



James A. Garfield

20th President

Born: Nov. 19, 1831

Birthplace: Orange, OH

Died: Sept. 19, 1881

Burial Site: Cleveland, OH

Spouse: Lucretia Rudolph

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1881, 6-1/2 months

Vice President: Chester A. Arthur

James A. Garfield, the nation's 20th president, was born in a log cabin and worked himself up to the highest office in the land, only to serve a little over six months.

Garfield worked for his education and got it bit by bit while serving as a teacher and a lawyer.

He was a Republican leader in the House when the 1880 Republican convention came around. He favored John Sherman for president against former president, U.S. Grant and James G. Blaine. Garfield was the compromise candidate and at first, he refused because of his support for Sherman.

Garfield defeated the Democratic nominee, General Winfield Scott Hancock, by a scant 10,000 margin.

Garfield was on his way to his beloved alma mater, Williams College in Massachusetts, with only one policeman as a body guard when Charles Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker, shot the president in the waiting room of the Washington train station.

He did not die immediately but was ill for more than two months while doctors tried to locate the bullet in his body. Their futile probing created blood poisoning from which President Garfield finally died.

He died September 19, 1881, at Elberon, NJ, where he had been sent to recover. He was buried in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.