

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Historic Site
Arkansas

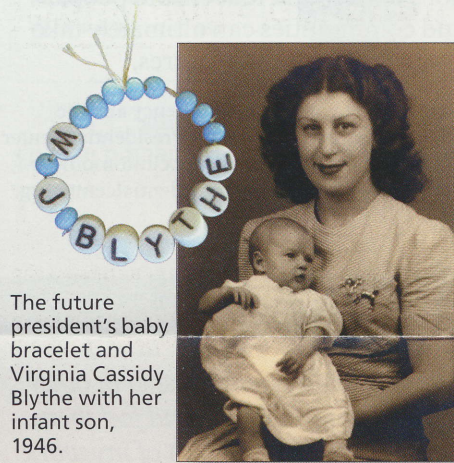


I still believe in a place called Hope. —President Bill Clinton

117 S. Hervey Street, Hope, Arkansas, 2011.
© CINDY MOMCHILOV, CAMERA WORK, INC.

A Firm Foundation in Hope

On August 19, 1946, Virginia Cassidy Blythe gave birth to her son, William Jefferson Blythe III, named for his father who was killed in a car accident three months before he was



The future president's baby bracelet and Virginia Cassidy Blythe with her infant son, 1946.

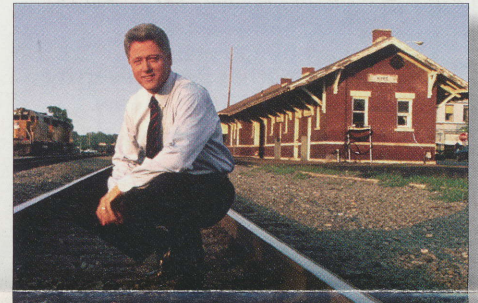
BRACELET—WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY;
PHOTO—WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION

born. Young Billy Blythe grew up to become William Jefferson Clinton—the 42nd president of the United States.

He and his mother lived with her parents in this house in Hope, Arkansas, where the future president spent the first four years of his life. Growing up in Hope, he embraced the values of this small town.

Presidential candidate Bill Clinton poses in front of the Hope Depot, 1992.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION



Our house was just a block away from a railroad underpass, which then was made of rough, tar-coated timbers. I liked to climb the timbers, listen to the trains rattle overhead, and wonder where they were going and whether I would ever go there. —President Bill Clinton

Family and Community

Clinton's mother decided to remain in Hope with her parents, James Eldridge Cassidy and Edith Grisham Cassidy. Although still grieving, she knew she needed to create a new life for herself and her son and decided to further her education. Clinton's grandparents took care of him while his mother completed her training as a nurse anesthetist in New Orleans.

Clinton's grandmother stressed the importance of education for her grandson and taught him to read before he started kindergarten. She also worked as a private duty nurse and provided in-home care for seriously ill patients. His grandmother inspired him to dedicate his life's work to helping others.

Clinton spent much of his time in Hope at his grandfather's store. He saw his grandfather treat all customers with respect, regardless of the color of their skin. Clinton also remembered his grandparents supporting school desegregation in the mid-1950s. These experiences helped shape Clinton's views on race relations and social justice.

... my grandparents and my mother always made me feel I was the most important person in the world to them. Most children will make it if they have just one person who makes them feel that way. I had three. —President Bill Clinton



Grandfather James Eldridge Cassidy in his grocery store, 1946.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION



Clinton age 3, Christmas 1949.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION



Grandmother Edith Cassidy with Clinton, about 1951.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION

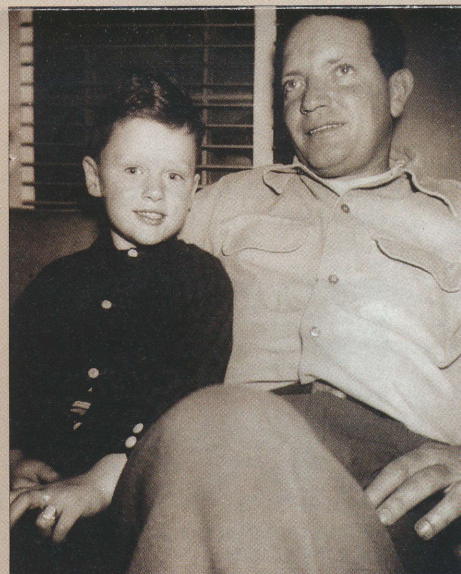
My grandfather just had a grade-school education. But in that country store he taught me more about equality in the eyes of the Lord than all my professors at Georgetown, more about the intrinsic worth of every individual than all the philosophers at Oxford; and he taught me more about the need for equal justice than all the jurists at Yale Law School. —President Bill Clinton

When his mother married Roger Clinton in 1950, the young family moved across town to a house on 13th Street. In 1953, they moved to Roger Clinton's hometown, Hot Springs, Arkansas—90 miles away. Clinton often returned to Hope to visit his grandparents for holidays and summer vacation.

Although Bill went by the name of Clinton from the time his mother remarried, Roger Clinton never formally adopted him. When his younger brother, Roger Cassidy Clinton, started school, Bill legally changed his name to Clinton.

Bill and Roger Clinton, 1952.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION



S. Hervey Street, Hope, Arkansas, 1946.

© LLOYD PAUL POWELL



- 1946 William Jefferson Blythe III, born August 19.
- 1950 Virginia Blythe marries Roger Clinton and the family moves to 13th Street in Hope, AR.
- 1953 The Clinton family moves to Hot Springs, AR.
- 1956 Clinton's brother, Roger Cassidy Clinton, born.
- 1964 Clinton graduates from Hot Springs High School; enters Georgetown University.
- 1968 Clinton attends Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship.
- 1970 Clinton attends Yale Law School.
- 1973 Clinton teaches law, University of Arkansas School of Law.
- 1974 Clinton has an unsuccessful run for Congress.
- 1975 Clinton marries Hillary Rodham.
- 1977 Clinton becomes Attorney General of Arkansas.
- 1979 Clinton elected Governor of Arkansas.
- 1980 Chelsea Clinton born.
- 1981 Clinton loses bid for re-election for Governor of Arkansas.
- 1983 Clinton re-elected Governor of Arkansas.
- 1991 Clinton announces his candidacy for president of the United States.
- 1992 Clinton elected president of the United States.



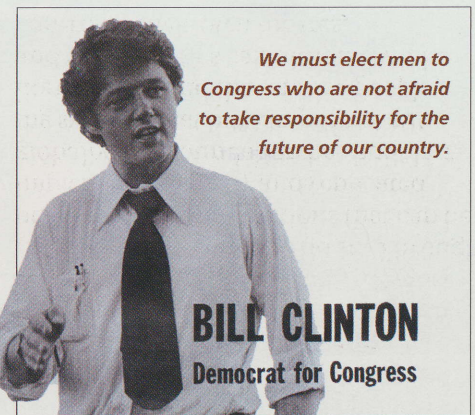
Clinton with his mother Virginia and brother Roger, about 1958.
WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION

Public Service

As a student at Hot Springs High School, Clinton excelled in academics and band. Near the end of high school, Clinton set his eyes on public service. He attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and was a Rhodes Scholar before starting Yale Law School.

In 1973, Clinton returned to Arkansas to enter politics. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1974, but was elected Attorney General of Arkansas in 1977. In 1979, he was elected Governor of Arkansas. He was defeated for re-election in 1981, but was re-elected in 1983 and served four more terms.

tion in 1981, but was re-elected in 1983 and served four more terms.



WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION

Becoming President

On November 3, 1992, Clinton was elected the 42nd President of the United States. He was re-elected in 1996. During his administration, the nation experienced the longest economic expansion in US history. President Clinton's core values included building community, creating opportunity, and demanding responsibility. He repeatedly stressed the importance of work and family—all lessons he learned in Hope.

During his second term, President Clinton established the William J. Clinton Foundation whose mission is to improve global health, strengthen economies, promote healthier childhoods, and protect the environment by fostering special partnerships among

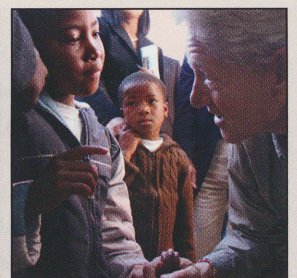
governments, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens to turn good intentions into measurable results. The Foundation's work is based on the belief that people have the capacity to build a better world for themselves and for their children, they just need the opportunity to do so. Through business-oriented solutions that can be implemented locally and replicated globally, the Foundation has built lasting systems that have improved millions of lives and that ensure people and communities can ultimately take control of their own futures.

To learn more about his presidency and the Foundation, visit the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas; www.clintonfoundation.org; or www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org.

I learned a lot from the stories my uncle, aunts, and grandparents told me: that no one is perfect but most people are good; that people can't be judged only by their worst or weakest moments. . . . Perhaps most important, I learned that everyone has a story. . . . All my life I've been interested in other people's stories. I've wanted to know them, understand them, and feel them. When I grew up and got into politics, I always felt the main point of my work was to give people a chance to have better stories. —President Bill Clinton



President Clinton signs legislation establishing Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site while members of the "Little Rock Nine" watch, November 6, 1998.
WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



Above: Former President Clinton greets Tavery, a child born HIV positive at the Mary Knoll Orphanage in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2006. Right: The former president greets children in South Africa, 2006.
WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION



Clinton takes the presidential oath of office, January 20, 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

About Your Visit

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site (NHS) was established in December 2010. It includes the Birthplace Home, a visitor center (located in an adjacent historic home) and the Virginia Clinton Kelley Memorial Garden.

Getting Here

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS is located in Hope, Arkansas. Hope is 30 miles east of Texarkana (TX, AR) and 110 miles west of Little Rock, AR on Interstate 30. From I-30, take exit 30 and travel south on Hwy 278 (Hervey Street) for approximately 2 miles. The park is located at S. Hervey and W. Division streets.

Accessibility

We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. Walkways, visitor center, and first floor of the Birthplace Home are wheelchair-accessible. Service animals are welcome.

Firearms

For firearms regulations check the park website.

Pets

Pets must be on a leash or physically restrained at all times and are not allowed inside park historic buildings.

Begin at the Visitor Center

The visitor center includes interpretive exhibits about President Clinton's early life in Arkansas and a bookstore. The park is open daily, 9:00 am–4:30 pm, except for Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. Tours of the Birthplace Home are offered every half hour, with the last tour leaving at 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

More Information

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site
117 S. Hervey Street
Hope, AR 71801
870-777-4455
www.nps.gov/wicl

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about the National Park Service, visit www.nps.gov.

1996 Clinton re-elected president of the United States.

1997 During his second term, Clinton established the William J. Clinton Foundation with the mission of strengthening the capacity of people in the US and throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence.

2004 The Clinton Presidential Center opens. It houses the Little Rock offices of the William J. Clinton Foundation, the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, and the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

2011 Dedication of President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS.



Clinton speaks at the dedication on April 16, 2011.

NPS

A Glimpse Inside

The interior of this modest home invites you to experience the house as Clinton did as a small child. See the stairs he hurried down on Christmas morning and the playing cards tacked to the kitchen window. President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home NHS offers a glimpse into the ordinary home that helped shape an extraordinary public servant.



© CINDY MOXCHLOV, CAMERA WORK, INC.



One thing I learned in this home was [that the] aspirations of ordinary people are more important than anyone's ideology. —President Bill Clinton, during the dedication of the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site, April 16, 2011.