

WELCOME



NEW ENERGY IN THE WILD WEST

GARFIELD COUNTY

COLORADO

Garfield County is one of the largest counties in Colorado, incorporating nearly 3,000 square miles on the western boundary of the state. The county has more than doubled in population since 1985, and is projected to double in size again by 2040. With this continual population increase and growth pressure comes many transitions within each of the six incorporated communities, as well as changes seen at a countywide level.

With a county that is rapidly changing, it is important to track its physical, social and economic factors, in order to give a general indication of where the county has been, as well as where it will likely go. Information of this nature can be helpful, not only for county and municipal governments, but also for those thinking of starting a business, relocating to the area, or for residents curious about the baseline information about where they live.

Incorporated on February 10, 1883, Garfield County, Colorado, is named after the 20th President of the United States, James A. Garfield. Born in Ohio on November 19, 1831, James Garfield is a very appropriate namesake for a county as diverse as this. Diverse in his background, interests and profession, some part of his life is likely to inspire everyone.

"The last of the log cabin presidents"
— Candice Millard

PRESIDENT JAMES Garfield



According to author Candice Millard (*Destiny of the Republic*, New York, Doubleday, 2011), James Garfield is the last of the "log cabin" presidents. He lost his father at the age of two, and was raised by his mother, Eliza, and his older brother, Thomas. Both of them very early recognized James as gifted, and encouraged his education.

After some adventures working on the Erie and Ohio Canal, Garfield enrolled in Ohio at Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (a.k.a. Hiram College), where he worked his way through school as a janitor, carpenter, and then an assistant professor. He graduated from Williams College. He ultimately returned to Western Reserve to serve as president of the college.

Garfield was a family man and a farmer; he married his wife, Lucretia, with whom he had seven children. He also was a lay preacher and a lawyer, who argued successfully before the United States Supreme Court.

Garfield was an abolitionist and fought on the side of the Union in the Civil War, including the battles of Middle Creek, Shiloh, and Chickamauga, among others. He served with the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry and ultimately attained the rank of Brigadier General.

As a public servant and politician, Garfield served one term as a state senator in Ohio, nine terms in Congress as a U.S. Representative, and was elected to the U.S. Senate at the time he was elected President of the United States in 1880.

Garfield served as president from March 4, 1881, to September 19, 1881, about 200 days. He was shot by Charles Guiteau on July 1, 1881 and died 81 days later from medical complications.

As husband and father, farmer and carpenter, minister and lawyer, abolitionist and soldier, and public servant, educator, and president, James Garfield certainly offers something for everyone in his namesake: Garfield County, Colorado.