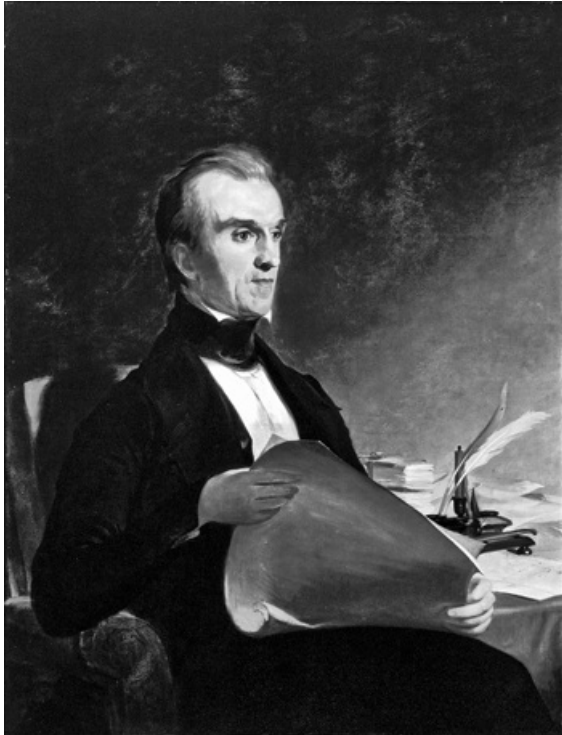


## **Presidents, U.S.** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Presidents, U.S.**

by Sion Dayson, 2006

See also: [Vice Presidents, U.S.](#) <sup>[2]</sup>



James K. Polk. Painting by Thomas Sully. Original owned by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Society, UNC-Chapel Hill. Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Three North Carolina natives have served as president of the United States. [Andrew Jackson](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, the seventh president, was reputedly [born in a log cabin](#) <sup>[4]</sup> south of the town of Waxhaw in 1767. This claim continues to be disputed by many who maintain that Jackson was actually born in South Carolina. After a distinguished military and political career, he was elected president in 1828 and again in 1832. His larger-than-life personality and political savvy while in office increased the power of the presidency and inspired the development of a truly unified national identity.

[James K. Polk](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, the eleventh president, was born in [Mecklenburg County](#) <sup>[6]</sup> near the town of [Pineville](#) <sup>[7]</sup> in 1795. Polk was elected in 1844 and served one term, the highlight of which was the acquisition of the western one-third of the modern United States after [war with Mexico](#) <sup>[8]</sup>.

[Andrew Johnson](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, the nation's seventeenth president, was [born in Raleigh](#) <sup>[10]</sup> in 1808 but lived most of his life in [Tennessee](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, from which his political career was launched. He was the only southern U.S. senator to remain loyal to the Union during the [Civil War](#) <sup>[12]</sup>. Johnson was chosen as [Abraham Lincoln](#) <sup>[13]</sup>'s running mate in 1864 and assumed the presidency after Lincoln's assassination the following year. His administration was marred by his 1867 impeachment by the Radical Republican-led House of Representatives, which vigorously disagreed with his handling of southern [Reconstruction](#) <sup>[14]</sup> after the war. He was acquitted in the Senate by one vote.

#### **References:**

Burke Davis, *Old Hickory: A Life of Andrew Jackson* (1977).

Thomas M. Leonard, *James K. Polk: A Clear and Unquestionable Destiny* (2001).

Milton Meltzer, *Andrew Jackson and His America* (1993).

Hans L. Trefousse, *Andrew Johnson: A Biography* (1989).

#### **Additional Resources:**

"NC's Presidential Past Creates Backdrop for Democratic National Convention." (press release). North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development. May 31, 2012. [http://media.visitnc.com/news/2331/15/NC-s-Presidential-Past-Creates-Backdrop-for-Democratic-National-Convention/d.newsitem\\_latest\\_news.html](http://media.visitnc.com/news/2331/15/NC-s-Presidential-Past-Creates-Backdrop-for-Democratic-National-Convention/d.newsitem_latest_news.html) 2012 <sup>[15]</sup> (accessed October 30, 2012).

"Old Hickory/Young Hickory." North Carolina Museum of History. 2008.

### Additional Resources:

"Visit the Birthplaces of North Carolina's U.S. Presidents," *Our State*, February 2003. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/our-state/1078477> <sup>[16]</sup>

### Image Citation

James K. Polk. Painting by Thomas Sully. Original owned by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Society, UNC-Chapel Hill. Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation, UNC-Chapel Hill.

### Subjects:

[Politics and government](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

[Presidents](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

### Authors:

[Dayson, Sion](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Dayson, Sion

---

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/presidents-us>

### Links

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/presidents-us> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/vice-presidents-us> <sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/jackson-andrew-unc-press-dncb> <sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/andrew-jackson-birthplace> <sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/polk-james> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg> <sup>[7]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/james-k-polk-memorial> <sup>[8]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/mexican-war> <sup>[9]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/johnson-andrew> <sup>[10]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/andrew-johnson-birthplace> <sup>[11]</sup> <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=706> <sup>[12]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/history/cw-1900/civil-war> <sup>[13]</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/abrahamlincoln> <sup>[14]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/reconstruction> <sup>[15]</sup> [http://media.visitnc.com/news/2331/15/NC-s-Presidential-Past-Creates-Backdrop-for-Democratic-National-Convention/d.newsitem\\_latest\\_news.html](http://media.visitnc.com/news/2331/15/NC-s-Presidential-Past-Creates-Backdrop-for-Democratic-National-Convention/d.newsitem_latest_news.html) 2012 <sup>[16]</sup> <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/our-state/1078477> <sup>[17]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/politics-and-gove> <sup>[18]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/presidents> <sup>[19]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/dayson-sion> <sup>[20]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->