

Fun Facts

Nickname: "Young Hickory" because of he supported Andrew Jackson's initiatives.

Campaign slogan: "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight" to balance the idea of a new slave state (Texas) with a new free state (Oregon).

Polk was a key figure in Manifest Destiny. After Jefferson, Polk increased the size of the United States more than any other president by a million square miles, adding territory that now comprises of Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Wyoming, Ontana, Colorado and much of New Mexico as a result of the Mexican-American War. He also claimed Oregon territory after a treaty with England.

What is the Value of a Twenty-Dollar Bill?

A \$20 bill is worth 20 dollars. This value can also be written as \$20.00. It is equivalent to 20 \$1, 10 \$2, 4 \$5 or 2 \$10.

Quotes

"Although... the chief magistrate must almost of necessity be chosen by a party and stand pledged to its principles and measures, yet in his official action he should not be the president of a party only, but of the whole people of the United States."

"There is more selfishness and less principle among members of Congress ... than I had any conception of, before I became President of the U.S."

"We must ever mandate the principle that the people of this continent alone have the right to decide their own destiny."

"No President who performs his duties faithfully and conscientiously can have any leisure."

"I cannot, whilst President of the United States, descend to enter into a newspaper controversy."

Web Resources

www.americanpresident.org/presbios/presbios.htm

www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/jp11.html

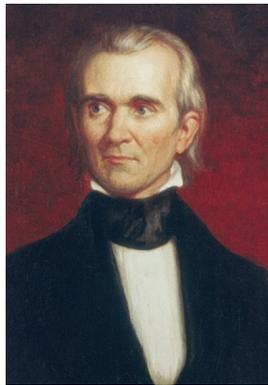


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August 2010

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF RICHMOND BOOKMARK SERIES



WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION)

James Knox Polk

Biography

Full Name:
James Knox Polk

Birth Date & Place:
November 2, 1795
Mecklenburg County,
North Carolina

Schooling:
Home schooled until age of 18

Attended a Presbyterian school near Columbia, Tennessee

Graduated at the head of his class from the University of North Carolina in 1818.

Studied law under prominent Tennessee lawyer, Felix Grundy.

Lived:
North Carolina
Tennessee frontier
Family plantation in Tennessee
Washington, D.C. (White House)

Death:
June 15, 1849
Nashville, Tennessee
banks ("Jackson's pet banks").

Achievements

1832: He was the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and chief administration leader in the House under Andrew Jackson; beat back efforts of supporters fighting to reverse Jackson's policy and secure recharter of the Second Bank of the United States.

1844: He was elected 11th president of the United States of America by the thinnest margin in history at that time and he;

- Restored an independent Treasury system.
- Sharply checked federal appropriations for internal improvements.
- Reduced tariffs substantially.
- Oversaw the largest expansion of U.S. boundaries.

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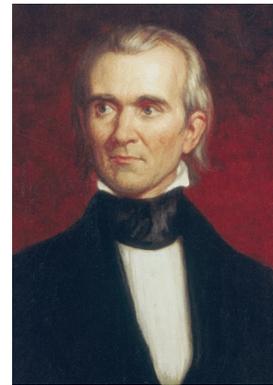


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