September 14, 2015

Dear Colleague:

The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site and James A. Garfield National Historic Site would like to invite you to the second annual Garfield Symposium being held from November 6 to November 7, 2015, at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio and Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio.

This year’s theme is “Garfield in Washington,” and we will examine many facets of the life and times of James A. Garfield during his tenure in Washington from 1863-1881. At the Garfield Symposium, you will have the opportunity to learn about his time in Congress, his rise to the Presidency, and its’ aftermath, as well as what life was like for the Garfield Family in the nation’s capital.

The purpose of the Garfield Symposium is to link the numerous sites related to James A. Garfield, his life, family, and career. In creating this network of Garfield-related sites, it is our goal to increase communication amongst sites, spur research and discussion, and better promote our nation’s 20th President. Our long-term goal is to create a multi-day conference complete with paper presentations, poster/art exhibitions, excursions to Sites, and other Garfield-related events. This year, we will be featuring invited presentations, as well as a call for posters, and an essay contest for undergraduate students.

We thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you in this endeavor. Thank you for your efforts in preserving the Garfield legacy.

On behalf of the Garfield Symposium Committee, we remain...

Respectfully yours,

The Garfield Symposium Committee Co-Chairs

Andrew C.M. Mizons, M.A.P., MBM
Executive Director
Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Todd Arrington, Ph.D.,
Chief of Interpretation and Education
James A. Garfield National Historic Site
2015 Garfield Symposium

Friday, November 6, 2015 – James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Registration/Icebreaker Session:  5:00 – 7:30 PM.  Check in at the Visitor Center of James A. Garfield National Historic Site, receive your conference materials, and view the exhibits.  This is also a great opportunity to begin to build your own Garfield Network!

Tour the Garfield Home!

- Sponsor:  James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Social Event:  Cocktail and Appetizer Reception – 7:00 – 10:00 PM

- Sponsor:  Best Western – Lawnfield Inn and Suites
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<td>Introductory General Session and Garfield goings-on (All participants)</td>
<td>Introductory General Session</td>
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<td>Lunch, Conversation, and Keynote Speaker</td>
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Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Lakeland Community College

Registration and Networking Breakfast: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM. For those who are arriving on Saturday, registration tables will be available. Come meet your fellow Symposium Participants and engage in conversation about how you can work with them in promoting your Site or Organization, as well as how you fit in the Garfield puzzle.

ALL PARTICIPANTS REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE MORNING

Session 1: Introductory Session and Garfield Goings-On. 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM. This welcoming session will introduce all participants to each other, as well as a welcome from the Garfield Family, National Park Service, and Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site.

Session host/sponsor: The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site

- Masters of Ceremonies: Andrew C.M. Miszak, M.A.P., MBM, Executive Director, Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site and Todd Arrington, Ph.D., USNPS, Chief of Interpretation and Education, James A. Garfield National Historic Site.
- Welcoming Remarks: Morris Beverage, Jr., Ph.D., President, Lakeland Community College.

Session 2: Garfield in Washington: 9:30 – 10:15 AM.

This plenary session will give Symposium attendees a virtual tour of places in our Nation’s Capital with ties to James A. Garfield, the Garfield Family, and the Garfield Administration.

Highlights of this virtual tour will include the Garfield Monument outside of the US Capitol, the White House (and the replica bowl of Squirrel Soup at the White House Visitor Center), and the National Portrait Gallery – site of the office of James R. Garfield when it was the headquarters of the Department of the Interior.

Sponsor: TBA

- Presenters: TBA
Session 3a: *Family Life at 13th & I Streets.* 10:30 – 11:15 AM.

**Sponsor:** TBA

- **Presenter:** Deborah Weinkamer, Living History First-Person Portrayer of Lucretia Rudolph Garfield (a part of the group “We Made History”) & Trustee, The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site

This session will look at the life of the Garfields from a different perspective. This session will include an examination of diary entries of both James and Lucretia Garfield that will give attendees a first person account of life within the family.

Session 3b: *Garfield in Congress.* 10:30 – 11:15 AM.

**Sponsor:** The James A. Garfield Center for the Study of the American Presidency at Hiram College.

- **Moderator:** Dr. Douglas Brattebo, Director of the James A. Garfield Center for the Study of the American Presidency at Hiram College.
- **Presenters:** Undergraduate Students from Hiram College.

Prior to ascending to the Presidency, James A. Garfield served for 17 years in the United States House of Representatives, where he represented the 19th District of Ohio. Undergraduate students in the James A. Garfield Center for the Study of the American Presidency will be presenting on significant events and notable works of James A. Garfield during his service in the Congress (1863-1880).

**LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Author Session with Dan Vermilya, USNPS, Park Ranger, Gettysburg National Military Park, and author of “Garfield and the Civil War.” 11:30 – 12:30 PM.

Location: Breakers’ Restaurant Dining Room (2nd Floor).

**Sponsor:** TBA.

Dan Vermilya, a former National Park Service Volunteer at James A. Garfield National Historic Site, is the author of the newest book about James A. Garfield and the Civil War: “Garfield and the Civil War.” The book will be released on November 2nd, 2015, and the Garfield Symposium will be the first public event showcasing this latest book on our nation’s 20th Commander-in-Chief, and Civil War General.
AFTERNOON SESSIONS:

**Session 4a: The Assassination of James A. Garfield and Presidential Security:** 12:45 – 1:30 PM.

*Sponsor: TBA*

- **Presenters:** Benjamin Frayser, USNPS Volunteer-in-Parks, James A. Garfield National Historic Site; and Gregory Truhan, Retired Senior Special Agent, United States Secret Service, and Director of the Criminal Justice Program, Lakeland Community College.

In a 36-year span, three of our nation’s Chief Executives were slain while in office, with James A. Garfield being the second among these men. This session will take a look at the assassination of James A. Garfield, and the man who committed this crime, as well as its aftermath. The discussion will include a conversation about Presidential Security and protection.

**Session 4b: Jacob Cox and James A. Garfield.** 12:45 – 1:30 PM.

*Sponsor: North East Ohio Civil War Round Table*

- **Presenter:** Eugene Schmiel, Ph.D.

This session, presented by Retired United States Foreign Service Officer Dr. Eugene Schmiel, will examine the relationship between James A. Garfield and one of his closest friends and colleagues, Secretary Jacob Dolson Cox.

**Session 5a: James Wormley, His Hotel, and DC Politics.** 1:45 – 2:30 PM.

*Sponsor: Donet D. Graves, Sr., J.D.*

James Wormley's hotel in Washington, DC, was a place where many in the Washington political establishment gathered. Cleveland Attorney Donet Graves will give Symposium attendees an in-depth look at this Washington hotel that hosted many political elites like James A. Garfield... and political wannabes like Charles Guiteau.

**Session 5b: The Electoral Commission of 1876.** 1:45 – 2:30 PM.

*Sponsor: TBA*

- **Presenters:** Andrew C.M. Mizsak, Executive Director, The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site; and Christie Weininger, Executive Director, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center.

In 1876, the nation was gripped in a political crisis: How to resolve the Presidential election. The ultimate winner, Rutherford B. Hayes, was declared the winner as the result of a party-line vote by the 15-member Electoral Commission. One of the Commission’s members: James A. Garfield. This session will take a deep dive into the proceedings of the Commission from two different perspectives.
Walking Gallery: Garfield Symposium Poster Contest. 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Walk through the gallery of entries in the first Garfield Symposium Poster Contest. The top four entries’ artists will be showcased.

Information Trail. 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Visit the booths of the groups and organizations who helped to make this event happen. Sponsored by the Ohio Museums Association.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

For Teachers: All day colloquium on the writings and speeches of James A. Garfield.

   Moderator: Dr. Gregory Schneider, Professor of History, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

   Sponsor: The Ashbrook Center of Ashland University.

This three-session track will allow educators to take a deep dive into several of James A. Garfield’s most notable speeches and writings. Teachers interested in attending will receive copies of the documents that will be discussed in advance of the Symposium. This session will use primary source documents and will give teachers additional resources they can use related to James A. Garfield.

$35 fee. Limited to 20 educators.
REGISTRATION FORM

2015 Garfield Symposium

Friday, November 6, 2015 – James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Mentor, Ohio

Saturday, November 7, 2015 – Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Institution/Organization: ______________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________

Telephone: ______________________________________________________________

E-Mail: _________________________________________________________________

Registration Fee is $50/person. Student Registration Fee is $25.

Lakeland Student/Faculty Fee is $20.

The Friday evening social hour (Optional) $10 additional fee:

________ Will Attend; _______ Will Not Attend.

_____ Please check if a vegetarian option is needed.

Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday lunch, and Saturday afternoon refreshments are included.

_______ Please check if a vegetarian option is needed for lunch.
SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

All Attendees to attend the following sessions:

- Introductory Session (9:00 – 9:30 AM)
- Garfield in Washington (9:30 – 10:15 AM)
- Lunchtime Conversation and Author Session with Dan Vermiliya (11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)

Morning Sessions (10:30 – 11:15 AM)

- 3a. Garfield in Congress
- 3b. Family Life at 13th and I Streets

Afternoon Sessions

- 4a. The Assassination of President James A. Garfield and Presidential Security (12:45 – 1:30 PM)
- 4b. James A. Garfield and Jacob Cox (12:45 – 1:30 PM)
- 5a. Mr. Wormley, His Hotel, and DC Politics (1:45 – 2:30 PM)
- 5b. The Electoral Commission of 1876 (1:45 – 2:30 PM)

Please make checks payable to

THE FRIENDS OF JAMES A. GARFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
Post Office 1761
Mentor, Ohio 44061-1761

Or Pay Online at www.FriendsOfJamesAGarfieldNHS.org

Registrations are due no later than October 29, 2015.