

A Guide to the Mr. and Mrs. H. Donald Nelson autograph collection of the First Ladies of the United States, circa 1789-2013

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A Collection in The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation MS 2013.10
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
2017

History

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A Guide to the Mr. and Mrs. H. Donald Nelson autograph collection of the First Ladies of the United States, circa 1789-2013

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

MS 2013.10

Language

English

Abstract

A collection of correspondence and autographs created by the First Ladies of the United States.

Collector

Nelson Family

Extent

2 boxes (108 items in two scrapbooks).

Repository

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Librarian, and the holder of the copyright, if not the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at Colonial Williamsburg.

Acquisition Information

Gift 2013

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Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nelson autograph collection of the First Ladies of the United States, circa 1789-2009, MS 2013.10, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Scope and Content

A collection of correspondence, advertisements, pamphlets, cards, autographs, and signed photographs either created by or pertaining to the first ladies of the United States during their lifetimes from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama. The First Ladies of the United States have had significant influence on the nation. Martha Washington (1731-1802) was the wife of George Washington, first president of the United States. She started the tradition of the President's wife acting as hostess for presidential social events. This tradition continues to this day and the role has grown to have significant influence over social issues within the country. The First Lady of the United States now serves as an important public figure for the United States Government. Does not contain any material pertaining to Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Monroe, Letitia Tyler, Margaret Taylor, Abigail Fillmore, Eliza Johnson, or Ellen Wilson. Nor does it contain any material for Emily Donelson who acted as first lady during the Administration of Andrew Jackson. The first box contains Martha Washington's signature and the second box contains two scrapbooks holding the rest of the collection.

Index Terms

Washington, Martha, 1731-1802--Autographs.

Madison, Dolley, 1768-1849--Correspondence.

Adams, Louisa Catherine, 1775-1852--Correspondence.

Van Buren, Angelica Singleton, 1816-1877--Correspondence.

Harrison, Anna Tuthill Symmes, 1775-1864--Correspondence.

Tyler, Julia Gardiner, 1820-1889--Correspondence.

Polk, Sarah Childress, 1803-1891--Autographs.

Pierce, Jane M. (Jane Means), 1806-1863--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Mary Todd, 1818-1882--Correspondence.

Grant, Julia Dent, 1826-1902--Correspondence.

Hayes, Lucy Webb, 1831-1889--Autographs.

Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph, 1832-1918--Correspondence.

Cleveland, Frances Folsom, 1864-1947--Correspondence.

Cleveland, Rose Elizabeth, 1846-1918--Autographs.

Harrison, Caroline Lavinia Scott, 1832-1892--Autographs.

McKee, Mary Scott Harrison, 1858-1930--Autographs.

McKinley, Ida Saxton, 1847-1907--Autographs.

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Autographs.

Taft, Helen Herron, 1861-1943--Correspondence.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961--Correspondence.

Harding, Florence Kling, 1860-1924--Autographs.

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue, 1879-1957--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue, 1879-1957--Autographs.

Hoover, Lou Henry, 1874-1944--Autographs.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Autographs.
Truman, Bess Wallace--Autographs.
Eisenhower, Mamie Doud, 1896-1979--Autographs.
Eisenhower, Mamie Doud, 1896-1979--Correspondence.
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994--Autographs.
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994--Correspondence.
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994--Photographs.
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007--Autographs.
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007--Correspondence.
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007--Photographs.
Nixon, Pat, 1912-1993--Autographs.
Ford, Betty, 1918-2011--Autographs.
Ford, Betty, 1918-2011--Photographs.
Carter, Rosalynn--Autographs.
Carter, Rosalynn--Photographs.
Reagan, Nancy, 1921-2016--Autographs.
Reagan, Nancy, 1921-2016--Correspondence.
Reagan, Nancy, 1921-2016--Photographs.
Bush, Barbara, 1925- --Autographs.
Bush, Barbara, 1925- --Correspondence.
Bush, Barbara, 1925- --Photographs.
Clinton, Hillary Rodham--Autographs.
Clinton, Hillary Rodham--Photographs.
Bush, Laura Welch, 1946- --Autographs.
Bush, Laura Welch, 1946- --Photographs.
Obama, Michelle, 1964- --Autographs.
Obama, Michelle, 1964- --Photographs.
First ladies--Autographs.
First ladies--Correspondence
First ladies--Photographs.

Arrangement

Arranged in 2 boxes. The first box contains only Martha Washington's signature clipped from the original document. The second box contains the rest of the collection organized chronologically by when the women were First Lady of the United States within two scrapbooks.

Contents List

Box: 1

Extent

1 item

Scope and Content

Contains a single clipped Martha Washington Signature.

Box: 2, Circa 1731-2013

Extent

2 scrapbooks (107 items)

Scope and Content

Contains the majority of the collection in two scrapbooks. Correspondence, advertisements, pamphlets, cards, autographs, and signed photographs either created by or pertaining to the first ladies of the United States during their lifetimes from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama. Does not contain any material pertaining to Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Monroe, Letitia Tyler, Margaret Taylor, Abigail Fillmore, Eliza Johnson, or Ellen Wilson. Nor does it contain any material for Emily Donelson who acted as first lady during the Administration of Andrew Jackson.

Scrapbook 1: Circa 1731-1944.

Volume 1

Extent

1 Scrapbook (51 Items)

Scope and Content

1 scrapbook containing the collected correspondence, advertisements, cards, and autographs pertaining to the First Ladies of the United States. Covers Martha Washington to Lou Henry Hoover

Washington, Martha: Engraving of Martha Washington by J. Rogers,

Page 3

Extent

portrait, 27 cm

Washington, Martha: Washington Family,

Page 4

Extent

illustration, 19 cm

Madison, Dolly: Signed letter to Mary E. Cutts, 1845 August 1

Page 5

Extent

1 page, 26 cm

Madison, Dolly: Engraving of Dolly Madison by D. Edwin,

Page 6

Extent

potrait, 35 cm

Adams, Lousia Catherine: Letter to Mr. Durand, 1835 September 25

Page 7

Extent

19 cm

Van Buren, Angelica Singleton: Signed letter, October 24

Page 9-10

Extent

2 pages, 17 cm

Harrison, Anna Tuthill Symmes: Signed letter to Charles Brodhead, 1847 April 8

Page 11

Extent

1 page, 19cm

Tyler, Julia Gardiner: Signed black bordered letter, 1864 April 30

Page 13-14

Extent

4 pages, 21 cm

Polk, Sarah Childress: Signed card,

Page 15

Extent

5 cm

Pierce, Jane M. Signed letter, 1838 December 1

Page 16

Extent

3 pages, 25 cm

Lincoln, Mary Todd: Signed Black Bordered Envelope, February 28

Page 17

Extent

8 cm

Lincoln, Mary Todd: Engraving of Mary Todd Lincoln,

Extent

portrait, 11 cm

Lincoln, Mary Todd: Engraving of Abraham Lincoln,

Extent

portrait, 11 cm

Grant, Julia Dent: Grant Family Card,

Page 19

Extent

illustration, 10 cm

Grant, Julia Dent: Signed black bordered letter to "Nellie," 1895 January 25

Page 19-20

Extent

18 cm

Hayes, Lucy Webb: Autograph,

Page 21

Extent

11 cm

**Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph: Signed black bordered letter to C. J. Kemper, 1882
June 26**

Page 23

Extent

2 pages, 16 cm

**Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph: Mrs. J. A. Garfield,
Extent**

photograph, 17 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Sulphur Bitters advertisement,
Page** 24

Extent

illustration, 16 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Mrs. Grover Cleveland by J.E. Hale,
Page** 25

Extent

photograph, 17 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Signed letter to "Ida," 1893 March 6
Extent**

1 page, 19 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: The Cleveland Family,
Extent**

photograph, 11 cm

**Cleveland, Rose Elizabeth: Signature, 1886 March 5
Page** 26

Extent

21 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Dress Lini department advertisement,
Extent**

illustration, 8 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Signed Letter to Mrs. Bateman, 1898 January 27
Page** 27

Extent

4 pages, 17 cm

**Cleveland, Frances Folsom: Signed letter to Dr. Bowegs, 1936 March 21
Page** 28

Extent

1 page, 24 cm

Harrison, Carolin Lavinia Scott: Image of Mrs. Harrison,

Page 29

Extent

photograph, 17 cm

Harrison, Claroline Lavinia Scott: Image of President and Mrs. Harrison with White House,

Extent

photograph, 17 cm

Harrison, Caroline Lavinia Scott: Autograph,

Extent

4 cm

Harrison, Caroline Lavinia Scott: Photocopy of autographs "Ben Harrison and Caroline Scott Harrison," 1891 March 30

Page 30

Extent

10 cm

Harrison, Mary Lord: Signed Note to T. Butler, 1937 June 23

Page 31

Extent

1 page, 17 cm

Harrison, Mary Lord: Signed Who's Who content approval, 1945 February 1

Page 32

Extent

2 pages, 27 cm

McKinley, Ida Saxton: Franked black bordered envelope addressed to James H. Kennedy, 1905 December 29

Page 33

Extent

9 cm

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow: Franked Envelope addressed to Wade Chance Esqr., 1920 December 31

Page 35

Extent

10 cm

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow: Signed note to Miss White, 1940 October 16

Extent

2 pages, 9 cm

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow: The Roosevelt Family, 1903

Extent

illustration, 9 cm

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow: Franked Envelope addressed to Miss Christina White, 1940 October 17

Extent

10 cm

Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow: Unsigned note, November 28

Page 36

Extent

1 page, 18 cm

Taft, Helen Herron: Signed Letter to Mr. Warts, 1936 March 13

Page 37

Extent

2 pages, 10 cm

Taft, Helen Herron: Autograph Card,

Page 38

Extent

9 cm

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt: Signed letter to Mrs. Warren,

Page 39

Extent

3 pages

Harding, Florence Kling: Portrait of Florence Kling Harding signed to Mr. Jackson,

Page 41

Extent

photograph, 14 cm

Harding, Florence Kling: Signed Note to Charles P. Kling, 1923 April, 2

Extent

1 page, 20 cm

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue: Autographed White House card,

Page 43

Extent

illustration, 11 cm

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue: Signed black bordered card to Mrs. Durning,

Extent

2 pages, 9 cm

**Coolidge, Grace Goodhue: Autograph card,
Extent**

7 cm

**Coolidge, Grace Goodhue: Signed portrait of Grace Goodhue Coolidge signed to
Mrs. George Wuppermann, 1927 October 16**

Page 44

Extent

photograph, 38 cm

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue: Signed letter to Mr. Junge, 1931 May 26

Page 45

Extent

1 page, 26 cm

Hoover, Lou Henry: Signed portrait of Lou Henry Hoover to Norma Mannix,

Page 47

Extent

photograph, 35 cm

**Hoover, Lou Henry: Unsigned invitation to Senator and Mrs. Lewis for 1931 May
7,**

Page 48

Extent

2 pages

Hoover, Lou Henry: Signed White House card,

Extent

7 cm

Scrapbook 2: 1945-2013

Volume 2

Extent

56 items

Scope and Content

Covers Eleanor Roosevelt to Michelle Obama.

Roosevelt, Eleanor: Signed letter to Basil "Doc" O'Connor, 1945 June 21

Page 1

Extent

1 page, 20 cm

Roosevelt, Eleanor: Autographed card,

Page 2

Extent

8 cm

Roosevelt, Eleanor: Fanked envelope to Mr. Derek Collett-White, 1954 July 24

Extent

10 cm

**Roosevelt, Eleanor: Three White House Cards from Lewis Collection,
Extent**

6 cm

Truman, Bess Wallace: Vinette of President Harry Truman signed by Bess Truman,

Page 3

Extent

portrait, 30 cm

Truman, Bess Wallace: Invitation to White House for Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis on 1951 April 11 with evelope, 1951 April 4

Page 4

Extent

9 cm

Truman, Bess Wallace: Invitation to White House for Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis on 1952 May 16,

Extent

9 cm

Truman, Bess Wallace: Invitation to White House for Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis on 1949 January 20,

Extent

12 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Vingette of President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed by Mamie Doud Eisenhower,

Page 5

Extent

portrait, 30 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Invitation to White House on 11 May 1957 to Mrs Robert King with envelope, 1957 April 25

Page 6

Extent

10 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Invitation to White House on 1953 June 1 to Mrs. Lewis,

Extent

11 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Signed Note to Mrs. Jane E. Smith, 1968 May 8

Extent

1 page, 18 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Franked envelope addressed to Mrs. Jane E. Smith, 1969 July 9

Extent

10cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Signed note to Mrs. Clarence Mingin, 1978 February 11

Page 7-8

Extent

1 page, 23 cm

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud: Franked envelope addressed to Mrs. Clarence Mingin, 1978 February 11

Extent

12 cm

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy: Signed letter to Mr. Robert Six, 1964 October 21

Page 9

Extent

1 page, 27 cm

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy: Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy at White House,

Page 11

Extent

photograph, 21 cm

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy: John Kennedy Jr.,

Page 12

Extent

photograph, 26 cm

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy: Kennedy Family at Hyanms Port Chapel,

Page 13

Extent

photograph, 26 cm

Onasis, Jacqueline Kennedy: Jacqueline and John Kennedy Jr.,

Page 14

Extent

photograph, 21 cm

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy: Signed letter to Mr Myer (Mike) Feldman of Stephen Girard Memorial Committee, 1989 June 14

Page 15

Extent

1 page, 27 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Signed pamphlet of Telephone call story,

Page 16

Extent

21 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Photograph of Johnson Family,

Extent

photograph, 21 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Signed letter to Mrs. Audrey Six, 1987 February 19

Page 17

Extent

1 page, 28 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Signed Christmas card,

Extent

illustration, 9 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Letter from Mrs. Audrey Six, 1987 March 26

Page 18

Extent

1 page, 28 cm

Johnson, Lady Bird: Vingnette of President Lyndon B. Johnson signed by Lady Bird Johnson,

Page 19

Extent

illustration, 30 cm

Nixon, Pat: Signed White House card, 1969

Page 20

Extent

illustration, 6 cm

Nixon, Pat: Invitation to White House for Mrs. Lewis on 1969 May 19,

Extent

10 cm

Nixon, Pat: Vingnette of President Richard Nixon signed by Pat Nixon,

Page 21

Extent

illustration, 30 cm

Ford, Betty: Betty Ford portrait signed to George Sanders,

Page 22

Extent

color photograph, 26 cm

Ford, Betty: Vingnette of President Gerald R. Ford signed by Betty Ford to Selwyn C. Gamble,

Page 23

Extent

illustration, 30 cm

Carter, Rosalynn: Rosalyn Carter portrait signed to Nancy Buchie,

Page 25

Extent

color photograph, 26 cm

Carter, Rosalynn: Carter Christmas Card,

Page 26

Extent

illustration, 14 cm

Carter, Rosalynn: Vingnette of President Jimmy Carter signed by Rosalynn Carter,

Page 27

Extent

illustration, 30 cm

Carter, Rosalynn: Signed Carter Christmas card of White House,

Page 28

Extent

illustration, 14 cm

Carter, Rosalynn: Signed Carter Christmas Card of White House,

Extent

illustration, 14 cm

Reagan, Nancy: Signed letter to Mr. Robert Six, 1983 February 22

Page 29

Extent

1 page, 27 cm

Reagan, Nancy: Signed Portrait of Nancy Reagan in Red Room of White House,

Page 30

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Reagan, Nancy: Magazine clipping of Nancy Reagan (Nancy Davis),

Page 31

Extent

illustration, 11 cm

Reagan, Nancy: Magazine clipping of Nancy Reagaon, 2000

Extent

illustration, 27 cm

Reagan, Nancy: President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan signed by President Ronald Reagan,

Page 32

Extent

illustration, 24 cm

Bush, Barbara: Signed portrait,

Page 33

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Bush, Barbara: Letter to Mayor Timothy A. Curtin of Forrest OH, 1983 November 17

Page 34

Extent

1 page, 22 cm

Bush, Barbara: Envelope addressed to Timothy A. Curtin, 1983 November 18

Extent

11 cm

Bush, Barbara: Photograph of Barbara Bush speaking with Audry Meadows signed to Audrey Six,

Page 35

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Bush, Barbara: Three blank decorative cards and signed card from George Bush Presidential Library Foundation,

Page 36

Extent

illustrations, 12 cm

Clinton, Hillary Rodham: Signed portrait to Don,

Page 37

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Clinton, Hillary Rodham: Signed portrait of President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton to H.D. Nelson,

Page 38

Extent

illustration, 28 cm

Bush, Laura: Signed portrait to Don Nelson,

Page 39

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Bush, Laura: Signed Good Housekeeping cover of Laura Bush, 2002 January

Page 40

Extent

illustration, 28 cm

Bush, Laura: President George W. Bush and Laura Bush signed by President George W. Bush to H.D. Nelson,

Extent

illustration, 27 cm

Bush, Laura: Signed letter to H.D. Nelson, 2004 May 19

Page 41

Extent

2 pages, 26 cm

Obama, Michelle: Signed portrait,

Page 42

Extent

illustration, 26 cm

Mixed: Six living First Ladies taken at Reagan Library with signatures, 1991 November 4

Page 43

Extent

illustration, 21 cm

Mixed: First Ladies and their Presidents taken at Reagan Library with signatures, 1991 November 4

Page 44

Extent

illustrations, 21 cm