



**The Bicentennial of  
Rutherford B. Hayes:  
Remembrance  
and Reflection**

## Rud's Formative Years in Delaware, Ohio: Sophia's Son

Sardis Birchard (1801-1874), Sophia Birchard Hayes' (1792-1866) brother, gets a lot of credit for his nephew Rutherford B. Hayes' development and education, having become the de facto head of the family at age 21 after Sophia's husband died in July of 1822 of typhus at the age of 35. Sardis had lived with Sophia and Rutherford Ezekiel when he was an adolescent in Vermont and later in Delaware because both of his and Sophia's parents died young. He left Delaware to pursue business interests in 1826. Sardis became an affluent entrepreneur and encouraged Rud in his education – paying for his private preparatory school, Kenyon College and Harvard University. Moreover, Rutherford B. Hayes inherited his uncle's business and real estate holdings, including Spiegel Grove (now the site of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum) in 1874.

Rud's mother, Sophia, as is the case with many women in history, including the mothers and wives of U.S. presidents and other famous people, is less recognized for her primary and very influential role in the making of Rutherford B. Hayes as a person and as a leader.



*Sophia Birchard Hayes*

SOURCE: GENEALOGY SITE

Sophia Birchard was born in Wilmington, Vermont and met her future husband Rutherford Ezekiel Hayes, Jr. there. They were married on September 13, 1813 and moved to Delaware, Ohio in 1817. They were the parents of five children: one stillborn (1814); Lorenzo (1815), Sarah (1817), Fanny (1820), and Rutherford "Rud" (1822). Sophia mourned the loss of three of her children; only Fanny and Rud survived to adulthood. It is especially tragic that Lorenzo died in a drowning accident in 1825, when Rud was a toddler recovering from an illness. It is no wonder that Sophia was considered over-protective or that Rud and his sister Fanny became very close and

remained so throughout their lives.

Sophia has been described as "religious, independent, and energetic; the widow faced her hardships with remarkable ability" (*Robert Johnson, UVA Miller Center*). She had been left with a nice brick house (on the corner of William and Winter Streets) the farm north of Delaware that she and her husband bought when they came to Ohio, and several other properties, for which she collected rents. The family also received one-third of the crops and half of the fruit from their tenant farmers, the Van Bremer family. According to Hayes biographer Harry Barnard: "the town never knew a more useful, active woman than Rud's mother. She was an organizer of the first Sunday school of the village... the efficient treasurer of the Ladies' Aid Society and an active member of the first Temperance Union...like a man, she managed her property, collecting rents and determining when to sell or not to sell land as shrewdly as a banker." Barnard points out that although she was a young widow far from home, she "made for herself, along with Rud and Fanny, a life fuller than most around her had."

Mrs. Hayes never remarried. She died in Columbus in 1866 and is buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Delaware. The correspondence between Rutherford B. Hayes and his mother is available at the Hayes Presidential Library.

## Governor R. B. Hayes: Moving a Difficult Ohio Forward (1868-1872; 1876- 1877)

After one two-year term in Congress, Rutherford B. Hayes was elected governor of Ohio in 1867. First inaugurated on January 13, 1868, he served two terms, and was the first elected to a third term in 1875, serving only one year. He resigned to become president of the United States on March 4, 1877.

In 1867, Ohio Republicans needed a strong candidate for governor in order to support passage of a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing both white and black males over 21 the right to vote. Hayes defeated his Democratic opponent, Allan Thurman by less than 3,000 votes, and during the same election, Ohio voters rejected the constitutional amendment; it was not until the 15th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified on Feb. 3, 1870, that black men gained the right to vote in Ohio. Governor Hayes campaigned vigorously to secure Ohio's vote to ratify the 15th Amendment, which pre-empted Ohio's previous laws.

The importance of the federal 15th amendment to Ohioans cannot be overstated. The first Ohio constitution of 1802 deprived black persons the right to vote, to hold public office, and to



*Rutherford B. Hayes as Governor of Ohio*

SOURCE: HAYES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

testify against white persons in court. More restrictions were placed on African Americans in ensuing years: they could not live in Ohio without a certificate proving their free status, they had to post a \$500 bond "to pay for their support in case of want," and they were prohibited from joining the state militia. In 1831, they were excluded from serving on juries and were not allowed admittance to state poorhouses, asylums, and other institutions. (Some of these laws were not necessarily enforced). In 1851, a new state constitution was drafted; again, a large majority of the delegates voted against extending suffrage to African American men and to all women. Only adult white men who had resided in the state for at least one year could vote. Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved the new constitution on June 17, 1851.

Ohio's wavering support for the

14th Amendment to the US Constitution is also fraught. On January 4, 1867, the Ohio legislature initially approved the amendment, which granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including formerly enslaved people, and guaranteed all citizens equal protection of the laws. However, as a result of the fall elections of 1867, the Democrats gained control of the Ohio General Assembly and moved to rescind Ohio's ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, on January 15, 1868, the Ohio legislature voted to reverse its earlier decision. A large number of white Ohioans were concerned that African Americans were receiving too many rights and that whites' position in society would decline if blacks gained equality. Despite the Ohio legislature's action, the federal government continued to count Ohio as one of the states who ratified the amendment. Note that Ohio ratified the Fourteenth Amendment a second time on September 17, 2003 (*Ohio History Central*). Governor Hayes came into office with this stain on Ohio and worked to bring Ohioans together.

According to the R. B. Hayes Presidential Library, Hayes later listed his most notable accomplishments as governor, other than ratification of the 15th amendment: reforms to the state's mental and penal institutions, establishment of The Ohio State University; initiation of a state geological survey; gaining state control of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans Home in Xenia, Ohio; and made efforts to preserve Ohio's historical heritage.

## The Year 1876 in Context: America's Centennial Amid Continuing Conflict and the Gilded Age

**I**n 1876 was the year of the Centennial of the United States – 100 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Centennial International Exhibition (officially the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine) was held in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park from May–November. Approximately 10 million people of a population of 46 million attended over the course of six months. It was the first world's fair to be held in the U.S. and was planned to showcase America's rise as an industrial power, although 34 nations and 20 colonies participated. It was also intended to bring the states together and begin to heal the wounds of the Civil War. A motto of the fair was “No North, No South, No East, No West—The Union One and Indivisible.”

More than 30,000 exhibitions were featured in approximately 200 buildings, including those by Alexander Graham Bell, who introduced the telephone, the Corliss steam engine, the Remington typographic machine with its QWERTY keyboard, mass-produced sewing machines, Thomas Edison's automatic telegraph system and the Colt repeating pistol. Foods introduced included bananas, popcorn, Heinz tomato ketchup, and Hires root beer.

The Women's Pavilion, organized and funded by women separately from the main exhibition - showcased American women's contributions to arts, sciences, education, and industry, including 74 patented inventions designed to decrease



*Women's Pavilion, Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876*

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

the amount of time and effort women devoted to household work. The women also published an exhibition newspaper, *The New Century*, which advocated for women's rights.

The treatment of black persons and American Indians at the fair reflected the sentiment of the times among many whites of the North toward racial equality and those of the South who were regaining political power during Reconstruction. Black persons were given menial jobs at the fair and no role in planning the Exhibition. Most notably, the painting “Under the Oaks” by black artist Edward M. Bannister won the Centennial gold medal – but when judges learned a black man was the painter, they tried to rescind the award. Other artists protested and Bannister retained the medal.

The American Indian displays, curated by the Department of the Interior with the Smithsonian Institution, depicted Indians as primitive. A critic said that it was an “exhibit of curiosities.” In the midst of the exposition, news was received that General George Armstrong Custer and over 200 soldiers had been killed by members of the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes at the Battle

of the Little Bighorn (Montana) June 25–26, 1876. The objective of the battle and larger campaign by US troops was to force the capitulation of non-reservation Lakota and Cheyenne.

1876 was also in the midst of the “Gilded Age” – a term coined by Mark Twain to describe the tumultuous period between the Civil War and 1900. At the same time the U.S. underwent unprecedented industrial growth, it was also the period where business tycoons or “robber barons” such as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and Cornelius Vanderbilt enjoyed vast wealth and political power at the expense of the “common man.” 1876 was also during the Victorian Era (1837–1901), a time of ascension of the British Empire (Queen Victoria became Empress of India in 1877).

Another critically important factor that set the stage for the controversial presidential election of 1876 was the “Long Depression” – the period between the Panic of 1873 and 1879, the longest depression in American history (including the Great Depression of the 1930s). During this time, 18,000 businesses failed including 89 railroads and about

100 banks. The unemployment rate in 1876 was 14 percent. At the same time iron production doubled, the price of iron halved. The price of cotton fell by 50 percent between the years 1872-1877. The importance of cotton to the United States (North and South) prior to the Civil War cannot be over-stated. "King Cotton" accounted for over half of all US exports; it fueled the textile mills of Europe and the northern U.S. and supported the ability of the U.S. to borrow money. Most of the world's supply of raw cotton came from the American South. After the Civil War's devastation of Southern cities and lands, cotton was still a critical commodity to rebuild the economy, and it was imperative for the country to determine a way forward to greatly improve conditions in the South for the benefit of all. Yet, by 1876 the South had not yet made desired gains – per capita income remained much below that of the North, and rural poverty – including among whites – persisted. There had never been a grand plan for Reconstruction – particularly regarding the future for almost 4 million newly-freed slaves, and for funding the recovery of the Southern economy.

Finally, and perhaps the most important portent: on March 27, 1876, the Supreme Court decided the landmark case *United States vs. Cruikshank*. The Court overturned the convictions of white men who had murdered as many as 100 black men in the Colfax Massacre in Louisiana in 1873. The Waite Court stated that the plaintiffs had to rely on Louisiana courts, not the federal government for protection. Further, the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th



*Drawing of the Waite Court by Cornelia Adele Fassett, after photographs by Samuel Montague Fassett, 1876. Exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition*

SOURCE: U.S. SUPREME COURT

Amendment to the US Constitution (ratified in 1868) limited the lawful actions of state governments, but not of individuals. Subsequently, African Americans faced increasingly hostile state legislatures and white supremacy groups that could harass and intimidate both black and white voters who tried to assert or support civil and voting rights.

Previously, in 1873, the Supreme Court decided in the *Slaughterhouse Cases* that most of Americans' basic civil rights were obtained through their citizenship in a state, therefore the 14th amendment only protected Federal citizenship; states could pass different laws.

It is within this context of stark contrasts and tumult that the highly disputed election of 1876 took place on November 7, 1876 – an election that saw the highest voter turnout in history (82.6% of eligible voters – white and black men), and one that was decided by a commission appointed by Congress. A constitutional crisis was avoided when Rutherford B. Hayes was determined the winner on March 2, after much negotiation and awarded the electoral votes of the contested states, giving him one more Electoral vote than opponent Samuel Tilden (D): 185 to 184. Hayes was inaugurated two days later.



*Republican Campaign Poster 1876*

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## The Pivotal Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes

The reality of the first weeks of the Hayes presidency were much more complicated, and President Hayes was far more conscientious, than many historians and pundits have reported over the years. President Hayes' inaugural address on March 5, 1877, made his frustrations, intentions and goals clear. He emphasized the importance of improving economic conditions for all, universal education, faithful adherence to the Constitution, and encouraging self-government in all states within a reunited country. He realized that he confronted major challenges (excerpts follow):

*“Many of the calamitous efforts of the tremendous revolution which has passed over the Southern States still remain. The immeasurable benefits which will surely follow, sooner or later, the hearty and generous acceptance of the legitimate results of that revolution have not yet been realized. Difficult and embarrassing questions meet us at the threshold of this subject. The people of those States are still impoverished, and the inestimable blessing of wise, honest, and peaceful local self-government is not fully enjoyed.*

*“Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the cause of this condition of things, the fact is clear that in the progress of events the time has come when such government is the imperative necessity required by all the varied interests, public and private, of those States. But it must not be forgotten that only a local government which recognizes and maintains inviolate the rights of all is a true self-government.*

*“With respect to the two distinct races whose peculiar relations to each other*

*have brought upon us the deplorable complications and perplexities which exist in those States, it must be a government which guards the interests of both races carefully and equally. It must be a government which submits loyally and heartily to the Constitution and the laws—the laws of the nation and the laws of the States themselves—accepting and obeying faithfully the whole Constitution as it is.*

*“The sweeping revolution of the entire labor system of a large portion of our country and the advance of 4,000,000 people from a condition of servitude to that of citizenship, upon an equal footing with their former masters, could not occur without presenting problems of the gravest moment, to be dealt with by the emancipated race, by their former masters, and by the General Government, the author of the act of emancipation. That it was a wise, just, and providential act, fraught with good for all concerned, is not generally conceded throughout the country. That a*

*moral obligation rests upon the National Government to employ its constitutional power and influence to establish the rights of the people it has emancipated, and to protect them in the enjoyment of those rights when they are infringed or assailed, is also generally admitted.*

*“In the important work of restoring the South it is not the political situation alone that merits attention. The material development of that section of the country has been arrested by the social and political revolution through which it has passed, and now needs and deserves the considerate care of the National Government within the just limits prescribed by the Constitution and wise public economy.*

*“But at the basis of all prosperity, for that as well as for every other part of the country, lies the improvement of the intellectual and moral condition of the people. Universal suffrage should rest upon universal education. To this end, liberal*



Official White House portraits: public domain

and permanent provision should be made for the support of free schools by the State governments, and, if need be, supplemented by legitimate aid from national authority.

*“Let me assure my countrymen of the Southern States that it is my earnest desire to regard and promote their truest interest—the interests of the white and of the colored people both and equally—and to put forth my best efforts in behalf of a civil policy which will forever wipe out in our political affairs the color line and the distinction between North and South, to the end that we may have not merely a united North or a united South, but a united country.”*

Over the next weeks of his presidency, President Hayes sought to address the political, economic, and racial issues he raised in his speech (and tackled reform of the civil service as well – seeking to move from a patronage system to one based on merit. He met with the resistance of Congress).

Yes, in April of 1877, he did order the removal of a small contingent of soldiers – 19 enlisted men and 2 officers who remained at the statehouses in Columbia, SC and New Orleans, LA after involving a commission, holding meetings with the competing governors of those states, and extracting written agreements that the Democratic governors would uphold the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution. The president had to consider that the rival state governments in South Carolina and Louisiana – one at the statehouse and one in other buildings, posed an untenable situation. Continued federal military intervention – however minimal – in two statehouses served to further alienate the white population and create conditions for more violence against black persons and remaining white Republicans. Hayes hoped to re-build a Republican party in the South that would



*Rutherford B. Hayes Oath of Office*

SOURCE: HAYES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

appeal to moderate businessmen and others interested in education, jobs, and honoring the rule of law for all citizens.

Another major issue of the troop withdrawal was the fact that the Congress had essentially de-funded the effort, the strength of the military had been greatly diminished right after the war ended – from 1 million to about 28,000, and much of the Army had been assigned to fight the Indian Wars in the West and Northern Plains. Also, in July of 1877, President Hayes and the governors of ten states, contended with the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 – the nation’s first general strike. It is estimated that at least one hundred people were killed; 1,000 people went to jail, and over 60,000 militia members reopened commerce. The strike started when rail companies reduced wages and increased work hours in response to the continuing depression. The country was on the cusp of a period of great industrial and commercial expansion, but also labor strife, and the rise of labor unions.

The newly officially recognized Democratic governors in Louisiana and South Carolina did not comply with their written pledges, but neither did the other nine states of the former Confederacy, all of

whom had been re-admitted to the Union by 1870 after pledging to comply with the new Constitutional amendments. Over the next decades, they were supported by a Supreme Court who overturned or vacated laws associated with parts of the 14th and 15th Amendments (and after the Hayes administration, the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was vacated in 1883; *Plessy v. Ferguson* was decided in 1896 – upholding racial segregation – which occurred in the North as well as the South). The North had little moral authority related to racial equality and equity – in fact, scholar Steve Luxenberg points out that the ideas for the “Jim Crow” era originated in the North, not the South. [See: *Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson, and the America’s Journey from Slavery to Segregation* (2019).] And – only eight Northern states had permitted black men to vote by 1868 – three years after the Civil War ended. The 15th Amendment – ratified in 1870 – forced some Northern states to welcome black voters, too.

Notably, although Hayes gets blamed for “ending Reconstruction,” President Grant had already removed the remaining military members from the statehouse in Florida, because the Florida Supreme Court had declared a Democratic victory in the 1876 gubernatorial election. Moreover, when Democrats took control of Mississippi government in 1875, Grant had been advised not to send federal troops to intervene to support the governor. (In September 1874 he had sent troops and gunboats to disperse the “White League” in New Orleans, and was criticized for intervening – Miller Center, UVA).

By 1874, the country’s support for military Reconstruction – now over a decade since the war ended – had waned considerably. The Democrats has retaken the House – what had been a 110-vote Republican majority became a 60 vote Democratic majority; the Democrats also

gained ten seats in the Senate. Democratic victories signaled that Congress would no longer support more military enforcement measures. According to Catherine Locks and colleagues at Georgia State University in *Retreat from Reconstruction: The Grant Years* “the American people clearly indicated they wanted the government to turn its attention to more pressing issues like economic recovery.”

Ironically, President Hayes worked harder than most people in or out of government to protect and defend the Constitution, ensure equity and equality, and tried to improve economic conditions in the former Confederacy as well as the North – for all citizens. In 1877 President Hayes appointed Frederick Douglass to the post of U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia, the first African American confirmed for a Presidential appointment by the U.S. Senate. Hayes also visited the South twice with the First Lady and cabinet members begin the process of reconciliation and oversaw the appropriation of federal funds to make internal improvements in the South.

During what some call the first “government shutdown,” in 1879 President Hayes vetoed five appropriations bills in the ending days of the 45th Congress and into the 46th Congress (both House and the Senate now controlled by Democrats). The House had attached riders that would prohibit the use of federally appointed marshals to oversee elections, and to prevent the Army from having any role in protecting voters at polling places for presidential and congressional elections. The Senate would not agree; therefore, Congress failed to pass \$45,000,000 in appropriations



*President Hayes and his Cabinet*

SOURCE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

for the Federal government for the fiscal year. Over the course of three months, the Democrats tried five times to attach riders to appropriations bills for the Army and for government operations, all with the same goal: rid the South of federal marshals and end the Army’s presence at the polls. Hayes’ vetoes were sustained in the House. He and Congressman James Garfield (who would become the 20th US president) stood firm together. The Democrats did temporarily sideline marshals, but funding was restored in 1880.

Hayes’ battle with the Democrats won him respect in many parts of the country, and especially among Republicans. “I am now experiencing one of the ‘ups’ of political life,” he wrote on July 3. “Congress adjourned on the 1st after a

session of almost 75 days mainly taken up with a contest against me. Five vetoes, a number of special messages and oral consultations with friends and opponents have been my part of it. At no time... has the stream of commendation run so full.”  
*(National Park Service)*

President Hayes did not end Reconstruction. Historian Eric Foner says that Reconstruction continues to this day. In the end, the success of our republic – the American experiment – depends on the consent of the governed, good faith governance among elected and appointed officials, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for all people who call our country home. We have yet to realize the promise of liberty and justice for all.



## Beyond “Lemonade” Lucy: The First Lady as Advocate and Influencer

First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes, with her husband President Hayes, discontinued serving alcohol in the White House after their first state dinner. Influenced by her grandfather Isaac Cook, Lucy became an advocate for temperance, but did not join the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (formed in 1872), nor did she support the concept of a law to ban the sale of alcohol. When she attended events where others were drinking alcohol, leaders of the temperance movement were angry. Both Lucy and Rutherford sought to set an example at the White House, calling attention to the societal consequences of alcohol abuse (e.g. health issues, domestic abuse, poverty). The business community called attention to absenteeism and lack of productivity caused by alcohol consumption among workers and advocated for change, too. Alcohol consumption in the U.S. was at a high of about 7 gallons per capita per year, in the mid-1800s (today consumption is on the rise again, but at about 2.3 gallons, pales in comparison).

Despite the First Lady’s popularity and many accomplishments, the derogatory moniker “Lemonade Lucy”, dubbed by the press after Hayes left office, has seemed to minimize her contributions and influence. Born in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1831 (today, visitors can tour the Lucy Hayes Heritage Center there), Lucille (Lucy) Ware Webb was the daughter of a physician who died of cholera when Lucy was two years old. Dr. Webb had traveled to his family home in Kentucky to free slaves he had inherited and cared for patients in Lexington who had

contracted cholera. Mrs. Webb freed the slaves after her husband’s untimely death. Lucy’s family, Methodists who were strong on social justice, were abolitionists.

Lucy Hayes was the first president’s spouse to earn a college degree. After studying at Ohio Wesleyan University’s College Preparatory Department, Lucy entered Cincinnati Wesleyan Female College, graduating in 1850, studying a liberal arts curriculum. She was elected



Lucy Webb Hayes

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

to the Lyceum at the college, and gave a graduation address titled “The Influence of Christianity on National Prosperity” (*National First Ladies Library*). Although not associated with the suffrage movement per se, she was an advocate of gender equality, stating. “Woman’s mind is as strong as man’s—equal in all things and is superior in some.”

Despite not serving alcohol at the White House, the First Lady was well-known as a gracious hostess of parties and dinners and shared her love of flora and fauna widely. Instead of using appropriated money to redecorate the White House, Lucy enlarged the conservatories. The Hayes Presidential Center celebrated Lucy Hayes 191st birthday weekend in August 2022 by highlighting her interests and skills related

to flowers, flower-arranging and nature.

Mrs. Hayes’ [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) biography reports that she was described as representing the “New Woman Era” — involved in public life, advocating for causes and institutions, including the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute established for emancipated black persons, working with her husband to encourage national unity, still fractured after the Civil War’s end over a decade ago, accompanying her husband on important trips to the South and West. In April 1878, Hayes maintained her own public schedule, reportedly the first president’s spouse to do so. She visited Philadelphia, touring seven diverse organizations, including the Women’s Medical College, and the Philadelphia School of Design for Women (*firstladies.org*). According to the Hayes Center “Lucy’s compassion and sincerity endeared her to Washingtonians”, and to the nation.

Children and families were welcomed frequently to the White House. Two of the Hayes’ eight children, Fanny and Scott Russell were ten and six, respectively, when their parents moved to the executive mansion (of their eight children, five lived to adulthood). Their parents started the tradition of the White House Easter Egg Roll on Easter Monday, April 22, 1878, after the Hayes learned that Washington’s children were not permitted to continue to roll the eggs on the Capitol grounds.

Lucy Ware Webb Hayes died of a stroke on June 25, 1889, at Spiegel Grove. She was 57 years old. The Lucy Webb Hayes National Training School in Washington, DC, was founded and named in her memory in 1891. It was the authorized training school of the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1894, it became part of Sibley Memorial Hospital. In 1912, it was razed to make way for a new wing of the hospital.

## Post-Presidency Legacy

**H**ayes Hall at The Ohio State University, constructed in 1893, is the oldest remaining building on campus. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1970. It was named after former president Hayes on November 17, 1891. Although Hayes knew about the naming, he did not live to see it occupied on Feb. 1, 1893; he had passed away in January of that year. The University honored Hayes because as governor of Ohio, he had influenced the state legislature to establish a land-grant university through the federal Morrill Act. Subsequently, the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College was founded in 1870 in Columbus – later named The Ohio State University (1878). Hayes was a champion of education that focused on preparing citizens for specific jobs or trades. The Morrill Act’s original stated mission of land-grant institutions was “to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies so members of the working classes could obtain a liberal, practical education.” As president, Hayes had emphasized the importance of education for all US citizens.

Ohio Governor Joseph Foraker appointed former president Hayes to the Ohio State Board of Trustees in 1887; he was elected president of the board in 1892, after demonstrating distinguished service, including as a strong advocate for funding at the State House. Unfortunately, he presided over only one meeting – on January 10, 1893. While conducting university business in Cleveland, the former president became ill and died of heart disease on January 17. Hayes had also been a member of the board of trustees of Ohio

Wesleyan University and Western Reserve University in Cleveland (Case Western).

According to the Miller Center at the University of Virginia, the major emphasis of Hayes’ post-presidential years was on universal tax-supported public education: “He believed that the American government could be no better than its people and that education would improve the nation morally and materially. He labored constantly to improve the educational opportunities for students from grade school to graduate school. He was the major dispenser of two educational funds to improve the education of southern blacks and whites (the Peabody Education Fund and the Slater Fund), and he fought for federal subsidies for children of all races in poor school districts. He believed that education would improve the economic status of the poor, would enlighten the intolerant, and provide the fair start in life.” To that end, he was instrumental in securing a fellowship through the Slater Fund for W.E.B.

Du Bois, who would become the first African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard, was a professor of sociology and economics, and was a founder of the NAACP – the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

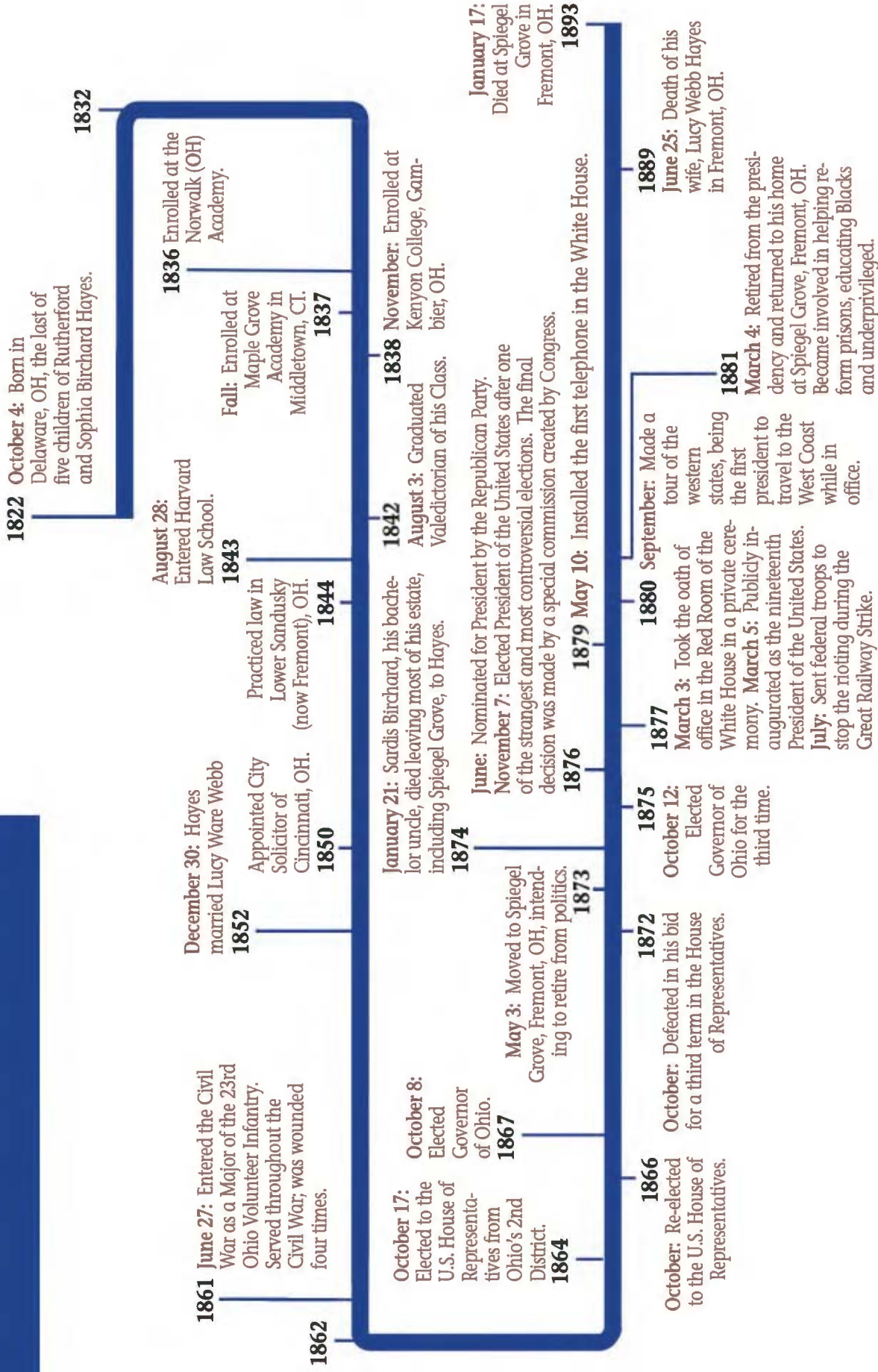
Former President Hayes was a champion of prison reform and preventing crime through education and teaching the value of work. While governor, he had been elected president of the National Prison Association (now American Correctional Association) at its organization meeting in 1870. The organization’s mission has always been to improve the criminal justice system. In 1890, he became a familiar speaker about the issue, including addresses at the Cincinnati Prison Congress and the Chicago Congregational Club. Hayes had issued a number of pardons as governor and president and was opposed to the death penalty. He was consulted by people all over the nation regarding criminal justice.



*Spiegel Grove, family home of President and Mrs. Hayes.*

SOURCE: HAYES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, SPIEGEL GROVE, FREMONT, OHIO

# Timeline of Important Events in the Life of Rutherford B. Hayes



# Discover History With the DCHS!

The Delaware County Historical Society conserves and operates several historic buildings, including the Cryder Historical Center on East William Street, consisting of the Research Library and the Nash House Museum, the Meeker Homestead Museum and The Barn at Stratford, located on Stratford Road, the Millworker Cottage on Stratford Road, and the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence on West Central Avenue. Come visit us!

## Our museums...

### The Meeker Homestead Museum 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, OH



The Meeker Homestead Museum is located at one of the oldest, complete, and most prominent

historic homesteads in Delaware County. This federal style home has been transformed into an educational museum showcasing the early settlement of Ohio. It contains nine exhibit spaces, three of which are beautiful period rooms that allow visitors to see how people lived in the early 1800s. Other exhibits include a large spinning exhibit, a rare pre-Civil War era loom, an American Indian Gallery of artifacts, a display of chairs from the award-winning historic Delaware Chair Company, information on the once vibrant mill town that occupied the Stratford area, and the early interurban transportation (CD&M) that made its debut in 1892. This museum also features rotating exhibits in our Delaware Gallery so there is always something new to see and enjoy. It is located next to The Barn at Stratford which hosts special events such as weddings, parties, reunions and Celebration of Life events.

*The Meeker Museum is open on the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m., April-November and other times by appointment.*

### The Nash House Museum 157 East William Street, Delaware, OH



Built in 1878, it was originally owned by Thomas and Mina Slattery who resided here with their three

young children. The home was later sold by a heartbroken Thomas after his wife and newborn daughter died in 1882. Mina passed two weeks after giving birth to their fourth child, and the

baby, seventeen days later. In 1885, the home was acquired by William Henry and Emiline Nash. The Nash family had five children. When Henry and Emiline died, the home passed to son Eugene and his wife Lois. They had one child, Pauline, who was known for her skillful quilting and weaving. It was in the Nash House loom room that our pre-Civil War era loom was discovered!

The residence remained in the Nash family for 70 years, until Pauline Nash donated it to the DCHS in 1954. This lovely seven room brick Italianate home displays Victorian furnishings and accessories that are true to the period, helping visitors experience life during this era.

*Visit us and step back into time at the Nash House! Open most Sundays from 2-5 p.m. The Nash House Museum is located next to the Cryder Research Library.*

### The Millworker Cottage 2571 Stratford Road, Delaware, OH



In the early 1800s, Forrest Meeker, one of Delaware County's prominent settlers, owned a grist mill,

sawmill, and fulling mill on the Olentangy River, which was then called the Whetstone River. Later in the mid-1830s, the land where the Meeker mills were located and a strip along the river were sold. In 1838, a paper mill was established by Hosea Williams and Caleb Howard. Houses were built for the workers in 1850, and a thriving milltown developed. At one time there were ten mills along this river. As you explore this stone cottage, which has been restored as a "look-through-the-window" museum, you will experience the lives of the millworkers who lived and labored here.



*The Cottage is located at the intersection of Meeker Way and Stratford Road and is open the same days as the Meeker Homestead Museum.*

### The Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence 20 West Central Avenue, Delaware, OH

Constructed in 1878 by David Gibbs of Toledo,



the old Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence was in use until 1988 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. This beautiful, primarily

Italianate structure features some Gothic Revival and Second Empire details. The 8,500 square foot building contains sixteen cells that were used for men and two used for women.

As part of the prison reform movement of which Rutherford B. Hayes championed, this building served as the sheriff's home. The sheriff's wife, known as the "Matron," cooked meals for the inmates. This newest museum features several displays and period furniture and the cell block is open for tours.

*Discover the secrets of this 110-year iconic building in downtown Delaware. Public paranormal tours are also scheduled. It is open at every First Friday from 6-8 p.m. through November.*



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Phone: 740-369-3831

E-mail: [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)

Website: [delawareohiohistory.org](http://delawareohiohistory.org)