

JAMES GARFIELD

(1831–1881, P. 1881)



Many officeholders claim that they did not "seek the office, the office sought them." For that to happen in the case of a city councilman or mayor is not unusual, but no one since Washington had ever been chosen for president by his political party without wanting the nomination. Garfield was an exception.

Garfield was born in 1831 in a log cabin on the Ohio frontier. His father died when he was two years old, and the family struggled to survive. To support his mother, James worked for farmers in the area; he also attended public school. When he was 16, he left home, dreaming of going to sea. He worked on a lake schooner for a short time but lost that job. Then he worked on the canal as a driver and helmsman. After a short time in college, he began teaching in a rural school, then he returned to Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College) in Ohio.

In 1854, Garfield transferred to Williams College, graduated, and returned as president of the Eclectic Institute. With a faculty of five members, he spent more time teaching than sitting in an office. He loved languages and taught Latin, Greek, and German, as well as history and English. In addition to teaching, he became a popular Disciples of Christ preacher and delivered excellent sermons. In 1859, he married Lucretia Rudolph, and he left the classroom to become a state senator. While there, he studied law and passed the bar exam in 1860.

When the Civil War came, Garfield volunteered and took command as colonel of the 42nd Ohio Volunteers. He knew nothing about military organization and strategy when he became an officer, but he worked hard and learned quickly. His first battle was in Kentucky against a West Pointer, and Garfield won. His victory was noticed, and he was promoted to brigadier general. In 1862, Garfield was elected to the U.S. House even though he told the voters he would return to the army. In 1863, he served as General W.S. Rosecrans's chief of staff during the battle at Chickamauga. He entered the House in 1863 and was appointed to the Committee on Military Affairs. In September of that year, he became a major general but resigned from the army in December to take his seat in the House.

Garfield became one of the leaders of the House because of his speaking ability and his study of the issues. Together with Speaker James G. Blaine, he led the party during the Grant administration. Garfield served on major committees and became well acquainted with the workings of the government. His reputation for honesty and hard work made him well known. By 1880, he was House minority leader.

The Republican Party was badly divided going into the election of 1880. A group called "Stalwarts" favored nominating former President Grant, but the "Half-breeds" favored Blaine. Garfield was a Half-breed, and they succeeded in stopping Grant at the 1880 convention. Blaine supporters could not win the nomination either, and on the 34th ballot, a few votes were cast for Garfield. He protested that his name had been mentioned without his consent. Garfield was chosen on the 36th ballot. He was stunned at first, and then said: "Get me out of here!" For vice president, the convention chose Chester Arthur.

The Democratic candidate, Winfield Hancock, had been a military hero, and had won great praise for setting up the defenses at Gettysburg. He had little political record and few enemies in the party.

Both parties were guilty of dirty politics. Some Republicans called Hancock a coward who had no knowledge of the major issues. The Democrats charged that Garfield had received a \$329 dividend from the corrupt Credit Mobilier, but they could not prove it. They began putting "329" on buildings and storefronts. Chester Arthur, who had been fired by President Hayes from his job as customs collector, was an easy target for scandalmongers. The Democrats even manufactured an issue. A letter was forged in Garfield's handwriting stating he favored bringing cheap Chinese laborers to California. The letter had two misspellings in it; Garfield's ability to spell was well known, and it may have worked against Hancock.

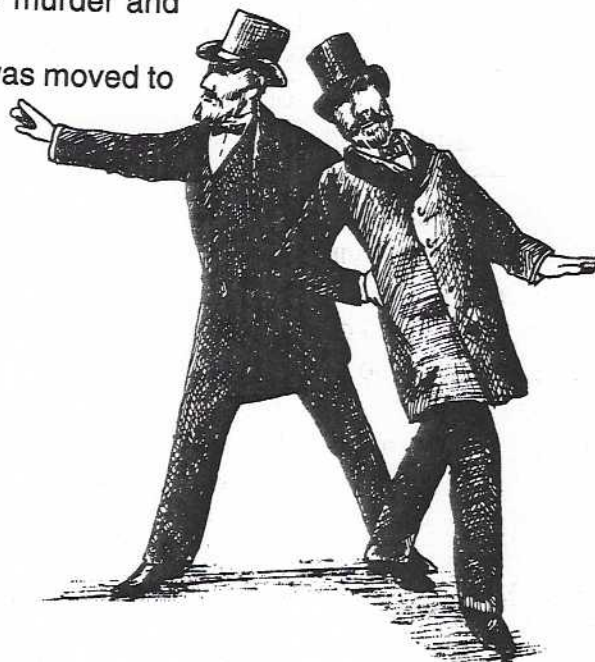
Garfield used his knowledge of German in the campaign, and he sometimes spoke in German to immigrant audiences. The election was very close, and he beat Hancock by only 10,000 popular votes. His electoral vote majority was much higher, and he won by 214-155.

GARFIELD AS PRESIDENT. Garfield's main problem as president was the split in his party and the choice of men for high positions. The leader of the Stalwarts, Senator Roscoe Conkling of New York, was furious when Garfield chose Blaine to be secretary of state. He became livid when Garfield replaced a Conkling supporter as customs collector for the Port of New York with a Blaine man. There were 1300 jobs affected by that decision. Conkling and the other New York senator, Tom Platt, resigned. To their surprise, they were not re-elected by the legislature.

Garfield had made an important point. The president usually asked senators of his party who they thought should fill government posts. By this victory, Garfield established the principle that appointments are the choice of the president, not the senators.

As Garfield walked through the Washington railroad station in July 1881, he was shot by a disappointed office seeker, Charles Guiteau, who had been turned down for the post of consul at Paris. As Guiteau was being wrestled down, he shouted out: "I am a Stalwart, and now Arthur is president." Guiteau was later found guilty of murder and hanged in 1882.

The president was not dead, however, and he was moved to the seashore of New Jersey to escape the heat of the summer in Washington. Garfield died in September 1881.



CHESTER ARTHUR

(1830–1886, P. 1881–1885)



In 1881, President Garfield was shot by an assassin who said: "I am a Stalwart, and now Arthur is president." For weeks, Garfield's health declined. During that time, there were no cabinet meetings or other official functions, and then the sad news came that Garfield had died. Now, the choice of an assassin was president. Few expected much of Arthur. His whole public life had been tied to the Conkling political machine in New York, and everyone viewed him as a puppet of Roscoe Conkling. It was a poor way to become president.

Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, near the Canadian border. His father was an Irish-born Baptist preacher, and he moved his family five times in the first nine years of Chester's life. The Arthurs settled down at Union Village, New York, for five years and then moved to Schenectady. Chester taught school while helping pay his way through Union College, from which he graduated in 1848. He continued teaching while he studied law and became a lawyer in 1854. He was a successful lawyer and prospered. He married Ellen Herndon, the daughter of a naval officer, in 1859.

In 1860, the governor of New York appointed Arthur engineer-in-chief of the state militia as a political favor. When the Civil War began, he was put in charge of feeding, housing, and supplying army recruits who were passing through New York City. It was a major responsibility, and he carried it out well. During the war, he made friends with many important people and began to move up in Republican politics.

Getting rich was very much in style. Some made fortunes in business. Large corporations often used tactics that were dishonest to break competitors. There were fortunes in gold and silver mining or large western cattle ranches. Land speculation near cities made fortunes for many. Cities were growing rapidly, and improvements in streets, water systems, and transportation were needed. The poor needed relief and jobs. All of those needing a friendly law or a government contract turned to politicians for help.

Receiving gifts and bribes became a welcome source of income for state, local, and even federal employees. Those who had been helped were expected to get out to vote and contribute to campaign funds for the party and officials who helped them. If the party or candidate lost the election, they were no longer able to give favors, and the money and support shifted to the other party.

Corrupt party machines were present in both the major parties. The Tammany Hall Democratic politicians competed against the Roscoe Conkling Republican machine. When Conkling delivered the New York vote to President Grant, Conkling had great influence in the federal government. He picked Arthur to be collector of customs for the Port of New York. The job paid well and gave 1,300 jobs to loyal party workers. Arthur, then chairman of the Republican state committee, had received his reward for service to Conkling and the party.

When Democrats won New York state elections in 1874, anti-Conkling Republican leaders decided it was time to weaken his influence in the party, and they started with the customs house. Hayes ordered that no federal employee could engage in politics. Arthur refused to resign, claiming that he had done nothing worse than had been done before, and he was not responsible for the system. The president fired him in July 1878.

Conkling was not finished in politics; in 1879, one of his supporters was elected governor, and in 1880, Conkling was chosen for the Senate. He led the Stalwarts (Grant supporters) at the Republican Convention of 1880. Their goal was to nominate Grant for a third term.

After James Garfield, a Half-Breed (an anti-Grant reformer) won the nomination, the Reform Republicans realized Stalwart support was needed to win the election. A Stalwart leader suggested Arthur for vice president. Conkling told Arthur to refuse the offer, but Arthur accepted it anyway. It was a higher job than he had ever expected to hold. Reform Republicans did not like Arthur, but they could not afford for the party to dump him. After Garfield won, most people still considered Arthur a Conkling puppet.

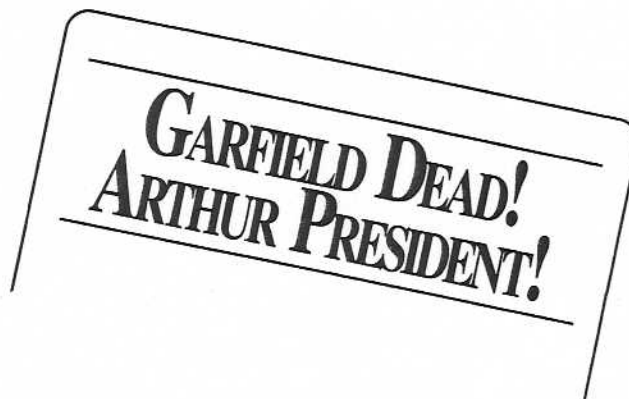
Garfield appointed Reform Republicans to federal jobs in New York over the protests of Conkling. Then came Charles Guiteau's shooting of the president, and his statement: "I am a Stalwart, and now Arthur is president." As Garfield slowly died, the nation realized that Arthur was going to be the next president.

ARTHUR AS PRESIDENT. Arthur overcame the fears that he would be guided by Conkling. Ohio's governor said people were going to see a difference between Vice President Arthur and President Arthur. He was right. Arthur was careful to choose able Republicans for office, but he ignored most requests from Conkling.

The assassination of Garfield caused a public demand for an end to the spoils system. In 1883, Democrats gained control of Congress and passed the Pendleton Civil Service Act. It created a Civil Service Commission; examinations were now required for about ten percent of government jobs. It was the beginning of the end of the spoils system. Arthur strongly supported the Pendleton Act.

Mail service was improved, and postage stamps were dropped from three cents to two cents. Congress appropriated money for new steel ships to replace the old wooden ships of the Civil War era. Major improvements were made at the White House, and boxes of junk left behind from previous residents of the mansion were carted off. Dinners and social events returned. Arthur's wife had died before he became president, but he and his sister were fine hosts.

Arthur was not nominated in 1884, and he died in 1886.



GROVER CLEVELAND

(1837–1908, P. 1885–1889, 1893–1897)

In 1885, when Cleveland took the oath of office as president, he was the first Democrat since the Civil War to be elected, the first man who had no military record to be chosen since Buchanan, and the only president to rise from being mayor, to governor, to president in just two years.

Grover was born in New Jersey, the son of a Presbyterian minister. His father died when he was 16, and Grover worked for a while at a school for the blind. He borrowed \$25 and headed west with a friend. He got as far as Buffalo, New York, where an uncle helped him get a job in a law firm. There were several unusual qualities about Cleveland. He was very determined and often worked all night without sleep. He did not like anything that wasted time, which included the limits he placed on his social life. A wife and family would take time, so he postponed marriage until much later.

Cleveland was very independent. When he began practicing law in 1859, clients found he was an excellent lawyer. He kept his fees low, but expected no interference from his clients.

When the Civil War came, he hired a substitute to fight for him. This was perfectly legal, and he explained he did it because he supported his widowed mother. He was a loyal Democrat, and in 1862 he was named as a ward supervisor, then an assistant district attorney. He then ran for district attorney in 1865; from that time until 1870, he worked at building up his law practice.

Cleveland was elected sheriff of Buffalo County in 1871. He did not believe in making others do the difficult jobs, so he performed two hangings himself. After three years as sheriff, he returned to private law practice.

In 1881, Buffalo reformers wanted to find a candidate for mayor who not only had political experience but was honest. Cleveland became their candidate, and he won. As mayor, he rejected costly street cleaning and sewer contracts.

In 1882, Cleveland was elected governor of New York with the motto: "A public office is a public trust." Again, he became famous for what he did not do. He did not allow the passing of costly spending bills that would help special interests. He refused to work with the Tammany Hall Democratic machine. He was now beginning to draw national support from reformers.

The Republican Convention met first in 1884, and the party quickly chose James G. Blaine, the most famous party leader of the time. However, Blaine's reputation had been tarnished by charges that he had received bribes from railroads. The Democrats chose Grover Cleveland, a man noted for his honesty. As soon as Cleveland was chosen, Reform Republicans, called "mugwumps," switched parties to support him.

The 1884 campaign. The campaign became the dirtiest to date. Democrats chanted: "Blaine, Blaine, James G. Blaine! The continental liar from the state of Maine." Then Republicans discovered that Cleveland had paid child support to an alcoholic widow and her son. When Cleveland was asked what to do about the charge, he said: "Tell the truth." Opponents made up jokes about him, but others supported him because he did not lie.



Blaine made two mistakes that hurt him badly. He was at a Republican rally where a Presbyterian minister said that a vote for Cleveland was a vote for "rum, Romanism (Catholic Church), and rebellion." Blaine said nothing against it at the time, but it turned many Catholics against him. That same evening, Blaine attended a dinner hosted by wealthy supporters. There was a depression at the time, and Blaine's remarks about "Republican prosperity" that night did not help him.

The election was very close, but Cleveland won 217–184 in electoral votes; in New York state, he won by only 1,100 votes.

CLEVELAND AS PRESIDENT (first term). Cleveland's motto could have been: "When in doubt, say NO!" An example of this was his attitude toward veteran pensions. He had not served in the war, and Republican politicians were quick to point that out. Still, he had the courage to turn down individual pensions that had no merit. One family asked for a pension for a man who drowned while deserting. A widow claimed a pension for her husband who died in 1883 from a hernia he had in 1863. He also vetoed pensions for all veterans with disabilities, whether they had been disabled during the war or after. The pension issue probably hurt him in 1888.

Because the government was taking in more money than it spent, Cleveland recommended cutting the taxes on imports. When advisors warned them this would hurt in Northern industrial states, he answered: "What is the use of being elected and re-elected unless you stand for something?"

Public lands were being used by lumber companies and cattle ranchers. The government ordered cattle off government land, and stopped lumbering operations. This policy change hurt Cleveland in the West.

Cleveland never showed much imagination in creating new programs. Some changes occurred with little or no help from him. The building of a new navy had started with Arthur; it was continued by Cleveland's secretary of the navy. The Interstate Commerce Act was passed in 1887 and gave the government the power to regulate interstate railroads.

In Cleveland's personal life, the biggest change was getting married. The bride was 21-year-old Frances Folsom, his law partner's daughter. Her father had named her Cleveland's ward upon his death. They were married in the White House while John Philip Sousa's band played the wedding march. Cleveland was easier to get along with after the marriage, and he even took more vacations. He still worked long hours, going to bed between 2:00 and 3:00 A.M.

After losing the election of 1888, Cleveland told the White House staff to take care of the furnishings. He wanted everything the same when he returned four years later.

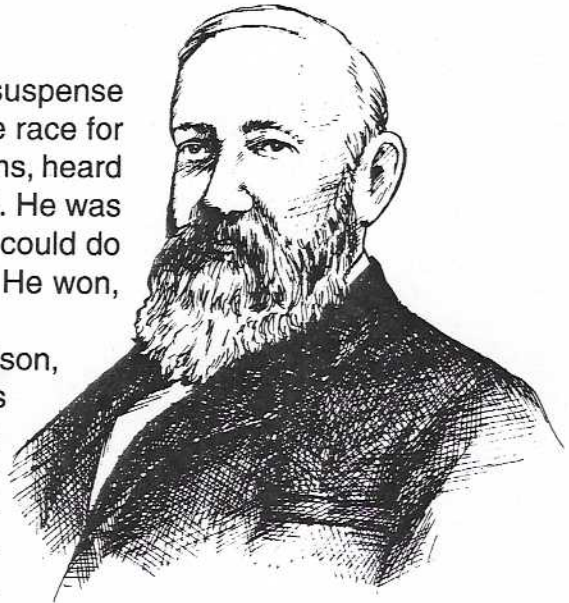
Cleveland's second term follows Harrison's presidency.

BENJAMIN HARRISON

(1833–1901, P. 1889–1893)

On election night in 1889, the nation waited in suspense for the returns in what was obviously going to be a close race for president. Benjamin Harrison waited for the Indiana returns, heard that he had won the state, and said he was going to bed. He was asked why. He said that if he lost, there was nothing he could do about it, and if he won, tomorrow would be a busy day. He won, and the next four years were busy.

Benjamin was the grandson of William Henry Harrison, and he was born on his grandfather's estate in 1833. His father had been affected by hard times but provided him with a tutor as well as public school education. Benjamin attended Farmer's College for a time and then graduated from Miami University (Ohio) in 1852. He then studied law and became a lawyer in 1854. He joined the Republican Party because of the slavery issue and soon became one of its most effective public speakers.



In 1862, Harrison was appointed colonel of the 70th Indiana Infantry. He knew nothing about war, and his troops knew even less. He was hard on his men and was not popular, but he did mold them into disciplined soldiers. In 1864, they were with Sherman in the battles around Atlanta. He left the army in 1865 as a brevet (temporary) brigadier general.

Harrison returned to his law practice and family. He and his wife, Caroline, whom he had married in 1853, had two children. Harrison was active in Republican politics, and as chairman of the state delegation to the convention in 1880, helped Garfield win the nomination. Harrison entered the U.S. Senate in 1880. When the Democrats won control of Indiana's legislature, Harrison lost his seat in 1886. After James G. Blaine decided not to run again, he suggested that Harrison be the party nominee for president in 1888. He was chosen on the eighth ballot. The Democrats ran Cleveland again.

Much of the support for Harrison's campaign came from wealthy backers. The \$3 million raised was the largest fund ever raised to that time. Harrison did his campaigning from his front porch. Groups would come, he would say a few words, and they would leave. Not only did Cleveland not campaign, but he would not let cabinet members campaign for him. Harrison won the electoral vote 233–168, but Cleveland won the popular vote by 100,000.

HARRISON AS PRESIDENT. Harrison chose competent people for his administration, but the only one who was well known was James G. Blaine, the new secretary of state. However, Harrison was never able to take charge. In his first two years, Speaker of the House Thomas ("Czar") Reed was more the leader than he was. He established the "Reed Rules" that made every member vote, and that anyone present was counted, whether they answered the roll call or not. He developed the committee system that is still used. The main interests of Republicans were veterans' pensions and high tariffs.

Under the new pension plan, any man who had served 90 days and was now physically or mentally disabled was eligible for a pension. It did not matter whether the disability was related to his military service. The widows and children of veterans also received pensions.

To get the high tariff they wanted, the Republican leaders had to pass laws other members wanted. Some wanted to control big business. In 1890, Congress passed the Sherman Antitrust Act. It defined as a trust "any contract or combination in restraint of trade." Reformers thought this was an important first step, but the law was almost impossible to enforce.

To satisfy silver producers and farmers who wanted more money in circulation, the Sherman Silver Purchase Act was passed. It guaranteed the government would buy more silver to be made into coins.

The McKinley tariff was the highest tax on imports yet. Passed in 1890, its taxes were set by American industries to keep foreign competition out. It worked like this: an English company produces widgets for 50 cents at a profit; an American company produces them at a bigger profit for \$1.00. To keep English widgets out, a tax of 70 cents is put on them. The American widget buyer pays \$1.00 for a widget he could have bought for half that price without the tariff. Businesses and workers in industrial states favored it, while consumers in farm states opposed it.

The White House was renovated during Harrison's term. The kitchen and heating system were improved, rooms were painted, and private bathrooms were installed in each bedroom. Electric lights were installed, but after a few shocks, Harrison told his family to let the staff turn them on and off. If they forgot, the lights stayed on all night.

With more money coming in, Congress started spending more on "pork barrel projects" (those projects helping their state or district) like river and road improvements. Government was spending \$989 million, and people started calling it the "billion-dollar Congress." Reed said this was a billion-dollar country and needed the money. The public disagreed.

The Democrats took control of the House in 1890, and for his last two years as president, Harrison achieved very little. Harrison did little to make friends with either party in Congress. He refused to waste time chatting. He kept only one chair in his office so guests did not stay too long. When senators spoke to him, he did not answer.

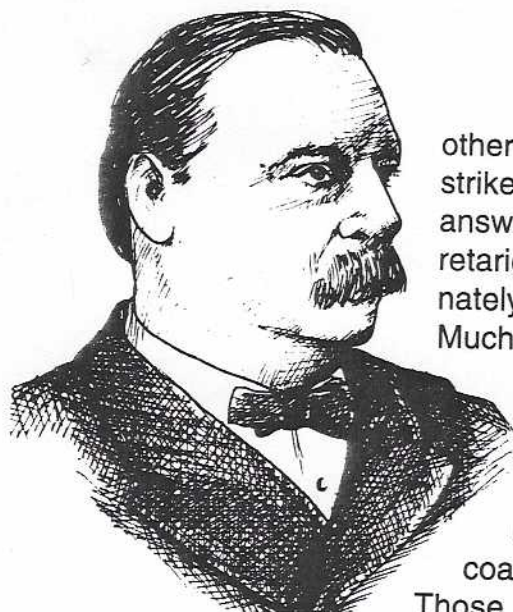
Cleveland returns. After losing the 1888 election, Cleveland had returned to his law practice. Anger over the McKinley tariff persuaded him to try for a second term as president in 1892, and the Democrats quickly chose him; his running mate was Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. Harrison was chosen again as the Republican nominee, but since his wife was very ill, he did not even give front porch speeches.

A new party, the Populists, met in Omaha, Nebraska, for their first national convention. They were mostly farmers who were angry with both parties. They wanted changes: senators to be elected by the people, a graduated income tax, government-owned railroads, and most of all, the unlimited coinage of silver. With more money in circulation, it would be easier for them to pay off their debts. Their candidate was James Weaver.

Cleveland won easily over Harrison; 277–145 in electoral votes, and 380,000 popular votes. Harrison went back to private law practice, made a fortune, and wrote books. His first wife had died in 1892. He remarried in 1896. He began to relax and became more considerate and kind.

GROVER CLEVELAND

(second term 1893–1897)



Many Cleveland supporters wanted the tariff lowered, but other issues became more important: economic collapse, labor strikes, and foreign issues. Cleveland took charge of everything, answered the White House phone himself, and did not use secretaries. However, as new problems arose, Cleveland unfortunately used old methods to meet them, which did not work.

Much of the economic growth of the 1870–1890 period had been in railroad construction. Over 70,000 miles of track had been laid between 1880 and 1890. Now, railroads had either completed construction or could not borrow enough money to finish laying track. Because of this, unemployment spread, which in turn affected industries like steel and coal that depended on railroads for much of their business.

Those who had money stopped spending, fearing hard times ahead. About 2.5 million workers lost their jobs. Jacob Coxey, a reformer, proposed that the unemployed be hired to build roads. He led an “army” of about 400 tired and hungry men to hold a demonstration in Washington. Coxey was arrested for walking on the White House lawn.

Workers at Pullman’s Railroad Car factory had their wages cut, and they went on strike. They were supported by the American Railway Union. ARU members working for railroads refused to attach Pullman cars to trains. Attorney General Richard Olney persuaded Cleveland to crack down on the workers. Accused of interfering with the transport of mail, the union was ordered back to work. When the strike continued, the union president, Eugene Debs, was sent to prison for six months.

Instead of spending money to help the unemployed or listening to worker complaints, Cleveland said the financial crisis was caused by too much money in circulation. The government stopped buying silver to make money. With tax revenue dropping, Cleveland built up the gold supply by selling bonds, and turned to the big banker, J. P. Morgan, for help.

Many Americans were outraged. One of these, William Jennings Bryan, attacked Cleveland policies at the Democratic Convention in 1896, and he became the party candidate for president. The Republicans chose William McKinley as their nominee.

After his term ended, Cleveland moved to Princeton, New Jersey. There was some talk of him running again in 1904; while he was flattered, Cleveland made no effort to win the nomination. He died in 1908.

In his two terms as president, Cleveland had been stubbornly honest, but he had provided little leadership in solving the economic crisis that brought disaster to millions.

WILLIAM McKINLEY

(1843–1901, P. 1897–1901)



By the late 1890s, there were two Americas in one nation. First, there were the “captains of industry” who had riches, power, and influence. Government had been very friendly to them in recent years. They believed government should let business grow without interference.

Secondly, there were others who worked 70 to 80 hours a week and lived in poverty in cities. There were also farmers working from sunrise to sunset, with little profit for their efforts. Radicals, called anarchists, wanted to destroy government; socialists wanted government to take over the railroads, telephone, and telegraph companies and to place heavy taxes on the wealthy. More common were those who wanted business restricted by tightly-enforced new laws. The Sherman Antitrust law was a joke, and they knew it. New, tougher laws, however, could give the average person a more even playing field. The election of 1896 gave the voters a clear choice of which way

the nation should go.

William McKinley was born in Ohio in 1843. He was intelligent as a child, and his mother hoped he would become a Methodist minister. He only had one year of college before he became ill and had to leave. After recovering, he taught school and was a post office clerk. When the Civil War came, he enlisted in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, serving under Rutherford B. Hayes. McKinley left the army as a major.

After the war, McKinley became a lawyer and was active in Republican politics. He married Ida Saxton in 1871, and the couple had two daughters, both of whom died before they were four years old. Mrs. McKinley became epileptic and mentally depressed. William took care of her the rest of her life without ever complaining.

McKinley was elected to the U.S. House in 1876. He served there until he lost the election in 1882 and then again from 1886 to 1890. In 1890, he wrote the McKinley tariff, which made him the friend of many wealthy industrialists. One of them, Mark Hanna, began pushing for him to be the party candidate for president someday. McKinley served as two-term governor of Ohio from 1891 to 1895. When Ohio coal miners went out on strike, he called out the National Guard to put down violence, but he also raised money to buy food for starving strikers.

In 1896, McKinley was chosen by the Republicans, whose platform opposed silver money and favored gold. They knew this would cost them the West but hoped to convince Eastern workers gold money was good for them. The Democrats were split on the issue between “goldbugs” of the East and silver supporters from the West. At the Democratic Convention, William J. Bryan gave his famous “Cross of Gold” speech. It was so outstanding that he was chosen as the party’s 1896 candidate.

The 1896 campaign. It was a dramatic campaign. Bryan traveled around the country speaking to crowds gathered at railroad stations. He argued that with more money in circulation, there is a better chance for everyone to get money. McKinley spent his time giving little speeches to crowds who came by train to hear him. Hanna was out raising money to hire

speakers and pay for rallies and campaign advertising. McKinley won by 600,000 popular votes, and 271–196 in electoral votes.

McKINLEY AS PRESIDENT. McKinley had a friendly Republican Congress to work with, and he was much smoother with them than Harrison had been. Even when someone came into his office angry, McKinley greeted them with a smile; when they left, they were smiling too, wearing one of his red carnations in their lapel. He was not good at delegating authority, and he did not let his cabinet make decisions that were unpopular with the public.

Instead of the usual tax or gold-silver issues, attention turned to the rising troubles in Spanish-owned Cuba. Cubans revolted against Spain in 1895, and American newspapers told how cruelly the Cuban people were treated. They found that newspaper sales soared with these stories, some of which were true and others of which were greatly exaggerated. The battleship *Maine* was sent to Havana to protect American lives and property. An insulting letter written by a Spanish official, calling McKinley “weak and a bidder for the admiration of the crowd” was published in American newspapers. Americans began calling for war with Spain.

On February 15, 1898, the *Maine* exploded, and over 250 officers and men were killed. Most Americans were convinced the Spanish had done it, and the call for war was greater than before. McKinley did not favor war but found he was almost alone in opposing it. Southerners, northerners, and westerners joined in the demand for war. In April, McKinley asked Congress to declare war. Ten days later, Congress approved.

The Spanish-American War. The navy was in better shape to begin the war than the army. Admiral George Dewey attacked Manila Bay as soon as he could and won an easy victory. A fleet under William Sampson blockaded a Spanish fleet at Santiago Bay in Cuba; when the Spanish tried to escape, they were badly beaten.

The U.S. Army was small and was built up by state national guards and volunteer units. The most famous of these was Theodore Roosevelt’s Rough Riders. Their charge up San Juan Hill thrilled the nation. Spain surrendered in August. The peace treaty gave Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines to the United States. Spain received \$20 million. The United States gave Cuba independence in 1901.

McKinley easily won re-election in 1900. In 1901 while he was in Buffalo, New York, he was shot and killed by an anarchist, Leon Czolgosz. His vice president, Theodore Roosevelt, was sworn in as the next president, and the United States entered the twentieth century with a dynamic new leader.

