



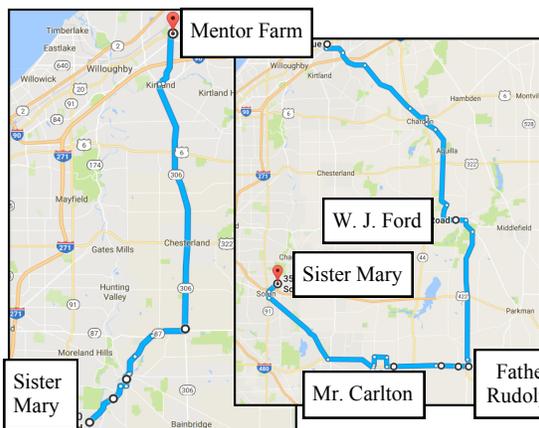
The Garfield Telegraph

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Driving with the Garfield Family

James A. Garfield was a busy man for most of his adulthood, but he enjoyed slowing his pace a bit and enjoying time with his family and friends. In 1877, after settling in their new farm in Mentor, some of the family members went for a drive in the Garfield's wagon to see friends and family in Solon, Hiram, and Burton. Garfield wrote about the four day journey in his diary. Thankfully, he wrote the times that he left different places and when he arrived. Today we can map that trip he took and compare it to how we fast we can travel now.

Historic maps from 1874 and the 1890s can give us an idea of where Garfield's friends might have lived in 1877. The family stayed with W. J. Ford, and his farm was possibly on the western side of Burton Township. 'Father Rudolph's' farm was right on Rt. 305 (Wakefield Rd.), around the corner from Hiram College. Mr. Carlton's home was in Mantua, on Frost Rd. north of Rt. 82 (Twinsburg Warren Rd.). In 1874, Garfield's sisters Mary and Hitty lived around the corner from each other in Solon. Mary's farm was on Solon Rd., right at the north-eastern corner of the city today, and Hitty's farm was on Rt. 91 (SOM Center Rd.) near Sherbrook Park Dr. today. The family took Rt. 306 (Chillicothe Rd.) back home.



From the Diary of James A. Garfield

Tuesday, June 19, 1877

Worked at odds and ends of farm affairs, and correspondence, until 5 p.m. when I took Crete, Mother and Mollie with the light wagon and gray horses, and started for Burton via Chardon, en route to Hiram. It was the first time I ever started off on a long drive with my family and my own double team. Reached Burton at 8 p.m. and spent the night at W. J. Ford's.

Wednesday, June 20, 1877

At eight and a half a.m. started for Hiram, taking Sammy Ford with us. Arrived at Hiram a little after ten. Stopped at Father Rudolph's and at eleven met with the Board of Trustees and held a long session. ... spent the night at Rudolph's.

Thursday, June 21, 1877

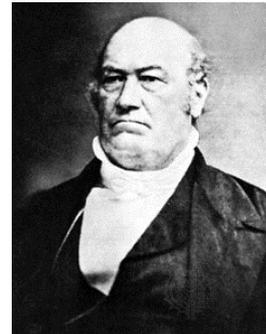
... Visited old friends for an hour, and at 5 ½ started with Mother, Crete, and Mollie for Solon. In Aurora, were caught in a heavy shower, and stopped at Mr. Carlton's near the Aurora and Mantua line. Reached Sister Mary's a' half-past eight p.m. where we spent the night.

Friday, June 22, 1877

Visited Sister Hitty, returned to Larabees ... and at 10 a.m. left for Mentor with Mother, Crete, Mollie and Sister Mary. We went via Chagrin Falls, Russell, Chester, and Kirtland. ... Arrived at home half-past one p.m. and found my desk overloaded with work, and much to be done about the farm.

Garfield's trip, from Mentor to Solon, took three days and around ten hours (of travel time). From Solon to Mentor, the trip back took around three hours. If we took a similar route today, Mentor to Solon would take about an hour and a half. From Solon to Mentor it would be about 40 minutes driving time (not taking the highways).

The wagon could go about 10-15 mph, around the same speed as an average bike.



Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) was the last surviving member of the Harrison and Tyler cabinets before his death on October 26, 1871. Future President Hayes was one of the pallbearers at Ewing's funeral. (*loc.gov*)

Thomas Ewing:

The First Secretary of the Interior

The Department of the Interior was created during the last day of the 30th Congress in 1849. The new Department (first called the "Home Department") was put in charge of the nation's internal affairs. Prior to this, internal affairs were usually handled by the Foreign Affairs, Treasury, and War Departments. Now, any offices dealing with domestic affairs were reassigned to the new Department.

President Zachary Taylor appointed Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) of Ohio, previously a U.S. Senator and a Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents William Henry Harrison and John Tyler. Ewing was born in Virginia and his family moved to Ohio in 1792. Ewing attended Ohio University and was among the first students to earn a college degree in the Northwest Territory (graduating in 1815).

With the new Department consisting of Bureaus from other departments, they needed office space. (The Treasury and War Departments had plans for the newly vacated offices.) Ewing planned to have their offices in the new Patent Office building, but it was still under construction at the time. As the Patent Office building progressed, his Bureaus moved in.

Thomas Ewing, in his new position of Secretary of the Interior, gained the

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(Ewing, cont'd from page 1)

nickname "Butcher Ewing" from newspapers for his replacement of many officeholders in the Bureaus. The Home Department created new patronage jobs; which Ewing was now filling with his choice of employees.

Ewing's time as Secretary of the Interior lasted less than two years having been cut short by the untimely death of President Taylor. President Millard Fillmore appointed a new cabinet, and Ewing resigned on July 22, 1850. Ewing went on to serve in the U.S. Senate, and was selected as one of the Ohio delegates for a peace conference held in Washington to help prevent the oncoming Civil War. Ewing was appointed as Secretary of War by President Johnson, but the Senate did not approve the nomination as they were still upset at Johnson's firing of Edwin Stanton (which later led to Johnson's impeachment trial). Ewing returned to Ohio and his law practice. He died on October 26, 1871.



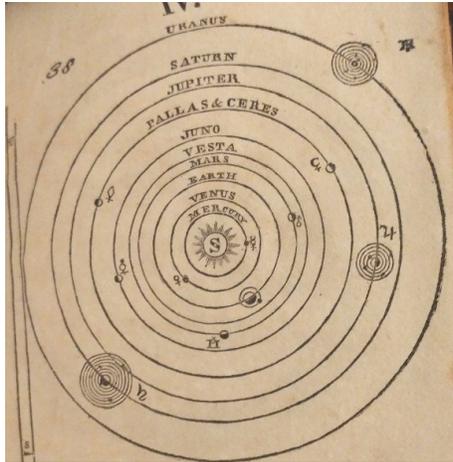
James R. Garfield served as Secretary of the Interior under President Theodore Roosevelt from 1903-1907. (*loc.gov*)

Happy Birthday Hal and Jim!

The Garfield's eldest boys, Harry Augustus and James Rudolph both have their birthdays in October! Here are fun facts about them:

Harry ("Hal") was born on October 11, 1863 while his father was serving in the Union Army. In one letter soon after the little boy (the Garfield's first boy) was born, Garfield refers to him as "Chickamauga;" referencing the battle that Garfield fought in a few weeks before. Harry did not have a proper name until he was almost two months old.

James ("Jim") was born on October 17, 1865. While living in Washington D.C., Jim was dared by his sister to lick the ice off of an iron railing. Like a scene out of a movie, his tongue got stuck. His tongue was soon freed by some warm towels and pulling.



The Solar System as known in 1827 can be found inside the *Literary and Scientific Class Book* in Zeb Rudolph's Room at James A. Garfield NHS.

Vesta, Juno, Pallas & Ceres

Astronomers have been studying and searching the skies since antiquity, wanting to define and discover what is outside of our planet. In 1772 a theory was published proposing that logically, there should be another planet between Mars and Jupiter (referred to as the Titus-Bode Law or Bode's Law). They began searching the night sky for evidence of this 'missing planet' and instead of finding one missing planet, astronomers found multiple 'planets' that were smaller than conventional planets, and in a space where there should have only been one planet.

Ceres, the first to be discovered, was found in 1801. In 1802, Pallas was discovered, following a similar path as Ceres. William Herschel argued that these smaller bodies were not planets, but asteroids. Other astronomers considered them planets (or pieces that broke off from a larger, destroyed planet), adding them to the Solar System. Juno was then discovered in 1804, and Vesta in 1807. Now, only Ceres is considered a dwarf planet.

A fun fact: The planet Uranus was discovered by William Herschel in 1781, after it was assumed to be a star for many years before. The first new planet to be found by telescope, it wasn't named 'Uranus' right away. The planet was called Herschel, or Georgium Sidus (a proposed name that was dismissed).

Did Garfield Say That?

"Man cannot live by bread alone; he must have peanut butter."

Sometimes attributed to James A. Garfield, this quote sounds funny, but does not make a lot of sense. The first part of the phrase comes from the Bible, a book that we know Garfield and his family read. The second half of the phrase refers to 'peanut butter' and we have to look at the history of that phrase to see if Garfield would have said it.

While a form of peanut butter has existed from the time of the Aztecs, peanut butter as we know it today was not popularized until after James A. Garfield's death. The word 'peanut' can be documented starting in 1807, but the term and current definition of 'peanut butter' did not appear in written English until 1892.

James A. Garfield lived from 1831 to 1881. Marcellus G. Edson patented an early form of peanut butter (called peanut paste) in 1884, and he milled roasted peanuts to create a paste. John H. Kellogg began making ground peanuts with the consistency of butter in 1898, using a boiling process. A peanut butter making machine was developed in St. Louis in 1903 by Dr. Ambrose Straub. Peanut butter was then introduced to the general public at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. George Washington Carver popularized peanuts and peanut products across America in the early 1910s, but he did not invent peanut butter.

So, did Garfield say that? Probably not. The earliest written reference for that exact phrase dates back to a St. Louis supermarket in the 1960s.

For more information about James A. Garfield NHS:
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