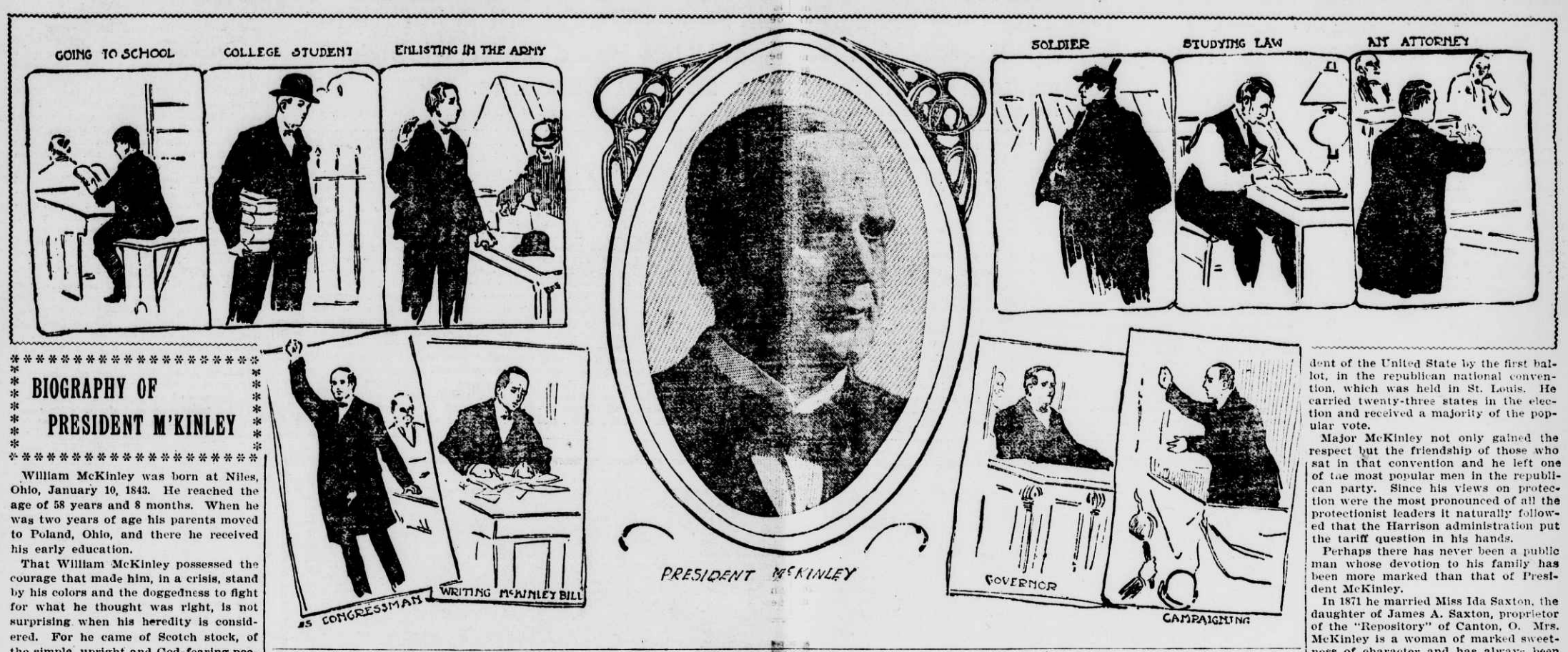
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE PRESIDENT, WHO BRAVELY MET EVERY DUTY AND DANGER



BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT M'KINLEY

William McKinley was born at Niles, Ohio, January 10, 1843. He reached the age of 58 years and 8 months. When he was two years of age his parents moved to Poland, Ohio, and there he received his early education.

That William McKinley possessed the courage that made him, in a crisis, stand by his colors and the doggedness to fight for what he thought was right, is not surprising when his heredity is considered. For he came of Scotch stock, of the simple, upright and God-fearing people who yet would not suffer persecution but preferred to worship their God in their own way, and not finding Scotland congenial since it was dominated by the Church of England, fled to Ireland, where they hoped to find freedom.

Disappointed in this hope, however, two of the brothers, James and William McKinley, emigrated to America. Whereas William made a home in the south, James went to Pennsylvania and married there. His son David was the first to enlist in the continental army and was destined to be the great-grandfather of the great protectionist.

After the war of 1812 David McKinley moved to Columbiana county, Ohio. James, his second son, married Mary Rose, whose ancestors had likewise fled from religious persecution, having left Holland. William, the second son of James McKinley, Sr., was well known in the business world of the state of Ohio, being a prominent iron founder.

Mr. McKinley was a man of high principles, intelligent and with all the Scotch shrewdness in business dealings. He was dissatisfied with the education which his children were receiving in the town of Niles, O., and that they might have better facilities for gaining knowledge he removed his family to Poland, where he took up his residence.

He Was Ambitious.

William McKinley, Jr., entered Allegheny college at the age of 17. He was ambitious in his studies, and apt pupil, a lad of quiet yet forceful ways, a student of great earnestness and considered by those who knew him as a boy of parts and of great promise.

While he was in the midst of his studies, energetic with a future that looked roseate and dazzling to him, flushed with ambition, the civil war broke out. Many another, fascinated with the vista of learning and attainments that was opening before him, would have pursued his college course and let those fight who would, but William McKinley, with a decision and unwavering response to a duty, however stern it might be, that called him, foresook the pen for the sword and enlisted to aid in righting his country's wrongs.

He enlisted as a private in the Twenty-third Ohio regiment. William S. Rosecrans was its colonel, although Rutherford B. Hayes was afterward its commanding officer.

Although he enlisted as a private, water seeks its level and after fourteen months of hard service he became quartermaster and was finally promoted to the staff of General Hayes. He was made lieutenant for bravery at Antietam. McKinley was then a commissary sergeant and the part which he took in the celebrated conflict is thus graphically described by General Hayes:

Came to the Rescue.

"The battle began at daylight. Before daylight men were in the ranks and preparing for it. Without breakfast, without coffee, they went into the fight, and it continued until after the sun had set. Early in the afternoon, naturally enough, with the exertion required of the men, they were famished and thirsty, and to some extent broken in spirit. The commissary department of that brigade was under Sergeant McKinley's administration and personal supervision. From his hands every man in the regiment was served with coffee and warm meats, a thing that had never occurred under similar circumstances in any other army in the world. He passed under fire and delivered with his own hands these things so essential to the men for whom he was laboring. Coming to Ohio and recovering from wounds, I called upon Governor Todd and told him this incident. With the emphasis that distinguished that great war governor, he said: 'Let McKinley be promoted from sergeant to lieutenant.' McKinley was promoted."

Like the majority of men who gain a large meausure of success he was slow to come to a conclusion, but, having reached one he was prompt to act and quick to decide. Upon one occasion a skirmish near Winchester, McKinley, as aide-de-camp, brought a verbal order to General Duval, who commanded the Second division, instructing him to assume a new position. General Duval inquired by what route he should move his command and McKinley offered a suggestion. Duval, however, refused to move without more definite orders. McKinley, knowing how vital the point in argument was, would not be daunted even by a superior officer and he said: "By command of General Crook, I order you to move your command up this ravine to a position on the right of the army." McKinley was commended by his commanding officer for the admirable manner with which the movement was accomplished. Soon after this battle he went on the staff of General Cook and afterward served with General Hancock.

In 1864, at the remarkably youthful age of 21 years, he was made major by brevet by President Lincoln. He concluded to study law and in 1869 became prosecuting attorney for Stark country, Ohio, which position he held until 1871.

Entry Into Politics.

It was about this time that he became interested in politics. He possessed many qualities which made him poplar and he rose rapidly in public favor ebing elected on the republican ticket to the Forty-fifth, Forth-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth and Fiftieth congresses. In the house he was not know as well as a debater upon the floor as he was as a worker in committees, where he did some very effective work.

The tariff question interested him from the first and his initiative act as representative was the presentation of a petition from Ohio manufacturers asking congress to take no action in the way o. tariff revision until a thorough investigation of the needs of American labor and the condition of American industries be made.

He gradually became regarded by the republicans as a great power in the party, and in 1888, his name was freely mentioned as candidate for the presidency. But McKinley led the Ohio delegation in the convention which had been instructed to vote for Senator John Sherman. It is most interesting as the best index to his character of the man and a test of high integrity that had he chosen to sacrifice the candidate of his state to his own interest there was a moment in the deliberations of the convention when he could have received the nomination. However, he remained loyal to the candidate, put the temptation behind him and said: "I am here by a resolution of the republican convention of Ohio, passed without one dissenting voice, commanding me to cast my vote for John Sherman and use every worthy endeavor for his nomination. I accepted the trust because my heart and judgment were in accord with the letter and spirit of that resolution. It has pleased certain delegates to cast their votes for me. I cannot, with honorable fidelity to John Sherman, who has trusted me in his cause and with his confidence. I cannot consistently with my own views of personal integrity, consent or seem to consent to permit my name to be used as a candidate before this convention. I do request, I demand that no delegate who would not cast reflection upon me, shall cast a ballot for me."

Mr. McKinley was elected governor of Ohio in 1891, by a majority of 21,000, in a campaign which was made upon the tariff issue Two years later he was re-elected by a majority of 80,000. In June, 1896, he was nominated for president of the United State by the first ballot, in the republican national convention, which was held in St. Louis. He carried twenty-three states in the election and received a majority of the popular vote.

Major McKinley not only gained the respect but the friendship of those who sat in that convention and he left one of the most popular men in the republican party. Since his views on protection were the most pronounced of all the protectionist leaders it naturally followed that the Harrison administration put the tariff question in his hands.

Perhaps there has never been a public man whose devotion to his family has been more marked than that of President McKinley.

In 1871 he married Miss Ida Saxton, the daughter of James A. Saxton, proprietor of the "Repository" of Canton, O. Mrs. McKinley is a woman of marked sweetness of character and has always been a tender and devoted wife. Although of late years he precarious health has excluded her from social enjoyments, she was celebrated for her generous hospitality in the days when her health was such as to permit her to entertain.

Mrs. McKinley enjoyed many advantages in her girlhood, among others making a trip abroad which was unusual for that day. Two daughters, Kate and Ida, were born to Mr. and Mrs. McKinley, but both died while they were yet young. After the death of their children Mr. and Mrs. McKinley went to live in the house where Mrs. McKinley had spent her girlhood. They lived there until Major McKinley departed for Washington to take his seat in the Forty-fifth congress.

The tender solicitude which he has displayed toward Mrs. McKinley during the years which she has been a sufferer has elicited admiration from all who have known of it. A democratic congressman once said of him: "McKinley is a splendid fellow—pleasant, companionable and a lovable man. And he takes such good care of his wife, who is a great invalid, and a severe sufferer; McKinley nurses her like a lover, and everybody who knows their home life cannot but admire him."

Suburban Athletics.

Oft man hears an engine coming, and he
flies with reckless gait
Just to greet and wait the passing of an
endless train of freight.
—Exchange.

HON. JOHN HAY NEXT IN LINE OF SUCCESSION

Until superseded in the cabinet the present secretary of state, Hon. John Hay, is in line for the presidential chair.

The present secreta y of state retired from the highest diplomatic position in the gift of the president, that of ambassador at the court of St. James, September 19, 1898, and on the following day was appointed to the office he now holds. He is a resident of the District of Columbia and has had a remarkable and honorable public career. He first came to Washington in an official capacity with President Lincoln, in 1861, that "wild year of the change of things." Born in Salem, Ind., October 8, 1838, of an old Scotch family, he was graduated from Brown university in 1858 and studied law at Springfield, Ill., with Abraham Lincoln, who was then a neighbor, and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1861. He came to Washington with President Lincoln as his assistant secretary. Shortly before his death the late John Russell Young, former librarian of congress, described the John Hay of that period in the following language: "A comely young man, with peach-bloom face, old-fashioned speech, smooth, low-toned, quick and comprehensive, sententious, reserved. Folks were not quite sure whether it was the reserve of diffidence or aristocracy. High bred and courteous, not one with whom the breezy overflowing politician would be apt to take liberties; a touch of sadness in his temperament, this world being serious business, each day's work requiring the doing of itt. He was given to verses, and the personal attractiveness as well as the youth of Byron, was what Byron might have been, grounded on good principles, and with the wholesome discipline of homes."

Advent in Washington.

When Mr. Hay first came to Washington there were many notable characters in public life, one of whom was John Sherman of Ohio, then just entering the senate from his unsuccessful fight for the speakership in the house and destined to become Mr. Hay"s predecessor as secretary of state during the first part of President's first administration. Mr. Hay was intensely loyal to President Lincoln and entered heartily into all the duties that the martyred chief magistrate assigned to him. His lucid style is traced in many of the letters that went out of the white house during the civil war. Sharing the ambition of many young men of that time, he wanted active military duty. Elsworth, who was shot at Alexandria, Va., in the opening days of the war, had been his personal friend. But it was not till January 12, 1864, that President Lincoln consented to give him a commission in the army, and on that date he was made a major and adjutant general, serving at Hilton Head and later in Florida, under Mr. Lincoln's personal direction. When he was mustered out of the military service April 22, 1867, he had won the brevet of lieutenant colonel and colonel "for faithful services during the war."

MR. AND MRS. JOHN HAY.

Was Lincoln's Choice.

Having an ambition for a diplomatic career, Mr. Lincoln decided to send him to Paris, but before he had departed the president was assassinated. Mr. Hay was at the white house at the time the shot was fired, conversing with Robert Lincoln, who subsequently became secretary of war. He remained at Mr. Lincoln's bedside till his death. Mr. Hay's service under the diplomatic branch of the government continued for several years. He went to Paris, as President Lincoln had planned he should, as secretary of legation, learning to speak the French language fluently before he resigned March 28, 1867, to become secretary of the legation at Vienna under Minister Motley. In June of 1869 he accompanied Minister Sickles to Madrid, where he remained till the autumn of 1870. In that time, before he was 32 years old, he had had diplomatic experience under Napoleon, Francis Joseph, and Amadeo, Spain then being governed as a republic.

Soon after his return to this country, Mr. Hay, who had already written sufficiently to attract attention as a literateur embarked on a journalistic career. While assistant secretary to President Lincoln he had become acquainted with Whitelaw Reid, at present editor of the New York Tribune, and on the invitation of Horace Greeley he became an editorial writer on that paper, then as now a power in republican politics. His work was warmly recommended by Mr. Greeley, and he remained in that capacity for five years, acting for seven months as the editor-in-chief. During his editorial labors he wrote the "Pike County Ballads," which have been widely read in this country. As an editor he displayed excellent ability and likewise the fighting qualities indispensible in those days to the success of a political writer on a journal, whose sayings were law and gospel to a large constituency of readers.

His Life of Lincoln.

After he ceased his connection with the Tribune Mr. Hay spent a few years at literature and business, preparing, in connection with Mr. Nicolay, a life of Lincoln, which has taken a place among the most important of American historical writings. On the recommendation and suggestion of Mr. Evarts of New York, whose death took place a few days ago, Mr. Hay, became assistant secretary of state on March 1, 1879, and held that place until May 3, 1881. For some years previous to that he had been a legal resident of Cleveland, O. He actively participated in the presidential campaigns of 1876 and 1880. He was an ardent admirer of the late James G. Blaine, and worked diligently for his success in 1884. On his retirement from the office of assistant secretary of state, Mr. Hay was designated to represent the United States at the international sanitary congress and was made the president of that body.

In the Diplomatic Corps.

His next public office was that of ambassador to Great Britain, a position that President McKinley appointed him to March 19, 1897. He served there with distinguished ability and courtesy, winning high encomiums and from his own countrymen and from Englishmen as well. When President McKinley desired to call him to the portfolio of state on the retirement of John Sherman, it was said of Mr. Hay that he came to the office better equipped with diplomatic experience than any of his many eminent predecessors save only John Quincy Adams. The position has been a trying one, covering the period following the Spanish-American war, when extensive negotiations were conducted with Spain, and involving to no small extent the attention of the great nations of the world. There have likewise been important negotiations during his incumbency as secretary of state with Great Britain, including the framing of the famous Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and, in fact, with all the powers since the beginning of the troubles with China. Mr. Hay has maintained the dignity of his office and of the country, as intrusted to him, with conspicuous acumen, and with rare patience and industry has discharged his duties in the face often of much hostile criticism.

Old Storey's Way.

(The New York Sun.)

"I was slashing away on old Storey's Chicago Times many years ago," said one of the guests at a reunion dinner.

"We had a correspondent in an Illinois town who simply would not schedule his matter, but as he generally sent good stuff we let him run on, slashing his stuff to suit the exigencies of the night. Besides, his stuff always suggested good headlines, and that was one of Storey's hobbies.

"On one occasion the correspondent sent up about 700 words which went into 100 with nothing over. On the 100 words I constructed a headline which was right up to the mark. The next day I was instructed to tell the man who made out the checks for the country correspondent's pay.

"When he received his check he wrote to Mr. Storey, saying that under ordinary circumstances he wouldn't kick about the deduction, but in this particular instance he did because the fool headline over the item made by a fool telegraph editor, had infuriated the man whose name was mentioned in the dispatch and brought on a fight between him and the correspondent, the result of which was that the correspondent was fined $5 in the police court.

"Mr. Storey was a very just man when you got at him the right way. He instructed the cashier to send the correspondent the amount of the fine and raised my salary because the headline I wrote had caused a row. That was his way of encouraging a headline writer."