Jimmy Carter
Research Topics/Resources

- Jimmy Carter Genealogical Information..... Page 2
- Biography of Jimmy Carter.........................Page 5
- Biography of Rosalynn Carter.....................Page 8
- Jimmy Carter’s Naval Service....................Page 11
- Chronology of Jimmy Carter’s Presidency. Page 13
- Jimmy Carter Quick Facts..........................Page 17
- Lillian Gordy Carter...............................Page 20
- Plains High School..................................Page 21
- Julia Coleman.......................................Page 22
- The President’s Desk...............................Page 24
- Jimmy Carter’s Boyhood Home....................Page 25
Jimmy Carter Genealogical Information

ANCESTRY OF PRESIDENT CARTER

Jimmy Carter is a Georgian with deep roots in his native state, being the seventh generation Carter to live in Georgia. The information detailed here is taken from an article in *Georgia Life* (Winter, 1976, pp. 40 ff.) by Kenneth H. Thomas.

**Kindred Carter**

Kindred Carter (c. 1750-1800) came to Georgia from the Bertie-Edgecombe-Hertford area of northeastern North Carolina where his family had lived for several generations. He was of the 5th generation in descent from Thomas Carter, Sr. who came in 1637 from England to Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Thomas Carter's only known child was Thomas, Jr., who married Magdalene Moore and left a will in 1710. In that will, Thomas, Jr. did not name all of his children, but Moore Carter (c. 1680-1741) who married Jane and moved to Bertie County, North Carolina, is believed to have been his son. Moore left a will naming a son Isaac who married Ruth and died after 1790. Isaac and Ruth were the parents of Kindred and James, among others. Kindred and James both came to Georgia.

Kindred Carter settled in Richmond County, on the frontier of the new state, along Little Germany creek. This land is now part of McDuffie County, approximately 35 miles west of Augusta, Georgia. At his death in 1800, his estate listed four heirs:

- James, b. 1773 in North Carolina
- Henry
- Jesse
- Martha

**James Carter (1773-1858)**

James Carter married Eleanor "Nellie" Duckworth in 1798 in Columbia County, Georgia. She was a daughter of Jeremiah and Christianna Ramsey Duckworth of Warren and Columbia Counties. The Carters moved permanently to Warren County c. 1815, where they lived along White's Creek on a 500 acre plantation, approximately four miles NW of Thomson, Georgia. Around 1835 James moved to Talbot County to join his brother Jesse and lived in the SW part of the county near Upatoi Creek. It was here that he owned land at the time of his death in Schley County at the plantation of his son Wiley. James had been a cotton planter and a Baptist.

James and Nellie Carter had 9 children:

- Wiley, b. 1798
- Epsey (1803-1867)
- Littleberry (1807-1847)
- Felix M. (d. 1844)
- Marina "Rina" (b. 1809, m. 1832)
- Keziah (1805-1855)
- Martha (m. 1837)
- George W. (m. 1837)
- James D. (d. 1854)

**Wiley Carter (1798-1864)**

Wiley Carter married Ann Ansley in 1821 in Warren County. She was the daughter of Abel and Lydia Morris Ansley, and a granddaughter of Thomas and Rebecca Ansley and Jacob and Mary Ansley Morris. The Ansleys lived in Warren County. Wiley Carter sold his land in Warren County on Rocky Comfort Creek, near Gibson, in 1851 and moved permanently to his plantation in Schley County in Southeast Georgia, 20 miles north of Plains. The home, known today as the "Battle Place" is located, along with the family cemetery, on the Ellaville-Friendship Road (Georgia Highway 153) at its intersection with Georgia Highway 45.

It was here that Wiley Carter, farmer, planter, and Baptist, was buried when he died at the age of 66. His plantation contained 2400 acres in both Schley and Sumter Counties and produced 147 bales of cotton in 1860. Wiley's first wife, Ann, died c. 1848, and he remarried Mrs. Sarah Wilson, widow, of Newton County in 1849.

Wiley and Ann Carter had eleven children:

- Armanda (m. 1838)
- Caroline (1823-1854)
- Calvin G. (1825-1899)
- Euphrasia A. (b. 1829)
- Littleberry Walker (1832-1874)
- Jane (1834-1905)
- Julia (b. 1836)
- Louisiana Virginia (b.1838)
- Wiley, Jr. (1841-1904)
- Ann W. (b. c. 1840)
- Jesse Taliaferro (1846-1924)

**Littleberry Walker Carter (1832-1874)**

In 1851 Littleberry Walker Carter married Mary Ann Diligent Seals (c.1838-c. 1874) in Warren County, Georgia. She was the daughter of William A. (b. 1814) and Eliza Harris (b. 1815) Seals of Warren County. In the mid-1850s the Carters and Seals lived in that part of Warren County that became Glascock in 1857 and it was there that William A. Seals died in 1860, and his widow in 1886.

Littleberry and Mary Ann moved c. 1860 to Sumter Co. near his father's plantation. He served in the American Civil War in Captain Cutts Sumter County Flying Artillery, serving in Virginia. Littleberry was a farmer and was buried on his farm at the time of his death at the age of 42.

Littleberry and Mary Ann had four children:

- Jeremiah Calvin (1855-1925)
- Eliza Ann (b. 1856)
- William Archibald (1858-1903)
• Nannie Bell (b. 1866)

William A. Carter (1858-1903)

William A. Carter married Nina Pratt (1863-1939) in 1885. She was the daughter of James E. and Sophronia Cowan Pratt of Abbeville District, South Carolina. William and Nina were living in Arlington, 50 miles SW of Plains, where they had moved in the mid 1880's, when he died at the age of 45. Nina then moved to Plains, where she lived out her life and was buried.

William and Nina had five children:

• Ethel (b. 1887)
• William Alton (b. 1888)
• Lula (b. 1891)
• James Earl (1894-1953)
• Jeanette (1904-1984)

James Earl Carter (1894-1953)

James Earl Carter married Lillian Gordy in 1923. He was an insurance broker, farmer, fertilizer dealer, Baptist and Democrat. A veteran of World War I, he served on the County Board of Education and was a state representative in his first term when he died at the age of 59. The couple had four children:

• James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. (b. October 1, 1924)
• Gloria (Mrs. Walter G. Spann) (b. October 22, 1926, d. March 5, 1990)
• Ruth (Mrs. Robert T. Stapleton) (b. August 7, 1929, d. September 26, 1983)
• William Alton "Billy" (b. March 29, 1937, d. September 25, 1988)

James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. (b. 1924)


They have four children:

• James Earl III "Chip", b. April 12, 1950 in Honolulu, HI.
• Donnel Jeffrey "Jeff", b. August 18, 1952 in New London, CT.
• Amy Lynn, b. October 19, 1967 in Plains, GA.

BROTHER AND SISTERS OF PRESIDENT CARTER

President Carter has two sisters and one brother:

• Gloria, (b. October 22, 1926, d. March 5, 1990) who married Walter G. Spann.
• Ruth, (b. August 7, 1929, d. September 26, 1983)
Biography of Jimmy Carter

(James Earl Carter, Jr.)

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.), thirty-ninth president of the United States, was born October 1, 1924, in the small farming town of Plains, Georgia, and grew up in the nearby community of Archery. His father, James Earl Carter, Sr., was a farmer and businessman; his mother, Lillian Gordy, a registered nurse.

He was educated in the Plains public schools, attended Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a B.S. degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. In the Navy he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, N.Y., where he took graduate work at Union College in reactor technology and nuclear physics, and served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the Seawolf.

On July 7, 1946, he married Rosalynn Smith. When his father died in 1953, he resigned his naval commission and took his family back to Plains. He took over the Carter farms, and he and Rosalynn operated Carter's Warehouse, a general-purpose seed and farm supply company. He quickly became a leader of the community, serving on county boards supervising education, the hospital authority, and the library. In 1962 he won election to the Georgia Senate. He lost his first gubernatorial campaign in 1966, but won the next election, becoming Georgia's 76th governor on January 12, 1971. He was the Democratic National Committee campaign chairman for the 1974 congressional elections.

On December 12, 1974, he announced his candidacy for president of the United States. He won his party's nomination on the first ballot at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and was elected president on November 2, 1976.

Jimmy Carter served as president from January 20, 1977 to January 20, 1981. Significant foreign policy accomplishments of his administration included the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He championed human rights throughout the world. On the domestic side, the administration's achievements included a comprehensive energy program conducted by a new Department of Energy; deregulation in energy, transportation, communications, and finance; major educational programs under a new Department of Education; and major environmental protection legislation, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.


In 1982, he became University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded The Carter Center. Actively guided by President Carter, the nonpartisan and nonprofit Center addresses national and international issues of public policy. Carter Center staff and associates join with President Carter in efforts to resolve conflict, promote democracy, protect human rights, and prevent disease and other afflictions. The Center has spearheaded the international effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease, which is poised to be the second human disease in history to be eradicated.


Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter volunteer one week a year for Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps needy people in the United States and in other countries renovate and build homes for themselves. Since 2007, President Carter also has served as a member of The Elders, a group of independent global leaders. He teaches Sunday school and is a deacon in the Maranatha Baptist Church of Plains. For recreation, he enjoys fly-fishing, woodworking, and swimming. The Carters have three sons, one daughter, nine grandsons, three granddaughters, four great-grandsons and five great-granddaughters.

On December 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2002 to Mr. Carter "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

Family

Parents:
Father: James Earl Carter, born 1894, Arlington, Georgia; died 1953.
Mother: Lillian Gordy Carter, born 1898, Richland, Georgia; died 1983.
Married: September 26, 1923.

Brother and Sisters:
Gloria Carter Spann (Mrs. Walter G.), born October 22, 1926; died March 5, 1990.
Ruth Carter Stapleton (Mrs. Robert T.), born August 7, 1929; died September 26, 1983.

Wife:
Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter, born August 18, 1927, Plains, Georgia.
**Children and Grandchildren:**


Biography of Rosalynn Carter

Eleanor Rosalynn Smith Carter
(Mrs. James Earl "Jimmy" Carter)

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has worked for more than three decades to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Today, she is an advocate for mental health, caregiving, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution through her work at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The center is a private, nonprofit institution founded by former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter in 1982.

A full partner with the president in all the center’s activities, the former first lady is a member of The Carter Center Board of Trustees. She created and chairs The Carter Center’s Mental Health Task Force, an advisory body of experts, consumers, and advocates promoting positive change in the mental health field. Each year, she hosts the Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, bringing together leaders of the nation’s mental health organizations to address critical issues. Mrs. Carter emerged as a driving force for mental health when, during the Carter administration, she became active honorary chair of the President’s Commission on Mental Health, which resulted in passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980.

She served on the Policy Advisory Board of The Atlanta Project (TAP), a program of The Carter Center addressing the social ills associated with poverty and quality of life citywide, from the program’s inception in 1991 until its transfer to Georgia State University in 1999. In 1988, she convened with three other former first ladies the “Women and the Constitution” conference at The Carter Center to assess that document’s impact on women.

Outside the center, Mrs. Carter is president of the board of directors for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) at Georgia Southwestern State University, which was established in her honor on the campus of her alma mater in Americus, Georgia. Through research, education, and training, the RCI promotes the mental health and well-being of individuals, families, and professional caregivers; delineates effective caregiving practices; builds public awareness of caregiving needs; and advances public and social policies that enhance caring communities. A mother of four, she has maintained a lifelong dedication to issues affecting women and children. In 1991, she launched with Mrs. Betty Bumpers, wife of former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, “Every Child by Two,” a nationwide campaign to publicize the need for early childhood immunizations. She also works with Habitat for
Humanity, participating in the annual one-week Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project that began in 1984 building homes for the needy, and Project Interconnections, a public/private nonprofit partnership to provide housing for homeless people who are mentally ill. She served as distinguished centennial lecturer at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, from 1988-1992 and is currently a distinguished fellow at the Emory University Department of Women's Studies in Atlanta.

Since graduating from Georgia Southwestern College in 1946, Mrs. Carter has received many honors, among them the Volunteer of the Decade Award from the National Mental Health Association; the Award of Merit for Support of the Equal Rights Amendment from the National Organization for Women; the Notre Dame Award for International Service; the Eleanor Roosevelt Living World Award from Peace Links; the Kiwanis World Service Medal from Kiwanis International Foundation; the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service; the Georgia Woman of the Year Award from the Georgia Commission on Women; the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the Institute of Medicine; the United States Surgeon General's Medallion; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. In 2001 she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

She has written five books: her autobiography First Lady from Plains; Everything To Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life, a book about life after the White House co-authored with President Carter; Helping Yourself Help Others: A Book For Caregivers (with Susan K. Golant); Helping Someone with Mental Illness: A Compassionate Guide for Family, Friends, and Caregivers (with Susan K. Golant), which was selected as the winner of the 1999 American Society of Journalists and Authors Outstanding Book Award in the service category; and Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis (with Susan K. Golant and Kathryn E. Cade). She continues to travel and speak throughout the world, is a deacon at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, and enjoys fly-fishing, bird-watching, swimming, and biking in her free time.

Personal

Rosalynn Smith Carter, wife of the 76th Governor of Georgia and the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter

Born: Plains, Georgia, August 18, 1927
Parents: Edgar and Allie (Murray) Smith
Married: July 7, 1946
Children: John William, 1947; James Earl III, 1950; Donnel Jeffrey, 1952; Amy Lynn, 1967; 11 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren
Religion: Baptist - elected a deacon at Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Georgia, 2006
Politics: Democrat
Home Address: Plains, Georgia 31780
Business Address: The Carter Center, One Copenhill, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307

Academic

Graduated Georgia Southwestern College, 1946
H.H.D.(Honorary) Tift College, 1979
L.H.D.(Honorary) Morehouse College, 1980
D.P.S.(Honorary) Wesleyan College, 1986
L.L.D. (Honorary) University of Notre Dame, 1987
D.Litt. (Honorary) Emory University, 1991
L.H.D. (Honorary) Georgia Southwestern State University, 2001
L.L.D. (Honorary) Regis College, 2002

Vice-Chair (1986 2005), Member (2005- ) Board of Trustees, The Carter Center, Inc.
Chair, Carter Center Mental Health Task Force, 1991-
President, Board of Directors, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, Georgia Southwestern State University, 1988-
President and Co-Founder, EVERY CHILD BY TWO Champions for Immunization, 1991
Chair, International Women Leaders for Mental Health, The Carter Center, 1992-
Distinguished Fellow, Emory University Department for Women’s Studies, 1990-
Board of Advisors, Habitat for Humanity, 1984-
Honorary Chair, Project Interconnections, 1987-
Honorary Fellow, American Psychiatric Association

Member, Georgia Governor’s Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, 1971
Honorary Chairperson, Georgia Special Olympics, 1971-75
Active Honorary Chair, President's Commission on Mental Health, 1977-78
Honorary Chair Board of Trustees, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 1977-80
Board Member Emeritus, National Mental Health Association
Distinguished Centennial Lecturer, Agnes Scott College, 1988-1992
Board of Directors, Gannett Company, Inc., 1983-1997
Board of Trustees, The Menninger Foundation, 1986-2003

Awards/Honors

Volunteer of the Year Award, Southeastern Association of Volunteer Services, 1976
Award of Merit for Support of the Equal Rights Amendment, National Organization for Women, 1976
Volunteer of the Decade Award, National Mental Health Association, 1980
Presidential Citation, American Psychological Association, 1982
Nathan S. Kline Medal of Merit, International Committee Against Mental Illness, 1984
Distinguished Alumnus Award, American Association of State Colleges & Universities, 1987
Dorothea Dix Award, Mental Illness Foundation, 1988
Centennial Award of Distinction, Agnes Scott College, 1989
Camille Cosby World of Children Award, Judge Baker Children’s Center, Boston, 1991
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Dean’s Award, 1991
Notre Dame Award for International Humanitarian Service, 1992
Eleanor Roosevelt Living World Award, Peace Links, 1992
Lifetime Achievement Award, Foundation for Hospice and Homecare, 1993
Kiwanis World Service Medal, Kiwanis International Foundation, 1995
Georgia Woman of the Year Award, 1996
Jefferson Award, American Institute for Public Service, 1996
United Nations Children's Fund International Child Survival Award, 1999
United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1999
Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health, Institute of Medicine, 2000
United States Surgeon General's Medallion, 2000
National Women's Hall of Fame, 2001
Jimmy Carter's Naval Service

- 05 JUN 1946 - 8 AUG 1946 -- Commissioned Ensign, USN. Routine post-USNA graduation assignments- indoctrination training with service type aircraft - leave and transit to first duty station.


- 23 JUL 1947 - 14 JUN 1948 -- Duty aboard USS Mississippi (E-AG128). Billets Held: Training and Education Officer Qualifications: OOD underway and in port, CIC watch Officer Remarks: During this tour of duty, Carter was a candidate for a Rhodes scholarship.

- 14 JUN 1948 - 17 DEC 1948 -- Duty under instruction at the Officer's course, USN Submarine School, Submarine Base, New London

- 17? DEC 1948 - 01 FEB 1951 -- Duty aboard USS Pomfret (SS-391) Billets Held: Communications Officer, Electronics Officer, Sonar Officer, Gunnery Officer, First Lieutenant, Electrical Officer, Supply Officer Qualifications: 4 Feb 1950 Qualified in Submarine

- 01 JUNE 1949 -- Promoted to Lieutenant (j.g.)

- 01 FEB 1951 - 10 NOV 1951 -- Duty with Shipbuilding and Naval Inspector of Ordnance, Groton, CT as prospective Engineering Officer of the USS K-I during recommissioning fitting out of the submarine.

- 10 NOV 1951 - 16 OCT 1952 -- Duty aboard USS K-I(SSK-1) Billets Held: Executive Officer, Engineering Officer, Operations Officer, Gunnery Officer, Electronics Repair Officer Qualifications: Qualified for Command of Submarine Remarks: Submarine was new construction, first vessel of its class

- 01 JUNE 1952 -- Promoted to Lieutenant

- 16 OCT 1952 - 08 OCT 1953 -- Duty with US Atomic Energy Commission (Division of Reactor Development, Schenectady Operations Office) From 3 NOV 1952 to 1 MAR 1953 he served on
temporary duty with Naval Reactors Branch, US Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. "assisting in the design and development of nuclear propulsion plants for naval vessels." From 1 MAR 1953 to 8 OCT 1953 he was under instruction to become an engineering officer for a nuclear power plant. He also assisted in setting up on-the-job training for the enlisted men being instructed in nuclear propulsion for the *USS Seawolf* (SSN575).

- 9 OCT 1953 -- Honorably discharged at Headquarters, 3rd Naval District. Discharge was at Carter's request. Total service: 7 years, 4 months, 8 days
- 10 OCT 1953 -- Appointed to US Naval Reserve and placed on inactive duty.
- 7 DEC 1961 -- Transferred to retired reserve with rank of Lieutenant at his own request, but without pay and allowances in accordance with Title X, U.S.C. section 1376 (a).
Chronology of Jimmy Carter's Presidency

1977

- **January 20**
  Inaugurated President

- **February 2**
  Signs Emergency Natural Gas Act; "Fireside Chat"

- **March 30**
  Soviet Union rejects SALT II proposals

- **April 4**
  Sadat and Carter meet in Washington

- **April 6**
  Carter signs Reorganization Act

- **April 18**
  Second Address to the Nation on Energy

- **May 7**
  London Economic Summit

- **June 30**
  Carter halts B-1 Bomber Production

- **July 19**
  Begin and Carter meet in Washington

- **August 4**
  Department of Energy established

- **September 7**
  Panama Canal Treaty signing

- **September 21**
  Bert Lance resigns

- **September 27**
  Agreement with Soviet Union on SALT II
- **October 5**
  Signs International Covenant on Human Rights

- **November 19**
  Sadat visits Israel

## 1978

- **March 16**
  Senate ratifies first Panama Treaty

- **September 4**
  Camp David Summit begins

- **September 17**
  Camp David Accords signed

- **October 13**
  Civil Service Reform Act Signed

- **October 15**
  Congress passes first energy package

- **December 15**
  Announces normalization of relations with People's Republic of China

## 1979

- **January 16**
  Shah leaves Iran

- **January 19**
  Deng Xiaoping visits Washington

- **February 1**
  Khomeini returns to Iran

- **March 8**
  Trip to Egypt and Israel

- **March 26**
  Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty signing

- **March 28**
  Three Mile Island nuclear incident

- **April 5**
  Address to the Nation on Energy
- **June 12**
  Carter proposes National Health Plan to Congress

- **June 18**
  Signing of SALT II Treaty in Vienna with Brezhnev

- **July 3**
  Cancels energy speech; begins meetings at Camp David on state of the administration

- **July 15**
  Address to the Nation--the "malaise" speech

- **July 17**
  Announces Cabinet and senior staff changes

- **August 15**
  Andrew Young resigns as Ambassador to the United Nations

- **August 31**
  Soviet troops reported in Cuba

- **October 17**
  Department of Education established

- **October 20**
  Decision to admit the Shah to the United States for medical treatment

- **November 4**
  American Embassy in Teheran overrun

- **December 27**
  Soviet invasion of Afghanistan begins

---

**1980**

- **January 4**
  Address to the Nation on Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; sanctions announced

- **January 20**
  First caucuses in Iowa

- **January 21**
  State of Union Message outlining "Carter Doctrine"

- **February 20**
  Decision to boycott 1980 Summer Olympic Games in Moscow

- **March 14**
  Anti-inflation program announced; balanced budget sent to Congress

- **April 11**
  Decision to attempt hostage rescue mission
- April 21
  Vance resigns as Secretary of State

- April 24
  Rescue Mission fails

- May 18
  Mount St. Helens erupts

- July 16
  Republicans nominate Ronald Reagan

- July 22
  Carter statement on Billy Carter's relations with Libya

- August 13
  Democratic Convention nominates Jimmy Carter

- September 22
  Iraq invades Iran

- October 28
  Carter - Reagan debate

- November 4
  Reagan defeats Carter in election

- December 2
  Carter signs Alaska Lands Bill

- December 7
  Carter warns Soviets against military intervention in Poland

- December 11
  Carter signs Superfund Bill to clean up toxic waste dumps

1981

- January 16
  Final terms for release of American hostages negotiated

- January 20
  12 noon - Ronald Reagan inaugurated as President
  12:20pm EST - hostages released in Teheran

- January 21
  President Reagan sends Carter to Germany to welcome hostages home
Jimmy Carter Quick Facts

Jimmy Carter (James Earl Carter, Jr.)
39th President of the United States and Founder of The Carter Center

Born
Plains, Georgia, October 1, 1924, the son of James Earl and Lillian (Gordy) Carter

Married
Rosalynn Smith, July 7, 1946

Children
John William, James Earl III, Donnel Jeffrey, Amy Lynn

Student
Georgia Southwestern College, 1941 – 42
Georgia Institute of Technology, 1942 – 43
B.S., US Naval Academy, 1946 (class of 1947)

Postgraduate
Union College, 1952 – 53

Served
US Navy to rank of lieutenant, 1946 – 53
Farmer, warehouseman, Plains, GA 1953 -77
Georgia Senate, 1963 – 67
Governor of Georgia, 1971 – 75
President of the United States, 1977 – 81
University Distinguished Professor, Emory University, 1982 –

Member
Member, Sumter County (GA) School Board, 1955 – 62, chair, 1960 – 62
Member, Americus and Sumter County Hospital Authority, 1956 – 70
Member, Sumter County Library Boar, 1961
President, Georgia Planning Association, 1968
District Governor, Lions Clubs International, 1968 – 69
Chair, congressional campaign committee, Democratic National Committee, 1973 – 73
Founder, The Carter Center, 1982
Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity, 1984 – 87
Chair, board of trustees, The Carter Center, Inc., 1986 –.
Chair, Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, 1986 –.
Chair, Council of the International Negotiation Network, 1991 –.
Co-chair, Commission on Radio and Television Policy, 1991 –.
Chair, International Human Rights Council, 1994 –.

Awards and Honors
Among the honors Carter has received are the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Others include:
Freedom of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, 1977
Silver Buffalo Award, Boy Scouts of America, 1978
Gold medal, International Institute for Human Rights, 1979
International Mediation medal, American Arbitration Association, 1979
Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent Peace Prize, 1979
International Human Rights Award, Synagogue Council of America, 1979
Foreign Language Advocate Award, Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 1979
Conservationist of the Year Award, 1979
Harry S. Truman Public Service Award, 1981
Ansel Adams Conservation Award, Wilderness Society, 1982
Human Rights Award, International League of Human Rights, 1983
World Methodist Peace Award, 1985
Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, 1987
Edwin C. Whitehead Award, National Center for Health Education, 1989
S. Roger Horchow Award for Greatest Public Service by a Private Citizen, Jefferson Awards, 1990
Liberty Medal, National Constitution Center, 1990
Spirit of America Award, National Council for the Social Studies, 1990
Physicians for Social Responsibility Award, 1991
Aristotle Prize, Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, 1991
W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 1992
Spark M. Matsunaga Medal of Peace, US Institute of Peace, 1993
Humanitarian Award, CARE International, 1993
Conservationist of the Year Medal, National Wildlife Federation, 1993
Audubon Medal, National Audubon Society, 1994
Rotary Award for World Understanding, 1994
J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding, 1994
National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award, 1994
UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize, 1994
Great Cross of the Order of Vasco Nunéz de Balboa, Panama, 1995
Four Freedom Award; Freedom medal, 1995
Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Award, Africare, 1996
Humanitarian of the Year, GQ Awards, 1996
Kiwanis International Humanitarian Award, 1996
Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 1997
Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Awards for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, 1997
United Nations Human Rights Award, 1998
The Hoover Medal, 1998
The Delta Prize for Global Understanding, Delta Air Lines & The University of Georgia, 1999
International Child Survival Award, UNICEF Atlanta, 1999
William Penn Mott, Jr., Park Leadership Award, National Parks Conservation Association, 2000
Zayed International Prize for the Environment, 2001
Jonathan M. Daniels Humanitarian Award, VMI, 2001
Herbert Hoover Humanitarian Award, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, 2001
Christopher Award, 2002
Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, 2007
Berkeley Medal, University of California campus, May 2, 2007
International Award for Excellence and Creativity, Palestinian Authority, 2009
Mahatma Gandhi Global Nonviolence Award, Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, James Madison University (shared with his wife, Rosalynn Carter)
Recipient of 2009 American Peace Award along with Rosalynn Carter
International Catalonia Award 2010
Order of the Crown from the Kingdom of Belgium, in 2011.
International Advocate for Peace award by the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution at Cardozo School of Law, April 10, 2013
Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, 2016

Honorary Degrees
LL.D. (honoris causa) Morehouse College, 1972
Morris Brown College, 1972
University of Notre Dame, 1977
Emory University, 1979
Kwansei Gakuin University, 1981
Georgia Southwestern College, 1981
New York Law School, 1985
Bates College, 1985
Centre College, 1987
Creighton University, 1987
University of Pennsylvania, 1998
Queen’s University, 2012.
D.Eng (honoris causa) Georgia Institute of Technology, 1979
Ph.D. (honoris causa) Weizmann Institute of Science, 1980
Tel Aviv University, 1983
University of Haifa, 1987
D.H.L. (honoris causa) Central Connecticut State University, 1985
Trinity College, 1998
Hose University, 1998
Doctor (honoris causa) G.O.C. University, 1995
University of Juba, 2002
Honorary Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 2007
Honorary Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford, 2007
Bessie Lillian Gordy Carter was the mother of the 39th President of the United States, James “Jimmy” Carter. She was born August 15, 1898, in Richland, Georgia. She began her first job working in the Richland post office. In 1920 she left Richland for a career as a nurse. She had dreamed of being a nurse and when she was accepted as a trainee at the Wise Sanitarium, the 22-year-old Miss Gordy moved to Plains. Wise Sanitarium was an accredited training school for nurses. It was operated by the hospital and offered nearby boarding for trainees from 1917 through 1936.

Lillian met Earl Carter, who was a successful business man in Plains. When Lillian was only six months away from receiving her registered nursing degree, Earl asked her to marry him. She agreed, and the two planned to be married after her training was complete. She finished her nurses training at Grady Hospital in Atlanta and then returned to Plains. On September 26, 1923, at Plains Baptist Church, Lillian and Earl were married.

Her career as a nurse began when most women did not pursue a career until marriage. However, Lillian was free spirited and had a passion for nursing. She would work long hours at the hospital and visit those in the community who could not afford medical attention, then return home and complete her duties as wife and mother.

At the age of 68, Lillian decided to join the Peace Corp. She, once again, used her nursing skills to help those less fortunate in India.

Lillian Carter was an inspiration to many. She did not let age or public opinion restrict her scope of fulfilling the needs of others.
Plains High School

Plains High School was built in 1921 and was the focal point of the town and the surrounding community. Although it has always been known as the Plains High School, it served as the elementary school also. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter both graduated from this school in 1941 and 1944, respectively. There were only eleven grades until 1952 when the State of Georgia added the twelfth grade. The Plains High School now serves as the visitor center for the National Park Service and has the distinction of being the official State School of Georgia an official State Symbol.
Julia Coleman was born in 1889 in Texas. Her father was a Baptist minister and her mother was a school teacher. As a small child, her family moved to Plains, Georgia. After graduating from high school in Plains, she continued her education at Bessie Tift College in Forsyth. She began teaching in 1908. She dedicated the next 50 years of her life teaching English to the students of Plains. Two of her most famous students were President Jimmy Carter and his wife, who became the first lady, Rosalynn Carter. Miss Julia also served as principal and later even superintendent of Plains High School. Miss Coleman was a single woman, which was not uncommon in the early 1900s for school teachers in America. In some school systems, in fact, it was forbidden for teachers to marry.

Miss Coleman was devoted to her students. She developed a curriculum for the school which gave the rural students subjects that were often only offered in larger industrial areas or private schools. The students of Plains were exposed to literature, art, music, plays, and composition—which served as a means of bringing the world to this agricultural community.

Citizenship, community service and patriotism were also incorporated into the curriculum. Through this unique curriculum, Plains High School received a number of awards and was designated a “Model School" for the state of Georgia in the 1930s. Following this recognition, the state adopted some of Miss Coleman’s ideas and incorporated her curriculum into state-wide programs.
Her fame and the progress of Plains High School reached President Franklin Roosevelt. He sent a special invitation to Miss Coleman to visit him at the White House in Washington. This woman from a small community in Georgia made the whole town proud as she continued receiving state and now national attention.

Former students fondly remember Miss Julia telling her class, “Study hard, one of you could become the President of the United States!” Little did she know that one of her students would indeed become the 39th President of the United States and another student the First Lady. President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Smith Carter graduated from Plains High School and still remember the special teacher who encouraged them to do their best.

In 1977, as President Carter was sworn in as our 39th President, he talked about Julia Coleman and quoted her in his inauguration speech.

Julia Coleman died in 1973, leaving a legacy of virtue, compassion, school pride, patriotism, and caring. Through the years, many of her students have ventured from Plains impacting other communities, even worldwide, by helping and encouraging others to do their best.
The President's Desk

Many presidents have used the *Resolute* desk in the Oval Office or in their study in the Residence. It was made from the timbers of *HMS Resolute*, an abandoned British ship discovered by an American vessel and returned to the Queen of England as a token of friendship and goodwill. When the ship was retired, Queen Victoria commissioned the desk from William Evenden, Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham, England, and presented to President Rutherford Hayes in 1880.

The desk has twice been modified. Franklin Roosevelt requested that the kneehole be fitted with a modesty panel carved with the presidential seal (he preferred people not see his leg braces and often placed a waste basket in front of his desks), but he did not live to see it installed. However, President Truman liked the eagle motif and had it installed when he came into office in 1945. Since this was prior to Truman's decision to turn the head of the eagle in the presidential seal to face the olive branch of peace, the eagle in the *Resolute*'s modesty panel faces the arrows of war.

Every president since Hayes—except Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford—has used the *Resolute* desk, although some chose to use it in their private study in the Residence. The desk was made famous in part by a photograph of John Kennedy at work while his son, John Jr., peeked out the front through the kneehole panel.

The desk on display at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site is a replica. The original is currently in use in the oval office of the White House.
The day the Carter family moved to the farm in 1928 was memorable. Earl Carter forgot his house key and had his 4-year-old son Jimmy crawl through a window to open the front door. The family never remembered the door being locked again. The home has been restored to its appearance, just before electricity was installed in 1938. “When electricity came to the farm,” Jimmy Carter recalled, “an almost unbelievable change took place in our lives.” This farm was home to Jimmy Carter until he departed for college in 1941. The Carters grew peanuts, cotton, and sugar cane as cash crops. They also raised vegetables and livestock on this 360-acre farm.

James Earl Carter, Sr. and his family moved into this house in 1928, six years after it had been built by the Plexico family. The house is typical of a middle class rural dwelling in southwestern Georgia during the 1930s. Heating was originally accomplished by fireplaces and wood stoves. Initially, there was no running water and electricity was not available until 1938. This farm was sold by Earl Carter to T. Richard Downer in 1949. The Downer family owned the property until 1994 when it was purchased by the National Park Service. The site now consists of 17.22 acres of the original 360-acre farm which includes the residence and surrounding structures. The site is restored to its appearance before electricity was installed in 1938.
The store adjacent to the Carter home contained various rural necessities for sale: canned goods, coffee, lamp wicks, kerosene, soap, lard, tobacco, overalls, shoes, flour, sugar, cornmeal, castor oil, and homemade syrup. Earl Carter also sold hams, pork shoulders, and sausage which had been cured in the smokehouse. Farm workers and neighbors could buy their goods on credit and settle their bill on payday, which was Saturday.

Farm animals were tended such as cows, guinea hens, ducks, geese, and pigs. Jimmy also had his own pets to take care of such as dogs, Shetland ponies, and occasional calves and pigs for Future Farmer of America projects. Dogs were constant companions; they were used for playmates and also for hunting squirrels, rabbits, coons, possums, and other small game.

Although chores kept the family busy, there was always time for recreational activities. A clay tennis court was located between the house and the store. The Carter family was known for its competitive spirit. The girls had a playhouse adjacent to the Carter home. Fishing, hunting, reading, playing with homemade toys, and listening to their father’s battery-powered radio were also favorite pastimes.

The town of Plains was for the Carter children the center of commerce, education, and religion. During his childhood Jimmy Carter didn’t consider himself part of the Plains society, but always thought of himself as a visitor when he entered what he called that “metropolitan” community. He attended his school and church in town and could even travel to nearby Americus on occasion, but his life was mostly tied to his home in Archery.

The small rural community consisted of a train stop, the St. Mark African-Methodist-Episcopal (A.M.E.) church (located 1/2-mile southwest of the Carter home), a school for black youth, and houses used for railroad employees. This school for black youth, known as the Johnson Home Industrial College, offered primary, high school, and vocational classes to male and female African-American students. Classes taught job skills to enable students to obtain careers other than farming.

It was in this rural setting that Carter grew to adulthood. His enjoyment of and concerns for the environment, his farming expertise, his keen business sense, and his later interest in civil right were developed as he mopped cotton, hunted doves, worked in the fields, raised stock, operated his father’s store on the farm, and interacted with his father’s employees.

Some of the jobs were enjoyable; some were pure drudgery. One of the most unpleasant jobs on the farm was mopping cotton. Boll weevils were a problem during the 1920s. A mixture of arsenic,
molasses, and water was used to kill the weevils. Farm workers would dip a mop into the bucket containing the poison mixture and apply a small amount of it into the bud of each cotton plant. The job was given to the boys and Jimmy Carter hated this task. His trousers, legs, and bare feet would become saturated with the syrupy mess. Flies would swarm around him and at night he took off his trousers and stood them in the corner because they were so stiff. Although farm work was hard, most of it was enjoyable. Hauling cotton to the gin or watermelons to the railroad was always exciting. Working in the blacksmith shop on the farm was challenging. Most of their food was raised on the farm. Sweet potatoes were a major part of the family’s diet. Other crops raised were watermelons, corn, black-eyed peas, cabbage, Irish potatoes, pecans, and beans. The hours of work meant days were long on the farm, from sunup until sundown.

Cotton was a primary cash crop in the Plains community, but there was a growing trend toward raising peanuts. Jimmy always remembered his father’s most prominent crop as peanuts. Jimmy Carter was a businessman even as young as five years old when he sold boiled peanuts on the streets of Plains. He would earn about $1.00 per day gross income selling peanuts and on Saturdays he could sell more. He would get up early on Saturday morning and fill up his buckets with choice peanuts. They would be washed and boiled in salt water and then he would rush through his morning farm work. After breakfast Jimmy would walk the railroad tracks to Plains carrying the peanuts in two large baskets. When he got to Plains he sold the peanuts for a nickel a bag.

Most Archery residents worked as sharecroppers, tenant farmers, or day laborers on farms. Sharecroppers and tenant farmers, who sometimes paid rent for the property that they farmed, worked the land for a share of the crop. Jack and Rachel Clark were day laborers who lived in a cabin on the Carter farm. They were provided a place to live and earned a salary for their work. Mr. Clark tended mules and rang the cast iron bell to wake the farm workers each morning. He also took care of the barn, the yard, the vegetable garden, and collected wood for the fireplaces in the Carter home. Mrs. Clark was as close to the Carter family as a “second mother” could be. She sometimes worked picking crops and cared for the Carter children when their mother, Lillian Carter, worked as a nurse. Jimmy Carter’s young life was shaped by Rachel Clark who he remembered as being a close companion, confidante, and someone who enhanced his fishing skills.

The impact of the Carter family’s environment during childhood cannot be overestimated. The location, their family life, their relationships with neighbors, and this place in time each factored into the development of the Carter children. Their upbringing and the things that were important to them guided their formation as adults. Their childhood environment serves as an example of the past guiding the future.