

Martin Van Buren

8th President

Born: Dec. 5, 1782

Birthplace: Kinderhook, NY

Died: July 24, 1862

Burial Site: Kinderhook, NY

Spouse: Hannah Hoes

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Democratic

Term: 1837-1841

Vice President: Richard M. Johnson



The United States' eighth president, Martin Van Buren, was a small man who came to the White House as an anti-slavery Democrat.

Born in Kinderhook, NY, on December 5, 1782, he was a state senator, attorney general and lawyer in Albany for many years. As a young lawyer, he became involved in New York politics as a leader of the "Albany Regency," an effective New York political organization.

Jackson wanted the "Little Magician" to be his minister to Great Britain, but the Whigs in Congress refused to confirm him so Jackson put him on the Jacksonian ticket in 1832 as vice president. He won the presidency in 1836.

He was immediately confronted with a financial panic when he assumed his duties as the nation's president. Van Buren followed the Jackson program and after much trouble with the termination of the United States Bank Charter, set up the independent United States Treasury.

Inclined more and more to oppose the expansion of slavery, Van Buren blocked the annexation of Texas because it assuredly would add to slave territory--and it might bring war with Mexico.

He remained opposed to the extension of slavery and died during the Civil War before the issue was finally settled. He died July 24, 1862, in Kinderhook.