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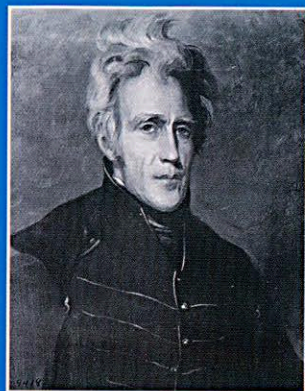
The Road to the Andrew Jackson Presidency

★ *The 7th President* ★

Andrew Jackson: Biography



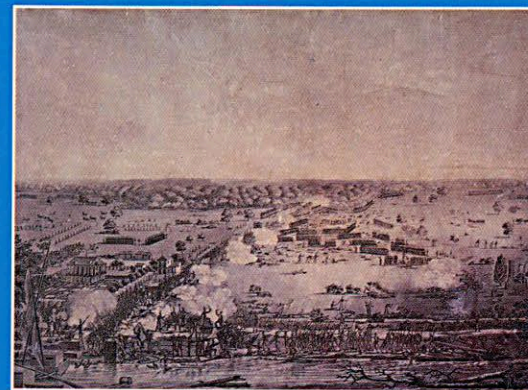
Mrs. Rachel Donelson Jackson;
LC-USZ62-100102*



Andrew Jackson**



General Andrew Jackson.
The Hero of New Orleans, 1815**



Defeat of the British army by the Americans under Major
General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans,
January 8, 1815; LC-USZC4-1809**

“The people are sovereign. Their will is absolute.”—Andrew Jackson

The 7th President of the United States, Andrew Jackson was born March 15, 1767 as the third son to Elizabeth (known as Betty) Hutchinson and Andrew Jackson in the Waxhaw Settlement of South Carolina. Of Irish heritage, Jackson's parents were farmers, who had recently arrived to America with his two older brothers, Hugh and Robert in 1765. Unfortunately, Jackson never got the opportunity to meet his father, who died in a logging accident weeks before he was born. Jackson's widowed mother raised he and his two brothers in the company of a large extended family, also Irish immigrant farmers, in the Waxhaw settlement located near the North and South Carolina border. Jackson attended school for an uncertain period of time before the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in the Carolinas (1778-1781). Jackson, only thirteen years old, joined his brothers to volunteer with the Continental Army to fight the British.¹ Jackson's oldest brother, Hugh died of a heat stroke following the Battle of Stone Ferry in 1779; and in 1881 Jackson and his brother Robert were captured by the British, during which he endured ill treatment and contracted small pox. Although released after a few weeks, Robert was unable to fight off his illness and died within days of their release. Jackson recovered and shortly thereafter he lost his mother to cholera.

The war's end left Jackson an orphan and only child at fourteen. Jackson lived a year and a half with his mother's family, working as a saddle maker for six of those months before venturing off to Charleston where he finished his last year of school in 1782 and worked as a schoolteacher thereafter. After a year of teaching, Jackson left for Salisbury, North Carolina at the age of seventeen to study law. After three years of study, apprenticing with prominent lawyers, Jackson received his license to practice law and moved to Nashville. He practiced law in Nashville, Jonesborough and Greeneville and worked in general stores to supplement his income before gaining his appointment as a public prosecutor in 1788.

During this time he met Rachel Donelson Robards, whom he married in 1791. That same year he received his appointment as Attorney General of the Mero District. Unbeknownst to the couple, Rachel was still legally married and her divorce was not officially finalized until 1793 when her legal husband granted her a divorce on the grounds of adultery.² Upon the discovery, the couple remarried in Nashville on January 17, 1794. Unfortunately, this would later afflict Jackson with slanders during his campaign for presidency. Jackson and Rachel lived first at Popular Grove from 1792-1796 and then Hunter's Hill from 1797-1804 before settling at The Hermitage on July 5, 1804. The couple never shared the birth of any children, however they adopted one of Rachel's nephews and named him Andrew Jackson Jr.

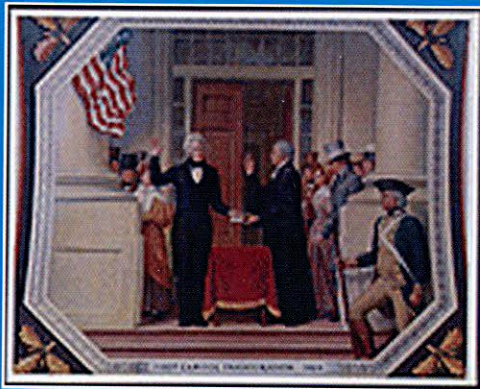
Jackson's career in politics began when he received an appointment to serve as a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention in Knoxville, where he helped draft a state constitution and bill of rights in 1796. Later that same year, he lobbied in Philadelphia to gain Congress' approval of Tennessee as the 16th U.S. state. Tennessee was admitted as a state on June 1 and he was consequently elected as Tennessee's first member of the U.S. House of Representatives, which he served for one year before his election as U.S. Senator in 1797. Jackson only served as senator for five months before taking a position as a circuit judge on Tennessee's Superior Court, serving for six years. During his tenure as circuit judge, Jackson also maintained a law practice in Nashville and established general merchandise stores, whiskey distilleries, and a boat making business. Jackson quit his career as Superior Court judge in 1804 when he purchased his 425 acre farm, "The Hermitage" and began his Clover Bottom enterprise, a riverfront venture where he operated a general store, tavern, and tracks for racing thoroughbred horses.

* Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

** National Archives at College Park—Archives II

¹ Jackson served as a courier

² Rachel's first husband, Robards was given permission to sue for divorce in 1790 by the Kentucky legislature, however he did not do so at the time. Rachel and Jackson confused the permission to sue with an actual declaration of divorce, so they married not realizing Rachel was still legally married.



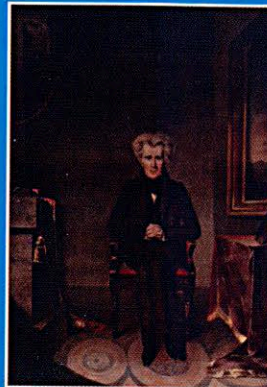
Chief Justice John Marshall administering the oath of office to Andrew Jackson on the east portico of the U.S. Capitol, March 4, 1829; LC-USZC4-7731*

In 1812 the United States declared war on Great Britain and Jackson was commissioned as Major General of the Tennessee Militia. Jackson's troops departed Nashville for New Orleans January 1, 1813 and were ordered to abort their mission with no offer of compensation on February 6; nevertheless, Jackson marched his troops intact to Nashville through hostile Indian lands. The troops recognized Jackson's strength, comparing it to the toughness of a hickory tree and gave him the nickname "Old Hickory." Shortly thereafter, the Creek War³ erupted and Jackson's troops won significant battles against the Creek Indians, ending the war. For his success, the War Department rewarded Jackson with a commission as Major General in the U.S. Army over the 7th Military District (Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi Territory). In August of 1814 Jackson, ordered to negotiate a peace treaty, met with the chiefs of the Creek Nation and imposed the Treaty of Fort Jackson⁴. In 1814, Jackson was commissioned once again to fight British forces in New Orleans. After two weeks of battle, Jackson's army, although outnumbered and inexperienced, gained victory over the British on January 8, 1815, forcing British troops to withdraw from Louisiana. Interestingly, a peace treaty—the Treaty of Ghent—between the United States and Britain had already been signed before the American victory in New Orleans, but due to slow communications troops were unaware of the treaty. Jackson, acclaimed a national hero, once again made significant strides in the claiming of U.S. territory when he invaded Spanish Florida in 1818 to attack the Seminole Indians in the First Seminole War, a victory that led Spain to agree to the Adams-Onís Treaty, granting Florida to the United States in 1819.

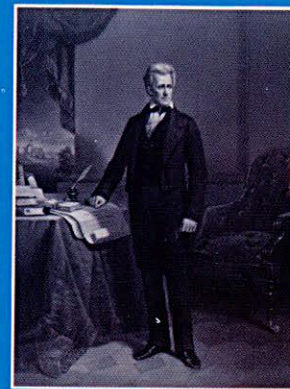
Shortly thereafter, in June 1821, Jackson re-entered politics and became the first Governor of Florida. Jackson only served a few months, resigning his post and returning to The Hermitage to manage his plantation. However, his retirement as a farmer was short-lived as the Tennessee Legisla-

³Settlers at Fort Mims had been killed by a hostile faction of the Creek Indians beginning the war

⁴Forced the Creeks to give up nearly 23 million acres and settle in a smaller area of land that would be patrolled by American forces



Andrew Jackson as President of the United States, from original painting by W.J. Hubard; drawn on stone by A. Newsam; LC-USZC4-4563*



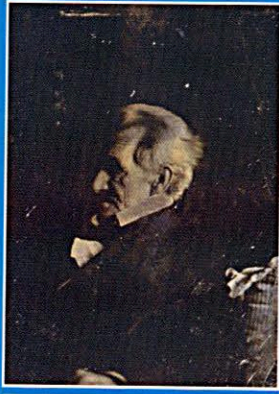
Andrew Jackson, painted by D.M Carter; engraved by A.H. Ritchie; LC-USZ62-5099*

ture nominated him as a U.S. presidential candidate in 1822 and elected him as a U.S. Senator in 1823. In the election of 1824, as a republican candidate, he gained the popular vote, but fell short of the electoral votes needed for victory, leaving the decision to the House of Representatives who met on February 9, 1825 and elected John Quincy Adams as president. Rumors ensued that Clay and Adams had arranged to ensure Adam's election; and Jackson believed this to be true when Adams appointed Clay his Secretary of State. At this point, Jackson resigned his Senate seat and returned to his farm in Tennessee, during which he and his supporters began to plan for his presidential election in 1828, forming the Democratic Party. Endorsing a campaign promise of governmental reform (remove corruption and repair the nations finances), Jackson endured a brutal campaign from Adam supporters who questioned Jackson's morality for office, charging Rachel with bigamy and Jackson a partner to it when they had first married. Adam's supporters also accused Jackson of being a military tyrant, highlighting all of his duels, his execution of troops for desertion during the War of 1812, his declaration of marshal law in New Orleans, his invasions of Spanish Florida and his friendship with Aaron Burr (conspired to break up the U.S. for his personal advancement). Despite the brutal attacks, Jackson won the presidency and was inaugurated as the 7th President of the United States on March 4, 1829. Unfortunately, Rachel died before Jackson assumed office, on December 22, 1828.

While in office, Jackson eliminated the national debt, preserved and defended the Union, attempted to end elitism in government by initiating a 'policy of rotation' (commonly referred to as the spoils system), fought to decrease the powers of the Second Bank of the United States⁵, enforced the Indian Removal Act of 1830⁶, and increased the powers of the presidency (the executive branch) with utilizing his veto powers more than any of his predecessors combined. Jackson's administration opened new

⁵ Jackson believed the banks had too much power, was unconstitutional, concentrated an excessive amount of the nation's financial strength, exposed government to foreign interests and favored northeastern states

⁶ Jackson believed that he policy of assimilating Indian tribes into white society had failed, and also believed that assimilation would not only destroy the Indian culture but also lead to more land struggles. The Cherokees sued in the Supreme Court when the State of Georgia attempted to force out the Cherokees. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokees, but neither the state of Georgia nor Jackson upheld the ruling and the Cherokees were ultimately forced westward along the infamous 'Trail of Tears.'



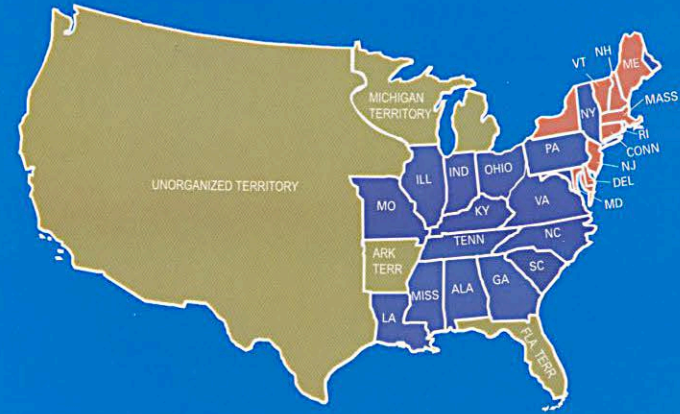
Seventy-eight year old Andrew Jackson head-and shoulders portrait, 1845, taken just seven weeks before his death by Mathew Brady; Daguerreotype collection; LC-USZC4-1807*

ports to American trade, and collected large sums of money owed to the United States by foreign governments. In his last days in office, Jackson signed a currency reform bill, gained congressional approval of his decentralized banking system, and reluctantly approved distribution of the national surplus to states. Jackson's focus during his presidency was to carry out the "will of the people," which was central in his reform of the nations currency, notably the issue of Specie Circular that required government land to be purchased with hard money (gold or silver) as he believed that the paper money system allowed speculators to purchase large quantities of land that drove the value to unaffordable prices. Unfortunately, Jackson's Specie Circular and his failure to provide a substitute national banking system helped contribute to the downfall of the nations economy and the Financial Panic of 1837 after his presidency.

After leaving office, Jackson retired to his home outside Nashville where he shared the Hermitage with his adopted son's family and maintained an active involvement in national politics. Jackson's health, never good, worsened in his final years, suffering infections, gastrointestinal problems, pain, eye and ear troubles and fluid build up until his death at the age of 78 on June 8, 1845.

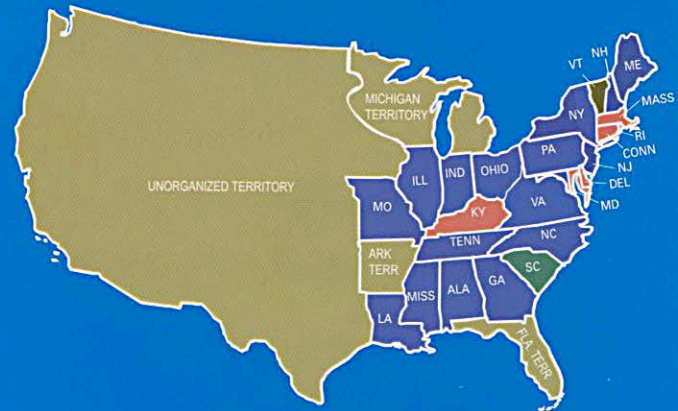
Andrew Jackson served as the 7th President of the United States from March 4, 1829-March 4, 1837.





The Presidential Election 1828



(D) Jackson state victories: 178 - 68%		647,286 popular votes (56%)	Electoral total: 261 nonvoting: 23 Popular vote total: 1,155,350
(R) J. Q. Adams state victories: 83 - 32%		508,064 popular votes (44%)	

The Presidential Election 1832



(D) Jackson state victories: 219 - 77%		707,000 popular votes (55%)	Electoral total: voting: 286 nonvoting: 2 Popular vote total: 1,291,000
(R) Clay state victories: 49 - 17%		329,000 popular votes (25%)	
(I) Floyd state victories: 11 - 4%		255,000 popular votes (20%)	
(Anti-Masonic) Wirt state victories: 7 - 2%			

Andrew Jackson: While in Office

1829 Abolition of slavery in Mexico • Mexican province of Texas exempt from slavery ban
1830 Maysville Road Bill vetoed • Indian Removal bill signed • First pocket veto • Washington Globe established • Webster and Hayne engaged in Senate debate over the Tariff of Abominations • American ports to British West Indian trade reopened
1831 Cabinet resigned and new cabinet appointed⁷ • Nat Turner led the first and only sustained slave revolt in U.S. history • The National Republicans organized and became first political party to hold a nominating convention for president
1832 Re-charter of Second U.S. Bank vetoed • Tariff of 1832 signed • South Carolina passed an Ordinance of Nullification rejecting Tariff of 1832 • Jackson issued a presidential proclamation against South Carolina • Jackson re-elected president • Proclamation to the people of South Carolina on Nullification • Black Hawk War
1833 Jackson inaugurated for second term • Force Bill and Compromise Tariff resolving Nullification Crisis in South Carolina signed • Pocket vetoes Distribution Bill • Treasury Secretary William J. Duane dismissed for refusal to remove deposits from Second U.S. Bank • Dismissal censured by Senate for actions against Bank
1834 Jackson protested censure by Senate • Action against France threatened for the delay in paying their indemnities to the U.S. • Coinage Act signed • Jackson announced that nation is debt free • Jackson's political opponents form the Whig party
1835 Jackson escapes assassination attempt • Crisis with France resolved • Jackson refused to issue apology for threatening France⁸ • Second Seminole War began • Roger B. Taney nominated for Chief Justice
1836 Arkansas admitted to the Union • Deposit Bill signed • Post Office Bill signed • Specie Circular issued • Senate censure erased from records • Texas declared and won independence from Mexico • Approval of the distribution of the national surplus to states for internal improvements
1837 Decentralized banking system approved • Financial Panic of 1837 • Michigan admitted into the Union • Texas' independence recognized • Jackson administration ended March 3

Key Establishments

National debt paid off and nation kept debt free from 1835 to the remainder of his term • Opened new ports to American trade • Collected large sums of money owed to the United States by foreign governments • Arkansas and Michigan admitted into the Union

Andrew Jackson: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 7th **Years President:** 1829-1837 **Terms:** 2
State Represented: Tennessee **Party Affiliation:** Democrat **First Lady:**
 Rachel Donelson Jackson⁹ **Vice President:** John C. Calhoun; Martin Van Buren
Birth Date: March 15, 1767 **Birth Name:** Andrew Jackson **Nickname:** "Old

⁷ Jackson removed about 10% of the government officers: those who he viewed as corrupt, inept, or politically opposed him. He called it the "principle of rotation in office" other labeled it the "spoils system."

⁸ Threatened war with France who delayed payment owed to the U.S. France later paid the indemnity.

⁹ Wife died before his inauguration, so niece Emily Jackson Donelson served as the official hostess

¹⁰ Gained during the War of 1812 when his troops compared his toughness to that of the hickory tree

Hickory"¹⁰ **Birthplace:** Waxhaw District, South Carolina **Parents:** Elizabeth (Betty) Hutchinson and Andrew Jackson **Education:** No College; studied law in Salisbury, North Carolina **Early Interests:** Training racehorses **Professions:** Teacher; Lawyer **Military Service:** Major General of U.S. Forces **Pre-Presidential Offices:** Congressman; U.S. Senator; Governor of Florida; Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court **Occupation after Presidency:** Farmer; Political advisor **Religion:** Presbyterian **Hobbies:** Riding **Favorite Foods:** Pancakes **Children:** Adopted nephew, Andrew Jackson Jr. **Pets:** Horses **Died:** June 8, 1845

Notable Facts

One of 9 Presidents who did not attend college **One of 10 Presidents** who were generals **One of 26 Presidents** who were lawyers before becoming president **First populist President** who did not come from the aristocracy **First President** to have his vice president resign (John Calhoun) **First President** to use an informal "Kitchen Cabinet" of advisors **First President** to use the "pocket veto" to kill a congressional bill **First President** to also serve as U.S. Representative and Senator **First President** to set forth that the president served to represent all the people **First U.S. President** to represent the Democratic Party **Only U.S. President** to be censured by the U.S. Senate **First President** to be nominated at a national convention (second term) **First President** to experience an assassination attempt during office¹¹ **First President** to be censured **Only President** in American history to pay off the national debt

Interesting Facts

- ❖ 6' tall and never weighed over 145 lbs
- ❖ Had chronic abdominal pain for years and suffered poor health much of his life from 2 gunshot wounds received in duels¹²
- ❖ Purchased his Hermitage property from Nathaniel Hays for \$3,500 in 1804¹³
- ❖ First Tennessean to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ❖ First Governor of Florida
- ❖ Vetoes more legislation as president than the first six presidents put together¹⁴
- ❖ Helped found the Democratic Party and the donkey symbol¹⁵
- ❖ Replaced about 10% of government officers
- ❖ Pictured on the \$1000 Confederate bill & depicted on the U.S. \$20 bill

¹¹ Robert Lawrence failed in his attempt to assassinate Jackson in the U.S. Capitol on January 30, 1835

¹² Duel with Charles Dickinson in 1806 over a horse-race wager left him with a bullet too close to the heart to be removed.

¹³ Duel with Jesse and Thomas Benton in 1813 left him with a bullet in the shoulder that was removed in 1832.

¹⁴ Purchased 425 tract of land in 1804, property grew over time to include 1,050 acres

¹⁵ In the election of 1828 his opponent called him a "jackass," thus Jackson made it the symbol for the democratic party

Andrew Jackson: Timeline



* Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
**National Archives at College Park: Archives II

al Convention Jan-Feb

ntatives October 22

enate seat
ge of Tennessee
ourt December 20

1804

Formed business partnership with John Coffee and John Hutchings
Orleans Territory created
Purchased The Hermitage July 4
Resigned as judge July 24

1812

U.S. declared war on Great Britain

1814

Defeated Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend
Commissioned major general of the U.S. Army by President
Imposed Treaty of Fort Jackson on the Creek Nation August 7
Captured Pensacola from Spanish November 17
Arrived in New Orleans and imposed martial law Dec 1

1815

Defeated British advance toward New Orleans January 8
Fined for contempt of court

ember 26

1802

Elected Major General of Tennessee militia February 5

1813

Wounded in gunfight with Jesse and Thomas Hart Benton
Adopted Creek Indian named "Lynocya"

1812-1815

Led troops against Indians and British

1809

Adopted son of Elizabeth and Severn Donelson (nephew on wife's side) and renamed him Andrew Jackson Jr.

1806

Killed Charles Dickinson in a duel May 30; Jackson wounded

1818

1
Inva
Cap
Ord

1816-1818

Creeks, Chickasaws, K

rch 17
Madison
9

1821

Brick Hermitage mansion completed
Appointed and confirmed governor
of Florida territory March 10
Resigned army commission June 1
U.S. received Florida from Spanish July 17
Resigned as Florida governor November 13

1825

Defeated for President in House election February 9
Resigned Senate seat October 12
Re-nominated for President by Tennessee legislature
October 14

1828

Lyncoya died
Elected President
Wife died December 22

1829

1823

Elected U.S. Senator

1822

Nominated for President by Tennessee legislature

1824

Received nomination for president March 4

1819

Congressional censure for invasion of Florida rejected
Toured Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York

1823-1824

Donated funds and land for the Hermitage church

ced Spanish Florida March 15
ured St. Marks & Pensacola
red execution of Robert Ambrister and Alexander Arbuthnot

herokees, and Choctaws signed treaty¹

¹Through threat of force Jackson got the Indian tribes to cede large tracts of land and confine their tribes to smaller territories.



GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON
The Hero, the Sage, and the Statesman

General Andrew Jackson
hero, the sage and the statesman
LC-USZC2-2402*

1831

Andrew Jackson Jr. married Sarah Yorke

1833

Injured in assault by Robert B. Randolph
Toured New England and Middle Atlantic states

1845

Suffered from edema² and died
at The Hermitage June 8
Buried under Tomb next to
wife Rachel in Hermitage
garden June 10

Inaugurated seventh President March 4

1829-1837

Served as the 7th
President of the United
States of America

1835

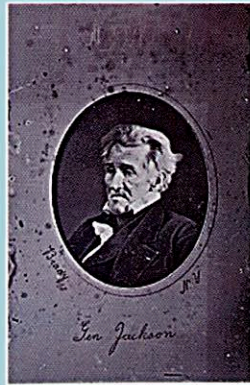
Escaped assassination attempt

1837

Left White House and
retired to The Hermitage
Grandson, Samuel
Jackson born March 7
Joined Presbyterian Church



son: the
e patriot;



Portraits of Andrew Jackson,
ca. 1860-ca. 1865**

1844

Endorsed James K. Polk for president
Urged the annexation of Texas

1840

Wrote last will and testament

1836

Hermitage rebuilding complete
Suffered severe hemorrhage

1834

Grandson Andrew Jackson III
born March 28 1834
Hermitage mansion damaged by fire

1832

Granddaughter Rachel Jackson born Nov 1
Operation to remove bullet from Benton gunshot

²Swelling from an abnormal excess of fluid in tissues and organs