to file a Bill of Review, but as in your letter of 19th. Augt. you say, that should the suit "go off in any other way it is not probable, that it would be revived by any other person." I should think that there would be but little, if any danger that you would hereafter be harrassed. I shall therefore at the next September term, have the cause disposed of in the best manner possible for you, so as to render you as secure as any decree of the Court can make you, without the consent of all the parties, unless you shall instruct me otherwise between this and that time. The titles whatever they may be, of those who are parties to the compromise, of course you will have & you know best whether you need apprehending future suit or Bill of review, from those who are not parties to the compromise. I think you wrote me in one of your letters, that Mr. [James H.] Wilson had been your counsel in the causes in N. Carolina involving the same principal that this does. He understands your cause here, and perhaps you would be better satisfied to consult him on the subject; inform him of the terms of your compromise & write me again before Sept. If I do not hear from you however, I shall have the cause disposed of in the manner I have suggested, if it be practicable.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Charlotte, North Carolina. The letter and the signature are in the handwriting of some unknown copyist. At the end Polk initialed a statement in his own handwriting that this was a true copy.

1. Alfred Balch, prominent lawyer of Middle Tennessee, had been retained by John H. Davidson.

TO WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Sir

Columbia June 24th 1829

I have recd. your letter forwarded by Miss Spence.¹ Your boy Coy is here. He came here as I understand on Monday morning seeking employment and wishing to hire himself. I have seen & talked with him this morning. He says that he wants to live here or in this neighbourhood, in order to be near a *new wife* which he says he has at Mr. Webb's in this neighbourhood. He says you promised him that he might come down here to see his wife as soon as his hand got well, but that you gave him no permission to come at this time. On the whole he tells rather a bad *story*, I have not confined him, because I do not think there is any danger of leaving here, and I thought it would be incurring cost unnecessarily to do so. I have told him to hunt out a master and that I could make a conditional sale of him for you; and if he could find no person who wished to buy, to get some person to hire him, until I could hear from you. I shall not hire him for any definite time until I can hear from you, but will endeavor to make him earn his victuals until that time. If you wish to have him taken back to Murfreesborough, you can either send for him, or if you so direct me I can hire some one to take him up. I have not seen *Webb* but think it possible I may sell him to him.

Our town and the surrounding country is in great commotion to day in consequence of a case of the *small pox* having made its appearance in the County—about 7 miles from town. A man who had just returned from New Orleans is now down with it. The physicians who visited him say there is no doubt but it is a case of *small pox*. An express has been sent to Nashville for vaccine matter. The corporate authority of the town have passed ordinance to prevent any persons who have visited the patient from coming within the corporation, and have taken sufficient measures to carry it into effect; they require every person in the town who has not been, to be vaccinated. The Justices of the County

are about to have an hospital erected in the neighborhood or rather at the House of the sick man, to which all who may hereafter [be] taken with it, can be taken. It is apprehended that it may spread widely, as many persons have visited the patient, some of whom have set up with and nursed the patient since he has been confined and before it was known what his disease was. I incline to think the storm is unnecessarily great. That precaution should be used I have no doubt for it is perfectly certain that the man has the disease.

Write me immediately about Coy & let me know what to do with him. I expect *Sarah* will go to Murfreesborough with John on his return from Alabama the first of next week.²

Addressed to Murfreesboro.

1. Unidentified. Probably a member of the Spence family that lived near the Childress family in Rutherford County.

2. The manuscript is damaged, and the closing and signature are missing.

FROM WILLIAM MARTIN¹

Sir [Harpeth, Tenn.] 9th July 1829

After an expression of my best wishes for your health and prosperity permit me to ask the favor of you to meet me at Cedar Creek meeting house on the 17th of the present month. I shall attend that place on that day for the purpose of promoting Ben Reynolds's interest in that neighborhood if possible and I think from the trial I have already made there that I can succeed.²

The reason of my asking the favor of an interview with you I have a communica[tion] to make to you that I am not willing to commit to paper. I have no news worth telling to you. There is but very little interest felt here with respect to the approaching election and it is very uncertain who will be the members from this County. I have just recovered from a very severe illness and my hand is so unsettled that I can scarcely hold my pen or make a letter. Must therefore close my communication by asking you to excuse me for making you pay postage, for it cannot possibly be avoided at present.

WM. MARTIN

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A resident of Williamson County who had already served four terms in the General Assembly. He had been an officer on Jackson's staff at New Orleans. In his notation on the envelope Polk referred to him as General Martin.

2. Reynolds had represented Maury County in the last General Assembly but was succeeded by Edward B. Littlefield.

FROM JAMES LEETCH

Sir Elkridge, Giles Co. 30th July 1829

This day I observe in the Nationl. Banner, an advertisement respecting our Western Land, Viz, \$19.24, the Tax on 974 Acres for the years 1826 & 7 to be sold on the first day of Novr. next in the Town of Dyersburg. I was in hopes you had made some arrangements when you were out in the Western District respecting the paymt. of our yearly Taxes, and am still in hopes you have done so. If not will you be so obliging to me and those others concerned, to have those Taxes, charges &c paid before the day of Sale. My proportionable part of the Tax of 435½ acres, you will please to call on A. O. Harris and receive the amt. (as he is indebted to me a balance of the handling of my cotton at Columbia, which we have not yet Settled).

I cannot go to the Western district, and your Compliance with the above request will be another favour conferred upon all those Concerned and particularly upon your devoted Friend. . . .

JAMES LEETCH

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dr Sir Charlotte NC Augt. 23d 1829

I received your letter of the 12th of June last and should have returned you an earlier answer but was desirous to have the business as well arranged between John H Davidson and myself as possible. We have agreed upon our plan of settlement, and are desirous that the suit so long depending between us in Tennessee should be disposed of as soon as possible, in the way and manner

as you have been heretofore advised, and so as far as practicable to put a full and final end to the controversy between us. In the disposition of the case I should be glad how full you can get the record so as to show the merits of the case in my favour. In fact such is the way I am sanguine the case would be disposed of if disposed of otherwise than agreed upon.

It is the sincere desire of John H Davidson and myself that a final end should be put to the controversy between us. We are both tired of the case and we trust with judicious management I will not hereafter be disturbed.

I wish you to call on Mr [David W.] McGee and get the notes and papers that he has in his hands. I wish the money collected as soon as possible. Some correspondence has heretofore passed between us and also with Mr McGee so that I presume nothing more is wanting but to call and receive the notes. So soon as the money is collected I will come or send out and make full settlement as to my part of the cost &c.

John H Davidson has or will again write to his counsel. I should be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient after your court both as to the disposition of the case and as to the notes and paper in Mr McGee hands.

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 61.

FROM PHINEAS BRADLEY

Washington. August 27, 1829

Route Number 172 has been abridged as suggested and now goes from Fayetteville to Pulaski only.

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM JOEL HENRY DYER¹

Dear Colo.

Trenton² 6th September 1829

Presuming no apology necessary for the liberty I take I will address you freely. The subject on which I write is of much

importance to the family of my father, Colo. R. H. Dyer^s deceased, their support having devolved on myself alone. Knowing so much of you Sir as I do from our schoolboy days up to the present moment a lapse of some fifteen years and during much of the time viewing you in a public point of view I would offer no apology than the subject on which I write.

A short time before the death of my father he borrowed a certain sum of money of the state, and died owing the same. The people in this section of the state for the support and aid of my mother & sisters will present a memorial to the Legislature of the state to have the debt relenquished to the care of the family of my mother. In furtherance of their views and my wishes I am bound to lend my aid. This I can not do any wise so effectually as by appealing to the generosity of my friends for their assistance.

I have concluded that the General Assembly could be influenced by nothing so quick as thruth and that told by men whose distinctions & characters entitle them to respect and consideration with that body. With a few lines to obtaining your kind influence & friendly aid I write you this note. I know I ask much when I beg the influence of a man of standing. But then the object is one of great importance to the family of my deceased father whose reliance is on my self alone and the destiny of their lot has been cast much upon the bounty of the world. Now Sir your aid I ask and expect to receive provided it be not wholly at war with your feeling, or at variance with your notions of policy. You are known to many of the members of the Legislature, you are somewhat conversant of the life & character of my father. Then Sir any thing from you would have a fine influence and should you but lend your aid rest well assured you will have the sincere thanks of a friend in thruth.

JOEL HENRY DYER

I would be glad to see you at Nashville next month. My respects to Mrs Polk & family.

J. H. D

I have inclosed a copy of the memorial to E. H. Chaffin Esqr^d of your town. Please look at it. I present it there for the Signature of those who shall feel disposed, to sign it.

J. H. DYER

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Joel Henry Dyer had lived in Rutherford County before he moved to the Western District. He probably knew Polk while they attended Bradley Academy.

2. County seat of Gibson County.

3. Robert H. Dyer was a native of North Carolina. He was with Jackson during the Creek War and at New Orleans. In 1815-17 he represented Bedford and Rutherford counties in the state senate at the same time that his father, Joel Dyer, was in the senate from Smith County. He moved to West Tennessee and helped to organize Madison County. In 1825 the state legislature authorized a \$3,000 loan to him for the purpose of digging a canal to connect the Forked Deer and Mississippi rivers. This is the debt mentioned below.

4. A prominent businessman in Columbia.

FROM THOMAS GORE¹

Shelbyville. September 9, 1829

Papers supporting claim for pension are enclosed. Notify Archibald Yell if anything can be done.

No address is available. This note and its signature are in Yell's handwriting, and it was doubtless enclosed in his letter to Polk of the same date.

1. Gore had moved from South Carolina in 1822 and was placed on the pension roll in Bedford County, having served in the Revolution.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Sept the 9th 1829

I should liked to have seen you verry much before your departure to Washington. I have many things to say to you which I must only hint at in this letter. First: our enimies in this County are verry wroth about the result of the last election, and grate credit is given to you for their defeat. They say that you shall be beat at the next election (first I suppose by Col Erwin or Theo Bradford is posable) but I am told that they say that they will have you beat by the verry man you have elected, to wit old Jonathan.¹ ha-ha-ha- They cant catch old birds with chaff. They

put that on old Webster once but they cant do it again. I think that their real design is to run Judge [William E.] Kenedy which I should not be surprised if th[e]y do but if he is only brought by that party we are safe without doubt. You need not in ths County fear him or any body else. By their strong opposition you will unite more closely the enemies of Bradford and their forces you never did get nor never would have got them untill you had done sompthing to drive you from your old frinds. It may be some gratification to you in your troubles to learn that I am to shear[share] the same fate with yourself if a candidate which th[e]y say is to be. To that I say "*Lay on McDuff; and Damd. be he that crys, hold enough.*" (I dont know that I am correct in my quotation &c) but you know what I mean. Upon that subject I have this to say if blame is to attach to me, you and A. V. B. [Brown] are more so. I have not as yet reported my causes and if old *Jonathan* dont act the fool [at] the session and disgrace his frinds I shall be perfectly sattisfyed but if he dos I shall hereafter trust no man except he has gone through the flint mill. But I think if you are at Nashville to start him right he will run well. I think he has the *baton* if he is trained well.

I have given him a hint of the probable importance of the election of a speaker of the Senate. He will I have no doubt vote for eithr Genl Smith or James Campbell again[s]t N. Cannon² but you must watch him. I am of the oppinion that both the votes of this Couty will be givn to F. Grundy.³

I am further enclined to believe that old *Jonathan* will vote for the removal of old *Nat Williams*. But upon that subject he is *not instructed*.

I regret verry much that I can not be at Nashville at the Commencmt as our Lincoln Court will commence at the sam time. You must write me before you leave Nashville. I have sent by Col Mitchell⁴ to Nashville several Pension claims about which you must inform me as they are disposed of. [If] any should be paid they want their pay at the pension office at Nashville. I had the pleasure of 8 or 9 mil[e]s ride with Billy Carroll the othr day from whom I learned *much*. Therefore wach who is speaker.⁵ Write me often from the *City*.

A. YELL

I am for E. H. Foster for speaker of the Ho Repts.

Addressed to Columbia but delivered by hand.

1. Jonathan Webster had been elected to the state senate, taking the seat recently held by Bradford. In spite of his glee at Bradford's discomfiture, Yell had little confidence in Webster.

2. Samuel G. Smith, James Campbell, and Newton Cannon were all passed over for Joel Walker of Hickman County.

3. During the next month Felix Grundy was elected to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of John H. Eaton, who had resigned to become Secretary of War.

4. Samuel Mitchell had been elected to take the seat that Yell had occupied in the last General Assembly. He was aligned with Yell in local politics.

5. This probably concerns the matter at which Yell said he could only hint in this letter. Perhaps Carroll had told him something that he wanted to pass on to Polk.

FROM CHARLES K. GARDNER¹

Washington. September 10, 1829

The Postmaster General regrets that the recommendation of Maj. Brown² for postmaster at Pulaski could not be complied with. The appointment went to John K. Yerger.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Gardner, a native of New Jersey, was Assistant Postmaster General for several years. In 1836 he became Sixth Auditor in the Treasury Department.

2. Polk's letter of recommendation has not been found. This possibly refers to Aaron V. Brown.

FROM LESTER MORRIS

Dear Sir

Pulaski September 19th 1829

After my Compliments to you I have inclosed those papers which you will know in what way they should be attended to.¹ A compliance of the above will greatly oblige your friend and servant.

LESTER MORRIS

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Although the enclosures are not available, it is obvious that this is a continuation of Morris's efforts to be restored to the pension list.

FROM ARTHUR NELSON¹

Washington. September 23, 1829

Recommendation of Noah B. Tindall² is satisfactory to the Postmaster General.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A native of Maryland, Nelson served in various capacities in the Postmaster General's Office. At this time he was a clerk in the office that dealt with mail contracts.

2. Unidentified.

FROM ROBERT P. HARRISON¹

Dr. Col.

Shelbyville Ten. Sept. 30th 1829

When I saw you in Nashville you observd. you woud. give me a memo. of some business that you wished me to attend to in the old Land office but this you neglected. But I recalled you wanted Copies of a 60. X 15 acre Survey which is herewith enclosd. In case the Originals are lost or mislaid you can obtain grants or lease copies.

I imagine you will find the account in the registers office as you will discover it is for 200 acres and probably all granted except the 60. X 15. Should you at any time wish any information from my office drop me a memo. and it shall be punctually attended to.

R. P. HARRISON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Harrison was for many years a hotelkeeper in Shelbyville. Later he became clerk of the Bedford chancery court.

FROM ROBERT P. HARRISON

Dr. Sir

Shelbyville Ten Oct 3d 1829

Just before I recd. yours of the 26th ult. I had enclosd. you the copies of the 15 X 60 acre Surveys & I now enclose you a copy of a 12 acre in the name of your Father including an *Island*. I

presume this is the one you allude to. Should it not be you can inform me. I discover there was an entry of 7 acres made on the same day in the name of Alexr. Henderson¹ as asse[assignee] of Saml. Polk which also includes an Island and the originals of all of which has been taken out of my office in the life time of your Father.

R. P. HARRISON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified.

FROM DAVID JARRETT

Dear Sir

Denmark Octr 3rd 1829

Today I recd. yours of the 24 Sept, relative to the Carolina line interest of Goodlett & Campbell.¹ In answer to you I will be satisfide with any contract you may make with Campbell. The 274 acre warrant, was handed to Goodlett by consent of parties. The whole expense on each tract is \$11.62½ cents provided the Company paid the Register, & if we did not pay the Regs, deduct \$1.37½ cents from the amt. Nothing new, all is well.

D JARRETT

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified.

FROM EZEKIEL P. McNEAL

D Sir

Bolivar Oct 3d. 1829

My business is such that it was out of my power to divide the Jenkins Whiteside¹ tract myself. Inclosed you will find a division made by Major Bills,² which I presume will answer every purpose.

The taxes on the lands you spoke will be attended to. That in Gibson for the present year is already paid but Martin³ has neglected to pay taxes due before our Compromise. As to sales of Locaters lands I have made none, and for the future it will not be

convenient for me to attend to that matter, any longer. The late firm of Rhea McCrabb⁴ & c of this place has been dissolved & all the effects of said firm assigned to John Preston⁵ of Washington County, Virginia, who has employed me to dispose of the goods on hand & wind up the business as conducted in this County and Madison which will require my exclusive attention.

E. P. McNEAL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. United States senator, 1809–11, and member of the state legislature, 1815–17, who died in 1822.

2. John H. Bills had married Prudence Tate McNeal, a sister of the writer of this letter.

3. Unidentified.

4. Unidentified.

5. A successful and respected merchant of Abingdon, Virginia. He was a moving spirit in developing a turnpike and building a railroad to serve his region. In 1834–35 he was mayor of Abingdon.

FROM JONATHAN CURRIN

Dear Sir

Murfreesboro Oct. 22nd 1829

You will find enclosed a small acc[ount] of which I never have thought of when you were at this place or I should have presented it to you before now. As I never presented it for payment I charge no Interest in it.¹

JNT. CURRIN

Addressed to Columbia but delivered by hand.

1. An endorsement in Polk's handwriting noted that \$31.79 had been sent to Currin by John W. Childress, who had brought Currin's note to Polk.

FROM A. Y. PARTEE¹

[Maury County?] 23th of Oct. 1829

Cnl. Polk will Be So Good as to Drop Me a few lines Immediately after passing of the Law in Congress about Taking of the Census of the people in this State.

A. Y. PARTEE

No address is available, but this letter appears to have been sent to Washington.

1. Resident of Maury County, who later was active in the Democratic Party in that county. He was married to a daughter of Thomas McGimsey.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Nov the 5th. 1829

Enclosed you will find the papers of Benj. Starrett¹ which I wish you to attend to. This is the evidence in support of his having enlisted in the army of the U.S. which is all that is required if found satisfactory. He made a similar statemt some time since which I am not certain whether I have lost it or sent it to you. If it is allowed I wish you to have him paid at the Pension office at Nashville. I have no doubt myself but he was in the Revl. War as he has stated for he was with us in sevril campaigns during the Late war and was a first rate Soldir. If it will not be strong enough sind me the objections and we will try again.

A. YELL

Nothing new I will write you shortly more fully.

Addressed to Washington.

1. This probably refers to Benjamin Starritt of Fayette County, who was placed on the pension roll of the Revolution on April 26, 1830, with Polk acting as his agent. He seems to have moved from Bedford to Fayette County while the papers were being processed.

FROM ELISHA FORREST¹

Sir

Bedford County Tennessee 30th Novr. 1829

I hearwith enclose and send to you my proof for Services rendered to the United States in the late war. And, as I Suppose I am entitled to land for Said Services you will please to do me the favour to apply to the proper authorities and get me a grant for my land. You will please to pay the fees for obtaining the grant and I will pay you when you return home. If you get my

Addressed to Washington.

1. Goodnight was placed on the pension rolls on May 10, 1832. While a resident of North Carolina he had served in the Revolutionary War.

FROM THOMAS WHITE¹

Dear Sir Farmington [Bedford County] Deb 12th 1829

I have this morning made the attempt to Write to you and after my Respects to you and your Lady I proceed to Give a Statement of affairs respecting my Situation. I Wrote to Samuell Craig and Received no answer. I Went to Columbia and got Mister [Edward W.] Dale to Write me to a memorial to Send to you. His memory Served him better Concerning Oglivies Estate. He Says that the Estate was insolvent before I paid the first debt and in his opinion that it is best so that Congress will allow me Something or all Sooner than if the money Could of been made of the Estate.² Mister Dale thinks that the names Subscribed to the memorial³ With the Receipt that you will find Enclosed in this Letter Will do as Several of them are acquainted [. . .] are noing[knowing] to it that I had to Sell my negro man to pay it. I am truely Sorry that I have to trouble you but Sir Since I Saw you at Raneys Store I have been Strip[p]ed of Every thing and Left With out any thing [to] Support My family. If I could Labour as I have done I Should feal better. I have no means now. Col I Want you to do the best you Can for I have not money [to] purchase my provisions for the Winter. If you Cannot not [*sic*] get all as much as they will allow me so that [I] Can have it as soon as possiabl. You will Recolect that this Receipt Calls for one hundred and Eighty three Dollars and fourteen cents. I had to pay two hundred and ten dollars, it being the difference in Exchange. You may direct you letters to me at Shelbyville. I have Written to the President. Do Something for me if posiable.

THOS. WHITE

Addressed to Washington.

1. A long-time resident of Bedford County, White had in 1814 or 1815 become security for one David Ogilvie of Maury County, on a bond to assure the United States the tax arising from the distillation of spirits. Ogilvie died

early in 1816, and before the tax became due the administrators declared his estate insolvent. White was then called upon by Samuel Craig, collector of United States revenue for Maury County, to pay the tax, and White paid him \$450. The United States later got a judgment against White for almost \$200 additional tax that the Ogilvie estate owed. White paid this amount to J. Nelson, deputy marshal for West Tennessee.

2. White appeals to Congress to restore the amount paid by him as security for Ogilvie, with interest. The legal basis for this appeal is not known.

3. There were six subscribers to White's memorial who said that they had known White for a long time and believed him to be truthful. The statement of the subscribers said that some of them remembered that White had paid the money as he represented. One of them, J. Nelson, had received for the United States a part of the money paid. The other names on the memorial were Edward W. Dale, L. H. Duncan, James Walker, James S. Walker, and James H. White.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. December 12, 1829

Affidavits supporting Benjamin White's¹ application for a pension are returned because the magistrates before whom the affidavits were made were not properly certified.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy, signed by Edwards, in Pension File S39123 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. A Revolutionary War veteran, White was placed on the pension rolls on January 12, 1830. He died in June 1832.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 12, 1829

Claims by Thomas Gore for services and supplies during the Revolution are barred by acts of limitation. The papers are herewith returned.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 15, 1829

Letter enclosing Peter Garren's¹ certificate of service in building boats in 1814 is received. Before the claim can be adjusted he must make a deposition that he has not received payment nor transferred the claim to another person.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Shelbyville, Garren had served in Colonel Robert Steele's regiment of Tennessee militia during the War of 1812.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 15, 1829

Thomas Richey's death in 1814 while in military service is confirmed. To receive a pension his widow must now depose that she has not remarried.¹ The deposition of Robert T. Richey must be properly certified.

Addressed to Washington.

1. The widow, Elizabeth Richey, and her son, Robert T. Richey, were residents of Giles County. The pension was granted a short time after this letter was written.

TO PETER HAGNER

Sir

Ho. Repts. Decr. 16th 1829

I return to you the affidavit of Robt. T. Richey with the certificate which you require as to the official character of P. I. Voorhies¹—the Justice of the Peace before [whom] the afft. was taken. I have written to Tennessee for the additional afft. of Mrs. Richey which you require.

JAMES K. POLK

This letter is in the Manning File (RG 217), National Archives.

1. A saddler by trade, he was both a justice of the peace and the coroner of Maury County.

FROM CHARLES GRATIOT¹

Washington. December 18, 1829

Recommendation, with enclosures, that Matthew Rhea be appointed a visitor to the Military Academy in June 1830 is hereby acknowledged.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Records of the United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1. A graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1806, he was in charge of the Engineer Bureau of the Corps of Engineers and Inspector of the Military Academy, ex-officio, 1828-38. He was dismissed by Van Buren because of some financial difficulties.

FROM JOHN R. VICKERS¹

Dear Sir

Fayetteville 29th Decr. 1829

I wish you to examine the War Department for me and inform me what steps to take in order to procure a pension. I made application and from some Cause it was not granted.

In the year 1777 in June I think, I enlisted for three years in the company Commanded by Captain Thos. Ewell in Prince Wm. County, Virginia in the regiment commanded [by] Col. Lee & Batallion Majr. Jno. Ellison. I served my time & enlisted again for during the war in the Company Commanded by Wm Wartors & I think in the Regiment Commanded by Col Davis but I cannot now recollect. I was changed from one regiment to another so that I have almost forgotten in what regiment I last enlisted. I served untill April 1783, when I was discharged by Col. Alexr Dick—but my discharge has been consumed by the burning of my house. You will please write to me or Wm. P. Martin. I enlisted in the 1st Virginia State Regiment.

JOHN VICKERS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Lincoln County, Vickers received a warrant for 100 acres of land in 1833. While he apparently did not get on the pension rolls immediately, he was on the pension list in 1840.

FROM WILLIAM GORDON¹

Washington, December 31, 1829

Papers supporting bounty land claims of Charles Becket and Elisha Forrest are hereby returned. Becket's claim is denied since Congress has made no provision for bounty lands for service in Wayne's expedition against the Indians in 1793-94. Forrest's enlistment took place in 1809 and is therefore not covered by provisions of acts of Congress passed in 1811 and 1812.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of Maryland, Gordon was a clerk in the office of the Secretary of War and then in the Bounty Land Office.

1830

FROM JAMES SIKES¹

Dear Sir State of Tennessee Lincoln County [1830?]²

After my respects to you I wish to inform you that I have Recd. a certificate from one of my acquaintances in North Carolina and have herein Inclosed the same. Now sir when you receive this letter if any more is required of me to do you will please to write me again directing me how and which a way to pursue &c.

JAMES SIKES

Addressed to Washington.

1. Although the spelling of the name is not the same, it is almost certain that this is the same person who was identified in James L. Edwards to Polk, December 7, 1826.

2. No date appears on this letter, except that the year 1830 was written in by an unknown person, probably in the Library of Congress. In the absence of other evidence, this date has been accepted.

FROM CHARLES T. REESE¹

Dear Sir Fayetteville 7th January 1830

Enclosed is additional testimony of my services in the revolutionary service which you will please present to the war department & write me as soon as convenient as to the result. You will attend to this business and write to me or Wm P. Martin.

CHARLES T. REESE

No address is available, but this letter was presumably addressed to Washington.

1. See James L. Edwards to Polk, April 25, 1828.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE¹

Washington. January 8, 1830

The Postmaster-General directs that the enclosed papers be referred for consideration and advice.

Addressed to Washington. The papers mentioned have not been found.

1. A former member of Congress from New York, Hobbie was appointed by Jackson as Assistant Postmaster General, a post he held from 1829 until 1851.

FROM ROBERT T. RICHEY

Dear sir [Robertson, Tenn.] January the 11th 1830

I Recd. yours of the 10th of Dec. which informed me that it was necessary to have the Widdows¹ Certificate befour you could Do anny thing more in the business you have under took for me. I have accordingly got the certificate; you will find it inclosd. in this Letter. As soon as you can you will rite to me. Send the Draft if it is got in the Letter agreeable to the Widdows Request. In so doing you will much oblige.

R. T. RICHEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Elizabeth Richey. See Peter Hagner to Polk, December 15, 1829.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir, War Department, Pension Office, January 12, 1830

I herewith return the papers in the case of Abraham Parker. The claimant in every case is required by law to set forth in his declaration, the time of his entering the service, and the time and manner of his leaving it, and in this respect the declaration is

defective. It is important to know when he entered the service, in order to determine whether he served nine months during the revolutionary war. The rolls do not show particularly when he entered the service. There is no evidence as to the official character and signature of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Maury County. Perhaps you can supply this deficiency by your own certificate.

I herewith enclose a pension certificate in the case of Benjamin White.

John Jones's case was acted on and reported to him on the 4th instant. I transmit herewith a copy of the letter in his case.¹

J. L. EDWARDS

Addressed to Washington.

1. The letter stated that his papers were not complete. A Revolutionary War veteran, Jones was not placed on the pension rolls until September 16, 1833.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. January 12, 1830

The Postmaster-General refers the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. Polk's notation on the envelope states that John R. B. Jones had been appointed postmaster at Mooresville, Tennessee.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 16, 1830

Letter of James A. Craig¹ concerning Revolutionary claims for service and supplies by John Patton² of North Carolina is returned. These claims are barred by acts of limitation.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. A physician of Hawfields, North Carolina, who was a student at Chapel Hill while Polk was there.

2. Unidentified.

FROM JAMES DAVIS¹

Dear Sir

Wayne County Tenne. Jany. 18th 1830

You will be so good as to excuse me for troubling you with these lines, the purpose of which I will endeavor to explain. On the first day of February 1821 a Patent was issued on Warrant No. 24463 in favor of Elias Highsmith, a Private in Clinch's Company of the 7 Regimt. of US. Infantry. Two or three years ago I wrote to you on this Subject to inform me where the patent was or how I might obtain it. You Sent to me, while you were at Washington City Two Certificates—one Stating that the Military Land Warranted was issued in Highsmith's name the 18th Decemr. 1820 and the notification thereof given to Majr Bradford.² The other certificate States that on the first day of February 1820 a Patent was issued on warrant No. 24463 in favor of Elias Highsmith a Private &c as before Stated, of the lands appropriated for Military bounties in the Territory of Arkansas and that the Patent was sent to the Honl. N. Cannon of the House of Represents. I have made application to Mr. Cannon for the Patent and he Stated that he Knew nothing about it and that he never had it in possession. Consequently the inference is, that Majr. Bradford or some other person obtaind. or has got the patent.³

I send you enclosed Majr. Bradfords rect. to Highsmith, thinking that probably Majr. Bradford is now residing in Washington City.

Now Sir my reason for sending to you on this Subject is that I am at a loss to Know how I am ever to come at the patent or in what way to proceed to get it. Highsmith is living close neighbor to me and has livd. by me ever since the close of the last War, so that there is no doubt but that the Patent is laying some where or in some persons hands not to be come at. Highsmith positively has never transferd. his rights or title to any person. The Patent may be yet in the Land Office; if not—should Majr. Bradford be in Washington City as I have been informd. please have his rect. presented to him. And probably he will Know whether he ever got the Patent or not. Any trouble or expense you may be at in

procuring or finding out where the Patent is, besides making you Compensation on your return to Columbia, will be received. as a favor and gratefully remembered.

JAS. DAVIS

NB Please write to me as soon as convenient how I may or can proceed to get the Patent. Should you write to me, direct the letter Wayne Cty. Carrollville. Tenne.

J. D.

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was probably a kinsman of William Davis, who was at this time a member of the General Assembly. This relationship, however, has not been firmly established.

2. Unidentified.

3. One wonders why Davis was so long in following up the information he received. See William M. Stewart to Polk, December 3, 1825.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. January 21, 1830

Enclosed is a patent for military bounty land in the name of Rebecca Bregance,¹ sister and only heir of John H. Stewart.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A notation on the bottom of the letter states that she was living at Pleasant Exchange, Hardeman County. Stewart is not otherwise identified.

TO WILLIAM T. BARRY¹

Sir

Washington City Jany. 23rd 1830

The mail is at present carried on horse back once a week from Pulaski via Bradshaw P.O. to Fayetteville. The distance from Pulaski to Fayetteville is about 30 miles. Bradshaw P.O. is about 10 miles from Pulaski. I enclose to you two petitions of citizens of Lincoln County Tenn. each desiring the establishment of a Post office in two populous neighbourhoods in that County but neither of which is near the road at present travelled by the mail rider. I have been requested to have another office established at

the store of William Dye Esqr.² in that County. If an office is established at *Hightower & Laird's Store*, the rider could go from *Bradshaw's P.O.* to that place a distance of 8 miles; if an office is established at the house of *John Henderson*, at the mouth of *Cold Water*, the rider could go from *Hightower & Laird's Store* to *Cold Water*, a distance of about 5 miles and nearly in a direct line, to *Fayetteville*; from *Cold Water*, the rider could go to *Dye's Store*, a distance of 4 or 5 miles from *Cold Water* and also in a direct line to *Fayetteville*.³ The increase of distance in passing the three new offices proposed to be established, over the present route, I am not enabled precisely to state. It cannot exceed 6 or 8 miles & is probably not more than 5 miles. If you should feel authorized & believe it proper to instruct the mail contractor to pass these three points, and to establish the offices, I have no doubt it will add to the convenience of the citizens in that part of the country. If established the first can be called *Laird's Store P.O.*, *Henry Laird⁴ P. Master*. The second can be called *Cold Water P.O.*, *John Henderson P. Master*; and third can be called *Dye's Store P.O.*, *William Dye P. Master*.

I am not aware that there is now established, any other office between Pulaski & Fayetteville on the road now travelled, but *Bradshaw P.O.* and if there is not, I think all the three points designated, might be accommodated with a Post Office & the mail, without increasing the expenditures of the Department beyond the receipts derived from these places. I desire to be advised when the Department have examined and decided on these several applications.

JAMES K. POLK

After the above was written, I ascertained at the Genl. P.O. that an office had been established at *Brownham*, 12 miles from Fayetteville on the 4th Sept. 1829.⁵ And of course if the rider passed that point, he could not pass *Esqr. Dye's & Cold Water*, as I was informed at the Genl. P.O. and I so wrote this data to Mr. John Henderson & Wm. Dye Esqr., and informed them that I would endeavour to have a new route established from Fayetteville *via* Esqr. Dye's *Cold Water* & *Hightower's* mills to upper Elkton.⁶ The petition from the *Hightower* neighbourhood I enclosed to the Genl. P.O. for decision in reference to that office,

proposing that the rider should leave the present road at *Brownham* pass *Hightower's* & thence back into the road at *Bradshaw* P.O.

J.K.P.

Addressed to Washington. This is a signed copy, in Polk's handwriting, of the letter actually sent.

1. A lawyer from Kentucky, Barry had served in his state legislature and briefly in both houses of the United States Congress. He was appointed Postmaster General by Jackson in 1829 and served until April 1835.

2. A Lincoln County merchant, who was elected captain in the militia as early as 1816.

3. Early maps do not include most of these locations. Bradshaw's Post Office was on almost a direct line between Pulaski and Fayetteville. The mouth of Cold Water Creek was slightly south of that line. John Henderson had been an early settler in the vicinity of Cornersville in Giles County, where at one time he operated a cotton gin.

4. In the mid-1830s he was postmaster at Lynn Creek in Giles County.

5. The following April, Polk received a notice from the Postmaster General saying that the post office at Brownham had been discontinued.

6. The name of Laird's Post Office was changed to Millville a few weeks after this letter was written. Henry Laird was postmaster at the time of the change, but Hightower took over the office some months later.

FROM CHARLES GRATIOT

Washington. January 26, 1830

Recommendation of J. H. Piper in behalf of Matthew Rhea as visitor to the United States Military Academy is received.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Records of the United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

FROM PATRICK MAGUIRE

Dr. Sir

Columbia Jan. 27th 1830

I send you the inclosed. bond & wish you to attend to the business for me. That you may better understand it, I give the following brief statement of the material facts necessary to be known by you.

On the 4th Apl 1828 John M. Bowyer,¹ (then of Huntsville) wrote me a letter that he was engaged as sheriff in Madison; had great opportunities of making money by advancing on executions & purchasing notes; requested to get 5 or 10 thousand dollars; offer'd a deed of trust on 13 or 15 negroes to secure a repayment & offer'd half the nett proceeds of what was made & to take all bad debts on himself as he could guard against such.

I wrote to Mr Jas B. Craighead² for information. He answer'd very favorably about J. Bowyer that he had the negroes, was clear of debts, and a prudent steady man. I wrote to Mr. Bowyer that upon executing a bond for \$5000 & a deed of trust on his negroes to secure payment with interest to Mr. Craighead for me & Craigheads advising me of it, he might come on to Columbia & I would let him have the money as proposed. He executed the bond (here inclos'd) and a deed of trust to his negroes, 13 to Mr. Craighead. Craighead wrote me that he had done so. Mr. Bowyers came on, appear'd a very pleasant gentlemanly plain safe kind of man. We made the contract about as he had propos'd and I advanced him \$5000 in specie & U. States bank notes. Mr. Craighead wrote me some months afterwards in Novr. that he had not taken a witness to the trust deed, he depended on Bowyers honor to acknowledge it as he promised, that Bowyer then objected to it, said that he would write me about which I believe he never did. (At that time I believe Bowyer had dispos'd of the money or had no thought of returning it.) I wrote to Mr. Craighead a letter that all or in part he might show Bowyer, requiring the trust deed to be acknowledg'd or proven & recorded immediately. I was surpris'd to find that it had not been taken in such a way as to be good, but in a way to be in the choice of Bowyer whether it should be a nullity or valid.

After this I for a long time thought the business was done untill near the maturity of the note Mr. Craighead inform'd me by letter that he had still persisted in refusing & had abandon'd all business. Just afterwards Bowyer wrote me he had made \$1800 on the money & that in a week or so after the note became due he could settle up & pay, but solicited a continuance of the loan, suggested new plan of speculation, and ask'd my advice about sugar plantations. I answer'd suitably, & inform'd him that I would be in Huntsvill[e] in July & settle, that I had not

anticipated being out of the money longer, had made engagements that were bas'd upon that fund & I could not do without it. I accordingly went about 14th of July & Mr. [Robert L.] Cobbs with me. I saw Bowyer; he told me that he had let two merchants have the money to vest in cotton, that they expected their remittance in a very short time & would settle with him & he with me, that they were good but he had pledged his honor not to let their names be known. I told him that the written agreement between us was that he was to keep a regular book acct. or statement of every transaction for my inspection and I requested to see his book. He refus'd. I insisted on being inform'd more satisfactorily about the business, but this is about what I could learn from him. I requested him to acknowledge or have witness'd the trust deed. He refus'd alledging that I need not feel afraid, that he would have the money & pay me in a very short time, stated much about excitement it would create with others, & probable injury to himself, & though urged importunately he persisted & would do nothing. I talk'd with him different times but with no better success. Not knowing what I should do or whether I could do anything, I left the papers with Hutchison³ & Craighead for consultation with Judge Clay,⁴ & requested that they should adopt the best course.

I return'd home & in a day or two as I understood Bowyer sold all his negroes to three or four different persons chiefly his connections, whether fraudulently or not is a question. He represented himself to me as being clear of debt when I let him have the money and in my private opinion I have no doubt that he has acted fraudulently against me. I have never heard from him since. No proceedings in law have been had. Two weeks ago he pass'd by stage through this place, arriv'd at Ransom's 2 O'clock P.M., could not get off before day light next morning. His lady and acquaintance of my family, was along. Yet he or she did not call upon the family & I have learn'd the facts only a few days ago. Cuffey that carried them in his hack to Nashville says he talk'd of going to Washington. Ransom says he was going on to get his papers for South America.

I wish you to issue a writ against him the first thing, before you have a word to say by which he can possibly be appriz'd of intended movements. I am fearful that he may get some intima-

tion from his connection in this part of the country. I wish the writ issu'd so as to enforce the money or if not at least special bail—perhaps some particular attention to the law on different sides of the Potomac may be previously necessary on this point. Sue in any court you think best. He belongs to a wealthy family & they perhaps have friends & acquaintances at Washington who would prevail upon him to act honestly and pay up the money. From all circumstances I think he has that money secreted for the long meditated purpose of leaving Alabama, for some other distant place, & has got the consulship to S America as the most eligible move. I wish you to coerce the whole amount of the bond with the interest (it is not worth while now to take any notice of the collateral agreement and profits stated by him); get the whole in money, or if not as much as you can & the balance or all if none can be got in bonds with the best security that you can that you can get payable in one year, in one and two, or the best that you can. I want you to do your best & whatever you think for the best I'll be satisfied with. But be sure to put no confidence in what he says, unless it is credible independantly of his statement & so to your satisfaction. If it becomes necessary to employ other counsel at Washington or any seaport town or anywhere employ them for me. I will see the business through, be good for all expenses that you may think necessary & will pay you well for your trouble. I put all confidence in you & do hope & believe that you will do all that can be possibly done. The conduct of Mr. Bowyer towards me has been such that he has no right to expect any other than the most rigorous proceedings.

Jud[g]e Clay has been talk'd with about this business & can tell you much about it, & although I imagine he would not be desirous about having any thing active to do against Bowyer, yet he is an honorable candid and independant man, & will tell you any thing he Knows. I would wish you to talk with Hugh L. White too; he is an old friend of mine. If any security is required upon proceedings, yourself & judge White will please go it, & I will be answerable for any damages. I inclose you a power of attorney thinking it may be possibly necessary.⁵ All your relatives & friends are well.

PATRICK MAGUIRE by ROBERT L. COBBS

P.S. Please write me immediately on the receipt of this. If you ascertain that Bowyer is off to any seaport, I would wish him still to be arrested & the best done that your judgment may suggest. If he is gone to N. Orleans inclose all this to Madison Caruthers & Matthew Cooper, either of whom or both I invest with the same power that I have given you & request them or either to act accordingly.

PATRICK MAGUIRE

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the handwriting of Robert L. Cobbs, who also signed Maguire's name. The postscript, however, seems to have been written and signed by Maguire himself.

1. A native of Virginia, John Bowyer was the son of Henry Bowyer, an officer during the Revolution. The family was highly respected, and until this time John Bowyer enjoyed a good reputation. He had sought appointment as United States marshal in Florida and at this time was seeking appointment as United States consul at Mexico City.

2. A Columbia lawyer.

3. Unidentified.

4. Probably Clement C. Clay, of Huntsville.

5. The power of attorney was written and signed by Maguire.

FROM JOHN E. KIRT¹

Dr. Sir,

[January 1830?]²

I send you the Letter of Mr. [Patrick] Maguire with a copy of the answer of Bo[w]yer and the judge's Opinion. The expense of Copying the paper is \$1 and I have charged Mr. M. \$10 for my services. It will be quite time enough to settle these matters when the amount is remitted to you. I have not thought it worth while to include the costs of the suit incurred up to this time as Mr. Maguire may choose to have the suit prosecuted to Judgment, in which case there will of course be some additional costs.

JOHN E KIRT

No address is available. The letter seems to have been delivered by messenger.

1. Unidentified. This name has not been deciphered with confidence. Since the Library of Congress has accepted this version, it will be used here.

2. No date appears on the letter. Again, the decision of the Library of Congress has been accepted. It is arbitrarily placed directly after the letter from Maguire to Polk because of their obvious connection.

FROM JOSEPH McMURRY¹

[Columbia], Janury 29th 1830

After my respects to you &c I take the liberty to write you a few lines, tho nothing of importance. Our legislature has now a few days [to] go. I have not here of no paticular act that has passed. They acquitted Judg [Nathaniel] Williams. Laid over the trial of Judg Haskil[Joshua Haskell].² Colnl. Joel Parish³ refused to give up the kees of the Bank & also the Books. The desition I have not heard yet &c.

I have got a petition drawn up for the post office that I talke to you abut last fall. It meets with Every person that I have talked with in this neighbourhood & Evry person has assigne it that I have Shown it to. We have named the office Bigby post office⁴ & wish the male to be opened at McMurrys Store within one qurter of a mile of McMurry mills the most convienant & Suitable place. If the distance of two miles in coming by the above named office Should be an objection Joseph McMurry will take the rout for the Same Sum of money that it is caried for know [sic]. The days wride is from Columbia to Centersvill which is abot 33 miles.⁵ The people of this neighbourhood is anxious for the Post office as their is no convienance in this part of the country.

McMurrys Store is East of the mills one quater of a mile nere where a new road is opened to Williams Port. This new is a Publick road & is kept by the Court. Changing the rout of this male dont interfere with no other post office. You no all about it and the rodes and the convenances &c. Give us the office if in your power & you will oblige us all.

I have inclosed the petition in this Letter to [you]. I do not [know] whether the male is confined to any perticular road or not.

JOSEPH McMURRY

Addressed to Washington.

1. A merchant and miller who resided in the western part of Maury County.

2. A Williamson County lawyer who served as judge of the eighth circuit from 1821 to 1836. Unlike the case against Williams, the charges against Haskell in no way implied either dishonesty or corruption. In both cases there was a bitter political undercurrent, and after the acquittal of Williams it was almost a foregone conclusion that Haskell would not be removed. His trial was postponed until the fall of 1831, and at that time he was easily acquitted. These attempts to remove Williams and Haskell have been considered a serious challenge to the independence of the state judiciary.

3. Cashier of the Bank of the State of Tennessee, Parrish was removed upon suspicion of embezzlement. He refused to turn over the bank records until promised immunity. He was thought to have withheld the books to cover for some of his friends as well as to protect himself.

4. This name was not adopted, probably because of the prior existence of the post office at Bigbyville. Instead it was called McMurray's Store Post Office, although the author of this letter consistently spelled the name McMurry. In an endorsement where he noted that the post office had been approved, Polk also spelled it McMurry. Early maps, however, use the McMurray version.

5. In 1835 McMurry was listed as postmaster at the new post office.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. February 1, 1830

Before the Henry Goodnight claim can be decided all papers required by the letter to German Lester¹ last June must be forwarded. Charles Reese must be more specific in his testimony as to dates, units, and line of his service.

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler in Giles County, he was clerk of the first county court ever held there.

FROM BENJAMIN CLEMENTS¹

D Sir

Fayetteville Febry 6th 1830

I take the liberty of asking the favoiur of you to make the inquiry into a little matter for me at the City about the year 1820 or 1821. Soon after Obediah Jones² was appointed Receiver

of public moneys at Huntsville Alabama I acted as auctioneer at Some Sails for him. We entered into an agreement which is as follows: to wit, he paid me for my Services at the rate of \$10 per day & if the Government did not allow it to him in his Settlement I was to refund back to him.³ Since his death his widow has brought Suit against me for about \$300. & Says it was not allowd. Jones in his Settlement. He in his lifetime told me it was allowd to him before he paid it over to me. You will please do me the favour to Examine & see whether or not the account for auction Services was allowd him or not & there has Since that time been two allowances made for his benifit, one Since his death. You will please Examine & See if it was not imbraced in either of the allowances. The Suit will be ready for hearing at March term at this place. You will if you find the allowance has been made procure me a certified copy from the proper Officer & Send it to me at this place as Soon as possible. You will please let me hear from you often as I am always glad to receiv a line from you.

BENJN. CLEMENTS

NB. Sir

When the account alluded to was first presented it was not allowed but afterwards was Sent back & no doubt was allowd. If not I also wish you to Examine & See if it is not imbraced in the allowance made to Jones either before or after his death. You will please either write to me or Col. Jas Patton who is my attory.

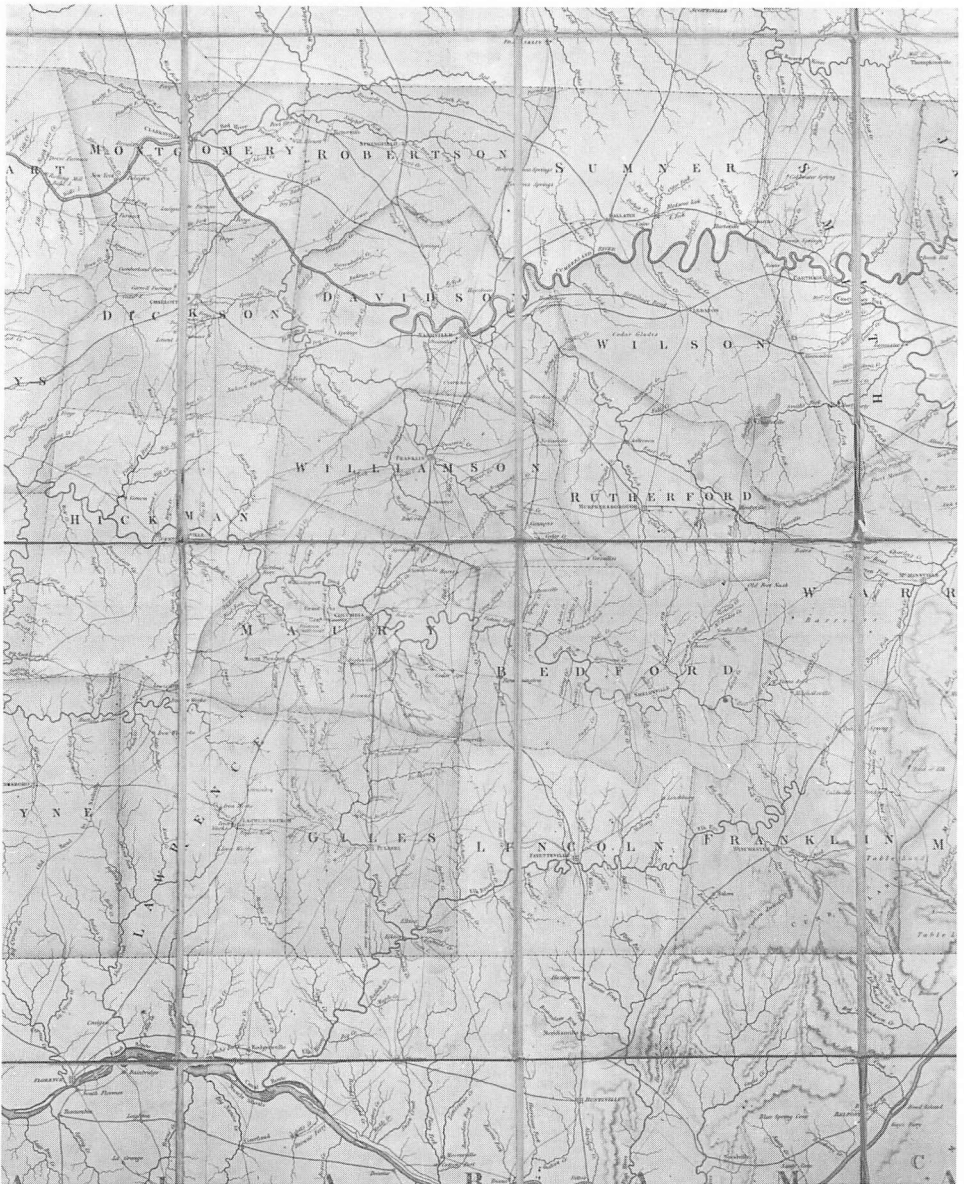
BENJN CLEMENTS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Clements was a prominent citizen of Fayetteville in its early days and was one of the first members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church there. A man of substance, he owned thirty slaves in 1830.

2. Born in Virginia, Jones grew up in South Carolina, and moved first to Georgia, where he was a close friend of William H. Crawford. In 1810 he moved to Madison County, Alabama. Having studied law, he became the first judge of the Madison County superior court. He died in 1825, and some years later his widow and most of his family moved to Mississippi, where he had owned large tracts of land.

3. In an endorsement Polk noted that on March 5, 1830, he wrote Clements and enclosed a statement from the Treasury Department that showed that Jones had been allowed only five dollars per day to pay the auctioneer.



Middle Tennessee, from Matthew Rhea's map of the state of Tennessee (1832)

(Private)

199
Newmarket May 3^d 1826



My Dear Sir

Having on my return from a visit of business to Florence Osborne, the pleasure of receiving your favour of the 3^d ult. for which I receive my thanks although at all times it affords me pleasure to hear from my friends in Congress, still I know their situation too well to require any apology for not writing to me.

I have been busily viewing the proposed amendments at Washington, and your speech on the amendment on the constitution I have read with much pleasure, and I can assure you is well received by all your constituents, and gives you a strong claim to their ^{future} confidence. I agree with you, that the best system is the true meaning of the constitution, but as this cannot be obtained any uniform system ought to be adopted instead of leaving the election of President to Congress, we have seen enough to be convinced that it will lead to the destruction of our happy republican system if left to the hands of Representatives and why your friend to the perpetuation of our happy system ought to meet upon this question with the true feelings of conviction and - compromise

Andrew Jackson to James K. Polk, May 3, 1826

one shewn upon this subject, & it is unanimously
disapproved here the Documents has given them
light and it is condemned.

I called at your fathers on the last day of
April, he had been very sick, was still weak
but better, I hope he will be able soon to tra-
vel to the warm Springs, the hollow of your
family enjoy health - I had the pleasure of
seeing your lady, she enjoys good health,
but as you may expect some pleasure of
your travels - I write in haste for
your own eye, I have not time to con-
sult it, and you will excuse errors & this
hasty scrawl I have just got home, and
have many letters to acknowledge - I am
glad to see the resolutions you have
offered, they will bring every member to
the true constitutional points - we will
see the republicans of 88 - and those who
have bailed under false colours - there
will prove the touchstone of political
faith - I wish to see the yeas & nays, and
on which side my friend Livingston re-
sided, his vote - see the Journals of former times
how it may compare therewith - I am called by
company and must close this hasty scrawl, with
my best wishes believe me yr friend

The Honble
James Polk

Andrew Jackson

Columbia June 29th 1828

Dear Sir



I take pleasure in introducing to your services
H. Snodgrass Esq^r of Greenville S. Carolina. Mr Snodgrass is a
member of the bar, and is on a tour of observation through
the Western country, with some views of settling a place of
residence. He desires to visit the Hermiteage before his re-
turn, I take pleasure in saying to you, that although hitherto per-
sonally unknown to me, that he is a gentleman whose family
are highly respectable, and is the Rector of an old college
firms highly esteemed by me, from whom I have received an
introducing note.

With sentiments of

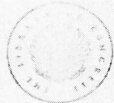
High regards

Y^r Obed^t Serv^t

James H. Polk

James K. Polk to Andrew Jackson, June 29, 1828

Shelbyville, March the 6th 1828



My Dear Colo.

I am very much
like a (Quaker) winter when ever the spirit
moves me: you must therefore indulge
my whims & I have nothing political
to write you in this letter, I have not deare
to pester you with a few expressions for
my own satisfaction & dont write me
the prospect of getting you well through
acquiring the land in this State & if it
does with me immediately - Is there any
probability of making a treaty with Chickasaw
shanty write me what you know about it.

(pray) where is this bounty, where you
propose forming a Territory call'd Huron

I have just this evening read you a speech
upon Henry resolution about the Six Months Peace
I am much pleased with the result, It appears
that our folks are beginning to pull pretty well
write me long letters and often &

I am with
great respect
your friend
A. Yell

Gen. James K. Polk

Washington City

March 2^d 1831



My Dear Sarah

I write you from ^{my} seat in the Hall at an evening session. It is now between 8 o'clock & 11 o'clock; the Hall is absolutely lighted up, as is usual at an evening session, and the lobby is crowded with ladies & spectators. We will probably sit until midnight and very probably later. At what hour tomorrow we shall adjourn I can form no opinion, but I hope in time to enable us to get to Baltimore tomorrow.

I will add a postscript to this letter in the morning before I go to bed and mail it, and it will be of course, by the last that I will write you, before I hope to see you. I will run a few hours with this letter, & think I shall heat it. I know I shall if I have luck with the stage and steam-boat.

Very affectionately
Yr. Husband

James K. Polk

James K. Polk to Sarah Childress Polk, March 2, 1831

Crankeville

August 17th 1821

Dear Sir,

The election of Fitzgerald and Crockett leaves the office of Judge
vacant & my youngest brother J. M. Johnson has concluded to be a candidate
for the office. We feel much solicitude for his success and hope, if
it should not interfere with any views or wishes of your more
particular friends, that you will, if convenient give us
a helping hand - he was law in my office - garnered
without a dollar then entered upon his profession, in
which he has been engaged about two years - He is
under the impression, that he can better his fortunes
by locating himself in the Western District particularly if
aided by that office - I think he is very well qualified
to discharge its duties - I am sure much better than
I was when I received the appointment for this District -

I am fearful Arnold will be worse upon us than Crockett.
We are deeply mortified at the recent events at Washington -

with much respect & esteem

Your friend

J. M. Johnson

Durham Nov. 23. 1832

Dear Sir

enclosed is a power of atco. to you
to transact some business for me in Maryland
— open a correspondence — ascertain its condition
& if practicable bring it to an early close
— If it can't be done otherwise & the amount
will justify draw over to Centerville when
every thing is ready & close it — I expect the
amount is small — ~~about~~ \$1000 (I know
not what) — but whatever it is — will help
in these hard times — do any thing you
please or think best in the whole business
& if you incur any responsibilities, they
shall allways be met promptly here —
I will be an hundred miles, with help you
will be able to serve a friend.

I am no candidate for Congress yet —
Nothing known yet about Inge — my
pleas is for him to take the field & beg
off myself — It is best for me to do so —
We have not yet celebrated the old chief's
rejection but we shall do so in a few days
— write to me & let me allways know the
progress of the S. Carolina business & the
prevailing opinions about it —

Very sincerely

Yours,
A. V. Brown

FROM WILLIAM GORDON

Washington. February 8, 1830

Investigation reveals that Aaron Reynolds¹ name does not appear on the records of the Virginia line as one entitled to bounty land.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Giles County, Reynolds was granted a pension in 1833, but it is not clear whether or not he received bounty land. He had served as a private during the Revolution.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. February 16, 1830

The Postmaster-General refers the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. No enclosure was found. Polk made a note on the letter that the name of Buck Plains Post Office (Bedford County) had been changed to Macon.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. February 17, 1830

The claim of Peter Garren has been adjusted and the amount allowed will be remitted to him as requested.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM ROBERT C. THOMPSON¹

Dear Sir

Shelbyville 17th February 1830

By the solicitation of several of my Countymen I am enduced to call your attention to the miss compliance of the new contractors on the rought from Murfreesborough through this place to Huntsvill in this: by the rules of the post office department the

new contractor is bound to take of the old contractor his stages and Horses and if they cannot agree for them to chose disinterested persons who are to fix upon the valuation of the property. This as well as an entire refusal on the part of the new contractors for the above rought has taken place greatly to the enjry of William G. Parish,² the old contractor, and the new contractors have gone on and purchased new stages & horses refusing to take as they are bound to do or forfit their contract. And for your better information I will refer you to a petition William G Parish filed some time last winter before Congress. Your strict attention will be most thankfully received by many of your friends in this & Lincoln Counties.³

R C THOMPSON

Addressed to Washington and posted at Murfreesboro.

1. Lawyer in Bedford County who had served in the General Assembly, 1825-27. His father, Jason Thompson, was born in Ireland and came to Middle Tennessee with James Robertson.

2. William G. Parrish was born in North Carolina. He moved to Tennessee and lived for some time in Rutherford County. Later he moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he served for many years as a receiver of public moneys.

3. In an endorsement Polk noted that he had sent Thompson a letter from the Postmaster General's office stating that the new contractor was bound to take stages and horses of old contractors unless the new contractor already had such property when he entered into the contract.

TO ASBURY DICKENS¹

Sir

Washington City Feby. 19th 1830

I enclose to you additional testimony in the case of Capt *Matthew Wood*, who desires to obtain the benefits of the Act of May 1828. I am informed that Capt. Wood now draws a pension but at what rate or from what time I am not informed. His application to the Department, made as I am informed some time since, was to be placed upon the same footing with the other Captains of the Continental line, who served until the end of the War. When the case is examined, be pleased to inform me of the decision.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Pension File 39135 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. A native of North Carolina, he was at this time a clerk in the War Department. Later he served from 1836 until 1861 as Secretary of the Senate.

FROM HENRY CONWAY¹

Dear Sir

Shelbyville 25 Febr'y 1830

Inclosed. is a claim on Government for a horse lost on the Seminole Campaign that I have long been striving to get but always has failed. Colo [Robert H.] Dyers not puting it on the Role made out by him I presume is the principle cause for it now appears they stickle at everything [that] can be shown them. It now appears that if General Jackson has no recollection on some points I must loose all. The Certificate of Daniel Marshall² I find there is no attention paid to it as he is not found on the rools there as assistant Quarter Master. This Dyer promised me shoud. be the case but you are pretty well acquainted with his negligence. I thinke perhaps the General will recollect my former Assistants leaving us at Fort Gadsden³ and my appointing D Marshall as one. He is now the only officer except the Genl. by which this can be proveed and they there dont consider him as one it appears from Hagnors [Peter Hagner's] letter unless there was some Proof. This rests on the Genl. Marshall in his Certificate is mistaken as to the month in which the Horse was lost but that is clearly proveed by Major Harris's⁴ Certificate. On the whole you can see all the papers with Hagnors letter and if the Genl. can give no light on the subject all is lost as there is no officer as I know of but himself by which it can be proved.

HENRY CONWAY

Addressed to Washington.

1. In a sworn statement made in 1827, Conway stated that during the expedition against the Seminoles he was quartermaster in a regiment of Tennessee volunteers commanded by Robert H. Dyer. In 1830 he was a resident of Bedford County and owned twelve slaves.

2. Unidentified.

3. This fort was built by Jackson in 1818 at the site of Negro Fort on the lower Apalachicola River in West Florida.

4. Unidentified.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. February 26, 1830

The letter enclosing inquiry of Benjamin Clements has been referred to the Register of the Treasury where the accounts of [Obadiah] Jones are filed.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. See Clements to Polk, February 6, 1830.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Feby th 27th 1830

Enclosed I send you a certificate of Identity of the Heirs of M. Gowing¹ (Decesd), and the power of Attorney from Maxfield² author[iz]ing you to draw the mony and forward it to me, or to him if collected. You will find by application at the War office that the Widdow has drawn two yea[r]s of the pension. At the expiration of two yea[r]s she married, and now the Guardian is applying for the balance of the mony for the Heirs. His heirs was entitled to five years half pay, from the govem for having been a Solder in the late war and was keeld at New Orlea[n]s in 1815. If there any thing drawn please forwad it as early as posible. If there should be any thing wrong (which I expect ther no doubt of for it is a kind of claim that I nevr had any thing to do with before), you must please write me and give me all the information about it you can and I will again try it. Write upon the resiption of this letter.

I wrote you last week and have now nothing to give you of interest. I see there is warm times in the Senate at presnt &c.

A YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The heirs of Menoah Gowing lived in Bedford County, but whether or not he ever resided in that county is not known.

2. There are several Maxfields known to have lived in Bedford at this time, but which one is meant here is not known.

FROM JOSEPH GREER

Sir

Fayetteville March 1st 1830

Inclosed you have a power [of] Attorney to yourself from Sarah Larimore. She was the wife of Andrew Larimore Deed. of the 24th United States Regiment. She has been married to William Logan nine years last fall and the power is from them both to you. Also the Deposition of Francis W Armstrong his Capt and who enlisted him as appears from the muster Roll that he mentions in his deposition, that he enlisted on the 13th of June 1812 & died on the 4th of October following. This roll is in my possession, and I will send it on to you if necessary. Until I saw his Captain & the roll [I] had expected that he was an orderly Sergeant in the Regiment but it appears he was only a Soldier tho his letters to his wife states him to be orderly Sergeant and directs her to write to [him] as such. I wish to Know what prospect to obtain Noah Wards¹ pay for services. As to Rachel Turner² I cant find her to obtain her power and suppose that she is married again. I want you to examine the papers and see what Justice she acknowledged the power to my Brother Vance before or who are the witnesses to it, if any and write to [me] who the[y] are. The proof of Sarah Larimore Marriage to Andrew Larimore you have. Should you succeed in obtaining any money on these Claimes you will please to remit it to Mr. Josiah Nichols³ of Nashville to be entered to my credit in the United States Branch Bank at that place and please write to me at the same time.

JOSEPH GREER

Addressed to Washington.

1. For almost three years Greer had been trying to establish the validity of Noah Ward's claim for compensation for the use of his team in hauling military supplies.

2. Widow of Peter Turner, she received in 1830 for his services half-pay for five years. It appears that she had entered into some sort of an agreement with Vance Greer.

3. A prominent Nashville businessman, Nichol was for several years president of the United States Bank at Nashville.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. March 2, 1830

Mr. Thompson's letter¹ in behalf of William G. Parrish is returned herewith. The new contractors on the Murfreesboro-Huntsville route had already been instructed upon their obligations regarding purchasing property from him.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. See Robert C. Thompson to Polk, February 17, 1830.

FROM JOHN M. BOWYER

Sir

Jail Washington 4th March 1830

I would be glad to be informed whether your instructions are of so positive & unrelenting a character, that they cannot be departed from in any degree whatever; even should it be ascertained to your Satisfaction that no possible good can result to Mr. Maguire by my detention in prison walls for life. If you insist upon my confinement untill the necessary steps can be taken for relief under the insolvents laws of the District, I feel that I shall no longer have the right to hold the appointment upon the faith of which I have been enabled to make mercantile arrangements that must very shortly have resulted greatly to my advantage, & consequently to the advantage of my Creditors.

This is the only road, by which, in any short time I could reach the means of relieving myself from debt, & the absolute wants of life.

I surrendered to two of my Creditors the only property I had; one of these Creditors was a brother in law who assumed the payment of my Huntsville debts (contracted for the necessary's of life) as far as the value of the property would go, leaving his own claim for loaned money entirely unsatisfied—the other

Creditors claims was for loaned money without interest. I left other creditors unsatisfied amongst whom were my best friends & kindred. It is unnecessary to enumerate the misfortunes in trade which contributed to the present state of things. All that is left for me, is to devote my energies all to bring about a change beneficial to my creditors & myself. I cannot do this whilst deprived of my liberty & in prison. I do not address you Sir with a view of Soliciting improper favours or that I may excite your commiseration—tho oppressed, my spirit is unbroken & disdains Servility. Had I willing friends here, would not let them involve themselves in pecuniary responsibilities agt. which I could not Secure them—the result would most likely be that I should convert them into enemies, as I have Mr. Maguire.

I cannot conclude without assuring you that the interest of Mr. Maguire (as well as my other Creditors) requires that the proceedings agt. me here should be dismissed, & I permitted to go where I can render them some good.¹

Should you insist upon my taking the oath, I hope you will confess notice so that I may get relief immediately.

J. M. BOWYER

Addressed to Washington. The letter is directed to William Polk but obviously intended for James K. Polk.

1. The outcome of this bizarre affair has not been learned. Since Polk had no more letters from Maguire, it appears that the case was dropped.

FROM LINNEUS SMITH¹

Washington. March 5, 1830

Enclosed is the information requested in relation to several diplomatic functionaries.

Addressed to Washington.

1. One of the best clerks in the Department of State. He had feared he would lose his job when Jackson came into office, but this fear was apparently not well founded.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Washington City March 7th 1830

Since the receipt of your letter of the 12th of January last, I wrote to Mr. Abraham Parker, and have to day received from him some additional testimony in support of his claim for a pension. I now return to you the original papers, accompanied by the new testimony. I have as you suggested made a certificate of my knowledge of the hand writings of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Maury County Tenn. I know Mr. Parker personally, have always understood that he was poor, and have now every reason to believe that he is in very indigent circumstances. The statement enclosed of David H. True, William W. Coleman and John D. Alderson (all of whom I know) may be relied upon. I hope his proof is now sufficient to entitle him to a pension. Be pleased to examine his case and inform me of your decision.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File S3640 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. March 7, 1830

The claim of Abraham Parker is rejected and his papers have been filed. He enlisted too late to come under the provisions of the act of March 18, 1818.

Addressed to Washington. This appears to be a reply to Polk's letter of the same date.

FROM THOMAS KERCHEVAL

Dr Sir

Fayetteville 7th March 1830

In Decr. 1826 or sometime before that time I made application to the War Department for the pay of William Phelps an artificer in the Artillery. I was informed by letter from Mr.

Hagner to you that upon comparing the signature of Capt. Joseph Philips¹ with that annexed to the Certificate of Mr. Phelps he found that there was a difference & required of me to prove that the Signature of Joseph Philips to the certificate was in his hand writing. I have procured the Certificate of Capt. Philips & enclose it to you. I hope that this additional testimony will make the papers complete and entitle me to draw the money. Will you please present them to the proper officer and inform me of the result as soon as Convenient.

THOS. KERCHEVAL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Resident of Rutherford County, who served in the War of 1812. He moved to Illinois where he held public office during the territorial stage; he became a member of the supreme court after Illinois became a state. Later he returned to Rutherford County to live. See Kercheval to Polk, October 23, 1826, and Hagner to Polk, December 9, 1826.

TO [CHARLES GRATIOT?]¹

Dr. Sir

Ho Repts. March 8th 1830

I enclose to you a letter received this morning from Robert L. Cobbs Esqr. of Columbia Tenn. which he requests me to show to you. His object is to procure for Matthew Rhea Esqr. the appointment of Visitor at West Point at the next annual examination of the Cadets of that institution. As it was not convenient for me to call this morning in person, I enclose to you his letter.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Columbia University Library.

1. See Gratiot to Polk, December 18, 1829, and January 26, 1830.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIÉ

Washington. March 8, 1830

The Postmaster-General directs for consideration and advice the enclosed papers.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosures have not been found. Polk's note on this letter, however, suggests that it concerned the possible appointment of Bernard Hogan as postmaster at Spring Hill, Tennessee.

FROM REBECCA BREGANCE

Dr Sir Pleasant Exchange March the 10th 1830

I received your very friendly letter bearing date Feb 6th informing me that you had in your possession a patent that Col Adam R Alexander requested you to procure for me for which Sir I return you my sincere thanks. I wish to get some person to examin the land as soon as practicable. Therefore will feell under renewed obligations if you will enclose the patent in a letter to me directed to Pleasant Exchange, Henderson Cty.¹

REBECCA BREGANCE

Addressed to Washington.

1. A notation by Polk on the back of the letter indicates that on April 7, 1830, he forwarded the patent to Mrs. Bregance.

FROM CHARLES C. ABERNATHY¹

Sir, Pulaski March 16th 1830

In obedience to a resolution adopted at a meeting of about three hundred of the citizens of Giles County for the purpose of memorializing Congress on the Subject of stopping by law the transportation of the mail on Sunday, I herewith enclose to you the memorial prepared by a committee appointed by said meeting for that purpose, and unanimously adopted, with the names of such persons as appeared very solicitous on the occasion.² The following is a copy of the resolution which gives rise to this address to wit. "Resolved that the memorial adopted by this meeting be signed by the chairman & Secretary and forwarded to our immediate representative in Congress, with a request that he lay it before that body."

CHARLES C. ABERNATHY

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of the vicinity of Pulaski since 1810, Abernathy had served in the War of 1812. In 1832 he became clerk and master of the first chancery court in Giles County.

2. The memorial asked that no change be made in the laws governing the transportation of mails on Sunday. Polk presented the memorial to the House on April 12, 1830. The list of names appended to the petition has not been found.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. March 16, 1830

The Postmaster-General will be happy to receive further information about the case of Brownsville post office, Tennessee.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. Brownsville was the county seat of Haywood County in West Tennessee.

FROM JOHN H. EATON

Sir [Washington], 17. March 30

Genl McNeil¹ was allowed 8 a day & 8 dollers for evry 20 miles travel. This has alwys ben the Normal allowance, for such services, as is proven by the long established practice of the Govt.

He was selected because Praire de Chien² had been, & was his Head quarters & being from this circumstance well acquainted with the Indians, it was presumed his influence would be greater.

He was appo[i]nted while at Boston & directed to proceed on the business assigned. He came to this place for instructions, & from this place was permitted to compute his milage. He returned here in the fall, & presented a claim for return milage, & it was refused on this ground, that being at P de Chien his head-quarters, after the treaty was concluded this business & duties of his Commission were at an end. On its appearing however, finally to conclude the arra[n]gemt, that it was necessary for him to come to St. Louis, his milage was allowed to that point.

There is no instance known to me, where an officer of the

army, called upon to perform trust like this, has not received the same allowance, which Genl McNeil has recvd.⁹

J. H. EATON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of New Hampshire, John McNeil had served with some distinction in the War of 1812. He remained in the army after the war and was brevetted a brigadier general in 1824. He was appointed in 1829 to treat with the Indians at Prairie du Chien and shortly afterward resigned his commission, having been appointed surveyor of the port of Boston.

2. Prairie du Chien was an important military outpost on the upper Mississippi.

3. Enclosed with this letter was a statement from the Treasury Department showing that McNeil had been paid slightly more than \$1400 for the travel and services mentioned above. It is not clear why Eaton was giving this information to Polk at this particular time.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington, March 30, 1830

Papers relating to claim in favor of the children of Menoah Gowing who died in the service in 1815 have been received. The widow's pension ceased when she remarried in 1819. The residue goes to the children when their guardianship is cleared up.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM ALEXANDER McDONALD¹

Honored Sir

Pulaski 1st April 1830

The pappers relative to the business I got you to attend to has come safe to hand. I have this day put in the office a receipt directed to the 3rd. Auditor & another to the Treasuer. I shall always feal under obligations to you for your prompt & faithfull attention to my busines.² I have no nwse of importens to write you. I suppose ere this time you heard of the death of Mr. Pillow,

that is Gideon Pillow.³ Several old men in this neighbourhood have died this last winter & one was the Father of your acquaintenc A V Brown.

ALEXR McDONALD

Addressed to Washington.

1. One of the first settlers in the Mount Pisgah community in Giles County, McDonald organized a Methodist church there. He was a well-known preacher in this vicinity for many years.

2. McDonald had asked Polk to try to get some action on a claim by John Ross Jr. for remuneration for military services some five years earlier. The claim was honored and the money forwarded to McDonald.

3. Early settler in Middle Tennessee, whose son, Gideon J. Pillow, later gained some prominence in politics and in military service.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. April 3, 1830

The Postmaster-General directs the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosures have not been found. Polk's notation on the letter indicates that the postmaster at Brownham, Lincoln County, had resigned and that no successor was being recommended. This post office was discontinued shortly thereafter.

FROM EBENEZER HILL AND JOHN H. LAIRD¹

Dr. Sir,

Fayetteville April 10, 1830

In December last we took an assignment of a contract for carrying the mail on route No. 144, (subject to the approbation of the Post Master General) which had been undertaken by a Mr. Lew Dobyons of Kentucky.² He accordingly wrote to the Department relinquishing it in our favor. We at the same time sent an offer to take it on the same terms upon which it had been given to Mr. Dobyons. Accompanying our offer was a recommendation from our Post Master, Maj. J.[ohn] P. McConnell.³ On

the first of Jan. we commenced carrying the mail on the above route and have continued it in daily expectation of receiving an answer from the Department together with the usual Bonds &c. As yet we have received nothing and are in uncertainty whether we look to the Post Office Department for compensation or are dependant on Mr. Lew Dobyns.

This much by way of preamble. The object of this is to request you if you have a moments leisure from your public duties to devote to your friends in Fayetteville, to ascertain if the transfer of the contract from Dobyns to us has been or will be made. You are acquainted with and can testify to the respectability of Maj. McConnells recommendation to which if you are sufficiently acquainted with us to do it with a *clear conscience*, we should be glad to have you add your own. In expectation of the transfer being made we have been at some considerable expense, and as Mr. Dobyns resides in Kentucky, a great distance from the route too far to attend to it personally, and too much out of the way for us to depend upon him for our compensation we should be glad to have a different arrangement made, to receive both our instructions and our pay directly from the Department.

In conclusion permit us to assure you we have no particular favors to ask of the President, or any of the heads of Departments, Mr. [William T.] Barry excepted. We have no ambition to become foreign ministers, collectors of the revenue, head or tail clerks, nor even Printers of the old Documents—nor have we any further message to trouble you with, unless it be (if perfectly convenient) E. Hills compliments and kind remembrance to his old friend and fellow-apprentice, the 2d. Comptroller, Hon. Isaac Hill.⁴

EBENR HILL, JOHN H. LAIRD

Addressed to Washington. The letter is in the handwriting of Ebenezer Hill.

1. Hill was editor and publisher of *The Village Messenger*, a weekly newspaper, from March 1823 to March 1825. The paper was discontinued for slightly more than a year, and in May 1826, J. B. Hill, a younger brother, joined Ebenezer Hill in editing and publishing the paper until July 1828. In 1829 Ebenezer Hill and Laird began to collaborate in the publication of

another paper in Fayetteville. Later Laird moved to Bedford County, where he was the editor and publisher of a newspaper for more than a decade.

2. Unidentified.

3. An early settler who had lived for a while in Davidson County, he operated a tavern in Fayetteville and served as postmaster for many years. At his death (two months after this letter was written), his son, Felix Grundy McConnell, succeeded him as postmaster but soon moved to Alabama, where he had a distinguished political career.

4. Isaac Hill was a newspaper editor and political figure in New Hampshire, the state in which Ebenezer Hill was born. He became governor of his state and also served in the United States Senate. The apprenticeship here mentioned was served in Amherst, New Hampshire.

TO WILLIAM GORDON

Sir

Washington City April 17th 1830

By a letter addressed to me from the Bounty Land Office on the 3rd. Decr. 1825, it appears that *James Shirl[e]*¹ late a soldier in the army of the U. States was killed in action, and that his heir at law was entitled to bounty land. The Patent could not be issued at that time for want of proof [of] heirship. The enclosed papers contain the proof of heirship & I desire that if it shall be found to be satisfactory, that a warrant may be issued to Mrs. [Elizabeth] Owens,² and that you will transmit it to the office of the Commissioners of the General Land office, with a request that a Patent may be issued and forwarded to me.

You will also confer a favour, if after you have examined the enclosed papers, you will hand them to the Third Auditor of the Treasury [Peter Hagner], with a request that he will inform me what *arrearages of pay if any were due* to the soldier at the time of his death.³

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington.

1. The correspondence concerning Shirley centered in Giles County, but it can only be presumed that this was his place of residence. His sister, Mrs. Owens, was definitely a resident of Giles.

2. Efforts to procure for Mrs. Owens the land patent dated back for several years. Col. George Bumgarner of the Elkton area sent Polk some significant papers. About a month before this letter was written, Polk had

been asked by Mrs. Owens and her husband, William Owens, to act as their attorney in this matter but had declined.

3. For a reply to this inquiry see James Eakin to Polk, April 23, 1830.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Bolivar April 17th 1830

Enclosed you have a deed from us to the Reprs. of Robert Rivers.¹ The payments are made complete by cash & note of the sheriff secured in Bank to my satisfaction. You will please sign the deed have your acknowledgement taken before some court (or probably Notary Public) and forward the deed again to Willie Peck² at this place. It is important to Rivers Reprs. that they should have the deed fully executed as early as practicable.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.
2. Polk noted in an endorsement that he executed the deed, and on May 7, 1830, he sent it to Rev. Wiley Peck.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. April 19, 1830

William Phelps' discharge and letters from Captain Joseph Phillips and Thomas Kercheval have been received. Still lacking, however, is deposition of the claimant specified in letter of December 9, 1826.¹

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. See Hagner's letter to Polk on that date.

FROM WILLIAM F. SMITH¹

Sir

Fayetteville. 20th April 1830

Inclosed you will [find] a Land Warrant & I want you to obtain all the necessary information relative to possessioning the same for the Benefit of the owners thereof. If possibly [treat] the

value or supposed value & all & every thing relative thereto as though it was your own property & when you return to Tennessee & visit Lincoln [County] you can communicate to me what you have done. If you can sell it for \$2 pr. acre do so. No news of much general Interest. We expect you will use your efforts to put down the Yankee petitions against Sunday mails² & also reduce the Duty on Bailing &c. Avert the Yankee strides to a Consolidated Government. Keep the State Sovereignty untainted by interference of the Judiciary, hasten the navigation round the Mussel Shoals & clear out Elk River for all of our Cotton Boats to the number of 150 are now stationary for want of removal of the obstruction in our rivers.

WILLIAM F. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. Smith was a physician in Fayetteville. He was a son of William Smith, a Revolutionary War veteran, who qualified as justice of the peace in Lincoln County as early as 1810.

2. In March 1830 Senator Theodore Frelinghuysen of New Jersey presented a resolution favoring discontinuation of mail delivery on Sunday. The motion was tabled, but debate on the question resumed in May, when it was again tabled.

FROM JOHN H. RIVERS¹

Dear Sir

Pulaski April 21st 1830

Mr Thomas Rutherford² of this county who was placed on the pension roll in 1819 or 20 & has continued there untill Lately, this day informs me that within a few months past his name was stricken from the list of pensioners & his pay as such discontinued. If such is the truth, I have no doubt that it has been done under some misrepresentation. I know that he can bring himself as satisfactorily within the pension laws as any man in the *union*. The old man tells me that some of his neighbors who are unfriendly with him have made affidavits against him lately & forwarded them to the War office. May I ask you to learn the cause of his being stricken off, & the additional requisites to place him on again, & inform me of them as soon as convenient.

JNO. H. RIVERS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A lawyer in Pulaski, Rivers had been an officer in the militia. Early in 1827 he formed a partnership with Aaron V. Brown, formerly a law partner of Polk.

2. Investigation by the War Department found that Rutherford had indeed enlisted in the North Carolina line during the Revolution but that he had served only a few days. Affidavits by citizens of Giles County had set the investigation in motion, and Rutherford was removed from the pension roll and never restored. A notation by Polk on May 14, 1830, said that the proof against Rutherford was conclusive and that the War Department had said that no testimony could be produced that would restore him to the pension list.

FROM JANE MARIA WALKER

Dear Brother

[Columbia], April 22nd 1830

Not knowing whether Knox¹ has left or not I enclose it to you. Please forward it if he is gone. Ophelia² is some better. Give my love to Sarah and Jane. Mr. Walker is still in Nashville. I cannot tell when he will go on. I expect him tomorrow and he will write you when he is coming.

J M WALKER

Addressed to Washington

1. Apparently Knox and Jane, children of James and Jane Maria Walker, were visiting the Polks in Washington. In later years Knox Walker was to become Polk's private secretary.

2. Ophelia Polk Hays was pregnant at this time, and this reference possibly is related to that condition.

FROM JAMES EAKIN¹

Washington. April 23, 1830

Letter of the 17th² with its enclosure has been received. The claim for a balance of pay due James Shirley was adjusted and \$110.78 was paid to Hon. George McDuffie, his attorney, on May 11, 1822.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of New Jersey, Eakin was chief clerk in the Second Auditor's office for a number of years.

2. See Polk to William Gordon, April 17, 1830.

FROM SAMUEL BAKER¹

Dear Sir

Pulaski April 24th 1830

Sometime Last fall, I had my pension papers prepared & left them in Mr G.[erman] Lesters office to be transmitted to you at Washington. I have never heard from you, & can not Learn whether my papers have left this [place] or not. They may & most probably have been lost or mislaid in the office. Will you be kind enough to inform me at this place whether they have ever reached Washington.

SAMUEL BAKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Baker had served in the North Carolina continental line and was placed on the pension list on December 16, 1831.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. April 27, 1830

In reply to the enquiry, it appears that patents were issued on September 1, 1824, and October 10, 1825, to the heirs and legal representatives of Joel Childress. Another patent was issued to Richard Inge¹ on April 22, 1828, as assignee of the said Childress. The other purchases by Childress were relinquished to the United States except one on which \$110 was paid, but on which \$210 is still due.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, General Land Office (RG 49), National Archives.

1. Unidentified, but probably a kinsman of William Inge of Lincoln County, who later moved to Alabama.

FROM GEORGE GRAHAM

Washington. April 30, 1830

Enclosed is a patent for military bounty land in Arkansas Territory in the name of Elizabeth Owens, heir of James Shirley.

Addressed to Washington.

TO [WILLIAM POLK]

Dear Sir

Washington City May 1st 1830

This morning I received your letter of the 28th April, and will procure for you the *plaster* which you wish. At the time your letter reached me *Dr Hall*¹ of the Ho. Repts. from N.C. happened to be present. I handed it to him, and on reading it, he immediately said that he could give a very simple prescription which had been often successfully applied. At my request he wrote what I enclose to you which may possibly be of some use.

I am pleased to learn that you will make a visit with your family to Tennessee, the ensuing summer. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. P. and yourself at my house, where I trust it will comport with your convenience to spend a portion of your time. Nothing I assure you would give me more pleasure.

Present my congratulations to *Leonidas*,² upon the event which you announce will take place on the 6th Inst. I expect to travel home by the way of New York, up the great canal, visit the Falls of Niagara, and thence across the Lake and through Ohio & Ky, and it is therefore probable that I will not reach home earlier than the middle or last of June.

JAMES K. POLK

No address available. This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Thomas H. Hall, a physician, served eight terms in the United States House of Representatives, 1817-25 and 1827-35.

2. A son of Col. William Polk, Leonidas married Frances Devereux on May 6, 1830. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1827 and later became a prominent general in the army of the Confederate States of America. He was also a bishop in the Episcopal church.

FROM [THOMAS L. MCKENNEY]

Washington, May 5, 1830

The Secretary of War has received Polk's letter and will inform him as soon as he acts upon it.

Addressed to Washington. The letter is unsigned.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. May 7, 1830

Claim of Captain Henry M. Newlin has been examined and the papers are being returned. There is no proof that he served as quartermaster or judge advocate. More detailed testimony is needed to support his claim for loss of the horse.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM B. LEWIS¹

Sir, 2d Auditor's Office 7 May 1830

Your letter of the 3d instant enclosing a certificate of Maj Armstrong, in relation to James Shirley, has been received.

On the 11 May 1822 a settlement was made of the claim of James Shirley late private of Capt Blackstone's Co. 7 Infantry, and the amount paid to the Hon. Geo. McDuffie, an Attorney for Martin Shirley the heir. The evidence of heirship is contained in a Certificate of John Simkins, Judge of the Court of Ordinary for Edgefield district So. Ca. dated 13: April 1822 which is filed with the above settlement, together with the original certificate of service and death, from Capt. F. Blackstone. These documents were considered sufficient to authorise the above settlement, for the Pay & clothing of James Shirley from the 1 Sept. 1815 when last paid, to the 15 December 1817, the date of his death.

W. B. LEWIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Lewis, of Nashville, was a long-time friend and political ally of Jackson and a brother-in-law of John H. Eaton. He lived in the White House during Jackson's administration and received appointment as Second Auditor from Jackson.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. May 24, 1830

A contract for Route 144 has been sent to Fayetteville for Messrs. Hill and Laird to execute. Upon its return pay will be forwarded them from January 1, 1830.¹

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. See Hill and Laird to Polk, April 10, 1830.

FROM [SELAH R. HOBBIE?]

Washington. May 25, 1830

The Postmaster-General refers the enclosed papers for consideration and advice. The member of Congress from that part of the state does not know Dr. Reddick Dishough¹ who is recommended for appointment.

Addressed to Washington. Since Polk had received several similar letters from him, Hobbie is suggested as the writer of this unsigned letter.

1. Dishough was appointed postmaster at Middleburg in Hardeman County. No recommendation from Polk was found.

FROM JACKSON CALHOUN BLACKBURN¹

Dear Sir, Emory College Oxford Geo. June 18th [1830]

At a recent meeting of the members of the Few Society (of Emory College), whose specific objects are the attainments of literature & improvement in Elocution, you were unanimously elected to the privilege of Honorary membership with that Body.

Will you sir, at as early an opportunity as may suit your convenience, gratify us with the pleasure of enrolling your name upon a list with those whom we shall ever be proud to acknowledge a[s] patrons of our Institution & friends of science gener-

ally? Your compliance will greatly facilitate our objects & afford our body no ordinary pleasure.

JACKSON CALHOUN BLACKBURN
Corresponding Secretary

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Not otherwise identified.

FROM CHARLES K. GARDNER

Washington. June 23, 1830

Thirty-two petitioners have recommended Robert Dickson¹ to succeed John P. McConnell, deceased, as postmaster at Fayetteville, Lincoln County. The Postmaster-General solicits advice.

Addressed to New York and forwarded from there to Washington.

1. He was a merchant from a prominent Fayetteville family. He had served as mayor of the town and as chairman of the county court of pleas and quarter sessions.

FROM SAMUEL GWIN¹

Dr Sir,

Washington June 29, 1830

Since we last wrote you in regard of the vacancy in the P.O. at Fayetteville Te, Several other candidates have appeared & which I deem proper to apprise you of.

William Neild² is recommended by 46 petitioners & by letters from J.[ames] Bright,³ S.[amuel] W. Carmack⁴ & by Isaac Holman.⁵ R.[obert] H. McEwin[McEwen] has recommended Felix McConnell⁶ (Son of late pm) but in case of his non appointment recommends Saml. E. Gilliland.⁷

No news here. The "veto"⁸ goes well in Pa. a great noise in Ky & Ohio but will I am persuaded settle down with a new laurel on the brow of the old "Hero."

SAML. GWIN

Addressed to New York and forwarded to Washington.

1. A clerk in the Post Office Department.

2. He served as a county trustee, 1826–28 and 1854–58, and was ranger of Lincoln County, 1841–43.

3. A former surveyor, who served as clerk of the circuit court in Lincoln County for about twenty-five years. He was appointed to the commission selected to settle a boundary dispute with Kentucky.

4. Prominent young lawyer who moved to Florida in 1832 but retained a summer home in Fayetteville.

5. Early settler in Lincoln County. He founded the settlement of Mulberry a few miles to the northeast of Fayetteville. He was a farmer of limited formal education but was influential enough in the county to be elected to the state senate in the 18th General Assembly.

6. He received the appointment and served more than three years.

7. He had been a business partner of McEwen since 1826.

8. On May 27, 1830, Jackson vetoed a bill authorizing federal aid for a road from Maysville to Lexington, Kentucky.

FROM DAVID JARRETT

Dear Sir,

Jackson Ju[1]y 20th 1830

I recd a note a few days ago from Mr [James] Walker informing me that he had requested James Brown to examine Coln [William] Polks land for a division. These lands have been examined by me some time since. Owing to the absence of Dickens,¹ a division has not taken place. Dickens requested me a few days ago to hand the examination to Coln Polk, so that he may divide with the executors of Maj. [Samuel] Polk and I accordingly agreeede to do so. In Some Short time the papers will be handed to either you or Coln Polk.

David Jeffreys² wished to Buy the whole of the Boddy tract and requested me not to examine and Value it.³ Jeffreys has Sold the place where he lived and will build on the Boddy tract & I think it will take a whole tract to make him a good Settlement.

This is the 2d weeke I have beene confined here as a grand juror for the Circuit Court & I may possibly stay the whole of next weeke. Not one word of news, health is good, fine Crops &c.

D JARRETT

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Samuel Dickens, a former North Carolina legislator and congressman, moved to Madison County, Tennessee, in 1820. He engaged in the business of

locating land warrants and also became the agent for locating escheated lands there for the University of North Carolina. He acquired considerable land himself and became a prominent businessman in his county.

2. He was one of the first justices of the peace in Haywood County.

3. This is probably a reference to a tract that was at one time owned by Elijah Boddie.

FROM D. W. WOOD¹ TO
JAMES K. POLK AND JAMES WALKER

Dear Sirs

Bolivar 31st July 1830

This day the two hundred and fifty three .2 acre tract of land belonging to the estate of Jenkins Whiteside decsd. was sold under execution to satisfy a claim in favor of some firm (Bedford & Walker).² This land lies in the western part of this County and I learn from Majr. [John H.] Bills that the locators interest of that tract belongs to the Estate of Majr. Saml. Polk decsd. and of which estate you are administrators. I purchased the land today when sold under execution and had purchased it twice before for taxes. If you have had the locators interest set apart to you please inform me. If you have not I would like that you would authorise Majr. Bills or some one to attend to the division. I will make a quit Claim deed for the locators interest. There are now several applicants to purchase the land and it might possibly be to the interest to all parties concerned to sell the whole tract together. This is only suggested for your consideration. I have never been on this tract and of course know but little about it. In as much as I am particularly anxious to dispose of my interest I must ask this favour of you to attend to this matter as early as convenient.

D. W. Wood

P.S. Please direct your communication to Pleasant Hill, Harde-
man County. D.W.W.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Early settler and prominent businessman in Bolivar, Hardeman County.
2. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM POLK

Dear Sir.

Willsgrove Thursday [August 1830]¹

I am engaged in making a Report under the order of the Supreme Court preparatory to the adjustment of the claims of Polk, Doherty² &c, and find it necessary to have the Division of the lands located by Polk & Porter,³ under the contract between them & myself. If the papers have arrived it would oblige me were you or Mr. [James] Walker or both to come here to make the division. Should the papers not have arrived, be good enough to send me the contract or a copy of it (not having the duplicate with me) in order that I may be enabled to proceed as far as I can untill the arrival of the platts & valuation made up for a division which I hope will [be] soon.

WILL POLK

This letter was delivered by hand and bears only the name of James K. Polk on the outside.

1. No date appeared, but in an endorsement Polk indicated that he answered it on August 26, 1830. Willsgrove was a plantation home owned by William Polk in Maury County, near Spring Hill.

2. George Doherty was associated with Samuel Polk, Will Polk, and others in locating and surveying land. He had received a large land grant in Bedford County.

3. Joseph B. Porter and Samuel Polk had worked together in locating and surveying lands in the Western District.

FROM DAVID JARRETT

Denmark August 2d 1830

Mr. John White¹ will hand you this bundle of papers which will show the quality and worth of Coln Polks land Located by Polk, Porter & Co. I am in hopes that no injury have beene Sustained by negligence on my part in this matter. Some grumblng have been heard, and it is possible that some uneasiness of mind have beene fealt. And uneasiness is Common to all man, and if not from this quarter, it *must* Come from another, so as to Comply with the natural disposition of that animal Called Man.

DAVID JARRETT

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Probably John White of Columbia. He was an early settler, who was later a trustee of Jackson College.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Columbia. August 14th 1830

Many of your old friends in this quarter of the country, who have not had it in their power to visit you, have expressed a warm desire to see you before you returned to Washington, and if it would comport with your convenience to visit Columbia, nothing would gratify them more. Knowing that the rule of conduct which you have prescribed for yourself, in your present visit to your residence, would prevent you from accepting any public demonstration of that respect which they sincerely entertain for you, they have tendered none. I hope however that you may have it in your power at some time most convenient to yourself, to dine with me, and thus afford an opportunity in an informal manner, to your very numerous personal & political friends here personally to greet you. If it will not impose on you to much fatigue I must insist on you to come, & if you do I hope you can be pleased to inform me on what day. I hope you will accept of my House as your quarters during your stay with us.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to the Hermitage. This is a copy in Polk's handwriting and signed by him.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dear Sir

Hermitage August 15th 1830

I have recd. your favor of the 14th instant, & hasten to reply that my public engagements will prevent me the pleasure of visiting you in Columbia. The Chikisaw Indians are to be at Franklin on the 20th and, I suppose, the Choctaws on the 25th instant.¹ I set out tomorrow to meet them, will be at Franklin on

Saturday, from whence I mean, if business will permit, to visit & stay one night with my friend Genl Wm. Polk,² of which you will be advised, & when it will afford me pleasure to meet you. I will be happy to see you at Franklin, & will, if I can spare the time, ride with you to Genl Wm. Polks. I am much pressed with business, must return to the city the moment I have had an interview with the Indians and arranged business with them. I am much wanted there.

Mr. Van Buren writes that our Agent Mr Rhind,³ has concluded a treaty with the Port placing us on the footing of the most favored Nations.

The King of England still lingers, and our minister there awaiting, with anxious solicitude, a final answer on the arrangement of our West India Trade.⁴ Gu[e]rrero in Mexico, having defeated Genl Bravo, last accounts place him within three Leagues of Mexico. It is fair to conclude, if this be true, that by this time Gustomenta[Bustamente] is deposed, & Gu[e]rrero the Executive of Mexico.⁵ We had just commenced negotiations with them, under sanguine prospects of general success, which a change must greatly delay, if not defeat.

ANDREW JACKSON

Addressed to Columbia, the letter was marked "Private."

1. Jackson met with the two tribes and came to an agreement with the Chickasaws. This treaty was not ratified, however, and a new one was finally negotiated by John Coffee in October 1832. As a result of this conference at Franklin, a treaty with the Choctaws was negotiated in September 1830 by Coffee and John H. Eaton. Under these treaties the tribes gave up their lands east of the Mississippi.

2. William Polk had been offered a commission as a brigadier general during the War of 1812 but had declined. Nevertheless, he was frequently given that honorary title in Tennessee.

3. Charles Rhind was a Scottish-born merchant and steamboat agent in New York. He was United States consul at Odessa in 1829 and then headed a commission that negotiated a treaty with the Ottoman Porte that was signed May 7, 1830. After this venture into diplomacy, Rhind retired to New York, where he continued his business activities.

4. George IV died during 1830. Louis McLane, United States minister to England, 1829-31, witnessed the conclusion of the long negotiation between the two countries by which the British West Indies trade was finally opened to the United States.

5. Jackson's information was not entirely correct. Bustamente was not overthrown until 1832. Meanwhile, in the rapidly changing political struggle, Guerrero had been executed in 1831.

FROM COLLIN S. TARPLEY

Dear Sir

Pulaski August 15th 1830

Enclosed is the record I have had prepared for the purpose of obtaining a Pension for old Mr. Hudson.¹ Be so good as to examine it and let me know whether you think it sufficient or not. If it be Sufficient please take it to Washington and have the necessary arrangements made and inform me by Letter as early as possible.

C. S. TARPLEY

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Hall Hudson was at this time a resident of Giles County. He was living in Virginia when the Revolution broke out. It is not clear when he first moved to Tennessee, but he seems to have lived for a while in Lincoln County before moving to Giles.

FROM SAMUEL D. INGHAM

Washington, August 16, 1830

In reply to Polk's letter of the 31st Ingham encloses a copy of his letter dated March 30.¹

No address has been found. Since Polk was known to have returned to Tennessee, it was probably addressed to Columbia.

1. This copy has not been found.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. August 21, 1830

Samuel Knox¹ is not eligible to receive benefits under the act of March 18, 1818, since he did not serve in the continental establishment. Isaac Eoff is ineligible for the same reason. The claim of Henry Goodnight still lacks satisfactory proof.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A resident of Bedford County, Samuel Knox had served in the South Carolina line. He was placed on the pension roll in April 1833.

FROM EZEKIEL P. McNEAL

Dear Sir

Bolivar Augt. 24 1830

Your letter of 12th Inst. was recd. yesterday. If I am not much mistaken the estimate I made of the location interest in the Alexander tract was \$3.50 per acre, though if you can sell for 3\$. it would be a fair Sale at this time. Land has fallen since the fall of 1828, the time that land was valued. As to the exchange of lands it would not suit unless, it could be effected in the sale of both tracts. My father [Thomas McNeal] devised his Maury land to be sold and out of the sale certain Cash legacies are to be paid principally to the young children, & as they will not need the funds shortly, the Executors will sell the land on liberal credits. If you could have your land sold we might Exchange the Maury lands for your lands. We think we ought to get \$8 per acre for that land on 1.2.3 & 4 years time. This may be an extravigant calculation. Myself & Jno H Bills will be in Maury County in October for the purpose of making a sale if possible. Suppose you buy it. If you dont think of doing so & see land purchasers please say to them that my Fathers old place is for sale &c.

We are all well. My respects to your Wife and Mother.

E. P. McNEAL

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM HUGH LAWSON WHITE

My dear Sir,

Knoxville Augt. 24th 1830

For Seven long weeks the Supreme and Circuit Courts have kept us in Knoxville.

On next Monday the Circuit Court again sits. You must not suppose we have many suits on the Dockets. A few last us a long time. I despair of seeing Columbia this year.

I can hardly tell you how we are in politics, nominally a majority Jacksonian. How we may come out of the Ballot Box is another affair.

I must ask the favor of you to collect from Mr. [Joseph B.] Porters Representative¹ the one hundred Dollars due me and remit it when recd. Between Politics and religion my funds are pretty low, therefore I need the money.

HU L. WHITE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Polk's endorsement reveals that Thomas J. Porter was one of the executors of his father's will. He was short of funds at the time that he was approached but promised to pay shortly. He had succeeded his father as court clerk in Maury County.

FROM DAVID JARRETT

Dear Coln

Denmark August 27 1830

Enclosed you will find the division of Coln W[illiam] Polks land which division I Consider Veary near correct, agreeable to my Valuation. One tenth part agreeable to Valuation is about \$1494 dollars. I am of opinion that either of the lottes will bring that amt. Some Short time after J[ohn] White Started to Columbia with the examination &c I recd. Veary friendly letter from *you* Asking *me* for Candidness[?]. I do excuse your frankness as you desire. There is nothing so desirable in this work as friendship, and you my dear friend gave me good advise. I am but a speck of Mortality, Consequantley, always liable to err. But as far as it is in my power I will most assuredly take your kind advise. I will keep your kind letter to feast my eyes upon in my dull moments, and hoping at the same time that the time may come when I will be able to do you alike kind favour. Please present my respect to my old friends of Columbia and in particular to your lady.

D JARRETT

P.S. Times are moore sickly than usual, at this season. I have been indisposed my selfe, my nervs are somewhat affected at this

time. I hope from the kind feeling you have towards me, that you will (at least in a charitable manner) receive all that I send you as Candidness[?].

D J

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

My Dear Sir,

August 31st 1830 Hermitage

After the conclusion of my talk with the Indians, the result of which you have no doubt heard before this, I felt too much oppressed by the heat of the weather and the necessity of hastening the tedious journey which I am to undertake tomorrow, to comply with the polite request expressed in your note of the 14th inst. It would have afforded me the greatest pleasure to have seen you & Mrs. Polk and our common friends at Columbia, but I trust our old acquaintance with each other can readily pardon the postponement of it to another time.

ANDREW JACKSON

P.S. The Treaty with the Chikesaws, satisfactory to all, has this day been signed & duly executed, & I have no doubt but the Choctaws will follow the example, leaving the Cherokees, & Creeks, under the guardianship of *Mr. Wirt*.¹ If I mistake not, the Creeks will have a delegation at Washington before Congress meets. They did not expect such an answer as I directed to be made to them. When you see my friends Genl Polk and Lady, make my kind salutations to them, & Lucius, & particularly to my Son. I am off tomorrow morning. I have in the Chikesaw treaty destroyed the serpent, & I hope so soon as I arrive in the city, to have the satisfaction of opening the West india trade to our country. This, if it be, will enable me to make *a short, but pleasing communication to Congress*.

A. J.

Addressed to Columbia. The letter is in the handwriting of Andrew Jackson Donelson, but the postscript, marked "Private," is in Jackson's hand.

This letter has been published in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson*, IV, 179–180.

1. William Wirt, a prominent Virginia lawyer, had served as United States Attorney General, 1817–29. He resumed private practice in Baltimore and served as legal counsel to the Indians.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Columbia Tennessee Augt. 31st 1830

Though frequently applied to, it is but seldom that I recommend any one for office. The commendatory letters for office are ordinarily easy to obtain, and persons giving them without intending to mislead or deceive the appointing powers, but too often act more from a spirit of accommodation to the applicant, and a want of real courage to refuse, than from any personal knowledge of him themselves. In this way I have no doubt the Government may sometimes be led into mistakes in regard to appointments for they cannot personally know the thousand applicants who present themselves with their vouchers and letters. The person (*James H. Piper Esqr.*)¹ whom I now beg leave to bring to your notice & favourable consideration I know personally, and think I know his character & qualifications for the office which he solicits. He desires the appointment of “Commissioner of the Land Office (vice) Mr. [George] Graham deceased. *Mr. Piper* is a Virginian & married the daughter of the late Alexander Smyth of Wythe. He has resided in this state for a few years and is at present the President of the literary institution at this place. He is a man of learning, of high character, of steady business habits and in every respect a gentleman. He has the reputation of being an eminent mathematician and is said to possess a thorough knowledge of practical surveying. He is moreover in addition to his studious, steady habits, as far as I can judge of him a man of very superior talents, and I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion, that considering his talents, his habits of industry and application to business, that he is peculiarly fitted to the duties of the office of “Commissioner of the General Land office”—requiring as it does so much judgment & integrity, and being at the same time one of so much detail.

Mr. Piper is intimately known to Governor Floyd² and many other gentlemen of high standing in Virginia, whose testimonials in his behalf he will cause to be forwarded to you by the time you reach Washington.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This is a copy, written in Polk's hand and signed by him.

1. A cousin of James Walker, Piper had lived in the Walker household and served as tutor for the children. In 1828 he became president of Columbia College, a school established for young men planning to enter the ministry.

2. John Floyd, governor of Virginia, 1830-34, had served six consecutive terms in the United States House of Representatives.

FROM ALFRED BALCH

Dear Sir, Nashville 3d Sept 1830
At the last term of the Chy.[Chancery] Ct at Cola.[Columbia] I agreed to continue the case of Col Thos Polk against yr Fathers Exrs. A cross Bill has been filed and we are not ready as yet but will be after a while. Congress has fixed the meeting of the Federal court on the same day that the Chy. Ct convenes in your town. Unexpectedly to me I am prevented from attending. I hope you will continue over the case of Col Wm Polk. So soon as the Federal court adjourns I shall be in Cola where I wish to see you on some business which concerns myself and the heirs of your Father.

A BALCH

Addressed to Columbia.

FROM WILLIAM B. ROSS¹

Sir, Carrolville September 8. 1830
Unfortunately in breaking the seal of your letter in which was a transcript of Thomas Harris's Grant for 500 acres which you wish me to make a Division of in five Equal parts there is two cases torn out so as not to be understood properly.

Therefore I must request you to send me another transcript of the Grant. And likewise I wish to let you Know that there has been & now are persons cutting timber of the most Valuable Kind of[f] the land & if you request it I will forbid it.

I would take it as a singular favour if you would make Enquiry in the Clerks Office in Columbia to Know what Amount moneys appears to be due the Heirs of John Hoge² Decd. & who is Guardian of his Orphans & who was the gardians Security. I wish that information only without any transcript & by giving me that Information you will confer a favour & I will as soon as I receive another copy of the grant proceed to make a division of that tract of land Agreeable to your request.

Wm. B. Ross

P.S. John Hoge died some 10 or 12 year ago. A Esqr [James] Love of Maury County was his Administrator & managed his Estate.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A resident of Wayne County and a surveyor. He seems to have had some family connections in Maury County, but these have not been identified.

2. John Hoge died in March 1815, and his widow, Agnes, died a little more than a year later. Their heirs have not been identified.

FROM MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE

Dear Sir,

Washington, 14 Sep. 1830

I find from the Records in my possession that a Wm Gray,¹ acting as Lieut recd from the State of Virga 2666 acres and if he Served over 7 Years he may have got more. I shall take special care to ascertain if his Warrant has ever been located, sometimes lost Warrants have been found & fraudulently located. But I also find that a certain Wm Gray, a Lieut on Continental Establishment, is entitled to 300 acres from the U.S. (from the State of Virga) which is most probably the same person—of this I shall be able to inform you shortly. I am going to New York, for a short time, for the Stationairy of the House and will write again on my return, as I shall then most probably have Some information from Richmond.

If Mr Gray served to the end of the War he wd[would] be entitled to his *Commutation* pay and perhaps never recd that.

MW. ST. CLAIR CLARKE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Several men by this name served with Virginia troops during the Revolution, hence no positive identification has been made. Polk's notation on the letter, however, indicates that his heirs were living in Bedford County at this time.

FROM CAVE JOHNSON¹

Dr. Sir

Clarksville 27th Sept 1830

I enclosed your memorandum to one of my friends in Springfield who called on Mr. Cone.² He says he gave the Bond but thinks the grant for the land ought to be furnished him by the Exrs. of ——— Polk Decd and says that he has paid the taxes on the whole tract ever since the Grant & that the Exrs. ought to pay him their proportion before he makes the title & is desirous that I should make these statements to you & get an answer before the session of the Circuit Court at Springfield which sits the 2nd Monday in October, where he will meet me & make the title, if you agree to his terms. Direct to me at Springfield. Suppose we go by Boston, New York &c before the session. I can be ready at the shortest notice.

I shall probably have no opposition & if I do, none but my former opponent who is not now dangerous.³

Remember me to Mrs. P. & tell her I have no hope of getting married without the interposition of some friend & that I shall seek her assistance next winter.

C JOHNSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A Clarksville lawyer, who became a close friend and political ally of Polk. He served seven terms in the United States House of Representatives, 1829–37 and 1839–45, and was Postmaster General during Polk's administration.

2. John Cone, a businessman of Springfield.

3. In 1829 Johnson had defeated the incumbent, John H. Marable.

FROM JAMES BRIGHT

Dr. Sir,

Fayetteville Sepr. 29th 1830

Your favor of the 17th inst inclosing a deed to Joel Pinson was handed me by Judge [William E.] Kennedy. The deed I delivered to Mr. Pinson and took up the bond which I here enclose. I am sorry to say that I cannot inform you the result of the 3 lots of land of "60 acres each" in the Nelson tract. I saw Joel Pinson some time before the commencement of our court and informed him that I wished to attend to that business and to say when. He informed me that he or his brother, Nathan,¹ would always be there and either could attend to the business. I accordingly attended but unfortunately they were both absent. However I will in a short time make an appointment and will have the business done and send you the result.

I have lately been appointed by the Governor of our State [William Carroll] to Co-operate with Kentucky in running that part [of] the line between the two States, opposite the Counties of Sumner, Robertson and Montgomery, and will enter upon that duty in Octo or November. This is a small business, but it may have an influence on future prospects, in which you have had the goodness to take so active a part in my behalf.

J. BRIGHT

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Along with his brother Joel, Nathan Pinson was one of the pioneers in the Lincoln County region. They settled in the Swan Creek area, west of Fayetteville. Nathan Pinson was a justice of the peace during the first year of the county's existence.

FROM JAMES BROWN

Dear Sir

Jackson 30th September 1830

I have examined & divided into 6 equal parts the 240 acre tract of land in the name of Enoch Parsons¹ as shown by the enclosed plot, by which I would be willing to risk a division by lot. The midle lots would be best taken with the balance of the tract, but

to take the lots seperately I think I would prefer some of the corner lots as they are high land. The midle lots are mostly bottom land, no good situation to build on them, but good for a farm. Perhaps no 1 is least valuable, but I think there is very little differance.

I have examined the Boddie tract at Jeffries [David Jeffreys]. I think you said in one of your letters, which I have misplaced, that I might sell the whole tract to him if he would buy. I do not think the whole tract very valuable on account of the extensive flat land on it. I would value the tract at \$3. per acre on credits such as is usual these times, 1,2,&3 years. Jeffries has offered \$600 for your interest payable in one and two payments by notes in bank, \$300. 25th Decmb 1831 and same 25th Decmb 1832, which is within 69 dollars of what [I] think the value of the tract to be at 1,2,&3 years, judging from the prices I have got for some of my land in the same neighbourhood. You will wright me shortly your views on that subject.

I have seen Mr. [Samuel] Dickins a few days since; he cant go with me to see Col [William] Polks land. I shall examin them alone next week & report as soon as possible.

Col [Atlas] Jones has paid me \$65. of the money dew in the sale made by Calvin Jones in Henry.

Say to Mr James Walker the drafts inclosed to me by Mr A.[ndrew] C. Hays² were received. The one on Col Nixon³ has been paid. I have not yet presented the balance, but expect they will all be paid. Mr. Chester⁴ has paid a part of the one on him. We begin to have some pasingers both up & down.⁵

JAMES BROWN

Addressed to Polk or James Walker at Columbia.

1. He had been elected to the state senate in Tennessee and had been an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1819. About 1823 he had moved to Claiborne, Alabama, where he continued his political career. He served in the legislature of that state for one term and in 1835 was the unsuccessful Whig candidate for governor.

2. He had been associated with James Walker in the publication of a newspaper in Columbia and had published another paper in Madison County for a short time, beginning in 1822. He moved back to Columbia, however, and became postmaster there.

3. Probably Wesley Nixon of Maury County, who was a colonel in the militia of that county.

4. Probably Robert J. Chester, a merchant of Carthage, Tennessee, who had moved westward after the panic of 1819. He was postmaster at Jackson, 1825-33, and later became United States marshal for the Western District. He was a contractor, a land speculator, and a lumberman. Chester County was named for him.

5. Walker and Brown were beginning a partnership in a stage line and in contracts for carrying the mail.

FROM CAVE JOHNSON

Dr. Sir,

11th Oct 1830 Springfield

I today had your deed executed. I have left the same in the hand of Mr. John [W.] Saunders¹ who will have it proven the 2nd Monday in November & forward it. We have a Special judge in the place of Stuart² who decides that he has no authority to take the probate. Mr Cone desires his grant to be forwarded by mail. The enclosed will show you the amount of taxes paid & also the years. He says he has paid the balance but has not the receipts. His son I think he said has them.

C. JOHNSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Once a resident of Robertson County, he later became sheriff of Montgomery County.

2. Probably Thomas H. Stuart.

FROM GEORGE W. LANE¹

Dear Sir

Athens Ala Otr 16th [1830]

I was informed a few days ago by Mr Estes² that whilst in Columbia you informed him that you had written sometime previous to me, to ascertain something about the claim you put in my hands for collection against G. Gill.³ I received your letter and answered it immediately. I informed you that I brought suit to the first term of your circuit court which came on the first Monday in Sept last. The cause stood for trial at March term. I

had in the meantime written to Mr Walker to send me a transcribe of your letters of executorship which did not come to hand until after court was over. I therefore would not go to trial and not having sufficient ground for a continuance was compelled to take a non suit.

I in a few days secured the transcribe and commenced suit again and trial will be had in December. I want you to have a copy of the whole letters of executorship made out and sent by the first opportunity certified by the presiding magistrate and clerk as what I have received is only the clerks certificate that letters testamentary had been granted to yourself an[d] Walker and not a copy of the same. Gill says that the money had been paid and that he is determined not to pay it again and thinks if he could see you you would compromise with him.

GEORGE W. LANE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Formerly a county judge in Limestone County, Lane was at this time in the Alabama legislature, where he served until 1835 when he became a circuit judge. Later he practiced law in Huntsville.

2. Unidentified.

3. Unidentified.

FROM JOHN H. RIVERS

My Dear Sir

Giles Cty 23rd Oct 1830.

I Enclose you the pension papers of Mr Samuel Baker¹ of this county which I have prepared in a rough but I think, tolerably Substantial form. The old man is a near n[e]ighbour of mine & is very poor & helpless. I am not in the habit of Claiming for such applicants, for I have often been disgusted with the frauds I have seen attempted,² upon the pension office by some of them, but in regard to Mr Baker I can say without hesitation, and would so *testify* if such *things* were usual, that he is utterly unable to make a support for himself & little family. He is old, infirm, generally dissipated in several of his limbs, almost deaf, & in short, every way within the spirit & letter of the acts of Congress. I Know personally that his means of living for many years past

very slender, are now Such as to throw him, in a great measure upon the charity of the neighbourhood for Sustenance, and moreover his prospects of Support are, on account of the Late misfortunes of one of his children, much worse than when his declaration was drafted & Sworn to. Please press his claim upon the attention of the pension office as early as convenient, as in case of Success he will be very much assisted, by receiving Something before this winter passes to furnish himself for the next year. The affidavits of Lester Morris, Mathew Wood, and Benj White,³ all of them I believe Known to you, accompany the declaration. They are old & poor but are esteemed by their acquaintances, honest men.

JOHN H. RIVERS

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Baker had served under Col. Thomas Polk during the Revolution. As stated above, he was placed on the pension list during the next few months. See Baker to Polk, April 24, 1830.

2. This probably refers to the case of Thomas Rutherford of Giles County for whom Rivers acted as agent. Rutherford had received a pension fraudulently and was endeavoring to be restored to the list when he sought Rivers's help.

3. These residents of Giles County had all served during the Revolution and seem to have been known personally to Polk.

FROM JAMES BROWN

Dear Sir

Jackson October 28th 1830

I enclose you the division of E. Williams¹ 640 acre tract. I had not the calls of the tract but suppose from my examination that the tract was about 240 or 250 by 420 or 30 poles but that cant be very material. The division I have made is to run a line through the middle of the tract north & south making 3 lots on each side. Each lot will make a settlement; I believe there is very little diffirnce in the valu of the lots. Either of the lots on the south end could be sold as a lot of 100 acres. Taken clear cross the south end would be about an equal division & would sell, & leave the balance of the tract in good shape.

JAMES BROWN

Addressed to Columbia.

1. An enclosure in Brown's handwriting spells out this name Etheldred Williams. A person with this name had served as postmaster at Rocky Spring in Grainger County, but he has not been positively identified as the person mentioned here.

FROM GEORGE W. LANE

Dear Sir

Athens Ala 10th Nov 1830

I a few days since received your communication with the documents I requested. You are desirous of ascertaining where Gen. E[noch] Parsons resides. From the best information I have on the matter is that he lives in Monroe County near Claiborne this State. Your letters directed there will I expect be attended to.

GEORGE W LANE

Addressed to Washington.

FROM SAMUEL G. SMITH

Dear Sir,

Gainsboro T. 10 Nov 1830

When in your district last it was not in my power to call and see you.

In the course of my travels and observations I am forced to the conclusion that there is a powerful but silent effort making for the political power of the State. The Congressional districts are to be arranged, a Senator to elect, Chancellor and Secretary of State to appoint, all to be done at the next session of the Legislature. The opposition, disaffecteds, discontenteds and neutrals are generally united upon colateral matters in relation to the present administration. If the districts can be arranged to give them the ascendancy we may not expect any open opposition to the present adm. but to bring out a successor and to give tone to public sentiment in his favour. Let him be fairly before the public and all the measures of the present incumbent must yield to or be subservient to the advancement of the [. . .] & his political

cr[o]wd. This may seem to be improbable but there will be some called zealous in this cause at present aspiring and who will make any sacrifice to arrange a district for themselves yet it may in the compromise give the majority into certain hands. This I have taken the liberty to suggest to you because I view it a matter of no ordinary consideration. As it relates to myself individually I have no feeling upon the subject not looking for direction and having no other object than to sustain the cause of the people and an administration of the Government and not of a party.

It is the first glimmering prospect the South and West have had for an equal participation in the Government and I hope the exertions to attain it will be crowned with success. For my own part I am but an humbly and retiring citizen taking no part in the discussion of great political questions leaving them to more able hands, but the enjoyment of my own opinions & privileges I have and always will exercise fearlessly. I have never been a [. . .] or [. . .] man but zealous in my feelings for such principals as I recognized to be correct. I write you in confidence. I would at any time be pleased to hear from you.

SAM G SMITH

Addressed to Columbia and forwarded to Washington. This letter is blotted and cannot be deciphered with confidence.

FROM JOHN W. SAUNDERS

Gent.

Springfield Ten, 13 Nov. 1830

The enclosed Deed from John Cone, of this County, was left with me by the Hon. C. Johnson, with a request that I should have it proven, and certified for registration which you will discover has been attended to.

It should have been forwarded to you, several days since, but in Consequence of the absence of one of the witnesses, during the Term of the Court, until yesterday, I could not do so.

Mr. Cone has recd. Mr Polk's letter, and desires me to acknowledge the receipt of his Grant.

JOHN W. SAUNDERS

Addressed to Polk or James Walker at Columbia.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Nov the 16th 1830

Enclosed I send you old Farther [James] Coffeys¹ pension papers. I wish your early attention to them and inform me what is done, as he heretofore has been disappointed in receiving his papers &c &c.

I have not a word of interest to write you. You must give me the news at Washington this winter &c.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. He had served as a private in the Pennsylvania line during the Revolutionary War and was finally placed on the pension list in March 1833, retroactive to March 4, 1831.

FROM PETER SWANSON¹

Dear Sir

[Giles County] November 22 day 1830

After my compliments to you I have this day to make the foll[ow]ing Request. I have sent you Direction So that you can have William G Berrys² Dispension[?]³ taken. If Nescry[necessary] pleas to talk to him your Self on the Subject. I gave you a commission and Some Memorandum of what time the Dispension[?] must be taken. I wish you would write the Capseon[?] of the Dispension[?] and ask the qustins in Righting agreeabel to what you may think will be nesary Relative to that we was a talking about. If the Treaties with the Chicksaws and Chocktaws are Ratified Surveyors appointed, pleas lete me[?] as soon as possiabl. If the Gentelman of Misspia[Mississippi] is contined or not lete me kno as Soon as ascertained and assist me through the member [. . .] in geting an appontment. If my one[own] peopl is appointed I beleave I will gete an appointment. I can inform you with Certainty who is our Candidates for the canvass. A. V. Brown & Th. [K.] Gordon⁴ for the senate; Holdman[Isaac Holman] and William Fields. I know[?] nothing worth saying any thing about only all well.

PETER SWANSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler in the Campbellville area of Giles County.

2. Unidentified.

3. This letter was written without punctuation and with such inconsistencies in both spelling and capitalization that it is impossible to decipher it with confidence. An effort has been made to divide it into sentences, with periods supplied. The particular word here seems to be "deposition," but its spelling varies.

4. Gordon represented Giles County in the lower house of the General Assembly, 1829-31 and 1835-37. He moved to Giles about 1808 and settled in the Richland region.

FROM JOHN H. MANEY¹

Dear Sir

Trenton, Tennessee Nov 24th 1830

Having learned that Col [Thomas Hart] Benton introduced and passed a bill in the last Session of Congress for the benefit of those who sustained losses by the Indians on our frontiers when engaged in the Spanish trade to Sante Fe and other interior provinces of new Spain to which bill Col [David] Crockett aded the complaints of Bird & Abram Smith² of this District omiting or rather refusing to do any thing with mine which was in a similar or rather more favorable Situation, I forwarded my documents to Col [Adam R.] Alexander when he was a member of your honorable body which I expect can be found in file with the best proof of the circumstance I then could procure. Therefore could I be successfull in solliciting your attention so far as to introduce my complaint I should conceive my prospect quite flattering as others have been provided for in like Situation. Should any information be wanting on this subject I refer you to Col A. R. Alexander in all cases as I expect to start in a few days to explore the province of Texas and will not return till next Summer when I would be glad [to] hear that you had made provisions for my losses sustained as given in the complaint refered to. Should I not reflect the honor due please to forgive.

JOHN H. MANEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.

2. An act was approved by Congress on May 31, 1830, which provided relief for sundry citizens who lost property through Indian depredations. The

claims of Abram and Burd Smith of Madison County were specifically mentioned. It appears that Maney was on the same expedition to Santa Fe in 1825, but his name was not mentioned.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Nov the 24th 1830

I inclose you a declaration of old Mr [George] McLean¹ of Bedford which I wish you to give the proper direction and enclose me the answer as I have no doubt he is not entitled to a pension from his own shewing, but to gratify him I prepared his papers. Old friend Campbell² spoke to me not long since about his claim. I told him you informed me you would apply to Congress for Relief which would be very gratifying to him and his frinds.

Your old frind Esqr [Jeremiah] Dial³ is pretty much in the same Situation. He wants an Act for his benefit. I believe you have his papers.

You must write me as often as your leisure will allow.

I learned a few days since from L. J. Polk that old [Felix] Grundy was a petitioner to stop the Mails on Sunday. If this be so, I would advise him to move to have his *name* stricken off the Roll as he might find some dificulty in settling that matter at the meeting of the Legislature &c.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The correct spelling is probably McLain. George McLain had served as a private in the South Carolina line during the Revolutionary War and was placed on the pension roll in January 1833, retroactive to March 1831.

2. This is perhaps William Campbell, an early settler in Bedford County who had served in the Revolution.

3. Dial had served as a private in the South Carolina line also; he was placed on the pension rolls in January 1833, retroactive to March 1831.

FROM PETER SWANSON AND RICHARD H. ALLEN¹

Pleasants Plane [Giles County]

Dear Sir

25 November 1830

After my compliments I Must appologise to you for Plaging you with Business Not [. . .]² appointment. I have had infor-

mation from General Gains³ of the United States army that there was a Great many Reserve allowed to the Chief of the Chickasaws and Choctaws Indians, that they was intitled to make Saill of them at there pleasure. If So I wisch you to Send us a List of all the men Who is intitled to Claims in Each Nation. We have Maid an arrangmet to purches Some Claims that Will Makes us settlements. If there is any chance of Makeing Share purchases Lete us [k]now emidetaley at least as Soon as the Treaty is Ratified. We wisch Nothing Said to no person aboute our intension on this business.

PETER SWANSON

D Sir [Giles County] Nov. 24th 1830

You well Know I a few days Since Returnd from New Orleans & came through the Choctaw Nation where I Saw all the chiefs & Captains, collecting to Start to the west to explore that country conducted by Genl. Gains. We recd. information from him that there was [. . .]⁴ the chiefs & Captains & there would be no difficulty in buying their claims. Esqr. Swanson & myself whishes to procure land in the Chickisaw purchase. You will please & give a detail of the purchase so soon as practicable & inquire how we could make purchases with safety. You will please write to Pulaski.

R. H. ALLEN

Addressed to Washington. These two letters were sent under the same cover. The address is in the handwriting of Allen, and the letter was posted at Campbellsville, Tennessee.

1. Allen was an early settler, having helped to clear off the site for Pulaski. He was prominent in county military affairs and became a colonel in the county militia.

2. A blot renders two or three words illegible at this point.

3. Edmund Pendleton Gaines.

4. At least one word is smeared and illegible.

FROM JOHN W. PERRY²

Sir [Pulaski] This the 26 of November 1830

I have a petion[petition] I want you to attend to for me; the petion is for this purpos: my wife on the 2nd of November the

present year was deliverd of three Sons at one birth. There names is as folers, to wit, Washington, Jackson and La Fayette Perry. The Legislature of the State of Tennessee has pass an act for the bennifitte of such persons, alowing 200 acres of Land to each Child. I am inform that the Land in the district is very much culd[culled] that it is hardly worth it having. So want you see if Congress will alow me any in Arkensaw or in the Late Indian purchas. If Congress will alow me any I want to get me all you can; extra of this in this State for it all will not be much.² My misfortunes are very great one with [sic]. It has not been but a few years since I had my house burnt up and every thing I had, tools and everything I had even down to wearing apearil. If you succede in this, I want you to wright me in what way I can procede to get it so I hope you will do your best for me if please. Mr. Aaron V. Brown will wright on the Subject for me as he promis me so you need not do anything in it utill you hear from him.

JOHN W. PERRY

NB. You will be so good as not to take my title from me in this State for if they will not alow me any let it Stand as it is. I want you to excuese my awkward righting.

JOHN W. PERRY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Although not positively identified, he seems to have been a resident of Giles County.

2. In an endorsement Polk noted that he presented the petition and that it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, February 21, 1831.

FROM JOHN EDGAR¹

My Dear Sir

Kaskaskia [Ill.] Novr 27th 1830

You will Excuse I hope the liberty I have taken of troubling your honor in this business. From my small acquaintance with you on board of the Steamboat last fall ascending the Ohio and the high opinion I have of you as an obliging member, Induces me to Request your aid in passing an account against the United States. It is for advances made the different tribes of Indians for

the safety lives & property of the ancient Inhabitants of the villages of Kaskaskia, P[. . .], D[. . .] & Cahokia in the Illinois Country Enduring [. . .] war with the Indians & the United States. Genl [Joseph] Duncan² will show you my Petition & testimony Respecting my Claim and Genl [William Henry] Harrison Certificate & letters. If the Genl is in Washington he will go before the Committee in person and will Inform them of many Services rendered the United States in the Illinois Country from the year 1784 untill the 1790, when Govr [Arthur] St Clair³ Established the Government of the United States in the Illinois Country, then the Northwest Territory.

J. EDGAR

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was prominent in Illinois during territorial days and early statehood. As a member of the territorial legislature, he was a leader in the anti-Harrison faction and worked for separation from Indiana.

2. He was a native of Kentucky and a brother of Thomas Duncan, a Nashville lawyer. After serving in the War of 1812 he moved to Kaskaskia, where he was a leader in political affairs for many years. He served in the state legislature, was a member of the United States House of Representatives, 1827-34, and then became governor of the state, 1834-38.

3. He had been a general during the Revolution and was appointed first governor of the Northwest Territory. He served until 1802, suffering in 1791 a humiliating defeat at the hands of Indians.

FROM WILLIAM D. MOSELEY

My friend

Raleigh Decr 1st 1830

I recd. your letter dated the 6th Jany. some few weeks after it was written.¹ It was to me more than welcome and I have to reproach myself for not having replied to it at an earlier period. But because of a large family, electioneering campaigns, attending courts and superintending a farm, will I hope measureably answer for an apology. I have not your letter at this time near me so that it will be impossible for me to answer it in detail. Some of our old acquaintances and class mates have long since "gone to that bourne where no traveller returns," other are figuring on the busy stage of life, enjoying the reputation of honest men, and useful citizens, and one, viz, Wm M Green,² [is] fast approaching

a dissolution, from Consumption. This to me, is a source of deep regret as I honor him as a man and value him as a friend. Your enquiries, (if I do not misremember,) were somewhat minute, as to one friend, Owen Holmes. He is now in the full tide of prosperity, enjoying the luxury of a young wife, and the reputation of a valuable citizen. He was married on the very day of the date of your letter, 6th Ja[n]y. to a Miss Ashe in the neighborhood of Wilmington and I think has made a very prudent connection. He is at this time a very large man, and considerably grey. He has a fair prospect of a family of children.

I must speak a little of myself before I close my sheet. I have a beautiful wife, and three children, the largest of whom, is already advanced in the elementary branches of his education. The breast-pin which you gave me, upon our separation my wife values as one of her richest jewels, being the gift of early friendship. She is too a real Jacksonian, and as an evidence of it, she has the Presidents message printed on satin, suspended in a large gilt frame. You are probably aware of the fact that I voted against Gen Jackson as President. This I did conscientiously, after mature deliberation, although I placed the highest estimate on his military skill, I did not think he would make a safe President of these United States. In his *veto message* however, all my fears have been dissipated and I am now perfectly satisfied of the fact, that however great he may have proved himself to be as a general, he is certainly much greater as a President. I think you informed me that you were married, but that you had no children, and that you were not dissatisfied at the result. This I am satisfied is true because I have your word for it, but I have been married long enough to know that however indifferent ma[n]y *Gentlemen may appear*, as to this privation, their "*better part*," are on this point, much more sensitive.

W. D. MOSELEY

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 62-63.

1. This letter has not been found.

2. Contrary to Moseley's fears, Green lived until 1887. He was the first Episcopal Bishop of Mississippi, was one of the founders of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, and served as its chancellor.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Decemb the 1st 1830

I have enclosed to you old Ed[ward] Kings¹ claim for a pension. He made out his Declaration on the 3d of Sept last for the purpose of geting his Pension but by some means they have miscarried. I very much fear that his draft has been perloined on the way from Washington to this place. I wish you would in person attend to this matter and forward the draft or give me as early information respecting it as posable &c.

I have not a word of Interst to write you. Your very good frind Col David Crockett made it convenint to stay all night with Doct. Jas L Armstrong² while on his way to the city &c.

I have not as yet herd of any Deaths or Resignates in Arkensas.

A YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Under an act of March 1818, King had been placed on the pension roll on May 22, 1820. He had served as a private in the South Carolina line during the Revolution, but he was subsequently dropped from the pension list by virtue of an act passed in May 1820.

2. A physician in the Fairfield area of Bedford County, where Yell had once lived. He was a bitter anti-Jackson man, and therefore, in the eyes of Yell, a suitable host for Crockett.

FROM JOSHUA WILLIAMS¹

Maury—about 9 oclock on Sunday night
Dec. the 5th 1830

My house is calm. I Set down to Say a word or two But my old Nerves forbids my Saying much on paper. I had anticipated in the pleasure of Seeing you before you Set out for the present Congress in which I was disappointed. I am Still afflicted with Scutties[?] & rheumatism pains, which forbids my Riding any

distance unless on a very quiet horse or I would have Seen you. At one time I was on the eve of Setting out to Columbia but was informed you were from home. I have not Visitted Columbia for five years past. My Negro man Will, has recovered his health & is now at home on a Visit, Says all is well in Town as far as he knows. He informs me he called on you to give you \$6.00 To pay for my papers. You were So hurried that you could not attend to it; if you have not paid Gale[s] & Seaton for the present year be pleased to pay them & take their Receipt as you have formerly done. Als[o] be pleased to direct them, when the year is out to Continue their paper to me for one year more. Also be pleased to pay them for the next years papers & take their Receipt for the payment & I will pay you & in so doing you will confer a great favor on me. If in my power will I would do as much for you. Be assured I feel friendly toward yourself and your Fathers family and feel very well pleased at the most of your political proceedings and am highly pleased with your Republican display in the national legislature. You have always had frinds in my family & the whole of them has a high personal respect for you.

Mr. Gale[s] Senr. & his family were my friends formerly.² Under Jeffersons administration they in them times belonged to the Same Republican School with myself. Of course [I] feel like taking them once more altho. I am far in the declivity of life when other reading might Suit my age & Situation better, but from the affairs on the Continent of Europe I feel an inducement to take their papers one year more if it pleases God to spare me So to do &c.

I have no news. It seems as tho the iceey hand of winter is pointting towards us. We have had a cold rain today and it has Snowed this evening &c.

We poor western people would like a prety general Repeal of what is called the Tarriff law. As to my Self individually I am opposed to the General Government Giving the vacant lands that has been ceded to Congress being distributed to the Several States &c.

I remain by wishing you a Comfortable Session and a Safe return to your family and Constituants.

JOSHUA WILLIAMS

Addressed to Washington.

1. One of the early settlers in the Snow Creek vicinity, he was present even before Maury County was created. He was one of the group designated to select the location for the county seat.

2. The friendship with the Gales family probably began in Raleigh, North Carolina, where the elder Joseph Gales established a newspaper in the late 1790s.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dr Sir

Columbia Dec. 5th. 1830

I have postponed writing to you much longer than I intended, partly much for the want of something to communicate. All the connexion are in good health, and nothing has occurred of any consequence, except the death of one of your oxen. Elias¹ insists that another one must be bought. I however do not think it best to make the purchase without Sarahs orders. Frank [Polk] has a pair that he says Elias may have one of during the Winter, if he will go out an help him pull corn this week. I think it will be best for him to take the oxen upon the terms.

I think Ophelias lesson has been of great service to her. She has certainly acted since you left home, with as much prudence & propriety as any one. She has had some severe trials upon her temper and has acted prudently. *Anne Hays*² came here at an *unfortuante time*, and still remains here. The Dr.³ is cheerful and I hope and believe that all things will yet go well. I will write you if any thing material should occur in family concerns.

I have forwarded a bid to the PMG for a line of stages from this place to Huntsville. I would be glad [if] you would as early as convenient ascertain whether the line will be established, and what is the prospect of my bid being accepted. I am satisfied that the President & Maj Eaton, with the other Tennesseans would be pleased for me to get the line, and would aid probably in having my bid accepted at once. I have bid lower than is usual, but will probably forward you a blank bill to be used if necessary in a short time.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Elias was a slave who had been given to James and Sarah Polk as a wedding gift from Sam Polk.
2. She was a niece of Ophelia's husband, John B. Hays.
3. This probably is a reference to Dr. John B. Hays.

FROM MARSHALL T. POLK

Dear Brother

Charlotte, N.C. Dec. 6th 1830

I recd. with much pleasure your letter in reply to my two to you. It was the first and only letter I had recd. from my leaving Tennessee. The subject matter of my last communication to you I have still in contemplation and hope that you will not loose sight of it. Of one thing you may rest assured that the expectation or probability of receiving an appointment shall not nor has interfered in the slightest degree with my present Professional occupation. I will pursue it with an unwavering step & steady purpose unseduced by any [*sic*] the brightest hope that may in its transit, *seem* to light my prospect. The one is certain—the others untried.

I would be much pleased with some *profitable* appointment to the fulfilment of whose duties I might be deemed adequate. Such an opportunity mig[h]t give me a more complete & advantageous command over my future course.

My prospects in this country I have no right to complain particularly when I continue in the enjoyment of perfect health. You inquire as to the reality of an alleged sale of a gold mine by me. The fact is so; I sold an interest of one eighth for \$5000.00. It was an interest formerly owned by Mr. [Joseph] Wilson & bought after his death at execution sale by myself & Mr Alex.¹ for \$1640.00. The sale or rather its advantages to me are felt at present only in being able to extinguish a bank debt Mr A & myself had assumed for the estate to the amt. of about \$5000.00. The negroes & other property, the homestead tract of land &c were sold & bought by Mr. A & myself & the amount of the purchase money assumed[?] in bank to the benefit of the creditors. By the sale of the gold mine I paid off this Bank debt & now hold the negroes & other property. We calculate on letting Mrs. W. have the use of the property during her life.

I suppose at this very moment you are organizing yourselves in the House. If there be any thing of peculiar interest during the session which I will not find in the public journals I would be glad to get it from you.

MARSHALL T POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 63-64.

1. William J. Alexander, a prominent lawyer and political figure of Charlotte. Joseph Wilson, father-in-law of both Alexander and Marshall T. Polk, had died in August 1829. A lawyer, he had served as solicitor of the mountain circuit from 1812 until his death.

FROM GERARD VAN BUREN¹

Dear Sir

Maury County, Tenn Dec 6th 1830²

After my Best wishes for your prosperity and happiness I wish to ask a favor at your hands. You Remarkd you thought you would speak of me to the Honble Secretary of State. At that time I did not Know that I should Need your assistances, I now however find I shall; I wish a favor to be Extended, by an appointment to assist in the Valueing or apprasing the Improvements in the Indians Nations (In Mississippi). And Believing you sir to be friendly to me, and well acquainted with Mr Van Buren and able to exert some Influence I should be glad that Influence should be thrown In my scale. Situated as we are, we may Require Mutual assistance; and your assistance In this Matter, will Never be forgotten but Cherrished In a grateful heart.

If Dear sir, an unbending Integrity; if pure Love of Country if devotedness to our government, be any satisfaction or Evidence of my Claim: I here offer them. I do faithfully pledge myself to discharge the duties which may be entrusted to me. I have written to M Van Buren but wish you to use your Influence for me.

GERARD VAN BUREN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Little has been learned about him. He had lived in Maury for at least ten years and seems to have come from North Carolina. Obviously he was not personally acquainted with Martin Van Buren.

2. Although the date is written quite clearly, this letter has been placed in 1832 by the Library of Congress. Polk said in an endorsement that he answered it on January 2, 1831.

FROM JARED S. ALLEN¹

Dear Sir

Columbia December 7, 1830

Will you be so good as to let me know at as early a period as convenient what will be done relative to the late purchases from the Indians by the Government? Will the country Shortly be Surveyed? Will another Genl. Surveyor be appointed or will the Territory be attached to the Districts of Coffee and Dunbar?² I am anxious to obtain this information at as early a period as possible with a view to obtain if possible the appointment of a Deputy Surveyor. My name is now before the people of my District for re-election to the Senate of the State, and so far as I am advised, no obstacle now exists to my success. But I would greatly prefer the latter appointment. My reasons are first by the latter if fortunate I can make some money and I am poor and kneed it. Again I have a stout healthy constitution able to undergo the fatigue incident to such business. I was one trip in Florida with my brother and understand perfectly the practical duties of a Surveyor and enough of the Science to do my work as correctly as any one. You will do me a particular favour to give me such information on this subject as you may be able to obtain. And if you can without inconvenience to yourself *aid* me in getting the appointment you will do me a favour that I shall long remember with feelings of gratitude and pleasure.

Your friends are all well. I have been in the county almost three weeks. I learn you are not to have opposition at the next election.

JARED S. ALLEN

Answer me at Perryville.

Addressed to Washington.

1. When this letter was written, Allen was a member of the state senate, representing Stewart, Humphreys, Henderson, and Perry counties. He was not re-elected in 1831. In 1835 he was elected to represent Perry County in the lower house of the General Assembly.

2. John Coffee was surveyor general for Alabama, and Joseph Dunbar surveyor general for Mississippi.

FROM ARNOLD ZELLNER¹

Dear Sir

Giles Cty Tenn Decr 8th 1830

After an expression of respect and an assurance to you of my solicitude for your welfare I have a request of some importance to make to you. Some importance I say because it implies much trouble and attention on your part and I flatter myself that it involves interest on my part. The matter is this. I have invented a machine to make shingles that is much admired and perhaps excells any thing of the kind in the world whether it be considered in point of celerity of performance, quality of the shingles, the simplicity of construction and consequently cheapness of the machine, or the ease of working it. Let it suffice on this occasion to say that a common small boy and a poney can make 2000 in a day ready for nailing on the roof, that is to say sides shaved, edges jointed, and the but[t] end dressed, all in a maner that is acknowledged by every one to greatly excell any shingles that has ever been seen before. Now what I request of you is to go to the Patent office and see whether there is a model of any thing of that kind deposited there and if there is, be so good as to give me by writing a brief description of it whether it is intended to shave the sides only or whether it is intended to do more and how much more. Be pleased also to inform me what expense at the office will accrue on obtaining a patent, also whether patents is granted by the authority of a Statute or general Law or whether they are granted by Special acts of Congress. I wish you to inform me whether the official cost varies according to the magnitude of the invention or not. I wish you also to give me some information respecting the term of time for which patents are granted, whether that varies, if so upon what principles, whether any vouchers or evidence will be required, and if any, what they will be, but most particularly whether the letters patent can be obtained by an agent or whether the applicant must attend in person, and lastly if they can be obtained by an agent whether you will be so obliging as to transact the business for me if I send you a model, and any thing else that may be required which I suppose I can do by the Stage. This is my request which I earnestly beseech you to comply with without delay and any

other advice which you may be able to give me will be thankfully received by your uniform and invariable Friend.²

ARNOLD ZELLNER

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler in the Indian Creek neighborhood of Giles County, southeast of Pulaski. He was prominent in the Primitive Baptist church there.

2. Polk noted in an endorsement that he answered this letter on January 6, 1831, enclosing to Zellner a letter and a printed circular from the Patent Office. Patent Office records indicate that Zellner was not successful in getting a patent on his shingle machine.

FROM ROBERT HILL¹

Sir

[Macon, Tenn.] December the 11, 1830

After my best compliments to you I want you to Stop the Telegrap[h] paper. I wrote to you twe[l]ve month's agow [to] Stop it but it Still comes own in my name but I dont need the papers. I have nothing of importance to wright to you.

ROBT. HILL

Addressed to Washington.

1. He has not been positively identified. It is possible that he is the same Robert Hill who had been an early settler in Maury County.

FROM LESTER MORRIS

Dear Sir

Pulaski Dcr 11th 1830

I feel great solicitude to have my business at Washington brought to some final conclusion. The Committee to whom my petition was referred at the last Session of Congress having unanimously reported in my favour I hope there will be no difficulty in bringing the matter to a termination satisfactory to me. I feel confident that the goverment that has so kindly extended her aid to so many of those who spent many of their best days in her service, who marched through all difficulties and dangers to establish it & to give to our children the blessings of

civil & religious liberty. I feel confident that the government will not refuse to extend her hand to assist another who has as yet been unprovided for & who has heretofore not felt the aid of government bounty.

You will confer another to the obligations you have already conferred by trying to have my business arranged as soon as possible and please let me hear from you by your earliest convenience.

LESTER MORRIS

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOHN A. MARRS¹

Jas K Pold [*sic*] Shelbyville 12th Dec 1830

I inclose you Twenty Dollars which you will please hand to Gales & Seaton, Editors of the National Intelligencer & take their Receipt for the same on account of my Paper. Say to them I have had money in Georgetown & that I expect to be at Washington perhaps this spring & will call on them & request them to continue to send my paper as heretofore.

JOHN A MARRS of Shelbyville Tennessee

Addressed to Washington.

1. A merchant in Shelbyville.

FROM WILLIAM L. WILLIFORD¹

Dr Sir Columbia Decr. 12th 1830

I have learned with almost entire certainty that Col [Joseph] Dunbar, Surveyor General of Mississippi and Louisiana, has resigned his office. If so it follows as a matter of course that, that vacancy will have to be filled some time during the present session of Congress.

For a nomination to that appointment, I have applied to the President; about the result of which I feel some anxiety.

I am highly gratified that I have the pleasure of addressing, on this subject, one who is so well acquainted both with me and my qualifications to discharge the duties of the office to which I aspire. It is therefore only necessary to solicit your aid in procuring my nomination (if deemed worthy) and if I should be so fortunate as to succeed thus far to ask the exercise of your influence to obtain its confirmation.

Testimonial of my qualifications of an imposing character have already been forwarded, and others will soon follow; but as I flatter myself that the whole of the representation from this state are tolerably well acquainted with me either personally or otherwise, it will supersede the necessity of encumbering you with many document on this subject.

Should Col. Polk think proper to exercise his influence in my behalf it would be a favour which I at all times shall be proud to acknowledged[g]e.

WILLIAM L. WILLIFORD

Addressed to Washington.

1. He conducted the first school of importance in the Spring Hill neighborhood of Maury County. He was later a trustee of Jackson College in Columbia.

FROM JOSEPH BROWN

Columbia. December 13, 1830

Enclosed are two affidavits supporting claim for horse and equipage amounting to \$105. Also enclosed is a power of attorney permitting collection of the money if the claim is allowed.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOHN P. SMITH¹

Dr. Sir

Mount Pleasant, Ten. Decr. 13th 1830

I have once been to the Indian Agency In order to see if there Could be Any Vouchers to show that the Agents had ever paid more Than \$1047 of the 3 Claims I held on government; none Is to be found.² Majr. [Benjamin] Reynolds says he has made

diligent searches Over and Over, Over again. Nothing Can be found, to show that the money has ever been paid. It never has. Thomas L. McKinney[McKenney] says in his letter which you have seen That the Right way to bring my claim is through the agent. As soon as his respect is made my Two Claims which remains unpaid will be considered. He also states that money has been sent on to the Agents to pay those Claims. The Claims are good on Government and never had been satisfied. This is A fact which I have sworn to in my peition. I wish you and Judge [Felix] Grundy to Consult on the businiss, And let me know how to act. I am Pooree and intirely ignorant how to act. I paid full value or in Other words took the Claims as Cash in payment of A Cash debt years ago. Majr. [John H.] Eaton told me that the United States never paiied Interest but Congress some times did. I Contend for my rights and hope you two Gentlemen will do all you Can for me. The Interest on all of the Claim untill the first Payment was made, And on the balance untill paid, with the principle. I wish you to let me Know precisely how to Act by return Mail as soon as you have Asertained every thing necessary, and If I must go to the Agents &c. I have McKinneys letter and the Petition that you I presume have seen. I have Once been sworn to this Petition, and If necessary will send It on again with Colo. Reynolds report on the business. (J[ohn C.] Wormely) states that *Judge Grundy* said he had no doubt but all the Interest togeather with the Principal, would be paid, and that he would see to It himself. If so I will not only take It as A favor, but will recompence him besides being under as lasting obligations to you both. Tell him to write to me.

JOHN P. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. A Mt. Pleasant merchant. He was a brother of Nicholas P. Smith of Williamson County, a lawyer admitted to the bar at the same time Polk was admitted.

2. The only claim of importance grew out of the promise to remunerate for their improvements settlers found to be living on Chickasaw lands after James Winchester ran the Tennessee-Mississippi boundary in 1819. Joshua Fletcher, a settler who had not filed his claim promptly, was thwarted in attempts to collect from the Chickasaw Agency. In 1823 or early 1824 the agent absconded

with all funds, and his successor, while officially exonerated, was probably guilty of embezzling public funds. The affair dragged along for years. Early in 1830 Benjamin Reynolds of Maury County, Tennessee, became Chickasaw agent. Meanwhile, John P. Smith had acquired the Fletcher claim in payment of a debt and began to press for a settlement.

FROM JAMES H. PIPER

My Dear Sir, Columbia Ten. Decr 14th 1830

Mr. William L. Willeford[Williford] has lately understood that the office of Surveyor General of Mississippi, has become vacant, and is desirous of obtaining the situation.

I cheerfully comply with his request, in addressing you on that subject and in presuming to solicit your friendly interposition in his behalf.

Of Mr. Willeford's eminent qualifications for the situation which he seeks, you need not be informed, as you are already aware that no person in the western country has ever possessed half his reputation as a Mathematician, and especially as a practical surveyor. Were it necessary, however, I could, with the utmost confidence, add my testimony to that of many others as to his peculiar merits in this respect. I believe that the whole community, wherever Mr. W. is known, would write with me in pronouncing his appointment to that office as highly proper and judicious.

Should you think as favourably of Mr. W's pretensions as I do (and of this I cannot doubt) permit me to assure you that whatever assistance it may be agreeable to you to give towards the consummation of his wishes, will be most justly and thankfully appreciated. . . .

JAMES H. PIPER

P.S. *All Well.*

Addressed to Washington.

FROM ADAM R. ALEXANDER

Dr Sir [Mount Comfort, Tenn.] Decbr. 15th 1830

By request of Mr. John H. Maney I enclose his papers to you on the subject of his loss of property on his return from

Santifee[Santa Fe].¹ Mr. Maney was formerly of Maury County and now resides in Trenton, Gibson County to which place you will please address him. It is said that a law passed last session of Congress for the relief of such sufferers and If any thing could be done for Mr. Maney it would be a gratification to many of his friends. He is a deserving young man and I hope will be rewarded for his enterprise and sufferings.

We have nothing of Interest of a political nature to relate, but little is yet said about our next elections, but that little is decidedly unfavourable to the Western David [Crockett].

ADAM R. ALEXANDER.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Polk noted on the envelope that Maney was asking payment for property destroyed by Indians while he was on the way back from a trading expedition to Santa Fe, Mexico. See Maney to Polk, November 24, 1830.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 15, 1830

Lewis Humphrey's¹ claim to back pay has been received. Settlement cannot be made without additional supporting documents.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM GORDON

Washington. December 15, 1830

The cases of James Haskins and Benjamin Fatherly¹ submitted recently have been examined. There are no records to indicate that either is entitled to bounty lands.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Neither has been identified.

FROM ELIJAH HAYWARD¹

Washington. December 15, 1830

Transmitted herewith is a patent for military bounty lands in Arkansas in the name of George Lovell.² Also enclosed is a copy of a patent in the name of E. H. Robinson.³

Addressed to Washington.

1. Late in 1830 he became Commissioner of the General Land Office. A strong Jacksonian, he had been editor of the Cincinnati *National Republican*.
2. See Lovell to Polk, August 16, 1827, and April 6, 1831.
3. Unidentified.

FROM ARNOLD ZELLNER

Dear Sir

Tenn, Giles Cty Dec 16th 1830

I wrote a letter to you last week in which I requested particular and general advice concerning of a shingle mashine which I have invented or rather improved and concluding that you will receive said letter I shall not trouble you with unnecessary repe[ti]tions. The following is therefore to be understood as a supplement. I say I requested particular and general advice and under the term general advice of course may be include your opinion of the probable benefit or profit that I might obtain by procureing a patent and as I conceive your opinion on this point must be formed by compareing my machine with others that you may have seen in the United States or that you may se the model of in the office. I informed you before that my machine would make by the power of a poney and the attendance of a small boy 2000 shingles in a single day formed and finished in the most perfect manner, ready for the roof. It only remains therefore to inform you that my machine can be made ready for work for \$12.00 includeing all expenses at the customary rates of Tennessee wages and can be conveniently carried from one neighbourhood to another by a yoke of oxen and a cart and then put to work again in one day. If you shall have writen to me on the subject before you receive this and shall think it would be to my advantage to give further advice I hope you will do so.

ARNOLD ZELLNER

Addressed to Washington.

FROM MARSHALL T. POLK

Dear Brother

Charlotte N.C. Dec. 19. 1830

This is Sunday night & I have determind to write you a letter about something. I have been lying on my oars for the last

three weeks without any courts to go to and of course no money made. I some times regret not having gone on to Washington City and would have done so but for the expectation of getting the Sec. of War [John H. Eaton] to appoint me on the visiting committee to West Point next summer. I want you or Mr. [Samuel Price] Carson¹ to apply to the Sec. for the favor of the appointment for me. I have never been as far north as Viga. [Virginia] and would be much gratified with so favorable an opportunity of visiting our northern world.

We have received the President's message here and all approve it. The question of the United States Bank is one so complex & of late so little mooted that I do not pretend to have an opinion on it. Mr. [George] McDuffie's report has given me an inclination favorable to it. So important are the interests involved in the existence of the institution that I fear its dissolution would be the cause & fore-runner of a general wreck—at least of a tremendous & destructive shock to the capital & trade of the country.

The Legislature of this State has pleased me well in the election of Judge [Willie P.] Mangum² to the Senate of the U.S. I am well acquainted with him & have had recently (on the last Circuit) much & very confidential sort of political talk with him. He is a most thorough & uncompromising friend of Genl. Jackson & advocate of his administration. He says he is honest & he is right & that "by the eternal gods" he ought to be supported. He is a genuine & unblenching *Southron* in feeling & principle. He is for the *union* but he is for the *Constitution*. He is for brotherly love with our northern brethren but nothing further than "common civilities" on questions of right & wrong. He is for presenting to them in one hand an equal charter and in the other an unsheathed sword and let them choose or *take*. He & I agree exactly and are vastly *thick*.

You may say what you please—I am glad that Gov. [Stephen D.] Miller³ has beaten Judge [William] Smith.⁴

MARSHALL T POLK

Addressed to Washington.

1. A member of the United States House of Representatives from North Carolina, 1825–33. He failed of re-election because of his pro-nullification

views, moved to Texas, and in 1836 became secretary of state for the Republic of Texas.

2. He had a long and distinguished career in the United States Senate, being elected as a Whig twice during the 1840s.

3. Miller, a prominent nullifier, resigned from the Senate in 1833 because of bad health. In 1835 he moved to Mississippi and died there about three years later.

4. Smith had served twice in the United States Senate in addition to holding various lesser political positions. Soon after his defeat by Miller he moved to Louisiana and eventually settled at Huntsville, Alabama, serving for four years in the legislature of that state.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir, War Department, Pension Office. December 20, 1830

The papers in the case of George McClain¹ have been examined and placed on our files. The law of March 18, 1818, under which he claims provides for none who did not belong to the continental establishment. The corps in which he served did not belong to the continental army. His claim cannot therefore be allowed.

Alexander Pickard² does not appear to have been disabled while in the performance of military duty. The injury alleged to have been received arose while he was on furlough. The law does not allow pensions in such cases. His claim has of course been rejected. The papers will remain on our files.

The papers in the case of Heartwell Miles³ are herewith returned. The evidence is not satisfactory. The testimony of a commissioned officer is required; and he should be particular in stating how, when and where the disability originated. The enclosed printed sheet will point out more particularly what is necessary to be done.

Samuel Baker's papers are also returned. The proof of his service is not sufficient. Neither of the witnesses testify positively as to the length of his service. It would be advisable for you to obtain evidence of his service from W. Hill,⁴ Esqr. Secretary of State, Raleigh. N.C., where correct rolls of the regiment in which he is alleged to have served, are to be found.

J L EDWARDS

Addressed to Washington.

1. George McLain moved to Bedford County from North Carolina in 1816. For service in the Revolution, he was placed on the pension list in May 1833.

2. At this time residing at Mt. Pleasant, Pickard had served during the War of 1812 in Dyer's Regiment of Mounted Gunmen, Tennessee Volunteers. No record has been found to indicate that he received compensation for disability.

3. He was a resident of Civil Order, Bedford County. He had served in McCrory's regiment of West Tennessee militia, during the War of 1812.

4. Having held several offices in Wake County, North Carolina, William Hill became secretary of state in 1811 and continued in that office until his death in 1857.

FROM JOHN C. HAMILTON¹

My Dear Sir

Paris [Tenn.] Decr. 20th 1830

I understand there will be a vacancy in the Federal court, perhaps in the State of Missouri this session of Congress. The office I hold, (& which I am so greatly indebted to you for holding it) I am intirely satisfied with. But sir I have ten children to support & Educate which will compleatly exhaust my salery. I am extremely anxious to leave my children a little property. Will you, or can you with propriety speak a good word for me to the President & also to Judge White. When those gentlemen knew me as a lawyer I knew nothing of law, I fear. They both entertain an unfavorable opinion of my legal acquirements. No man has read more than I have in the last seven years & I trust to more advantage. If it were necessary, I believe I could be recommended by every member of the legislature, & all the barr in the courts where I have presided. If the vacancy alluded to should not take place I should like to fill any other that may happen. Be so good as to write me on the receipt of this.

J C HAMILTON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Henry County, Hamilton had served as state attorney general for the Mero District, 1797-1807. Later he became judge in the chancery court of Henry County, and from 1823 until his death in 1833 he served as judge of the ninth circuit court.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington, December 20, 1830

Noah Ward's claim for team hire has been allowed. Payment will be made as directed.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM EBENEZER HILL

Dr Sir,

Fayetteville, T. Dec. 20, 1830

The obliging manner in which you gave us your countenance and assistance last winter has encouraged me to ask a similar favor of you at this time. I have just written to the Post Master General [William T. Barry] requesting him to sanction the transfer to the subscriber of a small contract for carrying the U.S. mail from Fayetteville to Pulaski, accompanied with a recommendation from our Post Master here.¹ A word from you, if it can conveniently be done without interfering with your public duties, would doubtless answer every purpose. . . .

EBENEZER HILL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The Fayetteville postmaster was Felix G. McConnell, who had recently succeeded his deceased father.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

Sir

Shelbyville Decbr the 21st 1830

Enclosed you will find Bej Starritts¹ claim for a pension. I wish you would give it the proper direction and attend to it if your business will permit, as the old man has been grately disappointed. There has been a failure of his Warrent for the 3d of Mach 1828 [. . .] to the 3d of Sept 1828—from the 3d of Sept 1828 [. . .] to 3d of March 1829, he recivd his pension. Since that time he has not recivd one dollar. His papers were made out and

provided to the department but they have not been heard from. I would be very much obliged to you to make some inquiry about this matter and see where the fault is.

Since writing you on yesterday I see old Smith² has been beaten for the Senate [*sic*] of the U.S. and I am glad of it. I shall have occasion this winter to trouble you often I fear &c. This kind of business is very troublesome to you as well as myself, but with me it is too late to make a complaint. I commined some years ago with this business and charged nothing—and am now compld to continue the same practice at the same rates.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Fayette County, he had been placed on the pension list in April 1830, retroactive to March 3, 1826.

2. Yell's letter mentioned here has not been found. It is interesting to note that Marshall T. Polk in his letter of December 19, 1830, had expressed similar satisfaction at the defeat of Senator William Smith of South Carolina.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. December 22, 1830

The papers of Alexander Pickard are enclosed as requested. Acknowledgment of their receipt is required.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM ELISHA WHITTLESEY¹

Sir

Washington December 22nd 1830

I am directed by the committee of claims to whom has been referred the papers in the case of Elizabeth Owens, (which were presented to the house by you,) to ask, whether Mrs Owens is a single woman at this time, and if not, what is the christian name of her husband. I am directed to ask further, whether, if James Shirley and Mrs Owens were the issue of the same mother, begotten by James Shirley Senior, having a wife living whom he had abandoned, they would, by the laws of Tennessee, be the

heirs of each other, either dying without issues? You will oblige the committee by stating what the law of Tennessee is, in relation to nuncupative wills.

E WHITTLESEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. A lawyer from Ohio who was at this time chairman of the Committee on Claims in the House of Representatives. He was a member of Congress, 1823-38.

FROM JAMES A. CRAIG¹

My Dear Sir

Hawfields N.C. 23rd. Dec. 1830

I will take it as a special favour if you will send me from time to time during the present Session, any Congressional Documents you may deem of Interest to me & if ever it lies in my power be assured I will most cheerfully reciprocate the compliment.

Permit me to congratulate you upon the success of "Jackson & reform." I have Just read the President's message to the present Session. It is a masterly piece. I was charmed with that part especially which treated upon removing the Indians. Mr. Adams with all his Rhetoric has nothing to compare with it. It is altogether Idle to talk of opposition to Genl. Jackson. I would not be surprised if by the next election Mr. Clay himself was withdrawn. Mr. Clays gormandizing mode of Electioneering was truly disgusting. I have often regretted that *Calvin Edson*² (the Living Skeleton) could not have been nominated his Vice-president. If any thing could have made *Calvin* thrive It would have been these *Barbacues* of Kentucky pork. What think you of the plan? But as some facetious Editor has said "Mr. Clay has eaten himself up."

Our old friend Judge Mangum was a few days ago elected U.S. Senator. Gov. [Stephen D.] Miller of S.C. has beaten Senator [William] Smith. Genl. [Duff] Green will no doubt be gratified much at the result of this election; Smith and Green had some sharp sparring. S.[mith] I am fearful is not altogether an

honest politician. There is a strong probability that Gov. [John] Miller³ of Mis.[Missouri] will oust [David] Barton.⁴ M. I trust is a *Bona fide* republican. I have for some years noticed his messages to the Legislature of his State and looked upon them as able State documents.

I was much gratified to find you was in nomination last year for minister to Russia. This is an earnest of your standing with the Republican party. You are yet young & remember the field of promotion is yet before you.

I must beg the favour of you to send on Congressional documents as hitherto, for which favour I am under many obligations to you. It is probable I may oppose D.[aniel] L. Barringer⁵ (the present incumbent) at the next Election. I trust he will not be able much longer to Sustain himself as a *Jackson man*, which he most unequivocally professes to be amongst the people.

I am desirous of getting a Journal of the H.R. for the last Session. Could you procure me one?

JAMES A CRAIG.

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 64-65.

1. An 1816 graduate of the University of North Carolina, he was doubtless an acquaintance of Polk at Chapel Hill. At this time he was a practicing physician in Alamance County, North Carolina.

2. An extremely emaciated man from Randolph, Vermont, who made a living by traveling over the country and exhibiting his body. At the time of his death in 1833 he was reported to have weighed only forty-five pounds. It was also reported that medical students stole his body from the grave in an effort to solve the mystery of his ailment.

3. After serving in the War of 1812 he moved from Ohio to Missouri. He was Missouri's governor, 1825-32, and served three terms in Congress from that state, 1837-43.

4. He had served in the United States Senate since 1821. He was ousted, as Craig suggested he might be, but by Alexander Buckner rather than by Miller. Barton later served in the state legislature and as a circuit judge.

5. A Raleigh lawyer who had served several terms in the North Carolina legislature. He was in Congress, 1826-35, and about 1836 he moved to Bedford County, Tennessee, and began the practice of law at Shelbyville. He was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly and was speaker of the lower house, 1843-45. He was a Whig presidential elector in 1844.

TO PETER HAGNER

Sir

Washington City Decr. 23rd 1830

In answer to your letter of the 20th Inst. informing me that the claim of *Noah Ward* for team-hire, would be allowed, I have to request that you will cause the amt. allowed, to be remitted by mail in a draft on the Branch Bank of the United States at Nashville, and enclose it to *Joseph Greer Esqr. Fayetteville Lincoln County Tennessee*. Mr Ward did live and I believe still does in the vicinity of the same Post office. The claim was first placed in my hands by *Joseph Greer Esqr.*, the Executor of *Vance Greer decd.*, who informed me at the time and since, that *Vance Greer*, his testator, had in his lifetime purchased some interest in the claim if allowed, from *Mr. Ward*. I have further to state, that *Joseph Greer Esqr.* is the only person who has by himself or by others corresponded with me on the subject of it, or given it any attention since it has been in my hands. *Mr. Greer* I know to be a highly respectable man. It is under these circumstances of the case, that I request that the draft may be enclosed to him. Of course being in *Mr. Ward's* name, it cannot be paid without his endorsement. I doubt not that *Mr. Greer* and he understand each other, and upon the arrival of the draft, will settle the matter without difficulty. Be pleased to inform me on receipt of this, what the amount allowed is, and whether it will be remitted in the manner indicated.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Third Auditor's Accounts (RG 217), National Archives.

TO ELISHA WHITTLESEY

Sir

Chamber of the Ho. Repts. Decr. 27th 1830

In answer to the interrogations contained in your letter of the 22nd. Inst. in regard to the claim of *Mrs. Elisabeth Owens*

referred to your committee, I have to state that *Mrs. Owens* is not at this time a single woman, but is the wife of *William Owens*. To the second interrogatory contained in your letter, to wit, "whether if *James Shirley* and *Mrs. Owens* were the issue of the same mother, begotten by *James Shirley Senr.*, having a wife living whom he had abandoned, they would by the laws of Tennessee be the heir of each other, either dying intestate," I answer in the affirmative, and beg leave to refer the committee for the authority on which my opinion is formed, to the 2nd. Vol. of Scott's Edition of the revised Statutes of Tennessee page 472.

The law in force in Tennessee in regard to *nuncupative wills*, and the manner of their probate is to be found in 15th & 16th Sections of Chap. 22 of the acts N. Carolina (adopted by Tennessee), passed in year 1784 & to which I beg leave respectfully to refer the committee in answer to the last interrogatory contained in your letter. The laws here referred to are in the library of Congress, and will be furnished to the committee at any time when wished by you or them.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This is a signed copy in Polk's handwriting.

FROM WILLIAM HILL

Sir

Raleigh [North Carolina] 27th Decr. 1830

I have carefully examined the musterrolls in the office of Secretary of State of No. Carolina, for the name of Saml. Baker, and also the Warrant book, and regret that his name is not to be found on either. Colo. Thomas Polk, under whom Mr. Baker says he served, commanded the 4th. regiment, but I do not find the name of his Capt., Ezekiel Polk, on the rolls.

WM. HILL

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File S39169 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 28, 1830

Pension claim of Sarah Logan, widow of Andrew Larimore, deceased soldier, requires proof of her marriage to William Logan. The remittance for Noah Ward will be made to Joseph Greer as suggested. The papers of Rachel Turner were returned on December 14, 1827.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM MARSHALL T. POLK TO JAMES K. POLK
AND SAMUEL P. CARSON

Gentlemen

Charlotte Dec. 31st 1830

The Deputy Marshal of this State, Mr. Joseph McCannaugh,¹ has made an application to Congress for an extra allowance for taking the census of this County. The grounds of the application you will perceive from the petition sent on. The unusual care and labor employed by Mr. McC. in taking the census and the doubtless correctness of it render it a desire on my part to see him receive not your miserable allowances but a compensation proportionate to his actual labor. By giving this application your support you will confer a favor on one who will fully appreciate your liberal kindness—dispensed in an act of *sheer justice*. . . .

M. T. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 65.

1. Sheriff of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, for many years. The name is sometimes spelled McCaunehey.

1831

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Jany th 2d 1831

I this day rec'd from your friend Coffeys¹ papers and will forward him information imediatly &c. Enclosed is a certificate in favor of Jeremiah Dial Esqr. proving in as strong terms as he can be able to prove that he was in at the *Close* of the War—which is the only proof now wanting as I am informed his other papers and proof are either at the Pension office or in the possession of old Burgess² the *Chairman* on *Pension*. He is extremely desirous to hear from you as soon as his claims are laid before the departmt.

I have not a word of interest. I wrote you two or three letters I beleive last week mostly on business.

I should like to hear from you.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington. In Pension File W914 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. Probably James Coffey.
2. Tristram Burges of Rhode Island was chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions. He served in the House of Representatives for ten years, 1825–35.

TO LESTER MORRIS

Dear Sir

Washington City Jany. 2nd 1831

Your letter of the 11th Decr. is received. The Bill for your relief reported at the last Session of Congress, stands upon the

regular orders of the day, in the House of Representatives, and I hope may be reached in time to be acted on at the present Session. You may rely upon my vigilant attention to it. It is not now in my power to inform you when it will be reached & considered, as there is much business on the orders before it, but if practicable to I will have it acted on, before the Session is over.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Giles County, Tennessee.

TO JOHN H. EATON

Sir.

Washington City Jany 2nd 1831

I send you the enclosed letter received from Owen Holmes Esqr. of Wilmington N.C. containing a recommendation for an appointment connected with your Department.¹ I know nothing of the person recommended. Mr. Holmes was an intimate associate and friend at the University of N.C. and hence I suppose he has written to me. He is a gentleman of high standing, a member of the Bar of N.C. and I understand was an original Jacksonian. You may place every confidence in the truth of what he says.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Letters Received, Adjutant General's Office (RG 94), National Archives.

1. The enclosure was not found. It probably concerned the Mr. Lindon mentioned in Holmes to Polk, January 9, 1831.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 3, 1831

Record of losses by company to which Joseph Lacy belonged in the late Seminole campaign contains no evidence of the loss of his horse and equipage. Additional testimony, including exact date of the loss, is necessary.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 3, 1831

The claim of John Mills for a horse lost in December, 1814, is barred by acts of limitation and the papers are herein returned. Moreover, the deposition should have been made by the company commander rather than by Lieutenant Waggoner against whose depositions this office has been warned.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM ALFRED BALCH

My Dear Sir

Nash[ville] Jan'y 6 1831

You will receive a joint letter from Col [William] Polk & myself with regard to a conveyance of the lands in the Western District to which we wish your immediate reaction. The estate of Whiteside must be settled & I as agent for the heirs am lending all my powers to close it.

No message that could have been written would have been better calculated to please the people than the one which J[ackson] has transmitted to Congress. The style of this paper is beautiful the [. . .] sound & the suggestions mild. The old fellow is achieving triumph after triumph & if his life is spared, those who come after us will look to the Era of J[ackson]s admn. as the Era of sound principles. If the Genl closes his career successfully, of which I have no doubt, Van Buren will be presented as the candidate of the great republican party and will be his successor. And a better successor I venture to affirm will not be found in the nation.

The refulgent star of Calhoun is fast setting in the portentous clouds of Nullification! I admire the mans genius extravagantly, but if he were Prest I fear that he would forget the admonition of Phaetons father when he handed him the reins, "O fili! Ibis tutissimus medio."¹ Calhouns ambition is as hot as the crater of a volcano.

Our Marshals have given us returns for 52 counties which

amount to 604,000 souls. The other ten counties will not average more I presume than 5 thousand souls. Deducting 2/5ths for the slaves we shall have about 600,000 federal numbers. At 50 thousand to each representative we shall have 12 members in Congress. If the no. is reduced to 48,000 we shall again be left with a *large* fraction.

The canvass of the candidates for our state Legislature will soon be opened in every part of our county. The ground that will be generally taken will be the same that is occupied by J[ackso]n in his annual message.

My cousin [Thomas] Claiborne² resting on the achievements of his past political life, has determined not to trouble himself much to secure the votes of the people. Hence, he will be graciously permitted to remain at home. If untiring efforts will secure my success I shall be elected.³ After J[ackso]n has entered on his second term the Richmonds will take the field. If my life is spared to me, I shall take a strong part in the fray for I go my death for V Buren. The old friends of that most virtuous & gifted of men, Wm H Crawford, will try to remember Mr Calhoun for his past services to their leader. The acct will be balanced and Crawford himself as he writes me will not be a slow hand in the good work.

The time is fast approaching when the politicians of Tennessee should unite & zealously cooperate upon the great subjects of Education, of Internal Improvements to be made by the state, and the Tariff. Divisions bring many evils & not a solitary good. Hitherto, there has been in our state too much personal politics. At last we have principles to fight for & I thank God for it.

ALFRED BALCH

Addressed to Washington.

1. This is a slight misquotation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, II, line 37. After warning his son against riding too high or too low lest he scorch the heavens or the earth, Apollo says, "Most safely will you travel in the middle."

2. A Nashville lawyer, who had served two terms in the lower house of the state legislature and one term in the United States House of Representatives, 1817-19.

3. Balch proved to be a poor political prophet. Claiborne was elected, but Balch was not.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. January 6, 1831

Regret that expenses elsewhere makes impossible consideration of a line of stages from Columbia to Huntsville via Elkton.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. January 8, 1831

Transfer of Route 164 to James Brown will be made and Brown will be notified. Postmaster-General declines to make arrangements for stages on that route.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

FROM OWEN HOLMES

My Dear friend Wilmington N.C. January 9th 1830[1831]¹

Your esteemed favour of the 2d Instant came to hand by the last nights mail and is now before me; and let me assure you, my Dear Sir, that its receipt gave me much pleasure and Satisfaction. I immediately recognized your hand writing, tho next June will be thirteen years since we separated and took leave of each other, within which time I have experienced many of the incidents peculiar to this life.

The December after I left Chapel Hill in the year 1819, I commenced the study of the law in this place and obtained a license to practice in the County Courts, at June Term of our Supreme Courts 1823, and at December Term of Said Court 1824, I obtained my Supreme Court licenses, and located myself in Wilmington North Carolina, for the purpose of prosecuting my profession, being dependent almost intirely upon that for a Support and maintenance. And for the final four years (which I

thought centuries) I suffered all the Tortures of the damned, for, I scarcely made money sufficient to cover my nakedness and defray my travelling expenses. I had to contend with men who had become grey in the practice of the law, and be governed by those rules and regulations, as [. . .], by which the Gentlemen of the Bar in this part of the Country had adopted and been governed from time immemorial, the observance of which to a young practioner was almost an entire exclusion from business. Yet I felt myself bound from a sense of honour to observe and strictly adhere to them, and consoled myself with the old adage, That every dog has his day. I am now in good business for Wilmington, and have accumulated about \$10,000 worth of property by my profession and am free from debt.

On the 6th day of January 1830 I took to myself a wife and on the night of the 19th of December last, just 20 minutes before nine oclock, I had born a fine son, with strong features, and of length and cize unparalleted for an infant, to which he is justly intitled if he inherits any thing from father or mother. I have not yet determined what I shall do with him; to make him an honest man is the height of my ambition, Such a creature being the rarest work of God's creation. For my experience and intercourse with mankind, has taught me, that if none but honest men congregate together in the next world, the Lord will be in the midst of but few. I do not wish you to understand me as speaking in disparagement of religion. I respect its practical obtories[?] ; I am only [. . .] an idea of the depravity of our nature, which I am apprehensive religion will never remedy or cure, though myriads pay it revrence and homage.

I am not satisfied with my situation in this place; the country is worn out and exhausted. And if my wife would consent, I should not hesitate to wash my hands of North Carolina, by imigrating to some new Country, and devote the remainder of my days to agricultural pursuits, for such men are the most independent, and are the sinews and backbone of the Government, in peace or War. Should I Conclude to leave my native state, (the warm and devoted friend and supporter of Andrew Jackson and his administration) I shall settle myself in some part of Lousiana.

Be pleased to accept of my thanks for your attention to Mr Lindon's² application for the appointment of [. . .]. I should feel much gratified, if he gets the situation, being a young man of strict integrity and industrious habits.

Ghost Elliot³ is now sitting by my side and desires to be remembered to you. I[t] will afford me pleasure, my dear Sir, to hear from you at any time and all times.

OWEN HOLMES

Addressed to Washington.

1. Holmes wrote the date as 1830, a mistake made completely obvious by the contents of the letter.

2. Unidentified. See Polk to Eaton, January 2, 1831.

3. John Eliot, originally of Sampson County, North Carolina, was at Chapel Hill with Polk and Holmes. Because of his cadaverous appearance he was nicknamed "Ghost." Later he was a teacher in Wayne County, North Carolina. His name is frequently spelled as Holmes spelled it, but the correct spelling is Eliot.

FROM JAMES BRIGHT

Dear Sir,

Fayetteville January 10 1831

It would be ungrateful in me to ask or expect you to do more for me than you have already done on the subject of my appointment to the office of Surveyor of the lands lately acquired of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians.¹

You were the first who gave my name currency as an applicant for that Office, which has had considerable effect, not only among the circle of my acquaintance but at a distance and where I was not known before, and so far as I have been able to ascertain, my appointment to that office would meet the approbation of the people. Should I be so fortunate as to Succeed in this appointment I will be greatly indebted to you for your kindness and must in a great measure owe my success to the interest you have taken in my behalf. Although the President has been personally acquainted with me from my youth, yet I would not think him justifiable to appoint me to an office of such responsibility unless in a great degree it met the approbation of the people. I have

wrote to the President and all the members of Congress with whom I was personally acquainted on this Subject. If it would not be imposing too much I would thank you to let me hear from you on this subject.

J. BRIGHT

Addressed to Washington.

1. It appears that he did not receive this appointment. He was, however, appointed to a commission to adjust the boundary dispute then existing between Kentucky and Tennessee. See Bright to Polk, September 29, 1830.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville Jany th 10th 1831

I wrote you a long letter upon politics which has reached you about this time. My fears then have not yet diminished except that I am releavd from my fears about the Senate of the U.S. I am now satisfied that we are in that Body pretty safe after this Session. But I grately fear that our meterials in HR. are made up of *pliant* Stuff. The *Indian Question and Internal improvement* I fear will cause our friends some trouble this Session. If our friends still divide upon those questions the opposition will take advantage of it and courage at it and will be able to raise a strong opposition at the next Election on those grounds. But I need not give you my fears upon those subjects. You are at Head Quarters and know all about them and therefore have less reason to fear.

I commenced this letter more for *home* matters than foreign and about which you will feel much interest. I wrote you in my last that grate exertion is now making by His Excellency to get his friends in the next Legislature so as to make the Congressional Districts to suit them hereafter &c.¹ In this County I was induced (untill a few days since) to believe that we were pretty safe but I am Sorry to inform you that Saml Mitchell will not be a Candidate for Re-election. His reasons for it I am not able to give. This has I assure you changed the face of things as I am confident we can start no man that (will Run) that can beat [Joseph] *Kincaid*. What is to be done the Lord only knows. A consultation of our frnds will be held in a few days and come to

some conclusion but what that may be I am not at present prep[ar]ed to conjecture. You would say as ma[n]y of my frnds say (you I myself) must Run but I am foreclosed by Gilchits[Gilchrist's]² being a Candidate for the Senate and it would endanger his election a[n]d perhaps my own; therfor we both can not be candidates. He will have nothing to spare. To vote for either of those who are spoken of in opposition to Kincaid would only be a choise of Evils to wit, Col R[obert] Cannon, John Wortham & Col A Martin.³ The first of them I think most likly to Run—all wooing the creatures of Govr Carroll, vote for all his men and all his measures, Internal improvement, Indian Bill and every other *Devilish* Measure that the opposition may contrive, and for a U.S. Senator wrong. I have no doubt If all the Counties shall act the fool as we shall do the *Septer will depart from India*. I feel ashamed and mortified. To be beaten by an Enemy only serves to inaugurate and strengthen up but to be beaten without an effort by our own frinds is truly Humiliating. *I wish I was in Arkansas*. If I can not get one (good and true), they may fight the battle themselves. I will not move a muscle of for an Enimy. The Devil take the formost for me.

I have nothing else to write you and I am sorry that I have this.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The letter mentioned here apparently is not available. In his letter of December 20, 1830, Yell made no mention of any great effort by the governor to have his friends elected to the legislature.

2. William Gilchrist, a prominent lawyer of Bedford County, was, like Yell, a prominent Mason. Perhaps this fact made Yell decline to be a candidate lest it appear to be a Masonic slate. Moreover, Gilchrist and Yell had been linked in a notorious affair in the summer of 1828 that had made some enemies for both men. Gilchrist and his brother from Alabama, Malcolm, had severely beaten Dr. James L. Armstrong, allegedly for circulating the charge that the father of the Gilchrists had been a Tory. Yell had accompanied the Gilchrists to Armstrong's home and witnessed the beating. Since Armstrong had been one of the most caustic critics of Jackson, it is likely that the attack had political overtones.

3. Wortham was a former sheriff, while Abram Martin was a Bedford County lawyer. As it turned out none of these opposed Kincaid, who beat Richard Warner by a wide margin.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. January 10, 1831

Post Route 172 from Fayetteville to Pulaski will be transferred to Ebenezer Hill¹ only if he will take the same pay as that given his predecessor. Perhaps Hill does not know the exact amount now being paid.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

1. See Hill to Polk, December 20, 1830.

FROM JESSE W. EGNEW

Dear Col.

New Orleans 11th Jany 1831

Nothing good to relate. The Legislature adjourned to this place & on yesterday reelected Johnston¹ to the Senate.

Vote

Johnston	29
Genl Dawson ²	22
Hiriant ³ [<i>sic</i>]	1
Blank	1

Eleven members absent. The Anti papers say that 6 of the Absentees are Johnston men & 5 administration men.

The election was not according to the strength of the administration in the Legislature. But how the exact strength is I cannot ascertain. But the Old Chief not with[stand]ing will triumph at the proper time. It is said that Mr Clay will be here soon, & if so, an effort will be made to nominate him.

Mr. William W. Williford is a candidate for the apt of Surveyor Genl for Mississippi & La, so I have this day heard. His qualifications are so great & his character so good that I need express no attestation, as they are known as well to the appointing power.

I will try your suit as soon as it can be reached.

EGNEW

Addressed to Washington.

1. Josiah S. Johnston was a native of Connecticut. After completing his studies at Transylvania University, he moved to Alexandria, Louisiana, where

he practiced law. He served in the territorial legislature and was elected to Congress in 1821. He was appointed to the United States Senate in 1824 and subsequently was elected and re-elected, serving until his accidental death in 1833.

2. John B. Dawson was an unsuccessful candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket in 1834. Later he served two terms in Congress, 1841-45.

3. This is probably a reference to Sebastian Hiriart, who had participated in the Battle of New Orleans, served in the Louisiana constitutional convention in 1812, and then was a state senator.

TO WILLIAM NEWSUM

My Dear Sir Washington City Jany. 12th 1831

At an early period of the present Session I again brought your petition before Congress,¹ and by all the honorable means within my power endeavored to obtain from the Committee to which it was refered a favourable report, but regret to state that the decision has been again adverse to its allowance. I most sincerely regret my Dear Sir that there seems to be no prospect of obtaining for you any relief. Supposing that it would be gratifying to you, to see the reasons upon which the Committee have rejected the claim, I have obtained and herewith transmit to you a copy of their report.² I wish I could be the medium of conveying to you more pleasing intelligence.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee.

1. See John McLean to Polk, January 12, 1828.
2. This report has not been found.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington. January 14, 1831

There are no papers on Jeremiah Dial in this office. As requested, the letter enclosing one from Dial has been referred to the Treasury Department.

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File W914 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM SAMUEL D. INGHAM

Washington. January 14, 1831

In reply to letter of the 10th, no application has been made to this department by Jeremiah Dial under the act approved May 15, 1828.

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File W914 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM JAMES K. POLK, PRYOR LEA,
AND
CLEMENT C. CLAY TO MARTIN VAN BUREN

Sir

Washington City Jany 20th 1831

The undersigned have noticed that a Bill is on its passage in the House of Representatives, which has for its object, the organizing a Board of Commissioners, in pursuance of the provisions of the Treaty with Denmark. In case that Bill should pass into law, we take leave respectfully to recommend John E. Frost Esqr¹ as a gentleman every way qualified to be Secretary to the Board; and through you to solicit, that the President of the United States will confer that appointment upon him.

JAMES K. POLK
PRYOR LEA
CLEMENT C. CLAY

Addressed to Washington. Written in Polk's handwriting, this letter is in Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. Frost, a native of the District of Columbia, did not get the place for which he was recommended here. Instead, he received what was probably a more important post as secretary of the commission headed by George W. Campbell that worked out the French spoliation claims details.

FROM WILLIAM C. FLOURNOY²

Dr Sir

Pulaski 22d Jany 1831

Enclosed are the papers of old Mr [Henry] Goodnight. The old man is extremely anxious to have them attended to. He

handed them to me to day with a request to transmit them to you. I have not examined them sufficiently to know whether they are sufficient or not. This matter is submitted to your judgment & I know you will attend to it. Try if you can to get the old man put upon the pension list for I really think he is intitled to a pension.

After you recive the documents & mak an iffort in favour of the old fellow drop me a line on the subject & I will communicate with the old man.

No news in this part of the world; [William H.] Field & [Aaron V.] Brown² are before the sovreigns here promising to us greater things than were ever done before by mortal men. It will be a close election I think.

W. C. FLOURNOY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Pulaski lawyer, who was a brother of Dr. Alfred Flournoy. He was also a son-in-law of Dr. John H. Camp.

2. This is apparently a reference to campaigning for the approaching election for state legislators. In this contest Field was elected to the upper house, and Brown was elected to the lower.

FROM JOHN BLAIR AND PETER PARSONS¹

Sir: Washington City 29th Jany 1831

In answer to your enquiry, we take pleasure in saying that, we have known Mathew Rhea Jr, now of Murry [Maury] County Tennee for more than twenty years past. We became acquainted with him in the lifetime of his father Mathew Rhea Sr.² now decd. in Sullivan County, when the said Mathew Jr was of his fathers household, & was then, & has ever since been reputed & universally known & accepted as the son of said Mathew Sr. & we furthermore believe that he was and is, the principle devisee of his fathers estate.³

JOHN BLAIR P. PARSONS

Addressed to Washington. The letter is in Blair's handwriting but bears actual signatures of both men.

1. From a prominent family of East Tennessee, Parsons was a lawyer and politician, who served one term in the lower house of the General Assembly,

1825-27. Later he moved to Talladega, Alabama. He was a brother of Enoch Parsons and of Silas Parsons, both of whom also moved to Alabama.

2. The elder Matthew Rhea served for many years as county clerk in Sullivan County. He was a brother of John Rhea, a Tennessee congressman.

3. Matthew Rhea Jr. was attempting to establish that he was the heir to a land patent that was in his father's possession at the time of his death.

FROM TERRY H. CAHAL¹

Dear Sir: Wills Grove [Maury County] Jan'y 31. 1831

Under ordinary circumstances I should feel it incumbent on me to offer you many apologies for my seeming neglect. I say *seeming*, because it has not been in my power to write you. I intended to do it as soon as the Message reached us but when that arrived it found me confined to my bed by sickness. Though convalescent I am not yet sufficiently restored to health to attend to business. I came here a few days ago and shall remain till my strength returns. Of course long indisposition and non-intercourse with the world have put me too far behind the news, to be an interesting correspondent. In fact the most that I know is that we have had the coldest winter I ever felt, & I understand there has been much sickness though but few deaths. You will have learned, I expect, that Franklin E. Polk² was among the deaths, as also old Col. Sanford.³ In Ten. we have no political news. We look to other sections for that. It does seem to me that I see more in the south that threatens disunion than ever before. Will it be possible to preserve the union ten years more? The south may, but the west can't do without it. If N. Orleans was a healthy place we could have a navy, but as it is we can't and without one our commerce would be exposed to depredation from every petty state on earth. Nay more, we ourselves must ever remain in surveillance [*sic*] to some naval power—in a condition similar to the interior of the continent of Europe—but this subject is too vast for a letter. The people of the west must adopt the President's toast for their motto. There is a rumour here of a quarrel between the President an Vice Pres.—a duel between Calhoun and Van Buren. The mail to night will confirm or contradict the latter of these reports. I entertain no doubt there is some truth in the first. Lucius [J. Polk] received a letter from you a few days

since. I could not, consistly with my notions of good manners enquire into its contents but I could but observe his not contradicting this report. I regret it exceedingly. I had hoped to see Mr C. in the Presidential chair, previous to the part he took in the Nullification doctrine. Against that I sat my face from the first moment I heard it. But his advocating that, where he must always be in a minority, was evidence of his independence and I thought of his honesty. To him I looked as the only Saviour of the South and south west. But he is now politically dead. And yet I would prefer him to Van Buren, whom I have always looked on & still consider as a time serving schemer ready to embrace any doctrine and support any measures which would procure him the good will of the majority. In this I hope I am mistaken as it occurs to me that, at this time, the only alternative for the nation is he or Clay.

As was generally anticipated I see Congress is not likely to do much this session. I hope some resolution will be passed to amend the Constitution, so as to limit the President's services to one term—perhaps it ought to be six years. I am glad to see you are Chairman of a Committee whose services may be very important in future times.⁴ I know we shall agree perfectly in our sentiment that if this government had been administered correctly, such a Committee would never have had existence and that if we could hope to see men abandon their own interest for the happiness and prosperity of their country its labours ought to be speedily dispensed with. But if our rulers will, in despite of our clamours—I might say our entreaties, collect a greater amount of revenue than is necessary to defray the ordinary expenses of the Government, what is to be done with it, become a grave question, and one which I am altogether incompetent to answer even to my own satisfaction, and will therefore not obtrude my views upon you. If money is power, and if it is dangerous to the liberties of mankind to entrust too much power with their rulers, it would seem to follow as a matters of course, that it would be good policy to distribute the public revenue, if it must be collected.

Of our own county politics I can say little more than, I see the forces are arranging for a warm contest the ensuing spring & summer. There is considerable dissatisfaction about the census in

man's² "Cane Creek" a few hundred yards from Monroes old place, the original site of the office.

The mail has been opened at Holmans for more than twelve months a part of which time he was deputy P.M. but recently appointed to office himself. About the time of his appointment a petition was got up praying the removal of the office to *Petersburg*, George L Lennard[Leonard],³ immediatly on the Creek below Capt. Crunks representing that place as the original site of the office and signed by forty seven persons.

Information of this petition was obtained not from Lennards neighbors who say they knew nothing of it, but from Mr Barry himself, who in a letter to Holman acquaints him of that fact and requests the removal of the office thither if injustice has been done to them. This Letter gave birth to the petition first refered to which upon examination will discover the names of Lennards nearest neighbors, many of whom I presume you are acquainted with and amongst them Rev John Gilbert⁴ his father-in-law.

The place to which they wish the office removed is not situate on any public road, perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the road Leading from Fayetteville by Crunks &c to New Hope. Holmans as before stated is immediatly on the road about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below Monroes & on the original route. Your own knowledge of the roads &c will enable you I hope to form a correct Judgment in this affair.

There has lately been established at Mr Lennards a retail Store and grog shop which has completely metamorphised his Secluded farm into the "flourishing village of Petersburg" in his estimation I mean. Col you will believe me when I assure you that I am not interested in this affair. It is not the office nearest my residence, but I am acquainted with the circumstances attending it and I view the attempt to remove the office as an outrage on the rights of the present incumbent. Such is the opinion of all I have heard express an opinion about it. This is the reason given by Lennard near neighbors for signing a petition apparently at varience with their own interest, at any rate, convenience. I would Just ask you to call at the P.O. department and examine the petition and Should you be satisfied yourself endeavor so to satisfy Mr Barry whose knowledge of our country cannot be presumed to be as correct as yours.

This petition contains, instead of forty seven, one hundred and forty seven petitioners or thereabouts.

JOS McBRIDE

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia. Through mistake it was not forwarded until late in March, and Polk did not receive it until April, after the whole controversy had been settled.

1. Although McBride assured Polk that he was not interested in the affair, his letter is evidence to the contrary. As a resident of Cane Creek he obviously did not want the post office moved farther away. Moreover, there seems to have been a strong dislike for George L. Leonard involved in McBride's actions.

2. Holman held the postmaster's job at Cane Creek from November 1830 until January 1833.

3. Operator of a store and a gin at Petersburg. While he did not appear to have an interest in being appointed postmaster at this time, he was eventually appointed to that office in October 1842.

4. Not otherwise identified.

FROM WILLIAM MONROE¹

Sir

Cooper County Missouri Feb 1. 1831

After an irksome & disagreeable trip I arrived here without any material occurrence; having been some weeks ago at Jefferson, our seat of Government. I had an opportunity of perusing a news paper in which I observed that on 6th Dec. when the Roll of Representatives was called Mr. Polk of Tennessee was present.

I have settled in a newly settled part of Cooper County, about 40 miles from Boonville the seat of Justice. On my arrival I found the people endeavouring to procure the organization of a new County. The bill passed its first reading & was ordered to its second & when called to its second reading, was referred to the next Legislature for want of sufficient information as to the number of inhabitants embraced by the proposed new County, which information the petitioners had neglected to furnish. This failure will render our situation less agreeable. Had we gotten a Cty. the seat of justice, it is believed by all, would have been located within a mile of me, which would have brought necessities to our door as it were. We are assured by our representa-

tive & Senator that at the next session of the Legislature, we will certainly Succeed.

At present our nearest post office is 30 miles. Since the failure of getting a new County, we have some of us determined to make an effort to remove one of the inconveniences (and not the least) that we labour under, that is to procure the establishment of a Post office in our neighbourhood. To that end we have hurried up a petition getting what subscribers were Convenient, & not delaying to get more as we were fearful that it would be late reaching Washington. Nor should I have obtruded myself upon you at this time, but to ask your aid in the passage of a bill to establish us a Post office. Courtesy dictated that the petition should be forwarded to the Representative from this State, but as I never saw Mr [Spencer D.] Pettis,² I could not make a personal address to him. You will see the Petition, & I pledge myself that there is nothing exaggerated in it. It is stated in the Petition that some of us live 30 & others 40 miles from the nearest post office. I would observe that by a better geographical knowledge of the Country I am certain that there are some who are situated at least 50 miles from the nearest office who by chance are subscribers to the petition. It is unnecessary to urge the inconvenience the want of a post office subjects us to, as I presume Congress would readily establish an office if it was though[t] that our population would justify it. Let not Congress believe that the petition presents our strength for I do assure you that there are as many as 6 gentlemen within four miles of the place where we desire the office who have not subscribed—& that it has not been presented to a single man who refused to sign. I have no hesitancy in saying that if this office is established there are at this time 200 persons settled to whom it would be the nearest office.

Your aid in this matter will be gratefully remembered by your old Constituent.

WILLIAM MONROE

Addressed to Washington.

1. Other than that he was formerly from Polk's congressional district, he is unidentified.

2. Missouri lawyer who served in the United States House of

Representatives from March 1829 until his death, in August 1831, from wounds received in a duel with Major Thomas Biddle.

FROM JOHN P. SMITH

Dear Sir

Mt. Pleasant Feb 4th 1831

Colo. Runolds¹ is Over the Mississippi and I Cannot get to see him at this time. I have enclosed the Petition together with McKineys² letter. All that I want is for it [to] reach Washington before Congress rises that I may get the Interest. You Know how to act as for yourself. I have just recovered from sickness or I would write more.

JNO P. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. Benjamin Reynolds. See Smith to Polk, December 13, 1830.
2. Thomas L. McKenney. The letter mentioned has not been found.

FROM WILLIAM COVENTRY H. WADDELL¹

Dear Sir

Washington 4th Feby 1831

I have neglected sending you the information requested relating to the Census—expecting that I should see you.

The Marshal of E. Tennessee returns	}	Free whites	Free colored	Slaves
		176,544	1943	17,887

The Marshal of W Tennessee has not sent in his *Aggregate* Return but I enclose a list of the Counties that have been returned to the Dept & *examined*. Besides these Counties there are returns recd from 9 Counties which have *not been examined yet*.

WM. COVENTRY H. WADDELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of New York, Waddell was employed for a number of years as a clerk in the Department of State.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

[Washington]. February 5, 1831

The Postmaster General directs the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosure has not been found, but Polk noted on the envelope that it involved post offices at Cane Creek and Petersburg, Lincoln County. (See McBride to Polk, January 31, 1831.) Polk wrote out a long memorandum setting forth the facts of the case as he understood them, revealing that there had been petitions favoring both sites and claims by both factions that theirs was the original location of the post office in that region. Polk noted that he would recommend the establishment of a new post office at Petersburg, with William Dewoody as postmaster, while at the same time recommending that the one at the store of James S. Holman at Cane Creek be retained, with Holman as postmaster. Within a short time he received notice that his recommendations had been carried out without modification.

FROM WILLIAM COVENTRY H. WADDELL

Washington. February 7, 1831

In reply to inquiry about the Fifth Census returns, the magnitude of the task makes it impossible to provide dependable information at this session. Only incomplete and unchecked returns are now available.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM GEORGE W. NETHERLAND¹

Sir Blountville [Tennessee] 9th February 1831

Enclosed is a copy of Matthew Rhea's will² which should have been sent by the last mail had I received your letters in time.

G. W. NETHERLAND

Addressed to Washington.

1. Netherland was at this time county clerk of Sullivan County.
2. The copy of the will was not found. In a memorandum of February 19,

1831, however, Polk noted that he had forwarded the will to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The will established the fact that Matthew Rhea Jr. was the rightful owner of the land warrant held by his father at the time of his death.

FROM JOHN K. YERGER

Dear Sir

Pulaski Feby 12 1831

I am instructed by many of the Subscribers to the enclosed petition to the President to Solicit your influence with the President in behalf of our much respected and worthy fellow citizen James Patteson [Patterson],¹ who has Signified his wish to have the appointment of Surveyor Genl. for the new Teritory acquired from the Choctaw & Chickasaw Indians by the late treaties concluded at Franklin and at the agency. It is unnecessary to say to you that Mr. Pattesons qualifications are of the first order, and that his known habits of industry, honesty, & Sobriety are a Sufficient guarentee that if he receives the appointment he will give general Sattisfaction to all Concerned.

JOHN K YERGER

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. A prominent resident of Pulaski, who had settled there with his father and brother in 1808. He fought with Jackson in the Creek War.

FROM WILLIAM COVENTRY H. WADDELL

Dr Sir

[Washington] Sunday 13 Feby 1831

I have just recd the aggregate Return of the Marshal of W. Tennessee. And as you expressed yourself anxious to know the result of the Enumeration in that Dist I take pleasure in noting at foot the numbers as of the marshals Statement.

WM. COVENTRY H. WADDELL

	Free white persons	Free Cold. persons	Slaves
W Tennessee	361,386	2570	124,492

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOSEPH GREER

Cane Creek [Lincoln County, Tenn.]

Dear Sir

February 15h 1831

In yours of the 23d of December last you Informed me that the Third Auditor [Peter Hagner] had agreed to pay Noah Ward Claim for Team hire, and that I might expect a draft on the Branch bank at Nashville in the name of Noah Ward undercover to me in Mail or two after I would recive yours.¹ No such paper has come to hand. Please to enquire about it. You have said Nothing about the Claim of Andrew Larimore Decd a private in Capt. Armstrong Company and for which I sent you the Widows power for her pension of five years pay. Her name is now Sarah Logan, she having marrid a Mr. Logan. You have their power and Capt. Armstrongs deposition to his enlistment & Death. I want to know what Success you had in this also.

JOSEPH GREER

Addressed to Washington.

1. The letter has not been found. See Polk to Hagner, December 23, 1830.

FROM WILLIAM H. HAYWOOD JR.¹

Dear Sir

Raleigh 17 February 1831

I have had the honour to receive under *frank* from you a Copy of the report made from a Committee of Congress directed to consider of the questions touching the *surplus revenue*. I was afraid the author of that report had forgotten 'auld acquaintance' or that my cautious absence from the field of political strifes (where I am always proud to see him figure as he does) had kept from his view my name & habitation. My mind however is not unconcerned for our country and I trust my heart is far from indifferent. The subjects you have so satisfactorily handled were in part those on which I had long ago decidedly avowed my opinions (among my neighbors only). We agreed and your report & arguments have led me easily from these to other

points wh[ich] you have occupied. I am so warm an admirer of Genl J. my confidence in his "*amor patriae*" is so unequivocal that I find it hard to resist the force which his simple recommendation gives to any proposal. I have looked out for this report not knowing from whom it would come and it has entirely satisfied me,

Our people are a good deal charmed with Mr. Benton's Bank speech.² For myself I am delighted with it—nor is my admiration the result of a devotion to the same side of the question, for his remarks have come on me with much inclination to the opinion that tho. unconstitutional the Bank might not be so *dangerous* & mischievous as is supposed by many. I like to have both sides presented to the view of the *people* & therefore felt gratified that something like a reply is furnished to the reports of Committees. There is so much *partizan* fury among the editors that little reliance is now placed on what the publick Journals furnish of their own, and a man who takes two papers of differing opinions & relies on these for political information is about as well off as he is who takes none at all.

But in sending me the Copy of your report you hardly expected to be troubled with the crude slang of a homespun politician & persuaded as I am that your time can be more profitably occupied I conclude what indeed threatened severely to spin itself into a prosing sheet or two. Accept my thanks & the sincere expression of a respect which I always felt for you and which your political course is increasingly greatly. Should it fall in your way to gratify your curiosity about the prospects & life of an old college friend, Gnl Dudley, or Rencher^s from this State know *all about me*.

WILL H. HAYWOOD JR

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 66-67.

1. A Raleigh lawyer who was at the University of North Carolina with Polk. He served twice in the legislature of the state and briefly in the United States Senate.

2. On February 2, 1831, Benton introduced a resolution in the Senate opposing recharter of the Bank, supporting his views in a long speech.

3. Edward B. Dudley and Abraham Rencher from North Carolina were Polk's colleagues in the House of Representatives at this time. Dudley served as governor of North Carolina, 1837-41, while Rencher remained in Congress almost continuously until 1843. Rencher was appointed minister to Portugal in 1843 and governor of the New Mexico Territory in 1847.

FROM WILLIAM NEWSUM

Dear Sir, [Mount Pleasant] Feb. 26. 1831

Your very friendly letter of the 12th. of December¹ I received, enclosing the report of the Committee on my claim, and should have acknowledged its receipt before this, but have been compeled from indisposition to defer it to this late hour.

Altho the Committee resolved that the prayer of my Petition ought not to be granted, yet, they admit when the Legal commissions exceed \$2000 p[er] annum, that excess may be applied to the objects specefied in my Petition.

If Sir, I can receive all the excess over \$2000 while I held the Office, I am content; it will suffice me the few years I *may* live, and will keep me from poverty and dependence.

A reference to my accounts during the time will show the amount of my commissions annually, and will also show, that I never received that excess over \$2000 which is admitted by Committee I was entitled to.

And now Sir, I must once more intrude upon your friendship, and solicit you to ascertain the amount of that excess, and to take the proper steps to obtain it, as I am confident I never received it. It will take but a few hours to examine my accounts. They will clearly show the fact.

I will no longer tresspass on your time, but conclude, with the assurance that my best wishes attend you.

WILLIAM NEWSUM

Addressed to Columbia and forwarded to Washington.

1. No letter of this date has been located. Since Polk did write him on January 12, 1831, it is probable that Newsum wrote the wrong month. Furthermore, Polk said in his letter of January 12 that he was enclosing the report mentioned here by Newsum.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington, March 2, 1831

The testimony of John Watkins¹ contained in his affidavit supporting the pension claim of John Vickers is not sufficient. The regiments in which he says Vickers served were not in the continental establishment.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Giles County, who was a Revolutionary War pensioner.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington, March 2, 1831

This is in reply to the inquiry concerning the claim of Noah Ward. Requisition for payment of the claim was issued on December 27 and the remittance was made on December 31.

Addressed to Washington.

TO SARAH POLK

My Dear Sarah

Washington City March 2nd 1831

I write you from my seat in the Hall at an evening Session. It is now between 8 and 9 O Clock at night; the Hall is splendidly lighted up, as is usual at an evening Session, and the lobbys are crowded with ladies & spectators. We will probably sit until midnight and very probably later. At what hour tomorrow we shall adjourn I can form no opinion, but I hope in time to enable us to get to Baltimore tomorrow.

I will add a postscript to this letter in the morning before I seal and mail it, and it will be of course, be [*sic*] the last that I will write you, before I hope to see you. I will run a race home with this letter, & think I shall beat it. I know I shall if I have luck with the Stages and Steam Boats.

JAMES K. POLK

N.B.

Ho. Repts March 3d 1831

The House sat until 4 O Clock this morning and have just met again, it being now 11 O Clock. About 2 O Clock I became so

much worn down, and fatigued, that for the first time during my service here, I found myself compelled to go to my lodgings. I feel rather in low spirits this morning, for I fear that the House may sit to so late an hour, and to prevent me from reaching Baltimore, for tomorrow's stage. I will however leave at all events in time to get there, unless there should be some matter of paramount importance to render it indispensable for me to remain. I will get off if I can with any sort of propriety.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Columbia. This is the earliest letter from Polk to his wife that has been located.

FROM WILLIAM D. ORR¹ TO
JAMES WALKER AND JAMES K. POLK

Dr. Sirs

Bedford County March 4th 1831

The business you Expected me to do respecting the Surveying of the old Trotter claim in this County I have not yet completed. When Col. Polk gave the papers to me in August last I was attending Court & soon after my return home, my wife was taken sick, and was so very bad with a disease as powerful as ever I saw mortal kind endure. Suffice it to say that all her finger & Toe nails with all her skin came off. Her peculiar situation rendered it my duty to remain close at home till the cold weather set in. I went to survey the land four different times but the inclemcy of the weather made me return home, and living at the distance of 14 or 15 miles from it, and having to do some public business in another line I could not attend to it untill some days ago. Col. Polk requested me to apply to a Mr. McClellan² to shew me the lines; he could not go. I got Mr. Beck and Mr. Allen³ to accompany me but they did not understand the different Claims and as improvements have been made upon Some of the Entries it is hard to ascertain how & where they are situated, and Esqr. Rainey is not *much disposed* to shew any thing about the matter But from the Knowledge I have of the lands in the neighbourhood I could have proceeded perhaps to have done the work if it

had not been from the uncertainty of Knowing & finding the Armstrong Claim. I could find no person disposed if they Knew to tell me where the Claim lay, and from the representation of the abstract made out by the Secretary of State the Claim must be further north than some have expected, and the running done by Mr. *Smith* was carried into the Armstrong claim as I understand from those who wish the matter to ly in darkness. The old settlers in the neighbourhood are mostly interested and have not much disposition to accommodate persons engaged in the Search of the lines. The entries made under the late acts by Beck & the Rainey's referred to in the memorandum left me by Col Polk are mostly if not entirely out of the Trotter Claim, and lye in the Armstrong grant.

It is said that it will not interfere with Mrs. Wells improvement, and that it will not touch any but Jas. McCall⁴ and there is some ground not taken by any person under the late law.

The Armstrong claim or one line at least must be Known before the claim or interference can be made out with any certainty.

I anticipated a difficulty of this kind attending the surveying early after the papers was left with me. But this I can only say that if when Col Polk comes home and will attend to it in person or give such direction and assistance as will enable the Survey to be made, I shall feel bound at all times to render my aid and as I am pretty well acquainted with most of the Claims Except that of Armstrongs I could do the business with but little trouble if we could get a correct starting place.

N.B. The people Say you have no *claim* on the north of the River as your land agreeable to your grant calls for the So side. I presume some will stand a suit. I have all the papers and will preserve them safely untill I see you &c.

Should you be disposed to go on with the business Shortly and call upon me for any assistance you will please drop me a few lines to Farmington some days before hand as I am very much from home. You would stand a Slender chance to find me at home as I am Surveying & Sheriff together and a line Some time before hand to meet you on the premises or at any place you name will be attended to if I can only get word.

You will excuse my sheet of paper as I write from where I can only get half of one and in a great hurry.

WM. D. ORR

Addressed to Columbia and delivered by hand.

1. Resident of Bedford County and at one time county clerk. When Marshall County was created, however, his home fell in the new division, and he was one of the commissioners appointed to purchase the land for the establishment of the county seat.

2. Probably Hugh McClellan, a pioneer settler in the area that became Marshall County. Polk and Walker were apparently concerned with locating a tract of land that was a part of the Sam Polk estate.

3. With only last names given, it is virtually impossible to identify the persons mentioned here.

4. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Dr Sir

Charlotte No.C. March 8h 1831

Inclosed you have a deed from my Children for the Maurey County Land. Circumstances Prevented my Getting it sooner. I hope there Will be no farther obsticle in the way of Collecting The money due for land sold by Mr McGee.¹ I am Desirous that you should press Collections as Soon as possible. I am needing the money both On my own Acct. and on acct. of those with whom I made the Compromise.² So soon as you can possibly make collections, you will Please Try and Get me a draft from the United States bank a[t] Nashville, or the United States Bank at Fayetteville No.C. I will forward you A power of attorney to make Tittles to land Sold by Mr McGee And to sell any remaining Portion of said Land.

You will please write me on Receipt of this And advise me of the prospects of speedy Collection. I should like for you To see James Leetch about the draft mentioned In my former communication. Marshall [T. Polk] is Out on his Circuit; when he returns I will send The power of attorney.

Mining for Gold is all the Rage here. Marshall, Julius A____³ & McGee are about Trying their Luck, and from the prospect no doubt will do well. Your Brother is getting a very promising

practice in our Court and I think from what I understand gets a full Share of practice in all the Courts he attends. Wilson McGee was a Good deal depressed when He first returned to this Country. He is however now in better spirits. And the business in which He is now engaged will give him active employ And I think will make money.

Remember me to your mother & family. . . .

WM. DAVIDSON

Addressed to Columbia. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 67.

1. This person and the Wilson McGee mentioned below appear to be the same David W. McGee (McRee) who had been Davidson's land agent in Maury County.

2. This refers to the compromise made with John H. Davidson, who represented the grandchildren of Thomas Davidson.

3. Probably William J. Alexander.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN

Washington. March 12, 1831

Postmaster-General regrets that department cannot afford to place a line of stages on route from Columbia to Huntsville.

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Postmaster General's Letter Books (RG 28), National Archives.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Shelbyville March the 13th 1831

This letter will meet you at Columbia I hope in good health, I have not written to you since I recev'd your Calhoun dockument.¹ I was extremely anxious to heare what impression it had made at Washington but I was not able to gather from your letter or from the papers of any kind how it was received at the City and can not as yet form any sort of an Idea what is to be the result except from my own notions of the dockument its self. I am free to acknowledge that untill I saw Calhouns defence I was induced to

believe that he was in the wrong and had acted with duplicity toward the old Genl but that prejudice was in a grate degree removed and my own convictions are that Calhoun has acquitted himself in a manner that will place him on as high ground before the American people as he ever occupied. His defence is open candid and independent written in just such a way as a grate man ought to write. His letter to [William H.] Crawford deserves a place in the arkives at Washington as a Memento of the p[r]oper view that the American people have of that infernal Rascal *Crawford*. He is Just what I have thought he was for the last 6 or 8 yers. And you will find it a good Rule in the generl to Judge a man by the partialitis or prejudices of old *Erwin*.² His grate partiality for Him was *prima facia* evidence with me that he was a scoundral and I do hope Genl Jackson will keep him at proper distance, though he has allowed himself to be carryed away by the duplicity of either him or some of his frinds. I say this because I believe it not that I am angry with him, for it but because I am sorry for it. He ought ner to have lent his ear to the slanders of either Crawford or his frinds at this period and this remote period from the transaction. I hope Mr Van [Buren] has not had *two* much to do with this matter but I have my fears. He was once the leader of the Crawford party and in my view has not much improved in virtue—tho he is an able man and assists no doubt much in the support of the administration yet I have always received him with a Jelous eye. I therefore may two eaisily be inclined to suspect him with all my bad impressions toward *Van*. I have not come to the determation that I will not vote for him if it should become nessary tho I could not give him that warm support that I would Genl Jackson.³

These are my views and I do not pretend that they are ortherdox or that they are passing fancy. I may have formed them under improper excitement but they are my own and will so remain until I find something to remove them. I strongly suspect that I have not taken the same view of it, that ma[n]y of the most devoted frinds of Genl Jackson have but we are all allowed to think for ourslvs. I grately fear this matter is to end in no good; it will it must make a division either more or less in our ranks thereby the better preparing the way of *Prince Hal*. Should

this be the final result he may look to his gratest enimis as the cause from which his promotion arrives. I have written to you my oppinions freely as I am not disposed with you to conceal my views. But I must acknowldge that you have been more prudent with yours for I am not able to even conjecture how your feelings are after all your long letters. This is perhaps all right enough; it is enough for you to give the *facts* without any accompanying oppinions.

I have made this letter much longer than I first intended and to you a very unprofitable one. I hope to see you shortly. I expect to be at the Lincoln Circut Court & we would grately [. . .] to put things in a right train in that County for the H.R.

But I now hope things are doing well. *Gilchst*⁴ says he will be elected by 1000 majority. You know how easily it is for a new *beginnr* to be decived. I would say, frind be content with 500 or less.

I have nothing worth writing.

A YELL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This refers to a pamphlet published by Calhoun in February 1831, containing certain correspondence concerning the Seminole War. Crawford had revealed Calhoun's unfriendly attitude toward Jackson's conduct in West Florida, and Calhoun was trying to prevent a complete break with Jackson.

2. Andrew Erwin.

3. Yell's questioning attitude toward Van Buren was shared by many Tennesseans, and Polk was surely aware of the fact. See Terry H. Cahal to Polk, January 31, 1831.

4. Yell was more nearly correct than Gilchrist, but both were wide of the mark. Gilchrist lost by several hundred votes.

FROM JAMES WALKER¹

Dear Sir

Davis Mill Post Office² March 23, 1831

I addressed a letter [to] you on the 5th of January last on the subject of recommendation that had been forwarded to the president Desiring that I might be appointed a surveyor for a new District in the fork of the rivers of Mississippi and Illinoise. I have seen that the District has been made but have not been informed any thing about the matter even whether the petition

has been received nor have I been informed whether any of the letters on that subject has ever reached the City. Please to be so good as to let me know by the next male whether you received my letter and whether you have any receipts for me from Duff Green for my subscription for the U.S. Tellegraph. Accept Dear sir my best wishes for your well fare in this world and that wich is to come.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This James Walker is not to be confused with Polk's brother-in-law by the same name. He lived in Bedford County and was known as a Jackson supporter. He was one of the witnesses to the beating of Dr. James L. Armstrong by the Gilchrist brothers.

2. Located in Bedford County a few miles northeast of Shelbyville, this was the place where Dr. Armstrong lived.

TO ANDREW JACKSON

Dear Sir

Columbia Tennessee March 28th 1831

I understand that *Col. Andrew A. Kincannon* of Fayetteville Tennessee, will probably be an applicant for the appointment of Marshall of West Tennessee, and having been requested by a friend to state to you what I know of him, it is due to him to say, that I know of no man in the state who would make a better Marshall. He is at present the Sheriff of Lincoln County, sustains a fair character, is an active enterprising man, and is in all respects a man of business. Should he be an applicant therefore, I take pleasure in bearing testimony to his qualifications for the office, and to his worth as a gentleman and an honorable man.

JAMES K. POLK

N.B. In a former letter I had the honor to present for your consideration the name of Majr. [John W.] Childress of Murfreesborough for the same office. At the same time that I feel that it is due to Col. Kincannon to state to you what I know of him also, I do not wish to be understood by doing so, as withdrawing my recommendation of Majr Childress. I simply wish to present the claims of both.¹

J. K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This is a copy, written in Polk's handwriting and signed by him.

1. Polk was probably embarrassed by being called upon to recommend both his brother-in-law Childress and his firm political friend Kincannon for the same job. Possible complications were avoided when the appointment went to Samuel B. Marshall.

FROM WILLIAM B. ROSS

Colo James K Polk

Columbia 2 April 1831

I have agreeable to your request made the division of that 500 acre tract of Tho. Harris near Carrol[1]ville & returned a plot containing the several divisions which was mailed to you some months ago¹ together with a bill of cost of the division which I hope you will remit to me in a short time. . . .

WM B. Ross

Addressed to Columbia and delivered by hand.

1. See Ross to Polk, September 8, 1830.

FROM GEORGE LOVELL¹

Laranceburg[Lawrenceburg]

Mr James K Poke [sic]

April 6 1831

After My Compliments to you I wish to infom you I recived kind Letter and was glad to here that you had got my paten[t]. Pray have the goodness to send it by the Male and oblige your Senceer frennd Gorge Lovill. Sir I would not wish to Troubl you with Sending But I am So Confined in the Buisy care of a Mill that I Cant Come Now.

GORG LAVVEL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Although the name here is difficult to decipher and seems to have been spelled differently in the two places where it appears, it seems certain that this is the same person who wrote to Polk from Hickman County on August 16, 1827. The earlier letter was penned by a different person than was this one. The present letter was written by one who was semiliterate, probably Lovell himself.

FROM A. M. M. UPSHAW¹

Dear Sir

Pulaski Apl 18th. 1831

Enclosed you will find our Military Land clams. We would like to have it Laid off in nine diferent pecies if it could be done.² Any attention you give to the business will be thankfully acknowled[g]ed. . . .³

A. M. M. UPSHAW

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A resident of the Elkton vicinity in Giles County, who was prominent in the local Masonic Lodge and in the county militia.
2. The nine heirs of Captain James Upshaw, a Revolutionary veteran, were trying to get a 4000-acre bounty land warrant. The writer was a son of James Upshaw.
3. In an endorsement Polk noted that he had sent the papers to Matthew St. Clair Clarke.

FROM CHARLES VEAZIE¹

Dear Sir

New York 19 April 1831

An Apolligy is Due to you for the Delay of the Finish of your Coach but I Have but One Excuse to Make for the Delay, that is we have had one continued Serys of Storms & Rane for the Last thirty Days. Mr. J. D. Dickinson Esq² advised me Not to hurry the Work soe fast that it would Not be Well Don. I hope you will Excuse me for the Delay.

I hope the Coach will arrive Safe and meat your view. Pleas wright me on the Receipt of the Coach How it pleasis you. I Here Send you the Pollicy as Directed.³

CHARLES VEAZIE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Unidentified. His name did not appear in the New York directories available.
2. Unidentified.
3. This was an insurance policy from the Union Insurance Company, covering the shipment of a coach from New York to New Orleans.

FROM JOEL M. SMITH¹

Dear friend

Nashville 23 May 1831

The office of Marshal for this district has become vacant by the death of Genl [Robert] Purdy. Having long been accustomed to do the duties of that office I have sent on my name to the President as an applicant for that office.² Believing that a letter from you to the President would have much weight with him in his decision upon that subject I am induced to ask you to say something in my favour provided you can feel a willingness to do so. Your knowledge of me as a private citizen and public officer for many years past has been amply sufficient for you to Judge of my qualifications for that office.

J. M. SMITH

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Resident of Nashville who achieved some prominence in civic and political affairs. He was a city alderman, 1827-28 and 1837-38, and at one time owned the *Nashville Union*.

2. While he did not get the appointment he was here seeking, he was appointed shortly by President Jackson to the post of Surveyor and Inspector of Revenue for the Port of Nashville.

FROM POWHATAN ELLIS

Dear Sir

Natchez [Mississippi] May 26 1831

Your letter of the 10th Inst. has just reached me by the way of Winchester. I do not know whether it will be in my power to procure for your friend Mr. Campbell¹ a situation in the Surveying Choctaw lands in this State under Mr. Fitzs,² but I will make the application enclosing your letter with such remarks as may be necessary to place him fairly before the Surveyor General.

I regret the necessity of a change in the Cabinet³ as it will be a source of much rejoicing to the opposition. It will however only exist for a short time, as I am fully persuaded the new arrangement will strengthen the administration. Does Judge White accept of the War office? If so who will be his successor?

The Calhoun correspondence has not injured Genl Jackson in the estimation of one individual in this state originally attached to him and the great principles on which his administration is based. It is also believed the new Cabinet will give more strength to the party and reconcile some, who have been opposed to us on the ground of a supposed want of capacity in the old Ministry.

I do not think it probable the Choctaw Lands will be surveyed this summer. If you recollect there was no appropriation for that purpose & it is questionable whether the Govt can make much progress in that matter without more ample means.

I beg you will remember me to Mrs Polk.

POWHATAN ELLIS

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This is probably a reference to Elisha S. Campbell, who moved from Tennessee to Mississippi in 1831. Campbell later wrote Polk for help in applying for an appointment as receiver of public moneys in the Choctaw Nation. See Campbell to Polk, December 7, 1832.

2. Gideon Fitz was surveyor of lands south of Tennessee.

3. Jackson remade his Cabinet during the spring of 1831, eliminating those who favored Calhoun over Van Buren. The reorganization was precipitated at this time by the Peggy Eaton affair.

FROM EDWARD WARD¹

Dear Sir

[Near Nashville] June 10th 1831

I have just received your communication relative to two executions, issued from the county court of Davidson vs me amounting to \$944.63 ½ cents.

I am found unprepared to pay the money out here, but have written to the House of Nichol & Hill² of Nashville to have it liquedated for me. I have also written to Albert G. Ward³ to attend to it for me, in case it should not be convenient for N & Hill to do it. I feel quite confident that the business will be promptly attended to. Should it not be, I will assuredly have it done in some way so as to prevent further trouble should I have to ride to Nashville to do it.

EDWARD WARD

state treasurer, 1829–35, and was subsequently president of the state bank.

2. A native of Kentucky, Baylor moved to Alabama in 1820 and practiced law in Tuscaloosa County. He was in Congress, 1829–31, but was unsuccessful in his bid for re-election. Also a Baptist minister, he moved to Texas in 1839, where he served as a district judge for many years and became one of the founders of Baylor University.

3. Unidentified.

4. Garth moved to Alabama from Virginia in 1817. He became a wealthy planter and in 1838 became president of a bank at Decatur. He was a brigadier general in the militia and served several terms in the state legislature. He was not successful in his 1831 campaign for Congress.

5. Born at Fayetteville, Tennessee, Mardis moved to Alabama and began the practice of law at Montevallo in 1823. He served several terms in the state legislature. He was elected to Congress in 1831 and in 1833. He died in Talladega County when only thirty-six years old.

FROM JAMES BROWN

Dear Sir

Jackson [Tenn.] June 23d 1831

I have made the division with Scurlock. I have take a conveyance for 170 acres part of the 1000 acre tract in Gibson and have take the deed in the name of James K. Polk, Saml W. Polk, William H Polk and the representatives of Franklin E Polk and Marshall T. Polk. If this will not answr wright me & perhaps I can get another deed from Scurlock. For the location interest in the Davis tract & the 640 in Henderson I have got 628 acres in the south East corner of the Davis tract; the division is made by agreement, & bond to convey or cause it to be done. I would prefer the conveyance from Davis direct. Scurlock has no title. I shall be in Maury in August; we will then make some arrangement to get deed from Davis. The Massie tract I have examined & am ready for division tho we have not agreed about it yet. I am not certain that Scurlock can mak us a deed that will be good.

JAMES BROWN

Addressed to Columbia.

TO HUGH B. PORTER¹

Dear Sir

Columbia July 8th 1831

I am informed that you expect to go to Carroll County in a few days. I have to ask the favour of you to take with you the

enclosed order from Wm. Davidson on *Moses Green* of that County,² present it to Mr. Green and recive from him whatever amt. he will pay. You can give him a receipt for the amt. paid or credit it on the back of the order. If he does not pay the whole of it, to wit, \$1250. get him to accept it in writing on the back of the order. Bring the order back with you if the whole is not paid. The enclosed letter, unsealed addressed to Mr. Green I wish you to read & hand it to him when you present the order to him.

I do not know in what part of the County Mr. Green lives but understand it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of Huntingdon. I will of course expect to satisfy you for any extra trouble or expenses you may be at in attending to this matter, and will moreover take it as a favour if you will do so.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Maury County. Although it is not so marked, it seems to be a copy of the letter sent. It is in Polk's handwriting and bears his signature.

1. For many years he was a prominent merchant in Williamsport, Maury County. He was a colonel in the militia.

2. Green seems to have moved from Middle Tennessee to Carroll County. It also appears that he had bought land from William Davidson, perhaps in Middle Tennessee, and had not completed payment. An undated memorandum at the bottom of this letter, written by someone other than Polk, indicates that Davidson received \$1,000 from Green in July 1831.

FROM MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE¹

Dear Sir

Washington 9 July 1831

On full investigation I find that Warrant No 293 issued to William Grey[Gray]—1000 acres of it were located in Ohio for the Representatives of S. Coles—sold to S. C. for \$200. 1666 acres were located in Kentucky making the amount of the warrant [. . .] was only 2666 acres.

As to Mr. [James] Upshaws Warrant they have decided against granting me a triplicate on the ground that the same testimony is required to have loss of *Duplicate*, as loss of *original*. I do not consider it material and have this day ordered on an *Official Copy* of the *Duplicate*—for in case of triplicate if scrip

could issue bond & security [. . .] be required and so also in the Duplicate. Still the insuperable difficulty arises that the No of [. . .] was exhausted long before you Sent me their application. But we will be among those for whom Congress must provide hereafter. I will have all matters regularly attended to; you may rely on it.

The Treasury could not issue Seperate scrip unless the *War-rant* had been issued first in Seperate parcels.

I will send you word about perfecting testimony as to Heir-ship.

Genl [Simon] Bernard² is going off to France forthwith to take high rank in the army intended immediately to operate against Russia. I have no doubt of a successful war. Prussia goes to Poland. England it is said will be neutral but how can she if all get at it on the Continent?³

The Materiel of France, as they call it, is 500,000.

MATT ST. CLAIR CLARKE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. At this time Clarke was Clerk of the House of Representatives.
2. A native of France who had served in the War Department with the rank of brigadier general.
3. The Polish revolt that broke out in November 1830 was threatening to bring on a general European war.

FROM MOSES GREEN

Dr. sir

Carrol[1] County July 23d 1831

Your letter of the first of June came to hand yesterday.¹ It being so long comeing to hand I shall answer it with as mutch hast as possible. I have reced A letter from [William] Davidson stating that he would gave you an order to me for the money. I stated to him in answer that I Expected that I could send the money directly to him by one of my Neighbours (A very safe hand I believe) if he would advise so to do, also that I would be glad that he would endeavour to draw some more money from my agent in his neighbourhood. If it would be no inconvenience

to him I would be very glad he would do so, and when my Neighbour goes to N.C. I would impower him to make A final settlement with them both (if my Neighbour goes which I have no doubt of at present Except some misfortune happens him) should he not I will aquant you of it as soon as possible. I have collected Eleven hundred dollars of his money, and I think I can make the balance in A few days. I have taken \$2.50 which he reced out of that amount, I have usd about thirty dolars in paying his tax &c. and if he colects money from my agent in N.C. I shall Charge nothing for my trouble of selling & colecting for him for one good turn always deserves another I think. I Expect an answer from him Every day, his money is ready and su[b]ject to his order at any time, (what I have colected and what is not I will indeavour to acomodate him with at his call). There is one of the men who is indebted to him who has been unfortunate with his crop of cotton and I am affraid he will be presd to pay all up. He has paid only two hundred dollars yet but I think he soon will make out the balance. The power of attorney that Davidson gave Calwell² to impower me to sell he told me would be left in Columbia. If it would be of importance that it should be on record here, I would be glad you would convey it to me and instruct me how to do with it. I had the one Calwell gave me recrded here, and I understood if I sold the land that they both ought to be recorded here. I rote to Davidson about it and when I recive an answer I Expect he will advise me on the subject.

MOSES GREEN

PS I think Crocket is a going to be beat at this Election by [William T.] Fitzgareld.³ I hope the name of David [Crockett] the mighty man in the River Country will no longer Disgrace the Western District in the National Legaslature.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. This letter has not been found. Just why it took so long for the letter to get to Green is not clear.

2. This is possibly a reference to Dr. Silas Caldwell.

3. Fitzgerald was a native of Tennessee, who was practicing law in Dresden, Weakley County. He had served as state attorney general and solicitor general for the 16th district. He beat Crockett but served only one term in Congress.

FROM LUCIUS W. STOCKTON¹

Uniontown Fayette Co Pa.
Dr Sir March [August] 6th 1831²

Will your observation of the manner I have done my business as a mail Contractor on this route authorize me in asking a letter of recommendation to the Honb Wm. T. Barry, with a view to assist me in obtaining a renewal of my contract which takes place next month.

Should you feel at liberty to enclose me such an one before the 20t Sept (next month) the favor will be gratefully acknowledged. . . .

L. W. STOCKTON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Lucius W. Stockton had been a mail contractor for two or three years. Since this letter is written from a town in southwestern Pennsylvania, it seems likely that Polk might have known him in his travels to or from Washington via the Ohio River.

2. Although Stockton wrote "March" quite clearly on this letter, it was posted on August 8, 1831. The last sentence makes clear that the March date was incorrect. Polk said in an endorsement that he received the letter on August 22.

FROM PATTON ANDERSON¹

Sir Fayetteville Augst 9th 1831

I have an idea of running for Engrossing Clerk of the House of Representatives in our next Legislature, if I can get my friends to go for me. I shall deem it as a particular favor if you will speak to Mr [Lucius J.] Polk the representative from your County in favor of me.

PATTON ANDERSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Although no positive identification has been made, he was probably a kinsman of William Preston Anderson of Winchester and the Patton Anderson

who was a friend of Andrew Jackson and whose murder by Magness brought about exciting times in Franklin, where the trial was held. This Patton Anderson, however, was not successful in his quest for election as engrossing clerk. A letter that he wrote to Elijah Hayward in October 1831 concerning alleged malfeasance in the surveying operations in Florida indicates that he had been a resident of that territory at one time.

FROM JAMES R. WHITE

Dear Col. Lexington, [Tenn.] August 10th 1831

I hasten to inform you that from accounts received from the Different Counties [William T.] Fitzgerald is elected by a Majority of from one thousand to thirteen hundred Votes.

You know I promised when I last saw you to attend to the Cols. Case when I came to the district. I have done so faithfully. I have the satisfaction to know that in a 4th July Speech I made here I damaged him [Crockett] about 300 votes, that is we reduced his majority from 580 to 197 in this County [Henderson].

[Charles D.] McLean¹ of Jackson is also elected over C[hristopher] H. Williams² (a Clay man) of this County & Cullen Andrews³ of this County is elected to the Senate in place of John T Harmon.⁴

JAMES R. WHITE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. He had been the publisher of the *Jackson Gazette* since 1824. Before that he had for some years published papers in Clarksville and Nashville. He served only one term in the General Assembly and in 1833 moved to Shelby County, where he lived in semiretirement on a farm.

2. Educated at the University of North Carolina, Williams was at this time practicing law in Lexington. He never was elected to the General Assembly but served five terms in the United States House of Representatives as a Whig, 1837-43 and 1849-53.

3. The counties represented by Andrews were Stewart, Humphreys, Perry, and Henderson. He was re-elected to the state senate in 1833.

4. One of the earliest settlers in this region, he was the first surveyor of the town of Lexington and the first sheriff of Henderson County. He served for some time on the board of Lexington Academy, the first school in the county.

FROM CAVE JOHNSON

Dear Sir,

Clarksville August 17th 1831

The election of Fitzgerald over Crocket leaves the office of Sol. Genl Vacant & my youngest brother J. N. Johnson¹ has concluded to be a candidate for the office. We feel much solicitude for his Success and hope, if it should not interfere with any views or wishes of your more particular friends that you will if convenient give us a helping hand. He had law in my office, married without a dollar & then entered upon his profession, in which he has been engaged about two years & he is under the impression that he can better his fortunes by locating himself in the western district particularly if aided by that office. I think he is verry well qualified to discharge its duties, I am sure much better than I was when I recd the appointment for this district.

I am fearful [Thomas D.] Arnold² will be worse upon us than Crocket. We are deeply mortified at the recent events at Washington.³

C. JOHNSON

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Joseph Noel Johnson, the youngest member of the family, did not receive the appointment. Instead it went to Joel Henry Dyer.

2. Fiercely anti-Jackson, Arnold bitterly resented the role Polk played in Arnold's contest of the 1829 election. Pryor Lea was declared the winner despite Arnold's protests. Arnold published a scurrilously insulting denunciation of Polk, apparently expecting to force Polk into challenging him to a duel. Polk, however, merely ignored the insults.

3. This is apparently a reference to the recriminations among the leading members of the Jackson party, growing partially out of the reorganization of the Cabinet during the spring of 1831. At one time John H. Eaton challenged his former Cabinet colleague Samuel D. Ingham to a duel. Not until the early fall did the quarreling subside.

FROM JAMES R. WHITE

Dear Col.

Lexington [Tennessee] August 23rd 1831

I have forwarded a letter by mail to Col [James] Dobbins on the subject of Mr Greens¹ Election. I do not feel my self suffi-

FROM JOHN H. RIVERS

Dear Sir

Giles Cty Tenn 4th Spt 1831

I enclose you, by request of Mr Saml Baker, the affidavit of Mathew Woods as testimony in further support of his declaration for a pension placed in your hands some time since.¹ So far as the *swearing* of witnesses can go, his claim to a pension is fully made out. But the silence of the muster rolls on file in the office of Secretary of State of N.C. will, I fear, always defeat him.² All you can do will be to cary the papers again before the pension officer, which allow me to request in Mr Baker's name.

JNO H RIVERS

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Polk noted that he had sent the papers on to James L. Edwards.
2. Here Rivers was too pessimistic. Baker was placed on the pension rolls. See Baker to Polk, April 24, 1830.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

Col Polk

Shelbyville Sept the 4th 1831

I have only a minut to write you. Old friend [William] Brown (the Farthr of Capt E W Brown¹) wishes to see you on business at the Pension office. R[obert] C. Thompson some five or Six months since made out his claim &c but he has not heird from it since.² You must give the old man all the sattisfaction in your power &c. If he wishes any thing done here I will attend to it for him. He is in a grate hurry and I can not find out what he dos want &c.³

A. YELL

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Ezekiel W. Brown had once served as sheriff of Bedford County.
2. William Brown was eventually put on the pension rolls under an act passed by Congress in June 1832. At the bottom of this letter Polk wrote that the papers were probably in the War Department and might already be in the Pension Department. He noted that he would check in Washington and then would write Brown in Shelbyville.

3. Yell seems to have attached some political significance to this effort to accommodate Brown and is apparently uneasy that no action has been taken. Polk had developed a reputation as a friend of the old soldiers, and perhaps Yell feared that this reputation might be damaged.

FROM JOHN H. EATON

17 Sep 31

Mr [Samuel] Inghams & Mr Millers¹ not[e]s have been surrendered.² I ask the favor of yr having the franking priviledge [. . .] send off the [. . .] others.

J. H. EATON

Addressed to Polk "When at Washington" and in care of Maj. Lewis.

1. Daniel H. Miller of Philadelphia was in Congress, 1823-31.

2. In May 1826, twelve men, including Eaton, signed a \$3,000 note for Duff Green to assist him in financing the *United States Telegraph*. Eaton was responsible for \$1,000 and the others for lesser amounts. Ingham and Miller were responsible for \$150 each.

FROM ANDREW DERRYBERRY¹

Dear Sir Perry County [Tennessee] Sept. 22nd 1831

After my compliments to you I will inform you that I wante you to try and see if you cant have somthing don for me when you go to Congress in giting me a pention. I have under stood you was a perticlar frnd to the old Soldiers. I have maid all the proof that is nessary and the papers is in the office of the Ware departemente and if you can git me a pention you can pay your self out of it for your trobl. I am in a very low situation my self. I have note[not] been able to [do] any work for the last four or five years.

I went in the survis in the year 1782 August 25th and was Discharged in year 1783 July 5th.

ANDREW DERRYBERRY

Addressed to Columbia.

1. He had served in the North Carolina militia and was not put on the pension rolls until after the act of Congress passed in June 1832. On a list of

pensioners published by Congress he was listed as being from Perry County, but his name was erroneously spelled Deweberry.

FROM JAMES WILKINS¹

Dr. Sir

Columbia Ten Octo. 1831

Will you be so good as to examine the papers of M. T. Polk Decd of N.C. for one attachment on James Moore² from this County dated about the 12 Octo. 1829 assigned by John Smith Esqr.³ for about the sum of \$41.18 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cents which I inclosed to said M T Polk for Collection and he informed when last in Columbia that he had placed it in the hands of a Lawyer a friend of his in the same County in which said Moore lived. And if the money is made please bring it to me; if not act with it as you think most advisable to have the same made if it can be done.

JAMES WILKINS

No address for this letter has been found.

1. A silversmith in Columbia. He had been an officer in the militia and was a man of some substance.

2. Unidentified.

3. It is possible that this is John P. Smith of Mount Pleasant.

TO JOHN COFFEE

Dear Sir

Columbia Oct. 2nd 1831

Your letter of the 30th ult. is just received: Mrs. Polk will accompany me to Washington this winter, and it would afford us much pleasure to take charge of Miss Mary¹ and have the pleasure of her company on our journey, and we will certainly do so if we conclude to travel in the way we have usually done in the stage. Our route and the mode of travelling will depend somewhat on the fall. Should it continue to be dry and a prospect of good roads, our calculation has been to travel in our own carriage through N. Carolina, by the way of Charlotte, the residence of the widow and little children of my late brother,² whom we wish to see. In the event of our taking this circuitous route, we will

Company, and was a delegate to the 1834 internal improvements convention in Columbia.

FROM ALLEN B. McELHANY¹

Sir

Elkton Nov 25th 1831

I have had The misfortune to loose my pattent for my land that I received as bounty land in sending it from Alabama to Columbia. [I] wish to procure a duplicate of the former Pattent and I know of no better person to confide the business to than your self. I have maid out surtificates and have been qualifid to them and had the county seal affixed there to. Upon the recep-tion of these Certificates [if] they are not sufficent to grant a duplicate you would acommodate your humble servant very much if you would transmit to me what way I should procede to obtain a patent or duplicate of the former one. My Number of the Pattent 26128 granted to Allen B McElhany and ishued July 25th 1828 for the south west quarter of section 26 of township ten north in range four west in the Territory of Arkansaw.

Should these means fail that I have sent you I would be glad to know it as soon as you can conveniently let me here by letter. I will again try for a duplicate while you are in Washington.

ALLEN B. McELHANY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Although this is clearly the correct spelling, the *United States Statutes at Large* uses the spelling McAlhany. Nothing has been learned about him, except that he apparently resided in Giles County at this time.

FROM THOMAS N. McCLAIN

Mr James K Polk Richmond Bedford County Decm 8th 1831

I have inclosed you a petition for a postoffice at my Store Twelve miles South west of Shelbyville in the neighborhood of Henry Moore, James Ray, Esqr, Col Blackwell, Capt Medearis, & Thos Suduth Esqr¹ between Rock and Sinking Creek four & one half miles South of the Lawrenceburg Rout on the Rode

Leading from the Fishingford to Fayetteville. Please forward the petition.²

THOS. N. McCLAIN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Moore and Medearis were Revolutionary War veterans, and Blackwell was probably Shrewsbury Blackwell, who was a colonel in the militia. Ray and Suduth have not been identified.

2. The petition was successful. A post office was established at Richmond, and McClain served as its postmaster.

FROM ELIJAH HAYWARD

Washington. December 13, 1831

Transmitted herewith is the exemplification of the land patent issued to Allen B. McAlhaney which was requested.¹ McAlhaney's letter is returned.

Addressed to Washington.

1. In an endorsement Polk noted that he sent the copy of the patent to McElhaney [sic] on December 14, 1831.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Washington City Decr. 14. 1831

Enclosed I send you the declaration of Samuel Baker for a pension, accompanied by an additional afft. of Capt. *Matthew Woods* (a respectable citizen of Tennessee, and now I believe himself on the pension roll) in support of his claim. Mr. Baker's declaration was once before submitted to your examination, but I must ask that you will give it another examination connected with his new testimony now addressed, for I am impressed with the belief that he is a very meritorious old man and that his claim is well founded. I think so, from his own statement and the proof in the case notwithstanding his name does not appear upon the N.C. muster rolls, as you will perceive from the enclosed letter from the secretary of State of that State addressed to me.¹ When you have decided on his case advise me of it.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Pension File S39169 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. See William Hill to Polk, December 27, 1830.

FROM WILLIAM GREEN

Sir [Columbia, Tennessee] December 16, 1831

I have enclosed my petition and specification to the Secretary of State for a patent for my late invention, an improvement in the art of Turning, and by Council directed the whole to you authorizing you to act for me. . . .

WILLIAM GREEN

Presumably addressed to Washington. This letter was written on the same sheet with the one below, which Green also signed.

FROM WILLIAM GREEN AND OTHERS

Dear Sir, [Columbia, Tennessee, December 16, 1831]

We the undersigned have advised our friend William Green to solely employ you to get his patent out as there are several now waiting and wishing to purchase a right and he not consulting you before you left Columbia about the affair for which [. . .] total is thirty dollars. We the undersigned do join with him in vouching to you that if you please to get out the right and direct it to the care of David Long or James Hardison, the money shall be deposited with us, or if you think proper for it to be intrusted by mail sent on to you or put in the hands of any of your friends it shall be done. Let the patent be directed to Columbia.¹

WILLIAM GREEN
 JAMES Y. GREEN
 D. LONG
 JAMES HARDISON

Presumably addressed to Washington. See Green to Polk, above.

1. See William Green to Polk, March 13, 1832, and March 21, 1832.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 16, 1831

The deposition of David Candle¹ is returned herewith. The Quartermaster General has no knowledge of the soldier or his claim.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Unidentified.

FROM EDWARD STUBBS¹

Washington. December 17, 1831

Transmitted herewith is a tabular statement compiled from the returns of the marshals, showing the populations and numbers of Representatives for each state.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Domestic Letters, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. Born in Ireland, he was a clerk in the Department of State.

FROM WILLIAM GORDON

Washington. December 17, 1831

Enclosed are notifications that land warrants had been issued to Thomas R. Debnam and Simeon Jenkins.¹ Information respecting pay and clothing must be obtained from the Second Auditor. George Maddox² is not entitled to land since he enlisted prior to the act of December 1811.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Debnam and Jenkins were residents of Maury County who had been discharged from the 8th Infantry in December 1817.

2. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM AND SARAH LOGAN

State of Tennessee Lincoln County

Dear Friend

December the 18th 1831

Having confided in your hands through [. . .] Joseph Greer who is now deceased a power of attorney Authorising you to

Draw our clame from the officers of General Government we Now send you some other Evidence which we are in hope Will inable you to get the same. We are very nedy and hope you will do what you can for us. We reside Eight miles East of Fayetteville and if there do lack any Evidence you will please inform Jesse Daniel Esquire¹ who Will let us know all about the same. We cannot Since the death of Joseph Greer get anything done in the case by them. They were not any thing Interested onely we Expected to pay them for there troble. If you get the money you will inable us or Jesse Daniel to recive the same by our concent and not other wise. No more at present.

WILLIAM LOGAN SARAH LOGAN formally [sic]
SARAH LARIMORE

Addressed to Washington. Sarah Logan's name was signed by her husband.

1. Daniel had been drawing a pension for some time, having served in the War of 1812. He had witnessed papers for the Logans in his capacity as justice of the peace. Apparently he was attempting to carry on the efforts of Joseph Greer to get the pension paid.

FROM BERNARD M. PATTERSON¹

Sir

New Orleans Decr 22 1831

I conversed with Mr. [Felix] Grundy relative to my business. He thinks it probeable that it might succeed if it weare introduced to the Seneight [Senate]. As to that I wish you and him to do as you think best. I have just sean Samuel M Woods² an acquaintance formerly of Pulaski. He says that in January last he mailed a draft in this place answered by Spawling [Spaulding]³ of Memphis Ten who has the contract from that place to Jackson, on the general Pos[t]master for seventy dollars and requested the money forwarded here. He was taken sick and could not apply at the office. He has since sean Spawling; he informed him that it was charged in his Acct and Woods has not received the money. He wishes you to let him know wheather it has been returned to the office or what is its situation and what he must do to get it.⁴ Let him hear from you at this place. I shall be glad to

hear from [you] at Pulaski as I shall set out for that place in a few days.

BERNARD M PATTE[R]SON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Pulaski and formerly an officer in the county militia. Patterson was trying to recover some money that he paid out to Captain Benjamin Reynolds during the War of 1812, but the House Committee of Claims found it inexpedient both in April 1830 and in January 1832 to grant him relief.

2. Probably the same Samuel Woods who was an early settler in the Elkton neighborhood of Giles County.

3. Ulysses Spaulding of Memphis was a general post office contractor for a region including several states. He was also an alderman in Memphis, 1831-32.

4. Polk made a notation that Woods's letter could not be found by the General Post Office and that the money was not charged to Spaulding's account.

FROM THOMAS B. COLEMAN¹

Sir [Spring Hill], December the 23 1831

Take my pen hand to inform you that I put Some buysness in Ginral Bradys² hands to artend to for me and he told me that he had roat on to the Secetery of War to [k]now wather my Father's Name wars inrold are not. My Father³ died in the Last War and his Children Never Recd any thing yet. And I Was in Columbia a few days agow and I spock to Mr [Charles W.] Webber and he told me to inform you of the Sircumstance. I have all proff that I Refurred. The Capttin Cad Clabarn[Clai-borne]⁴ is living in Linkkorn[Lincoln] Conty at this time. I Wood be ver glad that you Wood aten to it and Send me a leter Waher or Not I Can Recover any thing or Not and if you think I Can I Want you to Tend to it and will See you Satisfied.

THOMAS B. COLEMAN

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was probably a grandson of Thomas Coleman, who moved to the Snow Creek settlement of Maury County about 1801.

2. Probably William Brady of Rutherford County.

3. John Coleman was mustered into the service on August 27, 1814, and

died while still in service on December 12, 1814. He had, indeed, served under Cadwallader Claiborne.

4. He was a captain in a Virginia regiment during the War of 1812. A resident of Lincoln County at this time, he gave a sworn statement in which he said that John Coleman had been a member of his company and gave the dates of his enlistment and death.

FROM CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE TO HUGH LAWSON
WHITE, FELIX GRUNDY, GEORGE M. BIBB,¹ CAVE
JOHNSON, JAMES K. POLK, AND HENRY DANIEL²

Gentlemen Washington Dr. [December] 24th 1831

During the past summer and fall, when my time and attention were engaged upon topics other than those of newspaper discussion at this place certain articles appeared in print some of which had escaped my notice until I met with the late publication of Genl. Robert Desha since my arrival at Washington.

These publications have allusions to a meeting held at the room of Judge Bibb some time in the month of March 1830, which meeting was composed alone of Judges Hugh L. White, Felix Grundy, George M Bibb, Mess. Polk, Cave Johnson, and Genl. Desha of Tensee., Mr. Henry Daniel and myself of Ky. If any other person was present it has escaped by memmory. The idea of holding this meeting originated with myself. The meeting had for its object a single and specified purpose made known to the whole of you at the time.

In the Globe of the 11th July 1831 under the Editorial head I find this statement, "At the succeeding session of Congress [1829-30]³ meetings of the friends of Mr. Calhoun took place with a view of addressing the President to remove Major Eaton from his counsels."

In the same paper of the 4th of Augst the following language is used in reference to this meeting: "Item 2nd, Mr. Ingham claims that Mr. Calhouns friends held meetings for the purpose of addressing the President to remove Maj Eaton; we will prove this fact when Mr. Ingham grants the court by Messrs. Desha, Daniel, Overton⁴ and a dozen other members of Congress who were apprized of meetings in which this proposition was dis-

cussed and that Mr. Bibb was requested to broach the subject to the President and declined it, that Mr. Overton next made the suggestion through the Post Master Genl to the President who repelled the proposition with indignation."

The next allusion of a similar character to this meeting I find in the appeal of Maj Eaton, the late Secretary at War under date of Sept. 1831. Maj. Eaton in his narative of events says: "Shortly after this about the 20th March (1830) a prepatory meeting of a few members of congress was held with a view to request the President to remove me [Maj Eaton] from the cabinet; being satisfied of the design he [the President] made a remark which satisfied the leaders in this movement that to persist in their course would serve to expose them to public reprobation and end in fruitless endeavour; accordingly the project was abandoned or at least suspended."

Again Maj Eaton in another part of his address says: "One of the members of congress who attended the prepatory meeting about the 20th March for the purpose of regulating the Presidents cabinet being inquired of if my [Maj. Eatons] removal would satisfy them answered emphatically '*no we will be satisfied with nothing short of the removal of Van Buren.*' But the removal of those two unrepresented secretaries at this meeting was not the only subject probably discussed before it and which failed of success. The Premier, Genl. Jackson himself a more important personage than all, he too was to be disposed of and the better to effect it conversations were to be held with strangers visitting the city and private letters were to be written to prepare the minds of leading politicians at a distance to support the decisive movement."

Genl. Desha in his recent publication which I presume you have seen in ventication of his own conduct gives to these charges a possitive denial. He presents your names in connection with mine as the persons who attended this meeting, states substantially what he understood to have been the objects of the meeting and says *he* was invited to the meeting by me. The fact is you were all invited by me.

The Globe of the 1st of Nov. 1831 refers to this meeting again, after the explanation given of it by Genl. Desha, in the

following terms. "It (the public) has seen that the friends of these individuals [alluding to Messrs. Calhoun, Ingham, Branch, and Berien] produced a caucus of members of Congress to make a direct application to effect this object [viz the removal of Maj Eaton]. *The meeting was got up ostensibly by the agents of Mr Calhoun for the purpose as Duff Green and Genl. Desha say—of inducing the President to hold Cabinet counsels. But the partizans of Mr. Calhoun seized it to propose that the president should be urged to remove Maj Eaton from the Cabinet. Mr. Grundy was present and opposed it as we have his letter to show. Mr Bibb was solicited to bear the wishes of those who favoured this measure to the president but he declined it.* It is true that some of the sincere friends of the President were persuaded that this course was necessary and that one of them was induced to make this known to the President through Maj Barry."

I have presented you the extracts and references to the publications in chronological order that you may the more readily perceive the nature of the charge and the precise form given it by these publications and which has gained much credit from the fact that the names of persons have been referred to in order to give to it an authoratative aspect.

I have given these extracts and references for another purpose viz. that you may see the position I am made to occupy in the affair and may justly appreciate the right which it gives me to call upon each and every one of you as the only persons present at this meeting (beside Genl Desha) to state its objects and purposes.

It will be seen by an examination of the publications referred to that I am presented by Genl. Desha as the person active in getting up this meeting. It is known to you that you all concurred in its propriety. By the Globe the meeting is called "a caucus of members of congress—got up ostensibly by the agents of Mr. Calhoun" and attended by his partizans and when so convened they "the partizans of Mr. Calhoun seized upon it to propose that the president should remove Major Eaton from the cabinet." As friends of the administration we are charged with acting in obedience to the mandate of those who are charged with secret hostility to its prosperous success.

Conscious that all I did and said upon that occasion was the

offspring of the most disinterested friendship personally and politically for the President and his Cabinet and knowing that my motives and conduct with your own have been grossly misrepresented, I am compelled to request of each of you to state all that conduced to this meeting and in what did its deliberations result.

You and I in common with the friends of Genl. Jackson believe that the discontinuance of the long settled practice of his predecessors of holding cabinet counsels by the Executive would lead if it had not already conduced to consequences unfavorable to the success of the administration and injurious to the interests of the country. To call his attention to this subject in some suitable and respectfull manner was my single purpose and upon requesting you to convene at Judge Bibbs room, I made known distinctly according to my recollection the object I had in view. I consulted the political prospects of no man in this movement. My great anxiety was that the President whom I have in some small degree contributed to elect should administer the Govern[ment] with credit to his former well earned reputation and with advantage to this country.

C A WICKLIFFE

Addressed to Washington but delivered by hand.

1. A distinguished lawyer and judge in Kentucky, Bibb was serving his second term in the United States Senate. Later he served briefly as Secretary of the Treasury in the Tyler Cabinet.

2. A lawyer who had served in the Kentucky state legislature, Daniel was serving his third and last term in the United States House of Representatives.

3. All brackets in the direct quotations appear in the original manuscript.

4. Walter H. Overton entered the army from Tennessee in 1808 with the rank of lieutenant. He moved up steadily, and during the War of 1812 he was brevetted as a lieutenant colonel for gallantry during the Battle of New Orleans. From 1815 until his death in 1845 he lived on his plantation near Alexandria, Louisiana. He was elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-first Congress, 1829-31, but did not try for re-election.

FROM WILLIAM GORDON

Sir War Dept. Bounty Land Office Decemr. 26th. 1831

A press of business in this Office, claiming precedence, has prevented until the present, an examination of the papers re-

ceived in yours of the 14th inst., relating to the claim for bounty land by the heirs of John Thompson,¹ who is stated to have been a Captain in the Virginia line, and to have been killed in the battle of Guilford. I have now to state that, the name of John Thompson is not returned on the list of *Continental* Officers on file in this Department, among those who were slain in battle in the War of the Revolution. The evidence adduced to support this claim, is satisfactory in regard to the fact of Capt. Thompson's having been "killed in battle," but is deemed exceedingly vague and unsatisfactory, in regard to the more important fact of his being, at the time, an Officer in the *Continental establishment*. Joseph Logan,² who appears to have been a *Volunteer* soldier in the action at Guilford, states in his affidavit that Capt. Thompson commanded the company of *Volunteers* to which he, Logan, was attached, but whether he commanded in virtue of his commission in the army, or that the command had been assigned him by Genl. Greene, he did not know! The affidavit of Nathl. Terry,³ is considered as conclusive upon two facts only, both of which have but little bearing upon the merits of the case—namely, that he was himself, an officer in the Revolutionary Army, and had been personally acquainted with Capt. Thompson! Touching the rank, services, and death of that Officer, it will be perceived that, he plainly acknowledged, his information was derived entirely from others. The essential fact upon which the decision of this claim now rests—namely, that Capt. Jno. Thompson was really an officer of the *Continental line* of the army, has scarcely any support from the affidavit of Nathl. Terry, and the testimony of Mr. Logan (a private soldier in a *Volunteer* company, and therefore not likely to have discriminated accurately between *State*, and *Continental* officers) exhibiting, as it does, a want of precise, and positive knowledge, upon this important point, cannot be deemed to have rendered it clear and certain.

There exist other, and strong circumstances which go to show the uncertainty of the testimony adduced, and the probability that Capt. Thompson may have been an officer of the *Virga. line* on *State establishment*. In the battle of Guilford, there were two Regiments of *Militia*, one, of North Carolina, and the other of Virginia, and there were several *Captains* both of the continental

troops, as well as of the Militia, who were killed in that battle. Under these circumstances, combined with the fact (as before stated) that the name of John Thompson is not returned on our records as a Continental officer *slain in battle*, I am constrained to state that, the claim of his heirs will be considered inadmissible, unless it can be more satisfactorily proved that *he was a Captain in the Virginia Continental line, at the time of his death.*

I have not deemed it important to remark upon the testimony of Mr James Eastham,⁴ who appears to have been a private Citizen at the period to which it refers, inasmuch, as the facts and circumstances stated by him, are substantially the same as those stated by Mr Logan.

The Army Accounts of the Officers of the Revolution, now in the office of the 3d. Auditor, have been examined but no Account appears to have been opened upon the books in the name of John Thompson, a Captain in the Virga. line.

The papers in the case are herewith returned.

WM. GORDON

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Duke University Library.

1. This case illustrates what Polk had claimed as unjust in earlier legislation that granted benefits to men who served in the continental line in the Revolution, while withholding similar benefits from men who served the same cause but in state organizations.

2. Unidentified.

3. A captain in the 10th Regiment of the Virginia line during the Revolution. In December 1828 he was placed on the pension roll in Todd County, Kentucky.

4. Unidentified.

FROM HAMPTON C. WILLIAMS¹

Sir,

[Washington], 27th Dec. 1831

I have not been able to lay the papers in the case of Mr. Perry² before the Auditor until to day. Tho satisfied himself, with your explanation he deems the additional evidence neces-

sary to ensure the passage of the accounts through the 2d Comptroller's office. If there be other brothers or sisters residing near him it would be a convenience to them as well as this office to write in their application with Mr Perry.

H. C. WILLIAMS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of Georgia, Williams was a clerk in the Fourth Auditor's Office, Treasury Department, for a number of years. At the time of this letter, Amos Kendall was Fourth Auditor.

2. See Kendall to Polk, March 8, 1832. Possibly Williams was referring to the Sally and Lemuel Perry claim.

TO WILLIAM A. THOMPSON¹

Dear Sir

Washington City Decr. 29th 1831

I enclose to you for your information a letter received from *William Gordon Esqr.* of the Bounty Land office—in relation to your application for bounty land as the heir at law of Capt. John Thompson decd. of the Revolutionary Army.² Your proof, it would seem is satisfactory upon every point but one, and that is that *Capt. Thompson* belonged to the *Continental establishment*. The name of Capt. Thompson is not to be found on the muster rolls in the Department of War, and it becomes necessary as you will perceive from Mr. Gordon's letter for you to prove the fact that he was a Capt. in the *Continental line*. If it shall be possibly in your power to procure this proof, as I hope it will, there will be but little difficulty in procuring the bounty land, for you as his sole heir. Should you obtain the proof enclose it to me and I need not say to you that it will afford to me pleasure to give to it any further attention in my power.³

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Upper Elkton, Giles County, Tennessee.

1. He was a resident of Giles County and a nephew of the Revolutionary soldier John Thompson.

2. See Gordon to Polk, December 26, 1831.

3. Polk noted in an endorsement that he wrote Thompson again on April 11, 1832, but that letter has not been found.

FROM CHARLES GRATIOT

Washington. December 31, 1831

Letter suggesting Dr. Isaac J. Thomas for one of the visitors to the Military Academy is acknowledged.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's letterbook copy in Records of the United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1832

FROM BENJAMIN CLEARWATERS¹

Sir

[Dickson County, Tenn., 1832?]

You will confer a favour on me by having an order sent to the pay master at Nashville to have my pension moved from this state to the State of Georgia. I do not expect to move until spring and I want the privilege of making my next draw in this state.

BENJAMIN CLEARWATERS²

No address is available.

1. A Revolutionary War veteran, he had been listed as receiving his pension in Madison County. It seems, however, that he was actually a resident of Dickson County. The expected move to Georgia was delayed until the autumn of 1833.

2. Immediately following his signature Clearwaters wrote: "Born 25th May 1748. Belongs the 3d regiment of light dragoons commanded by col. *Wm.* Washington."

FROM WILLIAM B. LEWIS

Sir,

Treasury Department. 3d January 1832

The claims of Thomas R Debnam & Simon Jenkins,¹ late privates of the 8th Infantry, have been referred to this office and on examination I find them both mustered on the Rolls of Capt. Young's Company 8. Inf. for November & December 1817, as discharged on the 28th December 1817 at which time duplicate

certificates of discharge were issued to each of them, which, it is necessary, should be presented here to authorise the settlement of the claims.²

WM B LEWIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Residents of Maury County, otherwise unidentified.
2. Polk noted in an endorsement that he wrote to Debnam, enclosing a statement from the General Land Office that patents issued to him and to Jenkins for land in Missouri were transmitted to Mr. T. G. Bradford of Nashville. He added that before copies of the patents could be issued, Debnam and Jenkins would have to make affidavits to the effect that they had not received the earlier patents.

FROM P. ODLIN, D. L. DAVIS, WILLIAM EAKER,
JAMES BROWN, AND P. P. LOWE¹

Sir

[Ohio, Jan 4 1832]

In the discharge of your Congressional duties you will be called upon to express an opinion relative to a change in the location of the Cumberland Road. This change has received the sanction of a Committee of the Houses And is in our view calculated to promote the public interests.

We enclose you a statement of facts and respectfully and earnestly request you not to suffer it to lie on your table, but to give it An attentive perusal and that support which the subject may deem to require of you, as a Representative of the growing [. . .]² of this Republic, without which we [. . .] for success.

P. ODLIN, D. L. DAVIS, WM EAKER,
JAMES BROWN, P. P. LOWE

Addressed to Washington.

1. These persons represented the citizens of Montgomery and Preble counties, Ohio, who wanted the National Road from Springfield to Richmond, Indiana, to pass through their county seats, Dayton and Eaton.
2. A portion of the manuscript is torn away. Not more than two words are missing in each of the blanks.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. January 5, 1832

The Postmaster-General directs the enclosed paper for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosure is not available. In an endorsement Polk noted that it concerned the establishment of a post office at Carmel in Bedford County as recommended by Chesley Williams. The post office was established, and Williams was appointed postmaster.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 9, 1832

The additional information in support of the claim of Sarah Logan is sufficient to justify the allowance of the pension. The amount will be remitted to the widow when her address is learned.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOHN MEDEARIS AND
WASHINGTON D. MEDEARIS¹

State of Tennessee Bedford County the
Head of the East fork of Rock Creek²

Dear Sir

January the 14th 1832

In Consequence of My Not being able to See you Before you left this Section for Congress I have to Give you the following Details.

I have Wrote two or thre times to the Treasury Department in order to Procure 240\$, the amount of Pay Due my father from the 3rd of September 1829 to the 3rd of March 1830 as you Will find from the Within Inclosed Certificatts Which has been [. . .] Sent on & returned With the Inclosed Letters. I allso in Compliance With the Letters Sit Down and Drew a Bond of

Indemnity for Double the amount and offered Thos. Davis Postmaster of Shelbyville With Jno and Spencir Eakin Murchants of the Same for Security. Referd the officers of that Department to you hoping to have Seen you before you Left this. Which if I had, Would have Saved this Trouble. It is Impossible for me to Know Who Would be recd Without being Instructed & then Without Some acquaintan[c]e With the Person it Would be out of my Power to Comply in Giving a man or men that I am Not Acquainted with. (You Will in Examining the Bond find my father & my self jointly Bound) With the true gentlemen as above named our Securityes. Please Infor[m] the officers of the Department What you Conceive to be there Standing—i.e. of the above securities.

Sir I Will take it as a favor if you Will inform me by Letter as Soon as Practicable of Circumstances as they Exist touching that Matter. The Bond has not been returned agreeabl to my request, With the Papers that Accompanied it. If Considered insufficient my request was that they Should, With Such Directions as might Enable me to Comply in some reasonable Time be returned.

JOHN & WASHINGTON D. MEDEARIS
by W. D. MEDEARIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. John Medearis had been granted an annual pension of \$480 for service during the Revolutionary War. Having failed to receive one of the semiannual payments, he, through his son, Washington D. Medearis, was attempting to obtain payment.

2. In the southwestern part of the county. Most of this region was later incorporated into Marshall County.

FROM SAMUEL BAKER

Dear Sir

Pulaski Jany 15th 32

Yours of the 18th ult. came duly to hand.¹ Its contents were truly agreeable to an old Soldier who, having devoted the prime of his life to his country in hard service—& his family in hard labour, is now almost too infirm & decipied, even to enjoy the bounty of his beloved country. I am however not the less grateful

to her, for this instance of generosity but thankful to you Sir, for the Kind and unremitting attention given to my little business. I am now, thank god by the aid [of] my pension free from want & independent of the cold and Indifferent charity of this world. Your Kindness Sir, has commissioned me anew in the Service of one, every way, as worthy of, as he is devoted to, our common country. Allow me to trouble you, with transmitting my pension certificate, by mail to this place—addressed to myself or Major Jno. H. Rivers, Unless you will return in time for me to draw, on the 4th day of March, in which event, be pleased to retain & bring it yourself.

SAMUEL BAKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Although the letter is not available, it is clear that it reported to Baker that he had been placed on the pension roll.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. January 21, 1832

The claim of Sarah Logan, widow of Andrew Larimore, has been adjusted and the amount of \$350 has been remitted to Fayetteville, Tennessee.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. Polk must have been pleased to have obtained financial aid for a constituent in an effort that began as early as 1827.

FROM CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE TO HUGH LAWSON WHITE AND JAMES K. POLK

Gentlemen

[Washington] Jan'y 21st 1832

It is with some reluctance knowing your unwillingness to having your names again presented to the public as connected with this subject that I present you the enclosed copy of my letter.¹

But I have reflected upon the propriety of not asking of you its perusal and furnishing you the option of answering or of not

doing so and am lead to the conclusion that it is my duty to take this course leaving to yourselves to determine upon the propriety or impropriety of giving an answer to it.

C A WICKLIFFE

Addressed to Washington but not sent through the mails.

1. This refers to the letter of December 24, 1831, from Wickliffe.

FROM CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE TO HUGH LAWSON
WHITE, FELIX GRUNDY, AND JAMES K. POLK

Gentlemen

Washington Jany 29th 1832

On last evening Mr Polk called at my room and informed me verbally that you had declined answering the letter which I had addressed to you under date of the 24th Decembr. at the same time expressed you[r] wishes that I should understand no personal disrespect was intended. This declaration I deemed unnecessary considering our present & former relations, personally.

I do think however, that I have a right to be possessed of the grounds and reasons in writing, upon which you decline responding to the call made by my letter.¹ If it be upon the ground that *my* position does not justify the request I have made I should be so informed in a written answer. If upon the ground that your recollections of the transaction are at variance with mine as indicated in my letter of the 24th ultimo and therefore an answer will avail me nothing, this should in like manner be so declared.

What I object to is that you, the members from Tennessee who participated in the actings and doings of the meeting at Judge Bibbs room, after a verbal declaration made to me that "the transaction had been grossly perverted," should decline to respond in any terms in writing to my letter, and thus by your silence (what I am sure you do not intend to give) give a seeming countenance to the misrepresentation of the motives and conduct of the persons who composed the assemblage but especially my own.

Under all the circumstances I must be allowed to say that it is

at least due to me to acknowledge the receipt of my letter and to declare the reasons which influence your determination to withhold a full response to it.

It is with reluctance that I have felt it to be my duty to call on you to state anything upon this subject but after the most matured deliberation, believing and *knowing* as I do that great injustice has been done me in the publications to which I have called your attention and that a transaction innocent on its conception and commendable in its objects has been grossly perverted, I have felt it to be a duty which I owe to myself, to my friends, to my constituents, to disabuse the public mind upon this subject and to redeem my conduct from the unworthy imputations thus cast upon it.

Under the hope that you will at least favour me in writing with your reasons for withholding that response which the character of my letter required with as little delay as possible I subscribe myself with great respects. . . .

C A WICKLIFFE

Addressed to Washington but delivered by hand.

1. Why Wickliffe had so radically changed his mind since writing the letter of January 21, 1832, is not clear. The urgency of this letter, however, suggests that he was in great fear for his political future.

TO CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE

Dr. Sir

Washington City Jany. 31st 1832

Your letter of the 29th Inst. addressed to Messrs White, Grundy and myself, which you handed to me on yesterday has been duly considered. You request a statement in writing, of the reasons why an answer to your letter of the 24th of December last was declined. In your note of the 21st Inst. addressed to Judge White and myself, inclosing to us a copy of your communication of the 24th of December to which you allude, you place it at our option to answer or not, as we may think proper, and expressly state that you leave it to us to "determine upon the propriety or impropriety of giving an answer to it." The Judge and myself declined answering, and with his assent I communi-

cated that determination to you, verbally, and at the same time assigned to you some of the reasons which induced us to take that course.¹ This I had hoped would have been satisfactory. You now however insist that our reasons should be given to you in writing. Our reasons for declining an answer, as verbally communicated to you, were, that we wished to have nothing to do with the matter, that our desire was to be permitted to remain silent, and to have no participation in reviving before the public a controversy in which we had taken no part, and to which we had contributed nothing. We were not satisfied of the necessity, propriety or public utility of reviving that controversy, and were unwilling to have our names brought before the public in connection with the subject. We were not satisfied that any statement from us, was demanded for your personal vindication before your constituents, and if it was intended for the press, we were not aware that any such statement was either desired or expected from us by the public. I informed you that we would be reluctant at any time, to be forced before the public, to detail our various recollections of the transaction, and that we certainly would not voluntarily do so, nor until there was a greater necessity for it, than in our judgment at present existed. Perceiving no reason to change the determination verbally communicated to you, I must still decline answering.

I will only add that I attended the meeting at Judge Bibb's room to which you allude, upon your invitation as you state, certainly with no expectation on my part, that I was ever to be called upon to detail my recollection of the conversation which occurred at it, and I am not sensible that any thing has yet occurred, which in my judgment, makes it my duty to do so.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This is a copy, in Polk's handwriting and signed by him, of a letter that was actually sent. Polk retained two drafts of this letter, perhaps thereby indicating the importance he attached to the Wickliffe affair.

1. It appears that White is permitting Polk to speak for him. Perhaps he felt that, since Polk had persuaded him to attend the meeting, he should also take the lead in explaining the motives behind their attendance there. Clearly Polk wanted no misunderstanding with Jackson.

FROM ANDREW M. D. JACKSON¹

Washington, February 4, 1832

The Postmaster-General refers the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.²

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified except as a clerk in the Post Office Department.
2. Polk's notation indicates that Joseph Long had sought appointment as postmaster at Lynchburg, Tennessee, and that Polk recommended the appointment. Polk received notification of Long's appointment within two weeks.

FROM THOMAS WORTHAM¹

Dear Sir,

Maury Cty Ten Feby 4th 1832

The Claim of John P Smith for Improvements in the Chickasaw nation belonging to Joshua Fletcher² &c A transfer has been made to me for the balance due thereon. I will refer you to Col. [Benjamin] Reynolds letter to the Secretary of War inclosing the papers which was dated the 8th of June 1831. I have a Considerable Sum of money to pay for J P. Smith by our next Circuit Court as Security and if the money Cant be had it will put me in a tight place to procure it. Therefore your attendance to the business will Confur a favor that will not be forgotten.

THO. WORTHAM

PS. You will See a letter inclosed I have Just Recd. from Colo. Reynolds, which perhaps will give you Some light on the Subject.³ Mr. Smith last Siting of Congress petitioned for to be paid the Int. on the balance due on the Claimes. He is a poore man and I think he Ought to have Some Remittance from that Honourable body.⁴ Please drop me a few lines on the Subject as soon as practable.

T W

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Columbia, who apparently failed to collect the claim and then returned it to Smith.

2. See Smith to Polk, December 13, 1830, and February 4, 1831.

3. The Reynolds letter, dated January 31, 1832, told Wortham that nothing new had been heard about the claim and suggested that Wortham write to Polk.

4. In a notation dated March 19, 1832, Polk said that he had forwarded to Wortham a letter from the Secretary of War which indicated that nothing more was due to Smith.

FROM THOMAS SMITH¹

Dear Sir

Nashville Feby 27. 1832

At the request of my bother Sam G. Smith whose health is too bad to attend to business, I here enclose you a statement by way of a petition to be remunerated for certain services which he believes certainly correct as the facts are these set forth, & if it can be done would be nothing but strict justice & giving him that which he is no doubt justly entitled to. My brother authorized me to say to you & also know it myself, that Mr. [James] Roberts² is a man of standing & would be a matter of great accommodation if he can be compensated for the services he has set out in his petition. Any information you may want about it, you will address a letter to James Roberts Esq Beech Hill, Jackson County Tennessee.

THO SMITH for SAM G. SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Jackson County who served one term in the state senate, 1833-35.

2. Roberts had held minor offices in Jackson County and at one time had operated a distillery there. The nature of his services has not been ascertained. Polk noted on the envelope that he presented the petition to the House of Representatives on March 12, 1832, and that it had been referred to a committee.

TO EDWARD LIVINGSTON

Sir

Washington City March 2nd 1832

I have a partial acquaintance with Mr. Geo. C. Smoot¹ of this City, who informs me that he desires to be employed as a Clerk

in the Patent Office. From my knowledge of Mr. Smoot I have no doubt he would make a good Clerk, and should be gratified at his appointment.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Letters of Application and Recommendation, Department of State (RG 59), National Archives.

1. Unidentified. He did not become a clerk in the Patent Office at this time.

FROM HALL HUDSON

Dear Sir,

Fayetteville March 4th 1832

Enclosed you will find my papers for a pension with the additional proof according to instruction. If however it should be defective I want you to inform me immediately [when] you get this. If it is sufficient, I want you to write me, when I can get my pension and how much it will be and direct your letter to Fayetteville Tennessee and oblige. . . .

HALL HUDSON

Presumably addressed to Washington, although no envelope is available.

FROM MICHEAL TIPPS¹

Sir

Fayetteville March 5th 1832

Having had a partial acquaintance with you I take the Liberty of requesting you to attend to the business you will find enclosed in this letter for my mother. She is a very Old woman and very poor and wants to get the money that father² earned as a Solider [sic] in the last war. You will see by refering to the affidavits and his discharge what is comming to her. I think that all of the proceeding are Right and if they are I want you to draw the money and Send it to me in a letter. If they Should not be right and you cannot draw the money write to me Immediately how I must proceed and fail not in writing to me.³

MICHEAL TIPPS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Born in North Carolina in 1809, Tipps had moved as a small child with his family to that part of Franklin County, Tennessee, which later was incorporated into Moore County. In this letter he clearly spelled his given name "Micheal."

2. John Tipps had served as a private in Captain William Litton's company of Tennessee militia.

3. Polk made a notation on this letter stating that on March 26 he enclosed a letter from Peter Hagner informing Micheal Tipps that the balance of pay due John Tipps at the time of his death had already been paid to the administrator of the estate. Moreover, the widow, Mrs. Barbara Tipps, would have to submit evidence as to her marital status, number of children, and the like before she could be considered for half-pay pension.

FROM AMOS KENDALL

Treasury Department 4th Auditor's Office

Sir,

March 8th 1832

Your letter of the 3rd inst. has been received. The sum of \$40 56/100 will be sent to Mrs. Sally A. Perry at Civil Order, Bedford County Tennse. so soon as a requisition passes through the several forms of office—being the 1/5 part of the sum due to her brother Mid. J. N. Forsyth¹ decd.

AMOS KENDALL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Midshipman James N. Forsyth was the son of Benjamin Forsyth of Bedford County. His sister Sally had married Lemuel Perry. When Midshipman Forsyth died, Sally and her husband were his only heirs. The details of his death have not been learned. See Hampton C. Williams to Polk, December 27, 1831.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington, March 10, 1832

Letter from John Stone making several inquiries has been read. The claim by Lieutenant William Stone for a horse lost in the Seminole campaign was paid in March 1823. The amount due John Walker was paid in full to John

Stone, administrator of the estate of John Walker. The record does not show that Walker lost a horse in the service.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir, War Department Pension office March 13 1832

In compliance with your request I herewith enclose a printed form for the guidance of a person who wishes to obtain a pension under the act of March 18, 1818.

Mr. John Culver's¹ letter is herewith returned. I have examined the Books and papers of this office, and it does not appear from them that any evidence in support of the claim of Mr Culver has ever been received here.

J L EDWARDS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Bedford County, Culver had served in the Pennsylvania line during the Revolution. Although he was not eligible for a pension under existing legislation, he was granted a pension under the congressional act of June 1832, and it was retroactive to March 1831.

FROM WILLIAM GREEN

Sir Bedford County Tenn. 13th March 1832

I received Your instruction related to the petition I forwarded for an exclusive right in the improvement I made in the art of Turning, also the letter enclosed from the Superintendent of the patent office¹ to you, and according to the regulation of that office I have made a perfect Model on a Very Small Scale agreeably to Your private instruction. And finding it would endanger the Model to Send it by mail, I applied to Mr. J. G. Keeble² a Merchant in Columbia, who I was informed was going to the East, and he promised me that he would put the Model in his hand and have it delivered to you or the Secretary of State Safely together With the forty dollars which I procured in

United States paper, according to your suggestion. Owing to some disappointment in the arrangement of Mr. Keeble's business he has not yet started and for fear You should think there was a neglect in me I forward you this and inform you that Mr. Keeble will Set out probably the first of next week. When the Model and money reaches you I shall feel perfectly satisfied that any further attention to that business necessary, will be granted.³

WILLIAM GREEN

Addressed to Washington.

1. John D. Craig was superintendent at this time.
2. In an endorsement Polk stated that he answered this letter on April 4, 1832, and wrote to Keeble in Baltimore.
3. A second entry by Polk was dated May 4, 1832, and stated that the patent had been granted. The date of issue was April 27, 1832.

TO ISAAC J. THOMAS

Dear Sir

Washington City March 14th 1832

I called upon the Secretary of War [Lewis Cass] on yesterday and held a conversation with him upon the subject of the appointment of Visitors to West Point, in which I did not fail to urge your claims upon his consideration. I regret to inform you that your appointment is not probable. Indeed the Secretary informed me that two other citizens of Tennessee had been promised the appointment, and that a greater number than two could not be selected from the same state. The persons alluded to, are as I understand, *Majr Eaton* and *Jesse Wharton*¹ of Nashville. Why *Majr Eaton* should desire the situation I cannot conceive; nor do I suppose that his wishes were known when your application was first made, this winter. *Wharton* I suppose had been previously promised the appointment. Should anything occur to induce *Eaton* to decline I hope in that event, to procure your appointment. I know your great desire to see your son,² and it would have given me great pleasure to have had you selected as one of the Visitors. I have done every thing in my power in your behalf, and can of course do no more. I write in haste, and

must reserve the political news for another letter, which I hope shortly to have leisure to address you.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Maury County. This letter is in the Manuscripts Division, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

1. Prominent Nashville lawyer.

2. John A. Thomas was graduated from the academy in 1833. In 1840 he began teaching there; he was commandant of cadets, 1842-45. He resigned from the army in 1846 to begin the practice of law in New York.

FROM LEWIS CASS

Washington. March 17, 1832

The enclosed report from the Indian Bureau represents the views of the War Department in relation to the claims of John P. Smith.¹

Addressed to Washington. This is a clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

1. Polk noted that the report, which has not been found, had been sent on to Thomas Wortham. Polk, however, noted that it maintained that Smith had been paid \$1047 for the Fletcher improvement and that the other claims were not valid. Smith did not accept this decision that nothing more was due him. See Smith to Polk, December 15, 1832.

TO PETER HAGNER

Sir

Ho. Repts. March 19th 1832

I enclose to you the papers in the case of the Widow of John Tipps decd. late a soldier in the army of the U. States. I suppose the object of Mrs. Tipps to be to obtain the half pay pension allowed by law to the widows and children of persons who die in the Public service, and also the arrearages of pay which may have been due to her husband at the time of his death. When you shall have examined the case be pleased to inform me of your decision.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Manning File (RG 217), National Archives.

FROM ELBERT HERRING¹

Washington. March 20, 1832

Recommendation of Samuel Mitchell to be employed to supply certain articles furnished by the government under the recent Choctaw treaty is acknowledged and his right to the patronage is recognized.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Letters Sent, Bureau of Indian Affairs (RG 75), National Archives.

1. A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Princeton, Herring practiced law in New York before he entered government service. Shortly after this letter was written, he was appointed by Jackson to be Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a post he held until the summer of 1836.

FROM WILLIAM GREEN

Sir, [Columbia], 21st March 1832

I have inclosed the Forty dollars Which You Suggested to me was necessary, \$30. the regular fee and \$10.00 for the completion of the drawings from the Model. The Model was taken on by Mr. John Keeble before I reachd Columbia. I wish you Sir, to write on to Baltimore to Mr. Keeble and if you think proper Send him the letter Patent as I expect him to attend to the business for me, if not contrive them Safely to me. I have attended to every thing Set forth in your private instructions as well as the instructions from the Superintendent of the patent office.

WILLIAM GREEN

Addressed to Washington. The envelope page was addressed to Polk or Edward Livingston, though the letter was obviously written to, and received by, Polk.

FROM WILLIAM A. THOMPSON

Dear Sir Elkton Giles Co. T. 22nd March 1832

Mr F. Sarmiento¹ who will hand you this, is hereby authorised to receive from you the Power of Attorney and other papers

connected with and relating to my claims, upon the government of the U. States for bounty land as the heir of Capt John Thompson, the nature of which you are already acquainted with. You will perceive that he has some papers connected with the matter in question which you will recognise as also some additional testimony on the material point and the only one that appears to be in doubt or unestablished namely that Capt Thompson was a *Virginia continental officer and acting by virtue of his commission when Killed*, which I trust is now established beyond a doubt and would have been done so in the first instance had the necessity of so stating been Known, which not being done I regret only as it has put you to some trouble as well as my self.

As Mr. Sarmiento is unacquainted with the transaction of such business and it is much desired to bring it to a speedy issue you will rivet the chain of obligations which I am under to you (and which I hereby thankfully acknowledged) by lending him your assistance and advice, and influence to accomplish the business, and any arrangement and disposal you and him think proper to make will be acknowledged and satisfactory. . . .

WM. A THOMPSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. March 23, 1832

Records show that John Tipps entered service on November 13, 1814, for six months, and died on January 6, 1815. Money due him at the time of his death was paid to Jacob Silverworth,¹ administrator of the estate. Barbara Tipps must file a widow's pension claim accompanied by all required testimony.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Not otherwise identified.

FROM JOHN MEDEARIS

State of Tennessee Bedford Cty
the head of the East fork of Rock

Sir

Creek April the 4th 1832

In answer to your Letter Dated the 10th of March Last to my Son W. D. Medearis respecting my Progress. Your Answer to him has afforded me Great Satisfaction. Yet there is Something Mysterious in the Way.

To Particulars. I have Been Enquiring for to know What was the reason I have not recd. Payment from the 3rd of September 1829 to the third of March 1830. If my Recollection Serves me rite I was Informed by a Gentleman of the Treasury Department that a Draft was Issued the 7th of April 1830 in favor of myself for the amount Due me under the act of Congress Approved the 15th of May 1828 as a Capt Which Paper you hold on the Back of Which is my Certificuit With Others.¹ And you Will find John Sumervills[Sommerville]² President at Nashville Note of the Number Which I do not recollect. You Will also find, if not Misplaced With the Bond Which is Said to be Insufficient, a Letter to that Department Stateing that no Such Draft has Been Presented for Payment. Which Papers When Sent on a request allso Was that if the Bond With the Testimony was Considered Insufficient for them to be returned Which has not been Done. If I am Not Mistaken You Will find on the Back of my Certificuit filled up the 12th of July 1830 or the 29th of September 1830 I think the Latter though you Can See from the refferances. Yet I am at a lull[?]. As you Can See from Papers Inclosed to you there has None of us Seen or Know any thing of the Draft. The Bond Executed by my Self With Security was intended to Contain a Notification to the Different Banks or Branch Banks of the United States as well as the Principal Bank. I Wish the Papers Executed by my Self & Security to be returned & then I Will Execute the Bond Inclosed in your Letter, if you Will Inform me What is the Difficiency in the one Now Executed. I am Not Willing to have 2 or three Bonds out for the Same thing out.

I Only Want to Know how to do Write & then I Will Try to do so. The Hble. Lewis[Louis] McLane sayes to you that there Was a Blank Bond Sent on to be Executed Previous to the one Enclosed in your Letter. I have Not Seen any Such Bond.³

The Papers Inclosed to you by my Son With the Certificuit Alluded to Will Give you a more Correct view of My Busyness. I am told in allmost Every return With the Certificuit attacht that they have Declined all Busyness With agents only Where they are Known to that Department and that my mony Will be Sent on to me With out any Trouble or Expense & yet I Cannot Git my Pay for the time Alluded to in near about three years & yet not recd. with Both Trouble & Expense. I ad no more for the Present. . . .

JOHN MEDEARIS by WASHINGTON D MEDEARIS⁴

Addressed to Washington.

1. Medearis was correct in his facts. A note from the Treasury Department to him, dated October 26, 1830, said: "I am directed by the Secretary to inform you that the Branch Bank of the United States transmitted to Mr. Medearis a draft on the Nashville Branch for \$240 on the 7th of April last." The trouble seems to have been caused by failure of the United States mail.

2. For several years he was cashier of the Nashville branch.

3. Polk subsequently notified Washington D. Medearis that a new bond would have to be executed, since the old one had been lost.

4. Since John Medearis had been a captain, it is not likely that he was illiterate. The fact that his son wrote all his letters for him suggests a possible physical disability.

FROM WILLIAM BROWN

Dear Sir Bedford County Tennessee 11th April 1832

Enclosed you will receive my declaration to obtain a pension. It seems Mr Thompson¹ who undertook to git it properly authenticated had left it in the Clerks office of Bedford County Court where it has laid ever since. Any attention you may be pleased to give in attending to this business will be gratefully acknowledged by an old Soldier & your sincere friend.

WILLIAM BROWN

NB Please to write me on the Receipt of this. Direct your letter to Jacob Burrow,² Shelbyville, who will attend to my business.

WM B

Addressed to Washington.

1. Probably Robert C. Thompson of Shelbyville. See Yell to Polk, September 4, 1831.

2. Unidentified.

FROM THOMAS HARNEY¹

My dear Sir,

Columbia, April 16th 1832

I hasten to give you an impartial account of a political meeting held in town to-day whose proceedings will be paraded before you with the most threatening aspect.

Some weeks ago, being ignorant of your real sentiments in regard to the renewal of the U.S. Bank charter, I inserted in one paper, a fictitious communication suggesting the propriety of calling the attention of the people to the subject. In the mean time I ascertained your sentiments, and learned that they were adverse to granting a renewal, at least at this time. Having also become satisfied that it was impossible to obtain an unbiased expression of public opinion, I endeavoured to defeat the organising of the meeting. This, however, could not be prevented. Your most inveterate enemies headed by [Edward B.] Littlefield & his clan will stand in bold relief & intended, not so much to subserve the interest of the Bank, as to intimidate you in your vote. The object of serving the Bank was remote, to intimidate & to injure you was the moving spring. With such objects fervently desired by a small meeting the majority of whom was your avowed bitter enemies whose object of affecting *you* was visible in all their movements, I need not tell you that resolutions favourable to the Bank were passed.²

These, of course, are intended forthwith to be forwarded to you to hang "*in terrorem*" over your future conduct. When you distinctly are informed that your *enemies* have done this—enemies who always have been, always *will* be opposed to you, on whichever side you may incline—when you reflect that these

high-sounding instructions emanate from dependent debtors of the bank—that they have been conceived in enmity and brought forth in impassioned ignorance—when you shall have duly considered these facts, I am persuaded you will give these *instructions* their *due* weight.

From all I can learn of the Congress, infatuated upon that subject, shall grant a renewal at this session. The President will certainly veto the bill. I pray to God, he may. And in regard to yourself, I would devoutly hope that I may not be disappointed in the opinion that your constituents *must* hereafter sustain your position should it be adverse to the Bank.

“For my single self” I discover in the conduct of the advocates of the Bank a spirit more dangerous to liberty, & the stability of our government, than any manifestations that have ever presented themselves to my observation.

As the public became informed by the breach of editorial confidence that I was the author of the fictitious communication before alluded to, And as it may be presented to you that I am liable for all the consequences, I have deemed it a duty to myself as well as to you, to say thus much upon the subject.

I have expected to hear from you upon my private memorial, but I have attributed your silence to the great pressure of important public business.

Some weeks since I imparted to W.[illiam] B. Sheppard [Shepard]³ my determination of breaking from my *mooring* in Tennessee and of [. . .] in Mississippi. This I requested him to communicate to you. Without fatiguing you too much I have to request that you write me immediately whether in your opinion Congress will make one or more land districts in Mississippi this session, agreeably to the resolution of Mr. [George] Poin-dexter.⁴ After this intimation I need not say to you that I shall be an applicant for the office of Register whenever created. I have the promises of Mr. [John H.] Eaton of his favourable interposition.

Being apprised of the resolution of the Senate relative to the confirmation of non-resident nominees, I wish to be informed forthwith whether those appointments may be made this session; if so, I will hasten to Mississippi so as to acquire at least a

partial inhabitancy before the adjournment of Congress. I need not tell you that I wish this to be confidential for a while. Please write me immediately. . . .

THOS. HARNEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was Columbia's recorder at this time but moved to Clinton, Mississippi, within a few months. See his letter to Polk, December 6, 1832.

2. This public meeting on the bank question and the subsequent effort to instruct Polk were obviously important politically. The local estimate of its importance is attested by the large number of letters that Polk received from his district in which the meeting was mentioned.

3. A lawyer from Elizabeth City, North Carolina. At this time he was Polk's colleague in the House of Representatives, where he served 1829-37.

4. He had been the first member of the House of Representatives from Mississippi. He was governor of that state, 1819-21, and at the time of this letter was a member of the United States Senate, where he served 1830-35.

FROM ANDREW C. HAYS

D Sir,

Columbia Ten Apl. 17. 1832

Mr. Richard Anderson,¹ requests that you subscribe for the *Intelligencer* for him & have it directed to *Isoms P. Office.*² He has paid *me three Dollars*, which I will hand you on your return home, it not being Current money [. . .] the City. You will please pay this amt & take a receipt in the name of Anderson, or myself for the *Weekly paper*.

On yesterday we had a meeting of about one hundred strong, on the subject of instructing you how to vote on the Bank question. The majority were in favor of rechartering with Certain modifications. You will see in our paper the resolutions adopted on the occasion.

Mrss. [Edward B.] Littlefield, [George G.] Skipwith, [Thomas] Harney, [Terry H.] Cahall & [Samuel] Craig, [Charles W.] Webber & [Charles C.] Mason[Mayson]³ were the orators on the occasion. Being unwell I did not attend the meeting.

I am however satisfied that these resolutions adopted do not speak the sentiments of a majority of the people in this county

—Mr. [A. O. P.] Nicholson's⁴ opinion to the contrary notwithstanding. It is the opinion of Some of your friends here that deep schemes are on foot to defeat your next election and this opinion is partly formed from some Signs in the meeting on yesterday. Your opinion on the subject of renewing the charter of the Bank was frequently alluded to.

A. C. HAYS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A prominent Maury County resident, Anderson lived in the Kettle Bend of the Duck River, near the Hickman County line. He had many relations in Hickman County and was buried there.

2. In the western part of Maury County on the road between Mt. Pleasant and Centerville.

3. Mayson moved to Columbia from South Carolina. He moved to Mississippi in 1833 and in 1836 became state treasurer. He died at Jackson in September 1837.

4. At this time Nicholson was editing the paper in Columbia with which A. C. Hays had long been connected. Nicholson later edited papers in Nashville and Washington. He served four terms in the Tennessee General Assembly, 1833-39 and 1843-45, and on two occasions served briefly in the United States Senate. He ended his career as chief justice of the state supreme court, 1870-76.

FROM WILLIAM C. FLOURNOY

Dr Sir

Pulaski 17th April 1832

I am again under the necessity of troubling you with Mr. [Henry] Goodnights papers.¹ He urges me with great importunity to transmit them to you once more, that another effort may be made. I think, on inspection & examination of the testimony of Mathew Wood, it certainly must appear to the satisfaction of the Department, that Old Mr Goodnight was in the service of the United States about two years. That appears to have been the only difficulty in the old mans case. Woods deposition clears it up I think completely. Woods is now dead, & there is no possibility of obtaining other testimony to that point. Woods character is supported by the testimony of good men; men of undoubted veracity as any in the country and also by the Justice

of the Peace as requested by the Department. I cannot see what more can be required by the Department.

I hope you will present the old mans claims once more. In doing which you will confer an obligation on an old decrepit soldier of the revolution, that will go with him to his grave. . . .

WILL C. FLOURNOY

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Pension File S38743 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. See Flournoy to Polk, January 22, 1831.

FROM CHARLES C. MAYSON

Dear Sir,

Columbia 18th Apr. 1832

Permit me to thank you for the letter & its enclosures which you were so kind as to forward me on the 4th Inst. I have taken the necessary steps to procure the testimony required & have requested those to whom I have written to forward the documents to you at Washington. I have written to Hon. C.[harles] J. Colcock¹ & Col Saml. Hammond² of So. C. who are well known to the So. C. delegation & also to Col. William Polk of Raleigh from whom I expect you will shortly receive certain documents which will establish the facts required. I should be glad to know the law or where I can find it fixing the rate of Commutation & the officers to whom allowed. This if it can be obtained is more valuable than the bounty land. I have been informed, but perhaps not correctly that the amount of land allowed to a Lieut. Col. is larger than you state tho I suppose your information is correct. I should like it to be fully ascertained. I also want to know of any & what further steps must be taken in the premises—whether a petition must be filed & if so in whose name &c., in short the whole *modus operandi*. I am anxious to prosecute & if possible complete this matter before Congress adjourns.

I presume you will have seen the result of the meeting in Columbia on the subject of the Bank. I took no part in the business. If I had voted I should have voted against the resolu-

tions; it is however a matter of no great consequence. The meeting was very small & it is supposed by many that the whole proceeding was intended more to *embarrass you* than from any great solicitude on the subject. I dont know what opinion myself to form on that point but you need not fear this little meeting no how. There were not more than 100 present altho of that number the majority was very great in favour of the resolutions. [Thomas] Harny has written to you I suppose.

We are waiting here with great solicitude to hear something definitive as to the tariff altho we have no hopes. If Congress should adjourn without doing any thing on this distract[?] subject I for one awfully fear the result. I was in So C during the whole winter & you may rely upon it that that people are determined upon taking some efficient steps on that subject. If Clays resolutions or the policy therein recommended should pass or be continued that state will act out her principles.

I have been advised by some of my friends to endeavour to procure a nomination by the president to the Senate for a judgeship in Florida—it being here stated that his nominations of Biddle & Brice³ had been rejected. Do you think it would be worth while? I would thank you to consult Mr. Grundy on the subject. It is an appointment I should very much like to have but I fear my chances for a nomination are bad. If you can do me any service in this matter I would thank you.

Mrs. M. unites with me in the request to be kindly remembered to Mrs. P. I shall always be very glad to hear from you. You know I take great interest in public affairs.

CH. C. MAYSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. One of the leading nullifiers in South Carolina, Colcock for many years was president of the court of appeals of that state.

2. After a career as legislator, governor, and congressman from Georgia, Hammond moved to South Carolina. At the time of this letter he was serving as secretary of state in South Carolina, being at that post, 1831–35.

3. Charles Biddle was at one time a resident of Nashville but then moved to Washington. In 1833 he was appointed as examiner of land offices in Alabama and Florida. Brice is not further identified.

FROM CHARLES BOYLES

Sr. Fayetteville 19th April 1832

By this mail my neighbours and myself have forwarded to the Post Master Genl. a petition for a new Post office on the Waters of Flint at my Store.¹ It is near old Mr. Pryors, a place that you no doubt recollect. My object in writing you is that you Call on the Post Master Genl. and Say to him among other things that you Know the Petitioners or some of us & that we ought to be accomodated. Do this & let me know your success.²

C. BOYLES

No address is available, but this was presumably addressed to Washington.

1. Located in the southeast corner of Lincoln County.
2. The post office was established and called Boyles Store. Boyles himself became its postmaster.

FROM A. PATTERSON¹

Dr Sir Jacksonville Benton County Ala Ap 22 [1832]²

Thomas J. Golightly Esqr³ has I am informed made application for the appointment of Enrolling & Emigrating Agent for the Creek Tribe of Indians. I am intimately acquainted with Mr Golightly & take pleasure in soliciting your interference in his behalf. I feel particularly anxious that he should receive the appointment & hope that you will use your influence in his behalf. . . .

A PATTERSON

P.S. The applicant is a citizen of this place. You will please inform him through me as soon as practicable of what you think will be the result.

A. P.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.
2. Date supplied by Library of Congress.
3. Unidentified. His name, however, does not appear on any list of appointments as agents to the Creeks.

acquainted with its character than I am, but I am farr from the belief that a majority of your constituents wish you to support the measure. Last fall, all in Bedford who are opposed to Gen Jackson and his doctrines, rallied around Mr. [Theodorick F.] Bradford, for his Justification, in the Legislature, for suporting the Bank, and although not opposed, and went from Muster to muster, and other publick gatherings over the county, abusing the plans of General Jackson in their speeches and deceiving all they could of our party. They got about the number, 144 out of neerly 4,000.

Mr. Bradford would rejoice to hear of your support of the Bank, because should you come in Contact with him for Congress you would have no advantage of him on the Bank question. The *Feds* are very busy on the subject, in this county, and the Bank suits the merchants and speculators of all parties, but once the farmers, are led into an understanding of the mater, they will put down the Bank men in this county.

I presume you want no instruction, in this partial way, or I would call a meeting, for the purpose, which might be too late, as the committee has no doubt returned from Philadelphia—but should I hear of a meeting in Bedford for the purpose, I will attend it.

Should General Jackson *veto* the Bill, the Bedford *Fence* men will throw off the mask whilst the *feds* will “cry aloud & spare not” and our one sided press, no doubt, will go to work manfully, but the old *hero* will be fully sustained here, by his true friends, who will immediately take the field in his suport.

You sent to this office three of Mr. Claytons² speches on the Bank subject. They were well recived, and god grant that every man in the nation could have one of them. I keep all the documents relative to the Bank and, will use them, at a proper time should the Bank party fail at this Session of Congress.

I have wrote much more than I expected but the importance of the subject, must plead my excuse.

J. WEBSTER³

Addressed to Washington.

1. McDuffie of South Carolina, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, was a pro-Bank man. He had presented to the House the Bank's

application for recharter, and in mid-March he was responsible for deferring action on the recharter until some consideration was given to the tariff bill then pending.

2. While there were three Claytons in Congress at this time, this refers to Augustin S. Clayton of Georgia. Late in February he had proposed an investigation of the Bank and made speeches later in which he reiterated his proposal. He served in the House of Representatives, 1832-35.

3. Ordinarily Webster used a signature in which all letters were capitals. In this case, however, he signed in his regular handwriting.

FROM [GRAND JURY OF MAURY COUNTY]

Dear Sir.

Columbia April 26, 1832

The undersigned citizens of the county of Maury, who compose the Grand Jury for the Circuit Court at the April Term 1832, taking into consideration the great question, which, at this time, divides and agitates public sentiments on the subject of rechartering of the United States Bank, and appreciating an independent and open expression of opinion on all matters of public policy, as one of the inherent and most valuable rights of freemen; and believing that the permanent prosperity of the whole country, as well as the individual interest of every citizen to be deeply involved in a correct decision of this question by the constituted authorities of the Union. We do therefore express to you our own opinions and wishes, and beg leave to assure you that, with us, a large majority of your constituents in this county, entirely coincide.

Resolved that it is our unanimous opinion, that a National Bank, constituted on the principles of the present United States Bank, is of the utmost utility both to the Government and the People of these United States; And as it has greatly facilitated the operations of the Treasury Department and has thus far secured the public revenue from all loss by government deposits; as it has restored & promises to secure to the country a sound currency; and especially as the withdrawal of its notes from circulation, would produce a scarcity of money and bring a severe pressure on the people; and that to remedy these evils, the State Legislature would, as past experience demonstrates, resort to

relief laws and the establishment of innumerable local banks, with authority to issue notes on [. . .]¹ capital, and thus aggravate the [. . .] they attempt to relieve, by bringing [. . .] people (as has often been the case heretofore) great losses through the inevitable failures and insolvencies of these Banks; and entail on the country one of the greatest of curses, a depreciated currency; we therefore request you as our representative in Congress to vote for the Bill lately reported by Mr. McDuffie from the Committee of Ways and Means rechartering the said United States Bank.

WILLIAM STOCKARD	JOHN PORTER	WILLIAM SHARP
RICHARD ANDERSON	JOSEPH ERWIN	ARCH. A. CAMPBELL
ELIAS CURRIN FRIERSON	JOSEPH McMURRY	JOSHUA B. FRIERSON
BUTLER NOLES	JOHN C STEPHENSON	SAML WHITESIDE

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the handwriting of Terry H. Cahal.

1. At this point a portion of the manuscript is torn away, leaving gaps at the end of three lines.

TO JARED SPARKS¹

Dr. Sir

Washington City April 27th. 1832

It is understood to have been the habit of President Washington, upon all questions of doubt, upon which he was called to act officially, to require the written opinions of the different members of his Cabinet. In 1792 Genl. Washington put his veto on a bill for the apportionment of Representatives among the several States, upon the ground of its unconstitutionality. Judge Marshall in his life of Genl. Washington² 5th Volume page³ states that the opinions of *Mr. Jefferson*, *Mr. Randolph*, *Genl. Hamilton* and *Genl. Knox*, the then members of the Cabinet were given in writing. On application to the Hon. G. C. Washington⁴ of the Ho. Repts., I am informed that these papers if in existence are in your possession, and he has politely given his assent, as you will perceive by the enclosed letter, that copies may be furnished to me by you, if they are in your possession. I wish the copies for the use of a committee of the House, and the House itself on the

pending apportionment bill.⁵ I have therefore to request that you will do me the favour to furnish copies of these papers if they are among Genl. W's papers in your possession, and desire to have them as early as your convenience will permit. Any expenses of transcribing will be immediately remitted. The House will probably go into the consideration of the Bill before it, some time during the next week or the one following. Not having the Honour of a personal acquaintance with you, I trust you will excuse the liberty I take, in making this request.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Boston. This letter is in the Harvard University Library.

1. This noted historian, editor, and educator was already working on his edition of the papers of Washington that began to appear some two years later.

2. Chief Justice John Marshall wrote a five-volume biography of George Washington that was published in Philadelphia, 1804-07.

3. Apparently by oversight, Polk failed to provide the page number.

4. Grandnephew of George Washington, who served four terms in the United States House of Representatives from Maryland, 1827-33 and 1835-37. He operated a large plantation.

5. Reapportionment following the census of 1830 was of particular interest to Polk because his state had grown so rapidly that it would gain several seats in the lower house of Congress.

FROM THOMAS C. WHITESIDE

Dear Sir

Shelbyville 2nd May 1832

At the request of Jeremiah Dial Esqr I send you enclosed some further evidence in regard to his claim for a pension under the act of 1828; tho' weak it is the strongest he can at this time procure. He says that it is very doubtful whether he ever can procure any other more satisfactory evidence, and if this together with that which he has hertofore transmitted to you, or the Secretary of the Treasury thro' you, is not sufficeint to establish his claim, he expects that he will be obliged to abandon it.

As well as he recollects, he received the certificate for the

Addressed to Washington.

1. In his previous letter he had given the figure as 144 instead of the 444 that he gives in correction here.

FROM TERRY H. CAHAL

Dear Sir:

Columbia May 4, 1832

Did not a sense of duty both to you and to myself induce me to believe I ought to say something relative to the subject of rechartering the U.S. Bank, I believe my natural disinclination to letter writing would prevent you from hearing anything from me again till your return. You, I imagine, have received a communication from the Grand Jury of this county in favour of renewing the charter of that institution. If you have, no doubt you recognized my hand writing and very probably was surprised, not alone at my having any concern in such a transaction, but also that I should entertain the opinions therein expressed. Then to be candid, I have entirely changed the opinions I formerly entertained on this subject. I told you I remember in 1829, I would, as long as I lived, vote against every man who supported the renewal of the charter of that Bank. I have come honestly, upon the maturest consideration of which my mind is capable, to the conclusion that I was wrong and that my hostility rested on no sufficient basis; and being naturally as you know of a temperament too ardent, I am now as staunch a friend to the Bank as I ever was an enemy to it. Don't suppose that this change has been wrought by any thing but a belief in the utility, I might almost say necessity, of the institution. I have read and considered most that has been written on both sides of this vexed question. But to return to the proceedings of the Grand Jury. I feared you would think I had some concern in inducing them to take this step. If you do permit me to disclaim it. I was requested by them to draft such a paper for them, without ever having had any communication either directly or indirectly with them on the subject. I felt the delicacy of the situation and the difficulty of acting without giving offence to some body in a county unhappily divided as Maury is; but entertaining the opinions I do and those opinions

having been expressed in the hearing of the whole community, publicly, on the first day of the court, I did not feel at liberty to refuse their request. With this explanation you can't think I acted amiss. I assure you that from the first hour that I was honored with your acquaintance, I have entertained toward you none other than the most friendly feelings. I said I had expressed my opinions *publicly*. A meeting was called in the Mercury¹ for the first day of the circuit court, to consider this very matter. That movement, I understand was set on foot by Mr. [Thomas] Harney, perhaps with the approbation of Mr. [Peter R.] Booker and probably a few others. I don't speak positively, as I was from home, but this much I know, that they were all avowed enemies of the Bank. When the day arrived [*sic*] perceiving they would be in the minority, they did not desire a meeting, and it was my understanding there probably would be none. I think I was so informed by Mr Harney. I was engaged at my office. When I went to the court house after dinner I found the meeting organized. I know not by whom. I had taken no part and intended if things did not work very badly to take none. But after hearing the discussion that ensued [*sic*] and listening to the utterance of much that I believed unfounded against the Bank, I entered warmly into the discussion and made a very imperfect, but surely a very zealous speech in favour of the Bank. It was thus that the Grand Jury ascertained my sentiments. You of course know the result of the proceedings of that meeting. I will just say of it, what facts warrant. It was numerously attended. It has been much talked of since, and I tell you what you will find when you return home, that three fourths of the people hereabouts are in favour of the Bank. I say three fourths—I have heard others say nine tenths. I tell you more, that this sentiment prevails without discrimination among your friends and your enemies. At the meeting many of your enemies took an active part, but so did many of your personal and political friends; and among these latter allow me if you please to count myself as coming under both descriptions. You will likely hear that when the final vote was taken the number in the court house was not large. This is true; but it is proper you should know why it was so. The debate was intolerably long and during a great part of it the house was

well filled, and the result was so manifest that many of the warmest friends of the measure had left the house, while its enemies, as is always the case with minorities remained at their post; but still when the vote was taken there were two or three to one. I don't exaggerate. I have now done my duty by making a full, fair and candid statement of this matter, and I now I'll leave it.

I have another unpleasant fact to communicate—I mean unpleasant to myself. I fear that Tennessee will go for Van Buren. Barber² has many friends here. Whether they will have the firmness to make a stand against the wily Dutchman I can't say. I understand that Grundy has given in his allegiance, sworn fealty and done homage to him as his lord paramount and pledged himself to the "Albany Regency." If that be so I withdraw mine from him, and I take it that the commendations of the Globe are at least *prima facie* evidence of the fact. Mr Grundy is a politician and of course, I allow him to vacillate a little, but no man should ever act diametrically opposite to his principles and I know that Mr. G. is or was opposed to V.B. and I have seen no sufficient reasons for his sudden and unexpected conversion; and if he has any, they must be private and ulterior to the good [of] his country. The excitement caused by V.B.'s rejection by the Senate has subsided.³ In fact it has ceased to be spoken of here.

The common topic of conversation here is the affair of Houston and Stanbery.⁴ Public sentiment is certain very much in favour of H. On the power of the House to punish him it is divided. For myself, who always give opinions rashly, I have no doubt that it has the power, and from the appearance of the case, so far as it is yet developed, I think it ought to exercise its authority. I say this in no hostile feeling to him, for I am one of those who has always been for him, and I want you tell him for me, that if [Thomas D.] Arnold is not too low in the estimation of the world to be punished by a respectable man without bringing degradation to himself by a rencounter with such a scoundrel, to inflict a severe chastisement, without regard to consequences, on the rascal. Nothing he could do would raise him so much in Tennessee. I have heard but one universal execration against him. When I read his remarks about H. made in the H.R.

my blood run so hot, that had he been present, I would have struck him myself.⁵ How could the House permit them? How could the Tennessee delegation hear them and not repel them?

We are well and at this time uncommonly pacific, as there is no constable's election depending just now. Bob Yancy⁶ was, a few days ago, sentenced to two years imprisonment in the Penitentiary for stabbing Robt. Sellars.⁷

I have heard it said Bradford will oppose you for Congress if Bedford and Maury are put in the same district. [Edward B.] Littlefield will be a candidate for something. I know not for what, nor has he declared himself so for anything, but it is manifest. Dr. [Isaac J.] Thomas, [A. O. P.] Nicholson and [James] Dobbins will be candidates I think. These latter gentleman left the court house at the Bank meeting. I admire independence, if it is against me, and detest dumb patriotism if it is for me. These men will have no opinion till they ascertain what the people think. While I commend prudence I can't express how much I despise every thing that savours of Sir John Fallstaff's "discretion."

Make my respects as acceptable to Mrs. Polk as possible, and assure her if there was any news in Columbia which would interest a lady, there is not one in the universe for whose benefit it would afford me more pleasure to communicate it, than for hers; but there is none and she must excuse me for not inventing some ingenious fiction to amuse her. I go so little into society that I have few chances of hearing the common occurrences of the town. In short my age and my habits begin to admonish me that it is time that I was established in life and I consider no man so till he is married, but my circumstances forbid that; besides since the ardor of youth is abated, I am urged to such a step rather by judgment than passion, and when a man sets forth in search of wife just because it is a duty he owes himself or society the probability is he will not soon be a husband.

TERRY H. CAHAL.

P.S. Since writing the above Grant Johnson⁸ in a drunken fit without any provocation stabbed a man named Hutchinson⁹ and is just been lodged in gaol. From the circumstances I expect he goes to the Penitentiary next week.

C.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Probably a reference to the office of the *Western Mercury*, a Columbia newspaper.

2. Philip P. Barbour of Virginia had considerable support for the vice-presidential nomination in 1832. When dissident groups offered to support him he refused. In 1836 Jackson appointed him to the United States Supreme Court.

3. After his resignation from Jackson's cabinet, Van Buren had been appointed minister to England but had been rejected by the Senate, Vice-President Calhoun's vote breaking a tie.

4. William Stanbery of Ohio was assaulted by Sam Houston on the streets of Washington for remarks he had made in the House of Representatives. Houston was reprimanded by the House, albeit mildly, and Stanbery was defeated in his try for re-election in 1832. This name is frequently spelled Stanberry.

5. On April 16, 1832, Arnold made a speech in which he apologized for the fact that Tennessee had once elected Houston its governor, saying that he had been chosen because he was "a peculiar favorite of the present Chief Magistrate of the United States."

6. Unidentified.

7. Unidentified.

8. Unidentified.

9. Unidentified.

FROM JAMES L. EDWARDS

Washington, May 5, 1832

The evidence supporting William Brown's claim to a pension is still insufficient. Additional evidence might be obtained from North Carolina but it seems doubtful that Brown ever served in the continental line.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. As noted earlier, Brown was awarded a pension under provisions of an act of Congress of June 7, 1832.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Washington City May 6, 1832

I send you the enclosed letter of Mr. Wm. C. Flournoy covering the pension papers of *Henry Goodnight*,¹ and also all the other papers relating to his claim in my possession, and request

that you will re-examine the case. Mr. Flournoy is a very respectable man and I have no doubt but that all he says is strictly true.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Pension File S38743 (RG 15), National Archives.

1. This refers to Flournoy's letter to Polk, April 17, 1832.

TO LEVI WOODBURY¹

Sir Washington City May 6th 1832

Some three or four months since—William P. Bradburn² of Tennessee was appointed a midshipman in the Navy. He writes to me that he immediately forwarded his acceptance, and desires to be informed at what time he will probably receive sailing orders or be ordered into service. The information when recd. I will immediately transmit to him.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Miscellaneous Letters Received by Secretary of the Navy (RG 45), National Archives.

1. Former United States senator from New Hampshire who was Secretary of the Navy, a post in which he served until 1834 when he became Secretary of the Treasury. After serving again in the Senate, he was appointed to the United States Supreme Court where he served until his death in 1851.

2. A notice appeared in the *National Banner and Nashville Daily Advertiser* on October 27, 1832, saying that William P. Bradburn, about 19, was a printer's apprentice bound to that paper and that he had run away. On June 11, 1833, the same paper stated that he had run away for the third time and warned that he must not be harbored. Polk's exact position in this little drama is not entirely clear, but he helped Bradburn to get into the naval service and for some years received occasional letters from him.

FROM LEVI WOODBURY

Washington. May 8, 1832

Midshipman William P. Bradburn probably will not be ordered into service before autumn. He will then be detailed for duty if practicable.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent by Secretary of the Navy (RG 45), National Archives.

FROM WILLIAM HILL

Dear Sir

Raleigh 11th May 1832

Your favour of the 6th instant enclosing the Declaration of Wm. Brown, was received this morning, and I regret that after careful examination of the rolls in my office I am compelled to give an unfavourable answer. I find the name of Wm. Brown twice on the rolls, first as a private in Capt. Tatums¹ Company of the 1st regiment enlisted on the 1st Sepr. 1777 for 3 years of the war. Second as a private in Capt. McCrory's² Company of the 9th Regt. enlisted 1st Sepr. 1776 for 3 years, neither of these you will readily see is any thing like the present applicant's case.

Genl. [Griffith] Rutherford³ was a Militia Genl. and Tate⁴ and Alston⁵ must also have belonged to the Militia as there are no such officers named on the rolls of the regular Army.

WM. HILL

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 68.

1. Howell Tatum was a captain in the 1st North Carolina Regiment and was captured at Charleston on May 12, 1780. He was exchanged but resigned May 20, 1782.

2. Thomas McCrory was a captain in the 9th North Carolina Regiment.

3. A native of Ireland who lived for many years in North Carolina. He had fought in the French and Indian War and had helped to frame the constitution for his state in 1776. After his Revolutionary War service he surveyed many tracts of land in Tennessee and became a large landowner in that state. He moved to Sumner County in the 1790s and died in 1805. Rutherford County, Tennessee, is named for him.

4. John Tate was a second major in the militia of Guilford, North Carolina, as of September 1775.

5. William Alston was a lieutenant colonel in the militia of Halifax County, North Carolina, as of September 1775.

FROM WILLIAM D. SIMS¹

Sir

Halifax County Va. May 13th 1832

Enclosed are the affidavits of Capt. P. Watlington,² Doct [Rawly] White³ and others, favourable to the claim of Mr.

William A. Thompson of Tennessee, they both recognise Capt [John] Thompson as an officer in commission in the Va. Continental line but do not recognise the regiment or the commanding officer, except Doct. White. As to the credibility of the witnesses I desire you to see and consult Col. [Thomas] Davenport⁴ of Va. the member from this district. Mr. Thompson is at this time gathering other testimony, which will be forwarded you as soon as possible. There is abundance of traditional testimony which can be obtained if it avail any thing in furthering his claim. Any information you may possess, if you will forward it to Mr. Thompson will be Thankfully received, & if other testimony be wanted, will you inform of it, as soon as convenient. You will excuse the liberty of my signature when you are told it is at the request of Mr. Thompson.

WM. D. SIMS

PS. Direct to Halifax Court house Va. Mr. Thompson desires me to say that there are two of Doct. Whites affidavits, which you will use as you think proper.

Addressed to Washington. The return address on the outside of the letter was Mount Laurel, Virginia.

1. Unidentified.
2. Unidentified.
3. Unidentified.
4. A lawyer from Meadville, Virginia, who served in Congress, 1825-35.

TO JARED SPARKS

Dear Sir

Washington City May 15th 1832

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Inst. enclosing copies of the opinions of Genl. Washington's Cabinet on the apportionment Bill of 1792.¹ They shed much light upon the subject, and are peculiarly valuable at this moment, as the same question then discussed & settled is now pending before Congress. I have to thank you for the polite &

prompt manner in which you have complied with my request.

I send herewith \$5.00 for the copyist.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Boston. This letter is in Harvard University Library.

1. Neither the letter nor the enclosure has been found.

FROM CHARLES C. MAYSON

Dear Sir,

Columbia 19th May 1832

When I last wrote to you I omitted to make another request of you, with an attention to which I hope you will excuse me for now writing you. Some three or four years since I sent to General Duff Green a note of hand for collections on Major A.[nthon]y] G. Glynn¹ of the War department for about \$320.00 and altho frequently applied to I can get no information from the General except that he cannot find the note. Having some dealings with my brother Ramsay L Mayson I transfered this claim to him, but still being responsible for the amount I am interested in its collection. Mr Grundy has the assignment & will cooperate with you in any endeavours to secure the collection. If my brother gets it well—it is all I want. I have every confidence in the integrity & good faith of Mr. Glynn, but he needs a little joggin. If he will pay the principle [*sic*] I will remit the interest now exceeding sixty dollars. Will you have the goodness to see Mr. Glynn, who is the brother of Mrs. Mayson, and get him to pay or renew the note if Genl. Green cannot find the old one? The amount of the note now including interest would be about \$396. If Mr. Glynn will renew it you can deduct 10 per ct. and request Mr. Grundy to give him the necessary discharge but I should by all means desire that Mr. Glynn would pay some thing on it now & for what ever he does pay a receipt can & may be given him for 15 per cent more than the payment. I have a note which falls due on the 12th of July in Bank for a debt on which brother was bound with me for upward of \$200 & to meet which I would be very glad to obtain this assistance. Tell Mr. Glynn that my business is very dull & money hard to raise. Altho this is a matter not within

the legitimate scope of your representative functions may I trouble you with it as an *attorney* as well as friend & in the former capacity it will give me pleasure to act as *cliyent* if not *constituent* as to the *quid pro quo*.

I wrote a letter a few days since to the Hon. Mr. [George] Poindexter making some enquiries as to the state of the Jefferson College in Mississippi. If I could get a berth there I would remove for here the law is at a low ebb. I refered him to you, Mr. Calhoun, Mr McDuffie & Mr Grundy. If in that matter you could aid my views I would be under great obligations to you. I want to know the prospect of employment in that institution and as Mr. [James H.] Piper recommended me to the Trustees of this College here for its president, you may infer from that fact his opinion as to qualifications. Altho it has been many years since I have been with drawn from pursuits purely literary or scientific—yet it would not be a difficult matter to review my studies & regain a knowledge I once possessed.

I see that Elliot² has published a pamphlet on the doctrines of the relations of the state with the general government. Will you be so good as to send me a copy by mail—if mailable? If not bring me one.

Our Town continues very healthy & is in a state of rapid improvement. There are now building six new splendid stores & two or three new dwellings. The sound of the hammer is my constant music. No political intelligence worth communicating. There is a rumour & very generally believed that Dr. McNeil³ & Mrs. Hardin will marry next week. As the papers say *nous verrons*.

CHS. C. MAYSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of Virginia, he served as a clerk in the office of the Secretary of War and later in the Ordnance Department.

2. In 1832, Jonathan Elliott, a Washington editor and publisher, published a document on the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions in which he supported the views of Jefferson and Madison.

3. William McNeil had been living in Columbia since 1810. The rumor was incorrect. In November 1833 McNeil married Mary Crockett; in December 1838 he married Sarah P. Hardin, widow of Isaac Hardin, apparently the same Mrs. Hardin referred to in this letter.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington, May 31, 1832

The Postmaster-General forwards the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosure has not been found. Polk's notation on the envelope indicates that it concerned the establishment of a post office at Belfast in Bedford County, a recommendation made earlier by Polk.

FROM WILLIAM GORDON

Department of War Bounty Land Office

Sir

June 2d. 1832

I have attentively examined the additional evidence filed by you in this Office on the 29th ulto. in relation to the claim for land bounty by the heirs of Capt. John Thompson and regret to state that, it is less satisfactory than that heretofore filed, and objected to. In fact, one of the affidavits by Doct Rawly White, distinctly states that Capt Thompson belonged to the Regiment commanded by Colo *Muter*.¹ If this statement be correct, it is calculated to confirm the impressions heretofore entertained, that Captain Thompson belonged to the *State*, and not the *Continental* line of Virginia, inasmuch, as it is well known that Colo *Muter* belonged to the *State* establishment of Virginia, exclusively. Under these circumstances, I feel assured that, you will admit the necessity which exists, for requiring the testimony of *Officers alone*, to establish the essential fact, that Captain Thompson did actually belong to the continental line of Virginia at the time of his death, particularly when I inform you that, testimony from such sources, has been invariably required by the regulations which govern this office in all similar cases and as Mr. [William D.] Sims, in his letter to you, which is herewith returned, states that "Mr. Wm. A. Thompson is at this time gathering other testimony which will be forwarded you as soon as possible," I beg leave to suggest the propriety of advising Mr.

Thomson, [sic] that the essential evidence now wanting, is that, in relation to the particular line of the army to which Capt. Thompson belonged, and that such evidence should be derived from the source just referred to.

Permit me here to state the reasons for what may appear a too rigid investigation of the claim under consideration, they are, briefly, these: It is unsupported by the *positive* testimony of *any Officer of the Army*, upon that point, most necessary to establish it. It is well known that, at the battle of Guilford, *more than one half* the American force, were Militia, and Volunteers. That Capt. Thompson was an Officer of one or other of those classes, may be very fairly inferred from the affidavits of Joseph Legon, and Dr Rawley White, the first of whom was a Volunteer soldier in the action, & distinctly states that, "Capt. Thompson commanded the Volunteer Company to which he, Legon, was attached"—the latter (also a soldier) expressly states that, "Capt. Thompson belonged to Col. Muters Regt." a Regt. known to be, exclusively, of the State establishment of Virginia. In addition to which, the Revolutionary records of the Virginia Continental line on file in this Department, as also those on file in the 3d. Auditors Office, furnish no information whatever in relation to the rank, services, or death of Capt. Thompson.

WM. GORDON

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in Duke University Library.

1. Colonel George Muter served in a Virginia state artillery regiment during the Revolution and at one time commanded a garrison regiment. There is no record of his having served in the Continental line.

FROM WILLIAM B. LEWIS

Washington. June 4, 1832

William Owens has been notified that the sum appropriated for his relief by the act of Congress of March 15, 1832, will be transmitted to him.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. This was for back pay due to James Shirley who had died in the service. His daughter and her husband, William Owens, had been trying to recover this back pay for more than two years.

FROM OBADIAH B. BROWN TO JAMES K. POLK,
JOHN BELL, AND CLEMENT C. CLAY

Washington. June 7, 1832

The request that a four-horse stage be put on the route between Murfreesboro and Huntsville will be given consideration as early as practicable.

Addressed to Washington.

TO LEWIS CASS

Sir

Washington City June 11th 1832

I herewith enclose a recommendation of several highly respectable gentlemen in behalf of *William Stephens*,¹ for the appointment of Cadet in the Military Academy at West Point. If there be at present no vacancy to be filled from Tennessee, I wish the recommendation to be placed on file, and that young Mr. Stephens may be considered an applicant when a vacancy shall occur. Should he be appointed I have no doubt he will acquit himself well.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Cadet Application Papers, United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1. He was the son of Daniel Stephens, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Columbia. He did not attend the Military Academy.

FROM JOHN ROBB¹

Washington. June 12, 1832

The recommendations of William Stevens[Stephens] for appointment as a cadet at West Point have been received and noted.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Records of the United States Military Academy (RG 94), National Archives.

1. A native of Maryland, he was chief clerk in the War Department. He signed this letter as Acting Secretary of War.

FROM CHARLES ALEXANDER¹

Hon James K Polk [Cornersville] Ten. June 16th 1832

You are requested to attend to the within.²

CHARLES ALEXANDER

Addressed to Washington. Neither the letter nor the signature is in Alexander's own handwriting.

1. Born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, he had served during the Revolution under Colonel Thomas Polk. He moved to Tennessee in 1814, first to Giles County, and later to Maury.

2. For some time Alexander had been trying to collect from the government \$2,000 to compensate for considerable hauling he allegedly did for the army, and for 400 bushels of corn he claimed to have sold to the army but for which he had not been paid. The enclosure was a petition of a group of citizens, dated April 21, 1832, vouching for Alexander and asking that his claim be paid.

FROM SELAH R. HOBBIE

Washington. June 20, 1832

The Postmaster-General refers the enclosed papers for consideration and advice.¹

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosures have not been found. Polk's notation on the envelope reveals that it concerned a recommendation for Stephen Hightower for the vacant postmastership at Millville in Lincoln County. Hightower received the appointment.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. June 21, 1832

A copy of power of attorney by Jeremiah Sullivan to Thomas Hickman¹ and an extract of the record of payment to Sullivan are enclosed as requested in Sullivan's letter that Polk forwarded on June 19, 1832.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Both men are unidentified.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. June 25, 1832

Recent letter contained enough additional testimony in support of the claim of Barbara Tipps, widow of John Tipps, to justify its approval.¹ The sum of \$240 has been sent to her at Fayetteville, Tennessee, in care of A. Q. Nicks.²

Addressed to Washington.

1. Although some letters are missing, this is obviously the conclusion of the correspondence of which the letter from Micheal Tipps to Polk, March 5, 1832, and that from Hagner to Polk, March 19, 1832, are components.

2. A young lawyer who moved to Talladega, Alabama, during the following year. He served one term in the Alabama legislature, ran unsuccessfully for governor of the state, and moved to Texas about 1853.

TO LEVI WOODBURY

Dear Sir

Washington City July 4, 1832

My countryman Mr. [Archibald W.] Goodrich¹ is now employed in an inferior clerkship in the Post Office, with a salary of only \$800. His talents and business habits entitle him as I think to a better situation. His salary is not sufficient to support his family. He informs me that there is now a vacancy of a clerkship connected with the Navy Pension fund in your office, which he would be glad to obtain. I should be much gratified if he could receive the appointment. That he would discharge the duties as well as any other man that could be appointed I have no doubt. He is in evry way worthy and I hope it may be in your power to secure him.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter is in the Connecticut Historical Society.

1. The records do not indicate that Goodrich got the new appointment.

FROM JESSE W. EGNEW¹

Sir,

New Orleans 7th July 1832

Hewlitt the defendent had sold the negroes two or three or more years ago, in consequence of which, I could only compromise or sue him for damages. The Negroes had been appraised & bonded at \$700.00. This sum he was willing to pay which with the \$840 makes \$1540. After deliberation I concluded to take that sum & receipt the judgment & a few hours ago did so. I knew that it would be a considerable time before I could recover, & if it should happen that the death of Barfield² would be learned, which might very easily happen, the whole claim would be defeated, and two or three hundred dollers, costs, incured & then be where we had started—probably worse off.

The fee I charge & retain is \$300.00. It is a[s] small as I could possibly make it. It was an exceeding troublesome suit, and a kind of fatality seemed to attend it at every step. I have paid to the House of Cooper, Caruthers & Co on to day, \$1000.00. L T Coe³ Esquire of Somerville, owes me \$261., one hundred & twenty five of which is in the hand of David Whitaker,⁴ your neighbour. Mr Coe has written me, 10th June, And that the balance, he would pay me on reaching Columbia. As I do not intend to visit that Country during the summer or fall, & as it is difficult at this season, as all intercourse has ceased, to make remittances, I have thought it not wrong to make this arrangement as to the \$261. I have not counted any interest on Mr Coes note, & do not wish any taken. I will write him immediately to settle with you, & I will also forward the claims to you. The way that it happens that I direct him to pay you \$261. added the \$1000. makes \$1261, is this, that the money sent for costs by you, has more than paid the costs with which the plaintiff has been taxed. The precise surplus I do not know, nor have I recd any thing; but I know there is an excess, & as soon as I can examine into the costs of the different Courts & have this matter arranged, I will run at whatever further balance there may be.

As the suit is in Barfields name, & as I have paid the money to you, I think I ought to be indemnified, or you should procure

such release or discharge from the Barfields as would exempt me. I trust then that you will make some arrangement on this subject which will exempt or indemnify me. If our lives were guaranteed, I would not even suggest such an arrangement. I annex an order in your favour. Mr Caruthers will instruct Mr Cooper to pay it.

J. W. EGNEW.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. On October 30, 1832, Egnew died of yellow fever in New Orleans.
2. See note 4, William R. Rucker to Polk, August 26, 1828.
3. Although the initials were written clearly, it is believed that the writer was referring to Levin H. Coe.
4. Operator of a mill in Maury County. In 1836 he was a candidate for colonel in the county militia, and two years later he was chairman of the commissioners of the Columbia and Shelbyville Central Turnpike.

FROM JESSE W. EGNEW

Sir, N.O.[New Orleans] 10th July 1832
 Inclosed are the claims upon Mr Coe.¹ I have written to him on the subject of paying you &c.

EGNEW

Addressed to Columbia. This letter was taken by hand from New Orleans to Nashville, where it was postmarked nineteen days after it was written.

1. The enclosures have not been found.

FROM TALBOT JONES & COMPANY¹

D. Sir Baltimore July 14th 1832
 The three Boxes shipped some days ago by you to our address, one for Mr Hardeman² & two for yourself, were received and forwarded immediately. You had funds enough in our hands to cover charges &c.

TALBOT JONES & Co.

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. A commission merchant establishment located on the corner of Howard and Baltimore Streets.
2. Probably Thomas J. Hardeman.

FROM JEREMIAH DIAL

Honored Sir

[Shelbyville] July the 15th 1832

I have sent my Proof Concerning my pension I think as far or as much as I can Do. I hope you will condecend So far as to write to me what Is wanting. I am in indigant Circumstances being 75 years of Age. I have Served my country For nought both in the revolutionary War and as a Majestrate in Bedford County for 28 years. I am Now unable to make a Suport And hope you will Let me know My Destiniie. I Sent my proof As to my Service in the revolutionary War.¹ I remain with confidence in your fidelity.

JEREMIAH DIAL wrote by self

Addressed to Washington and forwarded to Columbia.

1. As noted in Archibald Yell to Polk, November 24, 1830, Dial eventually received a pension.

FROM HENRY R. TAYLOR¹

Dear Sir

[Washington?] 15 July 1832

During the interval between the present & the next Session of Congress it is possible that I may have 2 or 3 months leisure time. If there be no impropriety in my requesting a favor at your hands I beg to solicit your kind offices.

Mr Secretary [Edward] Livingston obliged me with one of the extra clerkships in the Patent Office in March last. My duties there will have been fulfilled in about three weeks after the adjournment of Congress. Upon the manner in which these duties have been hitherto performed I willingly rest my hopes of a further recommendation. Many gentlemen of the House have given me recommendations to Mr [William T.] Barry, the Post Master General, in whose Department, the contracts for the forthcoming October, & other business will render extra writing necessary. It is not my wish to have permanent employment there, for I shall pursue my profession as a Reporter here.

I have had the honor of being known to you since the Session of 1828-9. I shall feel gratified if from your knowledge of me & of

my department here you shall think me to merit a recommendation which coming from you will have inconsiderable weight.

HENRY R TAYLOR

Probably addressed to Columbia, but no positive information is available either on the address or the point of origin.

1. He had previously served as a reporter for the House of Representatives. Failing to obtain the appointment in the Post Office Department, he again requested of Livingston an extra clerkship.

FROM THOMAS HARTLEY CRAWFORD¹

My Dear Sir,

Chambersburgh [Pa.] 22 July 1832

Having had sufficient time to look around me in Pennsylvania since my return, and to form an opinion that I think may be relied on, I was much gratified in complying with my engagement to give you my view of political events and prospects here. Genl. Jackson will receive the vote of Pennsylvania as certainly as the election will be holden, provided he lives to benefit his Country. Nothing short of a providential dispensation can, in my judgment, deprive him of the support of our electoral college. If you except Phia., and possibly one or two other places, he occupies as high ground in public estimation as he ever has done and it is the belief of the most intelligent politicians in many parts of the State, that perhaps, with the exceptions noted, he has gained rather than lost. In and around Phia. the operations of the Bank U.S. were most extensive, and the facilities it afforded trade greatest most useful, and there the rejection of the Bank bill² has most injured him, and there the population being most dense and the voters most numerous the effect will be most felt—but we shall carry the State with great ease. The opinion expressed at Washington to our friends, (probably to yourself among others,) will I think be found correct, that the veto message would not affect the result, though it might diminish our majority—but it's influence has not been so adverse as I anticipated. It is the objection upon which our opponents principally harp. Of the Tariff law of last Session, they say nothing for the most obvious reason, but say lots of a few isolated expressions in the veto

message, from which they endeavour to shew the President's hostility to the protective system, but the effort is vain. The only circumstance from which any reasonable apprehension could have arisen, would have been the getting up of two electoral tickets with a view to the Vice Presidency but that danger has passed over. We have, and will continue to have, but one Jackson ticket, and our victory will be easy and complete. The strongest efforts have been made to unite the Clay and anti-Masonic parties in this State, on the election of President and Governor, but they have failed. This combination generally, or as a party measure, cannot be brought about though I have no doubt it may be partially produced, and will have some operation in certain Counties and Districts but even such an union, if it could have been effected thoroughly and throughout, would not have changed the issue. We could on a State vote beat all our opponents combined. You have of course observed the course of the New York opposition. I fear nothing from it. Our friends there cannot fail to convince the public, that no good can result from confiding power in the hands of those who agree to vote for a Governor, in consideration of receiving votes for a President—perhaps I ought not to say *consideration*, but certainly in *expectation* of receiving &c.

We have just recd. information, what seems to make it pretty certain, that the candidate of our party for the office of Governor of Kentucky³ has succeeded. It is cheering & excellent news, and an index which points distinctly to the futility of all the efforts of our political enemies.

Our Governor's⁴ election, some of our friends think, is a little doubtful. I do not think so. He may not have so many votes as Genl. Jackson, but he will, in my judgment, be re-elected by a considerable majority. He is an excellent officer, and I should greatly regret his defeat, and not the less because it would put into place and power, the most proscriptive and ruthless party that ever existed in this Country.

Notwithstanding the foregoing in my deliberate and decided opinions as to our Presidential and State elections, my idea is that the President may not find in the next Congress so many friends from Pennsylvania as are in the present one. Our State

was districted by our Legislature, under the last census, very badly indeed & the effect of the new arrangement may be, and probably will be, to throw into the Ho. Rep. a few persons unfriendly to the present administration. Among the members who will not be re-elected, I think it altogether likely I may be numbered, owing to the Districts which Gen. McCoy⁵ and myself now represent having been divided and a county having been added to the one in which I reside, (the two forming the new District) that may counteract it—the former having been always very unfavorable.

Please let me hear from you soon, giving me as much instruction concerning the South and Southwest (politically) as you can furnish.

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A lawyer from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, he was Polk's colleague in the House of Representatives, 1829–33. Later he became Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

2. On July 10, 1832, Jackson had issued his famous bank veto message.

3. John Breathitt had been elected governor.

4. George Wolf was re-elected governor of Pennsylvania by a rather narrow margin. He had served in Congress, 1824–29.

5. Robert McCoy, a brigadier general in the militia, had entered Congress in November 1831 to fill a vacancy. He served until March 1833.

FROM HENRY HORN¹

My Dear Sir

Philadelphia August 7 1832

I wrote you a line in Great haste immediately after our Town meeting in favour of the Veto, and enclosed at the same time one of our daily papers containing an account of the proceedings which were had on that occasion by which you may have formed some Idea of the State of our feelings here.²

I am now happy in being able to say that the political aspect of our affairs is cheering and encouraging beyond my most sanguine hopes. Though fully aware of the fears and unchangeable character of the People of our State and of the Great difficulty

which would be experienced even by the most adroit politicians in Shaking the confidence of the People in the measures of our Venerable friend the President, I nevertheless could not avoid the belief that the Change in the Tariff and the Veto upon the Bank would have operated in a degree to our Prejudice. But as the best digested theories and the Shrewdest calculations upon future events often fall before the unerring test of experience so in the present case the Result has baffled all Calculations upon the effect of the Tariff and the Bank on our State public opinion in regard to these Great national measures seems to have undergone a change that is truly astonishing. The tariff as modified is decidedly popular even the ultras who clammoured loudly against any change in our protective Sistem are obliged to acknowledge the Judiciousness of the change or to acquiesce in silence in a measure to which their opposition would be utterly useless. The Bank which we were told was an institution deeply seated in the affections of our People and so essential to our agricultural, manufacturing and commercial prosperity I believe will be suffered to die without a tear of Sympathy from the Great Republican party of our State. The aristocracy it is true will as they always have done lament the loss of this powerful engine and will labour hard to save it from its fate. But we do not fear them; the people are awakened to a sense of their danger. The Key Note of preparation has been Sounded in the east and in the Western extremities of our State; it will be Responded to from every quarter and I feel the most perfect assurance that nothing can arrest the determined Spirit of our honest yeomanry to Sustain the President *Triumphantly* at the approaching Election against all factious opposition in whatever form it may present itsself.

The Veto is Sustained now not merely upon the ground of the Presidents constitutional Right to exercise it but as one of the proudest acts in the Political life of that Venerable and patriotic Chief. The newspapers of our party I believe without exceptions have come out decidedly in favour of the measures of the administration. They are impeled into our Support by the irresistible current of Public opinion. The Editors with us are not the leaders but the mere Organs of the party and So long only as they

faithfully and truly disseminate our Sentiments can they act with any efficiency among us. When they become recreant to the interests of their Legitimate Sovereigns the People they are dismissed from our Confidence and turned adrift to be picked up by those who are disposed to employ them and to pay them the wages of their iniquity. Such is now the condition of Our Inquirer (although we never Considered that paper as orthodox to our party). Since its apostacy it has been discharged by all true friends of the Administration and its Editor is treated with merited contempt. The Pennsylvanian, our new Jackson paper, is conducted with some ability and great energy. Its circulation however is as yet too limited. We hope it will obtain as it deserves an increase of subscribers. If it should be extensively circulated I am convinced it will prove a Valuable auxiliary to our cause.

The Sentinel which you Know from its connection with the Ingham faction had long been doubtful and equivocal in its character has now come out Boldly and decidedly in favour of the measures of the administration and of the Reelection of the President. This is one of the Strongest indications that our insidious opponents and lukewarm friends are now convinced that opposition to the Reelection of the President would be a fruitless effort on their part which must necessarily consign them to the Ranks of a beaten and broken down minority. What Course we Shall pursue in our city and County in Relation to our Congressional elections is as yet impossible to say. A few weeks will develop it. I am inclined to hope that both of my Colleagues will meet with a powerful opposition if not a defeat. Certainly the Col.^s cannot be returned again as he has taken refuge in the Ranks of the opposition. Not So with the Doctr;⁴ he is one of the most *decided Jackson men in the County*. If possible he goes even beyond you and I. What think you of this?

Although tired of Political life and entirely averse to leaving my family, my home and my business for a life at Washington I find it necessary that I should at least enter the political field as a Citizen (not as a candidate) and perform my tour of duty until the reelection of the President is consummated.

Our citizens are much alarmed and excited by the Rapid

increase of that dreadful Scourge the Cholera among us. I am placed upon the Sanitary Committee which Subjects me to many truly distressing scenes. In the midst of which I cherish a lively hope of enjoying the pleasure of again greeting you at the Capitol in triumph.

HENRY HORN

Addressed to Columbia.

1. He served in the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, 1831-33, and remained a friend of Polk for many years. He was port collector at Philadelphia after he was defeated for re-election in 1832.

2. This letter and the enclosure have not been found.

3. Probably John G. Watmough of Philadelphia.

4. Probably Joel B. Sutherland of Philadelphia. Horn proved to be a bad political prophet: both Watmough and Sutherland were re-elected, while Horn himself was defeated.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Little Rock August the 8th 1832

I dropt you a few lines by Mr Badgett¹ at a time that I could scarcely write my name. Since that time I have gratefully improved. Not so much in writing as in health. I now feel pretty nearly able to take up my line of march for Tennessee. I am only detained here waiting for some dispatches from Washington. I shall leave here about the 15th Inst. if I am not detained by a relaps or orders from the Department.² My friends here with whome I have formed an acquaintance are quite solicitous that I should remain, some from one cause and some from another. Most of them I believe are selfish. My personal friendship has been formed here without regard to their local divisions, and my not having taken sides I stand on Nutral ground, Receiving the smiles of both. The *Crittenden* party are perhaps more desirous than the others from a belief that my Successor will be of the other party if made in the Territory. The other party or *Seviers* folks are fearful that some one out of the Territory will be appointed.³ From all those fears and hopes they are willing to put up with me and seem at least to be anxious that I should remain,

but their wishes one way or the other has no influence on my determination. I shall resign either the 1st of Jany or 1st of Aprl. next &c.

I see the old Cock has put his Veto on the Bank Bill. That will ennobilize him tho. some will make a Noise. I fear old *Pensl.* [Pennsylvania] will *kik* at it, but he done as he ought, &c.

The Mail will leave here in an hour. I must stop and write you at some time when I have more time.

A. YELL

Look for me about the 1st Sept.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Probably either Noah H. Badgett, who had moved to Little Rock from Columbia, Tennessee, some six years before, or William B. Badgett of Little Rock, who was circuit clerk, 1832-35. Noah H. Badgett was at this time a partner in a Little Rock store, McLain and Badgett.

2. Yell had been at Little Rock as head of the federal land office for only a few months, during which time he had been quite ill. He resigned from this position and returned to Tennessee to practice law. In 1835 he again moved to Arkansas, receiving appointment as judge of the territorial superior court.

3. The Crittenden party was headed by Robert Crittenden from Kentucky. He was a brother of John J. Crittenden and a follower of Henry Clay. The Sevier party was headed by Ambrose H. Sevier, grandson of John Sevier, and was known as the Jacksonian party. Crittenden had served as secretary of the Arkansas Territory, 1819-29, when he was ousted by the Jacksonians. Sevier served as the territorial delegate to Congress, 1828-36, and as United States senator from Arkansas, 1836-48.

FROM WILLIAM RUTLEDGE¹

Dear Sir

Murfreesboro August 11th 1832

I have Just returned from the district say[saw] your plantation and was in hopes I Should of met you in this place to day. I Saw a place in Haywood 9 miles from Brownsville on the Somerville road belonging to you or Some of your family. I Should like to know whether it is for Sale or not; if it is I should like to purchase. It is part of a 1000 acres Tract and I understand it contains 300 or 320 acres your part. I want to hear from you as

Soon as possible as I have other places in view if we Should not Trade. Write me whether you will be back here before you goe to the district or not.

WM. RUTLEDGE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. There were several men by this name in Middle Tennessee at this time. This one seems to have moved to the Western District and was probably related to the wife of Herbert Biles, Polk's plantation overseer.

TO ANDREW A. KINCANNON

My Dear Sir

Columbia Augt. 15th 1832

I received on yesterday a letter from our old friend Col. Yell, dated at Little Rock July 28th, informing me that he designs shortly to resign his office of Receiver of Public Monies and again become a citizen of Tennessee.¹ This information surprized me much. The cause assigned is ill health and the apprehension that he cannot enjoy health at his new residence. He states that he will settle either in Bedford or Lincoln and expects to be at my house on his return by the 1st of the next month. The office which he will resign is worth a stated salary of \$500. and one per cent upon the amt. of sales of the public lands within the District, and it has occurred to me (without knowing any thing of your views or wishes) that possibly it was a situation which you might accept if it could be procured. Should such be the fact, and you will so signify, it will give me pleasure to render you any service in my power. The President is expected at the Hermitage daily & probably will be there when Col. Y. tende[r]s his resignation, and that would be a favourable opportunity to present your claims if you should desire it. I give you this information and make these suggestions, knowing that if it should not be your wish to apply for the office, they can do no harm, and on the other hand, if by possibility you should desire it, to give you timely notice of the vacancy. In the latter event any services I can render are at your command. I have mentioned the subject to no one but yourself and shall not do so until I learn your

wishes. At the same time I confess I should dislike the idea of your ceasing to be a citizen of the State, and nothing could reconcile me to it but the fact that you should think that your circumstances would be bettered and your private interests advanced. Of that you will be the best judge.

I feel and it affords me pleasure to take this opportunity to express to you the obligation, under which I am, for many acts of friendship in past times, and whether you shall continue to be a citizen of Lincoln or not, I shall ever hold in grateful remembrance the liberal support which I have received from yourself in common with many other friends in that County. In the new arrangement of Congressional districts it is not at all probable that Lincoln will or can be united with Maury, still I cannot cease to remember my friends in every part of my present District.

The publication contained in the enclosed printed slip I accidentally saw in a Washington paper and as one of the parties bears your name, I did not know but that possibly you might be interested in it, and therefore cut it out & now enclose it to you.²

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Fayetteville. This letter is in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

1. This letter has not been located. Yell's letter of August 8 was apparently a follow-up to the earlier one.

2. The enclosure is missing.

FROM JOHN W. CHILDRESS

Dear Sir

Murfreesboro Aug. 16th 1832

Jim brought your horse home the night you left here, much worse than he was when you saw him last. And the next day I was afraid he would die. He has however got up and seems to be mending for several days past; Eats hartily and his lameness not so great as when you left him at Todds. We have abandoned the use of the spike bit[?] as it seemed to make him worse, and now apply Turpentine, rub the shoulder and loosen the skin frequently and bathe his shoulder with mullin.¹ He is very much

reduced since you left him and I think it doubtful whether he will ever be of any use again. No pains shall be spared to restore him.

We will go to Davidson on next Monday and Mah is going with us. We will probably be gone seven or eight days and we will expect you at the time you appointed. If you have not sent the money to Nashville, be so good as to do so if you can in time to reach me before I leave there, as I am anxious to pay Philips.²

JNO W CHILDRRESS

The recpt of Murfree as agt. for Hilliard³ and which is attached to the Execution Dockett in the clks office says that, \$1108.25 cts was reced. from Anderson Childress in full of the Execution, at the time in the month of Aug. 1825. The Dockett shows that the first Judgmt. obtained was on the 30th Aug. 1823, for \$931.12 cts.

J W C

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Mullein is a woolly-leaved herb whose juices are thought to have medicinal powers.

2. This was apparently Joseph Phillips, an old friend of Joel Childress. Phillips had been prominent in legal and political affairs in Illinois but moved back to Rutherford County after his wife died. In 1831 Polk had paid Phillips something over sixty dollars as a share of a debt the Childress estate owed to Phillips. Polk was careful, however, to specify that his action was one of friendship and not to make acknowledgment that the debt was valid before the law.

3. Isaac Hilliard, who had obtained judgment against Frederick Barfield, had married a Murfree. It is not clear which of the Murfrees is spoken of here.

FROM DAVID GILLESPIE¹

Dr. Sir

Lebanon August 24th 1832

Yours of the 18th inst is now before me, and its contents examined. The ninety Acre tract in the name of William Polk of Ten. lying in Carroll County which I sold to Mr Martin² I got from your father for my interest in the M. Barrow tract near the Southern boundry of the State. On the 7th of August 1821 your father executed to me his title bond which I yet hold in my

possession. With James Walker witness and on the 10th day of May 1825 conveyed to me by William Polk of Ten, and acknowledged the same month in Hardeman County and on the 1st day of November 1825 was Registered in said County in Book A page 72 & 73. The bond and body of the Deed is in hand writing of your father and he attended to getting the Deed from Will Polk. I presume this statement will be satisfactory to all the heirs concerned, but if there should be a doubting *Thomas* among you I will be in Nashville the first week of the convening of the Legislature and I will exhibit to them or you the *documents* on which my Title is founded.

D. GILLESPIE

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A former resident of Columbia, he was at one time associated with Sam Polk in a steamboat company there. In a letter dated February 24, 1836, Gillespie refers to himself as a friend and kinsman of Polk. The exact relationship has not been ascertained.

2. This is probably William L. Martin Jr. of Wilson County. He was a member of the state senate, 1843-45, district attorney general, 1848-52, and a trustee of Cumberland University, 1842-50. At the time this letter was written he was clerk of the circuit court, a post that he held from 1832 until 1842.

FROM JAMES BATES¹

Norridgewock [Maine]

My much respected Sir,

2 Sept. 1832

Your obliging letter of 16 Ult. came this evening and I hasten to say that no change has taken place in our quarter which should make a communication at all interesting. But having received several letters from our frinds in the different parts of New York and Pennsylvania, I have from them the most positive assurances that although that incestous intercourse which has long subsisted between the Clay men and Anti-Masons had eventuated in wedlock, yet no issue was to be feared except a flatulent abortion. Hoffman, Angel, Soule & Lent² say this in effect. Letters from Col. Johnson and Mr. Gaither³ are very flattering as to Kentucky and as to Van Buren running in the West with the Genl. to the *full extent*.

You will have learnt before you have this that [John] Breathitt has beaten [Richard A.] Buckner all hollow.

I feel very sure of Kentucky. Mr. [Henry] Horn & Mr. Boucher⁴ of Penn give me the most unqualified opinions of their state by a very large majority for Jackson.

Our election will take place this day week and I will give you the earliest information in my power how we stand.

JAMES BATES

Addressed to Columbia.

1. A physician who was at this time representing Maine in the United States House of Representatives.

2. Michael Hoffman, William G. Angel, Nathan Soule, and James Lent were all from New York and were colleagues of Bates and Polk in the lower house of Congress.

3. Richard M. Johnson and Nathan Gaither were members of the lower house of Congress from Kentucky.

4. Since so many of the names mentioned by Bates were members of Congress, it seems likely that he meant John C. Bucher, who was at that time representing Pennsylvania.

FROM CHARLES CASSEDY¹

3d September, 1832,

Sir,

at Doct. [George W.] Haywood's.²

It is presumed that a reputational knowledge of each other, precludes the necessity of a formally personal introduction between us: and if so, an apology for this address becomes unnecessary. I wish your deliberate and well weighed opinionial advice, on the following points: for which, as soon as practicable, you will be remunerated. I have had favorable assurances from several professional sources, on which I might rely in ordinary cases; but on the abstruse points above alluded to, the *authorities*, however favorable, with the exception of H. L. White, were too light and inexperienced to have sufficient weight with me.

1. I contracted with Doct. [John C.] Gunn³ of Knoxville, for a reasonable compensation, to *copy* and *correct for the Press*, a medical work which he was writing, and had *partly printed*. I knew nothing of his moral or intellectual character but what was

visible on his countenance; and, had I not lost sight of one of my favorite maxims—that the human face was never yet the herald of a lie, or had I seen the Hon. H. L. White, before contracting with the scoundrel and quack, I would have had nothing to do with him. On examination, I found the portion of the work which had been printed, a tissue of the most consummate bombast—and the part which was not yet printed, and which he was proceeding to finish, of an intellectual and literary character which would have disgraced a school-boy. By the urgent solicitations of some of the best experienced printers, who were about refusing to set up in type his unparalleled nonsense, and afterwards actually did so, I dissuaded him from giving the portion of the work which had been printed to the world; and proceeded, from mere compassion for his situation, and to ward off the disgraceful consequences to which his vanity and unfounded presumptions would inevitably lead, not to *copy* and *correct for the Press*, but to *re-write* the work from the commencement; to twist his disjointed medical nonsense into common sense; and to write those medicinal heads, and botanical essays found in the latter pages of the work, which he acknowledged in the presence of some of the printers, he was *unable himself to write*. What do you think, Sir, of a Physician, a writer on medical science, who proffered to wager me *fifty dollars*, that there was no such technical term as *tenesmus*! Yet such is the fact, with respect to Doct. Gunn; whose medical character is compounded of ignorance, deception, presumption, and vanity: whose great talent lies in the successful practice of hypocrisy and imposition on the common people—and who never fails to substitute, in all companies to which he may be *admitted*, impudence for wisdom—hypocrisy for learning—and ribald buffoonery for wit. This is no overstrained or overcolored portrait of the man; the citizens of Knoxville, and all who are acquainted with the duplicities, shifts, and doublings of his character, will at once acknowledge the fidelity of the picture. I not only wrote the Dedication to Gen. Jackson, but all the Essays on the passions—which are original from first to last—but many of the medical heads, from Cartwright and other equally valued authorities, and also most of

the botanical portion of the work, from Bigelow, Barton, and others.

Under these peculiar circumstances, and this candid and fearless display of leading and prominent facts; and also considering, that this man is both a *theorist* and *tactition* in the elevated moral science of *concealing his property* to cheat and defraud his creditors, and to support his idiot ex[t]ravagance and low-lived debaucheries; and considering also, in conclusion, that his property in the *Books* of the first edition of "Gunn's Domestic Medicine," has long since been placed out of the reach of his creditors, is there any legal or equitable mode, known to our courts of Justice, by which his *Copy-right*, which is presumed to be valuable, can be reached and made accountable for my demand?

2d After having suffered from such a bold fraud as I have just delineated, I became the Victim of another, especially base and unprincipled; with this difference—that the second swindling and fraudulent experiment was *practiced on my confidence*, or if you please on my inattention to my own pecuniary interests, and my *first impressions* of the rascality and moral dishonor visible on the countenance of the *hoary scoundrel* who is attempting to swindle me out of the very money, which the munificent justice of the last Congress, of which you were a member, granted me for hazardous and fatiguing services; I say practiced on my confidence, under a grace-saying and whining profession of religion, and under the garb of consummate hypocrisy and deceptive professions of friendship. The name of this fellow is Underwood; John Underwood senr:⁴ He is the father of a numerous brood of scions, and resides about two miles west of Kingston, on the main post road.

It was at the house of this man, at the suggestion of Maj. G. W. Gaines,⁵ that I commenced, and finished with immense labor, and under the pressure of many inconveniences, a very valuable work, which you have probably seen described in my last letter to Mr. [Wilkins] Tannehill,⁶ of the Nashville Herald formerly, intitled—"The North American reading, spelling, and defining Book of the American and English Language," &c. The motto of this work, which is original, as is the whole work, is as follows; it

includes what you will easily be comprehended; indeed nearly all that can be said on the subject—"A mere knowledge of words, without a correct understanding of the true meaning attached to them, amounts to nothing but *acquired ignorance*." The reading lessons are also all original and comprise the principal points of our history, from the discovery of America down to the adoption of the Articles of Confederation. I agree'd to give this Underwood, after obtaining the Copy-right of the work under the late Law of Congress, the exclusive right *during his life* of supplying with the work when published, the states of South Carolina and Georgia. This was considered a full compensation for a seat at his paltry table, fire side, &c. About this time a law was passed by Congress, ordering the Secretary of the Treasury to pay me \$410, for services of an important character rendered many years since. I had now obtained the copy right of the work for 28 years, and by the late law, for 14 years more, under certain conditions. I mentioned these facts to the old Knave, not knowing at the time his character as a *bite*—not knowing that he had *run constable* long enough to load his mind with *moral corruption* and *sinister design*—not knowing that he had nearly or quite ruined an honest and poor man Francis Ellis,⁷ by selling to him, and receiving pay for land which *did not belong to him*, and which Judge [William E.] Kennedy, according to principles of strict justice, awarded to a widow, and I believe some orphan children; nor had I the least suspicion, that the paltry sum of 410 dollars, could lead him to lay and execute a plan for cheating me out of the wages of danger and toil, which I will briefly detail. When I mentioned my design of employing that money, in enabling me to make a contract for publishing the work at Pulaski, whither I had promised Doct. [Alfred] Flournoy some time previous to go for that purpose, Underwood objected to the measure. I did not yet see his plan of fraud, and his designs on this money. I next proposed to go to Cincinnati and make a contract; this was also objected to: he said, that "if I would *only take his advice* all would be right, and he would keep me as *straight as a shingle*." I did not yet descry the meditated cheat. I next proposed to place the money when it should come on, in the hands of W.[illiam] S. McEwen⁸ of Kingston, who I knew to be a

most honest and upright man, for safe keeping until it might be wanted. This was also objected to; he said the money had better be lodged at his house; that no person would steal or meddle with it: and that it would be under lock and key—perfectly safe &c. I did not yet distinguish his plan of moral rascality, corruption, and dishonor. In the mean time, I had received notice that the money was in the hands of E. Alexander Esq.⁹ of Knoxville, and had communicated the fact to Underwood. Now was the time or never! This was the period for efficient and practical operations, to obtain possession of the wished for and greatly coveted money! He commenced by advising me respecting his scrupulous and extreme honesty, and occasionally commented on the purity and elevation of his moral principles: told me that I had better give him an order for the money, which would be very safe in his possession, &c. He also informed me, that if he could get the money he thought he could make a contract for publication with Mr. [F. S.] Heiskell;¹⁰ that Messrs. Wightman & Lonas, paper makers, owed a certain Jno Hillsman,¹¹ an uncle of his, ten or twelve hundred dollars, (this was a palpable falsehood,) which he could have transferred to himself, and which would enable him to supply Mr. Heiskell with paper. Relying on his honesty and good intentions; having, instead of the exclusive supply of two states for his own life, granted to him, and his heirs, and assigns, for the term of 28 years, the exclusive supply with books, of E. Tennessee, North and South Carolina, and Georgia, and, after having persuaded me to send the work to Messrs Carey & Lea of Philadelphia for publication, in order that by the time he could get possession of the money, it might be of little or no use to me; I gave him an order on Mr. Alexander for 360 dollars, and instructions for a contract with Mr. Heiskell. He went to Knoxville; received the money, &c., did *not pay* all the little debts I ordered him to discharge, did *not make a contract* with Mr. Heiskell, which I am persuaded he *intended not to do*, inasmuch as it would have interfered with his particular designs on, and uses for the money. He now had the cash in his possession, under lock and key; the next achievement was to be the acquisition of some color of rights to it. He said, taking a proper time for the proposition, when no person was present, that if I

would let him have the use of the money, he would purchase negroes with it, and *take the Bills of Sale in my name*. I assented to this proposition, not having any immediate use for the money, in consequence of the M.S. book having been sent, accompanied with proposals for publications, to Messrs Carey and Lea of Philadelphia: this was precisely the predicament in which, from his original conception of the plan of fraud, he intended to place this money, in order that he might cheat me out of as much of it as he could retain in his possession; I say as he could *retain in his possession*, because he omitted to pay some debts I ordered him to discharge, and which are yet due by me. Finding me so easily to yield to his first proposition, he next made an essay to get some paper from me, which would in his estimation preclude my *right* and *power* ever to draw the money out of his hands, or even to bring a successful suit against him for it; and, when I was greatly elated, or rather partially and stupidly blind to my own interests, and the infamy and dishonor of his intentions, he obtained from me *a receipt in full* for 360 dollars, and had, and has yet, the money in his possession or use, with the exception of a few of my debts which he paid and a few which I paid from that sum—amounting in all to probably 50 dollars. This receipt in full was obtained under the following circumstances. So soon as he thought his opportunity favorable for *operating practically* on me, he sent for a considerable quantity, say a gallon of brandy; with which, so soon as he had drunk his impudence, dishonor, and fraudulent designs to the requisite pitch for the execution of a bold scheme of k[n]avery, a wild and desperate plunge of bankrupt villainy in distress: and, so soon as I had gorged, by his example, a temporary adieu to my interests and nearly my senses, he remarked that if he purchased *the negroes he had in view*, I might draw the money from his hands, and place him in a disagreeable and ruinous predicament. And, after employing his usual quantity of eulogisms on his own honesty and good intentions, and his usual doses of wheedling and insinuation, he obtained from me, contrary to my own interests and those of justice, the receipt in full of which I have spoken; and which, contrary to his conceptions of its efficiency, is worth nothing. When I awoke from this temporary stupor, I had a

distinct recollection of what I have just related; and, an indistinct and confused remembrance of conversations of a disjointed and equivocal character, and of a variety of propositions on his part, to which I have no recollection of assenting to or dissenting from. But, of one general and clear conception of the execution of a premeditated plan of fraud on the part of Underwood, I soon became as conscious as I ever was of the unclouded splendors of a meridian Sun. The fact is that when my mind regained its native powers, my memory its native fidelity, and when my reflective energies had resumed their usual empire, his whole plan of swindling and fraud stood revealed to me, from beginning to the termination; there was no longer any doubt. In a few days he went to purchase the negroes, at least under that pretense, the titles to which were to be taken in my name. He did *not purchase them*; this was his original intention; he believed, for roguery is invariable short sighted, that his purchase of any other property, with my assent would release him from the hated and deprecated stipulation of taking titles in my name. I assented to his purchase of land, and he purchased some from Jam. Th. Brown¹² of Kingston; and, so certain was I of its being his duty to take titles to any property in my name, which had been purchased with my money, that I went to Major Brown; and, on enquiry as to whose name the title to the said land was taken in, was informed that it was taken in Underwood's name. This was a clear demonstration of his *past* and *future* intentions. Indignation and contempt for the character of the hoary and hypocritical scoundrel, as well as for a portion of his family, the reasons for which will presently be detailed, determined me to have nothing further to do with him or his family. I immediately abandoned his house, and desired Maj. Brown to settle the matter, by obliging him to give up the money thus fraudulently obtained: he told Maj. Brown, crouching no doubt under his integrity and power to do justice, that *I had given him the money*: and that there was about 200 dollars left for me, which, when I went and demanded from him, he said "*was all gone.*" The fact is, he told several different and distinct falsehoods to different men, respecting his title to the money. To some he said I had given it to him*; to others he said that when we would come to settle there would be very little coming to

me⁺; and to others again, that I would stay at his house, and eat the sum out in board! This is a fair statement of this case, to the best of my memory and recollection.

*Maj. Brown.

*Mr. Aered &c. &c.

Query 1st. Can I file Bills against Gunn and Underwood in West Tennessee, and make them answer here?

2d Can I indict these rogues for *swindling*, especially considering that the meaning of the word is "the obtaining money &c. by or under false pretences"?

I have reason to believe, that two of Underwoods sons hold titles, at least so says popular sentiment, to all the property he has; if this be the fact, of which I have little doubt, the ultimate object is to cheat Francis Ellis, of whom I have already spoken, and Charles Cassedy.

3d Case. One of Underwood's sons, Thomas, received from the P. Master at Kingston, some time since several papers transmitted by Mr. Heiskell to the P. Master for me: these papers were accompanied by a letter from Mr. Armistead,¹³ Post Marked Dixon's Springs, West Tennessee. I had previously received money from Mr. Armistead, inclosed by letter and Post Marked as just mentioned, and this fact was known by Underwood's family. Mr. Thomas Underwood stopped at his father's house, came up stairs & handed me all the papers he had received from Mr. McEwen, the P. Master, early in the night of the day he received their papers and this letter, *exclusive* of the letter from Armistead! This he retained, and went to his brother Enoch's, a house in sight, and remained all night. The next day I went into Kingston, and commenced writing in an upper room of Doct. Richard's¹⁴ house, in company with Maj. Th. Brown, Junr. On going over to Mr. McEwen's to enquire for letters, I was informed that one for me, P. Marked Dixon's Springs had the day before been handed to Underwood for me, with other papers. I mentioned the fact to Maj Brown, together with my suspicions: he sent for Mr. Underwood, who was somewhere in town, who, when he came, with much trepidation, which he affected to conceal with forced jocularly, delivered me a letter from Mr. Armistead, the seal of which had been split with the blade of a

sharp pen-knife, and afterwards moistened and pressed together. The seal coming open with a mere touch of the thumb, confirmed my suspicions as to the motives of retaining the letter; I laid it down on the table, with the splitted seal side up, and took a steady look at Mr. Underwood, which he *fully understood*. After he retired, I held up the splitted seal to Maj. Brown, who sat on the opposite side of a small table, and asked him, "Do you observe and understand this?" His reply was by some gesticulation or sound of assent, that he did.

Query: Can this fellow be Indicted and punished in West Tennessee? It is, I believe, a crime unknown to our statute laws; and will probably have to be reached by common Law proceedings.

When you shall have formed opinions of these three cases, I wish much to see you. I am going next Tuesday or Wednesday to Pulaski, to see Doct. Flournoy who has the book in M.S. which I wish to publish, both at Pulaski and Columbia. I wish to see not only yourself but the present owners of the paper once owned by my old friend Walker; My intentions being, to assist editorially in an Administration Paper; to publish the work extensively and permanently in this country; and to make Maury or Giles my permanent place of residence. But, in order that I may see you, & that you and your literary friends may see my book, and in order that I may obtain your entire advice and professional assistance, I am compelled to mention, however reluctantly, that my traveling funds failed me a few miles back, at Mr. Moore's and that I wish you to send me, to this place, by Monday or Tuesday next—or to Pulaski, as soon as practicable afterward, by a safe conveyance, 30 or 35 dollars. I will be among strangers, as far as I know, at Pulaski, and would consequently shrink from a disclosure to them, of vulgar pecuniary necessities. Perhaps you could send one of your servants to Doct. Haywood's, 4 miles East of Corner'sville, by Sunday evening next; if you could, it would confer an obligation never to be forgotten.

CHARLES CASSEDY

[. . .] -journalment of Congress,¹⁵ that on my attested statement of facts in relation to Geo. Mayfield's claim to land, granted him

by the Creek nation in 1814 had been given to report a Bill; I wish you would note in your reply, the fate of this Bill; I am anxious for Mayfield's success if he ought to have the land, and shall have it if I can get it for him.—this is the third of September; your reply will be awaited here for the lapse of 10 days after which I wish to see you as soon as practicable I have some *personal* explanations to make, respecting Doct. Gunn's fraud.

CASSEDY

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Cassedy had served as secretary and clerk to the United States Commission that ascertained the boundary lines of the Creek Cession. He was to gain notoriety in 1835, when, in a reply to one of his letters, John Bell wrote Cassedy about White's views on the national Bank, and at the same time maintained that Polk should support Bell in the contest for Speaker of the House.

2. A native of North Carolina, Haywood lived in the western part of Bedford County, which soon became a part of newly-created Marshall County. He was active in public affairs and especially those pertaining to schools.

3. A Knoxville physician, Gunn had been an unsuccessful candidate for the state legislature in 1829. In 1831 F. S. Heiskell published for him *Gunn's Domestic Medicine or Poor Man's Friend*, which subsequently went through ten editions.

4. Not otherwise identified.

5. Probably the same person who later represented Knox and Roane counties in the state senate, 1839-41.

6. A journalist and author who was associated with one of Nashville's earlier newspapers. He continued in Nashville for many years and in 1849 became librarian of the Merchant's Library and Reading Room in that city.

7. He moved to Roane County from South Carolina and there married Sarah Breedlove in 1814. Not otherwise identified.

8. He was for several years Kingston's postmaster.

9. Probably Ebenezer Alexander, who later was attorney general of the second district.

10. Knoxville newspaperman, who was one of the founders of the *Knoxville Register* in 1816.

11. Unidentified.

12. A veteran of the War of 1812, he was twice elected to the state legislature, 1817-19 and 1821-23.

13. Unidentified.

14. Probably Dr. Richard Richards who practiced medicine in Kingston.

15. A part of this postscript is missing.

FROM JOHN H. BILLS

Sir

Bolivar Te Sept 5, 1832

I have just closed Contract with Mr. H W Keeble¹ for the one hundred acres of Land owned by you, part of the Tho. Polk 500. Herewith I hand you a blank bond for your signature, and have Executed my own to be Exchanged for yours when Returned.

Mr Keeble would not Consent to pay any thing at the End of this year; but pays interest after that time on the *whole* amt which will be an Equivalent.

I have Mr Keebles note subject to your order. Hoping all satisfactory. . . .

JNO. H. BILLS

Mr. Keeble tells me your man *Biles*² has a good Crop, not materially by [. . .] Friends in this Country well; *Uncle Billy*³ will not move, so say his family.

J H B

Addressed to Columbia.

1. It is possible that this is the same person as the Kibble who was formerly an overseer on James Walker's plantation.
2. Herbert Biles, Polk's overseer.
3. Probably William Wilson Polk, Sam Polk's brother, and the uncle of James K. Polk. Bills, the writer of this letter, had married Prudence Tate McNeal, a niece of William Wilson Polk.

TO WILLIAM D. SIMS

Dr. Sir

Columbia Tennessee Sept. 12th 1832

Mr William A. Thompson called to see me to day upon the subject of his claim for bounty lands. At his request I enclose to you a letter addressed to me by the Department of War in relation to the claim. The only material point to be established by additional testimony is, that Capt. John Thompson belonged to the *Continental line* and not to the *State troops* of Virginia. Mr Thompson thinks that the proof required can be readily

obtained in Virginia. The statement in Doct. Rawly White's deposition[?] that Capt. T. belonged to Col. Muter's Regt. and the known fact that Col. Muter commanded a Regt. of State troops, has thrown the greatest obstacle in the way of the allowance of the claim. Mr. Thompson thinks that Dr. White can probably explain his former statement. Mr. T. states that the fact was that Capt. Thompson was a continental officer, but that at the battle of Guilford where he was slain he was temporarily under the command of Col. Muter. I need not add more. The enclosed letter will inform you of what is required by the Department. It is the request of Mr. Thompson that you will forward to me at Washington at the commencement of the next Session of Congress, such further proof as you may be able to obtain for him.¹

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Halifax Court House, Virginia. This letter is in Duke University Library.

1. At the conclusion of this letter is appended a note from Thompson to Sims asking him to get two more depositions and to send them to Polk.

FROM MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE

Dear Sir, Greencastle, Pa. 18 Sept. 1832

My exertions and anxieties to keep all matters strait during the last few days of the Session left me so weak that I had a very severe attack of premonitory symptoms of the dreadful disease which has carried off so many in our City. I left as soon as I could travel. Before doing so, I called on the Secretary of the Treasury who informed me that a considerable time must elapse before any new scrip could issue even on those claims already perfected and in the office.

You may rest satisfied that so soon as I return home, which I hope will be ere long, I will attend to the Upshur[Upshaw?] claim (and others) & advise you thereof. I did not go on to perfect the claim before the Virginia Executive Council, as there was then no appropriation and the expense wd be heavy. I shall now proceed in due form and in ample time.

Duncan¹ has arrived here, after beating his man some ten to

one. His wife is expecting daily, and nightly too I suppose, to be confined. We are all now in good health.

We saw your name, today, mentioned as an intended candidate for Governor. "I pide fausto."² Go on.

The clerk envies no one and so long as he is permitted to trudge where he is—far in the political wake of his contemporaries—he will satisfy himself with the self conceit of Sir Lancelot Langstaff³ who, when at Sixty, used to hear of some old maiden Lady happily married, and with a shrug of his shoulder would exclaim, "Tut boys, I might have had her."

I am a looker on here, in the political world. [Thomas Hartley] Crawford will be hard run, possibly beaten by the Union of Anti-Masons and National Republicans. [George] Wolf will be reelected, I think, and the Electoral vote will go, as formerly, for Genl Jackson, though by a much shorter majority than before. Best respects to Mrs. P.

CLARKE

The above is the first time I ever wrote on the subject of politics and is intended only for yourself.

Addressed to Columbia.

1. Probably Joseph Duncan of Illinois, a colleague of Polk in the House of Representatives.

2. "A good step."

3. Pseudonym of James K. Paulding, American writer.

TO WILLIAM R. RUCKER

Dear Sir

Columbia Oct. 16th 1832

As Old Mr Rutledge¹ did not come on yesterday I conclude that he received my letter and will not be here before Saturday. I have a horse at Mrs. Childress's which I wish the old man to bring down to me when he comes. I have written to *John*² to send him by him, but as *John* may not be in town and the letter is in the office a day or two I ask the additional favour of you to let *John* know that I wish the horse sent by him.

I have collected one hundred and fourteen dollars more of the money coming from [Jesse] Egnew. We will be at Murfreesborough about the 10th Nov. on our way to Washington—will spend

a day or two there, go to Nashville & take the stage—where we can I hope adjust our matters. I regret that any difficulty has occurred in regard to the distribution of the amt. heretofore collected. You were absent at Nashville when I was last up, and such a disposition was made of it, as I supposed would be satisfactory. When I see [you] however I hope it can be adjusted.³

Mr. Rutledge will start [. . .]⁴ the horse out to him as soon as he gets my letter.

J.K.P.

Addressed to Murfreesboro.

1. Perhaps William Rutledge. See Rutledge to Polk, August 11, 1832.
2. John Childress.
3. Several lines of the manuscript are missing at this point. This apparently includes the complimentary closing and signature.
4. This seems to be a postscript of which about one whole line is missing.

FROM JOHN VICKERS

Dr. Sir

Fayetteville 18th Octr. 1832¹

In compliance with your instruction I hereby request your attention to my business in relation to the amt. of land or its value due me from our Government for services as a private during the wars of the revolution.

Your kind attention to this will add to the many obligations I am already under to you.

JOHN VICKERS

Addressed to Washington.

1. The date on the envelope is October 21. Polk noted, however, that he did not receive the letter until January 3, 1833.

TO LUCIUS J. POLK

Dear Sir

Columbia Oct. 19th 1832

I was out of town last night and did not receive your letter until to day. That you had some excitement at Nashville growing out of the arrangement of the Congressional Districts and particularly as it regards the proceeding in Mr [Robert] Murray's

case¹ I had learnd, though I had not supposed it was so great as you state it to be. I had heard also that some attempts were making to transfer that excitement to this district, but I did not believe nor do I believe that that will be practicable. The motive of Mr B.² in attempting it will be too palpable and he must take care that he does not overact his part if he has not done so. You inform me that B. is a candidate & that I will have to "combat anti-masonry *at every point.*" I am ready to meet him "*at every point*" and do not fear the result, though at the same time I am free to confess that I neither court nor solicit the opposition of any one. Every man would prefer to run without opposition but if *I must* have it I will meet it. If any imprudence has been committed by any of my frinds as in the speech of Mr G.³ described by you I am only sorry that an opportunity may have been afforded by it to Mr. B. to use it for his own advantage but I certainly cannot be held accountable for it; nor can I be held in any way accountable for the excitement which has prevailed. I have had neither lot nor part in it. As to the arrangement of Districts it would be a full reply to Mr. B. to say that he has been than actively engaged to fix a District to suit himself. I must take them as he and others have chosen to make them. And as to anti-masonry—it has nothing to do with the fitness or unfitness of men for public employ or with politics in any imaginable way and is a mere gull to deceive the people and get votes. And if I mistake not there will be but little difficulty in exposing the motives of those who attempt it. At all events I am ready to meet it, if any attempt be made to make it operate upon me.

You ask me what I say to have the Counties of Williamson & Maury yet put together and intimate that such an arrangement could yet be made. My opinion is that it would be a hazardous experiment, and might result very badly. If it were supposed that I favoured or even connived at the change, Or if my friends took an active part to effect it, the first impression would be that I had become alarmed, and all my friends would view it as a cowardly act on my part. My impression now is that under all the circumstances it is now too late. Candidates are already announced in Williamson and Rutherford under the present arrangement who would be disappointed and their friends might become excited. Consequences might follow much more difficult to encounter

than any that can grow out of the present state of things. On my own account therefore I would not advise *my friends* to *move* in the matter. If moved by others of course the assembly could [. . .] chose.

Upon the whole then though I do not wish a contest and would rather avoid it, yet if it comes I have no fears of the result. I have much confidence in the steady adherence of my friends in both counties and think I would beat him in each. If the change was now made under the circumstances is it not very probable that I would still avoid a contest. The present excitement cannot last long. It will pass off. The people are intelligent and reasonable and cannot long be deceived.

JAMES K. POLK

P.S. James Walker has just returned from the District and concurs with me in these opinions.

Addressed to Nashville and marked "Private." This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library.

1. Murray, who represented Henry, Carroll, Dyer, Obion, Weakley, and Gibson counties, harshly criticized the way the legislators were maneuvering to obtain apportionment into congressional districts that would suit their own political purposes. This criticism provoked one of his colleagues in the senate to present a motion to expel him. During some exciting activity in the senate Murray escaped expulsion by a close margin.

2. This is an obvious reference to Theodorick F. Bradford of Bedford County, who was Polk's most likely opponent in the approaching congressional election.

3. This probably refers to resolutions presented by John F. Gillespy to the state senate on September 27, 1832. Gillespy decried the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 but also denounced nullification. He opposed rechartering the Bank of the United States as well as the use of federal funds to support internal improvements within individual states. Gillespy represented Blount, Monroe, and McMinn counties.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

Friend Polk Fayetteville [Tenn.] Oct the 20th 1832

Since I saw you last [William] Gilchrist and myself have formed a partnership in the practice of Law. By that arrangement I am to settle in Fayetteville which I shall do in a few

weeks. My prospects here are quite flatering; in this County I have many frinds who will patronize me. I am sorry I am out of your District, but you will not need my Vote. I am sorry to say to you that our mutual friend *Brown*¹ has committed Suicide in this County; if he should be a Candidate he can not against any Tolerable desent man get more than 500 votes. I am sorry for it but it is so. The people every body is displeased with the District and they believe *Brown* had it arranged and they are not to be convinced otherwise. [William M.] *Inge*² I think will Run; he will under present prejudices get a better Vote now than he will at any future period. *Combs*³ cant run him; *Davis*⁴ would Run pretty well, better than *Brown*.

This County is in grate confusion and I cant tell what is to be the Result or who *May* be the candidate. Write me from Washington.

A YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. During the recent meetings of the General Assembly, redistricting under the census of 1830 was accomplished. Giles and Lincoln counties were cut off from Polk's old district and joined with Lawrence, Wayne, and Hardin to form a new district. Bedford and Maury now made up one district. The people of Lincoln County apparently blamed Aaron V. Brown of Giles for the new arrangement and seemed to have suspected him of pushing this new alignment to promote his own political ambitions. The five counties incorporated into the new district all bordered on Alabama and formed what might be termed a shoestring district.

2. A Fayetteville lawyer who was serving his second term as Lincoln County's representative in the lower house of the General Assembly. In 1833 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served one term.

3. James W. Combs, a Pulaski lawyer.

4. William Davis of Lawrence County, who had served in the General Assembly that accomplished the reapportionment.

TO JOHN COFFEE

Dear Sir

Columbia Tenn. Oct. 24th 1832

When I last saw you at Nashville your daughter Mary spoke of visiting Washington this winter, and you thought of sending

her either with the President or with Mrs. P. and myself. It would afford us much pleasure to have Mary's company & if she will come up by the time we start we will with pleasure take charge of her. Mrs. Polk will leave this [place] on a visit to her mother in Rutherford on Friday the 3rd of the next month, where she will remain some five or six days, and we expect to leave Murfreesborough on our journey about the 10th or 12th of November, not sooner than the 10th nor later than the 12th or 13th. If Mary can be here by the 3rd Mrs. P. will take her in the carriage to her mother's where she will remain until I overtake her at that place. Mrs. P. insists that *Mary* shall go & hopes she can be here to start with her on the 3rd but if she cannot, she must be certain to be at Murfreesborough by the 10th. She says she must not be deterred by the fear of the fatigue of stage travelling on so long a journey, for we will have time to stop a day or two and rest on the way if necessary. In consequence of the reports of the prevalence of *cholera* on the river we have determined to take the Virginia route & will travel in the stage. I have no apprehensions from *cholera* at the City, as it has I understand entirely disappeared at that place, and if it had not, with prudence, there would be little danger from it. It will put us to no sort of inconvenience to take charge of Mary but on the contrary afford us much pleasure to do so, and also to bring her home with us in the spring if she desired it. The elections in Ohio you see have terminated favourably; Lucas¹ elected & 13 administration members of Congress elected—[William] *Stanberry* beaten &c. The accounts received from Pennsylvania are but partial. The power of the Bank has been at work there & I see we have been defeated in the City. We will however carry the State by a large majority.

JAMES K. POLK

P.S. Write to me on receipt of this. J. K. P.

Addressed to Florence, Alabama. This letter is in the Coffee Papers, Tennessee Historical Society.

1. Robert Lucas was elected governor of the state. Earlier in the year he had presided over the Democratic National Convention.

University where if he does well, I intend that he shall graduate.

In your letter to me at Washington last winter in answer to one which I had written to you upon the subject, your advice was, to send him to that school, & if sent you kindly offered to exercise over him whilst there a superintending controul & guardianship. I have now to ask the favour of you to do so, as far as may be necessary and your convenience will permit. *William* is a well disposed boy, & is by no means deficient in point of intellect, but on the contrary may be considered a boy of very respectable talents. With proper application he may maintain a respectable standing at any institution. I am not aware that he is as yet addicted to any bad habits, except that of a very great disposition to extravagance in dress, in attending theaters and other places of light amusement. I have written to Mr Bingham that he must be restrained in this respect, and with a view more effectually to accomplish it I have not given him much money to start with. His expenses will be paid to Charlotte & he will have, when he takes the stage at that place \$60. to bear his expenses to Hillsboro—to buy such books as he may need &c. He has his winter & spring clothes & need buy none before summer if then. I am thus particular, because I am satisfied his inclination to extravagance & idleness is the point of danger. To give you some idea of the extent of these, I was a few days before he left home astonishmnt to learn the amt. of his accts. in the stores & shops in town. For a period of but little more than two years (since July 1830) his accounts amounted to near \$700.00 He had dealt without our knowledge in almost every store in town. Upon making the discovery I gave him a severe reprimand, & he promised to reform & do better. He promises to be studies [*sic*] & to avoid extravagance. Still how [ev]er I do not think it prudent to rely altogether on his promises. I wish him to have what money may be proper & necessary for his comfort, & no more, & thus put it out of his power to spend. With a view to this I have conversed with *Lucius* [J. Polk] who thinks it may suit you, for me to pay to him here, such amounts from time to time as may be necessary, and for you to advance to him as he may need. Will such an arrangement suit you? If not I will make remittances to you, if I can get the favour of you to control him, in his expenditures &

furnish him money *only* when *you* think he needs it & ought to have it. I feel great solicitude in regard to him & if he can be restrained from extravagance, by depriving him of the possession of much money at a time he may & I hope will become studious & make a steady respectable man. One thing is certain that if he is not restrained in this respect, there is every prospect that he will be a spendthrift and possibly become abandoned to other vices. He is addicted to no other bad habits—*drinks I believe not a drop*. I have told *him* and have also written to *Mr Bingham* that he is not to be permitted whilst there to contract a single account. Whatever he needs he must pay for when he gets it. I wrote to *Mr Bingham* also & requested him to draw on you for money for him, when *he* thought it necessary, and that he must be the judge when he did need it. I told *William* this. He said he was perfectly willing that *you* should be the judge of what he ought to spend, and that he would obey you in that respect, and also in any thing else that you directed, but was unwilling to be controlled by *Mr. Bingham*. You can manage that as you think best, and can make the remittances when necessary—either to *Mr Bingham* (which I think safest if he will submit to it) or to himself. I leave that to you. In a word, if you will manage and controul him in every respect whilst there as you would your own son, you will confer an additional lasting obligation. I have written to you as an old friend of the family, freely in regard to him, and from *you* have concealed nothing. I have thought that by your influence & control over him he might be reclaimed and I doubt not he will be. *Mr Bingham* I believe takes a few boarders in his own family & I have written to him (if convenient) to take *William* as one of them, where he can be under his immediate observation.

William will probably be at Hillsboro about the time this reaches you & I suggest (if it be not too much trouble) that it might be well for you to write to him & give him such advice, (in a gentle way) as you might think proper. If it is vacation when he arrives, I have instructed him to review his studies & be prepared to enter a class at the beginning of the Session.

I saw Lucius a few days ago. All well.

JAMES K. POLK

NB I start to Washington in a few days. Write to me to that place.

J. K. P.

No address is available, but it was presumably sent to Raleigh, North Carolina. This letter is in private possession; it has been published in Paul H. Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper: William H. Polk Goes to School," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV (1967), 190-192.

1. William Hawkins Polk was seventeen years old at this time.
2. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Bingham took over in 1826 a school founded by his father. It was an outstanding academy in Orange County.

FROM JOHN H. BILLS

Sir, Bolivar Ten Nov. 15. 1832

Enclosed please find \$11, five of which will constitute Col. Charles Fitzhugh¹ a Subscriber to the *Globe* for one year & the ballance to Credit of *James Chisum*² at present a Subscriber to Same Paper. Please procure Mr. Blairs Recept as above. . . .

JNO. H. BILLS

The County Continues healthy, & season fine for 10 or 12 days past for securing crops. The Cholera Subsiding at Memphis, only about half a dozen deaths amongst the citizens; none in the Country East.

B.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A prominent resident of Hardeman County, otherwise unidentified.
2. Probably the same James Chisum (Chism, Chissum), who was an early settler in White County. In 1823, while representing White County in the General Assembly, he was preparing to move to the Western District.

FROM WILLIAM GILCHRIST

Dear Sir Shelbyville Novm 18th 1832

I herewith send you a memorandum of names of persons living in Bedford County made out by Col [K. L.] Anderson¹ & myself, to whom it might be not unimportant to send some

communication from Washington during this Session. It would not be necessary to Send all of them the Presidents Message, but other reports would be acceptable as occasion may offer. We believe it most advisable for you to send to Col [Jonathan] Webster the bundle to be distributed to his neighbours as he may think advisable. He will no doubt do his duty. We have marked the post offices in the County to which you can direct to any of the persons herein names, without mentioning where they live. We have annexed the name Esquire to those who have resigned & are not now acting. From the Clerks list you will get the names of the acting magistrates.²

1st To the Beech Grove P Office send to any of the following persons viz. Capt. James Dilliard, William S. Horton, Esqr., Joseph Carney, Thomas Blair, Richard Wright, Major T. L. D. W. Shaw, William S. Watterson, Major Rice F. Ross.

Send to Shelbyville Communications to any of the following Gentlemen viz—Robert Hurst, Col. Samuel Clay, Harbert Suggs, Capt Burrell Featherston, Doctor Johnson, Rev'd Hayman Bailey, Capt. Andrew Bailey, Rev'd Richard Cardwell, Rev'd Richard Cunningham, Col. James Arnold, Adrin Anglin, Jesse Davis, Alexander Yell, Abraham Swinen, Nathaniel Brown, Reddin George, Major William Guy, Capt. Robert Clark, Capt Thomas Swan, Capt John Deason, Capt Andrew S. Lawrance, Doctor Houston, Col George A Phifer, Doctor Jackson, Abraham Cooper, Capt John Davis, Wilson Abbott, Jacob Morton, Major William Moody, Samuel McCuistian, Capt Joseph McElwrath, Thomas P. Burns, James Clardy, Capt William Burditt, Michael Grier, Daniel Dwyer, Shadarack S. Brown, John Robertson, Asa Fonville, Leonard C. Temple, Flower Swift, Michael Fisher Esquire, John Frazer, Abraham Mayfield, James Turrintine, Daniel Turrintine, Archibald Turrintine, Nathan Wheeler, Capt John Shaffner, Darling D. Arnold, Rev'd Acton Young, Thomas F. Ashburn, Hundley Wiggins, John Patton, Rev'd Joshua Yeates, Rev'd Michael Holt, Joshua Parks, William Knight, Thomas Grier Esqr, Joseph Gray, Rev'd Melchizedick Briam, Jonathan Moseley, Hugh Smiley, Aron Gambrell, Harbart Smith, Col William Burnett, John T. Burnett, Capt. Joseph Thompson, Ephraim Burrow, Henry Hart, Peter Rainey Esqur, Thomas S.

Brown, Col. E. Bobo, Joseph Watson, Col Henry Hastings, Capt John Rainey Sen'r., John Koonze, Willie F. Daniel, Capt Thomas Terrey, Capt Ruble Terry, Capt. James McGill, Peter R. Proby Esqr, John W. Garderner, Zachariah A Rice.

To Thompsons Creek P Office Send to any of the following persons viz—Capt E. W. Brown, Rev'd William Simkins[?], Asa M. Elkins Esqr., Allen Knight, Thomas Branch, David Weaver Esqr, William Bairdin[?], Abner Barton, Elijah Parker Esqr, Major E. Parker, Elijah Holt, Willis Green, Joseph Johnson, Robert Wilson.

To Davis Mills P Office send to following persons viz—Jesse Robinett Esqr, John McMahan, Major James Walker, Capt Gabriel G. Osburn, Samuel Haggard.

To Richmond P Office on head of Sinking Creek Capt Washington D. Maderis [*sic*], Col John Blackwell, Thomas Smith, Thomas S. Brown.

To Farmington—Major Thomas Hardin, Capt Light Howlin, Major James C. Record, Capt John H. Bills, Holdin W Liggett, Isaac B. Larue, Col E. Hunter, Col Thomas O Hunter, Major John O'Neill, Col John Orr, David Jones, Capt Fanning M Jones, Doct. John R. Jones, John Lane Sen'r., Isham O'Neel, William Tucker, Capt Brumfield Long, Thomas Pawdrill, Richard M Shaw, James Eakin, Thomas Ellison, John Ellison, John Reid[?].

Chappel Hill P Office—Send to William S. Mayfield Esqr, Col. Ledbetter, Col Aron Boyd, William Meek, John Beck, Michael Robertson, Doct John H Robertson, William Neill Esqr, Capt John F. Furgeson, John Wortham Esqr, William Dickson, Moses Wilson, Ezekiel Cherry Esqr, B. G. Rainey, Isaac Raines Esqr, Hugh McClellan, George H Allen, Major Creed T. Thompson.

Effingham post office—William Allison Esqr, Robert Allison, Daniel D. Wiggins, Capt Black, G. Sublett, Capt John C. Cooper, Major James T. Byler, Major Thomas Carlton, Enoch D. Rushing, Elliot Rucker, Andrew Pressgrove—& any others you may think proper

No news. Kentucky goes for Clay, all the rest West of mountains for Jackson.

W. GILCHRIST

P.S. Give us all the news in your answer & occasionally write us.

WM GILCHRIST

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was in the sheriff's office at Shelbyville for some years, both as a deputy and as sheriff.

2. Above most of these names appear either the letter "P" or a cross mark or both, indicating that Polk or someone in his office kept account of those to whom documents were mailed. Several names in the Shelbyville group were crossed out, and it is impossible to say whether Gilchrist himself did it or whether it was done after the list reached Polk. The following names were crossed out: William Harville Esquire, Major Joseph Hastings, Dempsey P. Temple, John Thompson Esquire, and William Hicks.

FROM KENNETH L. ANDERSON

[Shelbyville, Tenn.] Nov 19th 1832

You will receive the memo. that you requested from Mr Gilchrist by the mail that takes this. You will probably receive a petition from you friend praying Something in relation to mails. My Own impression is that if you Can procure its operation it will not only be a public benefit, but add much to your popularity.¹ You as yet have no opponent, though it is Expected every hour.

K. L. ANDERSON

The address and the upper part of this letter are torn off. In view of Gilchrist's letter of the day before it is obvious that this was mailed to Washington.

1. This probably refers to the effort to obtain a postal route between Murfreesboro and Huntsville, Alabama, via Shelbyville and Fayetteville, Tennessee.

FROM WILLIAM J. BINGHAM

Dr. Sir

Hillsboro' N.C. Novr. 20th 1832

Your brother Wm. arrived on Sunday last. The letter in advance of him had reached me in due time. I regret much that my rooms were all occupied, so that it was impossible for me to accommodate him. One of my boys leaves in a month, and Wm.

can fill the vacancy. Until then, I have placed him at Mrs. Burgwin's, where his cousin George Polk¹ boards. I think it rather probable, that like most boys, he will prefer *absence* from the immediate and constant supervision of his teacher, & will therefore incline to remain in his present quarters. In which event, it will be necessary, *either for you* to write again on that subject, or *for me* to make use of your first communication.

Of Wm.'s acquisitions I am not yet able to speak positively, having given him a very slight examination. He wishes to enter a class preparing for the Freshman in the Univ. next July. The effort seems rather herculean; but *energy* and *capacity* may achieve it. At all events the effort will be of service to him, & I feel disposed to encourage it. It implies unremitting labor during both the winter and summer holidays, and this he professes willingness to encounter. He can join the class on Latin, and I will give him private tuition in Greek. The necessity of his taking private tuition, makes it additionally desirable, as a matter of convenience, that he should be an inmate in my family: and yet I should be unwilling to receive him, were he not *perfectly* willing to come. I wish this matter settled at once, as there are already two applications for the vacancy above alluded to, and I am disposed (should it be *perfectly agreeable* to himself) to give the preference to the brother of my departed friend.²

It is our custom to require board & tuition by the session in advance. Board is \$10 pr month—\$53.33- $\frac{1}{3}$ for the first session of the year—5 $\frac{1}{3}$ months—and \$46.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ for the second session—4 $\frac{2}{3}$ months. Tuition is \$15.50 a session. Vacation tuition is equal to that of the session. However \$15.50 shall cover your brother's tuition for the remaining month of the present session as well as the vacation. The next session will commence about the 20th of Jany. His board & tuition charges 'till then will amount to \$35.50.—for the next session \$68.83 $\frac{1}{3}$. Books will not cost much, & you will know what allowance to make for clothing. From the above data you will be able to form an estimate of the advance proper to be made at the beginning of the next session.

May I request you to inform The Hon. Wm. B. Shepard of N.C. that his letter is recd. & the arrangement made, perfectly convenient & satisfactory.

W. J. BINGHAM

P.S. 'Board' including lodging, fuel, candles & washing \$10. pr month.

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 68-69, and in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 192-193.

1. George Polk, fifteen years old, was the son of Colonel William Polk of Raleigh.

2. In 1825 Marshall T. Polk and William J. Bingham were graduated with honors at Chapel Hill.

FROM JAMES McKISICK¹

Dear Sir

Shelbyville 20th November 1832

I received your communication from Murphreesboro & according to your request have ordered your paper which is atti[anti] every thing, to be forwarded to Washington, but if you find any thing in it either edifying or gratifying you will have more segacity than your friend. You will herewith secure a list of the acting Justices in this County with a note of their locality, also the names of the different Post offices & their situations. There has been no sound declaration of opposition as yet tho I am of the opinion you may expect it. Some of your friends think there will be none. I think there will. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time when convenient.

JAS McKISICK

Addressed to Washington.

1. A personal friend of Archibald Yell and a political ally of Polk. He was at this time county clerk in Bedford County.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir,

Columbia Nov 20th 1832

I received by yesterdays mail the enclosed letter from Mr. [Franklin L.] Smith.¹ The account he gives of the situation of Marshalls estate is rather gloomy. I judge from this letter that considerable expense must have been incurred in finishing the

House in Charlotte. You will see that Mr. Smith suggests the propriety of selling the house, and I suppose it probable you will give him your views on that subject.

I have informed him that I should refer his letter to you. There seems to be an absolute necessity for devising some way of converting a portion of the Real estate in such a way as to produce a support for Laura & the children.

I received your letter from Murfreesboro—have not yet had time to hunt up the article of agreement in relation to the 5000 acre tract. I will do so in a few days & consult Craighead² as you suggest. I cannot think it possible we have any difficulty to apprehend from that business. What Murphy³ done was with the knowledge, if not consent of [Alfred] Balch & I presume Col. [William] Polk. The tittle of the land was in your Father, as Trustee, and it was surely the business of the real owners to have attended to their interests long ago.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. A lawyer from Charlotte, North Carolina, who was graduated at the top of his class at Chapel Hill in 1829.

2. Probably James B. Craighead.

3. Probably Archibald D. Murphey, a prominent lawyer of Hillsborough, North Carolina. He and Colonel William Polk had been members of a committee appointed by the trustees of the University of North Carolina to handle its claims to lands in Tennessee. In this capacity Murphey had spoken before the Tennessee General Assembly in 1821.

FROM ERWIN J. FRIERSON¹

Dear Sir

Shelbyville Tenn Nov. the 21st 1832

At the request of some of our most respectable citizens I enclose you the within petition for a change of our mails. If you can prevail upon the Post Master General to grant this prayer of the petition you will completely stop the mouths of your enemies in this County upon the only subject left them to harp upon. Your friend *Theodorick* [Bradford] still holds a mysterious silence as to his future movements. Col. Williamson Smith told me a few days ago that he had it from Nimrod Porter's² own mouth that you would meet with no opposition from him in a contest

with Bradford. If he should hold the same Language to Bradford I think it probable that you will again have the pleasure of walking over the track. As an additional argument why the prayer of our petition ought to be granted it might be urged that a good part of the proposed rout is now being turnpiked, and of course the cost of transporting the mail will be diminished.

E. J. FRIERSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Frierson had studied law in Polk's office. He moved from Columbia to Shelbyville, where he practiced. At this time he was attorney general for the eighth circuit.

2. Porter was prominent in local politics in Maury County for a long time, but he did not support Polk.

FROM WILLIAM M. INGE

Dear Sir,

Fayetteville Tennessee Nov 21st 1832

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a recommendation for our mutual friend, Colo. A A Kincannon (which I procured at Nashville) who is an applicant for the office of Receiver of the monies arising from the sale of the public lands at Arkansas. You will see that the recommendation is as strong as it can be.

I promised Majr Eaton to send it on to him, but I fear he has left the city before this time; he promised to aid all he could and to present the enclosed paper to the executive sustained by his personal exertions. If Majr. Eaton has not left the city before this reaches you, you will be so good as to confer with him, and explain to him the reasons of my not enclosing it to him. This appointment is very important to our friend, and I hope you will leave nothing undone to procure it for him. Eaton I know will use every exertion if he has not left Washington. [William B.] Lewis perhaps would aid us, if aid he could give. All these things are submitted to your sound discretion.

Knowing that you feel an interest in this matter equal with myself I shall add no more. . . .

WM M INGE

NB. I saw on today old Mr. Deery¹ of Shelbyville. He says Bradford is not a candidate nor will he be as he thinks. Yell and

Deery both believe you will lick him, as we backwoodsmen say in Bedford County.

WM M I.

NB again. In addition to the enclosed recommendation two thousand could have been procured in this county. I will say anyhow every generous hearted fellow. But Kincannon for substantial reasons disliked to give the thing great publicity in case of a failure. Knowing that if names will have any effect with the executive that those who have signed the recommendation will carry as much weight as any of equal number that could be procured in the State of Tennessee.

You will please answer this as soon as you can discover the prospects.

W. M. I.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Probably James Deery, who was the first merchant to settle in Shelbyville.

FROM WILLIAM H. POLK

Dear Brother

Hillsborough Nov 21st 1832

I arrived here last Sunday and went to see Mr B.[ingham] and he said that there was a class that would enter college in the lowest class next June and that he would put me in it and if I could keep up I would enter at the same time. I spoke to him about Boarding; he said that he could not board me this session but procured it for me at a place about a mile from town. George Polk is boarding at the same place and is in the same class and I would prefer boarding at the same place next session with him. He says that he has been boarding there for two years. Write me if you have any objections. Sister Laura found her mother very ill and did not expect her to live long when I left there. Little Marshal¹ improved very much on the way. Mr Fulsom² would start back on last Monday. The horses stood the trip very well. Write me as soon as you receive this so I will get it before the begining of next session.

W H POLK

PS Give my love to Sister Sarah and tell her she must write to me.

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 68, and in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 193-194.

1. Born a month after the death of his father, this child was at this time eighteen months old.

2. Unidentified, but probably a person from Columbia hired to make the trip and bring the horses back home.

FROM WILLIAM E. BUTLER¹

D. Sir,

Jackson Nov 22nd 1832

Mr. R. J. Chester is an applicant for the appointment of Surveyor Genl. of the Chickesaw Country, that office having been created by the terms of the Chickesaw Treaty. Mr. Chester will come well recommended, as being eminently qualified to fill the appointment. I Should be gratified to see you join with other members from the State in forwarding the views of Mr. Chester. Any Services you can render him, will be thankfully recd. . . .

WM. E. BUTLER

P.S. Please present my best respects to your better half.

W. E. B.

Addressed to Washington.

1. A native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he moved first to Murfreesboro and in 1820 removed to Jackson. For many years he was a leader in civic and financial affairs in the Western District. In 1823 he ran unsuccessfully against Crockett for the state legislature. His wife was a niece of Rachel Jackson.

FROM HERBERT BILES¹

November the 23rd 1832 State of Tennessee,
Dear Sir Fayette[e] County, Summervill[Somerville]

I hav bad news to writ to you. Lucys youngist Child died on the 16th of the instant and the little orphin Child died yester

Day and the other little girl I am afraid will go the same way. Doctor Edwards² has been attending on them ever since you were here. I would have written sooner but I wanted to see how the Children would get. My health is better than it has been for some time and I hope that I will get entirely well. Season has been under the Doctor ever since you were here with the Liver Complaint but is likely to recover. The rest of the niggers the most of them has been sick. Matildy was taken the Day you left here with the nine months fever and has not been able to do but very little work. Silvy and Eav has got the Same Complaint and I believe that it is Caching and think that if you would move to this Country that it would remove your talents[?]. I have got out about twenty five thousand lb of Cotton and have got one load Reddy to send down but the Cholera [cholera] got to Memphis and alarmed the people so that they were afraid to go there. But it has stopped and I intend to start the wagon on Monday next. It has been very wet and I am afraid Cotton will turn out sorry.

Elias and Wally got here on the 14th of this instant. A pot of boiling water turned over and burnt Jims foot very bad. The men pickers from one hundred to one hundred and forty pounds of Cotton, the women from 70 to 100 lb. You wrote that you had not heard from me since Elias left here. [I] wrote to you and it got here by the time you left Columbia. I have finished my cribs and built old Charleys house. I have been clearing some. We had to stop picking and wait for the Cotton to open. Nothing more at present. . . .

H BILES

Addressed to Washington.

1. Polk's plantation overseer. He was the son of John Biles of Rutherford County and had married Martha Anne Rutledge, also from Rutherford.
2. A local physician who attended the slaves on Polk's plantation.

FROM JOHN C. BROOKE¹

Dr. Sir.

Sommerville Tene. Nov. 23rd 1832

I offer no apology for thus addressing you on a subject that very much interests me. Some time ago the individuals residing immediately in the neighborhood of our *Country establishment*

in this, Fayette Cty petitioned the general Post Office department to establish a post office at that place, which we had designated *Bellemont* and recommended my name as Post Master. After we had sent out petition, another was started recommending the location of one, five miles below us, on the Covington road and as we have understood made such erroneous statements through the Post Master at Covington, as very much to prejudice our claim. A communication has been received here from the department on the subject of establishing an office (as I am told) at a Mr. Trotters² five miles above us, towards this place and altho I reside there, I have never heard of a petition having been sent for an office at his house. I am therefore firmly of opinion that there is some management to defeat the wishes of as respectable body of men as ever petitioned the department on any occasion, and I believe in point of wealth, intelligence, & high moral worth, equal to any body of men in our Country. A number of whom I believe you personally know Rev. P. R. Bland, Doctr Jones, Field, Campbell, Hunt.³ And one or two of the Mr. Trotters themselves which can be seen by reference to the petition itself.

The petition which we sent was accompanied by a rough sketch or plan of the situation, and distances of the different offices in the neighborhood. This plan showed *Bellemont* (the place we wish an office) not on the direct road (as it now runs), to Covington, but about half mile out of the way, and not more. And in fact the distance from Covington to Sommerville by our *store* (*Bellmont*) is only 30 miles, and in the proposals to carry the mail this rout, it is estimated at 33 miles.

We have however made & are now in progressing of Completing a good & permanent road from this place to Covington *by our store* which will be nearer & better. We pledge ourselves to the department that the road shall be in every respect *better*, & as *near*. There cannot, shall not be any Loss to the Department. A post office at this point will do double the business of one at any other point and in fact it is not necessary to have more than one office between Covington & Sommerville, a distance of 30 miles. And the point we wish is situated 14 miles from the lat[er] & 16 miles from the former place.

By next mail I shall address our immediate representative in

Congress on the subject. Being as I am, sensible of our Claim in this instance I am unwilling that our friends should be disappointed, by *management, alliances, or Coalitions.*

I will thank you to go with Mr. Fitzgerald to the Post Office Department & examine our petition & my letter on this subject & make such representations as will ensure us *Justice*, that is all we ask. And that we have a right not only to ask, but *demand.*

JOHN C. BROOKE

One of your Boys is now in town. Your people all in good health, no Cholera here, nor in Memphis nor Randolph.

B

Addressed to Washington.

1. A storekeeper of northwestern Fayette County who became postmaster at the Bellmont post office, about halfway between Somerville and Covington.

2. This probably refers to Isham Trotter, a wealthy man of Fayette County. He had a large family, and one of his sons was later county sheriff.

3. Peter R. Bland was a Presbyterian minister who was prominent in the Western District. At this time he had a church in Somerville. The Dr. Jones here mentioned is probably Calvin Jones. Campbell is unidentified. Field and Hunt are probably Drury S. Field and Christopher Hunt, residents of the vicinity of Bellmont.

FROM AARON V. BROWN

Dear Sir

Pulaski Nov. 23, 1832

Enclosed is a power of atto. to you to transact some business for me in Maryland, open a correspondence, ascertain its condition & if practicable bring it to an early close.¹ If it cant be done otherwise & the amount will justify *dash over* to Centreville [Maryland] when every thing is ready & close it. I expect the amount is small—800[?] or \$1000 (I know not what) but whatever it is will help in these hard times. Do any thing you please or think best in the whole business & if you incur any responsibilities, they shall allways be met promptly here. A ride of an hundred miles, will help your *health* and serve a *friend.*

I am no candidate for Congress yet—nothing Known yet about Inge. My plan is for him to take the field & beg off myself.

It is best for me to do so.² We have not yet celebrated the old chief's reelection but we shall do so in a few days. Write to me & let me allways know the progress of the S. Carolina business³ & the prevailing opinions about it.

A. V. BROWN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Accompanying this letter is the power of attorney attested to by German Lester and A. M. M. Upshaw, of Pulaski. This involved a claim that Brown had on the estate of John Beard of Centreville, Maryland, who was the brother of Brown's mother.

2. Brown was apparently aware that his political fortunes were in a precarious position. It is probable that he knew of the effect of the formation of the new congressional district that was mentioned by Archibald Yell in his letter to Polk, October 20, 1832. Inge ran and was elected.

3. This reference to the nullification controversy is an indication of the interest, at grassroots level, that was consistently shown in Tennessee.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir

Fayetteville Nov the 25th 1832

According to promise before I left Shelbyville Court I procured the diferent Post Offices and handed it to Col [James] McKisick who promised to make out the list with Col [K. L.] Anderson and forward it without delay. I hope before this you have recd. it tho. I am of the same oppinion that I was when I saw you last. I feel confident *The*¹ will not run. He is not such a *fool*. He left Town soon after you did and did not make his appearince there until Saturday; he was there again on Monday, but no *Speech* nor any thing like it. He is afraid to try it, rely upon it. I had a conversation with [Joseph] Kincaid to ascertain what they were about to do. He is also of the oppinion that Bradford will not run. He says there is a split between him and Bradford that can not be cured. He (Kincaid) will be a Candidate for the H.R. again and tells me he shall make the grate contest in the election, his votes for Mr. Grundy and the vote against the United States Bank, on both of which Bradford takes issue.

I told Him (tho. I had no authority to say so—from our

frnds) that our people approved of his votes both for Grundy (reserving a defint oppinon for myself) and more especially on the *Bank*, and as they were not ambitious to be before the people that they would support (I thought) the Men who advocated these measures and that he would have no opposition!! That will work right be assured. They will lack irons[?] at the next election. Kincaid will take his stand on those votes, and He will be of service to us.² Let Bradford run for what he may. I was extremely cautious not to commit any blundrs that he could handle to our prejudice. I felt a little mean even to be engaged on the business I was and with such a man!!

In this District grate exertion has been made both from Giles & Lincoln to bring out [James] *Fulton* but all to no effect. *Inge* will run I think very probable. Some exertion from Giles is a making by [Aaron V.] Browns frinds to git out Col [William] *Moore*³ who I think would like to run. But so soon as Inge finds that out he will *pass out* and so it will end. I shall vote for Inge, but *mark* what I now tell you if I am not grately mistaken, *Combs* or some one else will run to the eye brows. One half of Giles and all below are *Occupents* and *Inge* has not been for this, and can not now be for them. But *Inge* must beat him on the Jackson question tho *Combs* now is a warm supporter of the Administration. Jim Patterson came up the other day as a delegate to see *Fulton*. He says that the *Occupent* question will be made & strong and that *Combs* will run our frind *Inge* hard if not beat him on that question without he can explain it away. He went home without saluating *Inge* to see what his people would next do or who they will next take up. That will be either Inge or Moore. (I must not forget to inform you at this point that I was by Patterson, *Fulton* and many others strongly saturated[?] &c) Should some of our polititians prove obstinate you need not be surprised if *Combs* is elected. He will I presume go for the poor *Occupents* and in that he is *right* on certain conditions!!!

Brown will not run; he will find out that our Friend Inge and his frinds have been throwing all the odium and blame on poor Brown under the impression that he would be a Candidate. That will save[?] Him and in the end will through away their votes or

cast them for *Combs* and if you knew all that has been said against Brown you would not blame him. I shall not. Had I have been a Citizen of the District long enough and was *so inclined* now would be my time (but its not so).

I hope you have laid my case before the President and have assurances that I may stay away until the Cholera passes by. It is now at the mouth of White River A.T. See my friend Col [Ambrose H.] Sevier and quiet his feelings if nessary. If you have not already written him please do so on the reception of this. *What is Kincannons prospect?* Thank God the old *Cock* is once more safe & I hope little *Van*. I hope now to die Contented. Present me to your Good Lady. . . .

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Theodorick F. Bradford.
2. Yell considered Kincaid one of the strongest vote-getters in Bedford County and was obviously pleased that he had broken with Bradford.
3. In 1825 Yell had married Moore's sister. Moore had moved to Lincoln County from Kentucky about 1806 and settled on Mulberry Creek. He had large landholdings in that area. He served in the lower house of the General Assembly, 1825-29, and in the state senate, 1833-37. Moore County was named for him.

FROM ANDREW A. KINCANNON

Dear Colo.

Fayetteville 26th Novr. 1832

Our friend Inge tells me that he wrote you by last mail and inclosed a recommendation in my favour, signed by sundry members of the Legislature and other gentlemen in Nashville.

He thinks it unnecessary to forward any other, and upon his suggestion I have declined the Idea I expressed to you of a recommendation by the County Court.

I have had but little conversation with Col. Yell on the subject, believing it rather indelicate to enquire minutely into his determination as to the time he intends resigning. I feel great solicitude on the subject of this appointment, and shall grate-

fully recollect the exertions of my friends in my favour. But for the Cholera I should have visited Little Rock about this time. I think I shall settle myself in the Territory, in the course of a few months whether I get the appointment or not.¹

I shall expect to heare from you on the receipt of this, and let the decision of the President be what it may, I shall be content.

From all I can learn, you will, in all probability have no opposition from Col. Bradford and even if he should run, his shew in Bedford will be a poor one.

We are getting the returns from all of the states on the election for President & Vice-President.

The[y] are truly gratifying. Clay, and the Bank are down, I think, forever. I have just learned to day, that Josiah Nichol has taken a stand against the President. I do not vouch for the truth of it.

ANDW. A. KINCANNON

Addressed to Washington.

1. Instead, he moved to Columbus, Mississippi, in the 1840s.

FROM A. M. M. UPSHAW

Dear Sir

Pulaski Novbr 26th 1832

I saw Mr Wm A Thompson one or two days since and he requested me to write to you and enquire wheather you had received any papers from Virginia touching his claim. If you have you will please let me Know it, as he wishes me to go on and attend to the business for him. He told me that a Mr [William D.] Sims was to get the proof that the war department required and forward that proof on to you. He (Thompson) is given so much to entemperance lately that I can not have full confidence in what he tells me about it. Therefore please write me about it. The petition from Clark¹ has not arrived yet.

A M M UPSHAW

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM T. BARRY

Washington. November 27, 1832

In conformity with request the mail between Murfreesboro and Huntsville will be transported three times a week in four-horse coaches after next April 1.

Addressed to Washington. This is a copy in Polk's handwriting. He noted on this copy that he had sent the original letter to the editors of the *Western Freeman* at Shelbyville. It was obviously enclosed with his letter of November 28, 1832.

TO JOHN COFFEE

Dear Sir

Washington City Nov. 27th 1832

We reached the City on yesterday, all well, except the fatigue, which we feel, incident to such a journey. We rested a single day at Lynchburg, and with that exception travelled with the mail through the whole route. We had considerable night travelling but were permitted to sleep some almost every night. Mrs. P. & Mary¹ both stood the trip quite as well as I did & I believe complained less. I told them both at the outset that whenever either of them felt disposed to stop & rest on the way, we would do so, but I believe if I had not proposed it at Lynchburg, they would have come through the whole route without stopping at all. Mary is in good health & is one of the best stage travellers I ever saw. I went with her to the President's as soon as we arrived.

The President is in excellent health and in good spirits. How could he be otherwise after his late triumphant victory? Did you ever know such a complete route? The enemy is literally driven from the field.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Florence, Alabama. This letter is in the Manuscripts Division, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

1. Mary Coffee, daughter of John Coffee.

FROM WILLIAM S. MOORE¹

Dear Sir

Columbia 27th Nov 1832

I neglected to get you to Subscribe for Messrs Gales & Seaton's Weekly paper for me before you Left this place. And I would be under many obligations to you if you would Send it to me from the 1st Decr. 1832 and I will Settle with you on your return for the amt. of Subscription.

WM. S. MOORE

(one year subscription)

N.B. Tomorrow is to be a day of much rejoicing here on Account of Genl. Jackson's election to the presidency.

W. S. M

Addressed to Washington.

1. A merchant at Columbia for many years, who became a man of considerable means.

FROM ISAAC SOUTHWORTH²

Hon. J. K. Polk.

Fayetteville, Tenn. Nov. 27th 1832

At the October Term of our County court I drew up a declaration of the revolutionary services of William Smith² of this county, and did not recollect until after the adjournment of the court that I did not comply with a requisition of the law which requires that the court shall certify their belief and knowledge of the veracity &c of the subscribing witnesses to the character of the petitioner.

Saml. W. Carmack Esqr. presented & read the petition (or declaration) to the court, and he *thinks* he remedied the defect. Now, as you are personally acquainted with one, at least, of the witnesses—James Bright Esqr.—and perhaps with the others—Rev. A. G. Gibson & Mr. John Brady³—will you have the goodness, in case Mr. Carmack is mistaken, to make your knowledge of Mr. Bright, or of the others, if known to you, known at the department of war?—provided it will aught avail, as I suppose it must.

Knowing that your time will be engrossed by your official duties, I feel much repugnance at thus troubling you. My solicitude for the welfare of an aged veteran, and worthy citizen, who, in addition to his personal services in the war of the revolution, lost one of his sons, in consequence of sickness contracted in the second war of independence at New Orleans, must, & will, I am sure, plead my cause.

May I have a line in reply? I should be much gratified if you would have the additional kindness of sending me such public documents as are of general interest and particularly the report of the secretary of the treasury. Any or all will be highly acceptable. Without a more particular acquaintance I feel that these requests may do violence to etiquette. But the truth is, I know not, upon an occasion like this, what the etiquette is.

ISAAC SOUTHWORTH

Addressed to Washington.

1. A lawyer in Fayetteville, who had moved there from New England. He was married to a daughter of William Smith, the veteran in whose behalf he was acting.

2. An early settler in the Watauga area who had moved to Middle Tennessee in 1789, finally settling in Lincoln County in 1807. He had served at various times under John Sevier, Valentine Sevier, and Isaac Shelby. He was placed on the pension list in September 1833. He probably served as an officer during the Revolution, but his rank is not known. In Lincoln County he was known as "Major" Smith, but this title was probably honorary.

3. Neither man has been identified.

TO [WILLIAM POLK]

My Dear Sir

Washington City Nov. 28th 1832

Since my arrival here, I have received a letter from brother *William* advising me that he had reached Hillsborough and had commenced school with Mr Bingham. Before I left home I troubled you with a long letter in regard to him, and among other things desired to know whether it would be convenient for you to furnish the funds which he may need from time to time, upon our paying the same amounts to Lucius in Tennessee; or if that would not be convenient, whether if we make the remittances to

you, you would do us the favour, to superintend his expenditures & controul him in that respect, as well as in every other which you might deem advisable. I wrote to you fully and freely what our fears were in relation to him, and that our wish was that you should controul him whilst at school precisely as you would your own son. I have as yet received no answer, and have to ask the favour of you to write me as soon as convenient on the subject. I hope in the request which I make I do not impose too much trouble upon you; but if it be too inconvenient for you to attend to it, write to me immediately.

I was at *Lucius's* all night on my way here. All were well. He expected to move to the lower place in a few weeks. He is heartily sick of politics; says he thinks if he were to spend another summer or two upon the *Creeks* (about which his mother was so much amused) that he would be in a fair way to be broke. He has determined at all events not to run again for the Legislature. His course in the Senate has given general satisfaction to his constituents; he is quite as popular as he ever was, and could I have no doubt be reelected if he desired it.

I have seen the President. He is in excellent health and good spirits. How could he be otherwise after his late triumphant victory? Did you ever know such a complete route? The enemy is literally driven from the field.¹ It is now said to be probable that the vote of Rhode Island also may be added to his overwhelming majority already ascertained.

JAMES K. POLK

Presumably addressed to Raleigh, North Carolina. This letter is in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library. It has been published in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 194.

1. Note the similarity of these sentences to those at the close of his letter to John Coffee written on the same day.

FROM THOMAS SMITH

Dear Sir

Gainsboro [Tenn.] Nov. 28, 1832

I take the liberty of enclosing you the pension Declaration of Robert Anderson & Robt Kirkpatrick¹ & must ask of you to

present them to the War Department. Do not know that it necessary from the late regulations, under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 for the benefit of the Revolutionary Soldiers, to have a Power of Attorney from them to receive their money. I find that some of the pension declarations have been returned for the want of a court seal. Some time since I enclosed four to the War Department without the seal to wit, Daniel Ramsay, Edward Dycus, Archibald Dill & Ralph Rodgers,² if they are still there & that is the only defect, it can be remedied by Judge [Jacob C.] Isacks making a certificate that James T. Quarles³ is the clerk of Jackson circuit. Should it be necessary I can send on a power of Attorney, but if the papers & forms should be returned to the applicants to be paid at Nashville it can then be done.

TOM SMITH

Addressed to Washington.

1. Anderson had served in the Pennsylvania line during the Revolution, while Kirkpatrick had served in the South Carolina militia. Both were placed on the pension roll on January 24, 1833. When Anderson moved to Tennessee is not known, but Kirkpatrick is known to have moved from South Carolina successively to East Tennessee, Kentucky, and then to Jackson County, Tennessee.

2. All of these four residents of Jackson County were placed on the pension list on August 2, 1833. Ramsay, Dycus, and Dill had served in the North Carolina line, while Rodgers had served in the South Carolina line. The pension files of these men provide an interesting insight into the mobility of Americans of this period. Before this time Dill, born in Delaware, had lived in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Wilson County, Tennessee, Dycus was born in North Carolina but moved to South Carolina and then to Rutherford County, Tennessee. Rodgers was born in New Jersey and had enlisted while a resident of South Carolina. Ramsay was born in North Carolina, but his residences before he moved to his current home are not known.

3. He later represented Jackson County in the lower house of the state legislature, 1845-47.

TO HARVEY M. WATTERSON¹ AND JOHN H. LAIRD

Gentlemen

Washington City Nov. 28th 1832

During the last Session of Congress I joined with some others of the Tennessee & Alabama delegations in Congress in a written

application to the Post Master Genl., (and I also saw him personally upon the subject,) for the establishment of a line of four horse stages on the mail route from *Murfreesborough* Tenn. via *Shelbyville*, and *Fayetteville* to *Huntsville* Alabama. The Post Master General at that time declined granting the improvement desired, but gave assurances, that as soon "as the means of the Department would justify it," the application would be "duly considered." Upon my arrival in the City a day or two since I again called to see him upon the subject, and have now the pleasure to enclose to you his reply,² from which you will perceive that an order has been made for the transportation of the mail on that route, three times a week in four horse Post Coaches, from and after the first of April next. As this improvement was much desired it will be a great convenience to the country through which it passes and as the letter of the Post Master Genl., conveying the information that it has been granted cannot but be gratifying intelligence to the public generally, but more especially to that portion of my constituents immediately interested, I herewith send you his letter and have to request that through your paper it may be communicated to the public.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Shelbyville. This is a copy, written in Polk's handwriting and bearing his own signature.

1. Shelbyville lawyer and editor, who served in both houses of the state legislature and was a member of the United States House of Representatives, 1839-43. He edited the *Nashville Daily Union*, 1847-51, and in 1851 became the editor of the *Washington Union*. He was the father of "Marse Henry" Watterson.

2. This refers to William T. Barry to Polk, November 27, 1832. Polk noted here that he enclosed the letter above, as well as the one from Barry, in a letter to Col. McKisick of Shelbyville. The letter to McKisick has not been found.

FROM McKAY W. CAMPBELL¹

Dear Sir

Columbia Novr. 29th 1832

I prepared and Sent on applications under the late pension Law for Several old Gentlemen who claim to have been revolu-

tionary Soldiers. I directed them to the "Honble. Lewis Cass Secretary of War." These applicants have not been informed of the fate of their applications. I wish You would ascertain what disposition has been made of them and inform me. And if no answers Shall have been made out to them when this Shall have reached you, I wish you would have any communications the Department may wish to make to them on the subject, *made to them through* me, it is their wish.

The first application I prepared was for Charles Pistole Senr.² I drew it up under the impression that, as he had been drafted under a Law of Virginia, that he of course belonged to what is denominated "State Troops" and that his name would probably be found on the Rolls of the Virginia State Troops filed in the war department. I did not discover my error in this case until after I had started it off. If this application is deemed insufficient to authorise the war department to grant a pension, be so kind as to have the original papers returned *to me*, that I may prepare an application more in conformity with the instructions of the War department. I likewise prepared & forwarded the applications of John McCrory,³ John McConnell,⁴ James Lockridge⁵ & Col. [William] Newsom.⁶ The two first of these were among the first sent from this county. They have not been heard from; I fear they have been lost on the way. The two latter I expect You took with You. I wish You would make the necessary enquiry about *their papers* & let me know their fate. If any communications are to be made to any of the men on these matters, order them to be made thro *me*.

I saw Wat[t]erson⁷ of Shelbyville here a few days ago; *he is a strong Bradford man*. I understand from the tenor of his conversation that the Bradford & "Anti Mason" party intend or expect to make a *dead "Deadset"* [?] at you in Aug. next. I glean too from him that the "Anti Mason" question will be *much* pressed & relied on and also your vote on the *Pension Bill*. They Seem to think it has already had a Salutory influence in their behalf. They seem confident the B- & A.M. party will succeed largely in Bedfd. I conclude therefore that they will make an exertion to get up an opposition in our County. I dont think they'll succeed as [Edward B.] Littlefield (as I understand) will run for the

Senate if he is not made President of our new Bank. My notion is that the *Bedfd. Bradford & A.M.* men have their eye on another man in our town whose name I will not mention now—whisky a big cause. I dont think they'l *make a tool of him*. So You see we have the prospect of the "Anti Mason *Mania*" instead of the *Cholera*. As you dwell near the "A.M." regions this winter you should endeavor to learn their *Anti dotes* to "A.M.s" if they have any & bring them with you on your return for I do expect the *fever will run high*—especially in the Cedars. Your relations remain all in good health &c.

M. W. CAMPBELL

I expect Judge Campbell^b & family will have reached Washington before this reaches you. Give my respects to him & family. Say to J. C. that my fathers health has improved since he left. He is now able to walk about his room &c.

The Presidential Election has terminated *Most Gloriously—Most Gloriously*. We'll express our *Joy & Gladness* in a voice of thunder from the cannons mouth Tomorrow at 10, Nov. 30th 1832.

M W. C

Addressed to Washington. The two paragraphs appended after the signature were written on the margins of the body of the letter.

1. A Columbia lawyer and a partner of Joseph Herndon.
2. Born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, he served as a private in the Virginia line. He was placed on the pension roll on January 4, 1833. The exact date of his removal to Maury County has not been ascertained.
3. McCrory had enlisted in the North Carolina militia during the Revolution while a resident of Guilford. He moved to Tennessee sometime before 1814. He was placed on the pension list on August 27, 1833, and died in Maury County in 1837.
4. He does not seem to have received a pension. A pension file in this name was located, but it was largely concerned with the efforts of his widow to obtain some benefits from his service. If this is the correct John McConnell, he was dead by the time this letter was written.
5. Lockridge was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and moved as a boy to Abbeville, South Carolina. He served in the South Carolina militia during the Revolution, moved to Georgia in 1796, and on to Maury County in 1807. He was placed on the pension list on February 23, 1833.
6. The correct spelling of this name is Newsom. For his service in the

Virginia militia during the Revolution he was awarded a pension on July 3, 1833.

7. Both William S. Watterson and his son Harvey M. Watterson, twenty-one years old at this time, were active in politics, but this is probably a reference to the father, an established political leader.

8. Probably George Washington Campbell, who had recently served on the French Spoliation Claims Commission.

FROM WILLIAM D. MOSELEY

My dear Sir

Raleigh Nov. 29, 1832

The time has at length rolled round, when according to our usages for the last few years I again have the pleasure of writing to you; a pleasure which is greatly enhanced from the expectation of a speedy reply.

I had the pleasure of receiving your best wishes for my welfare by our mutual friend, [Owen] Holmes, and will take this occasion to tender mine in return, being well assured that the pleasure will be reciprocated. Since I last saw you, indeed at the commencement in June last, I visited Chapel Hill as one of the trustees, and I assure you I can scarcely describe my sensation on again visiting (this almost consecrated spot, after an absence of so many years). Since we left there as students a great many alterations have taken place. But I visited with delight our old rooms where we have spent so many tedious and laborious hours in attempting to discover the beauties of Cicero and Homer and the less interesting amusements of quadratic equations and conic sections. But enough of this. I am now a member of the Legislature of N.C. and we are very busily engaged in attempting to elect a Gov. The late Sec. John Branch, your Kinsman T. G. Polk, and R. D. Spaight¹ are the opposing candidates. What will be the result it is now impossible to determine. But I incline to the belief that R. D. S. will be elected at all costs. This is my wish upon the Subject.

Permit me now sir to address you on a subject on which I feel more than ordinary interest. Should a vacancy occur among the Secretaries of Legation to any of the Courts of Europe it would

give me great pleasure, *it would in fact be gratifying to the eastern part of North Carolina*, should such vacancy be filled by the appointment of Mr Charles [B.] Sheppard² of Newbern. He is a young gentleman possessed of talents of the first order, a democrat of the old school, and the warm supporter of Jackson & Vanburen. Perhaps the best recommendation that I can give him is the statement of the facts, that last year he ventured to oppose the celebrated Mr Gaston³ for the town of Newbern (which by the by, is a Federal town) and was only beaten by one vote. This year he again took the field and is returned a member of the Legislature for the Town of Newbern without opposition. He is the brother of W B Sheppard the mbr from Eastern district and very decidedly his supr. in point of talents. What makes this young gentlemans claims peculiarly prominent, are the facts that he has unquestioned talents, that he is now & evr has been, an unwav[er]ing Republican, that he is the warm supporter of the administration, and that too, when his brother-in-law Mr John H. Bryan,⁴ his brother W. B. S. and in fact the whole of his influential relations have been politically opposed to him. You have no doubt seen the result of the Presidential election in this state; my county is Lenoir. I am not ashamed of its vote. Had the day been fair, we should have shown a vry differt result; evry Clay man voted as they were entirely confined to our County town. Their whole strength is 19——. In the Town of Newbern Jackson had a small majority. This was the Spaight and Shepard party. In conclusion upon this matter I do not believe that the President could make an appointment of that class, that would be more acceptable to the Republicans of Newbern than the appointment of Mr Sheppard to a Secretaryship. N. Carolina is now, and ever has been devoted to Gen Jackson but I am seriously fearful that same devotion will not extend to Mr Vanburen when his name is no longer connected with that of the President. Great efforts will be made in this state by the Calhoun party; which I assume is no way contemptible, notwithstanding the vote at the late election. Then while “the day is ours, let us be up and doing.”

Our votes cannot be purchased, but cold unmerited neglect, breeds no friends. By the way “a stich in time saves nine.”

Should General Spaight make an application in behalf of Mr Sheppard; Should the testimony which I have furnished you of Mr Sheppards qualifications be sufficient to convince you to recommend him it will add *another* to the *many obligations* which you have already placed me under to you, by *acts of singular Kindness*.

W. D. MOSELEY

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 70-71.

1. Richard Dobbs Spaight Jr. was graduated at Chapel Hill in 1815 and at this time was practicing law in New Bern. He served in both houses of the state legislature and was in the United States House of Representatives, 1823-25. Later he served as governor of North Carolina, 1835-37. The election for governor mentioned here eventually went to David L. Swain.

2. A recent graduate of the University of North Carolina who was practicing law in New Bern. He served in the state legislature, 1831-32, and later served two terms in the United States House of Representatives. This name is usually spelled Shepard.

3. William Gaston, a New Bern lawyer, served several terms in the state legislature and was in the United States House of Representatives, 1813-17. In 1833 he became a judge on the state superior court and served until he died in 1844.

4. Another New Bern lawyer, he was graduated at Chapel Hill in 1815. He served two years in the state senate and was in the United States House of Representatives, 1825-29. For forty-five years he was a trustee of the state university. In 1839 he moved to Raleigh, where he practiced law until his death in 1870.

FROM WILLIAM H. WAIDE¹

Dr. Sir

Clinton Ky Decr. 2 1832

I am now living in this place and have been for some time past.

We have a vacancy in the Post office of this place. I wish it supplied by a man by the name of Stephen Ray.²

I shall take it kindly if you will be so good as to Recommend him to the Post Master General at Washington. He is a firm Jackson man and well qualified to fill the office.

WM H. WAIDE

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.
2. Unidentified. No man of this name became postmaster at Clinton.

FROM CHARLES C. MAYSON

Dear Sir,

Columbia 3d Decb. 1832

I inclose you the statement made by Major [Anthony G.] Glynn relative to the last note, with an affidavit as to the amount &c.¹ I am very sorry to trouble you with a matter so very foreign from your appropriate duties in Washington, & must plead in excuse for it my want of acquaintance there. I wish you to inform Major Glynn that you have it, & that if he will pay one half of it, he shall be discharged. If he will not give it, I wish you would try & sell it for me for one half—say \$200.00. In fact I must if possible get some thing for it. The amount exceeds four hundred dollars & if you can nether do one nor the other of those two things place it in the hands of an Attorney. When I or he has to be embarrassed I cant hesitate to select which it shall be & I am confident he can do some thing. If he will give a note for \$200.00 with good security payable at 60 or 80 days, I will discharge him. You can state to him that my Brother² will consent to this arrangement. I did once assign the claim to him, to meet a responsibility he had incurred for me but failing to collect the money I had to discharge that responsibility myself which reinvests me with the right & should it become necessary to execute any release or assignment you are hereby authorized to do it for me & in my name. Let me if you please bespeak an early attention to this as I shall want to Know very soon whether or not I can rely upon it. There is nothing stiring here of importance. The citizens are making arrangements to fire the Cannon today in Honor of Gen Jacksons election. His success has been more signal than any of his friends anticipated here & great is the general joy. Our Circuit Court is still in session & were it not for the County Court which sits next week it would probably continue much longer. We have had six weeks Court & got rid of as many cases perhaps.

CH C. MAYSON

Addressed to Washington.

1. This statement by Glynn, dated June 20, 1832, was an acknowledgment that a note for an amount of about \$300, payable to Charles C. Mayson, had been drawn by him in 1826 or 1827 and had not been paid. He further stated that the note had been assigned to Ramsay L. Mayson and was alleged to have been mislaid.

2. Ramsay L. Mayson.

FROM JAMES WALKER

D Sir

Columbia, Dec. 3d 1832

You will see in the Mercury of to-day an invitation to Craighead¹ to oppose you. I was last week informed that [A. O. P.] Nicholson had such a communication—he did not think proper then to publish it. A few days ago I was informed that another communication of the same tenor had been received, and that the Editors wanting some responsible authority, had applied to several to know if they were the authors, and among others to T. J. Porter, and that Porter said he would *endorse* it. This seemed so different from Porters conversations with me that I determined to ask him if what Nicholson said was *true*. I observed to him that I took no exceptions to any efforts that might be made to bring out Craighead or any body else but I did desire to know whether what Nicholson said was true or false. He said to me that a week or more ago his brother Washington² had been called on to know if he or Jefferson was the author of the communication, that Washington knew nothing about it and so said, that the next day he (Jefferson) was passing the street and Nicholson hailed him with the communication in his hand, and accused him with being the writer, that he denied knowing any thing about it, that Nicholson insinuated that he *was* the author but would not own it &c. & commented on its similarity to his hand writing. Upon this Porter says he observed to him that he was not the author, nor did he know any thing of the piece, but that he was a friend of Craighead, or he says he might have said he was a *Craighead man*. Upon this Nicholson communicated with what view you can readily guess to Andrew that Jeff. had become *endorser* to the communication. Looney³ is now openly spoken of

as Nicholson's opponent, and it would be a master movement in Nicholson, if he could manage matters so as to make a split between us & Looney's friends, and thus throw us into his support, out of revenge against Jeff. Porter. And I think this is the whole secret of the invitation to Craighead to oppose you. I have ascertained that it was J. R. Shelton⁴ who is the author of "Many Voters," and I think it exceedingly probable Nicholson knew all about it all the while. It may be however that there is "*more dog*" in it than we are aware of, but be this as it may, it is really a matter of no consequence to you or your friends.

I have shown Craighead the agreement between yr. father, [Alfred] Balch & others. He thinks there cannot possibly be any difficulty or danger of responsibility in the matter.

All well.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. The issue of the *Mercury* containing this item has not been found. This probably refers to James B. Craighead, a lawyer in Columbia at this time.
2. Parry Washington Porter.
3. Abraham Looney, a prominent merchant in Columbia.
4. A Columbia tailor.

FROM WILLIAM H. POLK

Dear Brother

Hillsborough December 5th 1832

I received your letter this evening in which you stated that it was your opinion that it would be to my advantage to board with Mr Bingham. I would prefer boarding with George Polk as I told you before because I know no persons here and he is in the same class and appears a little nearer to me than any person else. He has been very clever to me since I have been here and Mr Bingham has so many little boys with him that I could not study half as well as I can where I am. I intended to go down to Raleigh and spend a few days while the assembly was in session and then return here and say private lessons every day to Mr Bingham. I can study better here; there will be no persons here

[to] disturb me. I know I can lern as much here as I could at Mr Bingham's if any thing more than I could there. As for paying the \$35.50 cts I have not got that much. It took \$13 to bring me from Charlotte here. I was obliged to have a hat when I got here because mine was worn out and not fit to ware. That cost me eight dollars and I have spent ten dollars for books that I was obliged to hav. I hav not got more than twenty dollars. I had to buy a pair [of] shoes when I got here for I forgot a pair in Charlotte and several other litle things that I had to get. I hav not spent a cent but for things that I was obliged to have. I have ben as saving as I possibly could be. You must write me when you receive this. Give my respects to Sister Sarah.

W H POLK

P.S. I am determined to keep up with the class if stud[y]ing will do it.

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 195.

FROM JOSEPH BROWN

Cave Spring Maurey County Ten

Dear Col James K. Polk

Dec 6th 1832

I have Taken my pen to Inform you that I have this day Taken the Deposition of Old Capten Anderson which I intend to forward to you by tomorrows Mail Which Will Clearly Show that we ware a Comeing down the Tennessee River by the Consent of the Cherrokees when we ware Defeated by them and I would further State that they [*sic*] Caus of our Not geting the pilet was the river was Vearey high and We Came faster than We antesipated and passed the place before day that we are to have Called and Did not [k]now it unt[il] it was too late in the day to gow back.¹ And that Same Sumer the Warr became genral and the indians from the same Town Whare our pilet resided had to flee being Near the white Settlement. And I Talked with the Indien that said he Was the Man that had been Employed by King to pilet Our boat and that if he had been a long that our boat would have Come Safe, for it Was Not the Desires of the

Nation to go to war at that time. Night before last I was called by Mr J. C. Maclimore [McLemore] of Nashville in behalf of a Mr Plummer² who he said was then in Nashville who had a Simmeler Claim to Mine Acted on last Session of Congress and that it had been Reported in the same manner that mine had been but threw the Instrumentality of his friends that he had got the Intrest Allowed to him and that if I would Allow him half the Intrest of My Claim he would come on to Washington and indever to git it allowed to me and if he Did Not succeed that he would Charge Nothing for his Trouble. I informed Mr Mackle-more that you informed me that you Thought there was no Doubt but you Would succeed in giting the Intrest Allowed. I therefore Would not Allow any Man that Much. He then informed Me that Mr Plummer Directed him to inform me that unless I Came that the Members of Congress Would not take the Troubel to Count the Intrest and that they ware opposed to giveing Intrest and that he Plummer had the intrest of his Claim put in with the prinsabel and by that means had hit Allowed. But I had Confidence that you would do every thing that Mr Plummer Could or would do, and indeaver to have the friends to the bill all preasent when it would be Reached. But if I Can Make arangements so that I Can leave home I think it is provibel I Shall be thare by the 10th of January if spared. Not that I Exspect to be of any service to the Claime but if I Could See the Preasident it is provibel he would Make it Convenant to give some of the Members a talk in my behalf and one from him would be better than ten from me. Please give My best Respects to Mr Col. Benton, Grundey & Bell & Johnston [Johnson] &c. Receive them yourself &c every bodey else that you ever heard name me.

JOS. BROWN

Addressed to Washington.

1. Just when this incident took place is uncertain. It is possible that reference is here made to the occasion in 1788 when Brown's father was killed and several members of the family, including Joseph, became prisoners of the Indians.

2. James R. Plummer was a Columbia merchant who was at that time mayor of the town.

FROM THOMAS HARNEY

My dear Sir, Clinton, Mississippi, Decr. 6th 1832

This will be handed you by Col. Wright¹ the bearer of the electoral vote of Miss.

Having set out from Columbia on the 3d day of Oct. I reached this place in 12 days thereafter. On my arrival, my first object was a desirable location. I examined many points, consulted with the better and informed in various parts of the State, & after much reflection, I have determined to risk my chance in Clinton.

Its character for health, its proximity to the seat of govt. (only 10 miles), its being the Grand thorough fare of all the interior travelling, its rapid improvement, are among other considerations, the chief inducements to my giving it the preference. On becoming acquainted with many of the best materials of the Miss. Bar, I have discovered nothing to cause me to despond, in an honorable competition, but enough to assure me of the indispensable necessity of indefatigable industry & perseverance.

That being my only means of success, I have determined to apply my shoulder to the wheel. *That* is perfectly in my power; the *balance* rests with Dame *nature*. There is very much litigation in the Courts of Mississippi, and the labourers are not Scarce.

Reminding you of my application to the Executive, I am at a loss to know what to say thereto. I am satisfied that if the Executive were disposed to confer the appointment on me, the objection on the ground of noninhabitancy will have become obviated before the appointment is made. I have not made Known my application to any of the citizens of this State. Indeed I think it would be bad policy to do so. I wish you would deal candidly with me in *all things* in regard to this matter. And in making this request, you can't certainly misunderstand me.

I shall expect to hear from you shortly. Please to write me *fully*; as much so at least as the nature of your public & private business will permit.

THOS. HARNEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. Daniel W. Wright, prominent Mississippi lawyer, who was born in Tennessee. He spent his youth in Huntsville, Alabama, moving to Monroe County, Mississippi, about 1823.

FROM WILLIAM POLK

Dear Sir

Raleigh Decr 6 1832

I am in receipt of your letters of the 2d and 27th of Novr. The former would have been answered sooner had I been certain as to where to address it. The latter gave me the first information of Williams having reached Hillsborough. Doctor Polk¹ leaves this in the morning, by whom I write to my Son G W. P. directing him to ask William to accompany him to Raleigh, to spend his vacation which commences some time next week.

I will with pleasure take charge of such funds as may be placed in my hands for the use of your Brother; and will deal it out to him with the liberality & economy as I do to my Son, which has been sparing, but sufficient for all his wants. The transmission of funds from Tennessee to N.C. are entirely stoped except through some friend who may be coming from there to this place. Hence it will not be convenient to make the advances, depending on the uncertainty of a regular remission. Checks on the Bank of N.C. or any of the Eastern U.S. Banks can be negotiated here without difficulty.

That *Hydra* Democracy is about to devour all order here, as well as in some other places. The Legislature appear determined to give to the People more power than they are capable of managing for the best weal of the State by investing them with authority to elect all the officers of the State civil and military. To them the right of electing the Judges of the Courts has not yet be given, but I have no reason to doubt but at perhaps the present or at all events the next Session will be granted. Such is the fruits of the Jeffersonian doctrines of 1798. See as proof positive the South Carolina Legislative ordinances & Laws. With Lafayette I had hoped not to have long enough lived to see the work I had aided in producing broken and the nation thrown into

convulsion & misery under the goverment of small and impotent Democracies.

What is to be done?

The Presidents Message has not yet been recd.

WILL. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 72, and in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 195-196.

1. This is a reference to his own son, William J. Polk. He probably used the title to avoid confusing the two William Polks. William J. Polk was graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1813 and then studied medicine in Philadelphia. Later, about 1836, he moved to Maury County, Tennessee.

FROM JONATHAN WEBSTER

[Noah's Fork, Tenn., December 6, 1832]

It is thought that Theo. F. B. will Take the field for Congress farely mounted on the antimasonic hobby as you may see from the Shelbyville papers which teams with that kind of slang. Mr. Bradfords speech in the Senate (if he made one) against Mr. Gilchrist¹ on the Subject of Masonry is much talked of [. . .]² friends, and has made its appearance in the Freeman, This one since. His friends pretend to think he will push you very hard. But what will he now say of the U.S. Bank and the veto? Where will be his Jacksonism now?

The County candidates have not declared themselves as yet, and there is much enquiry as to my future course. Let them remain in Doubt a while.

I shall give you all the news in my power from time to time.

J. WEBSTER

Addressed to Washington. The top part of this letter has been torn away, but it appears that only one line of the text is missing.

1. William Gilchrist was a Shelbyville lawyer and a political enemy of Bradford. He was one of the most prominent Masons in the state.

2. At this point a tear in the manuscript has removed one or two words.

FROM ELISHA S. CAMPBELL¹

Dear Sir Raymond, Hinds County Miss Decr 7th 1832

Having addressed a letter to you Some time during last March and receiving no answer thinking Perhaps that by Some Casualty or other you Might never have received mine. The subject upon which I addressed you was respecting my application for Receiver of Public Monies or Register of one of the land offices to be created in the late Choctaw Cession of lands within the limits of this State. Receiving such fine encouragement from Some of my friends respecting the Probability of my appointment and from those who have a right to Known [*sic*] the presidents feeling on that Subject and the Reccommendations I have received from different Individuals and the community at large, I have again thought proper to Solicit your influence and assistance in procuring for me the appointment which I apply for. It would not be improper to Remark that Col W. W. Crawford² my B-in-Law- and first Cousin to the President are equally interested in my appointment and him and the President have corresponded on the Subject and I only need the Reccommendation of some other friends to substantiate what he has said respecting my qualifications &c.

Sir in advocating my claims to Said office you only advocate the claims of one who has had every difficulty & obstacle to encounter that could embarass a Youth. If I Should be so fortunate as to receive the appointment it will only place me in a Situation in which I can accumulate something and assist my Brothers & Sisters, a distressed family Which have had ever thing to darken and make Gloomy their prospects. And I do most solely assure you that it is one of the main Springs which actuate me in aspiring to said office in order that I may be enabled in Some degree to alleviate their distress and Brighten their prospects. In coming to this State I was actuated by no other motive but that of enterprise and happy am I to say that my Success in business have far Surpassed my most Sanguine expectations. My prospects being so Gloomy in Tennessee that I Resolved on coming to a country where I had Neither Relation

friend Or Money & let my own merits If I had any recommend me. I came here in the fall of 1831 and either by accident or good fortune I got a situation in the clerks office of Mr Felix W Baird³ clerk of the circuit county and Probate courts of Hinds cty though I am Somewhat indebted to Major Samuel Neill⁴ formerly of Bedford county Tenn whom I had contracted a slight acquaintance with in Tenn. the summer previous to my coming down to this state. Which situation I continued in untill last June when I got into surveying which I followed untill Oct last and found it to be verry Profitable. Me and Major S Neill Prosicuted surveying in copartnership and when we finished our contracts and made our return the commissioner of the General land office had issued orders for the suspection of surveying untill further orders in consequence of which I had to stop surveying untill such order should be contermanded. So soon as I found it out I Returned to my old and esteem friend Felix W Baird who compensated me at the rate of 50\$ per month to take charge of his offices. We have had a convention in this State which adjourned on the 26th of October for the purpose of altering and revising our constitution. Their labors resulted in making every office Elective by the People from the Executive to the most inferior officer and several other alterations and amendments. Wheras the people of Miss have at three distinct periods given their Suffrages to Andrew Jackson and at the recent [election] Nothing could be more unequivocal than the expression of their undiminished confidence in his virtue and talents and their Satisfaction with the Measures of his administration. Yet notwithstanding Such was Known to be the fact a Senator representing the State in the Halls of Congress forgetful of the dignity of his Station forgetful of the duty which he owed to his constituents forgetful even of a decent respect for their wishes or decent regard for his Own character has taken upon himself the responsibility of reversing their decisions and in strains of the most unmeasured and vulgar abuse to reprove and reproch and denounce him to the world. On the floor of Congress in the Village rostrum and in the social circle the imbecility the faults and follies of Andrew Jackson form the inexhaustible theme upon which the Senator delights. I cannot believe that when the

legislature of Mississippi Selected George Poindexter to fill the Office of United States Senator they were solely Governed by a desire to place him in a situation where he could Effectually vent his animosity against the President and such he has Shown that such was his motive in Seeking the Situation. I think that it is due to the State that the Seal of Reprobation Should be placed [upon] his conduct and that he Should be requested to Resign a Situation which he has proven himself unworthy to fill and I have no doubt but the next legislature of Mississippi which will convene on the 1st Monday of January next will Indignantly hurl him from a situation which he has so disgracefully occupied. The Vanburen ticket has prevailed in this State by an Overwhelming Majority over the Q[uitman] & Barbour ticket. I have received a recommendation by Signed by a number of citizens of this County^s of the first respectability which has been forwarded on to Washington By Mr F W Baird to one of the Senators from this State or to the President, I do not recollect now which, a copy of Which I will forward to you and a copy has been forwarded by Mr Crawford also to the President. If sir it would be consistent with your feeling to exercise your influence to obtain for me the appointment which I desire Such a favor would never be effaced from my memory and nothing and time could obliterate. You will observe in the Copy of my recommendation the official name of several Individuals. It was done at my request to Show the Character of the Recommendation.

I[t] would be very gratifying indeed to my feeling to find that you are disposed to assist those who stand the most in need of assistance.

I would be glad you would answer this letter immediately on the Receipt of it and inform me of your intentions and about the location of these land offices and the Probability of my success &c.

ELISHA S. CAMPBELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. No more letters from Campbell have been found. There is no evidence that he actually received one of the appointments that he sought.
2. Not otherwise identified.
3. Not otherwise identified.

4. He represented Hinds County in the lower house of the legislature in 1838 and 1839. This is the same person whose defeat in a militia election greatly pleased Archibald Yell. See Yell to Polk, January 20, 1828.

5. The enclosed document was in Campbell's handwriting and consisted of a long list of names of persons who attested to his character and integrity.

FROM JOHN RAYBURN¹

Dear Sir

Waynesboro 7th December 1832

The Citizens of the Choctaw Nation requested me to Drop you a line on the Subject of a Mail rout from Lagrange in Tennessee to Rankin in Mississippi. I would be glad you would use your influence & have Sd Rout Established and have George Anderson² appointed post master near the line between the Chickasaw & Choctaw nations.

I have Nothing of Importance. Give my respects to Fitz & old Felix.³ Drop me a line who is appointed to Survey the Chicksaw land.

JOHN RAYBURN

PS I have been requested to request you to Speak to Mr Fitzgerald respecting a mail rout from Robt Stouts to Waynesboro.

J R

Addressed to Washington.

1. An early settler on Indian Creek in Wayne County, Tennessee. He had been sheriff of the county and was a man of some importance. Later he moved to Panola County, Mississippi, and served in the state senate, 1837-39.

2. He was a resident of Fayette County, who amassed a considerable amount of real property. It is not clear whether or not he became postmaster at a new post office, but two years later he was a mail contractor.

3. William Fitzgerald and Felix Grundy.

FROM WILLIAM L. S. DEARING¹

Dear Sir,

Columbus Miss. Decr. 8th 1832

I have placed in the hands of the Representative of Mississippi a Petition for relief.² Altho some time has elapsed since I had the honor of addressing you, you will doubtless recognize me.

I beg leave now as heretofore, (should I be mistaken) to refer you to my friends Wm. E. Ken[n]edy & James Bright your Constituents and Messrs. [James R.] Plummer & [James] Black^s of the city. If upon examination of the petition refered to you find it founded in justice I hope you will advocate it & confer a favour on a friend. Please let me hear from you soon.

WM. L. S. DEARING

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Wilson County, Tennessee, he spent considerable time in Mississippi and Louisiana as a surveyor. In 1825 he lived for a while in Alabama; back in Tennessee in 1827, he sought appointment as United States marshal for the northern district of Alabama.

2. He was seeking remuneration for field notes he had lost after extensive surveying in northwest Louisiana. The House Committee of Claims refused to grant his request in action taken in January 1833.

3. Unidentified.

FROM HENRY C. LESTER¹

Sir

Pulaski December 9th 1832

Some time in December 1831 whilst I was in Washington City I subscribed for the Washington Globe and paid for it for one year, but having determined to discontinue it after our time shall have elapsed I beg the favour of you to discontinue it for us. Yet I must say it is not from any dislike we may have to its politicks.

H. C LESTER for HOGE & LESTER²

Addressed to Washington.

1. Henry C. Lester was for some years associated with various mercantile enterprises in Pulaski.

2. A general store in Pulaski.

FROM JOHN O. COOKE¹ AND WILLIAM B. COOKE

Dear Sir.

Maury Cty 11th Decr 1832

I address you these lines to inform you that Col. Wm K. Hill² of Columbia, has resigned his appointment as deputy under the Surveyor General of Arkansas Territory, and should deem it as

great favour, if you will aid me with your influence in trying to procure an appointment for my son William B. Cooke³ to survey the lot of land, for which Col Hill was appointed. He is well qualified for the business, having studied that, with various other branches of Mathematics under Mr [William L.] Williford, and has practiced considerably since he left College & has spent some time with Mr Williford at that business in Alabama. I would also vouch for his energy & prompt attention to the business, should he succeed in obtaining the appointment. It is reported that Col. [William] McRee,⁴ the famous Surveyor has resigned, & I do not know who is his Successor, which is the cause of my making this application through you; thinking it probable that you may be acquainted with him.

Col Hill has wrote to several members of Congress on the occasion, with whom he says he is acquainted, amongst whom is Genl. King⁵ of Alabama. I have but a partial acquaintance with Judge Grundy, or should have written to him on the occasion also, tho wish you to inform him that I should deem it as a favor if he will aid in soliciting the appointment.

Should the late treaty, affected [*sic*] by Genl. [John] Coffee with the Chicasaws be ratified, I wish you to give me as early information as practicable who is appointed surveyor of their lands. You will probably be informed, previous to receiving these lines, that Mr. Williford is an applicant & I doubt not but you will render him all the assistance in your power, as you are personally acquainted with him.

JOHN O. COOKE

Sir

Decr 13th 1832⁶

If you should not be able to procure the aforementioned appointment for me you will please try to procure an appointment where there is a vacancy elsewhere and if successful forward the information as soon as practicable. Please excuse this tresspass on your time. . . .

WM B COOKE

Addressed to Washington.

1. He had come to Maury County about 1807 as a young man and settled at Williamsport. Like his son, he had experience as a surveyor.

2. A merchant of Columbia. It is doubtful that he ever functioned as a surveyor in Arkansas. He served as clerk of the state senate, 1829-37 and 1839-41, and was secretary of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1834.
3. He did not receive the appointment in Arkansas.
4. He was surveyor for the federal government in Illinois and Missouri, as well as in the Arkansas Territory.
5. William R. King served in the United States Senate for many years. In 1852 he was elected Vice President but died soon afterward.
6. This brief note was written just below his father's signature.

FROM ADLAI O. HARRIS

Dear Sir

Columbia 11 Decr. 1832

I have just recd yours of the 27 ulto. and am very much pleased to hear of your safe arrival at the City for unless the Virginia route has improved very much it is a "rough road to travel" and I hope soon to hear of your commencement of business and to learn who the *Officers* are.¹

The Union Bank occupies all of our attention here almost. The Books were assessed on the 1st of this month at the various places designated in the Charter but we have no certain intelligence from any place but Nashville. On yesterday morning about one million had been taken by Individuals and very long Subscriptions were extended in the course of the day. Very near half of the Stock Subscribed at Nashville is an Eastern acct., Citizens of N York & Phila. The state has Subscribed the \$500,000 intended by the Charter so soon as that amt. was taken by individuals. We have pretty near \$200,000 at this place. So you see we shall have a Bank immediately and as "Uncle Sam" is taking another turn to the Screw every week or two at Nashville, we shall need this Bank very much. Mr [Nicholas] Biddle writes to the Directors at Nashville that they do not collect fast enough, to press harder.

I have not heard from the District lately but will write you as soon as I get any news from there worth communicating.

Mr [James] Walker is absent to Nashville and I am just sent for to his Home. Will write you again shortly.

All Well.

A O HARRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. This is probably a reference to the election of a new Speaker of the House, should Stevenson be given an appointment abroad.

FROM JAMES L. WALKER

Dear Sir

Columbia Decr 11th 1832

I had this moment put into my hand a letter from Mr Wm. L. Wms¹ of Tennessee who is now in Maryland. He informs me he has lately married and as his wife has some property that he cannot bring to this country without giving security he request that I should write you on this subject, and ask you to be that security as it must be some person from his own state. He is also willing to secure you in this matter by giving you a lien on all the property (which I suppose to be Negroes) that he is to secure by his wife also on his plantation on Duck Riv. in Hickman County near 400 acres and about Thirty Negroes. Mr Wms to my knowledge does not own four hundred dollars. If you can befriend Mr Wms in this matter when you hear the history from himself, you will do him a kindness indeed. I know you are acquainted with Mr Wms. but supposed you to be entirely unacquainted with his circumstances as relates to property. If after you both situate to this county I can be placed in your situation in this matter (should you be bound to him) I will cheerfully do it.

I was thinking If I could start any news to you but believe I know but little except I have a new son three weeks old tomorrow. But as this is an occurrence that happens among us married folks so often, it is hardly worth boasting about. Remember me to Mrs. Polk. Say to her I wish she was here to see *my fine Boys*. There is general good health in our Town. Your Relations are well.

JAMES L WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.

FROM JAMES WALKER

Dear Sir

Nashville, Dec. 11th 1832

Since I have been here, I have met with Mr. Robt J. Chester, of Jackson, who is desirous of procuring the appointment of Surveyor General for the Chickasaw country under the Treaty lately made by General Coffee.¹ The office I understand will be created so soon as the Treaty is ratified by the Senate. Mr. Chester's wife is my relation for whom I have a high esteem, and I am well satisfied that General Jackson would like very much to give him the appointment he desires if he can do so without difficulty in the Senate. Mr. Chester is a man of unexceptionable character, perfectly a man of business, and every way well qualified to discharge *well* the duties of the office. No possible objection can be made to him, unless it is that his wife is related to the President,² and I think we have got into a strange state of times, if a worthy man is to be refused office for this reason.

You will do me a kindness by interesting yourself in this matter. You can aid by joining in recommending the President to appoint him, and using your influence with Judges White and Grundy. You incur no risque in gratifying my wishes in this respect, as you know I would not ask you to exercise influence, in favor of any man who was unworthy, or not possessed of proper qualifications.

Mr. Chester some years ago sustained heavy losses on Tobacco, and became embarrassed in his circumstances. He has an interesting family, whose support and education is entirely dependant on his personal exertions. I therefore feel much solicitude for his success.

Nothing new has occurred since I last wrote you. The call of "Many Voters" has attracted no attention. I believe I have never heard it mentioned out of our family. Craighead I presume will pay no attention to it.

The Stock in the Union Bank of Tennessee is taken with avidity, and there is a fair prospect of the bank's going into operation with great popularity, and public confidence. It is thought that the two millions of individual Stock will be all taken. About \$200,000 worth is and will be taken at Columbia.

JAMES WALKER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Chester received the appointment but was not confirmed by the Senate on the ground that he was not a resident of Mississippi.

2. Chester married a daughter of Jane Donelson Hays, a sister of Rachel Jackson.

FROM JAMES A. CRAIG

Hawfields (P.O.) North Carolina

12th Decemr. 1832

Dear Sir

I must again solicit you to do me the favor of sending me during the present session of Congress such Documents as you may deem interesting to me. Any Communications on the leading topics of Congress would be also thankfully received, and add one more to the many obligations of friendship I owe you.

JAMES A CRAIG

PS. Some half dozen of applicants for Pension under the act of 7th of last June, entrusted their applications to me to forward on to the Pension office, which I did about the middle of September last. I do not know whether they have been passed upon yet or not. I will beg you to give me as early information as you well can, for the question is often put to me by them, "Have you had an answer from the pension office?" As you are no doubt personally acquainted with Mr. [James L.] Edwards I hope it will not be imposing to much upon your goodness to make the inquiry, when I assure you it is at the instance of some of the best patriots of '76.

J. A. CRAIG

What will the pay of a *captain* be who served full time (2 years)? What the pay of a *private*, who served full time?

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 72-73.

FROM PETER LUNA¹

State of Tennessee Lincoln County December 12 1832

After my Compliments to you I omitted s[t]ating any servis that I proformed after the Blu[e] Lick defeit when I returned

back to Cumberland and when I got the appointment of Capt in the militia under the Command of Colo Bledso[e] and Winchester and was ordered into servis for two month touer to gard the fronteer which I Don. Then one mont at Bledsoes Lick, Gre[e]nfield and Morgans S[t]ation.² Them touer you may find the returns in your office there and the two touers one at Reinsis [Rienzi's] Spring and Bukhanons[Buchanan's] Stations which is know by Genrel Jackson and I dont [know] any one that I can certify my servis by but Generl Jackson for I belave that he knows as much and more than any one that is alive at this time. And if you and him will taik the trouble to inform the bord of thes servisis I will taik it as a favor that never shall be forgot by mee. Ther is number of touers is not Certified that I have don Nickey Jack[Nickajack] Camp or Siglers[Ziegler's] Station when it was take and many others that proformed all which I apeel to Genrel Jackson for information. And if you will be so kind as to see to this for mee I will taik it as a single favour. I think that the genral has Been acquainted with long irnuff [enough] to know whether I am Correct or not. If I have requested any thing onfair you will pleas to excus your frend. I want you to Converce with Genrel Jackson and do what you think is wright and that I Desrve.

PETER LUNA

Addressed to Washington.

1. A resident of Lincoln County. He had served in the New York line during the Revolution and was placed on the pension list for that service less than a year after this letter was written.

2. These were scenes of Indian attacks in the Cumberland settlements, 1787-94. The Nickajack campaign during the latter year was a crippling blow to the Indians. From these dates and the evidence of Luna's service during these actions, it is clear that he moved to Tennessee not long after the close of the Revolution.

FROM JOHN C. WORMELEY

Dear Sir

[Columbia, Tenn.] Deer 12th 1832

Since you left this part of the world owing to the entire failure of our crops of cotton I have at last decided on leaving

Maury and intend seeking a new home in some part of the Country lately acquired by Genl Coffee from the Chickasaw Indians. Now in order to facilitate my plans I should like exceedingly to procure a small appointment from the Government and the more readily to effect this must ask the assistance of my Friends. This Office I have in view is that either of Register or Receiver, the duties of which I think I could discharge in a satisfactory manner to the President. But these appointments can not be had without asking for and not then without a suitable recommendation, so I must beg the favor of you and Mr Grundy to say a good word for me to the President, in case the Senate approve the Treaty made by Genl Coffee, to whom and Major Eaton I have written on this subject. Should you feel a willingness to aid me in this undertaking, would be glad you would shew this to Messrs. [John] Bell, Hall¹ and Johnston [Cave Johnson] who I flatter myself would unite with you in recommending me. I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Judge [Hugh Lawson] White but think I could procure a letter from Judge [John] Overton to him, which would warrant his joining in my recommendation.

I must rely mainly on my long personal acquaintance with yourself and Mr Grundy for not only your support but your advice in this matter as I am so unused to begging for Public favours (this being the first time in my life) that I really stand in need of instruction.

Your Friends in this quarter are all well and there has nothing occurred worth relating that I know of since your departure. Mrs Wormeley & Eleanor unite with me in Respectful Remembrance to Mrs. Polk & yourself. Please write me as early as convenient after the receipt of this.

JOHN C. WORMELELEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. William Hall of Sumner County was a member of the United States House of Representatives for one term, 1831-33. He had succeeded Sam Houston as governor of Tennessee in 1829 when Houston resigned and left the state.

TO WILLIAM POLK

Dear Sir

Washington City Decr. 13th 1832

Enclosed I send you a draft on the U.S. Bank at Philadelphia for one hundred dollars towards defraying brother William's expenses at the school at Hillsboro'. Mr Bingham writes to me that his expenses—board & tuition both included, from the time he entered school until the 20th of Janry at which time the next Session commences will be \$35.50 and that his board and tuition for the next Session will be \$68.83 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents. The board and tuition he writes to me are by the rules of the school to be paid in advance at the commencement of each Session. William's expenses from home to Charlotte were paid, by the man I employed to drive the carriage, and at that place he had \$60.00 to bear his expenses to Hillsboro' buy books &c. He writes to me that he has already spent upwards of \$40. and has less than \$20. rema[i]ning. I mention this, that you may have an eye to him. He needed no clothing and I apprehend he may have commenced a scale of expenditures corresponding with that in which he had been in the habit of indulging for the last year or two. I am much gratified that you are willing to take him under your controul as well in regard to his expenses as to every thing else. He is apprized that you are to direct him in all things, that he is to look to you for money when he needs it, and professes an entire willingness to obey you.

I wrote to Mr Bingham requesting him to permit him to board in his family. In his answer he agrees to do so after the expiration of the present Session, and states that in the meanwhile he had placed him at the same boarding house at which your son is. *William* has recently written me a pressing letter to permit him to remain at the same boarding house with *George* during the next Session. My impression is that it would be to his advantage to board with Mr. Bingham, but like most other boys he will probably be unwilling to be constantly under the eye of his teacher. I would thank you to *direct* him where he is to board, and he will I have no doubt do as you may say.

When I return home I will make you a further retainer[?].

I have no news other than what you see in the newspapers; the ordinance of the nullifiers: the proclamation &c. is the topic of conversation in every circle here.

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Raleigh, North Carolina. This letter is in private possession. It has been published in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 196.

FROM SAMUEL H. WILLIAMS

Col. Polk

Columbia Decr 13th 1832

A few days Since Mr. [Adlai O.] Harriss Presented to me Col. [William K.] Hills order to me to make you deed to a Piece of land that you Purchased of Mr. John Royal. I did not sign the deed Presinted by Mr. Harriss with the order although I Recollect telling or agreeing with you that I would make you the deed. But the condition of that agreement was that their should be money left in your hands to Pay the cost and the amount that the land sold for by the shereff, if the Longs¹ called for it. I having no obligation or writeing on you I thought that I was not safe. Now Sir if you will state in a letter to me that you will be Responsible for that money if the Longs call for it then I will sign the deed.² No news heir. Fine weather, Scarsly any frost.

SAML H. WILLIAMS

Addressed to Washington.

1. This farm had been bought jointly by Polk and Samuel H. Laughlin in 1831. (See Laughlin to Polk, January 8, 1833.) Although the place was familiarly known as the Royal Place, it apparently had at one time been connected with a family named Long. This connection has not been ascertained.

2. There was considerable delay, but the deed was signed and witnessed on October 18, 1833.

FROM ALFRED FLOURNOY

Dear Sir

Pulaski 14th December 1832

Though we have been seperated by our Legislature I yet consider myself one of your constituents. As such I claim the ancient privilege of writing to you and requesting you to send me occasionally some of the public documents that are interesting. I am under the impression that you will have a boisterous Session, particularly since S. Carolina has unfurled her banner. We are

looking for the message with great anxiety. They are determined the old Chief shall have no repose during his administration, but unless he has lost his energies, he will be equal to the emergency. If you have time I should be much gratified to receive a letter from you, giving me your views with regard to the policy that will be persued towards S. Carolina, and the dangers to be apprehended from the move she has made. If it is your wish, any thing you desire to be made public shall be published in our paper, not otherwise.

Our own little affairs here are in confusion, the people are getting more and more dissatisfied with our district. We have three candidates for congress, [William] Inge of Lincoln, [Thomas D.] Davenport¹ of Lawrence, and my counterfeiting friend² [James W.] Combs of Giles. Did you ever hear of such a *pack*? Even *I* have been solicited in a way that it was almost impossible to refuse to become a candidate myself. Now what do you think of such materials to make a congressman out of? Knaves and fools. [Aaron V.] Brown would come but he is afraid. Maury, Giles and Lincoln ought to have been our district and our members ought to have the cholera for not fixing it so.³

A. FLOURNOY

Addressed to Washington.

1. He lost in this race but represented his county for two terms in the General Assembly, 1835-37 and 1843-45.

2. The reference to Combs as a counterfeiter is obscure.

3. Flournoy was here voicing a discontent that was common in Giles and Lincoln counties. Since Brown had been a member of the General Assembly when the district lines were drawn, he was sometimes blamed. Perhaps this is why he was thought to be afraid to run again.

FROM JAMES MERIWETHER¹

Sir

Denmark Ten. 14th Decr 1832

I take the liberty of writing to interest you in behalf of an application I am about to make to the President through my

friends for some post of profit. I know that our acquaintance has been too short & too slight for me to calculate with certainty on your aid. But Sir when you are informed that the pecuniary embarrassment which compels me to make this appeal has grown out of a transaction which was to me a most unfortunate one, without any fault of mine & in which but for my exertions the Governint must have lost 12000 more than it did sustain you will I trust agree with me in thinking that I have some claim on its munificence.

To give you a history of this affair would far transcend the bounds of an ordinary letter. I beg however to refer you to Messrs. [Augustin S.] Clayton, [Thomas F.] Foster & [Wiley] Thompson² for information in detail. These Gentlemen as well as the rest of the Georgia delegation will I flatter myself, zealously unite in promoting the success of my suit.

The Office of Surveyor Genl., Register or Receiver of public money, connected with the Chickasaw lands, if attainable would be most acceptable, but if not, any other, the duties of which my friends may think me qualified to discharge.

Should you feel, after acquainting yourself with the circumstances of my case, disposed to aid me by your influence, I shall rejoice in having an opportunity of manifesting my active gratitude, but should you decline lending your support You will please to pardon the trouble I have given you in reading this letter.

Be so good as to favor me with an answer.

JAS MERIWETHER

Addressed to Washington.

1. Influential citizen of Denmark in Madison County. He was a trustee of the local academy and a leader in the Presbyterian church. He also served on the board that supervised the selling of stock in the Union Bank branch in Jackson.

2. Clayton from Athens, Foster from Greensboro, and Thompson from Elberton were members of the Georgia delegation in the United States House of Representatives at this time. This would indicate that Meriwether had moved to Tennessee from Georgia.

TO JAMES L. EDWARDS

Sir

Ho. Repts. Decr. 14th 1832

Enclosed are the Declarations of Robert Kirkpatrick and Robert Anderson for Pensions under the act of 7th June 1832. When the cases are decided be pleased to communicate the decision in a letter addressed to "*Thomas Smith Esqr., Gainsborough Tennessee.*"

JAMES K. POLK

Addressed to Washington. In Pension File S1845 (RG 15), National Archives.

FROM JOHN P. SMITH

Dear Sir

Maury Cty. Tenn Decr. 15th 1832

I Beg to be pardond. For intruding On you so much as I have done. As respects my Claim on Goverment which was for \$1666. or \$1665. which money has never been paid by Any Agent (viz) not all of It. \$1047 was paid in 1828, Which leaves A balance of \$666 in My Favor.¹ At the time that Colo. Nicholas² was Agent the money was sent on to defray this debt. He Absconded with the money which Goverment very well Knows. My Claim on Colo. Wm. Irvin³ for transfers from Fletcher And Moore together with one on said Train Amounted to what is Stated Above. I therefore Pray that the Honorable Congress will take into Consideration my necessities. I beg of you to let the Situation Come plainly before that Hnor. Body. And all I Claim is Interest On the money From the time that Colo. Nicholas Absconded viz On the first payment In 1828 of \$1047 And On the last payment of \$166⁴ which remains to be paid. I talked with Majr. Eaton while he was secretary of War, And He said that Goverment never Allowed any Interest On Debts, But Congress often did. My Claims have been legally presented to Majr. Smith⁵ And Colo B. Reynolds the Present Agent. And Colo. Reynolds Wrote On to

the proper Authority for the Money last Spring for the Amt. of \$666. but no Answer has Or was not A few weeks Ago recd.

JOHN P. SMITH

NB Be so good as to Answer this letter as soon as Possible and let me Know if Any thing remains for me to do more on the occasion.
J P S

Addressed to Washington.

1. Smith seems to have made a slight miscalculation here.
2. Robert C. Nicholas, formerly of Lexington, Kentucky, was the absconding agent. See Smith to Polk, December 13, 1830.
3. Unidentified.
4. Smith probably meant \$666, as above.
5. Benjamin F. Smith, the successor to Nicholas, was himself accused of embezzlement of public funds. He resigned in 1829 and settled in Louisiana.

FROM PETER HAGNER

Washington. December 15, 1832

Letter from John Stone relative to the widow and children of John Walker¹ has been noted. The widow's pension was paid in full to the date of her remarriage. The usual depositions concerning the children must be filed before they can be paid.

Addressed to Washington. Clerk's copy in Congressional Letters Sent, Third Auditor's Office (RG 217), National Archives.

1. Stone and Walker are unidentified.

FROM WILLIAM J. WHITTHORNE¹

My Dear Sir

Farmington December 15th 1832

I have just returned from Shelbyville where I Have made every inquiry as to the probability of Bradford being a Candidate. From all I Could learn, it is my opinion he will not Be a Candidate. His friend Waterson stated that he heard Bradford say he would not Be a Candidate for any office, that it would Take all his time and attention to attend to his Turnpike road business, 7 miles of which he is undertaker of on the route from

Murfreesboro To Shelbyville. [Jonathan] Webster and Robt. Cannon of Shelbyville are up for the Senate. Cols. K. L. Anderson and John T. Neill Esqr² are talked of For the lower House, and I think has some Pretentions. The antis³ and Clay men are Quite silent since the result of the presidential Election has been made Known.

My dear friend from the Hardness of times in this part of the Country and the failure of the cotton crop I was compelled to quit business. Besides the Irwin,⁴ Bradford & Clay party in this county Has done all the[y] possibly could to embarrass and persecute me in all my little dealings and private affairs. I am at this time entirely out of employment or Business of any Kind and wish you to procure or Get me some situation in any of the Southern or Western States, or Territorys. Under my present Impressions that in all your transactions you never Forsook a friend or forgot a favour, I Have every hopes that you will use your Influence with the president to get me some Situation That I can Support my family by. My own Impressions are that it would be almost Sacralidge in the present administration to let my five sons suffer for here is the Real friends of the administration: Washington Curran, Martin Van Buren, Saml. Houston, Jas. K. Polk, Dewitt Clinton and Every hour looking out for one which if a Boy must and shall be named Andrew Jackson.

My Dear Friend, all my hopes are on you, and if perseverance Industry and attention to any Trust reposed in me you may rest assured it should have all. My Dr. Friend you know me. I cant write at this time. I am throubled Harrassed and perplexed. All my Reliance is on you and I am sure it will not be disappointed.

WM. J. WHITTHORNE

I expect to hear from you shortly.

W. J. W.

Addressed to Washington.

1. He had engaged in merchandising at Farmington, which soon became a part of newly created Marshall County. He served at one time as clerk of the chancery court in Bedford.

2. Former circuit court clerk in Bedford County.

3. Anti-Masons.

4. Andrew Erwin.

FROM ANDREW JACKSON

[Washington] Decbr 16th 1832

The president with his respects to Col J. K. Polk, of Congress, encloses him a note from Mr Page¹ of Philadelphia, a man of high character & in whom confidence may be placed. This is done to add to the information heretofore given the Col. to show him that the hydra of corruption is only *scotched, not dead*, and that the intent is thro [George] Wolfs recommendation,² to destroy the vote of the people lately given at the ballot boxes & to rally around the recharter the present Session of Congress *two thirds*.

An investigation kills it and its supporters *dead*. Let this be had. Call upon the Sec of the Treasury who must agree with me that an investigation by Congress is absolutely necessary.

P.S. Have [John T.] Sullivan³ a Government director before the committee attend to this.

A. J.

Directed to Polk's boarding house and marked "Confidential." This letter has been published in Bassett, editor, *Correspondence of Andrew Jackson, IV*, 501.

1. Probably James Page, a lawyer and influential Democrat in Philadelphia. The note has been found. Among other things, it said that the writer had been disappointed in Governor Wolf's actions.

2. In his gubernatorial message of December 6, Wolf had said that the Bank had done a great deal of good and the possibility of recharter in a modified form should be considered.

3. As an anti-Bank lobbyist he made strong charges against the Bank during the winter of 1832-33.

FROM DAVID R. MITCHELL¹

Dr Sir

Maury County December 16th 1832

After my respects that have me well hoping they may find you enjoying the same. I wrote you a few lines to Columbia a few days before I left home on two different subjects. I did not see D[ixon] H. Lewis² before he started. I wish you if you please to write to me *immediately* and let me know whether there is any

prospect of doing anything with the case with the Indians I spent considerable of money and time. Write to me in full and if any thing can be done, whether it is necessary for me to collect any evidence I will write a few lines to D. H. Lewis, Esqr. Please write to me Immediately as I shall start to Alabama about the first of February. There is nothing very particular worth your attention in this county. Please direct your letter to Snow Creek post office. If there was any chance for me to get any appointment in the Chickasaw Treaty Valuing cattle or any thing else your interfering would be remembered with gratitude. When you write if not too much trouble I should like to hear the situation of S. Carolina.

D. R. MITCHELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified. The letter he mentioned below has not been found.
2. A Montgomery, Alabama, lawyer who served in the United States House of Representatives, 1829-44, and then served in the Senate until his death in 1848.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

My Dear Sir Fayetteville [Tennessee] Decbr. the 16th 1832

I had the pleasure this morning of receiving your favor of the 30th of Novr.¹ in which you afforded me the gratifying intelligence that my Cause in Relation to my Resignation was not unsatisfactory to the President. This is the more gratifying because it was somewhat unexpected. I thought it not unlikely that that Drunken *Sot* at the Head of the Land Office Department would make some complaints and perhaps some misrepresentation to the President from some Cause to me Unknown. I have not been favoured with any Communication from him of any kind. I mean Mr [Elijah] Hayward for whome I have a most sovrein contempt and I do hope he will not much longer be a componant part of an Administration which is in some degree is rendered ridiculous by the association.² You know my temperament and must indulge me in my *partialities* and *prejudices*.

I have just finished the Presidents message. I like it well. Upon the Tarriff he is *perfection*. Bank good. Internal Improve-

ments rather Latitudenarian. I mean that Idea that Congress shall define some "fixd principles." Is it not dangerous for Congress to define what is the Constitution? And would He or any subsequent Administration be governd by the oppinion of this Congress? That is a subject that both Legislative and Executive must think and construe the Constitution for themselves. But he is opposed to Internal improvement, but for National purposes & so am I.

He says but little about S. Carolina and at that I am pleased, tho. I am no Nulifyer. Yet I am with the South in every thing but the *Means* to rid themselves of a very obnoxious Tarriff. I will not say Unconstituinal but *unjust iniquitous* and *oppressive* because it opperates as a bounty to Eastern States, while we poor devils to the South are paying that bounty by a Tax of at least 50 per cent on our produce exported. It is time that sistem was settled. The National debt is now paid. There is no longer a pretext for high duties. If it is to be forced down on us as the settled policy of the Country, then I say *Resist* by all Constittunal Means in our power. If a Southern Convention will affect any good without puting two much at stake I say go it, tho. at present I am opposed to it. At the close of this Session I shall have formed my Course. If the Tarriff is adjusted alls well. If not, I am rather *Combustible* in my Nature but more anon on that subject!!

The subject of the Public Lands I like most admirably. That is what every Western man should desire but I expect the old States will kick up at it. Is it posable that a bill of that kind can stand any chance to pass? Our member, from this District will go for it, for we are a real occupent District, at least Giles, Lawrince, Wa[y]ne & Harden &c. I have not herd from Bedford since you got the Stage Route 3 times per week, but here you have given genrl sattisfaction and gained grate applause. It will have the same effect in Bedford. There is one thing you must avoid, that is in changing the rout from Shelbyville to this place from Linchbugh *via* Col McKisicks. You have not interfeared and I would not, tho. the Direct Rout *via* McKisicks may be the nearest. Yet if you have it changed you loose all on the old Rout and make no new strength on the New. Let the petitions and the Post Master Genl settle that matter. "Mark Well."

As yet we are unable to say certainly whether The. F. B[radford] will run. His frinds say he will, I think not. The other candidates for the Legislature are not yet out. [Joseph] *Kincaid* will run and will be of Service to us!!

In this District Inge, Combs & Davenport are out for Congress. If no others run, the Chances are in favor of Inge. I think Moore will run for the Senate (not certain). No one out for the H.R.—several expected.

Henry Robertson³ thinks you have neglected him. You have sent him no letter or dockumnts lately. Attend to that this session, tho. He is a fool yet you may need his Services in a coming contest. (Govenor). He thinks its because you have left the District.⁴

You know your own business better than any one ilse but this Session you should not forget your old friends in *Lincoln & Giles*. It will be of grate Service to you in future should you need their assistance, and some of your frinds are looking forward with grate anxiety and solicitude for that period. Among that number I profess at least as much zeal as any others, hence I have taken the liberty to sudget what I believe to be to your Interest.

Since I saw you I have had another attack of the Arkinasas Chills & Fever tho. I am again on my feet. I have no seaming pretentions to engage in Politicks at all but attend closely to my profession. What may be my course at some future election is not now even know[n] to my best frinds. If there should be a convention, I should like to be in the first Session under the New Constitution.

I shall as usual trouble you often, as often as I find any thing new and which may consern or amuse you. In the mean time let me hear from you. Present me to my Delegate Col [Ambrose H.] Sevier.⁵

I ask to be remembered to my old acquaintaince and particular for your good Lady—Mrs. Polk.

A. YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. The letter mentioned has not been found.
2. The reasons for Yell's intense dislike for Hayward are not known. Hayward remained in office until 1835.

Branch Bank at Washington. A pressure of business has prevented an earlier acknowledgement of your letter. You will oblige me to sign the Receipt which is prefixed, and enclose it by mail.²

JAS E HEATH

Addressed to Washington.

1. A Revolutionary War pensioner, who lived in that part of Polk's district which was soon to be incorporated into Marshall County.

2. At the bottom of the letter Polk noted that on December 20, 1832, he had complied with Heath's request.

FROM CHARLES C. MAYSON

My Dear Sir,

Nashville 18 Decb 1832

I hope you will pardon me, for enclosing the written paper & troubling you with shewing it to Mr. [Anthony G.] Glynn. You will see that it is a reassignment of the claim on Mr. Glynn from my brother to me. If Mr. G. should make any scruple about the settlement this will satisfy him. Should you be unable to get what I profered to take for this claim put in the hands of an Attorney. I can procure from Wm. W. Holt Esqr.¹ of Augusta Georgia the testimony that will fix the amount should the claim be put in suit. Let me Know who is the Attorney & I will forward to him the interro[g]atories to be propounded to Mr. Holt but perhaps Mr Glynn upon seeing my affidavit would *admit* that it is true & agree for a certain sum. Should you see Mr Glynn tell him Know that nothing but *stern necessity* impells me to the step I take & if he has any good feelings he will avoid it. Should you get a note that can be discounted in bank I will thank you to have it done & send me the money.²

CH. C. MAYSON

Let me hear the result.

Addressed to Washington.

1. Unidentified.

2. Documents accompanying this letter include a reassignment of the note in question from Ramsay L. Mayson to Charles C. Mayson and an affidavit by

Charles C. Mayson that it was his recollection that the note was for something more than \$300. See Mayson to Polk, December 3, 1832.

FROM ISAAC J. THOMAS

Dear Sir

Columbia Decembr. 18th 1832

Altho I have nothing to communicate that is very Interesting to you yet I take the present moment to Drop you a line. We have had court in Columbia every Since you Left with the Exception of two Days that was no court between the Circuit that was Siting when you went away & the county court that is now Siting. We Received the message by Saturdays mail the 15th & it is very gratifying to hear the Noble Chief Report the Government in so prosperous a Situation & Dear Sir it is more gratifing to me to find that the same fear[?] that I urged agains[t] the United States Bank while I had the power to say something on that Subject in the Legislature of our State is reiterated & supported by him whom I esteem as the greatest man alive. But Dear Sir I will wait with anxiety to hear from you whether or no you shall be able to procure for me the appointment of visitor to the Military Academy & after that is procured I have yet a farther Request to make & I Regret that I did not think of the subject that we might have conversed about it before you left. The Request is this, that would use your influence to procure for me the appointment of Register of the Chickasaw country or Receiver of the Publick money for the sale of the Lands of that Section which ever you can obtain (that is the point that I would have been glad to a consulted you about) but the pen must supply the place of the personal interview. Either of the places I would be gratified to fill; & if those appointment should not be made untill June & I get the appoint expected perhaps when I get on I can do something for myself. But if they should be made & you can procure either of them for me you will confer a great favour on your sincere friend & I would take the liberty to suggest that you can call to your aid my worthy friend the Hon. Hugh L. White & F. Grundy & those of the House of Representatives that I am acquainted with. I confidentially Request your attention to the above.

As to local matters there is nothing in our county but what you see in Mercury. I have seen some of the citizens of Bedford. Bradford is not declaredly out as a candidate but is Electioneering & some malicious person has put in circulation a false Report that you voted against the late pension law but it will not take. Let me hear from you frequently. We have general health in our county with the exception of the whooping cough among children.

ISAAC J. THOMAS

Addressed to Washington.

FROM ADLAI O. HARRIS

Dear Sir

Columbia 19 Decr. 1832

I have been notified this evening by Mr. Mathews¹ that he will be ready to commence tomorrow to deliver the Rent Corn. If I can make a satisfactory arrangement with him I will have deliveries in the shuck.

I saw Genl. [Samuel H.] Williams some time since on the subject of the Deed that he was to have signed but there was some little difficulty that he wished arranged before he gave the deed which he promised to write you immediately about and promised he has done so.

None of your other business of any importance is attended to yet but shall be in due time.

Lucius Polk has commenced moving to his new Establishment. His family are now with us, and from appearances, I should not be much surprised (unless they can get off in a few days) if they should have to remain over *one month*. Leonidus and Dr. [William J.] Polk are going to settle in our County in the Spring, So says a Letter from the old man² to Lucius.

I am a *Candidate*—not for Political fame but for Cashier of our new Bank. Times have got so very dull and our County is getting so very poor, the Cotton Crops turning out so badly every year, that I will try a more certain income *if I should be Elected*. I have a very fair prospect. The salary will be about \$1500—and

that not in bad debts or old goods but in cash. I should like to hear from you frequently, if the Letters should even be short.

A O HARRIS

Addressed to Washington.

1. He was living on the Royal place that Polk and Samuel H. Laughlin owned jointly.

2. Colonel William Polk of Raleigh, North Carolina, who was the father of Lucius, Leonidas, and Dr. William J. Polk.

FROM JOEL HENRY DYER

My Dear Sir. Trenton, Tennessee December 20th 1832

It has been heretofore necessary for me to address strangers and I always do so with reluctance. However I feel no such pain when I write to one who personally knows me as well as you do in addition to which fact you have even manifested good feelings towards me. If any apology be necessary, I offer the subject matter of this letter. The situation of my mother and sisters requires my every exertion to save them from want. I am therefore reluctantly constrained to ask in thier behalf a pension from the 23rd of December 1821—the time my father was wounded until his death in the year 1826.

You Sir are some what acquainted with the part my father Colo Robert H Dyer took in the last war. You may be also aware that he died poor and left his family poor and dependant on myself alone for protection and support. But you may not know the fact that many of the embarrassments surrounding my father at his death were in consequence of his having abandoned his own private affairs to enter the last war. *This is a truth.* Your aid my Dear Sir I ask in behalf of these whose destiny is thrown on my hands by the catastrophe of my father's death. I have drawn a memorial which are a statement of the facts of the case which I have forwarded to the Honl Hugh L White to which I beg to refer you. It is with deep regret that I have to present my deceased father's name to Congress for a pension, but I can not be deaf to the calls of his family and convinced of the justice of the request I now ask the assistance of the Representatives of the

people. If consistent with your notions of duty you shall lend your influence you will have the Sincere thanks of your friend.

JOEL HENRY DYER

My respects to my early acquaintance, your lady.

J. H. DYER.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM THOMAS MARTIN¹

Dear Sir

Pulaski Dembr 20th 1832

Mr [Reuben] Riggs² handed me the enclosed document and request that you will give it such attention as the nature of the case requires.³

THOMAS MARTIN

Addressed to Washington.

1. A merchant in Pulaski who had moved from Sumner County in 1818.
2. An early settler in the southern part of Giles County, he had served in the North Carolina line during the Revolution.
3. The document is not available, but apparently it was in support of Riggs's application for a pension. He was placed on the pension roll during 1833.

FROM GILBERT D. TAYLOR¹

Falls of Pigeon Roost [Giles County]

Dr. Sir,

20th Decr. 1832

The petition of John M. Taylor² Administrator with the will assure'd, of John Taylor³ Decd. late of Orange County Virginia, will be presented to Congress for such sum as the decedant may be considered as having been entitled to as an Officer in the Revolutionary Army.

The Decedant was my Father, and I am entitled to the half of whatever may be allow'd by Congress. My Father was a Lieutenant in the Virginia line, and as I believe, serv'd untill the end of the war.

Your aid is earnestly requested in furthering the objects of the petition. I will barely mention to you that I have now in my possession a large bundle of Continental money found in my Fathers desk after his decease. It was in such stuff as this, that the U.S. were oblig'd to pay off their Officers & soldiers at the termination of the Revolution, and which entirely depreciated on their hands.

Any aid afforded by you on this occasion, will be gratefully acknowleg'd. . . .

GILBERT D. TAYLOR

Addressed to Washington.

1. He moved to Giles County in 1811 after studying medicine in Philadelphia. He served as a surgeon with Jackson in the Creek War, but in 1819 he was ordained as a Methodist minister and apparently ceased his medical practice.

2. A lawyer and judge in Alabama.

3. A bounty land warrant was issued to his heirs for his service during the Revolution.

FROM OWEN HOLMES

My Dear Sir

Wilmington [N.C.] Decr. 22 1832

My friend Capt Samuel C Mabson¹ who will present you this, is desirous to obtain some situation from the Government, which will afford him a support. The Captain entered the army in the year 1808, and served during the whole war. He is personally acquainted with Genl Jackson, and was with him at New Orleans. He is a gentleman for whom I feel a great regard & will be devoted to his business. I therefore solicit your assistance in procuring an appointment for him.

OWEN HOLMES

Addressed to Washington but intended for delivery by the hand of Samuel C. Mabson. It was actually enclosed in Mabson's letter to Polk dated December 25, 1832. Both letters have been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 73, 74.

1. As stated below, Mabson was with Jackson at New Orleans and was

personally acquainted with Jackson. It appears, however, that he was not personally known to Polk.

FROM THOMAS J. PORTER

Thos. J Porter one of the *sovereigns* in
and about the land of Duck [River] to his
servant & friend James K Polk Sends greet-
ing and enquiries for news.

Col

Decr 23 1832

I have this moment concluded, being as aforesaid of the sovereigns, to write this very letter to you first to say "how de y do" and therefore, *how are you* and in the next, in place of instructions upon great political subjects to ask a favour: to wit, I want to read the news this winter and therefore want you send me the "*Globe*" and the "*Intelligencer*." I dont know their prices or terms or I would send the mony inclosed if necessary. If you choose to advance it for me I will inclose to you or pay it to you when you return. I want the papers on both sides of questions. I would take Duff Greens paper too but he is such a hell fired rascal that I being myself a virgin in politicks or in other words knowing nothing about them I am afraid he might beget me with bastard opinions. Please have these two papers sent to me.

I have just read Jackson proclamation against South Carolina. It's a wholesale document. If my name dwells any where upon the waste of your memory & you should find an unappropriated hour in your winter & you should have on hand undisputed of any manner of political information that would suit a man of my caliber & would devote from 3 to 5 minutes of the time to a communication I would receive and read it with pleasure.

There has nothing been born in the family of events here that occurs to me now as sufficiently important or interesting for detail.

THOS. J. PORTER

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOSEPH N. JOHNSON

Palmyra M[ontgomery] C[ounty]

Dear Sir;

December 24th 1832

Since my letter to you I have changed my profession from that of a Lawyer to a farmer, and have declined all idea of resuming the practice again. I am aware of the exertions yourself & Grundy would, or probably have made for me, and I sincerely hope, that I shall have it in my power to assist you boath.

I must therefore request of you boath, if you have said nothing about my nomination to the president not to do so, and if you have to withdraw the application,¹ I should be glad to hear from boath of you when convenient.

J N JOHNSON

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been mistakenly published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 73-74, as a letter to Polk from Palmyra, N.C. Actually it was from one of Cave Johnson's brothers who lived at Palmyra, Montgomery County, Tennessee. The abbreviation M.C. was misread as N.C.

1. No letter of application has been found, and the nature of the appointment sought is obscure. More than a year before, Cave Johnson had written Polk concerning a possible appointment for his brother, but this seems to have been a different affair. See Cave Johnson to Polk, August 17, 1831.

FROM ISAAC J. THOMAS

Dear Sir

Columbia Decmbr. 24th 1832

Our county court is over nothing unusual Transpired. We have general health in Columbia & throughout our county but several Deaths from cronic desiezes. Old Mr [Hugh] McCabe¹ of Mount Pleasant is dead & left his Estate to the Methodist Church. The will is contested & issue found. A number of Marriages, Mattison[?] Thompson² to E[p]hraim E. Davidsons daughter Ruth Davidson, Jas H. Thomas³ to Margeret Stephens both of Columbia, &c. The [. . .] that sugested on the subject of geting an appointment of Register or Receiver in the Chicka-

saw country I wish to press on your attention. You are as good a Judge of which of those appointments would sute me best as I am my self & I would submit the whole Business to your well Informed Judgement with entire confidence. Since I wrote my last I have learnd that Esqr. J. C. Wormeley is an applicant but you know how to manage that matter—& who is friends to the administration. If it was nessary I would write to the Hon. H. L. White but I Believe that you have only to mention my Name if he is not [. . .] engaged for I know him to be among the Honorable & great men of the Ea[r]th.

We have Received the proclamation. The Deluded South Carolinans has caused the Lion to Shake his mane—as he has come out in the Majesty of his Strength. It is without Doubt the greatest Dockument that was ever written by man & I hope through the goodness of God that it may Bring that mislead & deluded people to their right mind and save the efusion of human Blood. You My dear Sir have a conspicuous part to act. May Infinite Wisdom be your guide and the Almighty arm your support in all your councils. I Received the Documents that you sent & would be glad to see the scrawl of your pen when time will permit you. Also the appointment we talk of if you obtain it you will early advise me of your success. We have but three Nullifyers in our county.

ISAAC J. THOMAS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A Revolutionary War veteran who died on December 5, 1832. His name was placed on the pension roll several months after his death.

2. County marriage records show that J. M. Thompson married Ruth Davidson on December 10, 1832. This entire letter is badly faded, making exact identifications difficult.

3. Thomas, a Columbia lawyer, was the son of the writer of this letter. His marriage to Margaret Stephens took place on December 20, 1832.

FROM SAMUEL C. MABSON

Sir

Wilmington No Carolina December 25th 1832

At the time I received the inclosed letter from our mutual friend, Owen Holmes Esqr.,¹ it was my earnest wish, & intention

to have gone on to the Seat of Government and to have had the pleasure of presenting it to you in person. But circumstances beyond my control have since intervened to its entire preclusion.

I therefore Sir have taken the liberty of addressing you this note, to request as a particular favor, that you will ask for me on the occasion as may best seem fit to you. The Situation I should like to obtain, is one in the Revenue department of the Port, Commonly called the Revenue office and now filled by a Mr Samuel Potter,² a very rich man, who does not stand in need of it, & who at the same time is a Bitter enemy of our good and venerable President. I think Sir, that this office is within the control of the Treasury department of the U.S. If however, this Situation can not be procured, any other within the gift of my government will be truly and thankfully accepted.

SAML. C. MABSON

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 74.

1. See letter dated December 22, 1832.

2. Potter's salary for this post was only \$480 per year. It is not clear whether or not he was replaced by Mabson.

FROM WILLIAM POLK

Dear Sir

Raleigh Decr. 26 1832

Your letter of the 13th instant covering a check on the U.S. Bank for \$100 has been recd. At the time of the rect. William was with me having come down with George when the Session closed. He stayed with us about ten days, and returned with the intention of attending his studies so as to enable him to enter College in July next, and assured me he would make every exertion to accomplish that object. He informed me that it was your wish that he would board with Mr. Bingham and solicited my permission that he might remain where he had been at Mr. Burgwins. He says & George supports the fact, that at Mr Bingham's the rooms are small and uncomfortable, & that a great proportion of the boarders are small boys. Under these representations, I gave

William liberty to remain with Mr. Burgwin at where he had been.

William informed me that he had expended all the money that was given him, but about \$10 or 15 in getting to Hillsbo. & in the purchase of Books. I therefore gave him the 100 sent by you to me for his board &c. for the next Session telling him that it behooved him to act economical for that unless he could show a satisfactory disbursement, he had got all that he might expect untill next Session. I think he promises to do well. His conduct whilst here, was such as entirely to meet my approbation.

WILL. POLK

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 74-75, and in Bergeron, editor, "My Brother's Keeper," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XLIV, 197.

FROM JOHN C. WORMELEY

Dear Sir

[Columbia, Tenn.] Deer 26th 1832

After perusing the inclosed letters¹ I must beg the favour of you to present them to the President. The proper time for handing them in I must leave to your own discretion but should suppose as soon as the treaty is ratified would be the right period. I must rely in a good degree, my Dear Sir on your exertions and Friendship in promoting my application in the present instance with the President. It is the first time in my life that I have asked an appointment from our government & should I fail shall be much discouraged indeed. Mrs Wormeley & Nell unite with me in the usual greetings of the Season to Mrs. P. & yourself.

JOHN C. WORMELEY

Addressed to Washington.

1. The enclosures have not been found, but they obviously concern Wormeley's effort to be appointed to some post in the Chickasaw territory. See Isaac J. Thomas to Polk, December 24, 1832.

FROM ARCHIBALD YELL

Friend Polk

Fayetteville Decr. the 27th 1832

We have just received the Presidents Proclamation. The whole Country is in motion. A patriotic emotion seems to breath from every heart; they are ready to take the field in aid of the Cause to "preserve the Union" tho. it is to spill the blood of an American; the Crises is an awful one in the affairs of this Nation. Has that period arrived, that Civil War and blood shed is to try the cord that binds us together? Be the result as it may, it has weakened our union as a people and formed a bearior between the feelings of that State and the balance of the Union that never can be effaced. But they must be brought to their sinses tho. it be at the point of the bayonet. Is that to be the [. . .] resort? If so I am ready to aid in effecting that object, at all hazzards, shall we be calld on here to aid in effecting it. If so I wish you to apprise me in due time that I may be among the first in organizing a Corps. I should like for you to assist me in geting authority to raise a Corps. I have intimated to the President my willingness to inguage in the Cause upon his requisition. If War is to Come, I am in the Midst of it (May God avert it) and you think me capable and deserving a Command please use your exertions, but officer or private I am with them.

Since I wrote you last I see Col Robt Cannon is a candidate for the *Senate* in Bedford. That is evidence pretty strong to induce me to believe that *Bradford* will run for Congress tho. he has not as yet sayed so. He will give you but little trouble. He may cause you to spend some more of your *Cash*. The US Bank question alone will use him up. As yet no candidate out for the H.R. in Bedford. I think it not unlikely that *Cannon* will have no opposition; [Joseph] Kincaid will run most likely for the lower House.

In our County no one out for the HR except Col James Smith¹ who has but little strength. [William H.] *Field* is out for the *Senate*, I still think [William] *Moore* will oppose him; Certain if [Isaac] Holman is not inclined to run. He will if he thinks he can be elected!

John H Morgan² has just come from the Wt. District through this District. He says *Combs* will beat *Inge* in *Lawrince, Wayne & Harden* 5 to 1 and that the people in *Giles* as he was informed was pritty equally divided. If so friend *Inge* is gone. He can not unite this County by several hundred and should they the friend of *Combs*, establish the charge that (*Morgan*) says they are circulating that *Inge* was originally a *Crawford man* before he came to Tennessee, he, *Combs*, will be placed in the same situation with him. He says he is now and has been a firm supporter of the Admistrative and no doubt did now vote for *Jackson & Van*. I now tell you, let that fact be established and our friend is badly beaten, but how are we to help ourselves. *Fulton* was the only Man that Could certainly have beaten him. If *Inge* is defeated he's received[?] in property; and perhaps that may not save him. This piece of news I give you for your own eye, as I should regret that *Inge* should even suspect I was unfriendly toward him and that he might constrew into opposition. As I before informed you I have not nor will I take an active part in the contest &c.

YELL

Addressed to Washington.

1. Possibly the same James Smith who represented Rutherford County in the lower house of the state legislature, 1839-41, although this has not been firmly established.

2. Later, 1838, he was mayor of Memphis. In 1834 a Fayetteville newspaper announced that he was a law partner of Yell.

FROM WILLIAM J. ALEXANDER

Dear Sir

Charlotte Decr 29th 1832

A mechanic of this place has a claim against the family of your brother M T Polk for work done on the lott to the amount of \$400 or thereabouts and altho the work done was necessary to render it a convenient dwelling for the family there seems to be some difficulty as [to] the payment. Mr Smith will not, indeed cannot, pay it and the man looks to me to remunerate him. I write to you as the guardian of the children to know what to do. If *Laura* and the children live here as I presume they will they

ought to keep the house. I will settle with the workman if I can in any reasonable time be refunded the money. I should be much obliged to you to write me what had best be done.

Laura has rented her possessions to Dr [David T.] Caldwell¹ her brother-in-law and lives with him. Her mother resides with me. The expenses of Laura & her children will be inconsiderable for several years to come so that almost every thing that can be made from M T Polks estate in Tennessee may be applied to the debts.

Genl Jacksons proclamation will not satisfy the South. It is thought to be an abandonment of the rights of the states. I hope Virginia & N Carolina may interpose to check S Carolina in her rash measures so that terms may [be] got to settle the dispute. Unless something similar to what is proposed in the Legislature of Virginia be successful I am fearful that our union will be shaken to its very foundations.

WM J ALEXANDER

Addressed to Washington. This letter has been published in McPherson, editor, "Unpublished Letters," *North Carolina Historical Review*, XVI, 75-76. There are several minor differences between that version and this, one of some importance. The McPherson edition prints Tennessee instead of Virginia in the last sentence, although the manuscript at this point is quite clear.

1. A native of Mecklenburg County, Caldwell was graduated at Chapel Hill in 1819. After studying medicine in Philadelphia he returned to Mecklenburg, where he practiced for many years.

FROM LEWIS CASS

Washington. December 29, 1832

Recommendation of Isaac J. Thomas as a visitor to West Point has been received and will be given respectful consideration when these appointments are made.

Addressed to Washington.

FROM JOHN W. CHILDRESS

Dear Sir

Murfreesboro. December 30th 1832

We have recieved Several communications from Sarah since you left here and were pleased to hear that you had reached

Washington in good health. The presidents Message and proclamation were recieved in Tennessee with great approbation and if possible, the General has made himself dearer to the people than before the election. I presume the nullifiers, have ere now retreated from their bold position. The work of destruction has commenced. The people here begin to look to the issue with great interest. Our candidates for Congress have commenced the campaign with more than usual vigor. I Know nothing of the State of feeling in Williamson, but in this county, unless a change is effected before next August, [William H.] Brady will get two votes to one against [David W.] Dickinson.¹ The latter gentleman, in order to avoid the responsibility of having voted against the wishes of his people in the Senatorial election, is making a bold attempt to pull down Mr Grundy, and upon the ruins build his own fortune. He carries in his pocket Grundys speech upon Foots resolution, his own speech at the last session of the Legislature against nullification, and some numbers of the Nashville Republican, shows them to every person and asks them if they would require him to vote for a nullifier. If the accusation came from Dickinson alone I think the impression would be trifling, but one or two individuals of influence in the county, in order to bolster up Dickinson, have taken the same grounds, and it is possible they may succeed in producing a belief in some that Mr Grundy is a rank Nullifier. It is said Mr Bells Franks² came in clouds to our county & Williamson. It would be well for Mr Grundy to furnish to some of his friends in this county, for publication, a plain honest defence of himself upon the subject of nullification such an one as the most common understanding would grasp, and I have no doubt the effect would be highly beneficial. I would be highly gratified to hear from you at any time. Tell Sarah I will write to her shortly. Mah has moved to town and seems to be much better satisfied. She will hire her negroes on the 1st Jany. The crops in general are shorter than has been Known for a great many years. The man we sued for the lot in Murfreesboro has appealed to the Supreme Court. If the balance of our claim from Egnew has been collected, can you arrange it, that I can get my part soon? I am greatly in need of mony. Our love to Sarah and accept yourself my best wishes.

JOHN W. CHILDRSS

Addressed to Washington.

1. A Rutherford County lawyer, who was a graduate of the University of North Carolina. His sister was John Bell's wife. Dickinson had served one term in the lower house of the General Assembly. Childress's prediction indicates that he was politically naïve, or that a change was, indeed, effected before the election. Dickinson won a narrow victory over Brady.

2. John Bell used his franking privilege to flood the district with various documents calculated to help Dickinson while at the same time weakening Grundy.

JOHN W. YEATS¹

Dear Sir

Pulasky[Pulaski] Dec. 31 1832

After my Respects to you in Congress Hopeing these lines may find you in good health wishing to let you Know that I have percured the cirtificuits Respecting a horse that I lost in the Semminole Indian Camppain and I want you to attend to if you please and write to me respecting the matter. Direct your letter to German Lester living in Pulasky as I resid Some distance from town. You Can tel by a tittle what a great deal means.

JOHN W YEATS

Addressed to Washington.

1. Except as a resident of Giles County, Yeats is unidentified.

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