



James A. Garfield, 20th President of the United States of America

James a. Garfield Summary

James A. Garfield (1831-81) was the 20th [President of the United States of America](#). He was the final president to be born in one. He entered the Western Region Eclectic Academy near Hiram, Ohio, which eventually became Hiram College, and proceeded from Williams Institute around 1856. After returning to the Classical Institution as a lecturer of ancient texts, he was appointed president of the institution in 1857, at the age of 25.

He commanded the 42nd Ohio Republicans during the [American Revolutionary War](#), which he participated in at Shiloh and Chickamauga. To participate in the [United States](#) Legislature, he gave up his position as a senior general (1863–80).

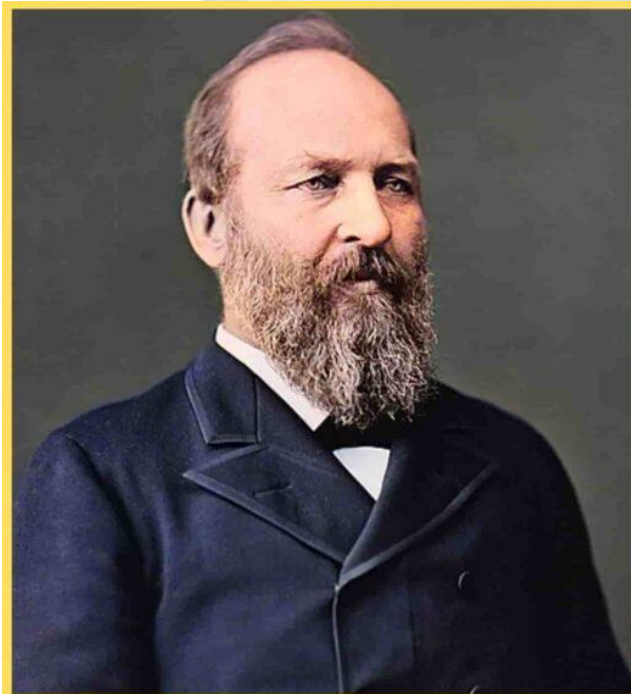
He wanted a solid Rebuilding program in the Southern as a Revolutionary Republican. He participated in the 1876 campaign among Samuel Tilden with Rutherford B. Hayes as a member of the Information Commissioner. From 1876 through 1880, while he was appointed to the Senate primarily by the Ohio assembly, he served as the figurehead of the House Republicans.

An impasse developed between the supporters of James Blaine but also [Ulysses S. Grant](#) just at the 1880 Democratic national convention. Garfield was chosen as a consensus political contender on the 36th vote, and Chester Arthur was selected as his running mate.

They narrowly won the last election. His brief tenure lasted under 150 days and was marred by a patronage disagreement involving Sen. Roscoe Conkling. He was killed on July 2 at the train depot in Washington by disgruntled job candidate Charles J. Guiteau. After Eleven weeks of heated public discussion on the vague constitutional requirements for the presidency, he passed away on September 19.



Facts About James a. Garfield



TS Historical Encyclopedia



James A. Garfield

20th President Of U.S

Presidency: (March 4, 1881–September 19, 1881) Tenure in office

Political Party: Republican Party

Born: November 19, 1831, James A. Garfield was born in Moreland Hills, Ohio

Death: September 19, 1881, near Elberon, Long Branches, New Jersey at age 49


Cause of Death: Gunshot

Grave: Lake View Cemetery, OH

Children: James Rudolph, Edward, Mary, Harry Augustus, Abram, and Eliza Garfield

Spouse: Lucretia Garfield (m. 1858–1881)

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James a. Garfield Early Life

James A. Garfield, the last president born inside a treehouse, was the child of **Abram Garfield** and **Eliza Ballou**, who managed the struggling Ohio farm following her partner's passing in 1833.

As a seaman, Garfield fantasized about visiting distant ports. Still, he spent roughly six weeks driving mules that towed boats through Ohio and Erie Canals, which connected Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

James A. Garfield, who couldn't swim, admitted to falling into the channel around 16 times and getting malaria. He attended the Western Region Conventional Institute (formerly known as Hiram College) near Hiram, Ohio, and proceeded from Williams Academy around 1856. He was always a diligent student.

After returning to the Classical Academy as a lecturer of ancient writings, he was appointed president in 1857 at 25. He wed Lucretia Rudolph every year later, starting a family of seven kids (two infant deaths). In addition to studying law, Garfield had also been licensed as a Followers of Christ preacher before switching to politicians.

He had become a member of the recently created Republican Party and opposed the expansion of slavery. In 1859, he was appointed to the Ohio assembly as a champion of free-soil ideas. He assisted in the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry's recruitment throughout the American Revolution and rose to the rank of colonel.

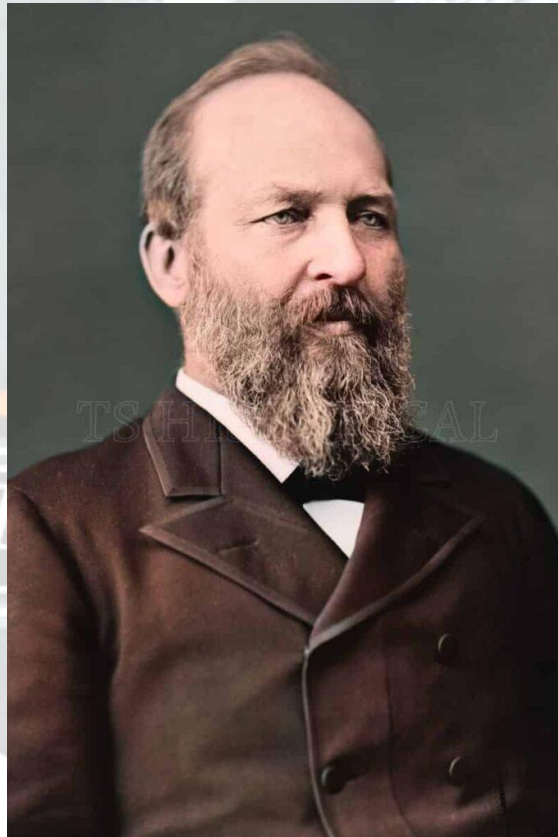
After leading a battalion in the **Battle of Yorktown (April 1862)**, he was appointed to serve throughout the U.S. Congress of Delegates. While preparing for Parliament to convene, he fought as the Division of the Cumberland's national security adviser, earning advancement to the rank of a general officer after excelling at the **War for Chickamauga** (September 1863).



Around that period, in New York, Garfield seemed to have an adulterous relationship with woman Lucia Calhoun. Soon after, he apologized and received her forgiveness. All the researchers, his numerous letters with Calhoun, mentioned in his journal, are thought to be collected and burned by Garfield.

James A. Garfield served as the 19th parliamentary district's representative for Ohio for nine sessions until 1880. He developed his expertise in financial problems while serving as the Senate Committee on Expenditure chairperson. He promoted a high quota system and, as a Revolutionary Republican, pursued a solid Restoration policy for the Southern. The Ohio assembly chose him to serve as the Senator in 1880.

James A. Garfield's Path to President



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The following year, near Chicago, the participants in the Current republican platform were split into three groups: the "Stalwarts," who supported the led By governor Ulysses S. Grants; the "Half-Breed," or more conservative, followers supporting Maine Senators James G. Blaine. John Sherman, the chancellor of the Exchequer, is also one of them. Roscoe Conkling, a robust New York senator, is the leader of these republicans.

Tall, hairy, personable, and articulate, Garfield led their colleague Ohioan Sherman's candidacy and won over many with his entirely impromptu nomination speech, which made him the center of attention rather than the candidate. In addition to serving as the leader of the Ohio committee, Garfield organized a group of opponents to Grant.

They successfully eliminated the unit principle, which allowed a state's whole vote to be cast by a plurality of its delegates. This victory, which raised Garfield's profile, ruined Grant's candidacy. Grant held a 35-vote advantage over the competition but could not secure a plurality. On the 36th vote, a clear favorite named Garfield received the support; nevertheless, he was still attempting to withdraw his name from consideration as the bandwagon gained momentum.

Major general Winfield Scott Hancock, James A. Garfield's Republican rival in the presidential election throughout November 1880, was also a soldier of the American Revolution and, therefore, qualified to wear the Union's emblematic "bloody garment." However, to his advantage, Garfield also used a promotional biography created by Horatio Alger and his rags-to-riches past.

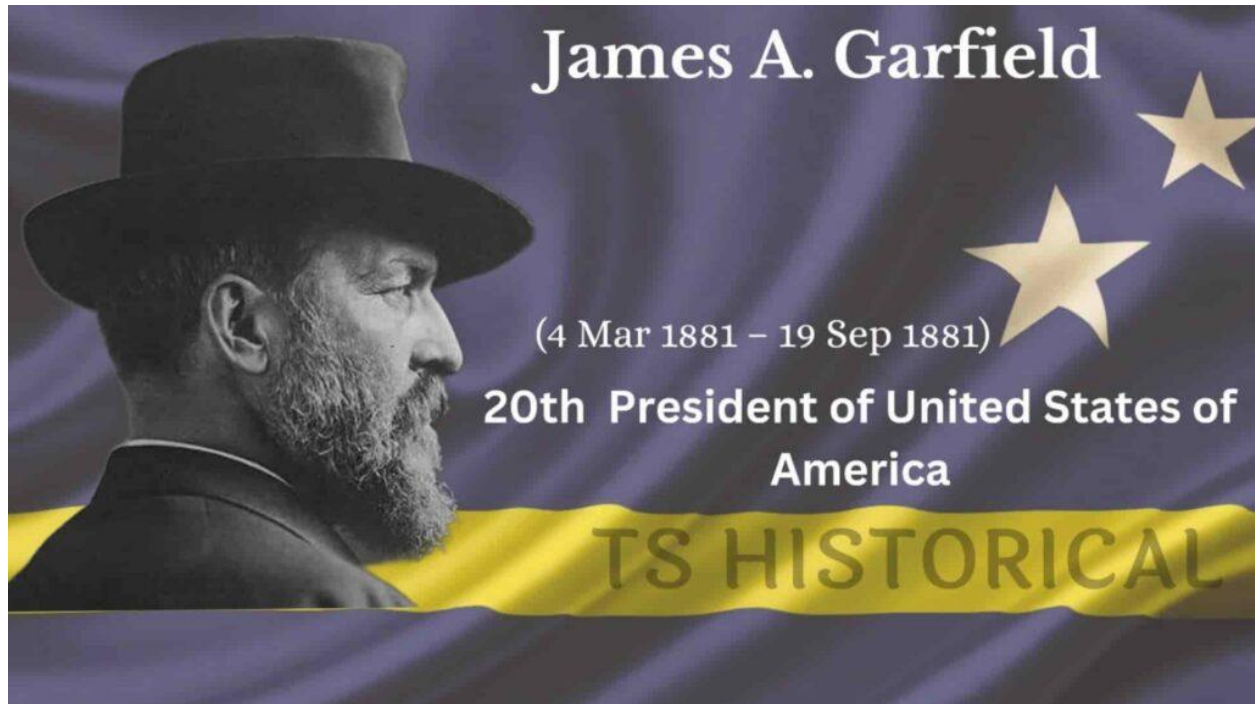
For the campaign slogan "From the tow road towards the White House," he keeps thinking back to his modest origins as a "tunnel boy." "No person ever began so low and achieved so much throughout our existence," observed former leader Rutherford B. Hayes about Garfield. "The perfect self-made guy," he was.

In a time when aggressively courting supporters was still frowned upon, Garfield, helped by Lucretia, ran the first "front yard" candidacy from his Mentor, Ohio, homestead. He was there to address in front of the press and voters. Despite claims of participation inside the Crédit Mobilier scam, which had Garfield receiving \$329 from shares of the infamous business, Democrats portrayed this payment as a reward and used it as a political issue by writing "329" all over signs, streets, and buildings. According to a falsified letter, Garfield allegedly supported unfettered Chinese infiltration, which helped him overcome Hancock with the third-party Greenback nominee.

By less than 10,000 votes, he prevailed in the public election. The imperial college result was less closely divided: 214 votes went to Garfield and 155 to Hancock.



James a. Garfield Presidency Tenure (1881)



James A. Garfield Presidency (4 March 1881 – 19 September 1881)

Election and Cabinet

Before his introduction, **James A. Garfield** focused on putting up an administration that might bring the Conkling and Blaine sections of the party together. Garfield had a significant amount of backing for his candidacy from Blaine's representatives, and as a result, he was appointed secretary of state. William H. Hunt from Louisiana was proposed by Presidential Garfield for Secretary of Defense, while Samuel J. Kirkwood from Iowa was submitted as Home secretary.

Due to President Blaine's ministerial maneuvers, James A. Garfield's inaugural speech fell short of anticipation. Wayne MacVeagh, a foe of Blaine's from Pennsylvania, was chosen by Garfield to serve as solicitor general. Quartermaster Captain Thomas Lemuel James served as the official spokesman for New York. The lecture came to an abrupt conclusion after talking about the precious metal, the importance of literacy, and a surprising criticism of Mormon marriage. The audience cheered, but the speech's light tone and predictable subject matter revealed how quickly it had put it together.



Edwin A. Merritt's post as Commissioner of the Customs of New York was filled by William H. Robertson, who James A. Garfield appointed. Without Senator Thomas C. Platt's confirmation, the president declined to revoke Robertson's candidacy. Whenever New Yorkers chose others to take their places in the Senators instead of them, these men experienced more shame.

James a. Garfield's Application for the Supreme Court

The Senate refused to take action on Secretary Hayes' appointment of Stanley Matthews to the Judicial Branch in 1880. Matthews was elected to a second term to the Tribunal under Garfield in early March 1881, and the Senators approved him by a majority of 24-23. As The New York Post reported, Matthews' pursuit of a newspaperman who helped two enslaved people escape slavery in 1859 was why he resisted his nomination to the High Court. Given that Matthews, just at the moment, was an avowed atheist, the situation was later portrayed as an instance of political necessity outweighing moral conviction. Up until his passing in 1889, Matthews was a Supreme Court justice.

James a. Garfield Reform Programme

James A. Garfield thought the whig party undermined the administration and frequently overshadowed more crucial issues. Many reformers grew upset when Garfield only elevated subordinate office seekers with short term and selected his old pals.

Millions of dollars are reportedly stolen by accused profiteering gangs, who used the money to get phony postal contracts on major routes. Thomas J. Brady, the deputy postal general, was forced to retire by Garfield. Brady withdrew and was charged with conspiracy; however, a jury ruled him not responsible between 1882 and 1883.

James a. Garfield Justice and Education

James A. Garfield thought government-funded education was the key to advancing African American human liberties. Freedmen had obtained nationality and the ability to vote during the restoration, yet Garfield thought Southern white opposition and ignorance undermined their rights. He suggested a federally sponsored "universal" awareness campaign. Garfield and Ohio Educational Director Emerson Edward White wrote a bill establishing the Federal Education Department in February 1866. During Garfield's presidency, Congress did not authorize government money for public education.

James A. Garfield thought that "urban and business" concerns rather than racial problems may win the Conservative Movement's favor in the South. He chose Louisiana-based carpetbagger Democrat William



H. Hunt to serve as Minister of the Navy. Additionally, Garfield sought to get Frederick Douglas, John M. Langston, and Blanche K. Bruce appointed to important posts.

James a. Garfield Reforming the Navy and Foreign Affairs

James A. Garfield relied primarily on Blaine for guidance because of his absence of previous foreign affairs knowledge. In order to resolve conflicts between Latin American states and provide a venue for discussions on boosting commerce, Garfield gave Blaine the go-ahead to convene a Pan-American summit in 1882. They sought to reach an agreement to the Pacific Warfare, in which Bolivia, Chile, and Peru were engaged.

A tunnel across Panama and a reduction in British authority in Hawaii were two of the ambitious initiatives of Presidential Garfield. Still, also Minister of Foreign James A. Garfield planned to increase American power abroad. Following Blaine's resignation from the government and Arthur's cancellation of the meeting, It abandoned preparations for a Pan-American meeting. More modestly than Garfield but also Hunt had anticipated, military reform proceeded beneath Arthur, and it eventually built the Fleet of Revolution.

James a. Garfield's Assassination

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James a. Garfield's Death

James A. Garfield was shot through the back on July 2, 1881, around 9:20 a.m. when he was walking with State Secretary Blaine, mainly in Baltimore but also at Potomac transit station in downtown Washington. The pleased president was getting ready to go to Williams University, where he intended to show his two kids around. The murderer, Charles J. Guiteau, fired the rounds with a .44 [British](#) Bulldog that he had specially bought since he felt this could look great in a collection. The bullet embedded in President Garfield's pancreas was too deep for medical professionals to reach.

In his medical quarters, Elberon, on September 19, 1881, his Emperor died from a gunshot and internal bleeding. His spouse was suffering from malaria in a town on the coast of New Jersey.

At the moment, Guiteau was 39 years old and was well-known in Washington as a mentally volatile guy. Since this president had rejected his nomination for a position as a **European ambassador**, he **assassinated Garfield**. Guiteau followed Garfield for as long as he planned this terrible deed.

Guiteau responded to then-President Chester A. Arthur on the morning James A. Garfield passed, saying, "My creativity is a miracle for you, and I suppose you recognize it. Never consider Garfield's demotion to be murder. It was a divine act brought about by a political convenience that was his fault. The jury,



during his trial, debated for an hour until finding him guilty. Given a hanging sentence, Guiteau ascended the gallows on June 30, 1882, feeling that he had accomplished God's will.

Some Important Questions People Have About James a. Garfield

Who assassinated President James A. Garfield?

Just under four months into his presidency, the shooting took place. Charles J. Guiteau, Garfield's murderer, wanted to have Chester A. Arthur elected president and exact revenge on Garfield for just an alleged political obligation.

What were the accomplishments of president James A. Garfield?

Among Garfield's achievements as president was the restoration of presidential power in executive nominations despite senatorial politeness, the eradication of fraud in the Postal Service, and the nomination of a High Court



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