



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

On This Date

1802 – President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Currently, about 1,000 graduates are commissioned as U.S. Army officers every year.

1844 – A patent for “a new and improved harpoon for the destruction and taking of whales” was issued to Albert Moore. An explosive device was contained in the tip of the harpoon.

1850 – Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* was published. It was widely read and discussed to an extent not often experienced in America until that time.

Presidential Trivia

Most historians list James Buchanan as one of the worst presidents. Historians who participated in a 2006 survey voted his failure to deal with the pending secession of the Southern states as the worst presidential mistake ever made.



Quote of the Day

“My doctor told me I was dying, so I asked for a second opinion. He said, ‘You’re ugly, too.’”

~ *Henny Youngman*

Happy Birthday!

Henry “Henny” Youngman (1906–1998) was a famous stand-up comedian known as the “King of the One-Liners.” Born in London and raised in New York City, Youngman got his start as a performing violinist who told jokes in between songs, but soon the jokes became the main attraction. Youngman was known for his rapid-fire delivery of quick quips, including “Take my wife—please!” and “A doctor gave his patient six months to live, but he couldn’t pay his bill, so he gave him another six months.” He performed for an astonishing 70 years before passing away in 1998 at age 91.

