



The Garfield Telegraph

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The Secret Service today can always be seen protecting the President and his family. President Eisenhower in this 1955 photo has agents walking with his car. (*nps.gov*)

The United States Secret Service From protecting U.S. Currency to protecting U.S. Presidents

The United States Secret Service, a division of the Treasury Department, still performs the mission it was assigned during the Civil War, tracking counterfeit money, checks, bonds, and other financial instruments, including bogus credit cards.

Now, the Secret Service's most recognizable role is that of protecting the President of the United States. That duty began informally shortly after Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901, following the death of President William McKinley, who was shot in upstate New York on September 6 and died on September 14, 1901.

This new duty was established by law when Congress passed the Sundry Civil Expenses Act in 1906. It appropriated funds for the protection of the president for the fiscal year that began on July 1, 1907.

It took three presidential assassinations – Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley – before formal protection of the President of the United States was codified by law. Notably, this was nearly six years after the death of President McKinley.

Today, the Secret Service protects not just the President, but also members of the First Family, the Vice President, the president-elect and vice-president-elect, former presidents and their families, and visiting heads of state, among others. Since the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, presidential candidates are also protected by Secret Service details.

The Secret Service lists one agent, Officer Leslie W. Coffelt, as dying while protecting a president; Coffelt died while protecting President Truman during a 1950 assassination attempt.

“Garfield Obsequies, Sept. 26, 1881”

Ella L. Grant Wilson (1854– 1939) was a Clevelander who lived through the building of the city. She was ten years old when President Lincoln's coffin stopped in Public Square in 1965 and Ella was lifted by Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase to see inside.

When James A. Garfield was assassinated in 1881, she was a successful florist and she was determined to be part of the decorating committee for the President's funeral in Cleveland. Mrs. Wilson created four flower-covered arches that crossed Superior and Ontario Streets. Her arches showcased Garfield's life in

flowers and were 18 ft. high. While putting up her arches, she was kicked out of the Square for not having a badge giving her access to the funeral preparations. She made sure all her workers had the right badge but forgot to get her own.

(*cont'd page 2, See Wilson*)



Salmon P. Chase lifted up the young Ella and said “Little girl, there lies a great and good man. Never forget him.”
(*Famous Old Euclid Avenue*)



Happy Birthday William Howard Taft!
27th President and 10th Chief Justice, William Howard Taft was born on September 15, 1857 in Cincinnati, Ohio.
(*loc.gov*)



Happy Birthday, Eliza Ballou Garfield!

Mother of President James A. Garfield, Eliza continued to reside in Mentor after her son's death in 1881. She was born September 21, 1801 in New Hampshire and moved to Ohio in 1820 with her family.

(Western Reserve Historical Society)

45th Anniversary of the Munich Massacre at the 1972 Olympics

This September 5th will mark 45 years since eleven Israeli Olympic Team athletes and coaches were murdered. The events unfolded during the second week of the 1972 Olympic games, the first Olympic Games to be held in Germany since the 1936 Berlin Olympics under the Nazi regime. The athletes and coaches were taken hostage in their apartments by eight terrorists, and two died when they tried to stop the attack. The rest of the athletes were killed during a failed rescue attempt by German police officers. The hostage crisis and attempted rescue was broadcast on televisions around the world.

The David Berger National Memorial was created to honor David Berger, one of the athletes who was murdered in 1972. David Berger was an American/Israeli citizen born in Shaker Heights, Ohio and was a champion weightlifter. While he worked towards his Masters and Doctorate, he competed in weightlifting events. He moved to Israel in 1970, and was chosen for the Israeli Olympic Team in 1972.

The Memorial was commissioned by friends of David's family. It was named the David Berger National Memorial in 1980, and is affiliated with the National Park Service. It is located on the grounds of the Mandel Jewish Community Center in Beachwood, Ohio. The memorial was relocated to its current location in 2006 after the original community center was closed in 2005.



The David Berger National Memorial depicts the Olympic rings broken in half, but motioning upward in hope for the future. The base consists of eleven posts, symbolizing the eleven athletes and coaches who were killed.
(nps.gov)

The Curse of Tippecanoe?

A presidential legend, the Curse of Tippecanoe (also called Tecumseh's Curse or the Zero-Year Curse) dates back to William Henry Harrison and his war with Native American Chief Tecumseh. Before his presidency, Harrison was well-known as the general who defeated Native Americans in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. Harrison was the governor of the Indiana Territory, in charge of securing the territory from the Native Americans. The Native Americans were pushing back and were unwilling to give more of their land to the settlers.



William Henry Harrison, 9th President, was born in the Colony of Virginia, and settled with his family in North Bend, Ohio after the War of 1812.
(metmuseum.org)

Legend has it that Chief Tecumseh, or his brother Tenskwatawa cursed Harrison (years before he was president), and every president after, that if they were elected in a year that ends in zero they would die in office. From Harrison's untimely death only 30 days into his presidency, until Kennedy's assassination in 1963, the pattern held true.

President Zachary Taylor died in office in 1850, disrupting the pattern, as the only president to die in office that was not elected in a year ending in zero (an event which happens every twenty years).

The 'curse' was first popularized in the 1930s, and resurfaced during the 1940 and 1980 elections. Whether or not Harrison was cursed, the 'curse' now, thankfully, seems to be broken.

- 1840:** William Henry Harrison died in office in 1841.
- 1860:** Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 (reelected for a second term in 1864).
- 1880:** James A. Garfield was assassinated in 1881.
- 1900:** William McKinley was assassinated in 1901 (reelected for a second term in 1900).
- 1920:** Warren G. Harding died in office in 1923.
- 1940:** Franklin D. Roosevelt died in office in 1945 (reelected for a third term in 1940, and fourth term in 1944).
- 1960:** John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.
- 1980:** Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest in 1981 and survived.
- 2000:** George W. Bush finished his two terms with no major injuries.

(Wilson, cont'd from page 1)



Mrs. Wilson designed this flower ladder for Garfield's funeral in Cleveland. The rungs on the ladder depicted the steps in Garfield's career.
(Famous Old Euclid Avenue)

After speaking with City Council about getting back in the Square, she was given was the City Council President's badge which said "Garfield Obsequies, Sept. 26, 1881." She wore the City Council badge the rest of the day, saying that it was the closest she came to being a member of City

Council.

Later in life, Mrs. Wilson wrote her memories of living in Cleveland and socializing with the elite in a two-volume book *Famous Old Euclid Avenue*. She was a well respected member of Cleveland society, and lived through Cleveland's "Golden Age."

September 30: National Public Lands Day

Every September since 1994, Americans can celebrate their national public lands. Generally falling on the last Saturday of September, National Public Lands Day is the largest single-day volunteer effort in the nation for public lands. Each year, federal public lands are free for visitors to enjoy the day, and take advantage of the beautiful public lands that we have in our nation.

Many state and federal parks have volunteer events that help bring people together and appreciate their national treasures by giving back to the community. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) created and helps coordinate this day to help improve public lands and educate about conservation. For information about volunteer projects visit www.neefusa.org/npld/volunteers

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