JAMES A. GARFIELD: IMPORTANT DATES in HIS LIFE

Father: Abram Garfield b. 12/28/1799 - 5/8/1833 b. Worcester, NY
Mother: Eliza Ingalls BALLOU b. Richmond, NH 9/21/1801 - 1/21/1888

Married 1819 in Muskingum County, OH

1820 - Independence, OH Cabin 18'x20' Malaria in Cuyahoga Valley
1827 - Bought 50 acres in Orange Range 10 Twsp 7 Sect.3 Lot 10
for $2.00/acre....near AMos & Alpha Boynton, Eliza's sister
1829 - Built Log House because it had a floor, windows (3)..Also
30' x 20' - loft - chimney & fireplace
1831 -Nov. 19 - JAG born. Last President born in a cabin
Developed farm: planted wheat, currant bushes. Orchard had
apple, cherry and plum trees
1833 -May 7 Abram died by next day. He said to Eliza,"I have planted
four saplings in these woods. I must now leave them to
your care." Now buried in Roselawn Cem., Solon
1834 - They had joined the Disciples Church which met in Pastor
Bentley's home 3 miles away. Eliza and children attended
walked every Sunday to service. James, age 3, was found
pretending to preach. Story p.9 of Early Years
This a difficult year. Eliza chose not to send children to
relatives. Food became more plentiful as the garden grew
with passing years.

Eliza insisted on schooling, but Thomas preferred to be "the
man of the house" and (age 11) worked on farm to help Eliza.
She tutored the other children. Hitty even carried young
James on her back to the district school 1½ mi. away.
James absorbed everything he experienced - church, school
and all recognized his intelligence.
1835 - School was held during winter months. Eliza earned money by
sewing for the schoolmaster and her own family. The shoemaker boarded
with the Garfields and with Thomas' earnings from ploughing
and chopping wood, enough money was made for a pair of
shoes - his first - for James, age 3½.
1843 About this time Eliza gave a corner of land for a schoolhouse

1841 - James grew - helped cultivating potatoes, and other chores.
1844 - He worked in an Ashery as a Black Salter at age 10. Settlers
brought logs to a central spot (Solon) to burn. Ashes were
collected, water was run through the ashes (leached) to make
lye (very caustic) which was, is used to make soap and
fertilizer. (We have an ash sifter to show). VERY DIRTY JOB!
Story p. 14 - Early Years. He planed logs for lumber also.
1848 - JAG read every book he could find, especially of the sea...
Hired to be bowman on canal boat, making locks ready for
boat to pass, trimming lamps. walking mule - $14.00/month
Lasted two months. Story, p. 15, Early Years
1849 - With $17.00 from Thomas & Eliza, JAG started at Geauga Seminary.
Wore his mother's hand-sewn clothing, chopped wood, etc.
Met Lucretia there, Carpentry & building barns in the summer.
Haying a field - $1.00/Day: Applying siding - 75¢/100 feet.
Rent: $1.06¼/week including laundry & meals

JAMES A. GARFIELD: IMPORTANT DATES IN HIS LIFE

1849 cont. - James worked during the summer and returned to the Seminary in the fall.
Taught at Ledge School (Cannon & Rt. 91) for 4 mos. @$12.00 a month with 6-school days per week. He was offered this job after much searching and so decided "Not to seek a position but wait for it to be offered." When nominated for the presidency he did not campaign. If they want me, they'll come.

1850 - A significant event for James. He joined the Disciples, followers of Thomas and Alexander Campbell. No fire and brimstone, just a pledge to accept Christianity.

1851- Enrolled at Western Reserve Eclectic Institute. To earn tuition he was custodian - still wearing home-made clothes.

1854 - To Williams College as a Junior

1856 - Graduated and returned to teach at Eclectic Institute for $600.00/year. At end of 1st year he became chair of

1857 - board of instruction. After 2nd year he became principal. This was a period of increased preaching, lecturing so that he became even better known in NE Ohio

1858 - Married Lucretia Rudolf

1859 - James was asked to run for State Senator and won. His decision was based somewhat on this opinion shared with a friend: ** having heard Lincoln, threat of conflict and abolitionist pleas.

8/1861 Asked to form 42nd volunteer Infantry

12/1861 Lead 18th Brigade - Sandy Valley conflict

8/1862 - Nominated for U.S. House of Representatives. Won 13,288 to 6763

1/1863 - Garfield sent to support Rosecrans in Tenn.

1863 - Made Brigadier-General at Rosecrans' recommendation
Later became Chief off Staff to Gen. Rosecrans

1864 - Lincoln called Garrield back to Congress
Appointed Commander of MilitARY Affairs. He really wanted to be on Ways & means Comm.

1865-67 - Chair of Finanmcial Legislation

1867-69 - Member of Ways & Means Comm. - no clout yet

1869-71 - As member of that committee spoke often to promote sound financial principles

1869-71 - Also appointwed Chair of Select Committee for 9th Census

1871-75 - Committee on Appropriations - at last! Chairman!
Responsible for performance of vital functions of government. to initiate and carry annual appropriation bills through the House. Worked with execututive departments who sent estimates upon which bills were framed...including reasons to justify those expenditures.

1875 - Bought jproperty in Mentor for Lawnfield. Wrote Lucretia, "Now you may have space for your cow."

1875 -80 Membeer of Minority in Congress worked with Ways & Means

1875-77 Committee on Pacific Railroads and Rules Committee

1880 - Elected Senator from Ohio

1880 - Elected President (Nom. on 36th ballot)

7/2/1881- Assassinated in Washington Terminal on way to meetLucretia amd Mary and then travel to Williams College

JAMES A. GARFIELD: IMPORTANT DATES IN HIS LIFE

7/2/1881 - Secy of State James Blaine was with the President
Charles Guiteau shot him twice in the back.

9/21/1881 - Garfield was taken to Elberon, N.j. where he died.
His body was taken to Cleveland and buried or held in
LakeView Cemetery. In 1890 the impressive Monument
was built. Many school children had donated pennies
during the ten years to help finance it.

** From preceding page - 1859. Quotation was omitted.
"Intelligent leaders are not lawyers, but
teachers, preachers, editors and authors."

Note of interest relating to election returns for electoral college:

November 10, 1879, three days after the election
Garfield was asked to go to New Orleans to be a r eliable
witness to a recount of the vote between Hayes and Tilden.
This was about electoral votes, and requested by the
Republican Committee. Too close returns are nothing new!