

C-SPAN FIRST LADIES LUCY HAYES

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HISTORIAN: It is so unfair to her. It's such a dismissive, almost condescending title, because it suggests that she's sort of his bluestocking whose sole function in life was to not serve alcohol. Lucy Hayes is so much more, as is her husband, frankly. And, remember, everything she accomplished in the White House, we should consider, came in spite of the fact that her husband's legitimacy to be president was questioned right until the day he left office.

HISTORIAN: She was a charming person, very delightful. She was innovative with the arts.

CHRISTIE WEININGER, RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: One of our more controversial collections is the White House china. Journalists of the day wrote scathing articles. One said that the art was absurd. Who's going to want to be eating this lovely meal and see a duck at the bottom of their plate?

HISTORIAN: She took an active interest in public affairs from an early age.

HISTORIAN: She had a college degree, and she had taught.

WEININGER: Two causes that were very important to her were veterans and soldiers and also orphans, children who had been made orphans as a result of the Civil War.

HISTORIAN: She combined all of these roles. That's the interesting thing. She manages to be a very devout mother. She doesn't neglect her children. But she also embraces the life of her times.

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SUSAN SWAIN, HOST: Lucy Hayes wrote, "Women's minds are as strong as man's, equal in all things and superior in some." Born in 1831 in Chillicothe, Ohio, she was the first first lady to earn a college degree and her life tells us much about the times in which she lived, experiencing the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the gilded age, and into a period where technological innovations and significant social forces usher in an era of enormous change in the United States.

Good evening and welcome to C-SPAN's continuing series on the biographies of America's first ladies. Tonight you'll learn about Lucy Webb Hayes, the wife of the 19th president, Rutherford B. Hayes. And here to start us off is Allida Black, who is a first ladies historian and she is the author of "The First Ladies of the United States of America: A Collection of Biographies Published by the White House Historical Association."

Allida Black, welcome. And 1876, this country is joyously celebrating its 100th Centennial of the Declaration of Independence, and it's an election year. And the election is greatly contested with no clear victor. Tell us about the atmosphere with which the Hayeses arrive at the White House. What was it like?

ALLIDA BLACK, HISTORIAN: Well, Susan, it's pretty schizophrenic, I mean, to tell you the truth. We've just come out of the -- you know, the centennial celebration. And they're coming to the White House, but they don't even know if they're actually going to move into the White House, because the election is not yet decided. What's happened is, is that Samuel B. Tilden and Rutherford B. Hayes

were in at that point one of the closest elections in the United States. And Tilden wins the popular vote, but there are three states where the vote is so tight that the parties are tackling each other, you know, each -- each -- the Republicans are saying we won, the Democrats said, no, we won.

So Hayes goes to bed and thinks he's lost. And he gets up the next morning and he finds out that the Republicans are challenging the vote in three states, and if they actually win those three states, he gets the number of electoral votes he needs to become president.

Well, you know, they go through all these negotiations back and forth. There's -- Congress is involved. They're trying to cut all these back deals. But literally it's not decided until he arrives in Washington, when the deals are finally set. So when they're -- you can only imagine sort of -- you know, the schizophrenia, the joy, the fear, the disappointment, everything that you feel as you're on this train coming to Washington.

SWAIN: And so worried were the Hayeses about the possibility of a Democratic coup, the Inaugural Day was a Sunday, and so there was a private swearing-in at the White House, correct?

BLACK: Absolutely. And then he gave his Inaugural Address on Monday the next day, absolutely. But the country itself is still very unsettled. I mean, the Civil War -- even though it's been over for 12 years -- is very much in people's minds, because it's such an intensely personal war. I mean, everybody's been affected by it.

And now you're trying to figure out, how are you going to end Reconstruction? For Hayes, it's how do you end Reconstruction and try to stay true to your principles? For the Democrats, it's, you know, how can we hold his feet to the fire to get rid of the troops that are down there and give us back our land and our customs?

And plus, you've got all of this technological revolution. It's, you know, the telephone just gets premiered in Philadelphia. You have the typewriter. You know, you've got all of these new kinds of engines that are being done. You have labor unrest. You have great railroad strikes. You have a recession. It's got everything. It's really sort of the first major depression that we have. So the country's trying to figure out what's going on just as much as the Hayeses are trying to figure out what's going on.

SWAIN: So Rutherford B. Hayes and Lucy Hayes come to the White House with a great deal of government experience at this point. He had been three-term governor of Ohio who'd served in Congress, very popular governor of Ohio. What do they do to establish their credibility when they get to Washington?

BLACK: Well, they just -- their personalities take over, and they began to try to, you know, acknowledge the fact that the election is really controversial. They know that he's being called Your Fraudulency. He knows that, you know, he's being called Rutherford Fraud Hayes. And so what he does with his Inaugural Address is really set the tone for this.

He makes overtures to the Democrats. He opens the White House up. They begin to really try to engage in a public conversation and tackle the issues that sort of tarnished the Republican Party, if you will. I mean, the corruption of the Grant administration, when he says he's going to do civil service reform, you know, when he really pledges to pull the remaining troops out of the South, assuming that the governors -- that the governments in New Orleans and Columbia will honor their commitment to black rights.

So he's trying to really extend an olive branch to people to say, I'm addressing your concerns, I hear you, and I'm only going to serve one term, so let's figure out how we can make the most of this together.

SWAIN: And how did Lucy Hayes assist him in this effort?

BLACK: Well, she was very shrewd with him all the way along. I mean, she understood how politics worked. She understood how to entertain. She understood how to facilitate conversations between people that were difficult. She understood how to really bring people at the table in a way that would advance her husband's career.

She was charming. You know, everybody liked her, you know, despite the, you know, the no-alcohol edict in the White House. So she was able to grease the skids for him in a way that made him seem approachable and ethical and blunt.

SWAIN: We have mentioned that she was the first first lady to have a college degree, but this is a time of enormous change for women. At the Philadelphia Bicentennial Fair, the World's Fair, all kinds of new devices, labor-saving devices were being introduced for the home, the Hoover vacuum cleaner...

BLACK: Absolutely.

SWAIN: ... early washing machines, and women were beginning to take advantage of this by beginning to move into the workforce. So how is Lucy Hayes -- is she seen a symbol for this kind of woman and her approach to the job?

BLACK: Well, I really don't think so, because I think it's very easy to overstate the importance of the new labor-saving devices and how many women went into the workforce. I mean, the women who are in the workforce already have to work. And the women who really entered the workforce by their own volition and by their own interests really are the generation after her. So when she comes in the White House, only 5 percent of women who work are working in what we would consider today white-collar jobs, like sales and stenographers and secretaries and, you know, professors and educators.

I mean, it's still very, very close. She's on the cusp of that. I mean, what she's really -- to me, the thing that's really interesting about her is how she's sort of stuck in the middle. And in a way, that doesn't make her stuck. I mean, I know that sounds weird, but, you know, the suffrage movement is totally divided along the lines of race and whether women can vote or not.

And Lucy Hayes is, you know, the first college-educated first lady. She's nursed and stood with surgeons during the Civil War. She's seen more wounds, more battles, more scars, more amputees, more suffering than probably any first lady, other than Mary Todd Lincoln. But yet, you know, she's not an avant-garde reformer. She is trying to find her own voice, and so it's hard to put her in a pigeonhole.

SWAIN: Gary Robinson on Twitter asks, "How did Washington look upon Lucy, especially after Julia Grant's presence?"

BLACK: Well, that's tricky. I mean, because, you know, when she -- Washington looks on her as -- you know, askance with temperance issues. But, you know, they also look at her as lovely and vivacious and happy and congenial, and then she does, shall we say, eccentric, but gorgeous china, and the press goes, you know, insane over it, writing, you know, as your credits opened, about how difficult it is to eat food and maybe even see a quail in the middle of your plate.

SWAIN: So you mentioned the press. Are we at a point in history where the press is independently covering the first ladies and they become an object of national interest?

BLACK: Yes, the press really is taken with her. I mean, they call her -- they use the title first lady more for her, you know, than they have for anybody, even though it was referenced to Mary Todd Lincoln. But they really -- you know, they like her. They cover her. They see her as vivacious. They see her as somebody who's different. They're fascinated that she went to college. I mean, so they really do follow her in her own right.

SWAIN: Throughout our program tonight, we're going to be taking you to the Hayes' home in Fremont, Ohio. It's called Spiegel Grove. You see a picture of it on your screen right now. This is the home where Lucy Rutherford and their family, which was a large family, lived before the White House years, and this presidential home library and museum there all help to inform visitors as to what the first lady and the first family were all about.

Our first segment takes us inside the home to learn about Lucy Hayes as a political partner to Rutherford B. Hayes and about some of the causes that were important to her throughout her adult life. Let's watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CHRISTIE WEININGER, RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: This is a painting that shows Lucy tending to a wounded soldier during the Civil War. Two causes that were very important to her were veterans and soldiers, and also orphans, children who had been made orphans as a result of the Civil War.

This painting was created to hang in an orphanage here in Ohio of which she was very supportive. So it kind of reflects those two issues that were important to her. When people associated with those causes would come here to Spiegel Grove and visit, they would sit here in this formal parlor.

Spiegel Grove was host to a number of reunions of Civil War veterans. The 23rd OVI was the unit that Rutherford served in. Future President McKinley was a member of the 23rd OVI, so he and his family were frequent guests here. And veterans groups were always welcome here at Spiegel Grove. And when they would gather here on the grounds, when they would come into sit and talk, they would sit in this formal parlor.

Lucy was such a wonderful hostess. She wanted people to feel very, very welcome here, and so this is where they would sit -- this is where they would discuss the issues of the day. The Hayeses would have hosted a number of political figures here for dinner, including future Presidents Taft and McKinley, also William Tecumseh Sherman was a guest for dinner, as well as a number of other local and national political figures.

So as a political partner with her husband, entertaining these political figures and serving in that role of hostess at these dinners would have been incredibly important.

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SWAIN: And joining us on our set now another guest, Tom Culbertson. Mr. Culbertson is director emeritus of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, where Spiegel Grove is also open to the public, spent 24 years of his professional life helping America preserve the history of the Hayes presidency.

We heard from Allida Black about the great political partnership, but your comments about the skills that she brought to this job as she entered the White House?

TOM CULBERTSON, DIRECTOR EMERITUS, RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER: Well, she was a partner to Rutherford. She was a sounding board for him. She was a

gracious hostess, as Allida said. She was able to engage people one-on-one and to make anybody that she talked with think that they were the only person in the room and the only person that she really wanted to talk with.

SWAIN: Now, the contested election didn't end after they were sworn in, and there was a congressional inquiry. We have one of the quotes -- one of many quotes from her that we want to show tonight, and here's one where she said, "Sometimes I feel a little worried this press and annoyance going, but I keep myself outwardly very calm, but inwardly there is a burning venom and wrath all under a smiling or pleasant exterior." What do we learn about her from that quote?

CULBERTSON: Well, we learn that she's very defensive of her husband and his image and that she does have a little bit of anger in her. But...

SWAIN: It sounds like a good politician in her own right?

CULBERTSON: Yes, she was a very good politician.

SWAIN: Able to mask the inner wrath for the public presentation.

CULBERTSON: Yes, yes, right, yes.

BLACK: One of my favorite things about that is that shows her passion and her ability sort of to hold it in is, at the end of the Civil War, she was just furious that everybody started talking about reconciliation and forgiveness. You know, and she was saying, mercy is one thing, but we have to have justice and mercy, which just shows her.

SWAIN: I would like to invite you, as we do each week, to be a participant in our program, and there are several ways you can do that. First of all, in a few minutes, we'll be going to your phone calls. If you leave in the Eastern and Central time zones, 202-585-3880. If you live out west, Mountain and Pacific time zones, or farther west, 202-585-3881.

You can also send us a question or comment by Twitter. Please use the hashtag #firstladies. And you can go to our Facebook page on C-SPAN. There's already a discussion underway about Lucy Hayes, and you can join that by asking questions or posting comments. We'll mix many of those in throughout our 90 minutes together.

Now, to illustrate what kind of a person she is, she had a lifelong interest after helping her husband at the Civil War front and Civil War veterans. You've got a story to tell about an old veteran who came to the White House.

CULBERTSON: Yes, in 1879, an old 1812 soldier came to the White House to receive an honor, and he's supposed to have his picture taken. When he arrived, his uniform came separately and he was distraught that the sergeant's stripes were not on the uniform. So Lucy went and grabbed her sewing kit, sat down on the floor, sewed on the epaulets, and the British minister came in, saw the first lady of the United States sitting on the floor...

SWAIN: At the White House.

CULBERTSON: ... at the White House, sewing on this gentleman's rank.

SWAIN: Which is how we learned this story, I would imagine.

CULBERTSON: Right.

SWAIN: He's the one that told it of the first lady.

CULBERTSON: He did. Yes, it was not her.

SWAIN: So it's important for us to move on for a bit, Lucy Hayes and the temperance movement happening in the United States. Now, first of all, today we often see the expression or nickname Lemonade Lucy. Was she known at the time by that name?

BLACK: No, not at all. I mean, in fact, Tom and I were talking earlier, we don't even know what -- we can't even find where the reference first appeared. It's been -- but it's one of those things that's just become apocryphal about her.

I mean, I think one of the things that's -- you know, that's interesting about Lucy is that she, you know, supports temperance, but never really affiliates with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, who was -- you know, which was founded in Ohio, her home state, by people that lived, you know, within two hours' drive from her. And they're always trying to co-opt her.

So she comes to this from her mother's father, her maternal grandfather, who was a member of the state legislature, who really made her sign a pledge when she was young not to drink alcohol. And that just sort of carried over with her, but she was never really a Carrie Nation-type follower of the temperance movement.

SWAIN: So Dave Murdock asking on Twitter, what prompted Lucy to ban alcohol from the White House? Was it religious in nature? I want to parse that. First of all, did she ban alcohol from the White House?

CULBERTSON: Actually, no. Her husband made the decision to ban alcohol from the White House. And it was a decision -- partly political -- he wanted to keep the Republicans within the party who were defecting to the Prohibition Party. He also wanted to set the moral tone because alcohol was the drug of choice in those days. There were many families that were ruined. You've heard in this series about the sons of presidents who managed to ruin their lives with alcohol.

And Hayes was never a prohibitionist. He never thought you should outlaw alcohol. He was -- he thought that the people who were running the Prohibition Party were political cranks who would also outlaw dancing and card-playing. And he just wanted people to learn by education.

SWAIN: How popular was the temperance movement in the United States?

BLACK: Well, at the Hayeses' time, not very. I mean, it really takes off at the end of the century. They come in right at the beginning of it. The thing that -- the reason that it begins to really take off is when it merges with the women's suffrage movement, because at the time of -- when the Hayes first move into the White House, only 23 states allowed women to control their own property.

And so one of the big problems with alcohol was, if women worked, their wages legally belonged to their sons or their brothers or their husbands. They could not cash their own paychecks or collect their own wages. So men would take that and go into the saloons...

SWAIN: And spend the women's money on alcohol?

BLACK: But also -- but it's not just on -- I mean, the saloons also gave you shelter and gave you food and were political bases. They also gave you really cheap beer. And so it was -- it's a complicated issue, because it's really easy to say, oh, they're just turning everybody into alcoholics, when what they're doing is they're feeding people, organizing people, giving them a place to party, you know, encouraging them to drink, and not having women's recourse over their own money. So

that's why it really takes off, because it leads to prostitution, it leads to bankruptcy, and it leads to venereal disease.

SWAIN: Lucy was officially lobbied by the temperance movement to become a public advocate for their cause. Did she agree?

CULBERTSON: She did not agree. She stuck with her husband and really didn't feel that women should be allowed to vote, and just -- she was not an advocate of women's suffrage. She was -- women's suffrage people came to the White House. She showed them around, gave them a tour of the conservatory and the rooms, but did not buy in.

SWAIN: And here's a quote that really helps to illustrate that. She said, "It is a great mistake to suppose that I desire to dictate my views to others in this matter of the use of wine and such drinks. I do not use them myself, but I have no thought of shunning those who think and act differently." So what do we learn about her from this?

BLACK: Well, we learn that -- first of all, that she's a fabulous politician. The second thing is, is that she is not an absolutist or a moralist. I mean, what she's got is she has made her decision. She believes that moderation is good and that, like her husband, she's in no way interested in outlawing everything, and that she is sticking to her own beliefs while trying to be respectful of others.

SWAIN: Now, how is it that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union came to create an official portrait of Lucy Hayes?

CULBERTSON: Well, they wanted to memorialize the decision not to serve alcohol in the White House, and Lucy was not pleased by that decision. The first thing they wanted to do was build a fountain, and she said, "I don't want my memorial to be a water fountain. I want to be in the hearts of people, rather than on a piece of canvas," or -- particularly, the irony of being a water fountain would certainly be galling. She was also not happy that they were trying to raise the money to do this a dime at a time. She said, "I think I'm worth more than a dime."

SWAIN: But it became the official White House portrait?

CULBERTSON: It did.

SWAIN: And we're showing it to you on screen so you can see how we have for history preserved Lucy Hayes. How different is that view of her from the woman that you've come to know through your research?

BLACK: Very different. I mean, I just -- I think the woman that Tom has so eloquently described is an enigma. I mean, she's trying to figure out how to be her own person. She's been stereotyped in a way that Mary Todd Lincoln was stereotyped. And it doesn't show the courage and the incredible guts she had.

I mean, I just wish America understood -- if I could tell them one thing about Lucy Hayes that I find stunningly haunting is how much violence she saw up close during the war, in surgery and out. I mean, not only in Ohio hospitals, but going to her husband's camps, where her brother, Joe, was a surgeon. You know, she went in and out of the operating room. She did post-operative care. She saw people, you know, without anesthetics suffering in horrific ways. When four soldiers, two of whom were wounded, two of whom were significantly ill, were late and missed their train to Chicago, she opened what she called her back parlor in her house so that they could stay.

You know, her -- it makes perfect sense to me that she sewed that sergeant's stripes on. You know, I would absolutely be convinced that that's the least that she owed that man for what she knew that he went through.

SWAIN: On the note about violence, Telemedicine on Twitter asks, were the Hayeses worried about their personal security with the disputed election and with Lincoln's assassination?

CULBERTSON: Well, there was a report that a bullet went through their parlor window in Columbus before they came to the White House. You know, there was no Secret Service. They pretty much took it as -- as it came. Their son, Webb, carried a pistol, and he was their only form of security.

SWAIN: Cathy is our first caller tonight from Springfield, Missouri. You're on, Cathy. Good evening. Cathy, you there? Yes, go ahead.

CATHY (ph): Hi, I wanted to give a quick birthday shout-out to my dad, Gary, in Independence -- Independence, Missouri. He's a huge fan of the program.

SWAIN: Wonderful.

CATHY (ph): Second, I have a question. What led Lucy to become an early supporter of the newly formed Republican Party?

SWAIN: Thanks very much.

BLACK: You want to take it?

CULBERTSON: Well, she was an abolitionist right from the start. The Republican Party was the party of abolition. She was an admirer of John C. Fremont and his wife, and so it was logical that she be a Republican right from the beginning.

SWAIN: On the women's suffrage movement, which was really burgeoning, and the famous name Elizabeth Cady Stanton, part of the women's rights movement, came to the White House to see the president. And how did the Hayeses react to her personal petition for them to be involved in the women's suffrage movement?

BLACK: Well, they rejected it. I mean, it was -- they did not support women's suffrage. And Elizabeth Cady Stanton at that point had become an exceedingly controversial person in Republican circles. I mean, she had castigated Lincoln for -- you know, for his abandonment -- her word -- of women during the Civil War. She was very much opposed to the 15th Amendment, because it excluded women, and so she had really campaigned against the principles that the Hayeses dedicated their lives to, which were the basic principles of Reconstruction. So she was not well-received at all.

SWAIN: Carmen TS (ph) on Twitter asks, was Lucy Hayes interested in any women's issues or rights issues, since she didn't believe that they should have the right to vote?

BLACK: Well, yes. I mean, she was -- you know, Tom, jump in, but she was absolutely passionate about women's education and encouraged young women to go to college, which was, in fact, a radical thing to say during her time in the White House. And she saw temperance to a certain extent as a way to help women, but if you're asking in the way about women's wages, where women worked, you know, women's rights to join a union, women's right to vote, which were the major political issues at that time, she did not associate with that.

SWAIN: Tom, we got lots of different questions about that college degree, and I'm going to ask a couple of them all at once. First of all, Stevie Miller on Facebook, I'm not sure if they had majors back then, but what did Lucy study in college? And what was specifically applicable to her career?

And other people want to know, where did she go to school specifically?

CULBERTSON: She went to Wesleyan Female College in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she got a degree in liberal arts. She studied rhetoric, composition, English, all the standard things. I don't think she studied political science, so -- but all was applicable to what she ended up being as first lady. She had to deliver speeches, which was probably good preparation for later on in life.

SWAIN: Christopher Coco (ph) on Facebook is very anxious to know whether or not more or less she rubbed her college degree in the faces of members of Congress or other serving elites while in the White House.

CULBERTSON: No. Lucy Hayes was a good politician. She knew how to carry on a conversation without being erudite, so -- no, I would say she did not give offense.

SWAIN: Next is Scott, Harriman, Tennessee. Hi, Scott. What's your question?

SCOTT (ph): Well, I don't have a question. I just want to say that Lucy Hayes and Rutherford, they're just great role models, and I've enjoyed studying them. I just think they were really moral people and I really admire them a lot.

SWAIN: Thanks very much. Gary Robinson again on Twitter asks, it seems like Lucy might have been more popular than Rutherford. Was that true?

BLACK: Well, I think -- well, go ahead.

CULBERTSON: Well, there's a comment made by -- I believe it was Mrs. James G. Blaine saying that, when the Hayeses traveled, that Rutherford insisted on Lucy going along with him so that people wouldn't say bad things about Rutherford. So perhaps she was more popular than he was.

SWAIN: Our next call comes from Julie. Are you watching us truly in Caracas, Venezuela? Julie, are you there?

JULIE (ph): It's been great. We're learning so much American history, it's just fantastic.

SWAIN: Do you have a question about this first lady?

JULIE (ph): Yes. Were the Hayeses the first power couple in Washington?

SWAIN: Were the Hayeses the first power couple in Washington?

BLACK: No. No, I would say that the first power couple in Washington were John and Abigail Adams, but the first power couple in the presidency were Martha and George.

SWAIN: We'll go to another call. This is...

BLACK: It's a good question, though.

SWAIN: And delighted to have people watching in Venezuela tonight. Lindsay is in Kingston, Pennsylvania. What's your question?

LINDSAY (ph): Hi, I don't have a question, either. I thought it might be fun for your viewers to know that I'm a distant relative of Rutherford Birchard Hayes on my father's side of the family. My maiden middle name was Birchard, much to my dismay, because nobody understood it, but I'm proud to have it as part of my heritage now. And when I was in high school, I did some research on Rutherford B. Hayes, and I found out that he had quite the sense of humor and even ended up riding a bicycle through the White House. And I thought your viewers might get a kick out of knowing that. Thank you.

SWAIN: Thanks so much. Did he have a sense of humor?

CULBERTSON: He did. It was a bit understated, but he had the habit of cutting up apples at the dinner table and tossing the pieces at people at the table, some of whom would not deign to catch them, but he also could tell a joke, but not often.

SWAIN: Well, it was serious times.

CULBERTSON: It was.

SWAIN: The Hayeses -- Lucy Hayes gave birth to eight children, five of whom lived to adulthood. So are there lots of Hayes descendants in the country today?

CULBERTSON: We have more than 100 Hayes descendants in our databases at the Hayes Center. We have four members of the family on our board of directors at the Hayes Center. And we had a reunion a couple of years ago that a number of descendants came to.

SWAIN: And on the topic which you mentioned earlier of entertaining in the White House, it was a dry White House, but they used it a lot to entertain and to advance the president's programs. Would you talk about that?

BLACK: Well, sure. I mean, the thing that I always thought was very interesting about this was how Lucy Hayes would hate state dinners, but pull them off. I mean, she really would just -- would be very vocal with people that are around her, but -- about that.

But I think that she was able to -- with an ease and a grace and an ability to put people at ease really help open the -- you know, the White House up to people in a way that would be, let's say, very different from Mary Todd, who would be charming, but had an edge to her. And Lucy was just kind and was able to talk at the level of the person that was with them.

Would you add anything to that?

CULBERTSON: She was particularly good with old people and children. And that came through to everyone.

BLACK: Yeah.

SWAIN: We are about to return to Spiegel Grove. Michael on Twitter asks, is it true that Spiegel Grove is named using the German word for mirror because of the reflection from the lake?

CULBERTSON: Yes, it's -- well, actually, it's -- the ground there is clay. Water doesn't percolate in very easily, and so water sits on the ground. It creates mirrors, and it comes from the German word for mirror.

SWAIN: What time in their life together did they move into the place?

CULBERTSON: They moved in to Spiegel Grove in 1873, when they inherited the home from Rutherford -- Rutherford's uncle, Sardis Birchard, who was his surrogate father, who was a lifelong bachelor, fortunately for Rutherford, and they improved the house twice. They added to it in 1880, when they came back after the presidency, and in 1889, the year that Lucy died.

SWAIN: And how many square feet is it today?

CULBERTSON: It was about 16,000 square feet. It's a huge house, 11 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms.

SWAIN: And how much of that's open to the public today?

CULBERTSON: The entire house is open to the public. We just spent over \$1.5 million bringing the first floor of the home back to what it looked like during their time using vintage photographs and recreating a lot of the carpets and wallpapers and furnishings.

SWAIN: And you're looking at some of the results of that work right now on your screen. We're going to return to Spiegel Grove and learn more. You've been hearing allusions to Lucy Hayes' choice of this china for the White House. We're going to show it to you next. You decide, do you like it? Let's take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WEININGER: Here at the Hayes Presidential Center, we are very lucky to have a number of items that belonged to Rutherford and Lucy Hayes when they were at the White House. One of our more controversial collections is the White House china. And it's controversial -- it was controversial at the time, it remains controversial to this day -- because of the pattern of the china.

Lucy was an outdoorsy person. She loved nature. And when it was time for her to choose what the White House official china pattern was going to be, she wanted to do something with ferns. Theodore Davis had been chosen as the artist that was going to work with Lucy to create the china, and they met out in the conservatory at the White House and were going through, looking at ferns, trying to decide what would make a good pattern, and as the two of them talked, Davis suggested creating scenes that would highlight the flora and fauna of the United States. And Lucy thought that was wonderful. So that's what they did.

You can see some of the patterns are quite beautiful, but some of them are a little more interesting. We have lobsters. We have bleeding fish. We have ducks. People at the time did not feel like this was appropriate formal china. Even some of the journalists of the day wrote scathing articles about this china. One journalist said that the art was absurd. Another article was written that said, who's going to want to be eating this lovely meal and start to finish up their meat and see a duck or a giant frog at the bottom of their plate?

People at the time did -- just thought that this was not appropriate china to have at a presidential dinner, but Lucy felt like this was a way to educate visiting dignitaries from foreign countries who maybe weren't familiar with the flora and fauna of the United States, that this would be a way to show them what nature in the United States was like.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SWAIN: And from -- well, what do you think of the china?

CULBERTSON: Well, I actually like the china. And they made many other copies of each of the items for sale to the general public, because Limoges -- or the Haviland & Company in Limoges,

France, said they were losing their shirt on the whole project and wanted to make some revenue, so they produced -- and that's what you see sitting on the sideboard there.

SWAIN: And how scathing were the press reviews?

BLACK: Scathing. I mean, you could see that -- I think the most polite language was absurd. I mean, I saw some stuff that said grotesque, so -- undignified. So the press really thought it was just unfitting for the White House.

SWAIN: And did she continue to use it, despite the criticism?

BLACK: Yes.

CULBERTSON: Well, it wasn't delivered until just months before they left the White House, so Jacqueline Kennedy used the soup plates for cigarette ashes and so did Richard Nixon. But Gerald Ford apparently loved the set and would use it to serve congressional breakfasts.

SWAIN: So we want to spend a little bit of time talking about the Hayes family and their life in the White House, but before we get to the White House life, let's talk a little bit about how they got together in the first place and also that important formative years -- you've mentioned it, Allida Black, of the Civil War. How did the Hayeses meet?

CULBERTSON: Well, the Hayeses first met when Lucy was only 15 and Rutherford was 24. They met at the Sulfur Springs at the Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. At that point, President Hayes' mother knew about Lucy and thought that they would be a good match, and Rutherford rightly thought that she was a bit too young at that point. So in 1850, when Rutherford moved to Cincinnati to start his law practice down there, he met Lucy again when she was about to graduate from the Wesleyan Female College, and that's when they struck up their relationship. And about a year-and-a-half later, they were married in Cincinnati.

SWAIN: Now, he was 40 years old at the time that the Civil War broke out, and he could have sat out the Civil War. Was that...

BLACK: Absolutely.

SWAIN: So why -- what was the decision by the family for him to volunteer?

BLACK: Well, he immediately wanted to volunteer and signed up for a three-year stint, and she was very supportive of him. I mean, it was never really a serious discussion about him not going. So it was always a question of going to preserve the union, and also because Lucy had such strong abolition feelings -- I mean, she was additionally supportive of the union.

SWAIN: So Hayes was -- what was his history in the Civil War? How was he seen as a leader?

CULBERTSON: Well, Hayes was fortunate that he spent most of the Civil War in West Virginia trying to keep the Confederates from moving from theater to theater. Whenever he did get out of there, he was wounded five times, once badly, almost lost his left arm. He was a -- William McKinley was also in the same unit, wrote later that he turned into a tiger when he was on the battlefield, that he went from being this mild-mannered attorney to being a warrior.

SWAIN: And his exploits had to become known, because his political career was launched while he was still in service.

CULBERTSON: Right. He was nominated to run for Congress from his district in Cincinnati. And he famously said that he would not campaign. He said a man who was fit for battle who would leave his post should be scalped, and that was used on campaign posters then when he ran for president in 1876.

SWAIN: There is one very dramatic story that I'd like to have either of you to tell, which is, of his wounding, Lucy was back in Ohio and he telegraphs for her, "I'm wounded. Come to me." What happened?

CULBERTSON: Well, it was pretty much a comedy of errors. A soldier was given money to go send telegrams to his wife, to his brother-in-law, and to his uncle. He turned out to only have money enough for two telegrams, and he sent them to the men, and not to his wife. So she found out about it with the second telegram that said, "I won't lose my arm."

So they had arranged in advance to meet at the Kirkwood House here in Washington, D.C., in case of wounding. She hopped on a train with her brother-in-law, came to Washington, D.C., went to the Patent Office, and all kinds of places to try to find her husband. She ran into some men from the 23rd Ohio who said, oh, he's back out in Middletown, Maryland, at the scene of the Battle of South Mountain, and she went, and her brother, Joe, who had fixed his arm, came to pick them up, took them to see Rutherford, and she spent two weeks with him. And that's -- that painting that you saw earlier in the segment was depicting her ministry to the troops there at the battlefield.

BLACK: And one of the -- one of the interesting stories about her train ride out there is the train is so crowded, she's got to stand up all the way. And when she finally sits down, she's sitting next to this woman who's just distraught and turns to her and says that she's trying to see her husband who's in the hospital before her husband dies because he's lost both his legs. And she's just praying that she can get there to see him before he dies. So just imagine what she's feeling.

SWAIN: We're going to return to Spiegel Grove in just a second, but, first, Katherine in Rockville, Maryland, you're on the air.

KATHERINE (ph): Yeah, hi. I was wondering what Lucy's religion was and how religious was she?

SWAIN: Thanks very much. An important question, because it colored a lot of the way they lived in the White House.

CULBERTSON: Right. Lucy was a very devout Methodist. Her grandfather, who serves as her father, because her own father had died when she was 2 years old, was a devout Methodist, and that's where her temperance leanings came from, as well as her abolition sentiments, too, so a very devout Methodist.

SWAIN: In this video from Spiegel Grove, the Hayes family home, we learn more about Lucy Hayes as a wife and mother. Let's watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WEININGER: Lucy was very dedicated to her family. Her children were extremely important to her. She and her husband had eight children. Five of them lived to adulthood. And we know from diaries and letters that this was kind of their gathering space. So not only is this their bedroom, but this is where they spent a lot of family time together.

This room is also very important to Lucy as a mother because this is where her eighth child was born, right here in this bed, Manning Force Hayes. He was the only one of the eight Hayes children to be born here at Spiegel Grove. Tragically, he was never a very healthy child, and when he was about 18

months old, he actually contracted dysentery, and so he passed away, which was something that was very hard on the family.

And this is Lucy's sewing machine, and this is what she took with her when she was encamped with her husband, Rutherford, during the Civil War. He was an officer in the Civil War, and it was very important to her that she be with him as often as was practical. So when he was in winter camp and that kind of thing, when he wasn't actually out on campaign, when he was in western Virginia, she would travel with him. And she wrote in diaries and letters how important it was for her to be with him. She often wrote that she was very concerned about the welfare of the men that were in his regiment. So she took this with her, and she would actually do some sewing. She would mend some uniforms.

Lucy was a very good seamstress. Not only did she repair soldiers' uniforms, but actually when she was married in 1852, she made her own wedding dress, a very beautiful, very elegant dress, so this is something that would have been very important to her.

One of the things that's kind of interesting that we know occurred in this space, this is where they had family Christmases, and they would write about these in the diary entries. They would have breakfast, and then they would come in here, and they would open the presents. The whole family would gather in here. They have very simple presents, not a lot of presents. But this is the space where they would do that, so a lot of traditions, a lot of important family traditions happened in here, as well as kind of day-to-day activities with the family.

This is a watercolor painting of the president and Lucy's bedroom at the White House. And you can see there's some very vibrant blue colors in here. Here in their bedroom at Spiegel Grove, that same color scheme is reflected in here, so we know that Lucy liked the color blue. We know that, as evidenced by this painting here, and also when we were reupholstering some of the furniture in here to try and take it back to the original, what it had originally looked like, we found color swatches or swatches of the original fabric embedded within these pieces of furniture.

So this is the bedroom of Rutherford and Lucy's only daughter. Her name was Fannie. She was named after the president's much beloved sister. This is a painting of Fannie with her father. She was one of -- the only daughter. She was the president and Lucy's only daughter. And you can imagine a little girl growing up in a house like this, with a lot of brothers. Even though her parents claim that she was not the favorite, she had this furniture especially made for her. She had one of the bigger bedrooms. So she certainly was the darling to her mother and her father.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SWAIN: And from that, I want to call up on screen a picture that we found, a photograph we found that's a very compelling image of Lucy Hayes. Let's show it to you right now. Where was this picture taken, Tom Culbertson?

CULBERTSON: The picture was taken in the conservatory of the White House. And it shows Lucy with her daughter, Fannie, her son, Scott, and the daughter of the Theodore R. Davis, who was the man who designed the White House china.

Lucy loved the 12 conservatories that are in the White House or were in the White House. Every morning, she would make the rounds in there. She would send flowers off to the various hospitals in Washington, D.C. She was a very compassionate person, in fact, one of the -- or a number of the flowers she sent were to Peggy Eaton, that -- Eaton that we've heard about on previous occasions, that when she died, Lucy sent flowers off to her funeral.

SWAIN: From the Petticoat affair in the Jackson administration.

CULBERTSON: Yep, uh-huh.

SWAIN: Bob is watching us in Baltimore, Maryland. Hi, Bob. Your question?

BOB (ph): Hi, I'm enjoying the program as always. My question involves from what I understand was a key intellectual purpose to both Mrs. Hayes and her husband, and that was specifically the collection of books. She not only enjoyed reading books, but also collecting them, which leads me to my question. Did she have any particular type of book or genre that she preferred?

SWAIN: Tom?

CULBERTSON: The Hayeses collected over 12,000 books, all of which are at the Rutherford Hayes Library in Fremont, Ohio. And she preferred light fiction. She liked Harriet Beecher Stowe, not necessarily "Uncle Tom's Cabin." She liked to read to the children. Rutherford's taste went more to Shakespeare and the heavier drama, but William Dean Howells was a relative by marriage, so they would sit around and read to each other from the latest Howells book or Dickens.

SWAIN: While we're talking about life in the White House, an interesting juxtaposition about the Hayeses' interests. They were interested in the White House as a building. They were antiquarians who preserved and even found some of their predecessors' furniture, but they were also interested in technology.

BLACK: Yes.

SWAIN: So they brought the typewriter. They put plumbing in the White House. What else did they do to the building?

BLACK: Well, I'm not really sure. Tom, do you know that?

CULBERTSON: Well, they expanded the conservatories for one thing. But one problem they had was that Congress would not appropriate money to fix it up. The carpets had holes in them, so she strategically placed the furniture. She had the curtains reversed so that the worn bottoms were put up toward the top. She went up in the attics and found pieces of furniture. Got a few things reupholstered, even went out and bought some pieces.

So once they finally did get money, she put first in the new carpets in the East Room and reupholstered pieces and added one more conservatory.

SWAIN: Well, that is preserving the White House history and as it is. The technology is fascinating to me. Alexander Graham Bell comes and brings the telephone. They install telephones in the White House.

CULBERTSON: They had the first telephone in Washington, D.C., but it only went to the Treasury Department building. She was so thrilled by it that she had a group of singers in and had them sing loudly into the phone, and one -- one base singer hit a particular note, he exploded a piece within the receiver of the phone.

The other thing was, Thomas Edison also visited the White House. He arrived at 11 o'clock at night, because Congress had kept him there too long demonstrating the machine. So Rutherford was so impressed by it that he got the ladies up at midnight, took them an hour to get dressed again, and they stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning playing with the new recording device.

SWAIN: Right now in Washington, the Washington Monument is being reconstructed after the earthquake that we experienced here not so long ago, but Roger Horn reminds us that Lucy Hayes was responsible for overseeing the completion of the Washington Monument. Can you tell us the story of that?

CULBERTSON: Well, it was completed in 1885, but the money had been appropriated during the Grant administration to revive it, but they didn't get around to doing it until the Hayes administration. Thomas Casey, who was in charge of public buildings in Washington, D.C., was a very good friend of the Hayeses. And he was the one who oversaw it, and Lucy spent a lot of time with him, because he was also the man in charge of the White House china. So she was -- she liked to take people on tours of the place.

We have a famous owl, a stuffed owl at Spiegel Grove that got caught up in the plumb-bob within the Washington Monument. When the owl caused it to shake, people thought maybe there was an earthquake, and fortunately, at that point, it was only the owl. And so we have it stuffed and on display at the museum in Fremont.

SWAIN: We've told you that the Hayeses' marriage was really a love match and quite a partnership. While they were in the White House, they marked the 25th anniversary of their wedding, and they did so with a public ceremony. Now, all of us are going to be a little envious of this, because she actually wore her wedding dress after giving birth to eight children. That's pretty impressive.

Now, here's a question from PresidentialPonderings on Twitter. Lucy and Rutherford renewed their wedding vows at the White House. Was this genuine or a political move?

CULBERTSON: No, it was genuine. The Hayeses seldom did anything for public effect. The dress, however, did have to be let out quite a bit, so -- but it was the dress. She didn't wear it for very long.

SWAIN: Oh, so I shouldn't be quite so impressed as I was?

CULBERTSON: Right, yeah.

SWAIN: Okay. Here's another quote, to give us a sense of her thinking. This is from her -- and she writes, "I am not in an exultant mood this morning, owing probably to my reflection on the character of the ladies of the White House and feeling that the last occupant does not come up to the intellectual standards of her predecessors, a sad reflection but nevertheless true."

So what was Lucy Hayes' view of other first ladies? Do we know?

BLACK: Well, Tom will know that better than I do, really.

CULBERTSON: Well, I think that shows her humility and her feelings of inadequacy more than anything. And she thought that a lot of the first ladies that went before her were quite spectacular people and that I think she's being a little hard on herself here, though.

SWAIN: Well, a question for you from your scholarship. Then looking across the ladies of this era, how does she compare in her approach to the job?

BLACK: Well, I think she made it her own with much more -- with much less tension than the other women who came before her. I mean, Mary Todd Lincoln clearly wanted to be first lady and came in at a -- you know, probably the most trying time in our nation's history. And Lucy's coming in at the tail end of that. And when, you know, Mary Todd is trying to deal with the immediate horrors of war and trying to make the White House the nation's symbol, you know, she -- she gets press criticism for

a very different way, you know, for trying to spend the nation's money in a way when it really should be going toward fighting the war and caring for the wounded.

What Lucy gives us is a graceful transition to the end of Reconstruction. I mean, the country really understands her strong abolition feeling. They also see how graceful she is in receiving Democrats into the White House. And so I think she helps smooth the tensions that Julia Grant brought in, you know, with allegations of -- you know, when her husband was under fire, and so I think, you know, Lucy really makes it her own space in a way that's easier, if that makes sense.

What do you think, Tom?

CULBERTSON: Yeah, and I think that she tried to get rid of a lot of the formality...

BLACK: Absolutely.

CULBERTSON: ... and to invite people to come in off the street who maybe would have not felt like they could come in during previous administrations.

BLACK: I mean, she really did try to make it the people's house.

SWAIN: On that note, Sheldon Cooper asks, "It seems like the last four or five first ladies that we've learned about found the White House in great disrepair, always asking for appropriations from Congress or spending their own money. Did things just wear out more quickly back then?" he asked.

CULBERTSON: Well, yes. People also stole things that -- they claimed that there was a gentleman who would go around after each of the public receptions with a bucketful of pieces of chandeliers to replace the prisms when they were stolen.

SWAIN: They cut tassels off of curtains.

CULBERTSON: Yes, and took pieces of carpet and all sorts of things. Americans were known for taking things.

SWAIN: Try that today, huh?

CULBERTSON: Yeah.

SWAIN: Find yourself arrested, I think, for trying something like that.

BLACK: And also, things get dirty. They wear out, you know?

SWAIN: Because a lot -- people were constantly coming through.

BLACK: There's traffic all the way through it. You know, you can get clean, but you can't get perfectly spotless.

CULBERTSON: Well, the streets of Washington, D.C., were mud at that point.

BLACK: They were -- they were filthy.

CULBERTSON: And if you get 3,000 people coming in to a public reception on an afternoon, you'd track a lot of mud in.

SWAIN: By the way, we have a terrific website. We've been working with the White House Historical Association on this entire series, and with their help, we've created a great website for this. You can find it at cspan.org. There's a first ladies link, easily accessible. All of the progress we've done so far are there, and every week we have a special feature about each first lady. This one is a video of the 25th anniversary of the Hayeses' -- which we just heard, that they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. And you'll see the cameo that was created for that event. So find our website and you'll learn more about the history of the first ladies.

Well, we're going to return. We've been talking a bit about her approach to her job, her image and the like. We're going to return to Spiegel Grove Museum and learn more about her White House dresses.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WEININGER: Style and image was a very important part of being first lady. And whether they liked it or not, people were discussing the way first ladies dressed and what they wore.

Here we have a number of Lucy's gowns that she wore, this ruby-colored velvet gown is what she wore for her official White House portrait. This gown is called Ashes of Roses, and she actually wore this for her eldest son, Birchard's, wedding. This is another gown that she wore to a wedding. This was the wedding of her niece, which actually took place in the White House.

Lucy actually had kind of her own style. Journalists at the time, when she came to Washington, said, oh, she'll change her hair and she'll kind of upgrade her dress and her appearance. Well, she took a fashion from Fremont to the White House that she was very comfortable with.

That's not to say she wasn't an elegant dresser. She was. This blue velvet gown is a perfect example of that. It's a lovely gown, has lots of fine details to it, but it's not ostentatious. It is a little conservative.

This gown here is what she wore to a New Years reception, which took place at the White House. And this gown is the one that probably has the most sentimental value to Lucy. She sewed it herself. It's her own wedding gown that she wore for her marriage to Rutherford.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SWAIN: Allida Black, Lenore Little on Facebook has -- I have a question about Lucy's personal style. Was her hair parted in the middle the style of the day? I see her wearing this hairdo throughout her life. Did her part widen over time? Did she have a servant who helped with her coiffeur? Her pictures show her to be a very lovely first lady with beautiful gowns. Thank you for answering this.

Now, we've already met first ladies who understood the power of influence of fashion. Was Lucy Hayes one of those?

BLACK: Well, she certainly didn't change her hairstyle when she was there. I mean, it was -- it was what she wore her entire life. I think that she was very comfortable with who she was. She certainly understood how to carry herself well. I think her clothes reflected not the daringness of the time, but the dignity of her position, not -- in a way that made her seem colorful and vibrant without being provocative.

SWAIN: What do you think, Tom?

CULBERTSON: Well, she saw herself as a mother of eight...

BLACK: Absolutely.

CULBERTSON: ... who should not be an exhibitionist and that the tone was fairly conservative and something wholesome.

SWAIN: Caitlin is watching us in Springfield, Missouri. Caitlin's on.

CAITLIN (ph): Hi.

SWAIN: Good evening. Question?

CAITLIN (ph): Yeah. How did Lucy cope with losing several children at such a young age?

SWAIN: Thanks very much.

CULBERTSON: Well, losing children was sort of a normal type of thing back then. The saddest story was the loss of the first of their children. Lucy and the children had gone to visit Rutherford in the field of battle in West Virginia, and within a couple of days, their son died. They gave his body to a soldier to take back to Cincinnati for burial and the rest of the family remained in camp.

Rutherford wrote that he never really became attached to the child, but it was really hard on Lucy. But she did grieve, but she didn't have a whole lot of time to grieve, because she had to take care of the other children and move on.

SWAIN: Next is a call from Bill, who's in Fostoria, Ohio. Hi, Bill.

BILL (ph): Hi, hi. Thanks for taking my call. I've been to Spiegel Grove many, many times. How many descendants does President Hayes have living right now? I got to meet a lot of them several years ago when they were at a gathering in Spiegel Grove. Thank you.

SWAIN: Thanks so much. He wasn't listening earlier, I think, when...

CULBERTSON: Well, we have more than 100 in our database, so...

SWAIN: Are any of them in politics?

CULBERTSON: There aren't any at the national level. There is a mayor in California, Republican and a woman.

SWAIN: And we've been looking at quotes from Lucy, but let's show you a quote from Rutherford Hayes, the president, about Lucy, who said of her, "I don't know how much influence Mrs. Hayes has with Congress, but she has great influence with me." What was her approach like? Some of the first ladies actually would sit in the congressional gallery, listen to the debates, would try specifically to address individual members of Congress that could help advance the president's plan. Was she one of these first ladies?

CULBERTSON: No, Lucy stayed out of politics. In fact, Rutherford put out a statement that no one from his immediate family would have a position or paid position in the government to try to keep her family members, mainly, from applying for jobs. And at different times, Lucy would write to her son, Webb, who was sort of a confidential secretary to his father, saying, could you try to influence your father on appointments? So Lucy felt that she was getting no place with Rutherford.

SWAIN: But he did, in fact, if not appointing relatives, was a president who appointed African-Americans to posts. Can you tell us about that?

CULBERTSON: Rutherford Hayes did appoint Frederick Douglass as the marshal of the city of Washington, D.C. He was very aware that it was a symbolic gesture on his part. He also had African-Americans appointed to a number of positions in the South, mainly. The Hayeses were also the first to have a black opera singer perform for them in the White House, Madame Celeste, and had some other black performers on their Saturday performances in the White House.

SWAIN: Many people are interested in her causes. We talked about the fact that she helped with the -- the funds to build -- finish the Washington Monument. You mentioned earlier her interest in the orphans of the Civil War. What other causes was she involved in?

BLACK: Well, she was very interested in mental health, as well, I mean, in terms of the sanitation and the treatment that we today would consider to be shell-shocked soldiers have. She would care a lot about veterans' pensions when they -- you know, when they got their pensions especially, if they were disabled and -- I mean, there are wonderful records of when she would care for people who were -- this is before she was really a first lady, but when she would still be in Ohio and there would be wounded soldiers who hadn't been paid, and she would really help set up a system to expedite the on-time delivery of their paychecks. So she was interested in orphans, in veterans' affairs, in the education of the deaf, and in mental health.

SWAIN: And also she was very involved with the indigent population in Washington, D.C.?

CULBERTSON: Yes, and she did that without making a big fanfare about it. She would give money to some of the employees of the White House to go out and give it to the poor. But another one of her causes was the education of Indians and of blacks. She went down to Virginia to the Hampton Institute and saw blacks and Indians being educated there. She paid for a scholarship for a woman who would be the wife of -- not Frederick Douglass -- oh, I'm having a mind thing here. But -- and then the Carlisle Indian School was founded during the Hayes administration, and she had a bit to do with the -- with that.

SWAIN: Rutherford Hayes, as we learned, was -- announced from the beginning he was going to be a one-term president. It was constant tussles with Congress during his time in Congress. Here are just some of the key events during his administration.

As Allida Black told us, very importantly, the end of Reconstruction. In 1878, the Bland-Allison Act, which calls for the resumption of silver coinage. Hayes vetoed it, and Congress passed the measure over his veto. In 1879, he vetoed the Army appropriation bills. After three versions, Hayes finally accepted it, and a rider is attached to the original bill that would repeal the Force Acts. And finally, in 1880, a U.S.-China treaty granting trading privilege restricting immigration and banning the opium trade.

How does history view the Hayes administration?

CULBERTSON: Well, I think that what Hayes managed to do was to at least not have the scandals that you had during the Grant administration. He managed to retrieve some of the powers to the presidency that had been lost during the Johnson and the Grant administrations. He appointed his own cabinet. He made a number of other controversial appointments without Congress's blessing.

He was -- he brought the country together -- when they did their traveling throughout the country, the Hayeses wanted to include the South and the West and New England. At the time, he felt that the nomination of James Garfield and Garfield's election was a sign that he could have been elected had he chosen to run for a second term in office, so he felt that the corner had been turned and the Republican Party was now swinging back.

SWAIN: He was the -- they were the most traveled president to date. Is that right? The first couple?

CULBERTSON: The Hayeses traveled thousands of miles, almost always together. They were the first to go to the West Coast during their term in office.

SWAIN: And was there extensive press coverage of their travels?

BLACK: Yes, there was. But can I just go back to, to just say two other things about...

SWAIN: Sure.

BLACK: ... about the Hayes administration that viewers might be interested in, especially those that follow the machinations of the Senate? I mean, one of the things that Hayes was really very successful in doing was limiting the number of riders that could be attached to legislation to change the intent of legislation. And the second thing that he did was really begin in an incremental way to really put in a civil service system, to really appoint -- where you assessed people's qualifications before you gave them the job.

SWAIN: We've talked around the periphery. PresidentialPonderings, they write on Twitter, "With their support of black people post-slavery, the Hayeses seemed like progressive diversity advocates of their era." Well, if you agree with that or not, but could you give us a sense of what was happening to black Americans in the country in these years, as Reconstruction winds to an end?

BLACK: Yeah, absolutely. Well, I think that -- the Hayeses really were progressives, but they were - - they were ineffectual in really helping the South adhere to the law. And I say this as someone who was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. I mean, Hayes pulled the last troops out after securing verbal commitments and written commitments from the Southern states that they would adhere to the civil rights that the 14th and the 15th Amendments guaranteed African-Americans.

And when Hayes pulls those troops out, the South -- equality in the South implodes. You have racial violence escalating. The Ku Klux Klan skyrockets. You have the introductions of the Mississippi codes, which really begin in 1877 and are crystallized in 1901, that really deprive blacks of being able to own property, restricts voting rights, for example, in Mississippi.

And I think it's in 1871, 96 percent of African-American men can vote in the state of Mississippi. When Hayes ends reconstruction 10 years later, less than 0.5 percent of African-American men can vote because of the violence and the intimidation, the grandfather clause, the poll tax, and the literacy test. So it's really two separate nations where African-Americans emboldened by Frederick Douglass in the North begin to really organize and begin to secure their rights, while the South really has theirs stripped away.

SWAIN: Mike is watching us in Honolulu. You're on. Hey, Mike. My fault, I pushed the button. There you are, Mike. Go ahead.

MIKE (ph): Can you hear me?

SWAIN: Yes, I can, thanks.

MIKE (ph): It's 4.10 here, Hawaii Standard Time. And I am a direct relative to my grandmother, of course. Her name is Jessie Hayes. And she was born about 1870 in the lower Midwest, and probably by blood, long removed. But I looked at this beautiful Lucy, sitting erect in the chair, looking at the camera with big eyes and her beautiful children looking at the camera. I was so impressed. And, obviously, President Hayes really, really scored when this woman married him. And she's an educated woman. Of course, at the time, I presume it's kind of controversial having a first lady with a

degree, let alone an abolitionist and let alone a quiet woman who loved her children and especially -- especially loved her husband, whether he was president or mayor or whatever.

SWAIN: Thank you, Mike. A nice summary of Lucy Hayes for us, all the way from Honolulu today. They said they were going to stay one term, but by the time it was time to leave, how did the Hayeses feel about leaving the White House?

CULBERTSON: Well, they were relieved to be leaving, but they also said it was the best time of their lives to that point. But they felt like they didn't want to wear out their welcome. They had managed to do some of the things that they wanted to do, but they were happy to hand it off to the Garfields and let them sit in the hot seat for a while.

SWAIN: We're going to return to Spiegel Grove for another video, and this is about the post-White House years.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WEININGER: These are a few of the tokens that the Hayeses received in appreciation for their stance on temperance. Lucy was known for not serving alcohol in the White House, and some of the temperance groups that existed in the United States at that time really admired her for taking that kind of stand. And so as she and Rutherford were leaving the White House, there was a group of women, the Woman's Christian Working Association of -- belonged to a Presbyterian church in Ottawa, Illinois. They wanted to give her a gift, to thank her for making that kind of a stand.

And so what they did is they sent a number of pages out among notable people in Illinois and asked them to sign this paper for Mrs. Hayes. And when all the papers were returned, they bound them into these beautiful volumes that we have here. There are actually six of these.

We have a couple of very interesting signatures in here. One is from Sarah Polk, and she signed it "Mrs. James Polk of Polk Place, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee."

And then we also have another autograph that is kind of interesting, and it was written by Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain. And what he wrote is that, "Total abstinence is so excellent a thing that it cannot be carried to too great an extreme. In my passion for it, I even carry it so far as to totally abstain from total abstinence itself." Now, that does sound like something Mark Twain would say.

In addition to these beautifully bound autograph books, the women's group also had these lovely portieres made for Lucy. They're exquisitely and intricately embroidered. They're very large. Basically, portieres were door curtains, and they hung right here in the house in this doorway, and they divided this room, the library parlor, from the president's study.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SWAIN: Tom Culbertson, what were their post-White House years like?

CULBERTSON: Well, they weren't as long as they really wanted them to be, but they really enjoyed having their family back together. They only had one child married at this point, so they still had two teenagers at home with them, one son off at college and the other was working in Cleveland. They hoped to have grandchildren coming in at any point. They entertained people.

But the Hayeses kept going with their causes. Rutherford Hayes was a trustee of the Ohio State University. Lucy was involved with the Women's Home Missionary Society, the only organization that she ever took a leadership role with. And...

SWAIN: What did she do for them?

CULBERTSON: She was the president of the organization. She would go kicking and screaming to the annual meeting and make a short address each year. It was the -- what the Women's Home Missionary Society was supposed to do was improve the home life for the poor, educate women on how to raise a family, basically, particularly blacks, Indians, poor people of the South. There were 44,000 members of the organization with 42 missions throughout the United States.

SWAIN: But she did come into criticism for comments that she made during these years. What were they?

CULBERTSON: She made a comment that there were more immigrants coming in from the heathen nations -- as she put it -- the Eastern European countries, and she thought in those countries that they did not respect women and that the chore of trying to assimilate them into the United States would be tougher, but they would attempt to do so, so she got quite a bit of criticism over that particular speech in 1887.

SWAIN: So it shows us that the press's continued interest in first couples, even after they leave the White House, is this a new phenomenon?

BLACK: No. I mean, there were -- I mean, the press certainly hounded Mary Todd, for example, you know, sent all these salacious rumors about Ouija boards and, you know, insane tantrums and hallucinations and institutions. I think that the Hayeses showed -- you know, brought America back in a way after the war. I mean, they're relatively scandal-free when they leave the White House. Their devotion to each other is palpable. You know, they don't change when they're there; they don't change when they leave. And so the country continues to be interested in them and grateful, I think.

CULBERTSON: Yes.

SWAIN: Why was she giving speeches about immigration? What was happening to the country in terms of immigration?

BLACK: Well, Europe is imploding in economic crises and early -- well, the second wave of revolutions. And so you have new immigrants who are coming into the United States, who are no longer English-speaking and Irish Catholic. You know, they're disproportionately from Central Europe or Russian Jews, and so -- and from southern Italy.

So you have people of different races, different education levels, different religions, and different skills that scare Americans. And, you know, it's a fear that Teddy Roosevelt will very much express when he assumes the presidency.

SWAIN: Next is Jennifer watching us in Granger, Indiana. Hi, Jennifer.

JENNIFER (ph): Hi, I enjoyed this series so very much. I did just catch that -- I heard the one son was college-educated. Were all the children college-educated? And what did they end up doing with their lives, the other ones I did not hear about? Thank you.

SWAIN: Thank you.

CULBERTSON: Well, all four of the boys were college -- went to college. They weren't all graduates. Their daughter Fannie did not go to college, which is rather strange, considering the background of the parents. Their oldest son, Birchard, was an attorney in Toledo. Their second son,

Webb, was a founder of Union Carbide and became quite wealthy. He's the gentleman who started the Rutherford Hayes Presidential Center, which opened in 1916.

Their third son, Rutherford, became a real estate developer in North Carolina and in Florida. And their fourth son, Scott, worked for General Electric out of -- first, Cincinnati, and then out of Schenectady, New York.

SWAIN: Kathy Robinson wants to know, did the Hayeses build additions to Spiegel Grove after returning from the White House? And I have another tweet, which I can't call up very quickly, but someone asked, did the Hayeses have any pets? And the answer is, boy, did they, huh?

CULBERTSON: Yes, they did. Well, they did add to the house. In 1880, they added three bedrooms, a large drawing room, and a library, and then in 1889, unfortunately, Lucy never saw the back addition to the home, which had four more bedrooms and a large dining room.

They had pets. They had -- in the White House, they had a mockingbird, a goat, couple of dogs. They had the first Siamese cat in the United States. It was given to them by the ambassador from Siam, as they called it at that point, and that was also the name of the cat. Unfortunately, it died while they were on a trip out west and was buried there at the White House.

We have many pictures of the Hayeses with their dogs, once they got to Spiegel Grove. She also had cows, pigeons, ducks. You name it, she had it.

SWAIN: Just to follow up on your comments about healing, Telhurth Purchase (ph) on Facebook, was she as concerned about veterans from the South as she was for veterans of the North?

BLACK: Yes, but in a different way. She wanted to make sure that -- she looked at that as a way to reconcile, not as a way to really instill mercy on Southerners. I mean, what she really wanted veterans to be -- were to be -- to have their wounds healed, their pensions on time, and that the country get over the war and advance the cause of Negro rights.

SWAIN: This is our final visit in this program to Spiegel Grove, and it talks about Lucy Hayes' final years there. Let's watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WEININGER: Lucy was such a nurturing person, and not only did she care about children and less fortunate members of society, but she also loved animals and loved being outside. So when she returned here from the White House, it wasn't very long before she had a whole menagerie of animals here at Spiegel Grove. She had goats, cows, chickens, cats, dogs. She loved to have dogs near her.

And she loved pigeons so much, interestingly enough, that she actually had holes drilled in to the risers between some of the steps here, so that the pigeons would have places to roost. In fact, some of the last pictures that we have of her before she passed away, she's out here in the yard, feeding the pigeons, wearing one of Rutherford's old beat-up hats.

And actually, she loved animals so much and she loved to go outside and do her chores that when people would come to visit her, she would take them right on out to the chicken coop with her to feed the chickens. So this was something that was very much a part of her and was very important to her.

When Rutherford and Lucy returned to Spiegel Grove from the White House, this space still was very important to them. It was kind of the nucleus of the household. This is where the family spent their informal time. But now they're a little older. They've got some grandchildren, which they love it when grandchildren visit them here at Spiegel Grove, and actually one of Lucy's favorite items that was in

this room is an advertisement that features a very happy, cherubic-looking baby, and it so reminded her of her eldest grandchild that she hung that picture in here right by her bed.

This is also the room where Lucy's story ends. She was sitting in one of the chairs here in this room. She was working on some needlepoint. She was watching her younger children play tennis outside the windows here. And she suffered a massive stroke, and she kind of slumped over in her chair. The family rushed in, carried her to the bed here, and this is where she passed away.

She was buried in a cemetery here in Fremont near Spiegel Grove. Eventually, her children had her and Rutherford reinterred here, and they are now buried right here on the grounds of Spiegel Grove.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SWAIN: Tom Culbertson, how old was she when she passed away?

CULBERTSON: Lucy was 57 when she died. She had her funeral there in Spiegel Grove. She was laid out in the front hallway, and thousands of people came through. One of the great stories of her funeral was as the procession went back behind the home and past the fenced-in area where the cows were assembled, they lined up like soldiers, they said, and gave her a salute as she left.

SWAIN: For her love of animals. I want to go back to that photograph that we just saw in the video of Lucy Hayes in her post-White House years with the pigeons.

CULBERTSON: Yes, they had those holes drilled in the steps right outside their bedroom, which must have been pretty annoying, or perhaps they got up early in the day, but she fed them daily and went out and milked the cows, gathered the eggs, churned the butter.

SWAIN: Did the president share her love of animals or did he tolerate Lucy's love of them?

CULBERTSON: Rutherford did not love as much, but he was an avid horseman, as was she.

SWAIN: And how long did he live after her death?

CULBERTSON: Rutherford lived three more years beyond her death, and...

SWAIN: And how did he spend that time?

CULBERTSON: He was still active with the Ohio State University, with prison reform, education of blacks and Indians. He attended lots of conferences. Did a little bit of traveling, finally got out of the United States, visited Bermuda, but other than that, only in the United States.

SWAIN: Did he stay active with the Republican Party?

CULBERTSON: He -- well, he stayed out of politics. He just felt that past presidents should really stay out of active politics, though he did rejoice when Republicans were elected and wasn't so pleased when Democrats got elected.

SWAIN: Damian is watching us in New York City. You're on, Damian.

DAMIAN (ph): First of all, this is a very fascinating show. I've never known so much about RB Hayes, and certainly his wife, Lucy. Thank you for this tremendous, tremendous show about both of them.

SWAIN: Thank you, sir.

DAMIAN (ph): I must say, you know, RB Hayes was a unique guy. I mean, the idea that he would only have one term is -- and swear to that was amazing. But most importantly, his wife was so influential, given her college credentials and the fact that, you know, during RB Hayes', you know, presidential incumbency, he was the first president to allow women to testify in front of the Supreme Court.

Do you believe that his wife had much to do with that? And do you believe that that helped craft his decision-making around policy? Thank you very much for the show. Thank you.

SWAIN: Allida Black?

BLACK: Sure. I don't think that had anything to do with women testifying before the court. What about you?

CULBERTSON: Well, President Hayes did sign the legislation that allowed women to practice before the Supreme Court, but it just so happened that the bill was placed in front of him and he couldn't figure out a way to not sign it.

BLACK: To go around it, yeah.

CULBERTSON: So -- yeah, I mean, that's pretty much it.

SWAIN: Anything more for that caller, though, on the influence, again, that she might have had on his thinking?

CULBERTSON: I don't think there was -- there was much. I mean, they -- they agreed on most things, but she knew better than to try to lobby him hard on anything.

BLACK: And I think if the influence occurred, it occurred much earlier when they were beginning -- when he was practicing law in Ohio. And she helped change his assessment of abolitionists who he thought were extremists.

SWAIN: Tony Pistilli wants to go all the way back to our first discussion about the Hayes-Tilden election. Don't you know if you know the answer to this, but he asks on Facebook, was there some kind of deal forged in the Senate because of the closeness of the Tilden-Hayes election, that the Senate and, most importantly, the Southern senators would approve of Hayes' election if he agreed to end Reconstruction?

BLACK: Yes. The deal was, is that Hayes would remove the last of the Southern troops -- I mean, the last of the Union troops in the South, which were in New Orleans and in Columbia, to really pull the last of the Army out of the South.

Hayes did do that, but he only did that after he extracted promises from both communities that they would, in fact, respect the 15th Amendment, which they, of course, did not.

SWAIN: Dan watching in San Diego, you're on.

DAN (ph): Yes, back to the Tilden election, quick question. How supportive, obviously, she was, but how much did the controversy over the election with him getting the nickname "Rutherfraud" really affect her as far as out in the public? Did she have any comments in public regarding that?

CULBERTSON: She made no comments in public. I'm sure she was disturbed by it, but she and Rutherford both felt that he would have been legitimately elected had blacks been able to vote in the numbers they had in the previous elections.

SWAIN: We are getting close to the end of the program. I want to show you Allida Black's work. She spent many years on this. This is produced by the White House Historical Association. It is a collection of biographies of all the first ladies. We are offering this at cost as a way for you to learn more about the biographies of the first ladies, so if you're interested, go to that website that I mentioned before and you can find out how to make it part of your personal book collection. How did you get interested in this subject?

BLACK: Well, I came into it through Eleanor Roosevelt. And then I started going backwards and forwards to figure out the extent to which women were involved in policy in their husband's administration. And then I was lucky enough to be asked by the White House Historical Association to redo the book, and it's been a labor of love since '96.

SWAIN: Well, as we look across first ladies, Caitlin Lauer asked the question that we want to end the program with, which is, was Lucy -- what was Lucy Hayes' lasting legacy as a first lady, Tom Culbertson?

CULBERTSON: Well, I think she showed that you could be an excellent mother and a supportive wife and also a gracious hostess and be inclusive, welcome in anybody regardless of your social strata into the White House. She didn't bend to the whims of society. She didn't change her look. She didn't change her style, showed that a woman can be a woman on her own.

SWAIN: Was she transformational or transitional?

BLACK: Hmm, transitional.

SWAIN: And what do you believe her lasting legacy should be?

BLACK: I think people need to understand the courage that it takes to hold that position, that she brought her own memories and her own love of country into this, as well as support and respect for her husband.

SWAIN: Our thanks to Allida Black and to Tom Culbertson, to the great folks at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, which you can visit if you are in northwestern Ohio. Fremont, Ohio, is where they're based. And to the folks at the White House Historical Association for their continuing help.

That is our look tonight at the life and times of Lucy Hayes.

END