

= 1880 Republican National Convention =

The 1880 Republican National Convention convened from June 2 to June 8 , 1880 , at the Interstate Exposition Building in Chicago , Illinois , United States , and nominated Representative James A. Garfield of Ohio and Chester A. Arthur of New York as the official candidates of the Republican Party for President and Vice President , respectively , in the 1880 presidential election .

Of the 14 men in contention for the Republican nomination , the three strongest candidates leading up to the convention were Ulysses S. Grant , James G. Blaine , and John Sherman . Grant had served two terms as President from 1869 to 1877 , and was seeking an unprecedented third term in office . He was backed by the Stalwart faction of the Republican Party , which supported political machines and patronage . Blaine was a senator and former representative from Maine who was backed by the Half @-@ Breed faction of the Republican Party . Sherman , the brother of Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman , was serving as Secretary of the Treasury under President Rutherford B. Hayes . A former senator from Ohio , he was backed by delegates who did not support the Stalwarts or Half @-@ Breeds .

On the first ballot , Sherman received 93 votes , while Grant and Blaine had 304 and 285 , respectively . With 379 votes required to win the nomination , none of the candidates was close to victory , and the balloting continued . After the thirty @-@ fifth ballot , Blaine and Sherman switched their support to a new " dark horse " candidate , James Garfield . On the next ballot , Garfield won the nomination by receiving 399 votes , 93 higher than Grant 's total . Garfield 's Ohio delegation chose Chester A. Arthur , a Stalwart , as Garfield 's vice @-@ presidential running mate . Arthur won the nomination by capturing 468 votes , and the longest @-@ ever Republican National Convention was subsequently adjourned . The Garfield ? Arthur Republican ticket later defeated Democrats Winfield Scott Hancock and William Hayden English in the close 1880 presidential election .

= = Background = =

As President of the United States , Rutherford B. Hayes had caused heated tensions within the Republican Party . Hayes had moved away from party patronage by offering government jobs to Southern Democrats instead of Northern Republicans . His actions drew heavy criticism from those inside his party , such as Roscoe Conkling of New York and James G. Blaine of Maine . Hayes had known since the dispute over the 1876 election that he was unlikely to win in 1880 , and had announced at his 1877 inauguration that he would not run for a second term . Without an incumbent president in the race , the rival factions within the Republican Party , the Stalwarts and the Half @-@ Breeds , eagerly anticipated the 1880 presidential election .

= = = Ulysses S. Grant = = =

At the close of Grant 's two terms as president in 1877 , the Republican @-@ controlled Congress suggested that Grant not return to the White House for a third term . Grant did not seem to mind and even told his wife Julia , " I do not want to be here [in the White House] another four years . I do not think I could stand it . " After Grant left the White House , he and his wife decided to use their US \$ 85 @, @ 000 of savings to travel around the world . A biographer from the New York Herald , John Russell Young , traveled with the Grants and documented their journey to exotic places around the world in a book later published called Around the World with General Grant . Young saw that Grant 's popularity was soaring , as he was treated with splendid receptions at his arrival in Tokyo and Peking , China .

After Hayes ' falling @-@ out with the Republican Party and a perceived desire on the part of the United States ' electorate for a strong man in the White House , Grant returned to the United States ahead of schedule , in hopes of seeking a third term in office . With the backing of the Stalwarts and calls for a " man of iron " to replace the " man of straw " in the White House , Grant was confident that he would receive the Republican nomination for the presidency . Roscoe Conkling , the leader

of the Stalwart faction , formed a " triumvirate " with J. Donald Cameron of Pennsylvania and John A. Logan of Illinois to lead the campaign for Grant 's return to the White House . With a Grant victory , Conkling and other Stalwarts would have great influence in the White House . Grant knew he could count on the Stalwart leaders to solidify their respective states in order to guarantee a Grant victory . Conkling was so confident in Grant 's nomination that he said , " Nothing but an act of God could prevent Grant 's nomination . " An aide to the ex @-@ president , Adam Badeau , commented that Grant had become " extremely anxious to receive the nomination " and did not think that there was any chance of failure .

However , close friends of Grant saw that his public support was slipping . John Russell Young took Grant aside and told him that he would lose the election , and should withdraw to avoid embarrassment . Young argued that Grant was being heavily attacked by opponents , who were against the concept of a presidential third term . Young also criticized the handling of the campaign and told Grant that if he won the election , he would be indebted to the " triumvirate " . Grant felt that his Stalwart friends had been of great assistance in his election bid , and they deserved political patronage in his administration . Grant , nonetheless , listened to Young 's advice and wrote a letter to J. Donald Cameron , authorizing his name to be withdrawn from the nomination contest after consultation with his other Stalwart backers . Upon hearing of his letter , Julia Grant was insistent that her husband should not withdraw his name from the contest . She said , " If General Grant were not nominated , then let it be so , but he must not withdraw his name ? no , never . " Young delivered the letter to the " triumvirate " in Chicago on May 31 , but no action was taken to remove Grant 's name .

= = = James G. Blaine = = =

The other main contender for the Republican nomination was James G. Blaine . Blaine , a senator from Maine who had also served in the United States House of Representatives , including holding the Speaker of the House position from 1869 to 1875 , was in the competition to prevent Grant 's nomination . Four years earlier Blaine had campaigned for the party 's nomination ; in the weeks prior to the 1876 convention , he was accused of committing fraudulent activities involving railroad stocks . The specifics of Blaine 's involvement were detailed in the Mulligan letters . Blaine pleaded his own defense on the floor of the House of Representatives , and he read aloud selected , edited portions of the letter that were not incriminating . Despite his attempt to clear his name , Blaine was tarnished by the scandal throughout the rest of his political career . On the Sunday before balloting was to begin in Cincinnati , Ohio , Blaine collapsed at the steps of Washington Congregational Church . He was unconscious for two days , and as a result , he lost supporters who were doubtful over his health and whether he was capable of handling the presidency . Blaine was also ridiculed by opponents , who accused him of faking illness to gain sympathy ; the New York Sun headlined " Blaine Feigns a Faint " . On the first ballot of the 1876 convention , Blaine received 285 votes , while his political enemy , Roscoe Conkling , was in second place with only 99 votes . Blaine and Conkling had a long @-@ standing political feud that started at a debate on the floor of the House of Representatives in 1866 . After six more ballots resulted in no consensus , Conkling switched his support to Rutherford B. Hayes , who ultimately beat Blaine for the nomination .

After Blaine 's failure in 1876 , his supporters believed that he needed to be nominated at the 1880 convention in Chicago if he was ever going to be President , reasoning that if he tried for the nomination twice and failed , he could not count on another opportunity . As his campaign manager , William E. Chandler , put it :

Despite the Mulligan letters scandal , Blaine had succeeded remarkably in his 1880 campaign , attracting nationwide support for his candidacy . He argued for the gold standard , support for big business , a tariff to protect American jobholders , civil rights for freed blacks and Irish independence .

= = = John Sherman = = =

John Sherman was a longtime senator from Ohio who also served the state in the House of Representatives in the late 1850s and early 1860s . As a senator , Sherman led the planning of the national banking system . He also oversaw the national policy for the post @-@ Civil War banking system , and helped restore the nation 's finances after the Panic of 1873 . Under President Hayes , Sherman served as the Secretary of the Treasury , advocating for the gold standard and building up the country 's gold reserves . Sherman 's colleagues did not have much confidence in their presidential bid . Sherman was known as the " Ohio Icicle " for his uncharismatic personality , which made him unappealing to voters . His colleagues commented that in public , Sherman " was not eloquent , though a graceful speaker , confining himself almost entirely to statements of fact . " In private , he was " reserved , self @-@ contained , " a personality that many Americans were not comfortable with . As President , Sherman intended to continue his support for the gold standard . Prior to the start of the convention , papers had predicted Sherman to receive 110 votes in the balloting . Sherman felt that he still had a chance at the nomination once the Grant vote broke apart after five or six ballots .

= = = James Garfield = = =

James Garfield came into Chicago as a Senator @-@ elect from Ohio , who had represented the state in the United States House since 1863 . In 1859 , as a Republican , Garfield was elected to the Ohio Senate . The following year , he was admitted to the Ohio bar . He served as state senator until 1861 , when he enlisted in the Union Army at the start of the Civil War . Garfield was assigned to command the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry , and had the task of driving Confederate forces out of eastern Kentucky . Garfield later led an attack with a number of infantry regiments against a Confederate cavalry at Jenny 's Creek on January 6 , 1862 . The Confederates retreated , and for leading his men to victory , Garfield was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in March 1862 .

Garfield later served under Major General Don Carlos Buell at the Battle of Shiloh and under Thomas J. Wood at the Siege of Corinth . Garfield 's health deteriorated and he was sent to serve on a commission to investigate the conduct of Union general Fitz John Porter . In the spring of 1863 , Garfield returned to the field as Chief of Staff for William S. Rosecrans , commander of the Army of the Cumberland . After the disastrous Chickamauga campaign in September 1863 , Rosecrans was relieved of his command . Garfield saved his own reputation by fighting bravely during the battles , and he was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major General . Garfield 's fame spread , and William Dennison engineered Garfield 's 1863 election to Congress . As Whitelaw Reid commented , Garfield was " the most able and prominent of the young politicians who entered the army at the outbreak of the war . " Garfield did not want to leave the army , so he personally visited President Abraham Lincoln for advice on the matter . Lincoln told Garfield that he had more generals than he could handle , and what he needed was political support .

Garfield succeeded in gaining re @-@ election for his House seat every two years . In 1872 , Garfield faced charges for receiving \$ 329 in tainted money from the Crédit Mobilier of America corruption scandal . Garfield repeatedly denied the charges and even hired William E. Chandler to defend him in front of the congressional investigators . There was not much evidence against Garfield , so his political career was not significantly affected . Four years later , when James G. Blaine moved from the House to the United States Senate , Garfield became the Republican floor leader of the House . That year , Garfield served as a member of the Electoral Commission that awarded 20 hotly contested electoral votes to Rutherford B. Hayes in his contest for the Presidency against Samuel J. Tilden . Prior to the 1880 Republican National Convention , Garfield had expressed that he was a Blaine supporter . It was not until John Sherman entered the race that Garfield switched sides , and offered his support for the " Ohio Icicle " .

= = Pre @-@ convention politics = =

In January , caucuses were held in local districts to pick delegates . The state conventions would then select a number of these delegates to represent the state at the national convention . Prior to

the convention , there was a great deal of machine politics conducted by the candidates . John Sherman utilized Treasury Department employees who owed their jobs to him to meet up at local caucuses across the South to guarantee loyal state delegations . State @-@ level bosses , like Roscoe Conkling , used the state conventions to pick delegates that were politically allied to a particular candidate . In the state delegate @-@ selection convention at Utica , New York , Grant 's supporters carried only a 217 ? 180 majority over Blaine supporters , but Conkling passed a resolution declaring that , " the Republicans of New York believe the re @-@ election of Ulysses S. Grant as Presidential candidate of urgent importance , and the delegates this day assembled are called upon and instructed to use their earnest and united efforts to secure his nomination .

Conkling commanded delegates to follow the resolution , and if they were to violate it , he guaranteed they would be victims of political revenge and personal dishonor . However , in Chicago , there were a number of New York delegates who went against the resolution and publicly expressed their support for Blaine . J. Donald Cameron used similar tactics to intimidate dissenters in the Pennsylvania state convention . The third member of the " triumvirate " , John A. Logan , literally locked out Blaine supporters from the Illinois state convention , and replaced them with personally chosen Grant supporters .

By May 29 , four days before the opening of the convention , trainloads upon trainloads of delegates , lobbyists , reporters , and campaign followers had arrived at the Union and Dearborn railway stations in Chicago . Candidate supporters channeled through the Chicago streets with daily parades and rallies . Pre @-@ convention possible outcomes of the voting were published by a number of sources . One , from the Albany Evening Journal , predicted Blaine with 277 votes , Grant with 317 , Sherman with 106 , and 49 for the other candidates . All of these predicted candidate vote totals were short of the 379 needed to win . Many in Chicago knew that a victor , most probably Grant , would only be determined if the unit rule , which postulated that all delegates from a particular state must vote for the candidate preferred by that state 's delegation , was to be in effect . If that was not the case , then a long deadlock would result until one side succumbed to the other .

Before any voting began , the delegates had to vote on the important matter of the unit rule . Prior to the start of the convention , James Garfield noted , " I regard it [the unit rule] as being more important than even the choice of a candidate . " If the rule was supported by a majority of the delegates , then state party bosses , like the members of the " triumvirate " , would be able to solidify Grant 's nomination bid . If Conkling and the other Stalwart bosses had their way , the nearly sixty dissenters from the states represented by the " triumvirate " would be silenced . Unfortunately for Half @-@ Breeds , J. Donald Cameron was chairman of the Republican National Committee . Cameron planned to exercise his power to adopt new rules for the convention , and also suppress any dissenters of the unit rule . His plan was leaked , and within days , almost all the delegates in Chicago knew about it . Supporters of the Sherman and Blaine campaigns knew that they had to prevent Cameron from exercising his power . Blaine 's forces agreed that they could only prevent Cameron from imposing the unit rule by removing him as the chair of the Republican National Committee .

At 7 : 00 P.M. on May 31 , J. Donald Cameron convened the Republican National Committee 's last meeting before the opening of the convention . Of the forty @-@ six men at the meeting , Cameron counted only sixteen allies . The rest of the men were anti @-@ Grant delegates who had decided to gang up on Cameron . Colorado senator Jerome B. Chaffee was the first to bring up the unit rule at the meeting . Chaffee handed Cameron a handwritten motion that was orchestrated by William E. Chandler . Cameron expected this , and knew he had to find some fault in Chaffee 's motion . Cameron called Chaffee 's motion out of order . Upon being questioned by Chaffee , Cameron explained that the committee could only appoint a temporary chairman to the convention , and could not vote on the unit rule issue (which he said belonged to the Rules Committee) . Cameron then used George Cornelius Gorham , a California Stalwart delegate who as secretary of the United States Senate had become an expert on parliamentary procedure , to justify his ruling . One by one , anti @-@ Grant delegates unsuccessfully tried to appeal Cameron 's motion . Gorham proclaimed that as committee chairman , Cameron could do " as he saw fit . " Marshall Jewell , a Connecticut delegate member who had served in Grant 's administration as Postmaster General , spoke up

against Cameron 's rulings . Cameron did not comment , and then called for a brief recess . After the recess , he acknowledged a motion from William E. Chandler to elect George Frisbie Hoar , a neutral senator and delegate from Massachusetts , as the convention 's temporary chairman .

The committee voted 29 ? 17 in favor of electing Hoar as temporary chairman of the convention . At midnight , the committee was adjourned , and the members scheduled to continue the meeting the following morning . News of Cameron 's behavior had spread overnight , throughout town . His hardliner strategy had failed , and Conkling and other Grant managers sought to control the situation before it became any worse . The next morning , Conkling asked his trusted colleague , Chester A. Arthur , to solve the problem . Arthur assessed the situation and drew up a compromise . He met Chandler and the rest of the anti @-@ Grant cabal at the entrance of the committee 's suite . Arthur acknowledged that the Grant men had rejected Senator Hoar as the temporary convention chairman the day before , but said that the Grant men might perhaps reconsider . He proposed that the delegates decide on the unit rule in a free vote , and in return , Don Cameron would be restored as the chairman of the national committee . After discussing for a number of minutes , the two men came to an agreement . Arthur was confident that since Chandler , the leader of Blaine 's campaign , had accepted the deal , then " it would be agreed by the Grant men . " Chandler then discussed the compromise deal with the thirty anti @-@ Grant committee members , and also James Garfield , who had previously expressed his opposition to the unit rule . 23 out of 30 anti @-@ Grant men agreed to the terms , and Garfield commented that the proposition " must be accepted " in " spirit of reconciliation . "

The committee reconvened again on the afternoon of June 1 , with J. Donald Cameron sitting as the committee chairman . Arthur made a number of motions , indicating that the Grant men from New York and Pennsylvania would support Senator Hoar 's appointment as the temporary chairman of the convention . No one objected and the motions were accepted . The meeting was then adjourned . A reporter from the New York Tribune later remarked that the Grant followers had been " saved from utter ruin by the excellent management of General Arthur "

= = The convention = =

At noon on Wednesday , June 2 , J. Donald Cameron banged his gavel to commence the beginning of the seventh Republican National Convention . As instructed , Cameron placed the nomination for Senator Hoar as the temporary convention chairman . The nomination was passed unanimously . Later , delegates John H. Roberts of Illinois and Christopher L. Magee of Pennsylvania were made temporary convention secretaries . Senator Eugene Hale of Maine submitted a resolution for a roll call , in which the chairman of each delegation would announce the people from their delegation serving on the convention 's three committees . The committees were formed , and the convention was adjourned at five minutes past three in the afternoon .

The convention reconvened at 11 : 00 A.M. on June 3 . Roscoe Conkling submitted a motion for a recess , but the motion was rejected . Another New York delegate , Henry R. Pierson from the Committee on Permanent Organization , submitted a proposal to make the temporary convention assignments permanent . The motion was adopted , and the convention took a four @-@ hour recess until 5 : 00 P.M. After the recess , a motion was made for the Committee on Rules to be directed to report , but a substitute motion from George H. Sharpe of New York called for the Committee on Credentials to report . The substitute motion was rejected by a vote of 406 to 318 , and the original resolution was laid on the table . At 7 : 30 P.M. , the convention was adjourned until 10 : 00 A.M. the following morning .

The next morning , Conkling then submitted a resolution that bound every delegate in the hall to support the party 's nominee . Conkling said that " no man should hold his seat here who is not ready so to agree . " A voice vote was called , and the resolution received nearly unanimous delegate support . However , about a dozen or so delegates answered " no " . Conkling was shocked . He asked , " [who] at a Republican convention would vote ' no ' on such a resolution ? " He then demanded a roll call to identify the dissenters . Most of the dissenters chose not to declare their disagreement in front of the thousands of spectators at the " Glass Palace " . Only three

delegates , all from West Virginia , voted " no " to the resolution , and were showered with a " storm of hisses . " Conkling then issued another resolution to strip the three West Virginians of their votes and squash their voices at the convention . The West Virginians revolted against Conkling 's resolution , and heavily criticized him for his motion . James Garfield , who was sitting at the Ohio delegation , stood up and tried to settle the matter . He stated that the convention would be making a big mistake if they approved Conkling 's motion , and he asked the delegates for their time in order to state his case . Garfield argued that the three West Virginians should not " be disenfranchised because they thought it was not the time to make such an expression [about a candidate] . " He stated that " there never can be a convention ... that shall bind my vote against my will on any question whatever . " Garfield had won the crowd over with his speech . Conkling did not particularly enjoy the situation . He scribbled a note to Garfield which read , " New York requests that Ohio 's real candidate and dark horse come forward ... R.C. "

Afterwards , the fight over credentials erupted into a free @-@ for @-@ all . After John A. Logan had barred anti @-@ Grant delegates from the state convention earlier in the year , they had decided to file credential reports . At the meeting between Arthur and Chandler , both men had agreed that the credentials issue could be discussed at the convention . A Chicago lawyer who supported Grant , Emery Storrs interrupted the legal argument over credentials by mocking the Blaine campaigners . His remarks set off a barrage of comments from both the Blaine and Grant sides . The convention went out of control , as people started shouting and jumping throughout the convention hall . As Garfield commented , the convention " seemed [as if] it could not be in America , but in the Sections of Paris in the ecstasy of the Revolution . " The fracas continued until 2 : 00 A.M. when acting chairman Green B. Raum , the United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue , banged the gavel to end the demonstration .

= = = Presenting the nominees = = =

On Saturday night , the alphabetical roll call of the states to present nominees was conducted . The first candidate for the Republican nomination emerged when the Michigan delegation was in roll call . James F. Joy , the seventy @-@ year @-@ old president of the Michigan Central Railroad , gave the speech nominating Blaine . Joy was not a practiced public speaker , and he stumbled and rushed through his nomination speech , " because we are all now impatient for the voting . " Joy ended his speech by nominating " James S. Blaine " for the Republican ticket . Promptly , a number of delegates yelled back , " G ! G. Blaine , you fool ! " The delegates from the next state in the roll call , Minnesota , nominated Senator William Windom as their " favorite son " candidate . Nine states later , Roscoe Conkling of New York stepped up to the podium to present his nomination for Ulysses S. Grant .

And when asked what State he hail from ,
Our sole reply shall be ,
He hails from Appomattox ,
And its famous apple tree .

The crowd of 15 @, @ 000 responded by erupting in cheers . Conkling built up the crowd 's energy with his speech , and then introduced his candidate by proclaiming , " New York is for Ulysses S. Grant . Never defeated ? never defeated in peace or in war , his name is the most illustrious borne by living men . " He later spoke of Grant 's loyalty to the American people , and then scolded Grant 's enemies who had brought up the third term issue . Conkling tried to show that Grant was an honest person who had won the delegates " without patronage and without emissaries , without committees , [and] without bureaus " After Conkling finished his speech , boos and hisses came from Blaine and Sherman backers , while applause was heard from Stalwart supporters of Grant . After North Carolina 's roll call , the Ohio delegation brought out James Garfield to give the nomination speech for John Sherman .

Garfield had not actually written a speech , and was nervous about speaking in front of such a large crowd . Before heading to Chicago , Sherman told Garfield that Garfield 's speech should stress Sherman 's " courageous persistence in any course he had adopted . " Garfield started his speech

by emphasizing his overwhelming pride for his role in the convention . Garfield then list the qualities that a president should possess and stressed the importance of party unity . It wasn 't until near his conclusion that he mentioned Sherman by name . Many reports of Garfield 's speech describe it as enthusiastic , eloquent , and well received . Some accounts indicate that it was so well @-@ received that it caused delegates to begin thinking of Garfield as a contender for the presidential nomination .

On the other hand , some members of the Sherman campaign were disappointed by Garfield 's speech . One telegram from a Sherman backer sent to Sherman himself claimed that , " [Garfield] has been of no service to you ... he was extremely lukewarm in his support . " Rumors began to spread that Ohio Governor Charles Foster and Garfield , who were in adjoining suites at the Grand Pacific Hotel , were " conspiring to bring Garfield out as [a] candidate " News of the finger @-@ pointing within the Sherman camp had carried into newspapers across the country . The Albany Evening Journal reported that " [t] here is a general belief that the Ohio delegation is ready to desert Sherman and go over to Blaine in a body . "

Although he had become popular with the delegates after his speech , Garfield was upset over the accusations of those inside the Sherman group , and he worried how they would affect him in the future . His close colleagues felt he was becoming too popular , too quickly . Friends , like Lorenzo Coffin , felt that his " time is not yet . " Garfield heeded the advice of his friends to lower his profile at the convention , but he had already made a deep impression on the delegates . Late Sunday night on June 6 , Indiana senator Benjamin Harrison , grandson of former President William Henry Harrison , came to Garfield 's hotel suite and asked him under what conditions he would accept the nomination . Garfield replied that he had come to the convention for the sole purpose of supporting John Sherman , and told Harrison that Garfield 's " name must not be used [in the nomination] . "

= = = Balloting = = =

At ten o 'clock on Monday morning , convention chairman Hoar banged his gavel to open the convention . Eugene Hale moved to immediately proceed to the presidential nominee balloting , and Roscoe Conkling seconded the motion . Newspapers had predicted the results of the balloting , and the delegates knew that it would take a number of ballots before a victor could be found . The first surprise during the balloting roll call came when John A. Logan of Illinois announced that of his state 's forty @-@ two delegates , only twenty @-@ four were in support of Grant . This was not as " solid " as Logan had previously advertised to the rest of the Grant backers . New York faced a similar situation . Of its seventy delegates , fifty @-@ one supported Grant , seventeen were for Blaine , and the remaining two supported Sherman . Pennsylvania fared even worse , as only thirty @-@ two of the state 's fifty @-@ eight delegates put in their support for Grant .

After all the states were polled , the results were tabulated . Grant received 304 votes , Blaine had 284 , Sherman had 93 , Vermont senator George F. Edmunds received 34 , Elihu B. Washburne , who had served as the United States Ambassador to France under President Grant , had 30 , and Minnesota senator William Windom received 10 . Of the states represented by the " triumvirate " , sixty delegates did not support Grant . None of the candidates were close to the 379 needed to secure the nomination , so the balloting continued throughout the day .

In Washington , D.C. , both Blaine and Sherman were disappointed by their first @-@ ballot vote totals . Blaine had been told that he should expect around 300 first @-@ ballot votes , but his actual total fell sixteen short , and it was also one vote fewer than the total he received on the first ballot at the 1876 Convention . Sherman was told to expect 110 votes , which was significantly lower than the expected totals for Blaine and Grant . However , Sherman felt his chance would come later , when the Grant vote split apart . After Sherman heard his first @-@ ballot vote totals , he grew visibly angry that " some of them [the votes] were taken away from him before the ballot began . " He was upset that nine Ohio delegates bolted from Sherman and voted instead for his opponent , James G. Blaine . Sherman blamed Blaine for causing the delegates to bolt from Ohio " by [methods of] falsehood , ridicule and treachery . " In Galena , Illinois , Grant did not express any emotions after being told about the first @-@ ballot vote totals . As one newsman reported , " [t] he

silent soldier was smoking his cigar with all his usual serenity . " Grant 's wife , Julia , expected a deadlock , and suggested to her husband that he surprise the delegates in Chicago with a visit . Grant thought this was unwise because it gave an appearance of bad luck and bad manners . Despite his wife 's attempts to change his mind , Grant remained adamant .

Meanwhile , the delegates at the convention continued to cast ballots until a victor could be determined . On the second ballot of the day , a Pennsylvania delegate named W. A. Grier cast a vote for James Garfield . However , the Garfield support remained with that one delegate 's vote for most of the day . The delegates cast eighteen ballots before taking a recess for dinner . After dinner , they came back and cast ten more ballots . Still , no candidate was close to the 379 votes needed to win . After twelve hours of balloting , Massachusetts delegate William Lovering moved to adjourn for the night . A few Grant delegates objected , but the motion to adjourn was passed by a vote of 446 to 308 . After twenty @-@ eight ballots , Grant had 307 votes , Blaine had 279 and Sherman had 91 , and the rest of the votes were split between favorite son candidates like William Windom and George F. Edmunds .

Suggestions for introducing a " dark horse " candidate began to take place . Members backing each candidate were equally determined to win the nomination , but some felt that the deadlock could not be broken if new candidates were not introduced into the balloting . Backers for Sherman and Blaine met after the convention was adjourned . Chandler laid down his terms . Blaine had nearly 300 votes , and could not simply withdraw . As Chandler explained , even " [i] f Mr. Blaine permits his column to be broken , [then] Iowa , Nebraska , Kansas , Nevada , California , Oregon & twelve votes in the Territories will go to Grant ... [as would] Mr. Blaine 's Southern votes . " Both sides argued until two or three in the morning , but no decision had been reached . Grant leaders had also met that night in Roscoe Conkling 's suite in the Grand Pacific Hotel . They discussed the imposing dangers of Grant 's nomination bid , such as the third @-@ term resisters . Many speculated that Grant was not going to receive the nomination . The Grant backers discussed the other two chief candidates , and found them both to be unacceptable . Some of the men called for Conkling himself as a substitute for Grant . They argued that with Grant out of the race , Conkling would face little resistance for the Republican nomination . However , Conkling refused to accept the idea of being nominated for president . He said " [even] if I were to receive every other vote in the Convention , my own would still be lacking , and that I would not give . I am here as the agent of New York to support General Grant to the end . Any man who would forsake him under such conditions does not deserve to be elected , and could not be elected .

The first ballot on Tuesday morning , June 8 , saw two major breaks in the voting . Massachusetts switched their twenty @-@ one votes from Senator George Edmunds to John Sherman , spiking his total to 116 , the highest thus far . William Chandler also convinced three Minnesota delegates to switch their support from their " favorite son " candidate , William Windom , to James G. Blaine . By the thirty @-@ second ballot , Blaine had dropped six votes from the night before , and Grant had increased his total to 309 . Despite the relatively small changes in votes totals Roscoe Conkling confidently claimed that the " [m] embers of the N.Y. Delegation assert that Grant will be nominated before one o'clock . " On the thirty @-@ third ballot , nine Wisconsin delegates shifted their support from Grant to Elihu Washburne . On the next ballot , sixteen of twenty Wisconsin delegates changed their vote to James Garfield . Garfield immediately called to chairman Hoar to raise a question of order . Garfield " challenge [d] the correctness of the announcement " , claiming that without his consent , he should not be receiving votes . Hoar dismissed Garfield 's question , claiming later that he denied Garfield because he did not want to see a presidency be undone by a simple point of order , meaning he did not want Garfield to stop the momentum for his own candidacy . After the ballot , the vote totals for the major candidates stood at 312 for Grant , 275 for Blaine , 107 for Sherman , and 17 for Garfield . In the thirty @-@ fifth ballot , Benjamin Harrison of Indiana announced that his state would shift all twenty @-@ seven of its votes (mostly coming from the Blaine column) to Garfield . Four Maryland delegates and one delegate each from Mississippi and North Carolina also switched their vote to Garfield , bringing his total to 50 .

Blaine saw that his chances for winning the nomination were slipping , commenting to a visitor trying to keep Blaine in the race that it was not necessary to have " wasted a card upon a falling

market , " meaning that his guest had presented a calling card in order to see Blaine for a meeting that would not be productive . Blaine felt that the most suitable candidate was James Garfield . Garfield was a close friend , and he felt that by supporting Garfield , he could defeat Grant and Conkling and possibly receive an appointment in Garfield 's administration . Likewise , Sherman listened to advice from his colleagues and decided to shift all his support to Garfield , to " save the Republican Party . " Both candidates told their supporters to support Garfield 's nomination .

On the thirty @-@ sixth ballot , Garfield won the Republican nomination after receiving 399 votes , 93 higher than Grant 's total . Blaine finished with 42 , Washburne had 5 , John Sherman had 3 , and the remaining were split amongst other minor candidates . Garfield was so overwhelmed with emotion after winning the nomination that an Inter Ocean reporter noted that he looked " pale as death , and seemed to be half @-@ unconsciously to receive the congratulations of his friends . " The convention was in a mad frenzy as thousands of people chanted for Garfield , and later joined in the singing of the Battle Cry of Freedom . The Grant followers , like Roscoe Conkling , looked on with " glum faces " and made " no effort to conceal their disappointment . " Conkling took great pride in the 306 delegates who had supported Grant throughout the entire balloting . With the Grant supporters , Conkling formed a " Three Hundred and Six Guard " society . The society held annual dinners , and even drew up a commemorative coin with the inscription , " The Old Guard " .

Afterwards , chairman Hoar banged his gavel and announced , " James A. Garfield , of Ohio , is nominated for President of the United States . " Garfield wrote a letter to his wife stating that " if the results meet your approval , I shall be content [with the nomination] . " Garfield 's wife , Lucretia , was thrilled with her husband 's nomination and gave her approval . (Garfield subsequently resigned the Senate seat to which he had been elected for the term beginning in 1881 , and the Ohio Legislature then elected Sherman .)

Garfield and the Ohio delegation desired a New York Stalwart as Garfield 's vice presidential running mate , partly to placate Conkling , and partly to balance the ticket geographically . Levi P. Morton declined after consulting with Conkling , who was still unhappy over Grant 's loss and advised Morton not to accept . The nomination was then offered to Chester A. Arthur , who had close Stalwart ties to Conkling , but who had impressed delegates with his work to broker the compromise on the selection of a convention chairman . Conkling tried to talk Arthur out of accepting , but Arthur insisted that he would , calling the Vice Presidency " a greater honor than I ever dreamed of attaining . " Arthur won the nomination after he received 468 votes , next to the 193 for Elihu Washburne , and 44 for the third major candidate , Marshall Jewell . Former Governor Edmund J. Davis of Texas and several others were also nominated , but received little support . After convention chairman Hoar banged his gavel at 7 : 25 P.M. on June 8 , the longest ever Republican National Convention was adjourned .

= = Aftermath = =

Garfield led the first front porch campaign for the Presidency . He did not travel that much , and he usually stayed at home to present his presidential agenda to visitors . Garfield enlisted the support of the other candidates from the convention to help with the campaign . The 1880 Democratic National Convention chose Winfield Scott Hancock as the presidential candidate and William Hayden English as his vice @-@ presidential running mate . The election featured a very close popular vote , that put Garfield out with a majority of less than ten thousand votes , with some sources putting it as low as 2 @, @ 000 votes . However , Garfield won the election with 214 of the 369 electoral votes in the country .

On July 2 , 1881 , Garfield was shot by a former Chicago lawyer named Charles J. Guiteau at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station in Washington , D.C. Guiteau was a staunch supporter of the Stalwarts , and he even gave speeches in New York to rally Grant supporters . After Garfield was elected president , Guiteau repeatedly tried to contact the president and his Secretary of State James G. Blaine in hopes of receiving the consulship in Paris . After finally being told by Blaine that he would not get the position , Guiteau decided to seek revenge on Garfield . He planned Garfield 's assassination for weeks . After shooting Garfield , he proclaimed " I am a Stalwart and Arthur will be

President . " Garfield died on September 19 , more than two and a half months after the shooting . After a lengthy trial , Guiteau was sentenced to death , and he was hanged on June 30 , 1882 .