

Document 2 – Testimony of John C. Calhoun



I served as Andrew Jackson's Vice President during most of his first term. I originally supported Jackson because of how he was clearly cheated out of the presidency when Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams made that corrupt bargain in 1824. We bonded over our mutual dislike of Adams, and he chose me as his running mate in 1828.

But he has no respect for the rights of the states. Congress passed a tariff in 1828 that totally favored the north over the south, and laws that favor only a small part of the country are unfair and unconstitutional. Northern factory owners thought it was a blessing since it protected their products but at the expense of the south's cotton growers who saw demand for their products fall around the world. It was clearly an attack on the freedom of South Carolina and other southern states, and the state was well within their right to nullify it.

Jackson made some half-hearted promise to reduce the tariff, but that wasn't enough. I resigned as Vice President after he began threatening to use the military against us if we thought about seceding. I'll never forget what he said, "I will hang the first man of them I can get my hands on from the first tree I can find."

It was only thanks to the compromising gifts of Henry Clay that a full-blown war was avoided. Clay came up with a compromise that both sides were able to agree to, which means Jackson wasn't even the hero of the crisis that he perpetrated.

This president threatened to kill the people of South Carolina over exercising our constitutional right to protest. If it wasn't for Congress finally compromising on the 1828 tariff and lowering it, there might have been a full blown war. The man is a bloodthirsty oppressor, and should not receive praise or respect.

Document 3 – Testimony of Daniel Webster

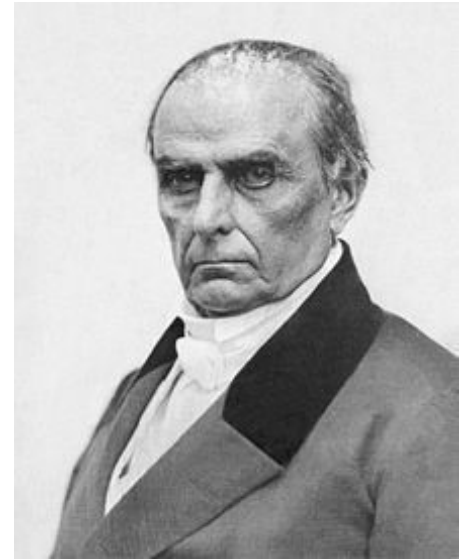
I served as a Senator from Massachusetts while Jackson was president. I don't really care for him much personally, but I admire how he stood strongly for his convictions. He was relentless when trying to win support for his causes, and although we clashed on several issues, I support how he handled the Nullification Crisis in 1828.

I've never been fond of tariffs, but our country is changing. More and more of our national economy is based on manufacturing, and by protecting American manufacturing with tariffs we protect the entire country. It's the south's fault that they haven't built factories like the north, and if they had they'd support the tariff as well.

The people of South Carolina were being totally unreasonable with their opposition to the Tariff of 1828. Jackson sympathized with them at first, asking Congress to lower the tariff as a compromise. We did, but that wasn't good enough for those fools down south. Even after all the other southern states told them that if they really tried to secede they'd be on their own they continued to refuse to pay, and eventually, led by that moron Calhoun, they did the unthinkable.

I remember when Jackson heard that South Carolina was thinking about leaving the country. He was furious, there's no denying that, and immediately reinforced federal forts in the state. He did also put the navy and army on alert, but remember that this was after four years of trying to find a peaceful resolution. We had all had enough, and needed an end to the problem. Jackson knew that South Carolina wasn't serious about bloodshed, and eventually they agreed to a reduction.

The only reason that Clay was able to make that lame compromise and steal the glory was because the alternative was total disaster for South Carolina. He had no choice but to threaten to use force because other states might be tempted to disobey other laws in the future, which could have led to our nation splitting up.



Document 4 – Testimony of John Ross



I am the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, and will never forgive Andrew Jackson for what he has done to my people.

I have lived by the laws of the U.S. my whole life. My children speak English, I own several successful businesses, and I led a unit of soldiers under Jackson in the War of 1812.

I was not ignorant of what might eventually happen to my people. We saw our neighbors the Choctaw and Seminole get removed and took precautions. We made it clear that no Cherokee was authorized to sell Cherokee lands without permission of our National Council. When Jackson passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, we obeyed the laws instead of taking up arms or begin preparing for war. We chose to go to court and pled out case.

The Supreme Court of the United States agreed with us that as a sovereign nation, the government had no right to remove us. We were so relieved and thought we'd be able to go back to living in peace.

However, Jackson decided to do something we never expected. He ignored the Supreme Court's ruling, violating the Constitution, and told the army to force us to leave if we didn't go willingly. One of our people, a traitor name Major Ridge, signed an illegal treaty agreeing to sell our land to the U.S. government. He had no right to do so, and was murdered soon after for his betrayal.

Eventually, the soldier came. They threw women into the snow without shoes and forced them to march. Old men and women were forced to walk until they died. People had to leave all their things behind and marched over 1,000 miles at gunpoint. Anyone who resisted was kept in chains for the entire march or locked into pens like animals.

Almost 4,000 of my people died from starvation, disease, and hypothermia, many of them young children.

Document 5 – Testimony of Nicholas Biddle



I was president of the Bank of the United States, at least until that wild-eyed fool of a president destroyed it to score some popularity points with his uneducated supporters.

The Bank of the United States has been around since the beginning of our nation. The man who founded it was Alexander Hamilton, who created our national economy. Surely if the man responsible for creating our economy though it was a good idea, it should have been allowed to continue strengthening our economy.

The Bank did a lot of good. We had 25 branches across the nation in an effort to make our funds available to everyone who wanted to start a business. It provided all Americans with a stable and uniform currency that was used by all Americans. Let's not forget that 80% of the bank was owned by the people, not the government. The Bank was created to stabilize the economy, and that's exactly what it did while I was there.

Then, in walks Jackson. He is prejudiced against banks because of some businesses dealings that went bad when he was in Tennessee and knows next to nothing about finance. Even after Congress launched an investigation and told him that the Bank had done much good for the nation and that the Constitution allowed for a national bank to exist he ignored them and screamed corruption! Even his own cabinet thought destroying the bank was a bad idea.

I tried to be reasonable. I was prepared to make a deal when the bank's charter needed to be renewed and made several attempts to talk reasonably to Jackson about how we could improve the economy and the whole banking system, but it was like talking to an Oak stump; a lot of wasted effort.

Jackson then withdrew all the government funds from the Bank, nearly 20% of all the money we had, which ruined us, but in doing so nearly crippled the economy. We almost defaulted on all the business loans we had, which could have closed untold numbers of businesses. Is this how a president should act?

Document 6 – Testimony of John Randolph

I was one of the oldest members of the Senate when Jackson came into office. I first started in politics in 1799, so I've seen it all. But I've never been prouder of my country then when that unconstitutional Bank of the United States was finally destroyed.

The Bank should never have been allowed to exists in the first place. It was a power grab by the federal government because nowhere in the constitution does it say the government can create a bank. That power should belong to the states. I don't care what the Supreme Court says, show me where in the Constitution is says the federal government can make a bank and I'll stop talking. Also, the Bank nearly failed twice, causing two nation-wide economic panics that nearly destroyed our economy. It failed to properly regulate credit and currency for the first six years of its existence. And let's not even talk about how only a few hundred Americans owned most of the money in the Bank. It was built to make rich men richer and less then 5% of our population was ever able to access the money for any purpose.

Thankfully, Jackson understood this and decided to put things right. Jackson knew just how corrupt and unfair banks were and made no secret of his plan to destroy the bank. The people supported this idea, re-electing him in 1832, and supporting him while he worked to wreck the bank. Some people accuse him of nearly destroying the U.S. economy in the fight, but it was that devil Nicholas Biddle that was responsible. When his precious bank was on the ropes he started withholding printed money, which caused a financial crisis. He was eventually forced to release the money supply, and the crisis ended the next day. There's your proof of corruption!



Document 7 – Lt. Colonel Theodore Simms



I served under Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. Jackson was by far the best commander I've ever served under and one of the finest soldiers this country has ever produced.

I first met Jackson when he was appointed commander of the Tennessee militia. During the War of 1812, the Creek Indians began slaughtering whites and it was up to Tennessee to put an end to it.

He marched us down to where the Creek were encamped, but almost immediately the plan began to fall apart. We were short of supplies, men began leaving for home after their term of enlistment was up, desertion, late reinforcements. Literally everything that could go wrong did go wrong, but through all of it Jackson never let us lose hope. He was able to hold us together until more men and supplies arrived, then we attacked the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend, where we crushed the Creek and only lost 50 men. Jackson even spared the life of their chief Red Eagle.

Some say that Jackson was merciless when he made war on the Indians but I remember that after one battle, he came across an orphaned Creek boy who's parents had been killed. Jackson took the boy and adopted him, sending him back to his home in Nashville where he raised him on his own. It takes a compassionate person to do something like that in the midst of all that killing.

But Jackson wasn't done. He marched us over to New Orleans when he learned that the city was soon to be attacked by the British. The whole place was in an uproar, but Jackson didn't panic. He then put everyone to work building defenses and preparing for the attack. He was tough, but fair and we started calling him "Old Hickory" because he was as tough and stubborn as a stump. By the time the British showed up we were ready for them.

The British didn't stand a chance. We met em' head on and trounced them in a few hours. The British couldn't believe what had happened, but we knew it was all thanks to Jackson's leadership and planning. I feel honored to have fought along side such a courageous leader.

Document 8 – The Testimony of Osceola

I fought against the man you call Jackson during the First Seminole War when I was just a boy. I say the man you call Jackson because he is known by another name by my people. We call him “long knife” because of his cruelty and bloodlust in battle.

Jackson first came to Florida, my home, to destroy a fort built by the British during the War of 1812. He claimed the fort, which lay inside Spanish Territory, was somehow a threat to the security of the U.S. The fort has become home to Seminole and Creek Indians along with their families. We even sheltered escaped slaves and their loved ones. It was full of women and children, but Jackson could have cared less. In July of 1816 he ordered his gunboats to fire on the fort, killing more than 250 men, women, and children.

This was only the beginning. Soon, Americans were raiding our remaining lands, stealing our livestock, and killing our people. We did go into white lands to retrieve our stolen property, and there was some killing, but nothing compared to what Jackson was about to bring to us.

After a raid on a military supply boat where our warriors, blinded by rage, killed most of the people on board, Jackson and his men invaded Florida, violating the boundaries of the Spanish, and set out to destroy all the Indians he could. He hung our leaders without trials, killed our warriors without mercy, and burned more than 300 Indian homes to the ground. Our women and children had nowhere to shelter in the winter and were forced to hide in the swamps for weeks. After he had destroyed enough, he and his men left.

Some say Jackson is a great warrior, but I see nothing great about a man who makes war against women and children.



Document 9 – The Testimony of Thomas Swan

I knew Andrew Jackson well, and let me tell you I'm still shocked that a man like him could get elected dog catcher, much less president! Jackson was the most hard-drinking, horse racin', hot-tempered yahoo in all of Tennessee, and you can quote me! I knew him well!

I didn't know Jackson 'till he came to Tennessee, but when he arrived, he sure made a splash. I spent many a Tennessee night with Jackson playing cards, fighting roosters, betting on horse races, fighting in bars and drinking . . . oh lord, the drinking. Jackson would fight at the drop of the hat and would drop the hat himself!

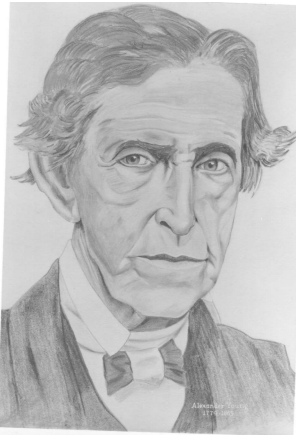
Jackson once got into a fight with another friend of mine over some simple misunderstanding. My friend Charles tried to apologize, but Jackson was so enraged he refused to hear my friends' apologies. Instead, he reached for his pistol and challenged him to a duel. Charles reluctantly accepted, not wanting to be seen a coward. When the two of them squared off, Jackson gunned Charles down in the street like a dog, murdering him without remorse and leaving his wife and young child without a provider. Jackson actually joked about this whole incident during his campaign, which is disgusting if you ask me.

Jackson got into several more duels and near duels as he rose through Tennessee politics. When he couldn't get his way, he threatened or bullied those near him. Anyone who disagreed with him became his enemy, and like he did when he was in the military, he sought to destroy them.

When his wife tragically died after the campaign of 1828, he actually went so far as to blame his opponents. Sure she was attacked in the papers by the Republicans, but these attacks were no different then the ones he himself had his fellow Democrats printed about John Quincy Adams. I think his were far nastier if you ask me.



Document 10 – The Testimony of Robert Crawford



I have had the pleasure of knowing Andrew since they day he was born. I was with his father and mother on the boat over from Scotland, and watched the man we all now know as president grown into a spirited youth despite circumstances that would have destroyed any of us.

Jackson never knew his father. The poor man died just a few months before Jackson was born. His mother was forced to live off the kindness of family members as she worked to support Jackson and his two older brothers. I don't think he ever received more than a sixth grade education, and yet he still went on to become a lawyer all on his own.

The Revolutionary War was especially cruel to Andrew. He was too young to fight with regular American troops, but instead fought with guerillas in the forests of South Carolina at age 13. He was soon captured, and despite being no more than a boy, refused to clean the boots of his British captors, a job he felt unfair and demeaning. They beat him and nearly starved him to death for his insolence, but he stuck to his principals.

He survived, but his older brothers and mother all died, leaving him an orphan. My wife and I watched him for a time, but he moved around a lot, becoming a schoolteacher in North Carolina while he taught himself law. He wasn't from a wealthy family and had no money. He earned his way in life and worked very hard to get where he is today.

He did have his wild side of course, but that's what the west was like back then. There's hardly a person in Tennessee who hasn't been charged with assault or theft! It was a wild place, but although Jackson definitely had his wild-side , there aren't many people who wish him ill and Jackson didn't hold many grudges.

I remember in 1813 he and some of his friends fought with the Benton brothers. Although Jackson was shot and nearly lost his arm, he and the Benton's later made up and Tom Benton, who is now a Senator, is one of his strongest political allies in Washington.

Document 11 – The Testimony of William H. Crawford

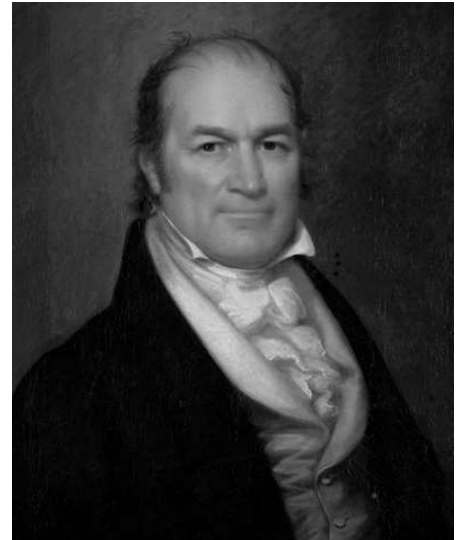
I was Secretary of the Treasury under John Quincy Adams and had the misfortune to lose in the 1824 presidential election. But, from the sidelines, I witnessed how the election exposed the true nature of my opponents.

After the election, where no clear winner was uncovered, the deciding vote went to the House of Representatives. As we all know, Mr. Henry Clay made a deal with John Quincy Adams and Jackson lost what should have been a clear win for him. What most people don't know is what happened immediately after.

Jackson was furious, there is no denying that. He and his followers all claimed that Clay and Adams had robbed Jackson of what should have been his win. It took a little while for him to settle down, but at the celebratory ball he showed what kind of man he was. Upon arriving, he immediately walked over to Mr. Adams and congratulated him on a well-run campaign. All of Washington's most powerful families saw how he conducted himself, and while Adams' sulked in a corner of the mansion, Jackson became the life of the party, entertaining everyone with his stories, jokes, and excellent manners.

I know most people portray him as an unwashed, foul mouthed, country lawyer, but I can swear that Jackson is much more than that. He is the hero of the chosen people, showing that through hard work and determination anyone, even a former orphan from Tennessee, can rise to become a powerful, well-respected member of Washington society.

In the weeks that followed, he founded the Democrats, a party made up of farmers and settlers. This was the first time in American history that a political voice had been given to the common man, and that alone makes Jackson a hero. He allowed those with no real power the chance to participate in our nation's democracy by inspiring people to become something more than themselves.



Document 12 – The Testimony of John Quincy Adams



I had the luck of being Andrew Jackson's worst enemy for a time when we were both running for president. This means that I had the audacity to actually beat him and wasn't willing to apologize for winning afterwards.

Jackson and I first crossed paths when he invaded Florida, nearly starting a war with Spain in the process. He had no orders to do this, refused to come home when told by President Monroe, and if it hadn't been for my diplomatic skills we may never have been able to avoid a war with Spain that he nearly started.

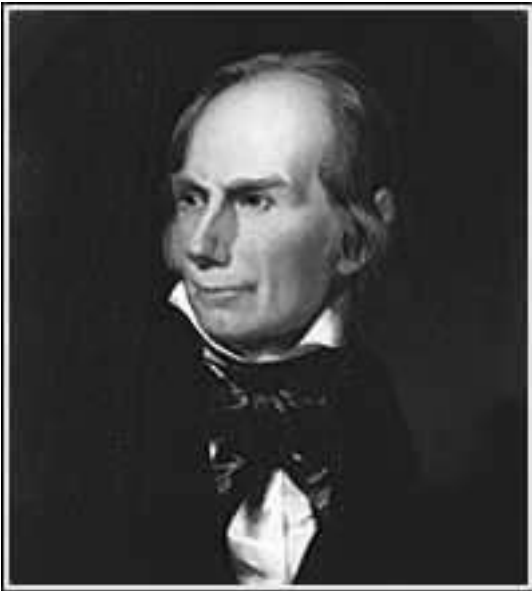
At some point he got it in his head that killing British soldiers in the War of 1812 somehow qualified him for the office of Commander in Chief. The fact that the only people who voted for him were uneducated and simple-minded dirt farmers proves my point. Thanks to the fact that these people are as numerous as locusts, he almost won, but not by enough to avoid a run-off in the House of Representatives, thank God

I'm not going to comment on whether or not a deal was struck, but I will say that nothing illegal was done, no investigation was ever called for, and Jackson was only angry because he didn't think of it first! After he lost, or as I like to say after the country was saved, he went ballistic, ranting and raving about foul play and dirty politics instead of taking his defeat graciously, like a gentleman.

For my four years in office, I had to deal with Jackson's angry and dim-witted followers who stopped me from accomplishing anything. The reason I made little progress on my goals was because Jackson told his followers to purposefully block my progress so he could win in 1828.

And when he did win, thanks to a brilliant combination of dirty politics and large numbers of hick farmers, he let them destroy the White House in celebration. Next, he'll let them have at the country!

Document 14 – Testimony of Henry Clay



Jackson and I have been political adversaries as well as allies for many years now. There have been things that have made him great and things that will no doubt make him live in infamy. But when I think of who he really is, I think of how he handled the executive branch upon entering office.

Many people remember how mobs of people followed him wherever he went and interpreted this as him being followed by his admirers. The truth is that the throngs of people that followed him wherever he went were people he promised jobs to in exchange for their support during the election of 1828. And once he entered the White House, they came to collect.

Jackson had promised so many people so much that he soon began firing people to make room for those who he had promised jobs. He fired over 400 people from the federal post office alone, and these were people whose families depended on their paycheck for survival. They had nothing once Jackson threw them out on the street, and he did it just to make room for his Democratic supporters. Nothing like this had ever been done before, so a new term was created, “spoils system”.

Many of the men who were replaced had years of experience at their jobs and had an excellent reputation. A lot of them were personal friends of mine who had served in Washington for years and years. Then, one day, with the stroke of his pen, Jackson cut them loose without remorse. The next day some young fool would show up with no experience whatsoever and take over the position. This happened nearly 900 times in Jackson’s first term alone!

I guess it’s understandable that Jackson would do such a thing. In ancient times, when conquering generals took over a city after a long battle they would divide up the treasurers of the conquered city among their most loyal supporters. This time, the general was Jackson and the conquered city was Washington D.C.

Document 15 – Testimony of William L. Macy

I was elected as a Democratic Senator from New York state right after Jackson entered office. Like many politician before him, he promised to end corruption in the government, but unlike most politicians, he actually succeeded in doing so.

When Jackson came into office he did so at the tail end of nearly 30 years of Republicans in office. Some of the people who were employed by the federal government had been there for so long they saw their jobs and personal possessions. Some of them had become so inept they didn't even show up for work. Others were so corrupt the only thing they wouldn't steal was a red-hot stove.

As the new president, it was Jackson's job to staff the federal government, and of course he isn't going to keep people there who don't agree with him or who he doesn't trust. It was his right as the winner of the election to put whoever he wanted in whatever position he felt they fit best in. You think Jefferson kept any of Adams' Federalist friends in office? No! He threw them out and replaced them with his own people, just like Jackson!

Some people say he cleaned house, putting thousands out on the street without any remorse. That's just not true. He only fired about 10% of those who were in office before he came in, meaning that he actually employed more Republicans than Democrats in his administration. And he wasn't heartless. When an old postmaster Jackson wanted to fire came to him and pleaded for his job Jackson let him keep it after he realized the old man was a veteran of the War of 1812.

Jackson promised an end to corruption and an end to government being run by the wealthy elite. And he delivered.

