

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the United States Presidents Collection

GEN MSS 271



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: File List .....	5
Oversize, 1798 May 4 .....	13
Restricted Fragile Papers .....	14
Selected Search Terms .....	15

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 271

**TITLE:** United States presidents collection

**DATES:** 1778-1948

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.4 linear feet (3 boxes) + 1 portfolio

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters, legal documents, and other material created or signed by United States presidents.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.pres>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.pres>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Restricted Fragile Papers in portfolio may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

The United States Presidents Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## **Preferred Citation**

United States Presidents Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Processing Information**

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, it has been noted in the box-and-folder list. This finding aid will be updated periodically to account for new materials that may be added to the collection. The date of the most recent update is noted on the title page. For information on material that may have been added since the last update, please consult the Public Service Desk.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to United States Presidents, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: File List

Adams, John		
	Letters-patent appointing Joseph Hopkinson Indian comissioner for the Oneida Tribe, Philadelphia Also signed by Timothy Pickering. Accompanied by engraved portrait of Adams. Gift, 1957. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 89</a>	1798 May 4
b. 1, f. 1	Receipt in Adams' hand stating that he has given to William Walters 33 guilders and five stuyvers, Amsterdam Receipt is signed by William Walters. A note on the verso identifies Walters as "a seaman prisoner escaped from England and taken with the Small Pox here at Amsterdam." Gift, 1958.	1781 Jan 14
Adams, John Quincy		
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to D[avid] Francis Bacon, Washington, D.C. With envelope.	1845 Mar 31
b. 1, f. 3	AL (in third person) to Mrs. [Sidney Stotesbury?] Dickerson Removed from: <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Nicolay and Hay (New York, 1917). Gift, 1954.	1836 Feb 8
b. 1, f. 4	ANS to Messers. A Glennie and Son, London Accompanied by small piece of paper: "I John Quincy Adams, of Quincy (County of) Norfolk (and) Commonwealth of Massachusetts."	1817 Mar 24
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to Henry Wheaton, introducing E. C. Bacon, Washington, D.C. Gift, 1927.	1844 Apr 8
b. 1, f. 6	"Extracts of a Resolution, approved 27 December 1813...23 December 1817 ...23 January 1819...11 January 1822," Department of State, Washington Printed form signed by J. Q. Adams and addressed to Jeremiah Day concerning the depositing of government documents in the libraries of colleges and universities. Address in manuscript.	1822 Jun 27
b. 1, f. 7	Arthur, Chester Allan. ANS of autobiographical details Gift, 1930.	[1880 Jun 8]
Buchanan, James		
b. 1, f. 8	ANS to the President [James K. Polk?] With fragment of autograph letter from Joshua Bates. Gift, 1938.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to Charles S. Todd, Washington Gift, 1927.	1844 Mar 18
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to Robert J. Walker, Washington Removed from: <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Nicolay and Hay (New York, 1917). Gift, 1954.	1845 Sep 3

## Buchanan, James (continued)

b. 1, f. 11	AL to unidentified recipient, Wheatland near Lancaster Accompanied by a letter from John Bassett Moore to J. H. Penniman, 1924 Jan 26. Gift.	1852 Nov 19
Cleveland, Grover		
b. 1, f. 12-15	31 ALS, 1 TLS, and 2 telegrams to LeRoy Brooks Gift, 1937.	1897-1907
b. 1, f. 16	ALS to Edward P. Clark, Princeton With envelope. Gift, 1928.	1901 Oct 17
b. 1, f. 17	ALS to Robley D. Evans, Princeton With envelope. Introducing LeRoy Brooks. Gift, 1937.	1899 Mar 29
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Joseph O'Connor, Albany, [New York] Gift, 1930.	1884 Oct 24
b. 1, f. 19	ALS to Robert M. O'Reilly, Princeton With envelope. Introducing LeRoy Brooks. Gift, 1937.	1903 Mar 21
b. 1, f. 20	ALS to Robert Sedgwick, Princeton With envelope. Removed from: <i>A Defense of Fishermen</i> by Grover Cleveland (Princeton, 1902). Gift, 1954.	1905 Mar 14
b. 1, f. 21	ALS to E. Stewart Sumner, Albany Gift, 1956.	1884 Oct 4
b. 1, f. 22	ALS to William F. Vilas, Chairman, D. P. Bestor, and other members of the Committee of the Democratic National Convention, Albany This letter, accepting the nomination for President by the Democratic party, was written by Cleveland in the Adirondacks, and sent to Daniel S. Lamont to be copied and transmitted officially to the Democratic party committee. Gift, 1937.	1884 Aug
b. 1, f. 23	Brief for the Supreme Court case of Andrew Spaulding and another versus Albert B. Williams and others, [Buffalo, N.Y.] Autograph manuscript. Accompanied by: typed sheet giving additional facts concerning the case of Spaulding versus Williams, with George A. Bailey's name stamp; ALS from Judge Charles Barker Wheeler to George A. Bailey, Buffalo, 1915 Jun 9; 3 newspaper clippings concerning manuscript briefs of Cleveland. Gift, 1919.	[1879]
b. 1, f. 24	Signature, on Executive Mansion stationery, made at Washington shortly after his marriage Gift, 1935.	1886 Jun 2
b. 1, f. 25	Card from Executive Mansion, Washington, autographed Gift, 1956.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	Card, autographed Gift, 1935.	n.d.

## Coolidge, Calvin

## Coolidge, Calvin (continued)

b. 1, f. 27	TLS to the Rainbow Division Veterans Association, Washington Accompanied by 2 TLS from Bentley Mulford to the editor of the <i>Saturday Review</i> and to Andrew Keogh, concerning the letter from Coolidge. Gift, 1925.	1921 Jun
b. 1, f. 28	Holograph letter to William Howard Taft With a note of transmittal from Taft to Anson Phelps Stokes, on verso, 1927 Apr 12. Gift, 1927.	1923 Oct 17
Fillmore, Millard		
b. 1, f. 29	<a href="#">5 ALS to D[avid] Francis Bacon, Buffalo and Washington.</a> Accompanied by signature clipped from franked envelope and pasted on sheet of paper.	1843-52
b. 1, f. 30	<a href="#">ALS to Messrs. Harper and Brothers, New York</a> With detailed suggestions for Chauncey Allen Goodrich's edition of Webster's Dictionary, 1847. Purchase, 1955.	1846 May 26
Grant, Ulysses Simpson		
b. 1, f. 31	Signed photograph Gift, 1928.	1866 Apr 3
b. 1, f. 32	Warrant for pardon of Richard S. Gray, Washington Accompanied by an etching of Grant. Removed from: <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Nicolay and Hay (New York, 1917). Gift, 1954.	1873 Mar 11
Harding, Warren Gamaliel		
b. 1, f. 33	TLS to the Rainbow Division Veterans Association Gift, 1925.	1921 May
b. 1, f. 34	TLS to Dr. W. G. Thompson, Washington Accompanied by clipping of picture showing Harding using an ax. Gift, 1928.	1922 Dec 26
Jackson, Andrew		
	Autograph signature on a land grant to the heirs of James Sufferance, revolutionary soldier Gift, 1934. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 90</a>	1832 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 35	Autograph signature cut from printed form, mounted on one sheet Forms part of Daggett autograph collection.	1833
b. 1, f. 36	Closing lines of autograph letter, with signature, Hermitage, Tenn. Gift, 1938.	1845 Sep 30
Jefferson, Thomas		
b. 1, f. 37	AN in the third person to Edmund M. Blunt, Monticello Thanking him for a copy of the "Nautical Almanac for 1814." Gift, 1935.	1813 Oct 19

## Jefferson, Thomas (continued)

b. 1, f. 38	ALS to Charles Carter, Philadelphia	1791 Jul 10
b. 1, f. 39	ALS to Sheldon Clark, Monticello.	1825 Dec 5
b. 1, f. 40	AN in the third person to Mr. Hatch Inviting him to dine with General Lafayette. Gift, 1933.	1824 Nov 9
b. 1, f. 41	Address and frank to John Page, esquire, Washington	Jul 17
b. 1, f. 42	Address and frank to Caesar A. Rodney, Washington Purchase, 1955.	Dec 9
b. 1, f. 43	ANS to an unidentified recipient, Washington Forms part of Daggett autograph collection.	1803 Jan 23
	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 91</a>	1802 Apr 1
	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 92</a>	1806 Jul 16
	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 93</a>	1808 Nov 16
b. 1, f. 44	Receipt book of the Continental Congress Pages 1049 and 1050, with items receipted by the following persons: John Taylor Griffin, Richard Kenney, Edward Carroll, Thomas Clements, Thomas Jefferson, George Thompson, William Duval, B. Dandridge, John Stratton, John Wilson, William Turner, Robert Anderson and Fortunatus [Tyd--?]. Gift, 1933.	1779 Oct 27
	Ship's passport issued to Thomas Ward, master of the brig Laura Printed form in two languages, with names and dates supplied in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson and countersigned by Ab. Bishop, Collector of the Customs, New Haven. Gift, 1933. <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 94</a>	1806 Mar 15
Lincoln, Abraham		
b. 1, f. 45	<a href="#">ANS to D. T. Jewett, Springfield, [III.]</a> With envelope.	1859 Jul 23



## Lincoln, Abraham (continued)

b. 1, f. 46 [Signed endorsement of the purpose of the American Union Commission](#) 1864 Oct 19  
With picture of Lincoln. Gift, 1928.

## McKinley, William

b. 1, f. 47 ALS to John Addison Porter, Executive Mansion, Washington, D.C. 1900 Apr 12  
Gift, 1900.

b. 1, f. 48 AN written in the third person, Executive Mansion, Washington 1898  
Apparently written by a secretary, accepting an invitation to the twentieth annual dinner of the Yale College Class of 1878.

## Madison, James

[See also: Box 3, folder 91](#)

[See also: Box 3, folder 92](#)

[See also: Box 3, folder 93](#)

b. 1, f. 49 ["Journal" of the Federal Convention of 1787](#) n.d.  
Manuscript copy in the hand of Madison of the "Journal" made by William Jackson as Secretary of the Convention. Gift, 1926.

b. 1, f. 50 Ship's passport for the schooner Polly n.d.  
Printed form in English and Dutch, filled out in manuscript. Signed by Madison as Secretary of State and by Henry Daggett, Alderman, for the Corporation of the City of New Haven.

b. 1, f. 51 Signature on corner cut from an engraved plate, and mounted on sheet of paper n.d.  
Forms part of Daggett autograph collection.

b. 2, f. 52 Pierce, Franklin. Two signatures on small slips, mounted on one sheet n.d.  
Forms part of Daggett autograph collection.

b. 2, f. 53 Polk, James Knox. Closing line of ALS, Washington 1846 Feb 6  
Gift, 1938.

## Roosevelt, Franklin Delano

b. 2, f. 54 TLS to Emily Hardy Hall, Washington, D.C. 1942 May 23  
With the last paragraph in manuscript. With envelope.

b. 2, f. 55 Address of the President, United Nations Flag Day, Washington, D.C. 1942 Jun 14  
With corrections by FDR. Signed: "For Yale University Library. This is the 1st carbon copy of the original from which I read. Franklin D. Roosevelt." Accompanied by a TLS from Grace G. Tully to Emily Hardy Hall, forwarding the manuscript, 1942 Jun 16.

## Roosevelt, Theodore

b. 2, f. 56 TLS (carbon copy) to Governor Frank Swett Black 1897 Jan 8  
Accompanied by a copy of a letter from William H. Owen to Andrew Keogh, 1930 Jan 9, New York.

## Roosevelt, Theodore (continued)

b. 2, f. 57	TL, signed with initials, to Attorney General, [William H. Moody], The White House, Washington With manuscript corrections and postscript. Gift, 1936.	1906 Jan 16
b. 2, f. 58	3 TLS to Dr. W. G. Thompson Accompanied by two pictures of Roosevelt. Gift, 1928.	1897-1918
Taft, William Howard		
b. 2, f. 59	AL in the third person to [Henry Beebe] Carrington, Washington With envelope addressed in an unidentified hand: "Brig. Gen. Henry B. Carrington and Lady." Gift, 1949.	1910 Dec 17
b. 2, f. 60	2 TLS to Franklin B. Dexter Gift, 1940.	1913, 1918
b. 2, f. 61	TLS to Henry R. Gruener, New Haven With envelope. Gift, 1931.	1915 Feb 9
b. 2, f. 62	2 typewritten letters to Mr. Keogh The first letter deals with a gift to the Library of a set of war records; the second acknowledges a clipping. Gift, 1929.	1916, 1929
b. 2, f. 63	TLS to James M. Lamberton, Baguio, Benguet, Philippine Islands	1903 Apr 18
b. 2, f. 64	ALS to [John Christopher] Schwab, New Haven Gift, 1914.	1914 Jan 7
	Letter to Anson Phelps Stokes On verso of holograph letter from President Coolidge to Taft. <a href="#">See: Box 1, folder 28</a>	1927 Apr
b. 2, f. 65	3 TLS to W. G. Thompson Includes three pictures of Taft. Gift, 1928.	1916-22
b. 2, f. 66	6 ALS to "Miss Mary" Written while a freshman at Yale. Purchase, 1955.	1875 May-Aug
b. 2, f. 67	Invitation to a dinner in honor of William Howard Taft, at the Yale Club	1902 Apr 28
Taylor, Zachary		
b. 2, f. 68	<a href="#">ALS to William Darius Bishop, Baton Rouge, La.</a> Sending his autograph. Gift, 1931.	1848 Oct 22
b. 2, f. 69	Autograph as President With autograph of John Middleton Clayton as Secretary of State.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 70	Closing lines of a printed military form Signed by Taylor, Major General, Com'dg.-in-chief. Forms part of Daggett autograph collection.	1847 Apr 25

b. 2, f. 71	Truman, Harry S. V-E Day Proclamation, 8 May 1945 Photostat inscribed to the Yale University Library and signed by Truman. Accompanied by a TLS from William D. Hassett to Chauncey B. Tinker, 1948 Jul 7. Gift, 1948.	1948 Jul 7
b. 2, f. 72	Tyler, John. 2 autographs, clipped from letters, mounted on sheet of paper  Van Buren, Martin	n.d.
b. 2, f. 73	ALS to an unidentified recipient, Saratoga Springs Removed from: <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Nicolay and Hay (New York, 1917). Gift, 1954.	[18]43 Aug 7
b. 2, f. 74	Autograph on franked envelope addressed to "Miss Mary Mowrie, Washington, D.C.," postmarked Kinderhook, N.Y.	Aug 13
b. 2, f. 75	Autograph inscribed "With my respects" on small card, Linderwald Gift, 1931.	1948 Apr
	Washington, George	
	LS to Gov. George Clinton, White Plains In the hand of his clerk, Tench Tilgham. Accompanied by draft of Clinton's reply, written on wrapper of Washington's letter, 1778 Jul 24, Poughkeepsie. Gift, 1957.  <a href="#">See: Oversize, box 3, folder 95</a>	1778 Jul 23
b. 2, f. 76	ALS to Timothy Dwight, Valley Forge Gift.	1778 Mar 18
b. 2, f. 77	ALS to Zechariah Lewis, Mount Vernon Purchase, 1939.	1797 Aug 14
b. 2, f. 77a	ALS to Col. Tho. Marshall, Philadelphia	1796 Jan 2
b. 2, f. 78	ALS to James Ross, German Town The paper is watermarked "Washington." Gift, 1932.	1794 Sep 13
b. 2, f. 78a	ALS to Sir John Sinclair, Philadelphia	1797 Mar 6
b. 2, f. 79	ALS to Brig. Gen. Smallwood, H.Q. Valley Forge Gift, 1939.	1778 Jan 23
b. 2, f. 80	ALS to W. S. Smith, Newburgh	1783 Apr 21
b. 2, f. 81	ALS to Rev. Ezra Stiles, New Windsor	1781 May 15
b. 2, f. 82	ALS to John Trumbull, H.Q. Morristown	1780 Mar 26
b. 2, f. 83	ALS to John Trumbull, Mount Vernon On verso of p. 5 is the following manuscript note: "The Signature of this letter: G. Washington was given to Mr. Cavallo: F. R. S. - July 27th 1801." Gift, 1924.	1799 Jun 25

## Washington, George (continued)

b. 2, f. 84	ALS to Jonathan Trumbull, Headquarters, Middle Brook Endorsed: 19th Decemr 1778, General Washington...recd 6th Janry 1779.. He answers Governor Trumbull's objections to the disposition of troops in Connecticut. Gift, 1956.	1778 Dec 19
b. 2, f. 85	LS to the Congregational Ministers of the City of New Haven Signature only in Washington's hand.	1789 Oct 17
Wilson, Woodrow		
b. 2, f. 86	ALS and TLS to Edward P. Clark Gift.	1888, 1902
b. 2, f. 87	TLS to J. Bentley Mulford, National First Vice-President of the Rainbow Division Veterans, Washington, D.C. Gift, 1925.	1921 Dec 10
b. 2, f. 88	TLS to Anson Phelps Stokes, Princeton	1902 Oct 29

**Oversize, 1798 May 4**

b. 3, f. 89	Adams, John. Letters-patent appointing Joseph Hopkinson Indian commissioner for the Oneida Tribe, Philadelphia Also signed by Timothy Pickering. Accompanied by engraved portrait of Adams. Gift, 1957.	1798 May 4
b. 3, f. 90	Jackson, Andrew. Autograph signature on a land grant to the heirs of James Sufferance, revolutionary soldier Gift, 1934.	1832 Jun 13
Jefferson, Thomas		
b. 3, f. 91	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War.	1802 Apr 1
b. 3, f. 92	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War.	1806 Jul 16
b. 3, f. 93	Certificate for grant of land in Ohio Form printed on parchment and filled out in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson as President, James Madison as Secretary of State, and on verso by Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War.	1808 Nov 16
b. 3, f. 94	Ship's passport issued to Thomas Ward, master of the brig Laura Printed form in two languages, with names and dates supplied in manuscript. Signed by Jefferson and countersigned by Ab. Bishop, Collector of the Customs, New Haven. Gift, 1933.	1806 Mar 15
b. 3, f. 95	Washington, George. LS to Gov. George Clinton, White Plains In the hand of his clerk, Tench Tilgham. Accompanied by draft of Clinton's reply, written on wrapper of Washington's letter, 1778 Jul 24, Poughkeepsie. Gift, 1957.	1778 Jul 23

## **Restricted Fragile Papers**

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 13  
96

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b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 23  
97

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Names

Adams, John, 1735-1826  
Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848  
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886  
Buchanan, James, 1791-1868  
Cleveland, Grover, 1837-1908  
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933  
Fillmore, Millard, 1800-1874  
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885  
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel),  
1865-1923  
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865  
Madison, James, 1751-1836  
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869  
Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano),  
1882-1945  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919  
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930  
Taylor, Zachary, 1784-1850  
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972  
Tyler, John, 1790-1862  
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862  
Washington, George, 1732-1799  
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924

### Corporate Body

United States. President