



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

James A. Garfield National
Historic Site

8095 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060

www.nps.gov/jaga

James A. Garfield National Historic Site News Release

For Immediate Release – Friday, October 17 2008
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Ghosts of the White House at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Mentor, Ohio - A special after-hours program at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site will be held on Saturday evening, October 25th at 6:30 p.m. The staff will introduce you to the Age of Spiritualism, a movement which began around 1847 and moved into popular culture at the close of the Civil War. As the loss of over 620,000 Americans became a grim reality for the widows, parents, and family members who survived the War, these mourners needed a way to keep in touch with their loved ones.

James A. Garfield participated in the spiritualist movement while living in Hiram, Ohio. He attempted to, and he thought was successful at contacting his father Abram who died when Garfield was only 18 months old. Perhaps influenced by the story told by his Secretary of State Robert Todd Lincoln, Garfield also had a premonition about his own death.

Guests to this special program will enjoy a presentation on *Ghosts of the White House*, and take an evening tour of the Victorian-era home of the nation's twentieth president. On limited display will be mourning and memorial artifacts from President Garfield's funeral. Please dress for the weather. People with limited nighttime vision should be aware that the light levels outside and in the house will be much lower than during the day. Cost is \$15/person, payable by cash or check. Please call 440-255-8722 for reservations.

About the James A. Garfield National Historic Site and the National Park Service

James A. Garfield National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The 8-acre site consists of the main house and memorial library of James A. Garfield, the twentieth president of the

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United States, the 1880 presidential campaign office, the 1893 carriage house, the windmill and several outbuildings associated with the Garfield farm. Most of the furnishings and personal effects in the main house are original Garfield family pieces, on loan to the NPS by the Western Reserve Historical Society. In the late 1990s the house was completely restored by the National Park Service, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. House tours run regularly, please call ahead for a schedule. Tours and the Visitor Center are largely wheelchair accessible. Special community events and special education programs for the public are scheduled throughout the year. The Garfield site is open from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon - 5 p.m., May through October. November through April the site is open weekends only, noon – 5:00 p.m. For information call (440) 255-8722, write 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060, or visit www.nps.gov/jaga on the Internet.

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