John Tyler
10th President of the United States (April 6, 1841 to March 3, 1845)
Nicknames: “Accidental President”; “His Accidency”
Born: March 29, 1790, in Greenway, Virginia
Died: January 18, 1862, in Richmond, Virginia
Father: John Tyler
Mother: Mary Marot Armistead Tyler
Married: Letitia Christian (1790-1842), on March 29, 1813; Julia Gardiner (1820-1889), on June 26, 1844
Children: Mary Tyler (1815-48); Robert Tyler (1816-77); John Tyler (1819-96); Letitia Tyler (1821-1907); Elizabeth Tyler (1823-50); Anne Contesse Tyler (1825); Alice Tyler (1827-54); Tazewell Tyler (1830-74); David Gardiner Tyler (1846-1927); John Alexander Tyler (1848-83); Julia Gardiner Tyler (1849-71); Lachlan Tyler (1851-1902); Lyon Gardiner Tyler (1853-1935); Robert Fitzwalter Tyler (1856-1927); Pearl Tyler (1860-1947)
Religion: Episcopalian
Education: Graduated from the College of William and Mary (1807)
Occupation: Lawyer
Political Party: Whig
Other Government Positions:
- Member of Virginia House of Delegates, 1811-16
- Member of U.S. House of Representatives, 1816-21
- Virginia State Senator, 1823-25
- Governor of Virginia, 1825-26
- United States Senator, 1827-36
- Vice President, 1841 (under W. H. Harrison)
- Member of Confederate States Congress, 1861-62
Presidential Salary: $25,000/year
Presidential Election Results:
Never ran for president.
Vice President: None
Cabinet:
- Secretary of State
  Daniel Webster (1841-43)
  Abel P. Upshur (1843-44)
  John C. Calhoun (1844-45)
- Secretary of the Treasury
  Thomas Ewing (1841)
  Walter Forward (1841-43)
  John C. Spencer (1843-44)
  George M. Bibb (1844-45)
- Secretary of War
  John Bell (1841)
  John C. Spencer (1841-43)
  James M. Porter (1843-44)
  William Wilkins (1844-45)
- Attorney General
  Francis Granger (1841)
  Hugh S. Legare (1841-43)
  John Nelson (1843-45)
- Postmaster General
  Charles A. Wickliffe (1841-43)
- Secretary of the Navy
  George E. Badger (1841)
  Abel P. Upshur (1841-43)
  David Henshaw (1843-44)
Thomas W. Gilmer (1844)
John Y. Mason (1844-45)

Notable Events:
1841
â—¦ Tyler's cabinet resigned after he vetoed banking bills supported by the Whigs.
1844
â—¦ Far East opened to U.S. traders after a treaty with China signed.
1845
â—¦ Texas annexed followed by war with Mexico.

Internet Biographies:
John Tyler -- from The Presidents of the United States of America
Compiled by the White House.
John Tyler -- from Presidency of the United States of America - Encyclopedia Britannica
An encyclopedia entry from Encyclopedia Britannica.
John Tyler -- from The American President
From the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in addition to information on the Presidents
themselves, they have first lady and cabinet member biographies, listings of presidential staff and advisers, and timelines
detailing significant events in the lives of each administration.
John Tyler's Obituary -- from Dead Presidents
The text from The New York Times.

Historical Documents:
John Tyler: First Annual Message. December 7, 1841-- from The American Presidency Project

Other Internet Resources:
Sherwood Forest
History of the Tyler home, tour information, virtual tours, and a ghost story.
John Tyler-- from American Presidents: Life Portraits -- C-SPAN
Biographical information, trivia, key events, video, and other reference materials. Website created to accompany C-SPAN's
20th Anniversary Television Series, American Presidents: Life Portraits.

Points of Interest:
â¢ Tyler was the first president whose wife died while he was in office.
â¢ Tyler was the only president to hold office in the Confederacy.
â¢ Tyler was one of five Presidents who were never inaugurated.
â¢ Five years after leaving office, Tyler was so poor he was unable to pay a bill for $1.25 until he had sold his corn crop.
â¢ The tradition of playing "Hail to the Chief" whenever a president appears at state functions was started by Tyler's
second wife, Julia. For more on the origins of "Hail to the Chief," see C-SPAN's Vignette on The Origins Of "Hail To The
Chief" (RealAudio).

Previous President: William Henry Harrison | Next President: James Knox Polk

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John Tyler
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the 10th U.S. president. For his father, see John Tyler, Sr..
John Tyler, Jr.

Daguerreotype of President Tyler taken in 1845 by Brady

10th President of the United States
In office
April 4, 1841Â—March 4, 1845
Vice President
None
Preceded by
William Henry Harrison
Succeeded by
James K. Polk
10th Vice President of the United States
In office
March 4, 1841 – April 4, 1841
President
William Henry Harrison
Preceded by
Richard Mentor Johnson
Succeeded by
George Dallas

23rd Governor of Virginia
In office
December 10, 1825 – March 4, 1827
Preceded by
James Pleasants
Succeeded by
William Branch Giles

President pro tempore of the United States Senate
In office
March 3, 1835 – December 6, 1835
President
Andrew Jackson
Preceded by
George Poindexter
Succeeded by
William R. King

United States Senator
from Virginia
In office
March 4, 1827 – February 29, 1836
Preceded by
John Randolph of Roanoke
Succeeded by
William C. Rives

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia’s 23rd district
In office
December 17, 1816 – March 3, 1821
Preceded by
John Clopton
Succeeded by
Andrew Stevenson

Born
March 29, 1790
Charles City County, Virginia
Died
January 18, 1862 (aged 71)
Richmond, Virginia
Birth name
John Tyler, Jr.
Political party
Whig, independent, Democratic
Spouse(s)
Letitia Christian (dissolved by her death; 1813-1842)
Julia Gardiner (married at his death; 1844-1862)
Children
Mary Tyler
Robert Tyler
John Tyler
Letitia Tyler
Elizabeth Tyler
Anne Contesse Tyler
Alice Tyler
Tazewell Tyler
David Gardiner Tyler
John Alexander Tyler
Julia Gardiner Tyler
Lachlan Tyler
Lyon Gardiner Tyler
Robert Fitzwalter Tyler
Pearl Tyler
(allegations of Tyler being the father of John Dunjee have also risen)
John Tyler, Jr. (March 29, 1790 – January 18, 1862) was the tenth President of the United States (1841–1845) and the first to succeed to the office following the death of a predecessor.

A longtime Democratic-Republican, Tyler was nonetheless elected Vice President on the Whig ticket. Upon the death of President William Henry Harrison on April 4, 1841, only a month after his inauguration, the nation was briefly in a state of confusion regarding the process of succession. Ultimately the situation was settled with Tyler becoming President both in name and in fact. Tyler took the oath of office on April 6, 1841, setting a precedent that would govern future successions and eventually be codified in the Twenty-fifth Amendment. At 51 years old, he was the youngest U.S. president to take office to that point (whereas Harrison had been the oldest man to take office as president).

Arguably the most famous and significant achievement of Tyler's administration was the annexation of the Republic of Texas in 1845. Tyler was the first president born after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, the only president to have held the office of President pro tempore of the Senate, and the only former president elected to office in the government of the Confederacy during the Civil War (though he died before he assumed said office).

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Early life
John Tyler was born on March 29, 1790, in Charles City County, Virginia (the same county where William Henry Harrison was born). Tyler's father was John Tyler, Sr., and his mother was Mary Armistead Tyler. Tyler was raised, along with seven siblings, to be a part of the region's elite gentry, receiving a very good education. Tyler was brought up believing that the Constitution of the United States was to be strictly interpreted, and reportedly never lost this conviction.

While Tyler was growing up, Tyler Sr., a friend of Thomas Jefferson, owned a tobacco plantation of over 1,000 acres (4 km²) served by dozens of slaves, and worked as a judge at the U.S. Circuit Court at Richmond, Virginia; Tyler Sr.'s advocacy of states' rights maintained his power. When Tyler was seven years old, his mother died from a stroke, and when he was twelve he entered the preparatory branch of the College of William and Mary, enrolling into the collegiate program there three years later. Tyler graduated from the college in 1807, at age seventeen.

Lawyer, the War of 1812, and early political career
John Tyler went on to study law with his father, who became Governor of Virginia (1806–1811). Tyler was admitted to the bar in 1809 and started practice in Charles City County. Tyler supported the United States' fight against Britain during the War of 1812, and he took command of a small militia company, though he saw no action. He became a member of the...
First wife, Letitia Christian Tyler

U.S. House of Representatives

John Tyler was elected as a Democratic-Republican to the Fourteenth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John Clopton. Reelected to the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses, Tyler served in the House of Representatives from December 17, 1816, to March 3, 1821. While in Congress, Tyler was a leader in opposing the Missouri Compromise.

Virginia politics

Tyler declined to be a candidate for renomination to Congress in 1820 because of impaired health. Instead, he became a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Charles City County, serving from 1823 to 1825. Tyler was then elected to be the Governor of Virginia (1825-1827). He was popularly known as voting against nationalist legislations. In 1829 and 1830, he served as a member of the Virginia state constitutional convention.

During this period, a major realignment of American politics was taking place. Following the 1824 election, the dominant Democratic-Republican party, of which Tyler was a member, split into two factions. The Andrew Jackson faction would shortly evolve into the Democratic party. The John Quincy Adams-Henry Clay faction would eventually coalesce into the Whig party.

Tyler had supported Adams in 1824. Afterwards, however, because Adams supported nationally funded internal improvements, Tyler joined the Jackson faction and became a Democrat.

U.S. Senate

Tyler was elected as a Jacksonian to the United States Senate in 1827. He was reelected in 1833 and served from March 4, 1827, to February 29, 1836, when he resigned. Tyler supported Jackson in both the 1828 and 1832 elections, and backed him when he vetoed the Bank of the United States recharter in 1832. However, starting with the Nullification Crisis of 1832-33, Tyler drifted away from the Jacksonian Democrats. During the Nullification Crisis, Tyler opposed the force bill allowing Jackson to use armed force to collect tariff revenues in South Carolina. While other senators opposing the bill abstained, Tyler cast the only opposing vote and the bill passed 32-1.

By 1836, Tyler was closer to Henry Clay's newly formed Whigs than Jackson's Democrats. That year, Virginia's legislature instructed its senators to vote to expunge the Senate's 1834 censure of Jackson from the record. Rather than do so, Tyler resigned his seat.[3]

In the Senate, Tyler served as President pro tempore of the Senate during the Twenty-third Congress (the only President to have served as President pro tempore of the Senate), and was chair of the Committee on the District of Columbia (Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Congresses), as well as the Committee on Manufactures (Twenty-third Congress).

1836 presidential election

In 1836, the new Whig party was not organized enough to hold a national convention and name a single ticket against Jackson's chosen successor, Martin Van Buren. Instead, Whigs in various states proposed three regional candidates, Daniel Webster, William Henry Harrison, and Hugh White. Tyler was named as a vice-presidential candidate and ran with Harrison in some states and White in others.[3] He finished third, receiving 47 electoral votes.

Return to Virginia politics

After leaving the U.S. Senate, Tyler served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1838 from Williamsburg. He was elected Speaker of the House in 1839.

1840 Presidential election

At the Whigs' convention, Tyler supported Henry Clay's presidential candidacy. After Clay was passed over for William Henry Harrison, Tyler was named as Harrison's running mate. Their opponents were Democratic incumbents Martin Van Buren and Richard Johnson.

The Whigs' 1840 campaign slogans of "Log Cabins and Hard Cider" and "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" are among the most famous in American politics. "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" not only offered the slight sectionalism that would further be apparent in the presidency of Tyler, but also the nationalism that was imperative to gain the American vote.

Harrison and Tyler won the election by an electoral vote of 234-60 and a popular vote of 53%-47%. On March 4, 1841, Tyler was inaugurated as the tenth Vice-President of the United States.

Vice-Presidency 1841

Largely ignored by the men who were pressuring Harrison to give them jobs, Tyler stayed in Washington, D.C. only long enough to be inaugurated Vice President on March 4 and to preside over the next day's Senate confirmation of Harrison's cabinet. On March 5 he returned to his home in Williamsburg, Virginia, not even staying through the close of the Senate's session.[4] Harrison sought little of Tyler's advice, and Tyler reportedly offered none.[4] Secretary of State Daniel Webster sent word to Tyler of Harrison's illness on April 1; two days later, Richmond attorney James Lyons wrote with the news that the President had taken a turn for the worse, remarking that "I shall not be surprised to hear by tomorrow's mail that Gen'l Harrison is no more."[5] Tyler determined not to travel to Washington, not wanting to appear unseemly in anticipating the President's death. However, at dawn on April 5, two couriers from the State Department arrived at Tyler's home bearing the message that Harrison had died the day before.[4][6]

President 1841-1845

"His Accidency"

1888 illustration of Vice President Tyler receiving the news of President Harrison's death from Chief Clerk of the State Department Fletcher Webster.

Harrison's unprecedented death in office caused considerable disarray regarding his successor. The Constitution of the United States stated only that:
In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President.

This led to the question of whether the office of the presidency itself "devolved" upon Vice President Tyler, or merely its powers and duties. The protocol was so uncertain that Secretary of State Daniel Webster discreetly requested the counsel of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney (who declined, citing concerns about the separation of powers).[7]

By the time Tyler arrived in Washington at 4:00 a.m. on April 6, he had firmly resolved that he was now, in name and fact, the President of the United States, and acted on this determination by taking the oath of office in his hotel room with the cabinet looking on, then immediately calling them into a meeting where he firmly asserted his authority by terminating Harrison's practice of making policy by cabinet consensus.[8]

Tyler's claim was not immediately accepted by opposition members in Congress such as John Quincy Adams, who argued for Tyler to assume a role as a caretaker under the title of "Acting President", or remain Vice President in name. Among these was Whig leader Henry Clay, who had intended to be a "power behind the throne" and exercise great influence over his fellow Whig Harrison and now transferred that ambition onto his close friend, Tyler.

Once Harrison was dead, Clay was more then ever determined to hold sway over his successor. Amidst the constitutional uncertainties, Clay, "kept referring to Tyler as 'the Vice-President' and insisted that his administration would be more in the nature of a regency...[Tyler] quietly set the constitutional standard for later presidential successions by asserting that he was not merely "acting president" but had in fact acquired the full powers of the presidency...Tyler thundered at Clay: "Go you now, Mr. Clay, to your end of the avenue, where stands the Capitol, and there perform your duty to the country as you shall think proper. So help me God, I shall do mine at this end of it as I shall think proper."[9]

On June 1, 1841, impressed by his authoritative actions, both houses of Congress passed resolutions declaring Tyler the tenth President of the United States. Tyler had thus become the first U.S. vice president to assume the office of president upon the death of his predecessor, establishing a precedent that would be followed many times in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Yet it was not until 1967 that Tyler’s action of assuming full powers of the presidency was legally codified in the Twenty-fifth Amendment.[10]

Although his accession was given approval by both the Cabinet and, later, the Senate and House, Tyler’s detractors (who, ironically, would eventually include many of the Cabinet members and members of Congress who had legitimized his presidency) never fully accepted him as President. He was referred to by many nicknames, including "His Accidency," a reference to his having become President not through election but by the accidental circumstances regarding his nomination and Harrison’s death. Tyler never wavered from his conviction that he was the rightful president, however; when his political opposition later sent correspondence to the White House addressed to the "Vice President" or "Acting President," Tyler had them returned, unopened.[11]

Tyler quickly found himself at odds with his former political supporters. Harrison had been expected to adhere closely to Whig Party policies and to work closely with Whig leaders, particularly Henry Clay. The former Democrat shocked Congressional Whigs by vetoing virtually their entire agenda. Twice he vetoed Clay’s legislation for a national banking act following the Panic of 1837 & " even after the bill had been tailored to meet his stated objections in the first veto â— leaving the government deadlocked.

On September 11, 1841, following the second bank veto, members of the cabinet entered Tyler’s office one by one and resigned - an orchestration by Clay to force Tyler’s resignation (and place his own lieutenant, Senate President Pro Tempore Samuel Southard, in the White House). The exception was Secretary of State Daniel Webster, who remained to finalize what became the 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty, as well as to demonstrate his independence from Clay.[12] Two days later, when the president stood firm, the Whigs in Congress officially expelled Tyler from the party, and advocated a one-term limit for presidents and limitations on the veto power.[13] Tyler was now a president without a party, making him one of only three Presidents (along with George Washington and Andrew Johnson) to have no party affiliation during part of his term.

For two years, Tyler struggled with the Whigs, eventually nominating 22 men to the six cabinet offices. But when he nominated John C. Calhoun in 1844 as Secretary of State, to ‘reform’ the Democrats, the gravitational swing of the Whigs to identify with “the North” and the Democrats as the party of “the South” led the way to the sectional party politics of the next decade. Tyler’s final Cabinet consisted of five Southerners and one Northerner (William Wilkins, Secretary of War). On Tyler’s last full day in office, March 3, 1845, Congress overrode his veto of a bill relating to revenue cutters and steamers. This marked the first time any president’s veto had been overridden.

Tyler reportedly recognized the “coming importance of the Asian Pacific region to trade”[15], and sent a diplomatic mission to China, which successfully established consular and commercial relations between China and the United States, allowing the United States to gain the same trading concessions from China that Britain had.[15] Tyler also applied the Monroe Doctrine to Hawaii, told Britain not to interfere there, and began the process of annexing Hawaii to the United States.[15]

In 1842 the Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, negotiated the Webster-Ashburton Treaty with Britain which concluded where the border between Maine and Canada lay.[15] The issue of where the border lay had caused tension between the United States and Britain for a notable amount of time, and had brought the two countries nearly to war with each other on several occasions.[15] The treaty improved Anglo-American diplomatic relations.[15] However, Tyler was unsuccessful in concluding a treaty with the British to fix the boundaries of Oregon.[15]

The treaty improved Anglo-American diplomatic relations. However, Tyler was unsuccessful in concluding a treaty with the British to fix the boundaries of Oregon.
Tyler brought the Second Seminole War to an end in 1842, and he also advocated the establishment of a chain of American forts from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to the Pacific.[15]

Impeachment attempt
After Tyler vetoed a tariff bill in June 1842, the House of Representatives initiated the first impeachment proceedings against a president in American history. A committee headed by former president John Quincy Adams, who was now a member of Congress, condemned Tyler's use of the veto and stated that Tyler should be impeached.[16] This was not only a matter of the Whigs supporting the bank and tariff legislation which Tyler vetoed. Until the presidency of the Whigs' archenemy Andrew Jackson, presidents vetoed bills rarely, and then generally on constitutional rather than policy grounds, [17] so Tyler's actions also went against the Whigs' idea of the presidency. Adams then proposed a constitutional amendment to change the two-thirds requirement to override a veto to a simple majority, but neither house passed such a measure. On January 10, 1843, a resolution introduced by John Minor Botts, of Virginia, charged "John Tyler, Vice President acting as President" with nine counts of impeachable offenses, including corruption, official misconduct, and other high crimes and misdemeanors.[18] The resolution was defeated, 83-127.

In the elections of 1842, the Whigs lost control of the House (although they retained a majority in the Senate), and were therefore unable to pursue further impeachment proceedings.

USS Princeton accident

Second wife, Julia Gardiner Tyler

The last year of Tyler's presidency was marred by a freak accident that killed two of his Cabinet members. During a ceremonial cruise down the Potomac River on February 28, 1844, the main gun of the USS Princeton blew up during a demonstration firing. Tyler was unhurt, but Thomas Gilmer, the Secretary of the Navy, and Abel P. Upshur, who had succeeded Daniel Webster at the State Department nine months earlier, were instantly killed. Also killed or mortally wounded were Rep. Virgil Maxey of Maryland, Rep. David Gardiner of New York, Capt. Beverly Kennon, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Construction, Equipment and Repairs, and the President's valet, while some 20 others were injured. Julia Gardiner, whom Tyler had met two years earlier at a reception, was also aboard the Princeton that day. Her father, David Gardiner, was among those killed during the explosion. Upon hearing of her father's death, Gardiner fainted into the President's arms.[19]

Tyler and Gardiner were married not long afterwards in New York City, on June 26, 1844.

Annexation of Texas

Tyler tried to form a new political party, but needed more support before it could be established.[20] Tyler hoped to gain such support by leading a drive for the annexation of Texas by the United States.[20] Texas had declared independence from Mexico in 1836. Although Texas had succeeded in maintaining its independence as a result of its victory in the Texas Revolution, Mexico still considered it part of its territory, and threatened war with the United States should the US annex Texas.[20] Another problem was that many Americans worried that annexing Texas, which permitted slavery, would upset the sectional balance within Congress.[20]

Tyler believed that annexing Texas was a way he could achieve political respectability. His new party, the Democratic Republicans, used the slogan "Tyler and Texas!"[20] In what is considered "a serious tactical error that ruined the scheme [of establishing political respectability for him]"[20], Tyler appointed John C. Calhoun in 1844 as his Secretary of State. Calhoun, as Secretary of State, was responsible for the negotiations with Texas over its admission to the Union. Calhoun was a leading advocate of slavery, and his attempts to get an annexation treaty passed were resisted by abolitionists as a result.[20] Martin Van Buren also worked, behind the scenes of American politics, to ensure the annexation treaty was not approved, in an attempt to avenge his loss to Harrison and Tyler in the last presidential election.[20] Even with the support of Andrew Jackson for the treaty, the United States Senate rejected it, 16-35.[20] Tyler wanted the issue of the annexation of Texas to be the foundation of his reelection campaign. After the annexation treaty was rejected, Tyler called for Congress to annex Texas by joint resolution rather than by treaty. Tyler eventually dropped out of the race, but after fellow expansionist James Polk won the election, Tyler announced in his annual message to Congress that "a controlling majority of the people and a large majority of the states have declared in favor of immediate annexation."[21]

In late February 1845, the House by a substantial margin and the Senate by a bare 27-25 majority approved a joint resolution offering terms of annexation to Texas. On March 1, three days before the end of his term, Tyler signed the bill into law.[20]

After some debate,[22] Texas accepted the terms, and entered the union on December 29, 1845, as the 28th state.

Reelection attempt

Uncle Sam and his Servants

An anti-Tyler satire lampoons President Tyler’s efforts to secure a second term against challengers Whig Henry Clay and Democrat James K. Polk. Clay, Polk, John C. Calhoun and Andrew Jackson attempt to get in as Tyler pushes the door shut on them. Uncle Sam demands that Tyler stop and let Clay in.

Having left the Democrats and been renounced by the Whigs, Tyler’s hopes for a second term depended on running at the helm of a third party. Tyler “created his own new party, built on a core of officeholders,”[23] and was nominated for the presidency in May 1844. At the same time, the Senate was considering Tyler’s treaty to annex Texas, which it voted down the next month.

The major party nominees were widely expected to be former president Martin Van Buren for the Democrats and Tyler’s nemesis, Henry Clay, for the Whigs.[23] Both Van Buren and Clay publicly opposed annexing Texas. Clay was indeed nominated, but Van Buren’s stand cost him his party’s nomination.[24] Instead, the Democrats nominated James Polk on a pro-annexation platform.

Accordingly, Tyler withdrew from the race in August 1844 and threw his support to Polk. Polk won a narrow victory in November, enabling Tyler to claim a popular mandate for annexing Texas.
Judicial appointments
[edit]

Supreme Court
Two vacancies occurred on the Supreme Court during Tyler's presidency, as Justices Smith Thompson and Henry Baldwin died in 1843 and 1844, respectively. Tyler, ever at odds with Congress â” including the Whig-controlled Senate â” nominated several men to the Supreme Court to fill these seats. However, the Senate successively voted against confirming John Canfield Spencer, Reuben Walworth, Edward King and John M. Read (King was rejected twice). One reason cited for the Senate's actions was the hope that Whig Henry Clay would fill the vacancies after winning the 1844 presidential election. [25]
Finally, in February 1845, with less than a month in his term, Tyler’s nomination of Samuel Nelson to Thompson’s seat was confirmed by the Senate. Nelson’s successful confirmation was a surprise. Nelson, although a Democrat, had a reputation as a careful and noncontroversial jurist.
Baldwin’s seat remained vacant until James Polk’s nominee, Robert Grier, was confirmed in 1846.[26]
Tyler’s four unsuccessful nominees are the most by a president.
[edit]
Other courts
Tyler was able to appoint only six other federal judges, all to United States district courts:
Judge Â
Court Â
Began active service Â
Ended active service Â
James Dandridge Halyburton
E.D.Va.
June 15, 1844
April 24, 1861
Elisha Mills Huntington
D. Ind.
May 2, 1842
October 26, 1862
Theodore Howard McCaleb
E.D.La.
W.D.La.[27]
September 3, 1841
January 28, 1861[28]
Samuel Prentiss
D.Vt.
April 8, 1842
January 15, 1857
Archibald Randall
E.D.Pa.
March 8, 1842
June 8, 1846
Peleg Sprague
D.Mass.
July 16, 1841
March 13, 1865
[edit]
Florida
On Tyler’s last full day in office, March 3, 1845, Florida was admitted to the Union as the 27th state.
[edit]
Administration and Cabinet
The Tyler Cabinet
Office
Name
Term
President
John Tyler
1841â”1845
Vice President
None
1841â”1845
Secretary of State
Daniel Webster (W)
1841â”1843
Abel P. Upshur (W)
1843â”1844
John C. Calhoun (D)
1844â”1845
Secretary of Treasury
Thomas Ewing, Sr. (W)
1841
Walter Forward (W)
Four of Tyler's Cabinet nominees were rejected, the most of any president. These were Caleb Cushing (Treasury), David Henshaw (Navy), James Porter (War), and James Green (Treasury). Henshaw and Porter served as recess appointees before their rejections.

Tyler aggravated this problem when he repeatedly renominated Cushing. As a result, Cushing was rejected three times in one day, March 3, 1843, the last day of the 27th Congress.[29]

[edit]

Post-Presidency
Tyler retired to a Virginia plantation located on the James River in Charles City County, Virginia and originally named "Walnut Grove." He renamed it "Sherwood Forest" to signify that he had been "outlawed" by the Whig party. He withdrew from electoral politics, though his advice continued to be sought by states-rights Democrats.

A daguerreotype of John Tyler circa 1850.

[edit]

Tyler and the Civil War
On the eve of the Civil War, Tyler reentered public life to sponsor and chair the Virginia Peace Convention, held in Washington, D.C. in February 1861 as an effort to devise means to prevent a war. Tyler had long been an advocate of states' rights, believing that the question of a state's "free" or "slave" status ought to be decided at the state level, with no input from federal government. The convention sought a compromise to avoid civil war while the Confederate Constitution was being drawn up at the Montgomery Convention. When war broke out, Tyler unhesitatingly sided with the Confederacy, and became a delegate to the Provisional Confederate Congress in 1861. He was then elected to the House of Representatives of the Confederate Congress, but died in Richmond, Virginia before he could assume office.

Tyler's death was the only one in presidential history not to be officially mourned in Washington, because of his allegiance to the Confederacy. Tyler is also sometimes considered the only president to die outside the United States because his place of death, Richmond, Virginia, was part of the Confederate States at the time. Tyler's favorite horse named "The General" is buried at his Sherwood Forest Plantation with a gravestone which reads, "Here lies the body of my good horse 'The General.' For twenty years he bore me around the circuit of my practice and in all that time he never made a blunder. Would that his master could say the same."[30]

[edit]

Personal life

Marriage and children
John Tyler was married twice and had 15 legitimate children.
Tyler's grave at Hollywood Cemetery
His first wife was Letitia Christian Tyler (November 12, 1790 – September 10, 1842), with whom he had eight children:
- Mary Tyler (1815 – 1847)
- Robert Tyler (1816 – 1877)
- John Tyler (1819 – 1907)
- Letitia Tyler (1821 – 1907)
- Elizabeth Tyler (1823 – 1906)
- Anne Contesse Tyler (1825)
- Alice Tyler (1827 – 1904)
- Tazewell Tyler (1830 – 1874)
Letitia died in the White House in September 1842.
His second wife was Julia Gardiner Tyler (July 23, 1820 – July 10, 1889), with whom he had seven children:
- David Gardiner Tyler (1846 – 1927)
- John Alexander Tyler (1848 – 1883)
- Julia Gardiner Tyler (1849 – 1871)
- Lachlan Tyler (1851 – 1902)
- Lyon Gardiner Tyler (1853 – 1935)
- Robert Fitzwalter Tyler (1856 – 1927)
- Pearl Tyler (1860 – 1947)
His granddaughter Julia Gardiner Tyler Wilson, daughter of Lyon Gardiner Tyler, was one of the founders of Kappa Delta Sorority.
Tyler was a slaveholder for his entire life. John Dunjee claimed to be the illegitimate son of John Tyler, a child of Tyler and one of his female slaves. Early in his presidency Tyler was attacked by a newspaper alleging he had fathered (and sold) several sons with his slaves, which the Tyler administration linked newspaper the Madisonian replied to[31]. There was also a mulatto woman who frequently traveled with the Tyler family who was alleged to be the president’s daughter.[citation needed]
As of 2009, Tyler has two living grandsons through his son Lyon Gardiner Tyler (1853-1935). Lyon Gardiner Tyler, Jr., was born in 1924, and Harrison Ruffin Tyler was born in 1928.[32]
[edit]
Health and death
Throughout Tyler's life, he suffered from poor health. Frequent colds occurred every winter as he aged. After his exit from the White House, he fell victim to repeated cases of dysentery. He has been quoted as having many aches and pains in the last eight years of his life. In 1862, after complaining of chills and dizziness, he vomited and collapsed during the Congress of Confederacy. He was revived, yet the next day he admitted to the same symptoms. It was likely that John Tyler died of a stroke. His final words were “I am going now, perhaps it is for the best.” Tyler is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA.
[edit]
Legacy
According to the White House's biography of him, Tyler "strengthened the Presidency"[2], but also "increased sectional cleavage that led toward civil war".[2] Tyler was and is also considered to have, by claiming "the right to a fully functioning and empowered presidency instead of relinquishing the office or accepting limits on his powers",[33] established a precedent for future Presidents of the United States.[33] With regards to Tyler's foreign policies, it is argued that "Tyler could claim an ambitious, successful foreign policy presidency, due largely to the efforts of Secretary of State Webster."[15] The city of Tyler, Texas is named after him.[34]
James K. Polk
Preceded by
Richard M. Johnson
Vice President of the United States
March 4, 1841 – April 4, 1841
Vacant
Title next held by
George M. Dallas
Preceded by
George Poindexter
President pro tempore of the United States Senate
March 3, 1835 – December 6, 1835
Succeeded by
William R. King
Preceded by
James Pleasants
Governor of Virginia
1825 – 1827
Succeeded by
William Branch Giles
United States Senate
Preceded by
John Randolph
United States Senator (Class 1) from Virginia
1827 – 1836
Served alongside: Littleton W. Tazewell, William C. Rives,
Benjamin W. Leigh
Succeeded by
William C. Rives
United States House of Representatives
Preceded by
John Clopton
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
from Virginia’s 23rd congressional district
1817 – 1821
Succeeded by
Andrew Stevenson
Party political offices
New political party
Whig Party vice presidential candidate
1836³, 1840
Succeeded by
Theodore Frelinghuysen
Academic offices
Preceded by
George Washington
Chancellor of The College of William & Mary
1859 – 1862
Succeeded by
Hugh Blair Grigsby
Notes and references
1. Tyler did not take the oath of office until April 6.
2. Tyler was elected in 1861, but died before taking office.
3. The Whig Party ran regional candidates in 1836. Tyler ran in the Southern states, and Francis Granger ran in the Northern states.
Cabinet of President William Henry Harrison (1841)
Cabinet of President John Tyler (1841-1845)

Categories: American Episcopalians | American people of the War of 1812 | Burials at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond | Chancellors of the College of William and Mary | College of William and Mary alumni | Deaths from stroke | Deputies and delegates of the Provisional Confederate Congress | English Americans | Governors of Virginia | Members of the United States House of Representatives from Virginia | Members of the Virginia House of Delegates | People from Charles City County, Virginia | People of Virginia in the American Civil War | Presidents of the United States | Presidents pro tempore of the United States Senate | Tyler family | United States presidential candidates, 1844 | United States Senators from Virginia | Vice Presidents of the United States | Virginia Whigs | Whig Party (United States) vice presidential nominees | 1790 births | 1862 deaths | John Tyler
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**Sources**

1. [S13041]
2. [S13042]