

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), 7th U.S. President (March 4, 1829 – March 4, 1837)

Fun Facts

Andrew Jackson was a southern lawyer and a landowner who became a national war hero after defeating the British in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Known as the “people's president,” Jackson destroyed the Second Bank of the United States, founded the Democratic Party, supported individual liberty, and instituted policies that resulted in the forced migration of Native Americans.

source:

“Andrew Jackson Biography.” *biography.com*. <https://www.biography.com/people/andrew-jackson-9350991>. Accessed 7 July 2018.

Andrew Jackson had a volatile temper, once saying, “I was born for a storm, and a calm does not suit me.” But Jackson didn’t settle his scores in 140 characters or less. He challenged his foes to duels—more than 100 of them. For the most part, people would stand and fire their gun in the air or purposefully miss their opponent, but Jackson killed at least one opponent, rival horse breeder and southern plantation owner Charles Dickinson. Dickinson fired the first shot, putting the first bullet into Jackson’s chest next to his heart, but Jackson remained standing, fired carefully, and mortally wounded Dickinson.

source:

McDuffee, Allen. “Forget Twitter wars, Andrew Jackson challenged more than 100 men to duels (but only killed one): The seventh president was, um, excitable.” *timeline.com*. <https://timeline.com/andrew-jackson-duels-dickinson-f281c96fb9f8>. Accessed 7 July 2018.

Jackson was one of the more sickly presidents, suffering from chronic headaches, abdominal pains, and a hacking cough. Much of his trouble was caused by a musket ball in his lung that was never removed, which often brought up blood and sometimes made his whole body shake.

source:

Remini, Robert V. *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire, 1767–1821*. Harper & Row, 1977.

“In all reality, slavery was the source of Andrew Jackson’s wealth,” explains the website of the Hermitage, Jackson’s Tennessee home. “The Hermitage was a 1,000 acre, self-sustaining plantation that relied completely on the labor of enslaved African American men, women, and children.... When Andrew Jackson bought The Hermitage in 1804, he owned nine enslaved African Americans. Just 25 years later that number had swelled to over 100 through purchase and reproduction. At the time of his death in 1845, Jackson owned approximately 150 people who lived and worked on the property.”

source:

“Slavery: Understanding the Other Families at The Hermitage.” *TheHermitage.com*. <https://thehermitage.com/learn/mansion-grounds/slavery/>. Accessed 7 July 2018.

Jackson’s initiatives to deal with the conflicts between Indians and American settlers has been a source of controversy. Jackson has come under sharp attack from historians on this issue. Howard Zinn called him “the most aggressive enemy of the Indians in early American history” and “exterminator of Indians.”

source:

Zinn, Howard. “As Long As Grass Grows or Water Runs” in *A People's History of the United States*. Routledge Taylor and Francis, 1980.

“That those tribes can not exist surrounded by our settlements and in continual contact with our citizens is certain. They have neither the intelligence, the industry, the moral habits, nor the desire of improvement which are essential to any favorable change in their condition. Established in the midst of another and a superior race, and without appreciating the causes of their inferiority or seeking to control them, they must necessarily yield to the force of circumstances and ere long disappear.”

source:

Jackson, Andrew. Fifth Annual Message to Congress—December 3, 1833. *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=29475>. Accessed 9 July 2018.