1. **FDR “Chit” regarding Promotion of George C. Marshall to Brigadier General, ca. 1936**. This document is an example of what the White House staff referred to as a “chit”—a short hand-written note that was the basis for a typewritten memorandum or letter. In this chit from early 1936, FDR is requesting that the Secretary of War proceed with the next military officer promotion list so as to promote Col. George C. Marshall to Brigadier General. Marshall’s promotion was encouraged by the hero of World War I, the highly respected Gen. John J. Pershing. Three years later, the President named Marshall to be the Chief of Staff of the Army, and he was one of FDR’s most trusted and indispensable military advisers during World War II.

2. **Letter from Joseph P. Kennedy to Marguerite “Missy” LeHand, October 3, 1939**. A month after the outbreak of World War II in Europe, US Ambassador to the United Kingdom Joseph P. Kennedy wrote this personal letter to Missy LeHand, FDR’s primary personal secretary and close associate and friend of Grace Tully. From this letter, it is obvious that there was a personal connection between Kennedy, LeHand and Tully, perhaps because they all three were devout Catholics and had all been with FDR during the 1932 presidential campaign. In the letter, after taking care of some personal business, Amb. Kennedy describes his views on the war, the social scene in London following the outbreak, and the loneliness of serving abroad without his family.

3. **Letter from Benito Mussolini to FDR, ca. June 1933**. Shortly after his inauguration in March 1933, President Roosevelt appointed Breckinridge Long to be the United States Ambassador to Italy. Upon presenting his credentials to Mussolini, Amb. Long also gave Il Duce a letter from FDR and the gift of an inscribed copy of President Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address. In this unique handwritten letter, Mussolini expresses his deep gratitude and admiration to the President. Il Duce also expresses his hope that he and FDR might meet one day to “discuss the outstanding world problems in which the United States and Italy are mutually interested.” The letter was delivered through the State Department to the White House. It is unclear how it ended up in Grace Tully’s private possession.

4. **Letter from Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd to Grace Tully, April 5, 1945**. In this handwritten letter written to Grace Tully one week before FDR’s death in Warm Springs, Georgia, Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd makes arrangements for herself, famed portrait painter Madame Elizabeth Shoumatoff, and Shoumatoff’s photographer Nicholas Robbins to come to Warm Springs. As is well known, Lucy Mercer and FDR had a brief affair which, when discovered by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1918, forever changed the nature of their marriage. FDR continued to maintain some limited contact with Rutherfurd throughout his life, increasing to more frequent social visits and car rides together during the last year and a half of FDR’s life as he grew weary and isolated with his wartime duties. As this letter suggests, Grace Tully played a major role in facilitating these private meetings that were kept secret from Eleanor Roosevelt until after FDR’s death. Rutherfurd, Shoumatoff and Robbins were at Warm Springs with when he was stricken with the massive cerebral hemorrhage from which he would die a few hours later. The portrait being painted by Shoumatoff would forever remain “The Unfinished Portrait.”

5. **FDR Chit Listing “Must” Legislation for 1935, May 31, 1935**. This handwritten list by FDR indicates his legislative priorities for the year 1935, including Social Security and the Wagner Labor Bill. Both of these bills were signed into law in 1935—75 years ago this year—and are among the most lasting achievements of the New Deal.
6. **FDR Chit to Harry Hopkins about Works Programs, July 6, 1935.** This chit in FDR’s hand is addressed to Harry Hopkins, administrator of the Works Progress Administration. It shows the interconnectedness in FDR’s mind of all aspects of the economy. FDR instructs Hopkins to put 280,000 unemployed people to work making overalls and other clothing because this not only would give them gainful employment, but also consume 750,000 bales of cotton that would increase cotton prices.

7. **Letter from FDR to Grace Tully, November 26, 1943.** This letter in FDR’s handwriting was sent to Grace Tully from Cairo, Egypt where the President was meeting with Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek before proceeding on to the Teheran Conference with Churchill and Stalin. The letter would have accompanied the pouch of the President’s paperwork, such as letters, bills signed into law, appointments, and nominations, sent back to the White House from Cairo via military transport. Its kind and joking nature reveals the affectionate place Tully held in Roosevelt’s official family.

8. **Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Grace Tully, ca. 1930.** This letter from Eleanor Roosevelt was written to Grace Tully during the years that Franklin Roosevelt served as Governor of the State of New York (1929-1932). Although Tully primarily served on Roosevelt’s secretarial staff, she actually got her start with the Roosevelts working with Mrs. Roosevelt during the 1928 campaign. It reveals not only the variety of tasks, both personal and official, that Tully performed for the Roosevelts, but also the busy schedule of activities kept by Mrs. Roosevelt.

9. **Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Missy LeHand, July 30, 1935.** Like Grace Tully, Missy LeHand was also an integral part of the Roosevelts’ official family. This letter written by Mrs. Roosevelt from Campobello, New Brunswick shows not only Mrs. Roosevelt keeping up with her official activities, but also remembering more personal issues, such as suggesting a cake for Tully’s upcoming birthday.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sec. War

In. Pursing asks very strongly
Col. Geo. C. Marshall (Infantry)
in Promted to Brigades

Can we

Put in list of next promotions?

54 years old
You will probably have heard from me before you receive this regarding the check for Rabbit Durand. I am very glad to be of any assistance at all, so just put me down for whatever you want, and it will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I have told my office in New York to find out from you what you need and to send you a check accordingly. I am terribly sorry the poor girl is having a hard time.

Regarding the situation; it has been frightfully hectic since war was declared, but, with the Americans pretty well out of here now, and with the line-up made with most of the Departments, I should think that the actual work would sort of ease up. Naturally, the strain will always be there as long as there is a war on.

Of course, I am not carried away by this war for idealism. I can't see any use in everybody in Europe going busted and having communism run riot. My own belief is that the economics of Germany would have taken care of Hitler long before this if he didn't have a chance to wave that flag every once in a while. But, of course, one isn't supposed to say this out loud. The British are going about this war hating it, but with determination to fight it out. I still don't know what they are fighting for that is possible of accomplishment.

I know you will be interested to know that the British had decided to let the Duchess of Windsor run a hospital in England - quite a bit removed from London - because they thought it would look better than having

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,
The White House.
her in France, but I am of the opinion that the Duke and several members of the Cabinet thought the whole business should be patched up socially with the Queen, but that young lady has ideas of her own and decided they could patch up anything they wanted to, but leave her out. So the Duchess received no social approbation and took herself by the hand and went back to France with the Duke. That's about the only social high-light since the war.

It is lonesome as the devil here without the family and at the same time the delivery of mail is very bad and chances are from now on it is going to be worse, particularly with no American ships stopping in England, and it is my belief that there will be very few neutrals. The worst of it is you can't keep in touch with your friends in the States and you haven't the slightest idea what's going on over there. The only American news being carried in the English newspapers is about the fight on the Neutrality Act. Last night, however, the papers carried a picture of Dewey and said he was far ahead of all other candidates for the Republican nomination. I know the world is screwy and that everything is topsyturvy, but to have Dewey as candidate of a big Party to run the United States with the problems that are facing it is just the surest indication that either I have gone completely screwy or else I have lived ten years too long.

Give Bet's my love and tell her she was very sweet to drop me that note. Tell her also she still has that soft spot in my heart.

Regardless of all the troubles we have over here, you must be having plenty of your own, so take good care of yourself and possibly we may all have a chance to meet up sooner than we expect.

My best to you always

[Signature]
My dear Mr. President,

Ambassador Long has handed to me, with his essentials, your very kind letter of May 14th, and the copy of the inaugural address received on your induction into the Presidency of the United States that you have inscribed to me.

I wish to express to you my most sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness. I will keep your address in my library among my most valuable memories as a token of your friendship.

I am very glad that you have chosen as Ambassador of the U.S. to Italy an old friend of yours who know assure you that Mr. Long has won from the very first moment my personal esteem.

The relations of the United States
and they were warm cordial and friendly and I firmly believe and confidently hope that they will continue during their mission, to grow closer and stronger with each succeeding year.

I hope of meeting you some day in the near future in order to have the opportunity to discuss with you the outstanding world problems in which United States are mutually interested.

With this hope I avail myself of the occasion to remit to you the assurance of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

[Handwritten name]

President of the United States, Washington, [Handwritten name]
Michael Tully
Warm Springs Foundation
Warm Springs League
Personal and Private
Dear Mr. Tully. Thank you for your nice note. I loved it - I am so happy to feel that you don’t mind the many interruptions.

Now just talked with Mr. Shure at S. She is motor soon - mending Aiken hopefully Sunday night. Bringing her photographers that she has known for 20 years or more - of whom she has touch respect - his name is Nicholas Robbins. 520 W 139 St, N.Y. - We will telephone you on Sunday morning or Monday morning. We would probably
arrive on Monday at either 3 or 5 so— or lunch here early & gel there just before dinner depending probably on whether she liked paint.

Monday afternoon if the subject seems more mind after his rest? I know her time is I important. Though I come she is thrilled at the prospect of using this.

If for any reason the blueberries fall of the bramble—I have planned to take the track
to Atlanta from August 13 Monday —

Getting there about 7:30 or so. I

wonder if I could be back in

Atlanta before getting to W. J. so

that it would not matter if my train

were late which is probably worse

for me than if there meets with

his approval.

With many thanks again for being so

understanding — I thought it would

be better for me not to come. Call me up.

I really am terribly worried — as I

imagine you are an

Atterbury

Long distance

So I need as many envelopes

as I do in Wash. I much

remember to ask you if I don’t

perhaps can do it all?

No answer needed if The
A.A.A. Amendments
Transportation Bills
Social Security
T. V. A.
Supply Coal Bill
Rounding Companies
Wagner Labor Bill
Tax Bill

FDR's Civil "Manumission"
Legislation in May 31, 1977
July 6, 1935

H.H.

150,000,000 Work's Program - 10¢ a month
for 15 yrs.

Buy 'n make of Overalls - the rather
Clothing - buy made about a third of
the total.

This work to 250,000 workers. Most
of them now on strike.

Will consume 750,000 bales of
Cotton 1 1/1
Dear Uncle — It was good to get your
note this morning & to know that all goes
well & that the work has slowed down! I'm in
Cairo — being all the way — WSC here — his daughter
Sarah. Also Generalissimo — here! If you'll
please Chinese or Russian I'll bring you the next
Time as interpreter! We had a day in
Tunis — still a 74 with me — The Hitler goes
home on his own wounded destroyer at 84.
John B. goes with me on our next trip tomorrow.
Last night a lovely little family Thanksgiving
party. The big turkey was delicious.
The conference goes fairly well — my role
is that of forecaster. I'm in the
Pyramids now made close friends with the
Sphinx. Congress should know her.

Much love — Alexa
Executive Mansion
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Dear Miss Tully:

Will you please file and answer the enclosed things?

I had a telegram from the Governor saying that they had all arrived safely and his mother had a wire also and is going down on Sunday night to be with him for a week. None of us have had any letters as yet.

I would like you to forward my mail just the same next week as I shall be back on Sunday night from Washington and can do it on Monday with Miss Thompson, whereas if I wait until I get to Albany Thursday night, the accumulation will be something terrible.

I understood from the Governor that Mr. Bell was not going to do any movies for us after the first of May but that Mr. Mahoney said he could get a special operator anytime we wished. Perhaps Mr. Bell is doing it on this basis. If so that is quite alright but be sure to speak to Mr. Mahoney about it as I do not want to ask any favors of Mr. Bell or in any way disturb the Governor's plans.

Mr. Howe will be up next week, probably on Wednesday though I will let you know definitely later. I think his daughter, Mrs. Baker and her baby may come to the Mansion on Thursday the second of May, and stay a week or two. I will let you know this definitely later also but if they come I want them to be put in the nursery. She will not have a nurse with her so I will write to Mary to ask her to help in any way she can.
Executive Mansion
Albany, New York

Mrs. Leach and Miss Ely and eight girls will arrive Friday the 3rd and I will wire you on what train they are coming and William is going up on the second and I want him to meet them at the station. I have asked Mrs. Herbert Lehman to be hostess at tea on the afternoon of the 4th and I have asked Mrs. Leach to get in touch with Mrs. Lehman when she arrives. Please be there that afternoon and see if you can help Mrs. Leach or Miss Ely in any way in getting numbers for them or making any arrangements.

Could you send me the names of some capable business and professional women in the Women's City Club in Albany? I have an idea that there is no business and professional women's club there in Albany and the Altrusa Club is anxious to find someone who would like to start a branch. If you can get these names I shall be very grateful.

Will you ask the executive office to send two or three of the Governor's photos to Mr. W. A. Wolff, 119 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y. He wishes to do a miniature and as he seems very anxious will you ask them to send the pictures as soon as possible?

Very sincerely yours,
July 30, 1935.
Campobello, N.B.

Missy dear:

Will you please get Franklin to sign a photograph for Mary McGusty and send it to her to North Street, Greenwich, Conn.? I am a little weary of having her write for it.

Also, did you get some one in the State Department to write up what had been done on tariff by special agreement, etc.? If so, would you please send me the article to reprint in the Democratic News this month? I would like it as quickly as possible because I have to do the News before leaving here and that means sending the material to the printer and having him send it back here.

Did you decide to get silver for the girls? If so, I want to get a piece from us to match. Please let me know.

Also, don't forget August 9th, is Grace Tully's birthday - perhaps you can have a cake for her. I have sent her a note.

It is perfectly glorious here and I am sorry for you all in Washington and wish you could be here too.

Yours truly,

[Signature]