

American Minute with Bill Federer "Old Hickory" - Andrew Jackson, a fighting General, fiery President, and founder of a Political Party during America's Formative Era

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Beginning in 1606,
England's King James I
transplanted large
numbers of
Presbyterians
from **Scotland**
into **Ulster**, a
province in
Northern Ireland.

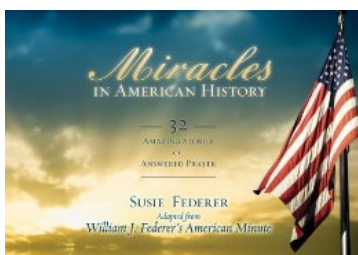


They were mostly **tenant farmers** who grew **flax** for the **linen industry** and **grazed sheep** for the **wool industry**.

In the first half of the 1700s, **Ulster farmers** suffered from **rising rents** and a **famine**.

This led to a **great Ulster migration** of over 250,000 **Scots-Irish Protestants** to America ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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One of these families was the **Jackson family**.

Andrew Jackson's Scots-Irish parents emigrated to America two years before his birth, March 15, 1767.

A month before he was born, **his father died** in a **log-hauling accident** in Waxhaw hills of North Carolina.

Andrew Jackson's lived during a **formative era** in American history, including:

- **Colonial Period;**
- **Revolutionary War;**
- **New Republic;**
- admission of states: **Vermont**, 1791, **Kentucky**, 1792, **Tennessee**, 1796, **Ohio**, 1803;
- **Louisiana Purchase**, 1803;
- **Lewis and Clark Expedition**, 1804-1806;
- Admission of **Louisiana**, 1812;
- **War of 1812;**
- Settling **Northwest Territory;**
- Admission of **Indiana**, 1816, **Mississippi**, 1817, **Illinois**, 1818, **Alabama**, 1819,
- Acquisition of **Florida** from Spain, 1819;
- Growth of **slavery & anti-slavery** sentiments;
- Admission of **Maine**, **Missouri Compromise**, 1820;
- Admission of **Missouri**, 1821;
- Formation of **Democrat Party**, 1828;
- Financial panic and **bank war**, 1829-1837;
- **Westward expansion** and Indian wars: Cherokee, Seminole, Black Hawk, Creek, etc.;
- **Indian Removal Act** of 1830;
- **First assassination plot** on a sitting U.S. President, 1835;
- **Texas** independence, 1836;
- Admission of **Arkansas**, 1836, **Michigan**, 1837, **Florida**, 1845.

At age 13, **Andrew Jackson** joined a local militia to fight during the **Revolutionary War**.

His eldest brother, **Hugh Jackson**, died during the **Battle**

of **Stono Ferry**, June 20, 1779.

Andrew and another brother, **Robert**, were taken prisoner and nearly starved to death.

Robert contracted smallpox in prison and died.

A British officer ordered young **Andrew Jackson** to polish his boots.

When **Andrew** refused, the officer drew his sword and slashed him across the head, arm and hand, leaving **Andrew** with permanent scars.

On May 29, 1780, British forces, numbering 14,000, laid **siege to Charleston, South Carolina**.

After six weeks, **American Major General Benjamin Lincoln** surrendered.

Nearly **6,000 Americans were taken captive**, the largest number of Americans taken captive prior to the Civil War.

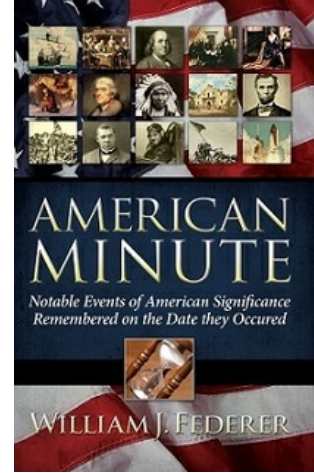
Buildings were converted into **prisons**, and many **prisoners** were put on **British starving ships** where they contracted diseases.

Andrew Jackson's mother, Elizabeth, along with other women, volunteered to care for the sick American prisoners.

Tragically, **Elizabeth Jackson** contracted "ship fever" and died, being buried in an unmarked grave.

Andrew Jackson was an orphan at age 14.

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Jackson supported and educated himself, eventually becoming a frontier country lawyer,

In 1788, at the age of 21, was appointed prosecutor of the Western District.

In 1796, at the age of 29, **Jackson** was elected as a delegate to the **Tennessee constitutional convention**, where he is credited with proposing the Indian name "**Tennessee.**"

Tennessee citizens elected **Jackson** a **U.S. Congressman**, then **U.S. Senator**.

In 1798, **Jackson** served as a **judge** on **Tennessee's Supreme Court**.

Speculating in land, **Jackson** bought the **Hermitage plantation** near **Nashville** and was one of three investors who founded **Memphis**.

Conflicts with **Indians** increased, being incited by **British**.

The **New Madrid Earthquake** temporarily reversed the flow of the Mississippi River and the **Great Comet of 1811** helped convince Indians to back **Shawnee Chief Tecumseh**, whose name meant "shooting star."

Indians were armed by the **British** during the **War of 1812**.

British backed Red Stick Creek Indians massacred 500 Americans at Fort Mims, Alabama.

"Red Stick" in French is pronounced **"Baton Rouge."**

Andrew Jackson was sent to fight the British-backed **Red Stick Creek Indians** at the **Battle of Horseshoe Bend** in 1814.

One of **Jackson's soldiers** was the young **Sam Houston**, who was wounded, but kept fighting.

Another soldier was **Davy Crockett**, who later became a Tennessee Congressman.

Davy Crockett and **Sam Houston** helped **Texas** gain independence from Mexico.

Another of Jackson's soldiers was **Thomas Hart Benton**, who went on to become one of **Missouri's first U.S. Senators**.

During the **War of 1812**, at the **Battle of Tallasehatchee**, a dead Creek woman was found clutching her living baby.

The other Indian women refused to care for the infant boy, so **Jackson** brought him home and raised him as his son, naming him **Lincoyer**.

Andrew Jackson drove the **British out of Pensacola**, November 9, 1814, then left the city in the control of the **Spanish**.

He went on to defend **Mobile**, Alabama, then **New Orleans, Louisiana**.

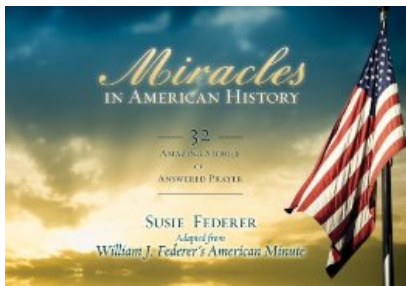
A strict battlefield officer, **Jackson** was described as being "tough as old hickory," leading to his nickname **"Old Hickory."**

Against overwhelming odds, **Andrew Jackson** defeated 10,000 **British** at the **Battle of New Orleans** on January 8, 1815.

Aided by **Jean Lafitte's French pirates**, along with **Kentucky and Tennessee sharpshooters**, over 2,000 British were killed or wounded, as compared to only 71 American casualties.

Considered the greatest American land victory of the war, **General Andrew Jackson** wrote to Robert Hays, January 26, 1815:

"It appears that the unerring **hand of Providence** shielded my men from the shower of balls, bombs, and rockets, when every ball and bomb from our guns carried with them a mission of death."



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In 1817, **President Monroe** charged **Jackson** with stopping **Seminoles** in **Florida** from raiding into **Georgia**, resulting in the **First Seminole War**.

With **Spain** exhausted after **Napoleon's invasion**, and with **Mexico fighting for Independence**, the **Spanish government** agreed to **cede Florida to the U.S.** in 1819 in exchange for payment, according to **John Quincy Adams' Adams-Onís Treaty**.

This led to **Jackson** serving as **Florida's first territorial governor**.

The city of **Jacksonville** is named for him.

Circuit-riding preacher Peter Cartwright wrote of

meeting **Jackson** (*Autobiography of Peter Cartwright the Backwoods Preacher*, pp. 192-194):

"I then read my text: 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'

After reading my text I paused. At that moment I saw **General Jackson** walking up the aisle; he came to the middle post, and very gracefully leaned against it, and stood, as there were no vacant seats.

Just then I felt someone pull my coat in the stand, and turning my head, my fastidious preacher whispering a little loud, said: '**General Jackson** has come in; **General Jackson** has come in.'

I felt a flash of indignation run all over me like an electric shock, and facing about to my congregation, and purposely speaking out audibly, I said, 'Who is **General Jackson**? If he don't get his soul converted, God will damn him as quick as he would ...'

... Shortly after ... I met the **General** on the pavement; and before I approached him by several steps he smiled and reached out his hand and said:

'**Mr. Cartwright**, you are a man after my own heart. I am very much surprised at Mr. Mac, to think he would suppose that I would be offended at you. No, sir; I told him that I highly approved of your independence; that a minister of Jesus Christ ought to love everybody and fear no mortal man.

I told Mr. Mac that if I had a few thousand such independent, fearless officers as you were, and a well-drilled army, I could take old England."

Peter Cartwright continued:

"**General Jackson** was certainly a very extraordinary man ... He always **showed a great respect for the**

Christian religion, and the feelings of religious people, especially ministers of the Gospel. I will here relate a little incident that shows his respect for religion.

I had preached one Sabbath near **the Hermitage**, and, in company with several gentlemen and ladies, went, by special invitation, to dine with the **General**.

Among this company here was **a young sprig of a lawyer** from **Nashville**, of very ordinary intellect, and he was trying hard to make an infidel of himself.

As I was the only preacher present, this **young lawyer** kept pushing his conversation on me, in order to get into an argument. I tried to evade an argument ... This seemed to inspire **the young man** with more confidence ...

I saw **General Jackson's** eye strike fire, as he sat by and heard the thrusts he made at Christian religion.

At length **the young lawyer** asked me this question: '**Mr. Cartwright**, do you really believe there is any such place as hell, as a place of torment?' I answered promptly, 'Yes, I do.'

To which he responded, 'Well, I thank God I have too much sense to believe any such thing.'

I was pondering in my own mind whether I would answer him or not, when **General Jackson** for the first time broke into the conversation, and directing his words to **the young man**, said with great earnestness: 'Well, sir, I thank God that there is such a place of torment as hell.'

This sudden answer made with great earnestness seemed to astonish the youngster, and he exclaimed: 'Why, **General Jackson**, what do you want with such a place of torment as hell?'

To which the **General** replied, as quick as lightning, 'To put such d-----d rascals as you are in, that oppose and vilify the Christian religion' ...

The **young lawyer** was struck dumb, and presently was found missing."

Jackson's wife, Rachel, was divorced and abandoned by her first husband, but she was unaware that he had failed to file the paperwork, leaving her still legally bound when she met and married **Jackson**.

Jackson defended his wife's honor, even challenging slanderers to duel him.

His many duels left him with so many bullet fragments in his body, that they said he "rattled like a bag of marbles" when he walked.

Jackson described his **wife** as the most pious person he ever knew.

He wrote to her, December 21, 1823:

"I trust that the God of Isaac and of Jacob will protect you, and give you health in my absence, in Him alone we ought to trust, He alone can preserve, and guide us through this troublesome world, and I am sure He will hear your prayers.

We are told that the prayers of the righteous prevaieth much, and I add mine for your health and preservation until we meet again."

During his Presidential campaign, the **vicious personal attacks on his wife** brought her so much stress that she suffered a stroke and died.

Her last words before collapsing were: "I'd rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than to live in that palace in Washington."

Rachel was buried Christmas Eve, 1828, on the Hermitage estate, dressed in the inaugural gown she would have worn in Washington.

Weeping profusely, Jackson said:

"I know it's unmanly, but these tears are due her virtues. She has shed many for me ... In the presence of this dear saint, I can and do forgive my enemies. But those vile wretches who have slandered her must look to God for mercy."

Jackson stated:

"Heaven will be no heaven to me if I do not meet my wife there."

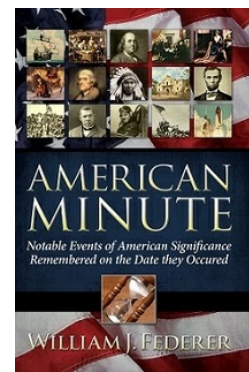
Three months later, **Jackson** was sworn in as the **7th President**, March 4, 1829.

In his 2nd Inaugural Address, **Andrew Jackson** stated:

"It is my fervent prayer to that Almighty Being before whom I now stand, and who has kept us in His hands from the infancy of our Republic to the present day ...

that He will ... inspire the hearts of my fellow-citizens that we may be preserved from danger."

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Andrew Jackson is considered the founder of the modern **Democrat Party**.

Like many Presidents, **Jackson** has detractors, as he made both **negative** and **positive** decisions

A recent example of such is **Democrat President Bill Clinton**.

Clinton was impeached in 1998 for perjury in a sexual scandal and introduced confusion into the military with his "Don't Ask Don't Tell" sexual policy;

yet he **balanced the budget, reduced welfare recipients**, and signed the **Defense of Marriage Act -- defining marriage as one man and one woman**.

Andrew Jackson, the **first Democrat President**, made **negative** and **positive** decisions.

He supported slavery and signed the infamous Indian Removal Act -- a big government solution disregarding Indian sovereignty;

yet he **paid off the national debt** -- the only President to do so, and **curtailed the power of globalist-type bankers** in **The Bank War**.

The Bank War began when **Nicholas Biddle** sought to have his **Second Bank of the United States** gain monopoly **control over the nation's financial system**.

Twenty percent of the bank was **owned by foreign investors**.

Andrew Jackson withdrew Federal funds out of the **Second Bank of the United States** and vetoed a renewal of its charter, stating in 1832:

"Controlling our currency, receiving our public moneys, and holding thousands of our citizens in dependence, it would be more ... dangerous than the naval and military power of the enemy ..."

He continued:

"Some of the powers ... possessed by the existing bank are unauthorized by the Constitution, subversive of the rights of the States, and dangerous to the liberties of the people."

Andrew Jackson told his Vice-President Martin Van Buren:

"The bank, Mr. Van Buren, is trying to kill me, but I will kill it."

On May 6, 1833, **Jackson** was on his way to lay the cornerstone for the monument to George Washington's mother, Mary Ball Washington.

Stopping at Alexandria, Virginia, **Robert Randolph** came up and struck the President, then ran away.

He was chased down by those accompanying the President, including writer **Washington Irving**, but **Jackson** refused to press charges.

Then, on January 30, 1835, following a funeral in Washington, **Richard Lawrence** approached **Jackson** and fired two pistols at him at point blank range, but both misfired, possibly due to a fog dampening the gunpowder.

Davy Crockett wrestled the assailant down.

Senator Thomas Hart Benton wrote how the incident:

"... irresistibly carried many minds to the belief in a **superintending Providence**, manifested in the extraordinary case of two pistols in succession -- so well loaded, so coolly handled, and which afterwards fired with such readiness, force, and precision -- missing fire each in his turn, when leveled eight feet **at the President's**

heart."

King William IV of England heard of the incident and expressed his concern. **President Jackson** wrote back, exclaiming:

"A kind **Providence** had been pleased to shield me against the recent attempt upon my life, and irresistibly carried many minds to the belief in a **superintending Providence.**"

Since **Andrew Jackson's wife had died** before he took office, his nephew's wife, **Emily Donelson**, served as the **unofficial First Lady.**

When **Emily Donelson** died suddenly, **President Jackson** wrote to her husband, **Colonel Andrew Jackson Donelson**, December 30, 1836:

"We cannot recall her, we are commanded by our dear Saviour, not to mourn for the dead, but for the living ...

She has changed a world of woe for a world of eternal happiness, and we ought to prepare as we too must follow ... 'The Lord's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

On March 25, 1835, **Andrew Jackson** wrote in a letter to Ellen Hanson:

"I was brought up a rigid Presbyterian, to which I have always adhered.

Our excellent Constitution guarantees to everyone freedom of religion, and charity tells us (and you know Charity is the real basis of all true religion) and charity says judge the tree by its fruit.

All who profess Christianity believe in a Savior, and that by and through Him we must be saved ..."

Jackson concluded:

"We ought, therefore, to consider all good Christians whose walks correspond with their professions, be they Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist or Roman Catholic."

On JUNE 8, 1845, "**Old Hickory**" died.

Jackson had stated, referring to the Bible:

"That book, Sir, is the Rock upon which our republic rests."

During the War of 1812, **General Andrew Jackson** penned his 2nd Division Orders, March 7, 1812:

"Who are we? and for what are we going to fight?

Are we the titled slaves of George the third? the military conscripts of Napoleon the great? or the frozen peasants of the Russian Czar?

No, **we are the free born sons of America**; the citizens of the only republic now existing in the world;

and **the only people on Earth who possess rights, liberties, and property which they dare call their own.**"

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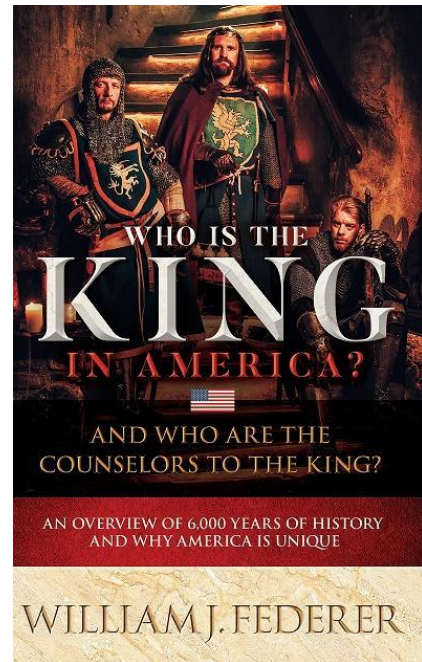
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