

1116-01-80

**Ronald L Merritt\*** ([ronald.merritt@athens.edu](mailto:ronald.merritt@athens.edu)), Athens State University, Dept. of Mathematical, Computer and Nat. Sci., 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, AL 35613. *An investigation of the mathematical texts used by selected eighteenth and nineteenth century United States Presidents.*

President John Quincy Adams, prior to his entrance into Harvard College, studied mathematics primarily from Fenning's Algebra and Ward's Mathematics, under the direction of Adams' tutor. During the early nineteenth century, President James Knox Polk successfully learned about arithmetic, algebra and geometry from Hutton's Mathematics to satisfy his mathematics requirements at the University of North Carolina. A few decades later President James Abram Garfield prepared for transfer into Williams College by practicing the mathematics problems from at least three different mathematics textbooks authored by Elias Loomis. A comparison of these texts used by these three presidents will provide insight regarding the rigor of some of the mathematics problems each likely had to solve. (Received July 15, 2015)