

# 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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## Title Statement

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

## Preferred Citation

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