



Excerpted and Annotated Campaign Documents

Below are annotated excerpts from the indicated campaign documents related to the election of 1824. All of the language in the excerpts is from the original, except for some standardization of spelling, abbreviations, and punctuation. Annotations in parentheses define words in italics or provide additional information. Periods of ellipsis indicate gaps in the edited text. Anyone desiring the full text should use the links provided in the lesson plan.

John Quincy Adams

- Pro
 - To the electors of Boston ... Electors of Boston- To the polls then on Monday - one and all, and give our voices and your ballots for the Adams Ticket. [Boston 1824?]:
...By voting for the ADAMS TICKET you give your support to that candidate for the office of President of the United States, who is most experienced, best qualified and in every respect most worthy. By voting for the *reputed Unpledged Ticket* (choice of the caucus, William Crawford), you promote the views and advance the cause of a man who has disobeyed the divine command, Do THOU NO MURDER (Crawford killed a man in a duel, an illegal, though not uncommon act)...
 - Voice of Maine!:
...*Resolved*, That the splendid talents, and incorruptible integrity of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, his Republican habits and principles, distinguished public services, and extensive knowledge of, and devoted attachment to, the vital interests of the country, justly entitle him to the *first honors in the gift of* (honor of being elected president by) an enlightened and grateful people.
- Anti
 - To the voters of Baltimore County:
...I ...shall confine my observations entirely to the objections I have to Mr. ADAMS, and the reasons for my decided preference for GENERAL JACKSON.

...It must be admitted that Mr. Adams is a scholar, has received an European education; has visited many of its courts, enjoyed the company of the nobility... and must be able to appreciate the worth of their despotic institutions. *Mr. Sumerville* (who wrote a handbill supporting Adams) stated that he enjoyed the confidence of all our presidents.

...this is an error,--he did enjoy the confidence of the good old Washington, and was appointed by him minister to Holland and Portugal, as has been stated. But, Fellow-Citizens, this was at a time when *party-spirit* was not known, the *demon* had not its existence... Although MR. ADAMS was old enough to be appointed on foreign missions, you cannot see that ever he raised a sword to achieve that Independence.

I will now proceed to the long to be remembered resignation of *the father of our Country*,

and subsequent occurrences. The administration during the succeeding four years, may be considered the dark ages of our government. Mr. John Adams, father of the present candidate, was then President of the United States, and *the unfortunate course which was then pursued by the Administration* (probably refers to the Alien and Sedition Acts), is much to be regretted. It was then that corruption began to raise its head. It was at this time that the arrow touched with poison, was aimed at the vitals of our republic. And it was at this time that John Quincy Adams enjoyed the confidence of his father, and *his* party, and was appointed Minister to Prussia... Mr. Jefferson... immediately after coming into office, recalled Mr. J. Q. Adams, from Prussia. This is a strong proof of *his* being unworthy of his confidence and that of the nation. He never received any appointment in the gift of the government during the administration of Thomas Jefferson. We admit, that on his arrival in the United States, the then *famous federal State of Massachusetts*, took him by the hand and elected him to the Senate of the United States, as no doubt he was a man capable of representing their views.... The change in his political character soon began to make its appearance, for he refused to obey the strenuous commands of his constituents; and being determined not to represent their views in the Senate, he ultimately resigned his seat. Since that he has received several appointments, filled them with credit to himself and advantage to his country; and has avoided through the course of his life... gunpowder... Mr. Sumerville has stated that each of the other candidates has “politely killed his man.” I do not undertake to defend the principle of dueling, but do consider that every man has a right to protect his character or person...

- ❑ To the voters of the second electoral district of Maryland composed of Calvert: Mr. Adams, fellow-citizens, is presented to you as the *patrician* (upper class) candidate, as a hereditary prince, as the heir apparent; first, as the son of a President, and, secondly, as the Secretary of State; and he seems to claim the office.... The Emperor of Russia named his successor, and the precedent is fixed as constitutional law. Let us take care how we establish such precedents. Mr. Adams, in principle and practice, is opposed to the simple principles of our government. He was educated abroad, he has lived abroad, and his manners and habits are such as are formed in the atmosphere of tyrannical governments. He has been long in service, but he has been well paid; and what has he done for his country? What conspicuous act entitles him to the Presidency? ...and the fact is, that some of Mr. Adams’s treaties, particularly the Florida treaty, are very loose and *unguarded* (careless).

William Crawford

- Pro
 - ❑ To the voters of the second electoral district of Maryland composed of Calvert: William H. Crawford is... one of the people of the United States. His course through life has been one of labor... Unsupported by wealth or family connection... directed by the strictest integrity and virtue, he has acquired *a reputation* (a good reputation)... he came to the Senate of the United States, and, although he was but a novice... he was, in 1812, elected unanimously, upon the death of the Vice-President, Mr. Clinton, to preside over the Senate of his country. The ability, impartiality, and manly dignity, with which he discharged these important duties, are known to all; suffice it to say, that he united the

confidence of all parties, and was considered the most efficient member of that body. He was then sent on a mission to France, by President Madison; and, when we reflect on the extremely perplexed and embarrassed relations subsisting between the two countries... we cannot but consider this appointment of Mr. Crawford as... evidence of the estimation which was formed of him by the President and Senate, at that time; and the manner in which he represented our interests and supported our rights, *shews* (shows) that the trust was properly confided. Returning from France, he was appointed Secretary of War; and, although he continued in that office but a short time, he laid the foundation of our present efficient peace establishment, and promoted, essentially, our present system of national defense. From this office he was *translated to the office* (appointed Secretary of the Treasury) which he now fills. He has, during his administration, collected upwards of two hundred millions of your money, which was advanced, in many cases, to irresponsible agents; paid upwards of thirty millions of the national debt; saved the country from direct taxation; reformed many abuses; saved the western land purchasers from ruin, and the government from great losses; and now we have nearly nine millions in the Treasury, and the credit of the nation stands higher than it ever did. Has any man, since the establishment of our government, done more for it than Wm. H. Crawford? Yet it is said he is opposed to internal improvement. He voted for the Cumberland Road and the Delaware Canal...

He is charged with being opposed to the embargo; and he certainly was opposed to the manner of enacting such an important law so *precipitately* (hastily), it having passed its several readings on the same day. His object was to have it more *guarded* (carefully worded) in its provisions, so that it might restrain the foul as well as the fair dealer. He strenuously supported the embargo after it passed, and was one of the strongest denouncers of its violators. And, lastly, it is said that his health is too bad. As this is the only charge against him of any importance, it is rung in all its variations by the... newspaper editors, and secretaries ... Excessively depraved must be the heart, and desperately hopeless the cause, which resorts to such a willful falsehood to support itself. That Mr. Crawford has been sick, is true; that he is now in good health, to all appearance, is equally true. He attends to his official duties, rides in the neighborhood, and was prompt to turn out to greet the venerable General Lafayette on his arrival at Washington. It is too palpably false to require any further comment.

- Anti
 - Anti-caucus:
While the Anti-Caucus *manifesto* (proposal) is to be received as a pledge that the rights of the people to elect their own President will be sustained by nearly three-fourths of their representatives in the legislative branch of the government; it exhibits in strong contrast the paucity (inadequacy) of the faction which would... oppose that right, and *render* (make) the wishes of the people altogether *inoperative* (meaningless). This public act of the friends of Mr. Crawford, calling a caucus, may be considered as the act which announces their *secession* (withdrawal) from the Republican party. It is the act of a minority, insignificant both in number and talents... It *will be observed* (worth noting), that of the 11 persons who have signed the call for a caucus, *two*, viz. Mr. Dickerson of New Jersey, and J. B. Thomas of Illinois, are the only individuals of the respective

delegations from those states who are not strongly opposed both to the caucus and the candidate who is proposed to be named by that caucus; also, that Mr. Lloyd of Maryland, another signer, goes into caucus against the express recommendation of the legislature of Maryland, by whom he was elected; and also that a *fourth*, Mr. Lowrie of Pennsylvania, is almost the only individual in the representatives of that great state, who is not inimical (opposed) both to Mr. Crawford and the caucus. It will be further observed, that all the eleven signers of the call, and all those who intend to go into caucus, are the known friends of Mr. Crawford, and that their object in attending a caucus is to make one last, desperate struggle, to recover him from that hopeless condition into which he has fallen, and to give him... that chance of success, which they could not hope to gain from an appeal to... the people.--*Editor Washington Republican.*

Andrew Jackson

- Pro

- To the voters of Baltimore County:

I shall now proceed to say something in relation to General Jackson's services, and his superior claims on the people.

Fellow-Citizens, General Jackson commenced his career at the early age of fourteen, under the banner of the *Immortal Washington*, in the hot days of *Seventy-six*, together with two of his brothers, who were killed, and he himself wounded in the arm, which would he will carry to his grave.

...The death of his two brothers, and shortly after that of his mother, left him a lonely orphan--not one drop of his blood ran through the veins of any one in this country, whose Independence he had spilt his blood to gain. But with the small *patrimony* (inheritance) his father had left him... he received a classical education, then commenced the study of the law, and at an early age its practice, his brilliant talents were soon discovered, and he was appointed at the age of 22 Attorney General of the then North-Western Territory.

Tennessee, that part of the territory in which he lived, was soon admitted into the Union as a state; and he was appointed one of the convention, to draft their constitution. He was among the leaders of that convention, who drafted the most equitable and republican constitution of any in the United States, holding as its polar star, the *rights of man*. At the age of twenty-nine years... he was elected the first representative from that state, to the congress of the United States; and proved himself to be then what he is now--the consistent, able, and undeviating supporter of equal rights.

He next was elected by the legislature of that state, to the senate of the United States, and his name now stands recorded in the minority, on the passage of the Alien and Sedition laws, that the Adams party succeeded in having passed. His domestic concerns and delicate health, caused him to resign his seat in that honorable body. He soon after, received the appointment of chief judge of the supreme court of Tennessee, in which capacity he acted until his services in the field were demanded by his country; he then laid down his law books... The savages were murdering by hundreds, men, women, and children, of our frontier; the tomahawk was wreaking with the blood of innocence. It was

then, my countrymen, that JACKSON led the van; it was then this noble soldier, made his pillow of snow, and had for his roof the canopy of heaven. Yea, countrymen, I might extend my hand-bill to a volume, and I could not then give you a correct idea of ...his unparalleled *hero* (heroism).

While passing through the wilderness, his army in a state of despair, cried out, "Good God, General, what is to become of us;" he replied, "put your trust in God, and confide in me." It would draw a tear from his most bitter enemy, to relate the pains he took to make comfortable his dying soldiers... The treaties he has made with the Creeks and other tribes, speak volumes to his praise as a statesman. His whole care was to protect our frontier inhabitants, and secure the interest of our country.

We will next proceed, fellow-citizens, to the battle of Orleans; was there ever such a victory gained at any time, or in any country? ...Countrymen, he risked his life, his fortune, and sacred reputation to defend it, and did defend it to the astonishment of the world, which has left *a laurel on the brow of* (a great honor to) this nation...

He next was engaged in the Seminole war, and *to* (thanks to) his *intrepidity* (fearlessness) ...the nation is indebted for its speedy termination.

Subsequently he has received a number of civil appointments, all of which, (except one that he declined,) he filled with advantage to our government, and in a manner that has added additional luster to his character. During his governorship of the Floridas, his correspondence with the heads of department, in relation to the powers vested in him, clearly demonstrate all that has been said in relation to his ambition, is unfounded, and proves beyond all contradiction, that he is in every sense of the term, a Democratic Republican.

As a member of the senate, in which honorable body he now holds a seat, his unassuming manners has daily gained him friends, and, to the astonishment of all, the manners of the soldier are lost in the duty of the statesman.

When we come fellow-citizens, to enumerate the different appointments that General Jackson has received at the hands of our executive, you will find, that they are equal in number and honor, to those of Mr. Adams. When you weigh the difference of duty and services rendered, you will find them far superior. I did not fellow-citizens, intend to extend my hand-bill thus far, nor did I intend to make any charges, for I believe the people of Baltimore County are able to judge for themselves; but do consider myself privileged to answer *Mr. Somerville* (author of an anti-Jackson/pro-Adams broadside), and have therefore taken the liberty to give my ideas on this subject...

I therefore conclude, by pledging myself, if elected, to vote for Gen. ANDREW JACKSON, as President, and some known Republican, as Vice President, such a man as I have reason to believe is the choice of the people of this county.

- “The Hunters of Kentucky”: A Popular Song Celebrates the Victory of Jackson and his Frontier Fighters over the British, 1824:

But Jackson he was wide awake, and wasn't scared...
For well he knew what aim we take with our Kentucky rifles;
So he led us down to Cyprus swamp, the ground was low and mucky,
There stood *John Bull* (the British army) in martial pomp, and here was old Kentucky.

A *bank* (embankment) was raised to hide our breast, not that we thought of dying,
But then we always like to rest unless the game is flying;
Behind it stood our little force, none wished it to be greater,
For every man was half a horse and half an alligator.

They did not let our patience tire, before they showed their faces—
We did not choose to waste our fire, So snugly kept our places;
But when so near to see them wink, we thought it time to stop 'em,
And 'twould have done you good I think to see Kentuckians drop 'em

They found at last 'twas vain to fight, where lead was *all their booty* (all the plunder the British got for their efforts),
And so they wisely took to flight, and left us all our beauty,
And now if danger e'er annoys, remember what our trade is,
Just send for us Kentucky boys, and we'll protect your ladies.

- Anti

- To the friends of our country. [Alabama 1824?]:

If you refer to the *Southern Patriot*, printed in Charleston, South-Carolina, you will see the following, under the head of Charleston, Monday Afternoon, 7th December, 1818:

“*General Jackson*--an extract of a letter from Huntsville, (Alabama Territory) dated 6th November, received in Philadelphia, says--The people of the country have shown their respect to General Jackson... Yesterday the old Hero bid for a section of land which was understood to be very valuable: when, with one consent, the poor and the rich, the foreign speculator and the hardy cultivator of the ground, remained silent; and the land was knocked off at *two dollars* per acre! *Eighty-three* dollars per acre have been given for second rate land.”

Now compare that with the following extract from the *Virginia Herald*, Fredericksburg, July 17, 1824, and you may be able to see how far fish has been made of one and flesh of the other:

“*Cahawba, Alabama, June 19. The State vs. A Land Speculator.*

The public sales which commenced last week, will close this day. On Thursday last one of the class of persons denominated land speculators, was arrested on a charge of having received a bank bill, of the amount of one hundred dollars, as Hush-Money

- To the public. In September, 1824, I published at this place, Nashville, some criminal charges against Gen. Jackson, the most of which I relied on proving by public records ... [Signed] Jesse Benton. City Hotel, Nashville, Oct. 30th, 1828 (NOTE: The document is dated 1828, but claims that the accusations it contains were first published in 1824.):

TO THE PUBLIC.

In September, 1824, I published at this place, Nashville, some criminal charges against Gen. Jackson, the most of which I relied on proving by public records. They have been proved fully, and to the satisfaction of every person, except those fanatical beings who shut both their eyes and their ears... One charge of corruption was sustained by an article in the Creek treaty of 1814. The charge of corruption at the Chickasaw treaty of 1818, has been established in various ways, but still the whole truth has not come out--when it does, it will have the effect of a political earthquake with all honest men

...every word I have written for about 30 days past, has been written on the spot where Gen. Jackson waylaid, with a large gang of his kinsmen and dependents, collected for fifty miles... my brother and myself for the purpose of assassinating us in Sept. 1813, in the course of which attack the General was defeated, and fell and saved his life by pretending to be dead for some seconds under my pistol. I have several scars, received from the daggers of his assassins, on that occasion.

...The General had to deceive Gov. Shelby relative to the value of this reserve, and his object in placing it... was to... force Shelby into measures--that there should be no disappointment--that if Shelby would not agree to his arrangements, he would sign the Treaty without him--that the clear profit would be from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000--that the three principal persons would have each an immense fortune--and that some scraps might be thrown to their inferior friends...

I will barely state the character of some of the persons whom Jackson carried with him to the Treaty. There was Bronaugh, the murdering duellist, who studied it as a science and pursued it with the ferocity of a tiger--Robert Butler, a nephew-in-law of Jackson's, his former Adjutant General--and sneaking Wm. B. Lewis. The two last were first *chop* (forged) certificate makers--*I say this of Lewis and Butler on my own authority, and my own responsibility.*

Shelby went to the Treaty with only one son attending him--no bullies--no certificate manufacturers at his heels. But he proved himself the Patriot and the Hero. When Jackson, tiger-like, flew at the old Patriot's throat, screaming oaths to frighten him, Shelby forgot his age, and squared himself in Kentucky style--to use his own words--prepared to "knock the old rascal twenty feet." He refused to sign the treaty, unless an agreement was entered into, to allow the Government the right of paying the speculators their \$20,000 back, if the Government chose, and keeping the land as public property. The patriot then gave secret information of this whole matter through -- Esq. to the President of the United States, and the corrupt Commissioner, Andrew Jackson, finally lost his prize. He may, perhaps, make up for his disappointment, should he ever become

President of the United States, and have the National Treasury at his disposal. My countrymen, farewell to all our greatness--to the purity of our national character--to every thing honorable in human nature, if a man polluted with every crime, is placed at the head of our republic, surrounded with his certificate-makers...

Save our country from the fate of every republic that has preceded us. Save us, we beseech thee, from the rule of the wicked and corrupt. We pray for every evil rather than the loss of our virtuous habits; of those habits, which have hitherto been our boast and our support, but which must soon leave our land, when the most polluted are placed in the high places as examples to lead the young and light-minded astray.

JESSE BENTON

□ Huzza! for Gen. Jackson !!:

* 1st REASON--*Because he was the Friend and Defender of the immortal Washington, as conclusively appears from the following facts* (the author is being sarcastic):

On the 17th of December, 1796, the Congress of the United States, of which Gen. Jackson was then a member, had under consideration the answer to the Speech of Gen. Washington. The concluding sentence of the Address was as follows--"For our country's sake, for the sake of republican liberty, it is our earnest wish, THAT YOUR EXAMPLE MAY BE THE GUIDE OF YOUR SUCCESSORS, and thus after being the ornament and safeguard of the present age, become the patrimony of our descendants." A motion was made to strike out this sentence, and the ayes and nays being called, GEN. ANDREW JACKSON VOTED FOR THE STRIKING OUT!!

* 2d REASON--Because he is the Candidate of the Democratic Party... for the avowed purpose of BREAKING DOWN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

* 3d REASON--*Because in public and private life he has given proof of his respect for the laws and constitution of his country--as fully appears from the reasons which follow, comprising the most brilliant and prominent events of his life.* (the author is being sarcastic)

* 4th REASON--Because the first conspicuous act of his life in Tennessee may be found at the race ground and the cock pit--At such places he was a leading and conspicuous actor; and it is a notorious fact, that he was scarce ever known to leave the ground without participating in quarrels, generally of the most violent, rancorous and deadly nature...

* 5th REASON.--Because he has showed himself, under various circumstances, master of *himself*, and capable of subduing his passions to wholesome restraint; it being an acceded requisite, that he who is entrusted with the government of *others*, should have learned how to govern *himself*.

How eminently qualified the General is in this particular, is illustrated by the statement of Col. Benton of Gen. Jackson's attempt to *assassinate* him at his lodgings in Nashville...

* 6th REASON--Because, in the pride of conscious *innocence and integrity*, he has ever shown himself ready *quietly* to submit his public acts and conduct to the investigation of the constituted authorities of the nation.

The General's proud consciousness of rectitude of conduct, and his willingness to submit it to the ordeal of a public examination, is happily illustrated by his peaceable demeanor while his public acts were under investigation in the Senate of the United States. In this investigation Mr. Eppes, the son-in-law of the patriot Jefferson, took an active part, who was selected by Gen. Jackson as the particular object of his vengeance; and *he* (Jackson) swore with his usual profanity that he would "cut off *his* (Mr. Eppes') ears" in the midst of the Senate...

* 7th REASON--Because he is THE CANDIDATE OF THE SOUTH, and is supported by the enemies of *DOMESTIC INDUSTRY* (government support for American industry), who in their public speeches and addresses declare that all duties laid by Congress for the PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND MUST BE REPEALED!

* 8th REASON--Because the Southern States have furnished us Presidents for *thirty two years*, and the Northern States, embracing a much larger free population, have furnished them only for eight years.

* 9th REASON--*He is the friend and champion of the Citizen Soldier--the benefactor, and kind arbiter of the rights, liberties and lives of MILITIA MEN* (the author is being sarcastic)--as fully appears from his having caused 200 militia men of his own state to be ignominiously punished, six of them with DEATH, against the positive law of the land, and under circumstances shocking to humanity.

* 10th REASON--Because the Flying Comet, alias *Martin Van Buren* (one of Jackson's campaign managers and, perhaps, his chief strategist), and his tail, C. C. Cambrelleng, a native of Tar River, N. Carolina, have pledged and sold the Electoral votes of the independent state of New-York, for the purpose of driving from office the man of the North who acted with and had the confidence of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Munroe.

* 11th REASON--Because a *grave* (well-respected) Senator, pending the last Presidential Election, declared "if he (General Jackson) should be elected President, he would surround himself with a pack of *political bull dogs*, to bay at all who *dared to oppose his measures*. *For myself* (listen to the colonel how valiantly he talks)--*for myself, as I cannot think of legislating with a brace of pistols in my belt, I shall, in the event of the election of Gen Jackson, resign my seat in the Senate, as every independent man will have to do, or risk his life and honor!!!*"

- Southern excitement, or a view of the opinions and designs of the friends of General Andrew Jackson. From Niles' register--Compiled from authentic documents [1825]: Now is the time for the people to speak out--let them support no one of *questioned opinions* on the great subject which interests us--*the protection and prosperity of American labor*--earnestly recommended in the revolution, supported by *every* president, and sanctioned over and over again and again, by Congress... Our government was instituted for the benefit of the majority, and the majority *must* and WILL determine all questions of right as shall appear just to itself, and the minority *must* and WILL submit to its decisions...

When in 1814 some person unknown--who was afraid or ashamed to be known, posted a

placard in Philadelphia, on which was written, “the Potomac the boundary--the negro states by themselves,” there was a burst of indignation from one extreme of the Union to the other; but now the “fiery” South speaks of *the Potomac as a boundary without ceremony*, and “high and honorable men” boldly draw those “*geographical lines...*”

Let every citizen, before voting at the coming Presidential election, pause and reflect on the above. Let him remember that these are the deliberate and boldly avowed acts of the most prominent and zealous advocates of the election of General Jackson. Let the citizens of Pennsylvania reflect, that it is against the policy of his state, that such fierce hostility is urged. Let him bear in mind, that the prosperity of the Commonwealth, the welfare of every citizen and the value of every acre of land within it, are increased by the protection of Domestic Manufactures. He will find from the above documents, accurately taken from their own papers, that the same men, who threaten by every effort and sacrifice to resist the Tariff, and that System which supports the products and manufactures of our own country, are among the next devoted partisans of General Jackson. The sentiments of General Jackson on this subject have been carefully kept out of view in this part of the Union,--and he is the exclusive candidate of those states opposed to the policy of Pennsylvania, because he is “*a Southern man with Southern interests and feelings,*” that is to say, he is a *Slave holder and opposed to the Tariff*. John C. Calhoun, the candidate of the Jackson party for the Vice Presidency, has, as is shown by the above documents, been acting in concert with a party, whose labor is to draw a dividing line in the Union, to destroy the influence of the Northern States, Pennsylvania among the rest, and finally to goad on their fellow-citizens to resist even BY ARMS, laws constitutionally enacted. His opposition to the Tariff is avowed--he has, by his casting vote in the Senate, defeated one bill for the protection of Domestic Manufactures and another for the promotion of Internal Improvement... What patriot or republican can consent to sacrifice all these considerations to gratify *individual ambition?*--It was the last advice of *Washington* to his countrymen, to “*frown indignantly on all attempts to divide the Union in their first dawns.*” The time has arrived, when this advice must be remembered.

A calm and attentive *perusal* (reading) is *solicited* (requested) for this paper. It is submitted to the friends of the *Tariff, of good government, peace, and order*, and the Union of the States.