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# Descendants of Millard Fillmore

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## Generation 1

1. **MILLARD<sup>1</sup> FILLMORE** was born on Jan 07, 1800 in Locke, Cayuga County, New York. He died on Mar 08, 1874 in Buffalo, New York. He married (1) **CAROLINE CARMICHAEL**, daughter of Charles Carmichael and Temperance Blachley on Feb 10, 1858 in Albany, New York. She was born on Oct 21, 1813 in Morristown, New Jersey. She died on Aug 11, 1881. He married (2) **ABIGAIL POWERS** in 1826. She was born on Mar 13, 1798 in Stillwater, New York. She died on Mar 30, 1853 in Washington, District of Columbia.

Notes for Millard Fillmore:

President Millard Fillmore (January 7, 1800 – March 8, 1874) is my fourth cousin, four times removed. The ancestors in common between President Fillmore and myself are Dorcas Bronson and her husband, Stephen Hopkins. They are the third great grandparents of President Fillmore, and they are my seventh great grandparents. President Fillmore also is the sixth cousin, three times removed to my wife, Suzanne Margaret Boggess. Their ancestors in common are George Hills and Mary Symonds, the fifth great grandparents of President Fillmore. They also are the eighth great grandparents to Suzanne

**Millard Fillmore** was the [13th President of the United States](#) (1850–53), the last to be a member of the [Whig Party](#) while in the [White House](#). A former U.S. Representative from New York, Fillmore was elected the nation's [12th Vice President](#) in 1848, and was elevated to the presidency by the death of [Zachary Taylor](#). He was instrumental in getting the [Compromise of 1850](#) passed, a bargain that led to a brief truce in the battle over [slavery](#). He failed to win the Whig nomination for president in 1852; he gained the endorsement of the [nativist Know Nothing Party](#) four years later, and finished third in [that election](#).

Fillmore was born into poverty in the [Finger Lakes](#) area of [New York state](#); his parents were tenant farmers during his formative years. He rose from poverty through study, and became a lawyer though he had little formal schooling. He became prominent in the [Buffalo](#) area as an attorney and politician, was elected to the [New York Assembly](#) in 1828, and to the [U.S. House of Representatives](#) in 1832. Initially, he belonged to the [Anti-Masonic Party](#), but became a Whig as the party formed in the mid-1830s; he was a rival for state party leadership with editor [Thurlow Weed](#) and Weed's protégé, [William H. Seward](#). Through his career, Fillmore declared slavery as an evil, but one beyond the powers of the federal government, whereas Seward was not only openly hostile to slavery, he argued that the federal government had a role to play in ending it. Fillmore was an unsuccessful candidate for [Speaker of the House](#) when the Whigs took control of the chamber in 1841, but was made [Ways and Means Committee](#) chairman. Defeated in bids for the Whig nomination for vice president in 1844, and for New York governor the same year, Fillmore was elected [Comptroller of New York](#) in 1847, the first to hold that post by direct election.

Fillmore received the Whig vice presidential nomination in 1848 as Taylor's running mate, and the two were elected. He was largely ignored by Taylor, including in the dispensing of patronage in New York, on which Taylor consulted Weed and Seward. As vice president, Fillmore presided over angry debates in the Senate as Congress decided whether to allow slavery in the [Mexican Cession](#). Fillmore supported [Henry Clay's](#) Omnibus Bill (the basis of the 1850 Compromise) though Taylor did not. After President Taylor died in July 1850, Fillmore dismissed the cabinet and changed the administration's policy. The new president exerted pressure to gain the passage of the Compromise, which gave legislative victories to both North and South, and which was enacted by September. The [Fugitive Slave Act](#), expediting the return of escaped slaves to those who claimed ownership, was a controversial part of the Compromise, and Fillmore felt himself duty-bound to enforce it, though it damaged his popularity and also the Whig Party, which was torn North from South. In foreign policy, Fillmore supported [U.S. Navy expeditions to open trade in Japan](#), opposed [French](#) designs on Hawaii, and was embarrassed by [Narciso López's](#) filibuster expeditions to Cuba. He sought election to a full term in 1852, but was passed over by the Whigs in

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favor of [Winfield Scott](#).

As the Whig Party broke up after Fillmore's presidency, many in Fillmore's conservative wing joined the Know Nothings, forming the American Party. In his 1856 candidacy as that party's nominee, Fillmore had little to say about immigration, instead focusing on the preservation of the Union, and won only Maryland. In his retirement, Fillmore was active in many civic endeavors. He helped to found the [University of Buffalo](#), serving as its first chancellor. During the [American Civil War](#), Fillmore denounced secession and agreed that the Union must be maintained by force if necessary, but was critical of the war policies of [Abraham Lincoln](#). After peace was restored, he supported the [Reconstruction](#) policies of President [Andrew Johnson](#). Obscure today, Fillmore has been praised by some for his foreign policy, but he is criticized by others for his enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act and for his association with the Know Nothings.

With his defeat in 1856, Fillmore deemed his political career at an end. He again felt inhibited from returning to the practice of law. But his financial worries were removed when on February 10, 1858, Fillmore married [Caroline McIntosh](#), a wealthy widow. Their combined wealth allowed them to purchase a large house on [Niagara Square](#) in Buffalo, where they lived for the remainder of Millard Fillmore's life. There, the Fillmores devoted themselves to entertaining and philanthropy, according to Smith, "they generously supported almost every conceivable cause". Among these was the [Buffalo Historical Society](#) and the [Buffalo General Hospital](#), which he helped found.

In the [election of 1860](#), Fillmore voted for Senator Douglas, the nominee of the northern Democrats. After the vote, in which the Republican candidate, former Illinois representative [Abraham Lincoln](#) was elected, many sought out Fillmore's views but he refused to take any part in the secession crisis that followed, feeling that he lacked influence. He decried Buchanan's inaction as states left the Union, writing that while the federal government could not coerce a state, those advocating secession should simply be regarded as traitors. When Lincoln came to Buffalo en route to his inauguration, Fillmore led the committee selected to receive the president-elect, hosted him at his mansion, and took him to church. Once war came, Fillmore supported Lincoln in his efforts to preserve the Union. He commanded the Union Continentals, a corps of [home guards](#) of males over the age of 45 from the upstate New York area. The Continentals trained to defend the Buffalo area in the event of a Confederate attack. They performed military drill and ceremonial functions at parades, funerals, and other events. The Union Continentals guarded Lincoln's funeral train in Buffalo. They continued operations after the war, and Fillmore remained active with them almost until his death.

Despite Fillmore's zeal in the war effort, he was attacked in many newspapers when he gave a speech in early 1864 calling for magnanimity towards the South at war's end, and counting the heavy cost, financial and in blood, of the war. The Lincoln administration saw this as an attack on it, that could not be tolerated in an election year, and Fillmore was called a [Copperhead](#) and even a traitor. This led to lasting ill-feeling against Fillmore in many circles. In the [1864 presidential election](#) Fillmore supported Democratic candidate [George B. McClellan](#) for the presidency, believing that the Democratic Party's plan for immediate cessation of fighting and allowing the seceded states to return with slavery intact was the best possibility for restoring the Union.

A pink obelisk marks Fillmore's grave at [Buffalo's Forest Lawn Cemetery](#). After [Lincoln's assassination](#) in April 1865, black ink was thrown on Fillmore's house as it was not draped in mourning like others, though he was apparently out of town at the time and put black drapes in the windows once he returned. Although he retained his position as Buffalo's leading citizen and was among those selected to escort the body when Lincoln's funeral train passed through Buffalo, there was still anger against him for his wartime

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positions. Fillmore supported President [Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction](#) policies, feeling that the nation needed to be reconciled as quickly as possible. Most of his time was devoted to his civic activities. He aided Buffalo in becoming the third American city, after Boston and Philadelphia, to have a permanent art gallery with the [Buffalo Fine Arts Academy](#).

Fillmore stayed in good health almost to the end, but suffered a stroke in February 1874, and died after a second one on March 8. Two days later, he was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo after a funeral procession of hundreds of notables; the U.S. Senate sent three of its members to honor its former president, including Lincoln's first vice president, Maine's [Hannibal Hamlin](#).

#### Notes for Caroline Carmichael:

Caroline Carmichael McIntosh required former President Millard Fillmore to sign a prenuptial agreement. The couple purchased a mansion on Niagara Square in [Buffalo](#), where they settled. They are believed to have had a happy marriage (Caroline greatly enjoyed her newfound status as the wife of a former President), though in the 1860s her mental and physical health began to decline.

Her husband's sudden death in 1874 (he had enjoyed relatively good health—especially when compared to hers—until just shortly before his fatal stroke) only succeeded in making her more infirm, eccentric, and temperamental. In her final years she frequently changed her will, and upon her death on August 11, 1881, aged 67, suits were initiated by various members of the Fillmore family contesting her directives.

Her final resting place is a Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York.

#### Millard Fillmore and Abigail Powers had the following children:

- i. MILLARD POWERS<sup>2</sup> FILLMORE was born on Apr 25, 1829 in Aurora, New York. He died on Nov 15, 1880 in Buffalo, New York.

#### Notes for Millard Powers Fillmore:

Millard Powers Fillmore, known familiarly as "Powers", was born on April 25, 1828 in [Aurora, New York](#) to [Millard Fillmore](#) (1800–1874) and his first wife, [Abigail Powers](#) (1798–1853). In 1828, the year he was born, his father was elected to the [New York State Assembly](#) as a member of the [Anti-Mason](#) party. His maternal grandparents were Reverend Lemuel Powers, a [Baptist](#) minister, and Abigail Newland-Powers. His paternal grandparents were Phoebe (Millard) and [Nathaniel Fillmore](#), a farmer.

He studied law in his father's office and graduated from [Harvard Law School](#) in 1849. He served as his father's [private secretary](#) during the latter's presidency. After practicing law in [Buffalo, New York](#) as the partner of [E. Carleton Sprague](#), he was appointed a federal court clerk.

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After the death of his mother, in 1853, his father married [Caroline Carmichael McIntosh](#); a union which Millard Powers Fillmore reportedly never accepted. Following his father's death he engaged in a bitter battle with his stepmother over the terms of his father's will, which young Millard won.

Powers Fillmore never married and did not have any children. As such, he was the last surviving descendant of his father. He died of [apoplexy](#) in Buffalo on November 15, 1889. His will directed that all his family correspondence (including that with his father) be burned, the motive for which was the subject of much speculation.

- ii. MARY ABIGAIL FILLMORE was born on Mar 27, 1832 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. She died on Jul 26, 1854 in East Aukrora, New York.

Notes for Mary Abigail Fillmore:

**Mary Abigail "Abbie" Powers Fillmore** (March 27, 1832, [Buffalo, New York](#) – July 26, 1854, [East Aurora, New York](#)) was the daughter of President [Millard Fillmore](#) and [Abigail Powers](#). During her father's presidency from 1850 to 1853 she often served as White House hostess, in part due to her mother's illness.

A native of [Buffalo, New York](#), she studied at a private school in [Lenox, Massachusetts](#), and graduated from New York State Normal School. She spoke French fluently and was conversant in Spanish, German, and Italian. She taught briefly in the [Buffalo](#) schools until her father became President in 1850.

An accomplished musician, she played the piano, harp, and guitar. While exercising the role of White House hostess she performed at White House functions.

Abigail Fillmore died 24 days after Fillmore's presidency ended, and Abbie took over the management of her father's household. She accompanied him to a variety of public functions, notably including the widely promoted train and steamboat [Grand Excursion](#) of June 1854. Her sudden death a few weeks later, from cholera at age 22, is thought to have contributed to former president Fillmore's decision to come out of retirement and resume his political career.