

**THE LIFE OF WILLIAM  
HENRY HARRISON:  
THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE  
FOR THE PRESIDENCY**

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The Life of William Henry Harrison: The People's Candidate for the Presidency by Isaac R. Jackson

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**ISAAC R. JACKSON**

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TO THE  
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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THE recent nomination of William Henry Harrison for the Presidency, by one of the most numerous, dignified, patriotic, and influential conventions ever assembled on such an occasion, has united the various elements of opposition to the present unprincipled and corrupt administration, as promptly and unanimously as the best friends of their country could wish. Even those who were warmly predisposed in favour of some other individual, have, since this nomination, given up their personal predilections, with a magnanimity which true patriotism only could have roused, and have joined frankly and cordially in support of a candidate, through whose well-earned popularity, they hope and confidently expect to defeat and shake off this administration, which has so long been weighing, like an oppressive incubus, on the best interests of the people—an administration which came into power when our country was in a state of unexampled prosperity, and in a few years of mismanagement and flagitious misrule, has shorn it of its welfare, and plunged it into distress and difficulties, deeply and grievously felt by every class in the community, and daily becoming more burdensome and intolerable to the active and industrious part of our population—to the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and the tradesman.

But the people of this country will no longer consent to be held in such bondage. Born freemen, they are wearied of being ruled with a rod of iron. The selfish, narrow-minded, and ruinous policy, the notorious corruption, and the glaring misdeeds of the

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present administration, have, at length, roused their just indignation, and they are rising, in their majesty, to rebuke their unprincipled rulers—to teach them, that, though elected to high office, they are, in truth, but the servants of the people, chosen to administer to the great interests of their country, and not to their own private interests, and that they shall not, with impunity, abuse the great trust confided to them. As faithless and dishonest servants, they are destined to be discharged from the high stations they have so unworthily occupied, and the history of their defeat and disgrace will prove a timely and salutary warning to all iniquitous politicians, who may hereafter be elected to office, and who may likewise dare to abuse the confidence reposed in them, with the futile hope to escape detection and just punishment by falsehood, chicanery, and low cunning. After a long night of misrule, a bright and glorious day is once more dawning, and the success of the people's cause, to which, with William Henry Harrison as our candidate for the Presidency, we may look forward with the fairest promise of certainty, will again restore our government to its republican purity, and our country to its happiest days of prosperity. Our farmers and merchants shall no longer brood over their fallen fortunes, nor our honest mechanics and hardy labourers starve or be driven to desperation, by the want of employment—but with the restoration of public confidence in our rulers, the tide of success will again flow in upon our active population, and the busy hum of smiling and prospering industry will again be heard where now all is silent, save the heart-rending cry of poverty and distress.

To those who know General Harrison and are familiar with his past life, nothing need be said of the many and important services he has rendered to his country, nor of his eminent qualifications for the office to which he has been nominated. But the retired life he has led since his return from his mission to Colombia, has, in a measure, withdrawn him from public observation; and has more especially prevented his being properly known and appreciated by the younger portion of our community, who have but recently arrived at manhood and taken their station in the republican ranks of their fellow-citizens. It is true, that, in addition to the highly honourable mention made of General Har-



ri-son in the history of our country for nearly forty years of our national existence, publications have, at different periods, issued from the press, giving a detailed narrative of the private life as well as of the public services of this patriotic veteran and eminent statesman—but these, owing to their volume or the form in which they appeared, have necessarily had but a limited circulation. We therefore believe it an acceptable service to those who are not familiar with the life of William Henry Harrison, to place before them the following brief sketch of his biography and public services. We think that, when a man has been selected by his fellow-citizens as a suitable candidate for any important office in their gift, it is no more than common justice to all parties, that they should be supplied with some authentic information respecting his past life. It is right and proper that they should know what services he has rendered to his country, what public stations he has occupied, and with what skill, fidelity, and uprightness he has discharged the duties of those offices with which he has been entrusted—in order that furnished with this information, they may be enabled to form a fair estimate of his abilities, and of his usefulness and integrity in his future career. We therefore offer our readers this honest outline of plain facts gathered from the most authentic sources. Should any desire more particular information, or wish for detailed evidence of the historic truth of this outline, we refer them to our public documents, and state papers connected with the events here recorded, and to every impartial history of the wars and negotiations on our north-western frontier, from the adoption of the federal constitution till the close of the last war.



LIFE OF  
**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.**

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WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was born in Virginia, on the ninth day of February, 1773, at Berkley, on the James River, about twenty-five miles below Richmond. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was one of the earliest and most conspicuous patriots of the Revolution. He was a very distinguished member of the Continental Congress, during the years 1774, 1775, and 1776, and was Chairman of the Committee of the whole House when the Declaration of Independence was finally agreed to, and his signature is annexed to that celebrated document. He afterwards rendered important services to his country, by his energetic and judicious measures as governor of his native state, Virginia. This eminent patriot died in the year 1791, leaving his son, William Henry, under the guardianship of his friend, the distinguished financier of our Revolution, Robert Morris.

Young Harrison was educated at Hampden Sydney College; and, by the advice of his friends, turned his attention to the study of medicine. But about the period when he had completed his education, soon after the death of his father, the increased and barbarous hostilities of the Indians on our north-western borders, began to excite a feeling of indignation throughout the whole country. In this general excitement our young student participated so warmly, that he resolved to relinquish his professional pursuits, and join the army destined to the defence of the Ohio frontier. The service was then neither popular nor inviting, but on the contrary was exceedingly toilsome and fraught with great danger and hardships; and nothing but high courage and elevated motives, could have induced him to form this resolve at so gloomy a period. His determination was warmly opposed, too, by his prudent guardian; but it was cordially approved by one