

Benjamin Harrison

23rd President

Born: August 20, 1833

Birthplace: North Bend, OH

Died: March 13, 1901

Burial Site: Indianapolis, IN

Spouse: Caroline Scott,
Mary Scott Dimmick

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1889-1893

Vice President: Levi Morton



President Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of the nation's ninth president, William Henry Harrison. He was nominated on the eighth ballot at the Republican Convention of 1888, and his supporters said he was big enough to wear the hat of his grandfather, "Old Tippecanoe," although he was only 5½ feet tall.

Harrison was a graduate of Miami University and had been a general in the Union Army. He practiced law in Indianapolis and became a colonel of the 70th Volunteer Indiana Infantry at the start of the Civil War.

He was defeated in his efforts to gain the governorship of his state, but the voters did elect him to a term in the U.S. Senate.

Grover Cleveland, his Democrat opponent, won the popular vote count but not the electoral vote.

The McKinley Tariff and the Sherman Anti-Trust Bill were enacted in 1890 as was the Sherman Silver Bill. The Sherman Silver Bill was repealed when Cleveland regained the office in 1894.

The Navy got a helping hand from President Harrison as he got Congress to appropriate funds for expansion and for subsidies in the first peacetime "billion-dollar" money bill, which caused House Speaker Thomas to tell critics that, "This is a billion dollar country." He was defeated in his try for a second term.