George Washington Esq., President of the United States of America / E. Savage pinx et sculp, [1793 June 25.]

[Vice-President John Adams, full-length portrait, standing next to globe, facing left, holding document] [between 1850 and 1900]

Letter from Charles Thomson to George Washington, November 5, 1781. [See transcription, p. 8 below.]

The looking glass for 1787. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Mat, chap. 13th verse 26 [1787]

This image index showcases the primary sources featured in the Webcast, "Presidential Elections and Primary Sources from the Library of Congress," which broadcast on September 13, 2012.

If you are interested in accessing this Webcast, please visit the Web site of the MTSU Center for Educational Media.
Senate to George Washington, April 14, 1789, GW elected President of United States [1789; see transcription, p. 9 below]

George Washington to Charles Thomson, April 14, 1789, Acceptance of Presidency [1789; see transcription]

William Henry Harrison [between 1835 and 1856]

Martin Van Buren, president of the United States [between 1839 and 1841]
Tippecanoe and Tyler too! A comic glee. [1840]

Harrison! and reform!! To the Log cabin boys. You are, one and all, invited to attend a meeting of the friends of Harrison & reform, at the Old court room, (Riley's building,) on Saturday evening next, at half past seven, to perfect the arrangem [1840]

This log cabin was the first building erected on the North Bend... [1840]
New Hampshire delegation, Young Men's National Convention [1840]

"President" -- "Rutherford B. Hayes" [c1877]

Our country's hope, Harrison & reform 4th May 1840 [1840]

"Miss Lila L. Morse with kindest regards, Samuel I. Tilden" [1874 Dec. 4.]

Carnival of blood! Republicans to be massacred at the polls! Secret Democratic circular, Tilden's desperate plan to carry a solid South ... New York 1876, [1876]
Washington, D.C.—the Electoral Commission holding a secret session by candle-light, on the Louisiana question, February 16th [1877]

FOR HAYES AND WHEELEER WE ARE MARCHING ON.

BY JAMES NICHOLSON.

Tune—Johnny Comes Marching Home.

Through all the land a cry is heard—

Hurrah! hurrah!

The nation's heart once more is stirred—

Hurrah! hurrah!

From State to State the order flies

Republicans, awake! arise!

For Hayes and Wheeler—we are marching on.

The Democrats are in the field—

Hurrah! hurrah!

But we will make their forces yield—

Hurrah! hurrah!

Tilden, like Greeley, will go down

Beneath the nation's righteous frown.

For Hayes and Wheeler—we are marching on.

The object of our foes is known—

Hurrah! hurrah!

Their schemes shall all be overthrown—

Hurrah! hurrah!

The men who stood by freedom's cause

Shall still administer our laws.

For Hayes and Wheeler—we are marching on.

[A certificate for the electoral vote for Rutherford B. Hayes and William A. Wheeler for the State of Louisiana dated 1876], [1876]

For Hayes and Wheeler we are marching on. By James Nicholson. Tune—Johnny comes marching home. [n.d.]
A truce - not a compromise, but a chance for high-toned gentlemen to retire gracefully from their very civil declarations of war / Th. Nast, [1877]

[Warren G. Harding] [n.d.]  

[James M. Cox, Governor of Ohio, half-length portrait, facing left, seated at desk, reading] / Lucia A. Weeks, Home Portrait Photographer, [c1920.]
'Tomato Can' radio microphone presented to Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Oct. 28. The 'Tomato Can' radio microphone which was used to broadcast the Harding-Cox election returns on November 2, 1920, is one of a series of historic microphones presented recently to the Smithsonian Institution. The 'Tomato Can' is the actual instrument used in the broadcast from station KDKA, Pittsburgh, which is generally considered the first announced broadcast and the world's beginning of broadcasting. Fred C. Reed, Senior Scientific Aide at the Smithsonian, is pictured with the historic mike, 10/28/38 [[1938 October 28.]

Suggested Links:
- Presidential Campaign Posters
- Themed Resources: Elections
- Library of Congress blog: Rock the Vote
- Teaching with the Library of Congress blog: The Path to the Presidency: Presidential Debates
- Creating the United States exhibition
- TPS-TN Newsletter: Political Science
- TPS-TN Newsletter: Presidents & First Ladies
- TPS-TN Newsletter: Elections
Philadelphia Monday Nov. 5th 1781

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that this day pursuant to the articles of Confederation the United States in Congress Assembled proceeded to the choice of a President and have elected for the ensuing year, his Excellency John Hanson.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Obe[dient] humble Servant

Cha[rles] Thomson
Charles Thomson Esquire Secretary of the late Congress being appointed by the Senate of the United States to carry to General Washington the official information of his unanimous election to the office of President of the United States of America arrived at Mount Vernon on the fourteenth day of April Anno Domini on thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, when he communicated to General Washington the purport of his mission in the following words:

“Sir, The President of the Senate chosen for the special purpose, having opened and counted the Votes of the Electors in presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, I was honored with the commands of the Senate to wait upon your Excellency with the information of your being elected to the Office of President of the United States of America. This Commission was entrusted to me on account of my having been long in the confidence of the late Congress and charged with the duties of one of the principal civil departments of Government.

“I have now, Sir, to inform you that the proofs you have given of your patriotism, and of your readiness to sacrifice domestick [sic] ease and private enjoyments to preserve the happiness of your Country did not permit the two Houses to harbour [sic] a doubt of your undertaking this great and important Office to which you are called not only by the unanimous votes of the Electors, but by the voice of America.

“I have it therefore in command to accompany you to New York where the Senate and House of Representatives are convened for the dispatch of public business”~