



James Buchanan

15TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Growing up

James Buchanan was born in a log cabin in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania on April 23rd 1791.

His was named after his father. (James Buchanan Sr.)

Both of his parents were from a Ulster Scots decent.

James had six brothers and four sisters.

In 1797 the family moved to Mercersburg, PA, later turning it into “James Buchanan Hotel”.

College

- James attended Dickenson College, located in Carlisle, PA.
- At one point during college, he was almost expelled for bad behavior, but begged for a second chance that was granted upon him.
- On September 9th 1809 he graduated with honors.
- He was registered as a democrat.

Political Career

- He first started his Career in 1814 in the “Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a member of the Federalist party.
- That lasted 2 years (Until 1816)
- Then he was elected to the 17th United States Congress.
- Lasting from March 4th, 1821 to March 4th 1831.
- He Then served as the U.S. House Committee of the Judiciary in the 21st United States Congress.
- He was one of the people to conduct Impeachment against James H. Peck.
- James didn't re-elect, instead he served as Minister to Russia, Appointed by Andrew Jackson.

His Political Career Continued.

- James served as Secretary of State in 1845 to 1849.
- He helped negotiate the 1846 Oregon Treaty.
- In 1852 James was named the president of the Board of Trustees of 'Franklin and Marshall College' in Lancaster, Pennsylvania until 1866.

PRESIDENCY

James became President Of the United states of America in 1857. He was Inaugurated on March 4th.

James wasn't the best President

In a different Time

- The mid-19th century wasn't James' best time to become president. With everything going on that he didn't particularly like, he should have been a president in a different time.
- He was a very talented and talented politician, despite his attitude.
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James was more of a Northerner.

- The southerners were his political and social friends.
- He would more likely take the southerners side on things.
- He openly despised abolitionists.
- James' passivity was considered to be one of the prime factors in the coming of the Civil War.
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Slavery

- Because James didn't make a firm stand on either side of the slavery issue, he failed to resolve the question leaving his nations gravest crisis to his successor.

Speech at his Inauguration

“Having determined not to become a candidate for reelection, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the Government except the desire ably and faithfully to serve my country and to live in grateful memory of my Countrymen.” –
March 4th 1857

Impact on America

- Because of James' indecision about slavery, it really made things turn for the worst. The slavery issue didn't get resolved.
- The union fell apart when he was in office.
- The Civil War was threatening after he left office.

LIFE AFTER PRESIDENCY WAS ROUGH.

James had a hard time after being president, with everyone blaming him for the Civil war. The Republican press attacked him, his picture had to be taken down from the Capitol because Vandals were damaging it.

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Death

James died June 1st 1868 near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

He was buried at Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, PA.

