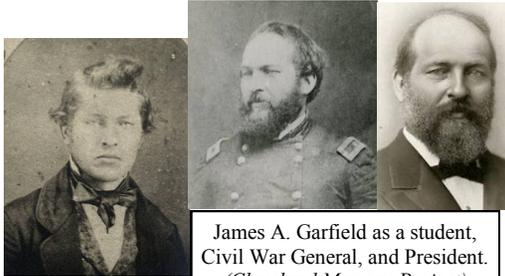




The Garfield Telegraph

Volume 4 • Issue 7 • Winter 2017



James A. Garfield as a student, Civil War General, and President. (Cleveland Memory Project)

Happy Birthday, James A. Garfield! November 19, 1831

Garfield kept a journal from his teenage years until a few months before he died. Some years he would remark about his birthday and his ideas for the future. Here are some birthday entries he wrote:

1849: *This morning I am 18 years old. ...*

Eighteen years ago the day star of my existence had just dawned. I knew not the follies and miseries of human life, neither had guile entered my mouth. But now I am changed. I am 18.

1857: *Today I am 26 years old. One year on the second half of my half century—26!! That sounds old. Is it so?*

1872: *Today I am 41 years old and my Uncle Thomas, the only surviving Garfield of the generation next preceding me, is 71.*

1875: *I am 44 years old today. I suspect that one's age is a surprise to him when his attention is called to it and yet it*

comes on so insidiously, so silently, that it is only by the sight of these milestones along the road, called birthdays, that suddenly remind us we are getting old. I wonder if they look more like tombstones each year. I am doubtless looked upon as a very old fellow by my children. ...

1879: *This, my 48th Birthday, finds my whiskers considerably sprinkled with gray, and little touches of rheumatism in my shoulders, to remind me that the years have been leaving their marks. ... I wonder if it is possible for consciousness and memory to act in harmony, and so justly as to enable me to compare my past with my present and future self, and thus note the process of growing old.*

James A. Garfield shared a birthday with his paternal uncle, Thomas Garfield. Thomas was born in New York in 1801. The family had a double birthday party for James and Thomas in 1880; James was 49, and his uncle was 79. On June 22, 1881, Thomas Garfield was killed in Cleveland in a buggy accident. Three months later, James A. Garfield died.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

Historic homes, buildings, and structures can be hard to maintain and a challenge to determine historical accuracy when making changes.

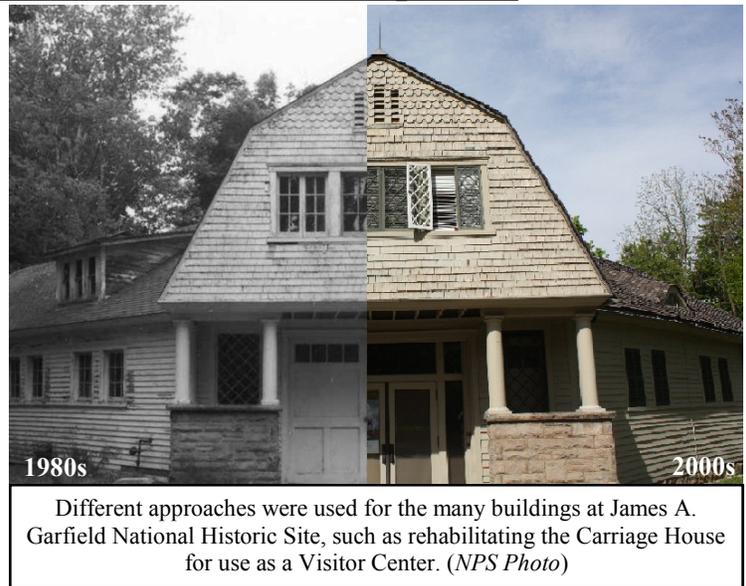
[The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) outline Standards and Guidelines for working with historic buildings. The Standards and Guidelines help with tough decision making, and are used

by federal agencies in historic preservation projects. State and local governments use the Standards and Guidelines in reviewing projects and with design choices.

The Standards and Guidelines are divided into four approaches to the treatment of historic buildings that each have their own section of specific Standards and Guidelines. Preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction are all different ways to change or maintain a historic property. The different treatments are there to give ideas about what is needed in the project, and how to best decide what to do. The choice of approach is based on the use of the structure, historic significance, and condition.

Preservation concentrates on keeping the structure as it is, and maintaining and repairing it in the form it is in now.

Rehabilitation retains the historic character of the structure while needing to alter it due to changing uses.



Different approaches were used for the many buildings at James A. Garfield National Historic Site, such as rehabilitating the Carriage House for use as a Visitor Center. (NPS Photo)

Restoration interprets a structure from one period of its history, and removes evidence of other periods.

Reconstruction rebuilds parts of the structure that are no longer there.

Anyone with an interest in historic structures and preservation can look at the Standards and Guidelines and get an idea about how to go about preserving, restoring, rehabilitating, or reconstructing historic homes, buildings, and structures. The main focus for all four treatments is to retain the historic integrity and importance of the structure for future generations to enjoy. The resources are very useful and easy to find online at www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm, making it easier for historic homeowners understand and renovate their homes.

Here at James A. Garfield National Historic Site, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the home. Check out upcoming Garfield Telegraphs in 2018 to learn about the process of restoring our site!



Shakespeare's Falstaff

A comic character of Shakespeare's, Sir John Falstaff was a favorite of Garfield's. Falstaff appears in *Henry IV, Part 1*, *Henry IV, Part 2*, the *Merry Wives of Windsor* and is mentioned in two other plays. This image (left) hangs in the Garfield home, and was given to Garfield by friends. The artist is unknown but some attribute the work to Caroline Ransom, a close friend of the Garfield family.

As Garfield writes in his diary about Falstaff on July 12, 1873: *I doubt if the history of literature has anywhere produced so wonderful a character as the "Fat Knight."*

**George Washington:
When is his birthday?**

George Washington was born in Virginia in February 1732. However, at the time of Washington's birth, Britain and her colonies used the Julian calendar, not the Gregorian calendar we currently use. The British Empire adopted the new calendar in 1752; as a result, Washington's birthday was changed to the current date we recognize; February 22, instead of the Julian calendar date; February 11.



George Washington's 100th birthday was celebrated across the country. In 1879 it became recognized as a federal holiday, and it still is today. (*loc.gov*)

The Gregorian calendar was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 as a reform of the Julian calendar (proposed by Julius Caesar in 46 BCE). The reform was used to align the Christian holidays and the equinoxes; in particular to calculate the correct date of Easter. It was calculated that over the centuries since the Julian calendar was implemented, there was an error of around 10 days.

The reform was first adopted in the Catholic Church and Papal States. The calendar spread from the Papal States and churches to governments and countries. Phillip II of Spain was the first ruler to adopt the change, which led to Spain, Portugal, and part of Italy adopting the new calendar. The last European country to adopt the Gregorian calendar was Greece in 1923.

For more information about James A. Garfield NHS:
www.nps.gov/jaga

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
@GarfieldNPS



James A. Garfield NHS
8095 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060
(440) 255-8722
jaga_interpretation@nps.gov



Volunteers-In-Parks at James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Volunteering is a great way to see your national parks! While you visit James A. Garfield National Historic Site, you may see some of our volunteers giving tours and talking to visitors or helping with out many events. Our Volunteers-In-Parks (or VIPs) volunteer in many ways. Some of our volunteers have only been here for a few weeks, and others for more than a decade!

Parks have different ways that volunteers can help. If you are interested in volunteering and becoming a VIP—check out www.volunteer.gov or look up a park in your area for information about volunteering.

We wouldn't be here without our VIPs!

Presidential Inauguration moves from March 4th to January 20th in 1933

The first Presidential Inauguration was held on April 30, 1789. George Washington's second inauguration was scheduled for a date determined by the Continental Congress—March 4, 1793. That date allowed for plenty of time after the election to gather the returns and get the candidate and their chosen Cabinet to the Capital.

As time went on and transportation and information technology became faster, the later inaugural date (March 4) led to issues in the new president addressing immediate conflicts. On January 23, 1933, Congress passed the Twentieth Amendment, moving the inauguration date to January 20th. If the 20th falls on a Sunday, then the ceremony will be on the following Monday.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's second inauguration took place on a rainy, cold January 20th, 1937. This was the first time the inauguration took place in January. (*loc.gov*)