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**POLK MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
COLLECTION OF
JAMES KNOX POLK
(1795-1849)
PAPERS
1780-1972**

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of papers of James Knox Polk (1795-1849), lawyer, planter, politician, member of the Tennessee General Assembly (1823-1825), Member of Congress (1825-1839), Speaker of the United States House of Representatives (1835-1839), Governor of Tennessee (1839-1841), and President of the United States (1845-1849) and those of his wife Sarah (Childress) Polk (1803-1891), span the years 1780 to 1972, and were collected by the Polk Memorial Association. The Polk Memorial Association Collection of James Knox Polk Papers were placed on deposit by the Polk Memorial Association and the Polk Memorial Auxiliary of Columbia, Tennessee, on June 29, 1971. An addition to this collection was placed on deposit in 1975 by the Polk Memorial Auxiliary through the agency of Mrs. Barbara Finney.

The materials in this collection measure 2.94 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Polk Memorial Association Collection of James Knox Polk Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Polk Memorial Association Collection of James Knox Polk Papers, containing approximately 4 vols. and 1,504 items, and spanning the years 1790 to 1972, are concentrated in the years of Polk's presidential administration. The collection is composed of appointments, correspondence, inaugural arrangements for President Polk, invitations, receipts, replies to White House invitations, reports, resolutions of the United States Congress, and some miscellaneous items.

Presidential appointments confirmed by the United States Senate include land office and revenue positions in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, and Virginia dated January 9, 1846. Appointments dated January 16, 1846, are for similar positions in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Correspondence for the years 1825 to 1849 deals with such topics as Polk's Mississippi cotton plantation and the cotton trade, family affairs (primarily the Polk and Childress families), the construction of the Polk house in Nashville, various aspects of the Mexican War, politics and government both in Tennessee and on the national level, and requests for political patronage (addressed primarily to Mrs. Polk). Prominent correspondents include George Bancroft, John M. Bass, Aaron V. Brown, James Buchanan, John Catron, George M. Dallas, Andrew Jackson Donelson, Daniel Graham, Samuel H. Laughlin, A.O.P. Nicholson, Cave Johnson, Reverdy W. Johnson, Thomas Ritchie, James H. Thomas, and John Tyler. Prominent persons mentioned in the correspondence include John S. Barbour, John Bell, Julius W. Blackwell, Mathew B. Brady, Neill S. Brown, Lewis Cass, Henry Clay, David Crockett, Meredith P. Gentry, Felix Grundy, Andrew Jackson, Rachel Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Jacob McGavock, William Marcy, Gideon J. Pillow, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Winfield Scott, Ambrose H. Sevier, Zachary Taylor, Hopkins L. Turney, J. Knox Walker, and Archibald Yell.

Cotton production and the operation of cotton plantations in West Tennessee and in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, in the 1840s are also treated in the correspondence. By the time of his death in 1827, Polk's father Samuel had acquired a number of scattered tracts of land west of the Tennessee River which, until the land cession treaty of 1818, had been held by the Chickasaw Indians. In 1833, James K. Polk and his brother-in-law, Dr. Silas M. Caldwell, were conducting farming operations on two of these tracts. Polk's plantation was located near Somerville, Fayette County, Tennessee, while Dr. Caldwell's operations were conducted from a plantation in adjoining Haywood County. Cotton raised on these plantations was transported to Memphis for sale.

In 1834, Polk sold his Fayette County plantation and formed a partnership with Dr. Caldwell for the purchase and operation of a plantation some 100 miles south in Yalobusha County, Mississippi. The original tract of 880 acres was later expanded to 960 acres. In 1836, Polk and his younger brother, William H. Polk, purchased Caldwell's interest and finally, on November 3, 1838, James K. Polk became the sole owner. The

correspondence of Lydia (Polk) Caldwell (1800-1864), sister of James K. Polk and wife of Silas M. Caldwell, indicates that Dr. Caldwell continued to make periodic inspection visits to the Polk plantation in Mississippi from his own plantation near Dancyville, Haywood County, Tennessee.

Information concerning cotton prices at Memphis and New Orleans which reflect the rapid expansion of King Cotton into the Southwest during the 1840s is provided in the correspondence of James K. Polk's cotton factors, W.S. Pickett of W.S. Pickett and Company in New Orleans and Samuel P. Walker, the Memphis agent for the same firm.

Several aspects of the institution of slavery are documented in the correspondence, including that which John Spencer Bassett in *The Southern Plantation Overseer* (1925) referred to as the *bête noire* (lit., black beast) of plantation overseers – the runaway slave. Among the thirty-six slaves taken to the Polk-Caldwell plantation in Mississippi in 1835 was Mariah, apparently the same slave who was reported as a runaway in the family correspondence of 1825. Later, sometime after 1838, Mariah was taught to weave cloth which was used for making clothes for the plantation slaves.

The family correspondence is primarily from the brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces of President and Mrs. Polk and contains a great deal of information on a wide variety of topics ranging from cholera epidemics to political and social activities. Prominent among the family correspondents are Joanna and Sarah Rucker of Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee, nieces of Mrs. Polk, who at separate times were White House guests of President and Mrs. Polk. The Rucker sisters made comments on such subjects as the Mexican War and some of the general officers in the United States Army; social events in Washington, which were compared and contrasted with those in Murfreesboro; politics; and family news. The spirit and tone of this correspondence suggest that the various social events of the Polk administration were greatly enhanced by the presence of these vivacious Tennessee belles.

Two of James K. Polk's letters appear in the correspondence. In a letter dated June 18, 1840, and addressed to John Houston Bills of Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee, Governor Polk discussed a controversial bank board appointment. Writing from Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee, to Benjamin F. Butler of New York on November 25, 1844, President-elect Polk commented on some of the significant factors contributing to his election as President.

During his term as President, James K. Polk made plans to sell his house in Columbia and purchase a residence in Nashville. There are several references concerning the construction of the Polk house on the Felix Grundy place in Nashville, including those in the correspondence of Matilda Catron, wife of United States Supreme Court Justice John Catron, who described the devastating effect of the powder magazine explosion on the Polk house in October 1847.

Correspondence concerning Tennessee politics and government includes discussions of the campaign and election of James K. Polk's law partner, Aaron V. Brown, as Governor of Tennessee in 1845; Brown's unsuccessful campaign for reelection against the Whig candidate, Neill S. Brown; the affairs within Tennessee's Democratic party,

including William B. Lewis's publication of confidential letters of Andrew Jackson; and the alleged treachery of A.O.P. Nicholson against President Polk and his political associates. Special attention was paid to the 1844 presidential election and the importance of the New York vote. Also discussed is the 1848 presidential campaign in which President Polk's brother, William H. Polk, played an active role on behalf of the unsuccessful Democratic ticket of Lewis Cass and William O. Butler.

Among the presidential papers included in the collection is a copy of the program prepared by the United States Senate Committee on Arrangements for the inauguration of James K. Polk as President of the United States on March 4, 1845.

Invitations addressed to President and Mrs. Polk are those requesting their presence at various events in the nation's capital including balls, celebrations, and soirées.

Receipts for various household expenses of President and Mrs. Polk which are for the period April 1830, through June 1847 are concentrated for the year 1846 (the year incorporated into the title of a 1943 publication by Bernard De Voto, *The Year of Decision, 1846*). For the Polk administration, the year was one of notable accomplishments – the Oregon boundary settlement, the adoption of the Walker Tariff, and the reestablishment of the independent or “constitutional” treasury system. A number of these 1846 items concern social events held at the newly refurnished White House which was repainted inside and out, and refurnished with carpets, red velvet curtains, and red velvet upholstery. In these surroundings, the presidential family received guests according to a rather extensive schedule including regular Tuesday and Friday evening receptions for anyone who wished to call. On Wednesday evenings the Marine band played, and twice a month these concerts were followed by large formal receptions. In addition to special receptions held on New Year's Day and the Fourth of July, the President entertained at dinner at least once a week and often up to three times weekly during sessions of Congress. On these occasions the reserved yet popular First Lady, elegantly gowned in creations carefully selected from Parisian couturiers, captivated Washington society and played a key role in assuring the social success of the Polk administration. Among the receipts in the collection are those for clothing, including President Polk's satin vest and coat; domestic wages paid to the staff of servants; freight charges, including those for the shipment of Mrs. Polk's Parisian gowns; fuel; furniture; groceries; horse gear; livestock feed; newspaper subscription to the *Washington Globe*; refreshments served at presidential receptions including grape pyramids, ice cream, lady fingers, and substantial quantities of French wine; and traveling expenses.

White House dinners are well documented in the collection by the great number of replies received from the invited guests. These events, which were usually attended by members of Congress, cabinet officers, justices of the United States Supreme Court, members of the diplomatic corps, and personal friends of the President and their wives, were often used to cultivate congressional support for various administrative measures, such as those connected with the prosecution of the Mexican War. Among the prominent people included on these guest lists were John Quincy Adams, William Allen, George Bancroft, Washington Barrow, John M. Berrien, John Bell, Thomas Hart Benton, James Buchanan, John C. Calhoun, Simon Cameron, Lewis Cass, John Catron, John M.

Clayton, Howell Cobb, John J. Crittenden, Alvan Cullom, George M. Dallas, Peter V. Daniel, Jefferson Davis, Asbury Dickens, Jessie B. Fremont, Benjamin B. French, Meredith P. Gentry, Robert Grier, William H. Haywood, John P. Heiss, Sam Houston, Benjamin C. Howard, Cave Johnson, Reverdy W. Johnson, George W. Jones, John McKinley, John McLean, Dolley Madison, James M. Mason, John Y. Mason, Robert Dale Owen, Richard Pakenham, Robert B. Rhett, Thomas Ritchie, Thomas J. Rusk, Ambrose H. Sevier, Frederick P. Stanton, Roger B. Taney, Zachary Taylor, Nicholas P. Trist, Robert J. Walker, James Wayne, Daniel Webster, John Wentworth, Levi Woodbury, George W. Woodward, and William L. Yancey.

Reports include those concerning the academic progress of Marshall T. Polk, nephew of President Polk, at Alexandria Boarding School, Georgetown College, and the United States Military Academy during 1847-1848. Also included is the report of the Committee of Arrangements for the James K. Polk Memorial Services at Nashville, Tennessee, dated October 19, 1849.

Resolutions of the United States House of Representatives for 1847-1848 include those relating to disturbances in Ireland and the reported arrest of American citizens; the sale of government land at Dubuque, Iowa; Mexican War resolutions, including military correspondence, Military Court of Inquiry, and tariff duties collected at Mexican ports by United States authorities. United States Senate resolutions for 1845-1849 concern coastal fortifications; Indian claims involving the Choctaws; Samuel Colt's repeating rifles; the inventions of John B. Emerson; government land sales at Dubuque, Iowa; Mexican War diplomacy and Yucatan conditions; and surveys, including the Coast Survey and that of the Lake Superior mineral lands.

Miscellaneous items include an autograph of James K. Polk, clippings from various newspapers; funeral honors for General Andrew Jackson at Lexington, Kentucky; a political writing by Uriah Glascock of Loudoun County, Virginia; and a prospectus for a literary journal entitled *The Meteor*.

Data concerning the Polk plantation was taken from John Spencer Bassett's *The Southern Plantation Overseer* (1925); information concerning social events of the Polk administration was drawn from Charles Sellers's *James K. Polk, Continentalist, 1843-1846* (1966).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Knox Polk

- 1795 November 2 – born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, son of Samuel and Jane (Knox) Polk
- 1806 Moved with parents to Duck River Valley, Maury County, Tennessee
- 1815 Entered sophomore class at University of North Carolina after attending academies in Columbia and Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 1818 Graduated with first honors in mathematics and classics
- 1818 Returned to Tennessee after his graduation and studied law in the office of Felix Grundy
- 1820 Admitted to bar. Became friend of Andrew Jackson
- 1823 Elected to represent Maury County in Tennessee General Assembly
- 1824 January 1 – married Sarah Childress, daughter of Joel and Elizabeth (Whitsitt) Childress of Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 1825 Elected to U.S. Congress. Opposed policies of the John Quincy Adams administration
- 1829 Became leader of Jackson forces in House of Representatives
- 1835 Became Speaker of House of Representatives. Served four years
- 1839-41 Governor of Tennessee
- 1841 Defeated for Governor by James C. Jones
- 1843 Defeated for Governor by James C. Jones
- 1844 November – elected President as Democratic candidate

- 1845 Inaugurated as President of the United States. Objectives of his administration were outlined in his inaugural address: (1) tariff reduction, (2) independent treasury, (3) settlement of Oregon boundary dispute, and (4) acquisition of California
- 1846 May 11 – war declared against Mexico
- 1848 Feb. 2 – Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo signed with Mexico. United States acquired land in the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming
- 1849 June 15 – died and buried in garden of his home on Polk Street. Later removed to Capitol grounds

CONTAINER LIST

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4. Correspondence – Cable – Catron, H.
5. Correspondence – Childress, A. – Childress, T.B.
6. Correspondence – Churchill – Craig
7. Correspondence – Dallas, G.M. – Dunn
8. Correspondence – Edwards – Grigg
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10. Correspondence – Ingersoll – Knox
11. Correspondence – Laffon – Lewis
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13. Correspondence – Moore – Polk, J.F.
14. Correspondence – Polk, James K. 1840, 1844
15. Correspondence – Polk, Marshall T.
16. Correspondence – Polk, Martha – Polk, William H.
17. Correspondence – Porter – Robertson
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17. Replies to White House Invitations – Maclay – Macomb

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1. Replies to White House Invitations – Madison – Medary
2. Replies to White House Invitations – Metcalfe – Nelson
3. Replies to White House Invitations – Niles – Payne
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6. Replies to White House Invitations – Santelle – Sevier
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14. Report – Academic Progress of Marshall T. Polk, 1847-1848
15. Report – Committee of Arrangements for the Memorial Services for James K. Polk, October 19, 1849
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Box 5

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(typescripts)

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16. Newspapers – *Boston Semi-Weekly Advertiser*, July 14, 1849
17. Newspapers – *The Congressional Register*, January 6-9, 1847
18. Newspapers – *Daily National Intelligencer*, Washington, August 9- October 26, 1844
19. *The Semi-Weekly Union* , Washington, July 17, 1845
The Daily Union, Washington, March 17-28, and April 19, 1849
20. Newspaper – *The Family Messenger* and *National Gleaner*, Philadelphia, June 27, 1849
21. Newspapers – *The Globe*, Washington, September 21, 1841
22. Newspapers – *The Hartford Times*, December 15, 1838
23. Newspapers – *The Independent*, New York, March 1, 1849
24. Newspapers – *The Madisonian*, Washington, May 30, 1840
25. Newspapers – *The New Hampshire Gazette*, July 2, 1844
26. Newspapers – *New York Daily Tribune*, January 16, May 14, and September 10, 1847
27. Newspapers – *The New York Morning News*, October 30, 1844
28. Newspapers – *New York Weekly Tribune*, December 9, 1848
29. Newspapers – *Norristown Register*, Norristown, Pennsylvania, December 8, 1847
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Clung, W.M., 1844, re: introduces Alexander B. Meek of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1-6

Coe, Levin H., 1846, re: difficulty between Captain Savatitle and Mr. Worford at Memphis Navy Yard, 1-6

Coffee, Mary, 1845, re: congratulations on presidency; recommends Mr. Hentry, 1-6

Conradt, G.J., 1845, re: pianos for sale, 1-6

Craig, Sam, 1845, re: relocation of Memphis Post Office and appointment of new postmaster; 1845 state elections in Tennessee and North Carolina, 1-6

Dallas, George M., 1844, re: 1844 presidential election returns from Pennsylvania, 1-7

Dallas, Sophia C., n.d., re: Mrs. Polk urged to join the President on Philadelphia visit, 1-7

Davis, Jefferson to Sarah C. Polk, 1856, re: resignation of Lt. M.T. Polk from U.S. Army, 5-19

DeBruler, J.P. to M.T. Polk, 1862, re: condition of patients at Marine Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, 5-19

Dillahunt, Edmund, 1849, re: circular of Jackson College, Columbia, Tennessee; requests documents on political economy; requests government appointments for friends, 1-7

Dix, C.M., n.d., re: invitation for Miss Baldwin of Toronto, Canada, 1-7

Donelson, Andrew Jackson (2), 1845, re: government appointment for Captain William B. Preston of Sumner County, Tennessee, (March 5, 1845); election of Hopkins L. Turney to United States Senate and Turney's support of Polk administration (October 25, 1845), 1-7

Dunn, John, n.d., re: compliments to Mrs. Polk accompanied by bouquet of flowers, 1-7

Edwards, J.N., 1846, re: tickets for Exhibition of Ivory Statue, 1-8

Eells, ____, n.d., re: North Carolina grapes for Mrs. Polk, 1-8

Elliott, E., 1848, re: postal reappointment for husband, 1-8

Everett, A.H., 1846, re: W. Wright of Boston and papers on Washington society, 1-8

Fletcher, Thomas, 1845, re: thanks to President Polk for appointment, 1-8

Ford, George, 1845, re: application for body servant, 1-8

Forsyth, Clara, 1845, re: Columbus, Georgia, postmaster appointment for son, 1-8

Fowler, C.S., 1848, re: glass coolers, 1-8

Frindlay, Jane, 1845, re: reappointment of husband as postmaster at Baltimore, 1-8

Gale, E.G., 1848, re: E Street Baptist Church tea party, 1-8

Graham, Daniel, 1846, re: plan of Grundy House and lot in Nashville and negotiations for Bass property (drawing attached); rumors from Mexico concerning movement of Santa Anna's troops near Monterrey and reaction of American troops in Lower Rio Grande under General Taylor; orders for General Pillow; Governor A.V. Brown and upcoming election (1847); Whig plans for 1847 gubernatorial race involving Bell, Jones, Gentry, Foster, Caruthers, Trembel, Ewen, N.S. Brown, Haskell; cashier position at Bank of Tennessee; Graham willing to accept position with Polk administration in Washington, 1-8

Grigg, John, 1845, re: Navy Chaplain nomination, 1-8

Hague, Thomas, 1845, re: interview with Mrs. Polk, 1-9

Haines, Charlotte I., 1845, re: recommendation for White House linen contract, 1-9

Harris, J. George (2), 1845, re: 1845 election returns for Middle Tennessee; compares Democratic party performance with 1844 election; Stanton's election to Congress insured by being shot by Christian (August 8, 1845); [A.V.] Brown running stronger than President Polk in 1844; Whigs concede gubernatorial election to Brown, 1-9

Harvey, Emma A., 1848, re: government assistance for war widow, 1-9

Hays, Maria Naomi "Onnie" (2), n.d. and 1848, re: house fires and other news from Columbia, Tennessee; bonnet from Mrs. Polk received; new fire engine in Columbia, 5-20

Hays, Ophelia C. (Polk) (3), n.d. and 1848, re: Virginia trip; family news; Buchanan, Mrs. Cave Johnson, Clay and N.S. Brown mentioned; family news, discusses affairs of brother William Polk and his wife Mary and plans to move to Little Rock, Arkansas, 1-9

Houston, Russell to James K. Polk, 1848, re: requests deposition from Polk in case of *McKee v. Nicholson*, 5-19

Hughes, George W., 1845, re: note delivered by John Milligan, 1-9

Ingersoll, C.J., 1849, re: greetings and respects to the Polks, 1-10

Jetton, Joanna Lucinda (Rucker). See Rucker, Joanna

Jetton, Mary S., 1845, re: family news from Rutherford County, Tennessee; treatment and purchase of slaves, 1-10

Johnson, Andrew to Officers Commanding at Camps Chase, Douglas and Morton, 1862, re: requests permission for R.L. Ferris to visit prisoners of war, 5-19

Johnson, Cave, 1845, re: appointment of Mr. Wooldridge as Postmaster at Franklin, Tennessee, 1-10

Johnson, R.W., 1849, re: death of Colonel [Ambrose] Sevier of Arkansas, 1-10

Jones, Alex C., 1845, re: Jones's printed article, "The Fruits of Peace and of War," 1-10

Kahgegagab to the Lady of the President, 1849, re: book on travel among Indians; expects to be at "your levee this evening," 1-11

Kain, Eliza B., 1845, re: appointment of husband as Collector of the Port of New Haven, Connecticut, 1-10

Kemper, Andrew C. to Sarah C. Polk, 1862, re: parole for Capt. Marshall T. Polk, C.S.A., 5-27

Kerr, John M., 1849, re: introduces photographer Mathew Brady of New York; urges Polk to sit for picture, 1-10

Keyworth, Robert, 1849, re: chandelier bill, 1-10

Knox, M.A., 1847, re: seeks government position for father, George Crockett, 1-10

Laffon, Mary, 1847, re: *Mirror* subscription and enclosed verses, 1-11

Laffun, E., 1845, re: enclosed receipt for two boxes directed to Mrs. Polk, 1-11

Lance, F. Lamberte, 1848, re: revenue service appointment, 1-11

Lane, Joshua, n.d., re: application for government position, 1-11

Laughlin, S.H., 1844, re: request for government position in Washington; debts incurred in election campaign and desire for loan; (attached note on editorial matters and proposition of 4th of March Convention), 1-11

LeMarsh, ____ to Sarah C. Polk (2), 1847, re: selection and shipment of Parisian gowns for Mrs. Polk from Paris, 5-20

Lewis, Ellis (2), 1849, conditions in restraint of marriage; Judge Lewis's letter on freedom of press, habeas corpus, rights of women, 1-11

Lloyd, Elizabeth, 1848, re: Mr. Lloyd's presentation of a horse to President Polk, 1-12

Lyon, Elizabeth C., 1849, re: West Point appointment for son, James Polk Lyon, 1-12

McCauslen, William C., 1845, re: an appointment in Polk administration, 1-12

Macomb, H. Balch (2), 1845, re: Dr. J.H. Robins's application for Recorder of General Land Office; recommends John Thornton for house servant, 1-12

Magers, _____, 1848, re: requests answer to letter, 1-12

Marhu, G., 1847, re: shipment of articles ordered from France by Mrs. Polk, 1-12

Marshall, W. to Joseph K. Boyd, 1845, re: interview with Mrs. Polk concerning the sale of a carriage, 1-12

Mathews, J.M., 1849, re: commends Christian example set by the Polks, 1-12

Merritt and Hill to Sarah C. Polk, n.d., re: wall paper advertisement, 5-20

Mitchell, A.D., 1845, re: requests assistance of Mrs. Polk for completion of church building, 1-12

Moers, N.N., 1845, re: explanation of "equal rights" referred to by President Polk in his inaugural address, 1-12

Moore, Maria Naomi (Hays) to Sarah C. Polk, n.d., re: fire at MacDaniels home; death of William Hammer; Mrs. Todd's dancing party; fire at Dr. Hammer's drug store, 5-20

Moore, Maria Naomi (Hays) to Sarah Polk Rucker, 1849, re: illness of sister, Jane Virginia Hays; family news from Columbia, Tennessee , 5-20

Moore, William, 1847, re: death of Colonel Archibald Yell of Arkansas and provisions made for his son, Dewitt Clinton Yell, 1-13

Morgan, Catherine Duane, 1845, re: congratulations; letter and packet sent to Mrs. Jackson at "The Hermitage"; T.J. Randolph and Mrs. Jackson; Thomas Jefferson remembered, 1-13

Moseley, W.M., 1847, re: Polk's northern tour; reminiscence of college days at University of North Carolina; son's army commission and experiences in Mexican War; Florida plantation near Tallahassee; letter of introduction for Judge Hawkins, 1-13

Mullikin, J.M. to Sarah S. Abbot, 1852, re: plans for trip from Maryland to Indiana, 5-20

Nichols, Ann, 1845, re: Paris consulship for husband, 1-13

Nicholson, A.O.P. (2), 1846, 1847, re: urges appointment for J.W. Blackwell; judgeship for M.A. Long; denies Turney's charge of political treachery in 1839 against Polk and friends; warns of intrigue causing split in Democratic Party; Dickerson estate and Dr. Hay's endorsement of note to Bank of Tennessee, 1-13

Niles, J.M. to Mrs. James K. Polk, n.d., re: enclosure of accompanying letters, 1-13

Ogden, Jane B. to Sarah G. Abbott, 1852, re: family news from Van Buren, Arkansas, 5-20

Parsons, J.W., 1849, re: transportation charges for carriage, horses and coachman, Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland, 1-13

Patterson, Martha B. (2) to Mora B. Farris, 1937, re: Andrew Johnson data received, 5-20

Pickett, W.S. (2), 1845-1846, re: shipment of Polk's cotton to New Orleans market; acknowledgement of receipt of instructions concerning William Polk of Arkansas; arrival of 104 bales of cotton; letter from J. Knox Walker concerning sale of cotton, 1-13

Pleasanton, Clemmie to Joanna Rucker, n.d., re: decides not to attend the Seaton party in Washington, 5-20

Pleasanton, Laura, n.d., re: enclosed clippings concerning ladies' fashions at Queen Victoria's court; proposal for creation of independent republic in northern Mexico under General Shields, 1-13

Polk, Evalina B. to J.H. Bills, 1862, re: hopes to find means for returning home to Bolivar from Columbia, 5-27

Polk, Evalina B. to Marshall T. Polk, (2), 1862, re: Union army in Bolivar, Tennessee; plans to visit husband, 5-27

Polk, J.F., 1845, re: promotion in office of Second Auditor of the Treasury requested, 1-13

Polk, James K. to A.R. Cartwright, 1840, re: appointment of directors for the Franklin and Columbia Turnpike Company, 5-21

Polk, James K. (2) to John W. Childress, 1836, 1838, re: trip home from Washington via White Sulphur Springs, Virginia; visits Philadelphia; to return by boat to Maysville, Kentucky, and then travel by stage from Harrodsburg to Nashville; requests meeting in Nashville, 5-21

Polk, James K. to John H. Bills, 1840, re: reappointment of David Cass to Branch Bank Board and dissatisfaction with appointment, 1-14

Polk, James K. to W.S. Pickett and Co., 1843, re: sale of 20 bales of cotton; balance of crop to be shipped to Pickett and Company in New Orleans; suggests holding cotton until decline in prices, 5-21

Polk, James K. to Benjamin F. Butler, 1844, re: importance of New York vote in 1844 presidential election; discounts newspaper accounts of reasons for difference between vote given to Silas Wright for governor and that given to electoral ticket; satisfied with part played by Van Buren and friends, 1-14

Polk, Leonidas to Marshall T. Polk, 1862, re: M.T. Polk recommended to President Davis for promotion to colonel or Inspector General, 5-27

Polk, Marshall T. to Clarisse McNeal, 1826, re: attends performance of Richard III in Nashville; social activities in Nashville; family news, 5-27

Polk, Marshall T. (4) to James K. Polk, 1829-1830, re: law practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, with Judge Joseph Wilson; Judge Wilson's political prospects; withdraws earlier condemnation of Jackson's cabinet; trying cases in Western District of North Carolina; favorable impression of Hugh L. White at Knoxville; hospitality of Mr. Lea and Colonel Ramsey at Knoxville; North Carolina elections; decides against running for clerk of North Carolina House of Commons; considers application to General Jackson for foreign mission such as Guatemala; inquires about James Cathey and family, 5-22

Polk, Marshall T. (7), 1848-1849, re: interview for Mr. Smith of Morganton, North Carolina, with President Polk; description of Morganton, North Carolina, and its crops, wheat, and fruit; mother's illness postpones trip to Washington; not satisfied with January examination at West Point and class standing; acknowledges receipt of box of clothes; expiration of President Polk's term; explains reasons for demerits; West Point demerits; requests flannel, note paper and envelopes; clothing requested for next encampment at West Point, 1-15

Polk, Marshall T. to Evalina Bills Polk (41), n.d. and 1855-1871, re: wedding date; at St. Charles Hotel in New Orleans; St. Louis duty in army; expressions of affection; to accompany General Harney on Sioux Expedition; hunting buffalo on Platte River near Fort Kearny; battle with Brulé Indians near Ash Hollow on Platte River; expects to be in Bolivar in December; plans for wedding; in Confederate service at Fort Brown near Union City, Tennessee; Bishop Leonidas Polk appointed Confederate general; drilling the artillery battery at Camp Brown; asks wife to come to Camp Brown on train; military picnic at Camp Brown given by Fifth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers; Knox Walker seriously ill; Alphonso on furlough; riding horse Zip; drilling battery company; outbreak of mumps at Camp Brown; Cheatham's fight at Charleston, Missouri; General Lyon, USA, killed at Wilson's Creek, Missouri; skirmish with Yankees; General Buckner offers position with Kentucky Brigade; Lincoln lacking in principle; letter sent by Tom Smith from Columbus, Kentucky; Union gunboats shell Columbus, Kentucky; criticizes General Pillow's abominable generalship at Battle of Belmont, Missouri; sends article written for *Avalanche* (Memphis); expect battle action soon; skirmish with enemy; leg amputated in hospital; hopes to be paroled to Aunt Sarah Polk; news from Confederate camp at Meridian, Mississippi; hopes to return to Tennessee with General Forrest; issuance of new Confederate currency; General B.F. Cheatham in Atlanta; General John C. Brown marries cousin Betty Childress; goes to review with Edith Whitfield at Demopolis, Alabama; news from Confederate camp at Enterprise, Mississippi; rounding up deserters and others at Aberdeen, Mississippi; birth of daughter, Laura Prudence Polk; visit with John V. Wright in Greene County; possible court-martial because of letter written to Captain Gonzales; M.T. Polk commands First Mississippi Infantry and Reynolds's Battalion; visit with friends and relatives at Montgomery and Selma; General Lucius Polk arrested and sent to penitentiary; family news from Holly Grove; travels to sell lands in Haywood and Tipton counties, Tennessee; sells land in Dyer, 5-27

- Polk, Marshall T. (15) to John H. Bills, 1852-1854, re: slaves on Mrs. Polk's Mississippi plantation; sabre; plans to join Dragoons or Rifles; requests \$500; breaking up Columbia Institute; orders for California; shipwrecked at Acapulco, Mexico; requests \$500; money received from Wyman; interest in selling Arkansas lands; staying in New York with H.A. Cargill; to leave New York for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; description of California; sale of slaves; requests payment to John Earle, Jr., in Boston; stop cutting trees on land near Bolivar; sale of Columbia lot; interested in California investments; gold mining in California; effects of women in California; gun not received; wishes to sell land in Tennessee for investment in bonds and mortgages in New York; duty at Ft. Riley in Kansas Territory; expect fight over slavery; plans to invest in lots at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; ill with bilious fever at Fort Riley; sale of Fayette County lands; Alphonso runs away; death of Priscilla Polk; description of Kansas Territory; territory unfit for slave labor but South shall have it at any risk; some abolitionists already driven out; to look at lots in Leavenworth; return of Alphonso and payment of draft appointment as aide-de-camp on staff of General D.E. Twiggs at St. Louis; needs horse from General Lucius Polk; to pick up Alphonso; election of delegates to Kansas Convention; pro-slavery candidate Whitfield from Tennessee elected; sale of Pawnee shares, 5-27
- Polk, Marshall T. to Robert Wood, 1856, re: marriage to Evalina Bills at "The Pillars" in Bolivar, Tennessee; Major Bills fitting up cabins on old Turner place for Clift and the Negroes, 5-27
- Polk, Martha, 1845, re: relates the circumstances of how she was told that she was related to James K. Polk; seeks place in the theater, 1-16
- Polk, Mary Louise (Corse) (2), 1847, 1848, re: scars *sic* sent for inspection; fall fashions for ladies; Mexican War (November 5, 1847); describes trip from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Columbia, Tennessee, by steamboat and stagecoach; war reception by Polk family and friends in Columbia; dinner at General Pillow's plantation; construction of Polk home in Nashville; "fancy ball" at Nashville; William Polk's speeches and the Cass and Butler procession in Columbia (October 8, 1848), 1-16
- Polk, Sam, 1828, re: letter from James K. Polk concerning departure from Washington in mail stage; news of family and friends from Columbia, Tennessee, 1-16
- Polk, Sarah C. to Mary Avent, n.d., re: wants to hear from Sue Rucker, 5-23
- Polk, Sarah C. to J. H. Bills, 1852, re: sale of M.T. Polk's two slaves on Mrs. Polk's Mississippi plantation, 5-23
- Polk, Sarah C. to J.H. Bills, 1862, re: encloses letter from Evalina B. Polk, 5-27
- Polk, Sarah C. to Ann P. Cunningham, 1872, re: declines position with Ladies Mt. Vernon Association and suggests ladies from Nashville – Mrs. Dr. Paul Eve, Mrs. D.F. Carter, Mrs. W.R. Elliston, 5-23
- Polk, Sarah C. to J.P. DeBruler, 1862, re: appreciation for letter concerning the condition of Captain M.T. Polk, CSA, prisoner at Marine Hospital, Evansville, Indiana, 5-23

Polk, Sarah C. to Evalina B. Polk, (2), 1858, 1871, re: death of Edward McNeal Polk; death of John Houston Bills, 5-23

Polk, Sarah C. to Marshall T. Polk, (6), n.d., and 1858-1879, re: letter from Pennsylvania kinsman; searches through James K. Polk papers for data on "Woods lot"; illness of Eva and child; remained at home during prevalence of cholera in Nashville; letter with check from L. Bills received; sends letter written by M.T. Polk in 1826; appreciation for picture, 5-23

Polk, Sarah C. to Marshall T. Polk, (10) 1856-1870, re: Marshall T. Polk's resignation from army; Nashville visit; parole of Captain M.T. Polk, CSA; Mr. Yale and Sallie with Sarah C. Polk; Major and Mrs. J.H. Bills come for visit; portrait of James K. Polk, 5-27

Polk, Sarah C. to Mrs. L. S. Porter, 1857, re: declines membership in central committee of Ladies Mt. Vernon Association; recommends Mrs. F.B. Fogg of Nashville for position, 5-23

Polk, W.W. to Sarah Polk, 1826, re: family news from Columbia, Tennessee, 5-24

Polk, William H. (4), 1845, 1848, re: trip to Europe and Naples diplomatic assignment (June 6, 1845); bill of exchange; letter to mother; treaty negotiations (September 28, 1845); requests advice on proposed trip to California with William Voorhies; Democratic chances for carrying Tennessee in 1848 election (October 21, 1848); Robert O. Potter's desire to purchase J.K. Polk's storehouse and adjoining lot; Little Rock, Arkansas, visit; political opportunities and disadvantages in Columbia, Tennessee (November 29, 1848), 1-16

Porter, C.C., 1845, re: naval purser appointment for son, 1-17

Quintard, C.T. to J.M. Avent, 1884, re: return of drawings; accepts invitation for visit, 5-25

Rees, John O., 1845, re: presents several copies of Rees's "Washington Nautical Problem," 1-17

Richardson, Syman to Eva B. Polk, 1862, re: pass from Memphis to be granted by General Wallace to allow visit to husband, Captain M.T. Polk, 5-27

Ritchie, Thomas (2), n.d., re: Captain Paulding's letter; publication of sketch; introduces Mathew B. Brady for daguerreotype, 1-17

Robertson, James, 1847, re: religious convictions, 1-17

Rucker, Joanna to Elizabeth Childress, 1846, re: news from Washington; Indians visit the President; levee at White House on July 4; Sunday School children sing for President; President and Mrs. Polk have portraits taken by Healy, artist from France, not better than those by Cooper, 5-19

Rucker, Joanna to Elizabeth G. Price (12) 1845-1847, re: trip by stage to Louisville; steamboat to Cincinnati; stop at Pittsburgh a black smoky place; stages from Brownsville; train from Cumberland to Washington; fashions in Washington different from Tennessee; reception at White House; meets George Bancroft, greatest ladies man in the city; James Buchanan is finest looking gentleman in Cabinet; death of grandmother, Nancy Rucker; return visits for Aunt Sarah Polk; attends diplomatic dinner attended by Badisco, the Russian minister and his wife;

Pageot, the French minister and his wife; Calderson, the Spanish minister, Commander Siganeere, Portugese minister; Gerolt, the Prussian minister and Chevelier Wulsemann, chargé d'affaires; attending balls and dinners; levee at White House on New Year's Day; Murfreesboro telegram received from Mr. Russwurm; snow storm in Washington; Uncle John Childress expected in Washington; Texas senators take seats – Sam Houston and General Rusk; Webster to speak in Senate; attends church with Sally Walker and beaus; Mexican War; witnesses ceremony of novices taking the veil at Georgetown convent; meets a number of writers – N.P. Willis, W.H. Prescott; National Fair in Washington; reading books; graduation at convent; N.P. Willis to marry Miss Grinnell; visit to Fortress Monroe; social events at Washington; attends a ball with President and ballroom took fire; visits Fort Putnam at West Point, N.Y.; visits Philadelphia with J. Knox Walker and wife; visit to New York; sees opera; visits alms house, penitentiary, and lunatic asylum, 5-27

Rucker, Joanna (10), 1847-1849, re: Murfreesboro volunteers for Mexican War (October 5, 1847); Mrs. Polk's Paris wardrobe (October 23, 1847); compares life in Murfreesboro with that in Washington, D.C.; General Pillow and General Shields (December 7, 1847); thanks to Cave Johnson and President Polk for California letter (December 7, 1847); General Cass and 1848 presidential campaign (July 2, 1848); family news (July 10, 1848); Sarah Rucker's illness at White House; Congressman Gentry abuses President in speech (September 9, 1848); curing pork; cholera epidemic at New Orleans; Washington society (December 3, 1848); family news; Whigs celebrate 1848 election (December 8, 1848); President Polk's message; Polk plans for leaving Washington after Taylor inauguration; cholera epidemic in Memphis (December 23, 1848); Masonic "Levee" in Murfreesboro; anticipation of President and Mrs. Polk's return from Washington (February 7, 1849), 1-18

Rucker, Sarah (2), 1847, 1848, re: dormant condition of Murfreesboro; family news; plans of Mrs. Polk and Joanna Rucker's return to Tennessee in June (March 21, 1847); going to Washington with Mrs. Graham; anticipates excitement in being inmate of President's House (see note of Joanna Rucker for comment on 1848 presidential campaign), 1-18

Rucker, W.R. to children, n.d., re: family news [letter fragments], 5-25

Rucker, W.R. to Susan Rucker, 1849, re: death of James K. Polk in Nashville, Tennessee, 5-25

Rule, Wm. to Sarah C. Polk, 1889, re: U.S. pension check for Mrs. Polk, 5-25

Saunders, James E., 1845, re: disposition of Captain Thomas B. Childress's application; cotton prices; tariff rates, 1-19

Seaborn, ____, 1847, re: challenges Mrs. Polk to competition with potatoes and asparagus, 1-19

Smith, David, 1849, re: thanks Mrs. Polk for autographs, 1-19

Smith, John C., n.d., re: letter of recommendation for D.A. Baird, upholsterer from New York, 1-19

Stevenson, V.K., 1849, re: progress on construction of Polk house in Nashville, 1-19

Stewart, Alexander L. Company to J. Knox Walker, 1834, re: dresses and shawls shipped from New York for Mrs. Polk, Miss Rucker and Mrs. Walker, 5-26

Stewart, David, n.d., re: requests private audience with President Polk, 1-19

Stirn, Lewis, 1845, re: interview concerning purchase of piano, 1-19

Talman, Henry A. to James K. Polk, 1845, re: seeks appointment as waiter at New York customs house, 5-26

Taylor, Mary J., 1847, re: bead bag sent to Mrs. Polk by Emma Moore (attached letter to Mrs. Niles), 1-19

Thomas, Ann, n.d., re: advises Mrs. Polk that Presbyterian ladies seeking aid for church supported Clay against President Polk in 1844, 1-20

Thomas, James H. (2), 1846, 1847, re: suit by town of Columbia against Polk property; payment of account, 1-20

Thompson, _____, 1845, re: applies to Mrs. Polk for position as seamstress, 1-20

Thompson, Mary W., 1845, re: requests President Polk's autograph, 1-20

Thomson, William, 1849, re: presents parcel to Mrs. Polk, 1-20

Throckmorton, Mary, n.d., re: seeks government appointment from President Polk, 1-20

Totten, Cattyna, n.d., re: enclosed pin dropped by visitor, 1-21

Totten, Joseph G., 1848, re: conduct report for Marshall T. Polk from United States Military Academy, 1-21

Towson, Sophia, n.d., re: dates for White House receptions held by Mrs. Polk, 1-21

Tyler, John, 1845, re: postponement of dinner at White House for Polk and Dallas; "Princeton" incident recalled, 1-21

Underhill, Joseph, P., 1848, re: requests President Polk's autograph, 1-21

Wade, S., 1846, re: information concerning John Jacques (attached letter of N. Wade), 1-21

Wales, J.H., 1847, re: explanation to Mrs. Polk concerning arrangements by police at Capitol in Washington, D.C., 1-21

Walker, James (4), 1845, 1847, re: William B. Lewis's publication of confidential letters of General Jackson; Laughlin as alleged writer of letter to *McMinnville Gazette*; interview with Andrew Jackson, Jr., on Lewis publication; Pickett's appointment as naval agent, Henry C. Walker as cotton house partner, Jacksonian doctrine of rotation in office as grounds for removal of incumbent agents; 1845 legislative and gubernatorial elections in Tennessee (July 21, 1845); land survey for Polk; Pickett appointment (August 21, 1845); Polk survey; Martin Hardin deeds to Samuel Polk; chancery court survey to determine land title (September 1, 1845); Bass's recommendations on rebuilding Polk house in Nashville; election of United States Senator in Tennessee legislature (October 30, 1847), 1-22

Walker, L. Marshall, 1848, re: progress report for Marshall T. Polk at United States Military Academy, 1-22

Walker, Samuel P. (22), 1846, re: disposition of Polk's cotton crop; eight cents per pound at Memphis and New Orleans (October 30, 1846); short crop of under two million bales anticipated; cotton prices expected to stabilize after January at nine to eleven cents per pound; advises waiting for sale of cotton, 1-22

Weaver, Herbert to Mrs. Pirtie, 1972, re: scrapbook with Polk letters; copy of Jefferson Davis letter made for Jefferson Davis Papers, 5-26

Whitaker, Anne H., 1849, re: invitation for President and Mrs. Polk to visit in Enfield, Halifax County, North Carolina, on way home to Tennessee, 1-22

Yell, Archibald to James K. Polk, 1824, re: urges strong effort to set out the vote for Jackson against Clay in 1824 election, 5-26

Zeitler, Henry B. to Mora B. Farris, 1940, re: Andrew Johnson's stay in Mooresville, Alabama, 5-26

Addition:
Polk Memorial Association Collection
Of James K. Polk Papers

Ac. No. 89-50

Location: I-J-6, Box 1

1. Photograph: Marshall T. Polk, Columbia, Tennessee
2. Calling Card: Mrs. James K. Polk, Polk Place, Nashville, Tennessee
3. Correspondence: Mrs. James K. Polk to Hon. H.E. Jackson, U.S. Senator, Washington, D.C., April 12, 1882
4. Land grant: Elizabeth Bentley, Jackson County, Iowa; signed by President Polk (by his secretary), March 1, 1848
5. Land grant: Ferrin Baldwin, Wilcox County, Alabama, signed by President Polk (signature questionable), May 1, 1847
6. Land grant: Evan Shelby Polk, Madison County, Arkansas; signed by President Polk (by his secretary), May 29, 1848