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The Road to the Thomas Woodrow Wilson Presidency

★ *The 28th President* ★

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Dr. Thomas Woodrow Wilson: Timeline

1873-1874

Attended Davidson College
Remington & Sons began mass production of the typewriter (1873)

1875-1879

Attended Princeton University (the member of forensics society, editor wrote for the Nassau Literary Magazine)

1878

Amendment the right to Congress

1856

Born December 28 in Staunton, Virginia to Janet E. Woodrow and Joseph Ruggles Wilson

1866

Began formal education in Augusta

1860

Abraham Lincoln elected President

1865

End of Civil War
Thirteenth Amendment Ratified

1861

Civil War began

1876

Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone

1874

Family moved to Wilmington, North Carolina

1872

Susan B. Anthony and 12 other women arrested for trying to vote in the presidential election

1870

Family moved to Columbia, South Carolina
Fifteenth Amendment ratified

1858

Family moved to Augusta Georgia January (Wilson 12 months old)

an New Jersey College);
itor of college newspaper,
agazine

t giving women
o vote introduced
ss¹

1879-1880

Attended University of Virginia Law School;
Jefferson Debating Society
Proposed to cousin,
Hattie Woodrow,
who refused
Thomas Edison invented the
Incandescent light bulb

1882

Passed bar exam
Established a law firm with a former
law school classmate in Atlanta
Testified before the U.S. Tariff Commission²
Established a branch of New York's Free Trade Club

1887

1883

Dissolved law practice
Met Ellen Axson in Rome Georgia;
couple engaged
Entered Johns Hopkins University

1879

Published International Review



Woodrow Wilson, 1883;
LC-USZ62-100489*



Ellen Louise Axson Wilson, no
date recorded;
LC-DIG-ggbain-05844,
George Grantham Bain Collection*

1886

First child, daughter
The Statue of Liberty
October 28

1885

Ph.D. in politics and history from Johns Hopkins
Published Congressional Government
Married Ellen Louise Axson in Savannah, Georgia
Accepted teaching position at Bryn Mawr
College in Pennsylvania

1880

Withdrew from law school and continued studies at home

² Argued that a tariff would hurt Southern consumers forced to purchase inferior products.

Second daughter, Jessie born

1888

Mother died
Began teaching at Wesleyan
University in Connecticut

1896

Plessy V. Ferguson gave sanction
to Jim Crow segregation laws

1898

Published The State
Spanish-American War began

1905

Einstein proposed his theory of relativity ($E=mc^2$)

1906

Loss of vision in one eye
due to high blood
pressure; doctors
advise retirement

1908

Hen
fir

er Margaret born
ty dedicated

1897

Published a biography
of George Washington

1903

Father died

1907

Record number of
immigrants enter the U.S.

as University

orgia June 24

1893

Published Division and Reunion

1902

Published History of the American People
Elected President of Princeton University (1902-1910)

1890

Appointed full professor at
Princeton University (1890-1902)

1889

Third daughter, Eleanor born

1910-1911

President of the American Political Science Association

Henry Ford produced
the first Model T car

1911

Supreme Court ordered the dismantling of
Rockefeller's monopolistic Standard Oil Company

1913

Inaugurated President March 4

1913-1921

Served as the 28th President of the United States

1914

1912

The Titanic sinks
Won presidential election



Woodrow Wilson, Democratic nominee for
President, shaking hands after his acceptance
speech, Sea Girt, N.J., 1912; LC-USZ62-92465*



Mrs. Ellen Louise Saxon Wilson,
no date recorded;
LC-DIG-ggbain-06202,
George G. Bain Collection*



Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt Wilson,
between 1915-1921;
LC-USZ62-25808*

1910

Accepted democratic nomination and elected 45th Governor of New Jersey

1921

Retired to home in Washington, D.C.
Formed & dissolved law partnership
with his 3rd Secretary of State

le, Ellen Axson died of Brights Disease August 6

1923

Published a brief plea for a more enlightened foreign policy,
"The Road Away from Revolution"
Delivered radio address on the significance of Armistice Day



U.S. Navy recruitment poster
showing "Executive Order"
signed by President Wilson
authorizing the increase of
Naval strength to 87,000 men,
1917; LC-USZC4-7751*



President Woodrow Wilson, last
cabinet meeting;
LC-USZ62-85706, National
Photo Co. Collection*

1924

Died February 3 in Washington, D.C.

1915

Married Edith Bolling Galt December 18

1919

Suffered two strokes; paralyzed on one side of his body
Disability kept from public knowledge

Dr. Thomas Woodrow Wilson: Biography



Woodrow Wilson,
between 1876
and 1886;
LC-USZ62-130978*



Governor Woodrow Wilson in
the West, 1912;
LC-USZ62-66022*



Wilson with Taft at the White House
after Wilson's inauguration, March 4,
1913; LC-USZ62-1319, National
Photo Company Collection*



President Wilson standing with two military aides
at the entrance to the White House, 1913;
LC-USZ62-132056, National Photo Co Collection*



President Wilson signing the Child Labor Law on
September 2, 1916; LC-USZ62-92809*

"The World must be made safe for democracy." Woodrow Wilson

The 28th President of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born the third child of four December 28, 1856 to Janet Woodrow and Reverend Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson in Staunton, Virginia. Wilson's father was a professor and Presbyterian clergyman of Irish-Scottish descent, with his mother sharing the same Scottish ancestry. Wilson grew up with three siblings in Augusta, Georgia and later Columbia, South Carolina and Wilmington, North Carolina during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Due to the war, Wilson gained most of his early education at home until 1866, beginning his formal education shortly after the war's end. Wilson struggled as a student and was unable to read at age 10, by which historians now believe may have been attributed to dyslexia.

Wilson first attended Davidson College in North Carolina for one year, before attending the College of New Jersey (later to become Princeton University), graduating in 1879. Despite his early academic difficulties, Wilson excelled in debate, a skill his father coached him on regularly. After attending Princeton, Wilson decided to study law at the University of Virginia Law School, where he attended for one year, finishing up his law studies at home. He passed the Georgia bar in 1882 and moved to Atlanta to open a law firm in partnership with a former law school classmate. Shortly thereafter, with his law

practice not prospering, he decided to become a professor and attended John Hopkins University in 1883 to study government and history, earning a Ph.D. in history and political science in 1886.

Meanwhile, while on a business trip in Rome, Georgia, Wilson met Ellen Axson, the minister's daughter, at a local Presbyterian church during a Sunday service. The couple began courting and quickly engaged. Though they waited to marry as Wilson wanted to finish his graduate studies at John Hopkins and Ellen wanted to continue her study of art at the Art Students' League in New York City. Wilson married Ellen in 1885 and they honeymooned in North Carolina before settling in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. The couple shared the birth of three daughters.

While attending Hopkins, Wilson wrote and published his first book, *Congressional Government*, in which he criticized the American model of government in favor of the British parliamentary system.¹ The success of the book gained him recognition and a teaching job at Bryn Mawr College for women in Pennsylvania and later Wesleyan College in Connecticut. In 1890, he gained a professorship of law and political economy at Princeton University, where he published numerous books and essays and lectured on

*Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

**National Archives at College Park—Archives II, College Park, MD

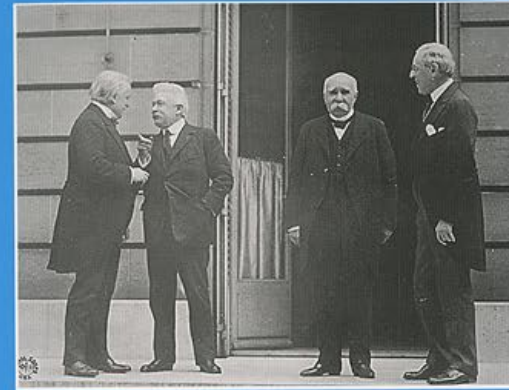
¹Later abandoned his advocacy of a parliamentary government in the United States



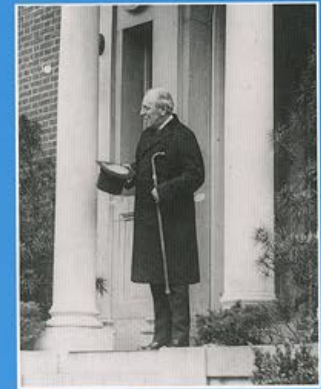
President Wilson throwing out the first ball, opening day, 1916; LC-USZ62-9981; National Photo Co. Collection**



President Wilson asking Congress to declare war on Germany, April 2, 1917; LC-USZC4-10297*



Council of Four (U.S., Great Britain, Italy, and France) of the Paris Treaty Peace Conference, L-R, Lloyd George; Signor Orlando; M. Clemenceau; President Woodrow Wilson, Hotel Crillon, Paris, France, May 27, 1919**



President Wilson standing in the doorway of his home, Armistice Day, 1922; LC-USZ62-9980, National Photo Collection*

his views of the federal government, politics and history. Gaining national acclaim for his views on government, he was unanimously elected president of Princeton in 1902, a post he held for eight years. During his term as president he reorganized the university, hired new faculty, raised money, and proposed education and social reforms.

In 1910, Wilson's career in politics began with his acceptance and election as the 45th Governor of New Jersey, during which he pushed a progressive agenda: fighting machine politics and party bosses, securing finance reform, securing a law that permitted voters to nominate candidates, and instituting a worker's compensation program. After two years as governor, Wilson ran to secure the 1912 Democratic presidential nomination, which he narrowly secured. Wilson won the election with only 42% of the popular vote, gaining the election with 82% of the electoral votes. The Republican Party ran a divided election with both Taft and Roosevelt running, causing a split in the Republican votes and consequently securing Wilson's election as the 28th President of the United States of America.

During Wilson's administration he lost his wife Ellen of 30 years to kidney disease, remarried, faced the U.S. entrance of WWII, and most notably followed through with most

of his campaign promises, with the exception of entering the war. Wilson won the presidency on his New Freedom platform, which promised for tariff reduction, banking and monetary system reform, and new laws to weaken abusive corporations and restore economic compensation—most of which he accomplished during his two terms as president. In his first term, Wilson passed 5 major pieces of legislation through Congress: the Underwood Act that encompassed a lower tariff and a graduated Federal income tax; the Federal Reserve Act that provided the nation with new currency and twelve Federal Reserve banks; the Federal Trade Commission that served to prohibit unfair business practices; the Keating-Owens Act that prohibited child labor; and the Adamson Act that set a standard 48-hour work week for railroad workers. Three amendments also passed under the Wilson administration—the Seventeenth Amendment, providing for the direct popular election of U.S. Senators, the Eighteenth Amendment, instituting prohibition, and the Nineteenth Amendment, establishing women's right to vote. In foreign affairs, Wilson promised independence to the Philippines and made Puerto Ricans American citizens². In the European war, Wilson maintained America's neutrality for 2 years, gaining reelection with the slogan "he kept us out of war," before asking Congress for a

²Jones-Shafroth Act signed March 2, 1917



Wilson's home, Princeton; LC-DIG-ggbain-08528*



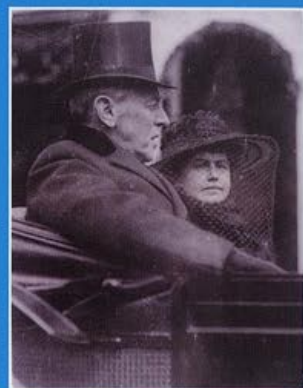
Wilson seated on porch with his wife, Ellen Louise Axson and three daughters; LC-UAZ62-96670*



Wilson and wife (Ellen Louise Axson) in garden at Princeton, 1910; LC-USZ62-71735*



Woodrow Wilson's home; LC-B2-2416-8, George Grantham Bain Collection*



President Wilson with wife (Edith Bolling Galt) in backseat of carriage to second inauguration, March, 1917; LC-USZ62-22737*

declaration of war in April 1917 in response to Germany's actions—offering a military alliance with Mexico against the United States and issuing unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic. Wilson stated that America's entrance into the war against Germany was necessary as a means to preserve democracy. During WWI, industrial production increased twenty percent; daylight savings time was instituted as a means to conserve fuel; the food administration encouraged "Meatless Mondays" and "Wheat less Wednesdays" to conserve food; airplane and shipbuilding programs launched and the government took over the railroad. Most notably, as to discourage non-support of the war, the Espionage and Sedition Acts were passed that made criticism of the government, armed forces, and the war effort unlawful. Despite involving America in WWI, Wilson resumed his peace efforts when he addressed Congress in January 1918 with his Fourteen Points Address, asserting points he believed to be necessary for postwar peace and preventing future wars. After the Germans signed the Armistice in November 1918, Wilson participated in the Paris Peace Treaty talks with Great Britain, France, and Italy and took the resulting Versailles Treaty that contained the creation of a League of Nations to the U.S. Senate for approval. Not gaining support, he toured the country to

rally for public support for a League of Nations,³ warning the immergence of a second world war without its establishment. Shortly thereafter, he suffered from a paralyzing stroke that left him paralyzed on the left side of his body. Unfortunately, Wilson spent his last seventeen days in office, incapacitated, conducting all of his public business through his second wife, Edith Bolling Wilson, who he had married in 1915.⁴ Before leaving office in 1921, he was granted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919 for his peace efforts.⁵

After leaving office, Wilson retired to Washington, D.C. where he formed a law partnership with his former secretary of state, Bainbridge Colby, which quickly dissolved due to Wilson's health. In 1923 Wilson participated in his last two public roles—published his ideas on foreign policy reform, entitled "The Road Away from Revolution" and gave his nationwide Armistice Day radio address. Wilson died at his home on February 3, 1924 and is buried in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

President Thomas Woodrow Wilson served as the 28th President of the United States from March 4, 1913- March 4, 1921.

³The Senate later passed amendments to the treaty in November 1919 and March 1920; both of which Wilson refused to support and encouraged his supporters to vote against it, thus the U.S. never joined the League of Nations that Wilson had proposed. ⁴His condition was kept from the public

⁵Fathered the Fourteen Points as a design basis for international law, creating a framework for peace

Key Establishments

19th Amendment ratified • Federal Trade Commission established • Federal Reserve Act passed • Signed first law regulating child labor • Set a standard 48 hour work week for railroad workers

Dr. Thomas Woodrow Wilson: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 28th **Years President:** 1913-1921 **Age at Inauguration:** 56 **Terms:** 2 **Political Affiliation:** Democrat **State Represented:** New Jersey **Marriage:** June 24, 1885 to Ellen Louise Axson (1860-1914); December 18, 1915 to Edith Bolling Galt (1872-1961) **First Lady (ies):** Ellen Louise Wilson & Edith Bolling Wilson **Vice President:** Thomas R. Marshall **Birth Date:** December 28, 1856 **Birthplace:** Staunton, Virginia **Birth Name:** Thomas Woodrow Wilson **Nicknames:** Tommy, "Schoolmaster in Politics" **Parents:** Janet Woodrow & Reverend Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson **Childhood Activities:** Baseball, Hunting **Education:** Davidson College, College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), University of Virginia Law School, Johns Hopkins University **Favorite Subject:** Debate **Professions:** Lawyer; College instructor and Professor; President of Princeton University; Historian and political scientist; 28th President of the United States **Pre-Presidential Offices:** 45th Governor of New Jersey **Occupation after Presidency:** Retired **Religion:** Presbyterian **Hobbies:** Golf, riding, swimming, walking **Writings:** Congressional Government (1885); Division and Reunion (1893); George Washington (1896); The State (1898); A History of the American People (1902); Constitutional Government in the United States (1908); An Old Master and Other Political Essays (1893); Mere Literature and Other Essays (1893) **Children:** Margaret Woodrow, Jessie Woodrow, and Eleanor Randolph **Pets:** Sheep on the White House lawn **Died:** February 3, 1924

Notable Facts

First U.S. president to travel to Europe while in office Only U.S. president to obtain a doctoral degree Last president to follow the two-term tradition set by George Washington

Interesting Facts

- ❖ Dropped first name in 1879
- ❖ Suffered Dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder¹
- ❖ Member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternal organization
- ❖ Member of private eating club, the Alligators, at Princeton²
- ❖ Ancestral home in Strabane, Northern Ireland
- ❖ 5'11" tall
- ❖ Proposed marriage first to his cousin Hattie Woodrow who refused
- ❖ Salary as a professor at Bryn Mawr College was \$1,500 a year
- ❖ First President of Princeton University not previously a clergyman
- ❖ Portrait appeared on U.S. \$100,000 bill in 1934; used only for transaction purposes between the Federal Reserve and Treasury
- ❖ Broke 113 years of tradition by personally addressing a joint session of Congress
- ❖ Wilson administration passed a law making interracial marriage a felony in the District of Columbia and imposed segregating within government offices
- ❖ City of Bratislava (now capital of Slovakia, Europe) was named "Wilsonovo mesto" (Wilson City) for a short time after WWI to commemorate Wilson's support of creating the independent state of Czechoslovakia³
- ❖ Undergraduate dormitory, Wilson House, at John Hopkins is named in his honor
- ❖ Sheep replaced gardeners who were drafted into the military at the White House
- ❖ Pictured on the \$1000 Confederate bill & depicted on the U.S. \$20 bill

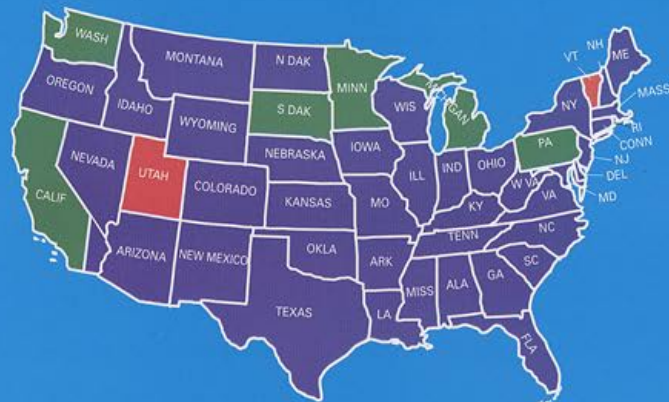
www.celebritydollmuseum.com

¹Historians assert that it was possible that he had dyslexia, which may have hindered his ability to read

²As president of Princeton, Wilson later attacked eating clubs as being snobbish, and attempted to eliminate them with his quadrangle plan

³Central railway station in Prague bears the name "Wilsonovo nádraží (Wilson Station) for same reason

The Presidential Election 1912

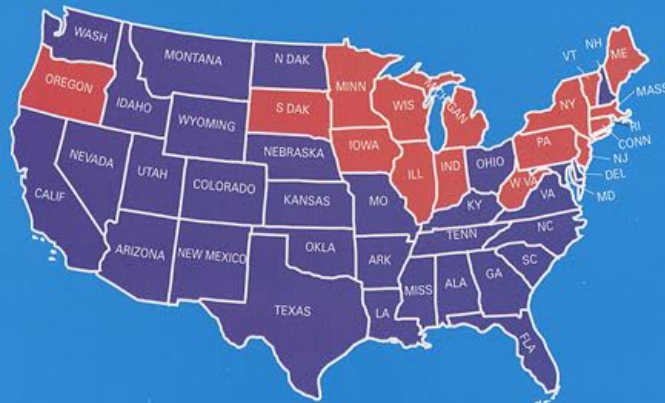


(D) Wilson state victories: 435 - 82%
 (P) T. Roosevelt state victories: 88 - 16.5%
 (R) J.Q. Adams state victories: 8 - 1.5%

6,293,454 popular votes (42%)
 4,119,538 popular votes (27.5%)
 3,484,980 popular votes (23%)

Electoral total: 531
 Popular vote total:
 15,033,669

The Presidential Election 1916



(D) Wilson state victories: 277 - 52%
 (R) Hughes state victories: 254 - 48%

9,129,606 popular votes (49%)
 8,538,221 popular votes (46%)

Electoral total: voting: 531
 Popular vote total:
 18,528,743

Dr. Thomas Woodrow Wilson: While in Office

1913 Alice Paul and Lucy Burns organize a woman's suffrage parade the day before Wilson's inauguration • Income tax legislation passed • Underwood-Simmons Tariff Act • Federal Reserve Act • Government-wide segregation of African American federal employees in the workplaces, restrooms, and lunchrooms • 17th Amendment ratified • Department of Labor created **1914** Striking miners and their families killed in the Ludlow Massacre • Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated • Beginnings of WWI in Europe • Wilson declared U.S. neutrality in European War • Federal Trade Commission established • Clayton Antitrust Act • Trotter ordered to leave White House for protesting African American segregation of federal employees **1915** U.S. Marine troops sent into Haiti to restore order from a revolution • German U-boat sank passenger ship Lusitania • William J. Simmons revived the disbanded Ku Klux Klan • La Follette Seamen's Act **1916** Wilson re-elected president • Keating-Owen Act passed¹ • Jones Act • Adamson Act • Federal Farm Loan Act • President ordered American troops to pursue American guerillas who raid the U.S. • Marine forces established Pro-American dictatorship in the Dominican Republic • General Pershing failed to capture rebel leader Poncho Villa • Montana's Jeannette Rankin became first woman elected to Congress • Flagg's lithograph of Uncle Sam declaring "I Want You" first published **1917** Puerto Rico citizens granted U.S. citizenship under the Jones Law • U.S. forces withdrew from Mexico • British intelligence intercepted the Zimmermann Telegram • Germany instituted unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic • Proclamation of war against Germany signed by Wilson • War Industries Board established • Committee on Public Information created² • Food and Fuel Administrations encouraged conservation³ • The Inquiry committee established to develop ideas of world peace and democracy • Selective Service Act passed⁴ • Woman's Party (the Silent Sentinels) picket at the White House for women's right to vote **1918** Wilson issued his Fourteen Points Speech • Flu epidemic spread and killed more than 600,000 Americans • Sedition and Espionage Acts passed⁵ • Socialist part leader Eugene V. Debs received 10 year jail sentence for protesting war • Germany signed armistice with Allies and World War I ended **1919** Volstead Act enforcing the 18th Amendment signed • Paris Peace Conference • American troops returned from Europe • Treaty of Versailles signed • Senator Henry Cabot Lodge led fight against the League of Nations • Senate rejected the formation of the League of Nations • Wilson campaigned across nation to gain support for the passage of the League of Nations **1920** First International Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World • Palmer Raids • 19th Amendment ratified • League of Nations met for first time in Geneva **1921** Wilson administration ended March 4

¹ Banned articles produced by child labor from interstate commerce. A 1918 Supreme Court ruling declared it unconstitutional.

² Created to induce public support of war through issuing pro-war propaganda

³ Promoted voluntary conservation of food with "Meatless Mondays," "Wheatless Wednesdays," and "war gardens."

⁴ Fuel conservation encouraged with the introduction of daylight savings time.

⁵ First draft instilled since the Civil War of 1917

⁶ Outlawed criticism of government, the armed forces and the war