

Rutherford B. Hayes

19th President

Born: Oct. 4, 1822

Birthplace: Delaware, OH

Died: Jan. 17, 1893

Burial Site: Fremont, OH

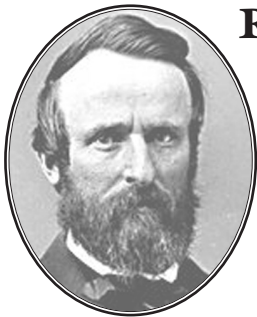
Spouse: Lucy Webb

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1877-1881

Vice President: William A. Wheeler



Rutherford B. Hayes was elected the country's 19th president in the most fiercely disputed election in American history.

Hayes was a graduate of Kenyon College and Harvard Law School. Before becoming president, Hayes had been city solicitor of Cincinnati, a general in the Union Army, a congressman and governor of Ohio.

The 1876 election found Samuel J. Tilden, the Democratic candidate, with 184 electoral votes and Hayes, the Republican candidate with 185 votes. There were four contested states—South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida and Oregon.

The House of Representatives could not reach a decision and a law was passed creating a commission of five representatives, five senators and five Supreme Court judges to settle the contest. This group included eight Republicans and seven Democrats and they decided every contest for Hayes by a vote of eight to seven, and he won by the margin of one electoral vote.

Serious railroad strikes in 1877 disturbed the nation and the first silver bill was passed. Silver dollars were created while Hayes was president.

Hayes had announced in advance that he would serve only one term, and retired to Spiegel Grove, his home in Fremont, Ohio, in 1881. He died of heart disease and was buried in Fremont.