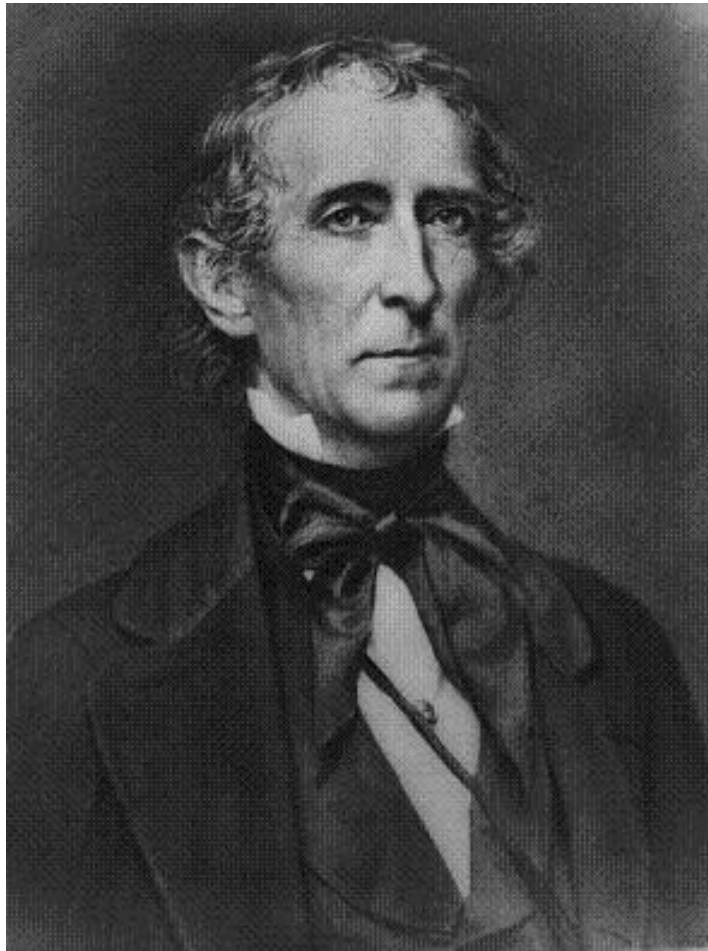


John Tyler

Too Traitorous
Tenth, 1841-1845



Nicknames: "His Accidency", "The President Without a Party", "Traitor Tyler"

Birth: March 29th, 1790, Charles City County, Virginia

Death: January 18th, 1862, Richmond, Virginia

Significant Events During Tyler's Term: Dorr Rebellion ... Telegraph and Morse Code Invented ... Florida (#27) became a State

Quotes: *"A bed of thorns...which has offered me no repose."*

-- John Tyler, speaking of the Presidency.

"In 1840 I was called from my farm to undertake the administration of public affairs, and I foresaw that I was called to a bed of thorns. I now leave that bed which has afforded me little rest, and eagerly seek repose in the quiet enjoyments of rural life." -- John Tyler

"Tyler is a political sectarian, of the slave-driving, Virginian, Jeffersonian school, principled against all improvement, with all the interests and passions and vices of slavery rooted in his moral and political constitution -- with talents not above mediocrity, and a spirit incapable of expansion to the dimension of the station upon which he has been cast by the hand of Providence."

-- John Quincy Adams, speaking of John Tyler in 1841

How his term ended: Tyler was defeated for reelection by James Polk (for whom Tyler withdrew his candidacy -- see the Notes section below for details).

Other Professions: Lawyer, Planter, Soldier

Worst Mistakes: Tyler stole the liberty from all of those whom he enslaved.

Tyler was a traitor (he died a member of the Confederate government -- see the Notes section below for details).

Saving Grace: Tyler fought against the measure to expunge from the Senate Journal facts about Andrew Jackson's "unauthorized actions against the Bank of the United States," an attempt to erase historical records -- to rewrite history, as it were.

Notes: Tyler's mother died when he was seven.

Tyler was born in the same county as his running mate and the man he succeeded, William Henry Harrison.

Tyler served as President of a Peace Conference in 1860 to try to forestall the Civil War. When the sides were unwilling to compromise, he sided with the South, and became a member of the Confederate Congress.

Tyler had fifteen children -- eight by his first wife, seven by his second.

Tyler's hobbies were playing the violin and writing poetry.

Tyler favored the annexation of Texas, a contentious issue internally due to its effect on changing the balance of slave and free states. It was also a touchy subject internationally because Mexico felt that Texas was land stolen from them, and they entertained hopes of getting it back.

Tyler was expelled by his party, the Whigs, a few months after taking office. Hence his

nickname "The President Without a Party." In 1844, when no party was willing to nominate him for re-election, he formed a new "States rights" party, the Democratic-Republican. As was mentioned, Tyler was for the annexation of Texas; Whig Henry Clay was not. At Andrew Jackson's (#7) request and urging, Tyler withdrew from the race when candidate James Polk (#11) also supported the annexation of Texas. This stratagem (Tyler dropping out of the race) was used to prevent a dilution of the "Texas annexation" vote, which could cause Clay to win, something both Tyler and Jackson did not want. By withdrawing his candidacy, Tyler practically insured Clay's defeat, as Polk became the recipient of the votes that would have been cast for Tyler had he stayed in the race.

The Dorr Rebellion took place during Tyler's term. This was an insurrection that took place in Rhode Island in 1841 and 1842, the purpose of which was to bring about changes to the state's electoral system. Tyler hypocritically put down the Dorr Rebellion, although he thought nothing of rebelling against the U.S. government himself when the Civil War loomed.

An attempt was made to impeach Tyler after he vetoed a tariff bill.

Tyler was a distant ancestor of Harry S Truman.