



Harry S Truman



The early life and times of our
33rd President



Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States

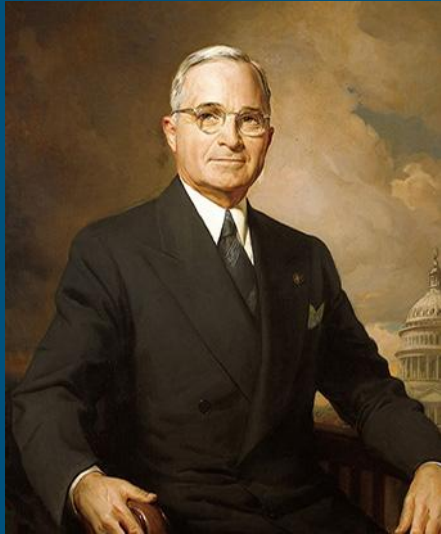
- Born in Lamar, Missouri May 8, 1884 (also just happens to be National “Have a coke day” AND “coconut cream pie day”) and he lived there for about 10 months
- [Harry S Truman \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- 1887 - Family moved to a 600 acre “family” farm near Grandview, Missouri and then in 1890 they moved to Independence, Missouri. Truman kept the family books while his father often “gambled” buying cheap and not pedigree animals, seed, etc.
- [Truman Family Farm - Harry S Truman National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- Age six, he attends the First Presbyterian Church and is “immediately smitten by five-year old Bess Wallace of the “prestigious Wallace family”
- Their friendship throughout their marriage is exemplified throughout their correspondence
- [Dear Bess | Harry S. Truman](#)

Timeline (cont'd)

- Born with poor vision, which required thick glasses, his mother desired he not do “rough-housing” type sports. Therefore, he developed a deep passion for two things he would love the rest of his life-music and reading.
- [Harry S. Truman: Life Before the Presidency | Miller Center](#)
- He is quoted as saying, “by the time I was 14 I had read all the books of the library (there were about 500 book).
- [Columbian School, Ott School & Independence H.S. | Harry S. Truman](#)
- 1901, he graduates from Independence, Missouri High School/Library (the city/s library was actually in the high school from 1898-1908).
- “There are some people who think maybe the country would have been better off if I had gone ahead and become a professional musician...” Harry S. Truman
- ["It is Not Noise. It is Music": Harry Truman's Record Albums](#)



Did you know?



Harry S. Truman actually had no middle name since his parents gave him only the middle initial “S” to honor and please his grandfathers, Anderson Shipp Truman and Solomon Young (was this his first exposure to appeasement!?). When he was elected president...he was informed a middle initial without proper punctuation was improper AND a “Bad example for American Youth.” From that point he began to use a period after the S (although, at times, he also ran it altogether and it looked like “Harrys Truman”).

[President Harry S. Truman Facts](#)

In his early 20's

He joins Free Masons

He writes a very racist letter on June 22, 1911 to Bess and then he also proposes to Bess in the same letter.

He does say he hates Japs and admits that he is racist (at age 27)

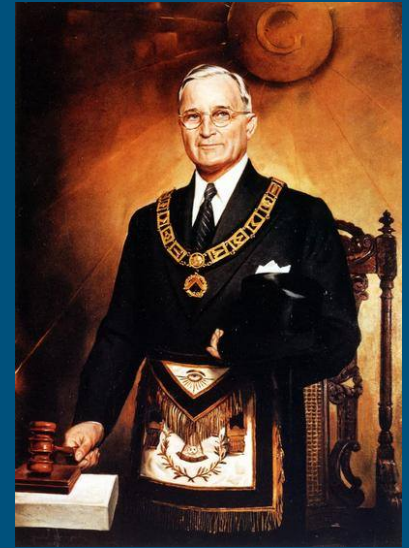
He finishes time at the farm (mainly because of the real estate battle and not paid farm debts.

WWI breaks out and he trains in Ft Sill, OK. being exposed to many groups of individuals (where he meets his Jewish friend Jacobson).

He becomes CPT of Battery D 129th (1917-1919) which is mostly R-C; did he mingle/observe with A-A?

He does definitely understand the term "war" and how to lead about 200 men, pulling massive equipment with the MO Mules and realizing Germans are going to (and did) fire upon you constantly.

Harry writes Bess and talks about "who run?" He writes in extreme details about the war to Bess.



Truman-Jacobson Haberashery



Truman now married in 1924 and at age 21-22, with a wife and daughter, he is out of work.

He now meets Tom Pendergast (an Irish man who desires to control county and city govt n- a political machine). He wants Truman to be a Jackson County Judge for a 2 yr term and wins the elections in 1922 and losses in 1924 (the Democrats couldn't agree to vote for Truman again - show Oendargast wasn't as powerful as he thought he was). From 1924-26 he is now being asked to run for the presiding judge by Tom. The political machine includes all kinds of ethnic groups and R-C and A-A who Truman realizes he need to pay attention to all.

County Judgeship friendship with Thompkins

A-A DR - William J. Thompkins - graduates in 1901 and enrolls as a medical student & graduates in 1905 working in Washington DC & returns in 1906 to MO.

Most A-A support the Republican Party however, he supports the Dem Faction and in 1924 & 1928 he stumps for African American voters. In 1926 he becomes Asst Commissioner of Health in KC, handling Flu and smallpox epidemic esp within the A-A population and in the elderly. Truman becomes aware of this "fellow Dem."

Works to help with the Dem Campaign of 1932; writing a telegram to FDR about his support and 3 powerful org within MO who are supporting FDR.

He also helps start a DEM Newspaper in the KS City area.

President appoints Thompkins as a Recorder of Deeds in 1934 - he gets the "recognition" as part of the Pendergast Political Machine's support of FDR (and at this point not Truman).



Two Opening Campaign speeches in Sedalia July 15, 1940

Senator Truman's Tribute to the Negro Congressional Record, July 25, 1940, "I believe in the brotherhood of man; not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before law."

Description

Senator Harry S. Truman speaking over KCMO and KDRO radio with photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the background in Sedalia, Missouri.

Date(s)

July 1940

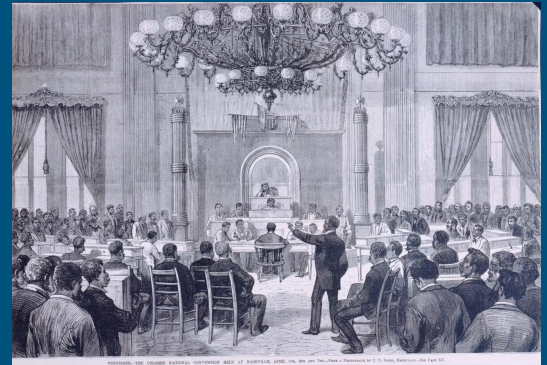


National Colored Democratic Association Meeting July, 1940

Truman is one of many to go and speak (not the main speaker, that was Farley).

Truman , ..."I am not appealing for social equality for the negro...the negro himself knows better than that...negros want justice and not social relations..."

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/truman-papers/>



VP & Prescient 1944-1953

1. February 13, 1946 - Isaac Woodard is beaten
2. in S Carolina
3. Feb., 24-25, 1946, mob violence in Columbis, TN.
6. Dem lose in November mid-term elections
7. Dec., 5 1946 - HST issues EO 9808 that creates the President's Committee on Civil Rights (PCCR)



President, 1947-1948

1st meeting PCCR

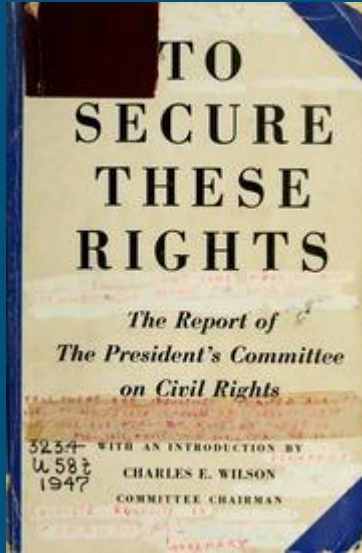
Jun 29, 1947 HST addresses NAACP on steps of Lincoln Memorial

Cot., 29, 1947 PCCR committee submits “To Secure These Rights” to President dealing with A-A, Jap- Am, police brutality, etc (very damning on federal government).

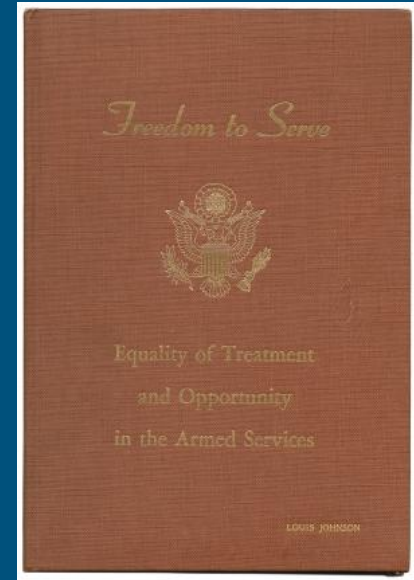
July 26, 1948 - EO 9980



To Secure these Rights, 1947 and Freedom to Serve, 1950



“the Committee is convinced that a policy of equality of treatment and opportunity will make for a better Army, Navy, and Air Force. It is right and just. It will strengthen the nation.”





Why does Truman act on Civil Rights?

- Political reasons? What role did the Pendergast political machine have on his decision?
- Genuinely moved by the post WW?
- Violence that A-A faced?
- W.E.B. DuBois opinion of blaming the US for genocide (at the UN)
- The US is playing a new role in World Affairs during the Cold War?
- A combination of all the above?
- What role did Bess have on his change of attitude?
- Why does he continue to use the “n” word?????



Books by Dr. Jon E. Taylor

