From James Houston, Feb 4th 1827

The failure of the Nashville Bank has done the state more damage than you can imagine. It has made money a half securer than it was when you left us, and there is scarcely a day without a Constables sale near this place and poor mens cows and calves and all kinds of property selling for allmost nothing.

From Archibald Yell, March the 2d. 1828

Our home politicians are very quiet, I here occasionly from Nashville, [Sam] Houston is getting along about as you would imagine. He will lay about Nashville, neglect his friends just enough to get himself beaten decently at the next election,...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 grate occasion.

To Andrew Jackson, Septr 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...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.

From Andrew Jackson, Septbr. 16th 1828

I receive my Dr. Sir, your letter as the highest evidence of your sincere friendship, & as such have treasured it up.

To Andrew A. Kincannon, Nov. 15th 1828

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.

From Moses Green, July 23rd 1831

PS I think Crockett is a going to be beat at this Election by [William T.] Fitzgerald. 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.

To Jared Sparks, 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. 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.
James K. Polk, hitherto largely neglected by students of United States history, is belatedly receiving the attention he deserves from historians. This unspectacular but tenacious lawyer-politician contributed much to the stability and expansion of the young nation during the years of his term (1845-49) as the eleventh President of the United States. Among his accomplishments, he settled the Oregon question, conducted a successful war with Mexico, and acquired a vast amount of territory, including California.

**Volume I** includes correspondence from the brief period Polk served in the Tennessee General Assembly and his first few years in the United States House of Representatives. It contains a significant number of letters to and from Andrew Jackson (with whom Polk developed a lasting friendship and political alliance) and concerning other notable Tennessee politicians, especially David Crockett and Samuel Houston. The greater bulk of this volume, however, deals with Polk and his Middle Tennessee constituents, with his law practice in Columbia, Tennessee, and with his immediate family. As the oldest son, he served as co-executor of his father's complicated estate and handled the estates of three younger brothers, all of whom tragically, died in 1831.

The **Correspondence of James K. Polk**, expected to appear in many volumes over the next several years, will include all known significant letters both to and from Polk. The largest single collection of such letters is in the Library of Congress, although letters have been gathered from at least fifty sources, including the Tennessee State Library and the National Archives. The Polk Project is sponsored jointly by Vanderbilt University, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the National Historical Publications Commission.

**HERBERT WEAVER** is Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, where he has been teaching for the past twenty years, specializing in American history of the period 1789-1877.

A past president of the Tennessee Historical Society, Dr. Weaver is the author of *Mississippi Farmers, 1856-1860* (Vanderbilt University Press, 1945) and the contributor of many articles to the *Journal of Southern History, Georgia Historical Quarterly, Journal of Mississippi History, Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and other publications.

Dr. Weaver attended Birmingham-Southern College (A.B., 1926, and M.A., 1935) and earned the doctorate at Vanderbilt University in 1941. Before coming to Vanderbilt in 1949, he taught in the Birmingham, Alabama, City Schools and at Georgia Teachers College. During World War II he served with the Army Air Force Historical Division in Washington, D.C.

**PAUL H. BERGERON** is Assistant Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. A graduate of Louisiana College, his master's degree (1962) and his doctorate (1965) are from Vanderbilt University. He was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow during his graduate studies at Vanderbilt.

Dr. Bergeron is Chairman of the Southern Historical Association Committee on Membership for 1969. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Southern History, Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Southern Speech Journal, North Carolina Historical Review*, and in *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications.*