

Biography in Brief

RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES

BIRTH: October 4, 1822, Delaware, Ohio

DEATH: January 17, 1893, Spiegel Grove,
Fremont, Ohio

EDUCATION:

Norwalk Seminary, Norwalk, OH
Maple Grove Academy, Middletown, CT
Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

ANCESTRY: English, Scottish

OCCUPATION: Attorney, soldier, politician

MILITARY SERVICE: Civil War – Brevet
Major General, 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

RELIGION: attended Methodist Episcopal
Church (precursor of today's Methodist Church)

WIFE: Lucy Ware Webb

MARRIAGE: December 30, 1852

POLITICAL PARTY: Republican

STATE REPRESENTED: Ohio

POLITICAL OFFICES:

1858-1861, Cincinnati, OH, City Solicitor

1865-1867, U.S. House of Representatives
(two terms)

1868-1872 & 1876-1877: Ohio Governor
(three terms)

1877-1881, President of the United States

AGE AT INAUGURATION: 54

PRESIDENT'S FAMILY

FATHER: Rutherford Hayes, Jr.

Birth: January 4, 1787, Brattleboro, Vermont

Death: July 20, 1822, Delaware, Ohio

MOTHER: Sophia Birchard Hayes

Birth: April 15, 1792, Wilmington, Vermont

Death: October 30, 1866, Columbus, Ohio

WIFE: Lucy Ware Webb

Birth: August 28, 1831, Chillicothe, Ohio

Death: June 25, 1889, Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio

Parents: Dr. James Webb & Maria Cook Webb

Education:

Ohio Wesleyan College, Delaware, Ohio

Wesleyan Female College, Cincinnati, Ohio

CHILDREN:

Birchard Austin (1853-1926)

Webb Cook (1856-1934)

Rutherford Platt (1858-1927)

Joseph Thompson (1861-1863)

George Crook (1864-1866)

Fanny (1867-1950)

Scott Russell (1871-1923)

Manning Force (1873-1874)

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential
Library & Museums

Spiegel Grove

Fremont, OH 43420-2796



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Rutherford B. Hayes
19th President of the United States

Rutherford B. Hayes

19th President of the United States 1877-1881

Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th President of the United States, was the fifth child of Rutherford and Sophia Birchard Hayes. He was born October 4, 1822, in Delaware, Ohio, about two months after his father died from typhus. The Hayes family emigrated to Ohio in 1817 from Dummerston, Vermont.

Young Rutherford and sister Fanny Arabella were raised by their mother and her younger, bachelor brother Sardis Birchard. Sardis was a successful businessman in Lower Sandusky (present day Fremont), Ohio. Rutherford attended school in Delaware and Norwalk, Ohio, as well as in Middletown, Connecticut. In 1842, he graduated as valedictorian of his class at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. After a year of study in a Columbus, Ohio, law office, Rutherford entered Harvard Law School. He received a law degree in 1845.

Rutherford began his law career in Lower Sandusky. Not finding many opportunities, he left in 1849 for Cincinnati where he established a thriving practice. His opposition to slavery led him to become involved in the Republican Party.

In 1852, Rutherford married Lucy Ware Webb of Chillicothe. She was the youngest daughter of Dr. James and Maria Cook Webb and a graduate of Cincinnati's Wesleyan Female College. Her education later earned her note as the first President's wife to hold a college degree. Lucy and Rutherford were the parents of eight children.

When the Civil War started, Rutherford offered his service to the State of Ohio. Governor William Dennison appointed him to the rank of major in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Rutherford saw much active service, rising to the rank of brevet major general. He was severely wounded on September 14, 1862, at the Battle of South Mountain.

In 1864, while still in the army, Rutherford was elected to Congress despite a refusal to campaign. He did not take his seat in Congress until the Union

won the war. He was re-elected in 1866. The following year Ohio voters elected him governor. Rutherford retired at the end of his second gubernatorial term in 1872. He and Lucy moved to Fremont in 1873. His retirement was short-lived. Rutherford won a third term as Ohio governor in 1875, and soon after was chosen as the Republican Party's candidate for President. He won the 1876 election only after the creation of a special commission to decide the outcome of 20 disputed electoral votes. Because of the controversy surrounding his election Rutherford Hayes took the oath of office without ceremony on Saturday, March 3, 1877, in the Red Room of the White House.

President Hayes worked to solve the country's problems. By 1877, it was clear that the nation's voters were no longer willing to use the army to protect the civil rights of the freedmen. Because a hostile Congress refused to provide adequate funds, President Hayes reassigned the few remaining troops guarding two Southern statehouses. Before doing so, however, he extracted promises from southern leaders to protect the political, economic, and civil rights of African Americans. He hoped his actions would heal the wounds left by the Civil War.

President Hayes initiated civil service reform aimed at ending patronage. He appointed men with sound qualifications to government positions. His sound money policies helped make business and industry stronger. And President Hayes signed a bill that, for the first time, allowed women attorneys to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Throughout his term, President Hayes continued to be concerned about minorities, the underprivileged, and immigrants. He believed education and vocational training would help all people achieve better lives. His honesty and fairness renewed respect for the office of President. Honoring an election promise not to accept a second term, President Hayes retired to his Spiegel Grove estate in Fremont, Ohio. Even in retirement, he continued to give of his time: helping veterans receive pensions, improving prison conditions, and promoting universal education. Rutherford B. Hayes died in Spiegel Grove on January 17, 1893, at the age of 70.

Interesting Facts

- ★ Hayes was the first President to take the oath of office inside the White House.
- ★ Hayes was the only President whose election was decided by a congressional commission.
- ★ Hayes was the first President to travel to the West Coast of the United States during his term in office.
- ★ Hayes was the first President to have a telephone and typewriter in the White House.
- ★ Although other presidents served in the Civil War, Hayes was the only one to have been wounded four times!
- ★ Hayes was the first President to have a library and museum created to house his presidential papers.
- ★ Hayes started the "Easter Egg Roll" for children on the White House lawn in 1878 - a tradition which still takes place on the Monday after Easter.
- ★ President Hayes' best-known quotation is "He serves his party best who serves his country best."
(from his Inaugural Address, 1877)