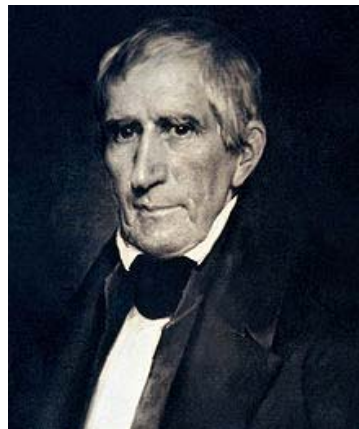


President	William Henry Harrison
Chronological Order	9
Life Span	1773-1841
Home State	Ohio
Elected	1840



Political Party	Whig
Vice President	John Tyler
First Lady	Anna Symes Harrison
Children	6 sons, 4 daughters
Physical Attributes	5' 8" tall, medium build, brown hair, brown eyes
Undergraduate Education	Hampden-Sidney College (three years)
Military Service	Indian Fighter, Major General in U.S. Army during the War of 1812
Profession	Soldier
Other Political Offices	Minister to Gran Columbia, Governor, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senator
Nickname	Old Tippecanoe
Family Lineage	English
Religious Affiliation	Episcopalian

Biographical Notes

1. President William Henry Harrison is remembered primarily for two things. First, he gave the longest inaugural address in American history (almost two hours) on a frigid, snowy day wearing no overcoat or hat, caught pneumonia, and died one month later. Consequently, his was the shortest presidency in American history. Second, his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, also became president, making them the only grandfather-grandson pair of presidents in American history.

His most important contributions to the United States were his twelve-year governorship of the Indiana Territory and his military exploits at The Battle of Tippecanoe during Tecumseh's War and The Battle of the Thames during the War of 1812. When he began as governor in 1800, nothing about the Indiana Territory was more than a rough beginning. There were no roads except Native American trails. The government consisted only of the governor himself and three judges. As governor, Harrison acquired sixty million acres of land for the U.S. from Native Americans and brought the Indiana Territory closer to statehood. (It would eventually produce three states and parts of two others.) By the end of his gubernatorial administration, the population of the settlers was growing rapidly, and industries like milling, tanning, and distilling were taking hold.

2. William Henry Harrison came from one of the First Families of Virginia (FFV). The FFV were those families in Colonial Virginia who were socially prominent and wealthy, but not necessarily the earliest settlers. They descended from seventeenth-century English colonists who primarily settled at Jamestown, Williamsburg, The Northern Neck, and along the James River and other navigable waters in Virginia. These elite families generally married within their social class for many generations. Notable FFV surnames include Washington, Jefferson, Harrison, Taylor, Tyler, Byrd, Carter, Fairfax, Lee, and Randolph. (N.B.: The first five families on this list produced six American presidents.) The first Harrison arrived in Virginia around 1630.

William Henry Harrison's father, Benjamin Harrison V, was a planter, a merchant, and the grandson of Robert "King" Carter, one of the wealthiest men in Virginia. He graduated from the College of William and Mary. Benjamin was the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and governor of Virginia for three one-year terms (1781-1784). In the Second Continental Congress, he presided over the final debate on the Declaration of Independence.

William's mother, Elizabeth Bassett Harrison, hailed from one of the colony's earliest families. Benjamin

and Elizabeth were close friends with George and Martha Washington. William was born at the family home, Berkeley Plantation, in 1773. Berkeley, founded by Benjamin Harrison IV in 1726, was one of the first plantations in America. It is on the James River, about twenty-five miles southeast of Richmond, and is a National Historic Landmark that gives daily tours.

3. Benjamin Harrison V was a huge man, 6'4" tall and 250 pounds. As he and his colleagues prepared to sign the Declaration of Independence, he turned to short, thin Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts and said, "I shall have a great advantage over you, Mr. Gerry, when we are hung for what we are now doing." Given the weight of his body, Harrison pointed out, when the trapdoor was sprung, his neck would snap immediately while Gerry would "dance in the air an hour before you are dead."

4. William was the youngest of seven children, which limited his prospects under the laws and customs of the time. A family's property usually went to the eldest son, with younger male siblings entering the military, clergy, or a trade. It was plain to William early in life that he would have to be self-sufficient. It was equally plain he was ambitious. He received a solid education — tutored at home, then three years at Hampden-Sydney College, a Presbyterian school, in Hanover County, Virginia. His father withdrew him from the college during his senior year because of a religious revival at the school (the Harrisons were Episcopalians). Benjamin wanted William to be a doctor and sent him to Philadelphia to study under the tutelage of renowned physician Benjamin Rush. In 1791, however, Benjamin Harrison died, leaving virtually all his estate to William's older brothers. Short of money and not enthusiastic about a career in medicine, the young man quickly left medical school to pursue the military career he had always wanted.

5. Virtually all of William's life, there had been armed conflict somewhere in America — the American Revolution, skirmishes with Native Americans, land disputes with the Spanish and French. The military offered an opportunity for a bright, aspiring young man to make a name for himself. Soon after leaving his medical studies, Harrison contacted Virginia Governor Richard Henry Lee, a distant cousin, about a military appointment. Governor Lee personally presented William Henry's application to President Washington and Secretary of War Knox, and the young man was given an officer's rank (ensign) in an infantry division. The eighteen-year-old Harrison then rounded up about eighty thrill-seekers and troublemakers off Philadelphia's streets, talked them into signing enlistment papers, and marched them to his assigned post, Fort Mifflin, near present-day Cincinnati, where the army was engaged in the Northwest Indian War.

Harrison was promoted to lieutenant after Major General "Mad Anthony" Wayne took command of the western army in 1792. In 1793, he became Wayne's aide-de-camp and learned how to command an army on the American frontier. He fought valiantly in Wayne's decisive victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794, which ended the Northwest Indian War. Harrison signed the Treaty of Greenville (1795) as witness to Wayne, the principal negotiator for the U.S. Under the terms of the treaty, a coalition of Indians ceded a portion of their lands to the federal government, opening up two-thirds of current-day Ohio for settlement.

6. Newcomers to the area near Fort Mifflin included twenty-year-old Anna Symmes. Her father, John Cleves Symmes, had just been appointed judge for the region. Anna was a beautiful, dark-eyed woman who was her father's favorite child. In a famous family incident during the Revolutionary War, John Cleves Symmes disguised himself as a British soldier and crossed the battle lines with four-year-old Anna, taking her to safety with relatives in New Jersey. As a young woman, Anna was comfortable with frontier life and an excellent rider. She was also well-educated and interested in politics. As a girl, she attended a boarding school where a classmate was Martha Washington's granddaughter.

According to both, William and Anna fell in love at first sight, but her father disapproved, thinking that his daughter could make a more prosperous match elsewhere. The young couple waited until her father had to travel to another part of the territory; when he did, they found a justice of the peace and eloped. When Judge Symmes returned and learned of the marriage, he shouted at Harrison, "How, sir, do you intend to support my daughter?" The soldier coolly replied, "Sir, my sword is my means of support."

Eventually John Cleves Symmes warmed up to Harrison, and sold him a 160-acre farm in the nearby village of North Bend, which is about fifteen miles west of Cincinnati. The farm had a house made of logs — a fact that would become part of a campaign legend later. For its time, the house was substantial: two stories with three rooms on the ground floor and two rooms on the second.

7. By June 1798, Harrison saw the army as a career dead end, resigned his commission, and sought the position of secretary of the Northwest Territory. Winthrop Sargent, the outgoing secretary, recommended him to Secretary of State Timothy Pickens, and President John Adams appointed Harrison to the position on June 26, 1798. In 1799, the territory became eligible to send a congressman to the United States House of

Representatives, and Harrison was elected to fill the post.

8. In Washington, Harrison's main job was to support western settlers on bills related to the sale of public lands. He chaired the Committee on Public Lands and helped pass the Harrison Land Act, which reduced the minimum-sized tract of land the federal government could sell from 640 to 320 acres. The law also permitted people to buy land on credit, at two dollars per acre. These two provisions greatly expanded opportunities for settlers to establish farms in the Northwest Territory.

Harrison also served on the committee that divided the Northwest Territory into two parts. The eastern section continued to be known as the Northwest Territory and consisted of current-day Ohio and eastern Michigan. The western section was named the Indiana Territory and consisted of current-day Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, a portion of western Michigan, and the portion of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River. The two new territories were formally established in 1800.

Both the Harrison Land Act and the proposal to divide the Northwest Territory initially faced considerable opposition in Congress. Harrison adeptly negotiated with members of the House and the Senate to get these measures passed.

9. On May 13, 1800, President John Adams appointed Harrison the governor of the new Indiana Territory because of his ties to the West and neutral political opinions. Harrison was caught unaware and was reluctant to accept the position until he received assurances from the Jeffersonians that he would not be removed from office if they gained power in the upcoming elections, which they did. The Senate confirmed his governorship, and William resigned from Congress to become the first Indiana territorial governor in January 1801. He was only twenty-seven years old.

Harrison moved his family to Port Vincennes, the capital of the Indiana territory. Port Vincennes had only about seven hundred residents, most of them descendants of French settlers who had been living in the area for almost a century and had intermarried with local Native Americans. Harrison's mother-in-law reported that the town had "460 French and 40 American families."

Nothing about the Indiana Territory was more than a rough beginning. There were no roads except Native American trails. The government consisted only of the governor plus three judges. The four of them served as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. They had the power to adopt laws that already existed in other states but could not draft legislation of their own.

It was a brave new world, but the Harrisons had no intention of living like pioneers. In a region full of humble wood-frame houses, sod huts, and log cabins, William built his family a brick mansion called "Grouseland" after the birds that lived on the property. Grouseland had a foundation made of limestone blocks from nearby quarries, was two stories high with thirteen spacious rooms, and had four large chimneys, carefully carved woodwork, and an imposing semi-circular staircase. Harrison decorated it with items imported from Europe, including glass windows from England. Harrison sold off four hundred acres of land just to buy the bricks. The house became a political focal point for the territory, frequently hosting officials, friends, and meetings with Native Americans. Grouseland is a National Historic Landmark that is open year-round.

10. When Harrison became governor, the top priority of the national government was to secure the boundaries of the nation against the English, the French, and the Spanish – which could be done only with a solid line of settlements. And the settlements would come only when the Native American threat was eliminated. Consequently, the primary task President Jefferson gave Harrison was to acquire land from the Native Americans for settlers to farm.

To many Native Americans of that era, the idea of owning land was a completely alien concept. To claim sole right to a plot of land seemed as absurd as claiming an exclusive right to the air. Harrison pushed through seven treaties with Indians from 1802 through 1805 that exploited Native American poverty, corrupt leadership, or inability to hold liquor. This behavior culminated in late 1805 with a massive land grab of 51 million acres. Harrison and his aides warmly received five minor chiefs from the Sac tribe, softened them up with alcohol, then persuaded them to sign away one-third of modern Illinois, as well as sizable chunks of Wisconsin and Missouri, for one penny per two hundred acres.

11. The leading Shawnee chief in the region, Tecumseh, grew increasingly angry by the endless encroachments of American settlers. He envisioned a grand alliance of Indian tribes, aided by the British, to stop it. He began negotiating with other chiefs and British Army officers to achieve it.

Despite their defeat in the American Revolution, the British had never really given up on restoring rule by the Crown to parts of America. Consequently, they continued to assert themselves on the western frontiers of the United States. Two British forts stood across the river from Detroit, and British agents were continually inciting Indian tribes to harass and attack settlers. In response, congressional leaders like Henry

Clay began to push for war with Britain.

Harrison, meanwhile, invited more than a thousand Native Americans for yet another round of land negotiations. He offered to buy nearly three million acres of their land—for just under two cents an acre. Harrison was attempting to secure the land to expedite statehood for a section of the Indiana Territory. He did not invite Tecumseh or other openly hostile tribes to the conference, even though earlier treaties had named these tribes sole owners of the land now in question. The Treaty of Fort Wayne (1809) was signed at the conference, and for Tecumseh, it was the last straw. He then openly courted British military assistance and redoubled his efforts at assembling a confederacy of tribes to retake lost Indian lands.

Word of this trouble reached Harrison through his network of spies among the Indian tribes, and he began asking President Madison to fund military preparations. Madison, not eager to start a fight, dragged his feet, and Harrison attempted to negotiate an end to the crisis with Tecumseh. He sent a letter to the chief, warning him: "Our Blue Coats (U.S. Army soldiers) are more numerous than you can count, and our hunting shirts (volunteer militiamen) are like the leaves of the forests or the grains of sand on the Wabash."

12. Tecumseh and his elite guard of about 75 warriors confronted Harrison and his officials outside the governor's Grouseland home on August 15, 1810. The two men had never met in person, and for days the impassioned Tecumseh berated the affable, condescending Harrison. He told the governor that any further incursions into Indian lands would mean war. Harrison insisted that the land had been acquired legally, and Tecumseh began shouting that the governor was a liar. Swords and war clubs were drawn, pistols cocked, and for a few seconds, both sides stared one another down. The council broke up, and negotiations never really got back on track. Historians refer to the subsequent hostilities between the Native Americans and Americans as Tecumseh's War.

Tecumseh traveled throughout the territory, recruiting tribes for his quest to retake it. Harrison became increasingly concerned that the chief's actions would slow Indiana's statehood and his own political climb, leaving it "the haunt of a few wretched savages." Indian raids on outlying settlements increased. In the late summer of 1811, the Madison administration finally sanctioned an attack to punish the Native Americans. Despite being thirteen years removed from military experience, Harrison managed to convince the President to allow him to command the operation. In October, he set out from Vincennes with a mixed force of regular Army troops, volunteers, and militia. Harrison saw it as a good time for such a strike because Tecumseh was out of the territory recruiting allies for his cause; in his absence, the Indians were led by his brother, Tenskwatawa, a spiritual leader known as "The Prophet."

13. On November 6, 1811, Harrison's force of about 950 moved into position outside the Prophet's camp, beside the Tippecanoe River. Tired from their march, they made a camp of their own and prepared to attack the next day. It had been a long time since Harrison had commanded troops, and the rust quickly showed. The Indians discovered his force by the campfires he had allowed, and they infiltrated his camp before dawn on November 7. Outnumbered, the Prophet's warriors were short of ammunition, but they had surprise on their side. They killed several Army officers, and the soldiers broke and ran. Others staggered from their tents. Dazed with sleep and terror, silhouetted against the campfires, many were cut down by the Prophet's warriors.

Harrison leaped onto his horse almost immediately, rallying his men. Try as they might, the Indians could not get through the Army rifle lines and get the bulk of their force inside the camp. They broke off the attack and melted into the woods. Harrison ordered a counterattack that was successful in routing the Native Americans by midmorning.

The Battle of Tippecanoe became the talk of the young nation. Public reaction to Harrison's actions ran mixed but was on the whole favorable. There were mutterings of poor generalship and the steep loss of life, but others welcomed the revenge on the Indians whose raids had increased in frequency and severity on the western frontier.

14. The Battle of Tippecanoe was good for William Henry Harrison and hardly anyone else. While the Native American alliance had been damaged, the battle only hardened the resolve of warrior chiefs like Tecumseh. Now they were not just fighting to retake their land; they were seeking revenge. Vicious new raids terrified the settlers. In the meantime, relations with Great Britain had gotten worse. The War of 1812 began in June, and the Indians were even further emboldened.

By the fall, Harrison commanded the Army of the Northwest with the rank of major general. (He resigned his governorship in December.) With the country ill-prepared for war, it had been a disastrous summer for the American cause. Much of the Indiana Territory had fallen to British control, and the fortress at Detroit had surrendered disgracefully. Harrison received orders to retake Detroit and thus bolster morale, but he cautiously held back, unwilling to press the war northward.

15. In September of 1813, however, the Americans regained control of Lake Erie with Oliver Hazard Perry's smashing victory over the British fleet. Once Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours," Britain's prime supply line into the United States was severed. American troops could now be ferried across the lake into Canada to engage the British. By the end of the month, Harrison's forces had retaken Detroit; they then pursued the fleeing British and Native Americans. Among them was Harrison's old enemy, Tecumseh. On October 5, Harrison engaged the enemy in Kent County in Ontario, near the Thames River.

Harrison's force outnumbered the British-Indian contingent three to one and contained a band of Kentucky marksmen who were tremendous close-in fighters. The British soldiers, poorly deployed and ill-trained for woodland warfare, either surrendered or were killed. Their general fled the battlefield. The Native Americans fared better, fighting off the initial assault by Harrison's men. But the American force was relentless and finally overpowering. Tecumseh was killed, and the Indians were routed, their alliance in the region smashed for good.

The Battle of the Thames victory boosted American morale because, up to this point, the War of 1812 had been a string of demoralizing defeats. The triumph earned a national reputation for Harrison, much like the victory at the Battle of New Orleans did for Andrew Jackson later in the war.

16. The country was eager to celebrate Harrison's victory. Consequently, he undertook a tour of major cities, each of which feted him with a banquet that featured, as was then the custom, endless rounds of alcoholic toasts. Meanwhile, in Washington, Madison's new secretary of war, John Armstrong, Jr., was plotting to push Harrison out so that he could make room for his candidates for top army posts. Armstrong started pestering Harrison by auditing his payments to contractors and generally trying to make Harrison as miserable as possible.

In May 1814, with the war still raging, Harrison, his pride wounded, sent President Madison a letter asking him to accept his resignation. It is possible that Harrison expected that the president would refuse to let him go and order Armstrong to back off. But the secretary of war cannily intercepted the letter and accepted the resignation on Madison's behalf.

Although Madison did not attempt to intervene when he discovered what Armstrong had done, he did ask Harrison to accept a different commission and negotiate postwar treaties with the tribes in the West. The request was full of praise for Harrison and may have helped to soothe his feelings, even though holding councils with Indians did not have anything like the prestige of leading an American army. But Harrison accepted the job, negotiated the treaties, and then returned to Ohio. At the age of forty-one, his military career was over.

17. Harrison moved his family back their first home in North Bend, Ohio. The original two-story log cabin house was retained. It was plastered over, improved, and expanded into a sixteen-room clapboard house, surrounded by nearly three thousand acres of land, including a formal garden and an orchard.

In 1816 he was appointed to fill the seat of the local congressman who had resigned. He accepted the appointment, in part, because was eager to return to Washington to tamp down rumors that he had received kickbacks from the commissaries he employed to get supplies to his troops during the War of 1812.

During his brief time as a congressman, Harrison devoted most of his efforts to military affairs, pushing successfully for pensions to the widows and orphans of militiamen who had fallen in the line of duty. He also fought for protection for settlers who had difficulty paying debt on land they had purchased from the government because of the complications of the nation's disorganized system of competing banks and banknotes. He did not run for re-election.

After his term in Congress, he returned to Ohio, won a post in its state senate, then lost a bid for governor of the state in 1820. Over the next two years, he ran for both of Ohio's seats in the U.S. Senate and lost both races. The failures peaked with an unsuccessful attempt to return to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1822 at age 59. Personal tragedy showed its face, too: six of Harrison's ten children died between 1817 and 1840.

18. In 1824 Harrison won a U.S. Senate seat. He had barely arrived in Washington, D.C. before he began angling for a new post. Harrison asked his old friend Henry Clay—now secretary of state to the new President, John Quincy Adams—to promote him for ambassador to Colombia. Clay managed to push the appointment through in 1828, despite Adams's distaste for what he considered Harrison's "rabid thirst for lucrative office."

Colombia was a volatile post in early 1829, torn by revolution and foreign war. Harrison's missteps were bad and frequent. He failed to show neutrality in the nation's affairs and publicly sided with the opposition to President Simón Bolívar. Colombia angrily planned to expel him. When Andrew Jackson assumed the presidency in March, he quickly recalled his old rival and used the post to repay a political favor from his campaign. Harrison returned to Ohio, where his farm did not perform well, and his financial problems grew.

He was reduced to a menial job as recorder for his county to make ends meet.

19. During Andrew Jackson's second term, various anti-Jackson groups merged to form the Whig Party to oppose his autocratic use of executive power. The new party included former National Republicans like Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, former Anti-Masonic Party members like William H. Seward and Millard Fillmore, and former southern Democrats like John Tyler, Hugh L. White, and Willie P. Mangum. Harrison had not previously identified with any party. But he indicated that he shared the Whigs' concerns over Jackson's use of executive power and agreed with their support for federal investments in infrastructure.

Jackson's handpicked Democratic candidate for president in 1836 was his vice president, Martin Van Buren. The Whigs wanted to oppose Van Buren but were not prepared to unite behind a single presidential candidate. So, they ran four regional candidates. Webster was the Whig candidate in Massachusetts, Harrison in the rest of the North and the border states. Mangum was the Whig candidate in South Carolina, Lawson in the rest of the South. The Whigs hoped that this quartet would keep Van Buren from obtaining a majority in the electoral college, which would throw the election into the House of Representatives, where they might have a chance to win.

Van Buren won fifteen states, Harrison seven, White two, and Webster and Mangum one each. Van Buren won the majority of the electoral votes, 170 out of 294, and the presidency. However, the Whig strategy almost worked because Van Buren won Pennsylvania (30 electoral votes) by just two percent.

20. There were three candidates for the Whig presidential nomination in 1840: Henry Clay, Harrison, and General Winfield Scott. The Whigs held their national convention early, in December 1839. Clay, the most prominent Whig, was the favorite to win the nomination, but circumstances conspired against him. First, the convention came on the heels of a string of Whig electoral losses, and party members were anxious to reverse that trend. Harrison managed to distance himself from the defeats, but Clay, as the party's philosophical leader, could not. Had the convention been held in the spring of 1840, after a string of Whig victories, Clay would have had much more support. Second, the convention instituted the "unit rule" whereby whoever won the majority of delegates in a given state would be given all the votes from that state. This rule worked against Clay, who had solid majority support in almost all the southern delegations and significant minority support in several northern delegations. Third, some Southern states whose Whig party organizations supported Clay abstained from sending delegates to the convention.

On the first ballot, Clay led with 103 votes, while Harrison had 91 and Scott 57. On the second ballot, Clay lost votes to Scott, and Harrison's support held steady. Then Thaddeus Stevens made his way to the Virginia delegation. He casually dropped a piece of paper in a place where it was bound to be picked up and read. It was a letter from Scott to some New York abolitionists, expressing support for their cause. The Virginians read it and announced that they would under no circumstances support Scott. This shifted the momentum from Scott to Harrison. In particular, Thurlow Weed, an influential New York Whig, threw his support to Harrison, who won on the third ballot.

For vice president, the Whigs wanted a Clay supporter to help unite the party. The nomination was offered to several prominent men, including John J. Crittenden, John Bell, and Willie P. Mangum, but they did not want it. The nomination eventually went to Virginian John Tyler, a Clay delegate who did not subscribe to core Whig principles. In particular, he did not believe in a strong federal government – he was an ardent states'-rights man. Also, he opposed federal support for internal improvements and had a very restrictive view on what a national bank should be allowed to do. The Whigs overlooked these "deficiencies" because they did not expect him to ever become president. After all, the first eight presidents had no health issues.

The Whig Party was very diverse; it had southern slave owners and northern abolitionists, pro- and anti-tariff factions, and members with many different opinions on the role of a national bank. Consequently, the party did not put forth a platform.

21. In the election of 1840, both the President and his party made significant errors in the conduct of their re-election campaign. Van Buren underestimated the Whigs by assuming that they were a party of wildly diverse philosophies, united only by their hatred of Andrew Jackson; how could they organize a coherent opposition? To the Democrat's surprise, the Whigs coalesced by attacking Van Buren for being lordly and uncaring toward the nation. The Democrats then stumbled into a nasty trap. One of their newspapers ridiculed Harrison as a dull rustic: "Give him a barrel of hard (alcoholic) cider and settle a pension of two thousand a year on him, and take my word for it, he will sit the remainder of his days in his log cabin."

The Whigs used this Democratic-drawn imagery to their advantage. They flooded the electorate with posters and badges extolling the virtues of their down-home "log cabin and hard cider" candidate, the Hero of Tippecanoe, as compared to the "aristocratic" Van Buren sitting in the White House. Voters wanted to identify with a war hero who shared their down-to-earth values, so that's the image the Whigs gave them. They suppressed the fact that Harrison was actually from an elite Virginia family, a learned student of classics,

and a man who enjoyed luxurious living to the point that he was continually in debt. His beautiful house in North Bend was not a log cabin. This deception was the first use of political "handling," or public image-making, in an American presidential race.

Ever since Jackson's 1832 presidential campaign, politics had become a form of entertainment for the masses. Campaign rallies, meetings, bonfires, and barbecues were now firmly entrenched in American life. People would happily turn out for almost anything that offered a break from their usual routine, even if it was just to cheer the arrival of an oversized ball emblazoned with campaign slogans being rolled from town to town. (The Whigs of Cleveland constructed a tin ball, twelve feet wide, and rolled it to Columbus in Harrison's honor. Another ball, made of cowhide, was even larger and had to be pulled by a team of oxen. Naturally, the Whigs adopted the slogan "Keep the ball rolling.") The party also handed out whiskey in log cabin-shaped bottles supplied by the E.C. Booz distillery. (This is the origin of the term "booze.")

The Whigs mass-marketed their candidate, flooding America with cups, plates, flags, and sewing boxes with Old Tippecanoe pictured on them. Countless popular songs left little doubt who the Whigs were supporting. One of the campaign song lyrics included:

Old Tip he wears a homespun coat
He has no ruffled shirt-wirt-wirt.
But Mat he has the golden plate
And he's a squirt-wirt-wirt.

The name-calling continued. Van Buren was called "Martin Van Ruin," and Whigs chanted, "Van, Van, is a used-up man." The Whig ticket inspired the famous campaign slogan: "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too!"

Van Buren behaved in the way that presidential candidates typically did; he stayed in the White House, trying to appear above the fray. In contrast, Harrison became the first presidential candidate to campaign actively for office, including entertaining the public with his impressions of Native American war whoops. Harrison's events were popular because they took people's minds off the nation's economic troubles. In June 1840, a Harrison rally at the site of the Battle of Tippecanoe drew 60,000 people. By the end of the campaign, Whig parades up to three miles long had voters singing, chanting, and drinking. Harrison won the election easily, 234 to 60 electoral votes.

22. William Henry Harrison gave the longest inaugural address in history, nearly two hours, on a frigid, snowing March day in 1841. During the speech, the new President wore no coat or hat. When he followed the inauguration with a round of receptions in his wet clothing, it resulted in pneumonia. Doctors were called in, but their medical practices were crude and only weakened Harrison. Three weeks after taking office, he was dying. Exactly one month after taking the oath of office, Harrison was dead. It was the shortest presidency in American history.

23. Harrison's son, John Scott Harrison, was a two-term U.S. congressman from Ohio. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was the twenty-third president of the United States, making them the only grandfather-grandson pair to become president.

See the next page for a list of references.

References

1. Gail Collins, *William Henry Harrison* (20012).
2. Robert M. Owens, *Mr. Jefferson's Hammer: William Henry Harrison and the Origins of American Indian Policy* (2007).
3. Daniel Walker Howe, "William Henry Harrison," in *To the Best of My Ability*, edited by James M. McPherson (2000).
4. Marc W. Krugman, "William Henry Harrison," in *The American Presidency*, edited by Alan Brinkley and Davis Dyer (2004).
5. John Dickerson, *Whistlestop: My Favorite Stories from Presidential Campaign History* (2016).