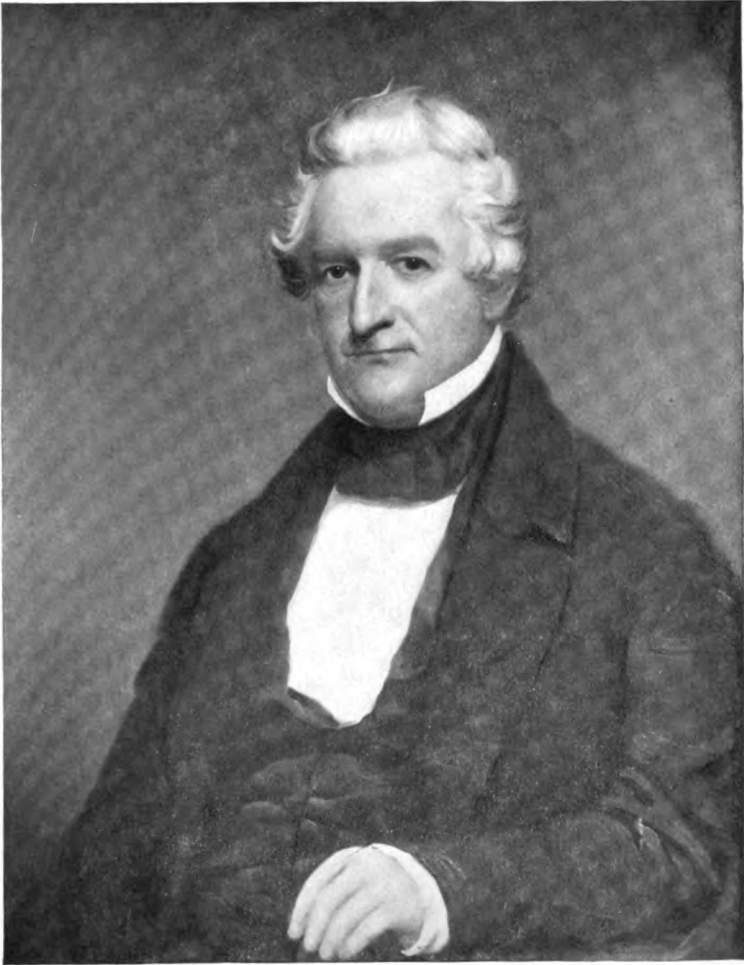


The
THIRTIETH GOVERNOR
of
C O N N E C T I C U T
was
CHAUNCEY F. CLEVELAND

Born in Canterbury and educated in the district school, he studied law and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty years—He became the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party in the state and was elected to many political honors, taking a prominent part in the famous Peace Congress in 1861



S. F. Cleveland

C H A U N C E Y

F I T C H

C L E V E L A N D

GOVERNOR Cleveland, according to one writer, "was the most popular man in the county (Windham), if not in the state; a popularity owing in large measure to a genuine good nature, which found pleasure in kindly greetings and the interest he took in the welfare of those whom he knew."

Chauncey Fitch Cleveland was born in Canterbury, February 16, 1799, and was the son of Silas Cleveland, for many years a prominent citizen of that town. He was sent to the district schools of the town, where he obtained all the education he ever received. Choosing the law as his profession, he commenced its study, and was admitted to the Windham county bar in 1819, at the age of twenty years. As a young lawyer, he was unusually successful. He had gained sufficient prominence in 1833 to be appointed state's attorney for his county, and this office he held for five years.

During the years 1826, 1827, 1829, 1832, 1835, 1836, 1838, 1847 and 1848, he was a representative in the General Assembly from the town of Hampton. Three of those years—1832, 1835

and 1836—Cleveland was honored by being chosen speaker of the House, a position he upheld with dignity and ability.

For a number of years Cleveland had been the acknowledged leader of the democracy of the state, and in 1842 the party managers decided to place him in nomination for governor.

He was elected by a good majority and his term of office was so successful that he was renominated and elected for the second time. Retiring from the gubernatorial chair in 1844, Governor Cleveland returned to his legal practice, but did not relinquish his interest in politics. In 1849 he was elected to represent his district in Congress, which he did for the next four years with ability and distinction.

Governor Cleveland was a man of strong character. This was abundantly demonstrated in 1860, when, after being a strong Democrat for sixty years, and realizing there was danger of the government being disrupted, he openly declared himself an unflinching supporter of the Union. Deliberately severing party ties, Governor Cleveland did everything in his power to support the government, worked for Lincoln's election, and was a presidential elector on the Republican ticket. He was also a member of the Peace Congress in 1861 and took a prominent part in the proceedings of that famous body.

Governor Cleveland was made Doctor of Laws by Trinity College, and never entered public life to any extent afterwards, but

practiced his profession in the town of Hampton. Throughout the remaining years of his life he was the recipient of many honors. He died in Hampton on June 6, 1887.

The "Judicial and Civil History of Connecticut" has this to say of Governor Cleveland: "It was mainly as a public man that he was known beyond his own county, and his tastes and ambitions lay far more in the direction of political than of professional life. He was a man of commanding appearance, yet of gentle and courteous manners."

A son, John J., gave promise of unusual ability when very young. He was graduated at Washington (now Trinity) College, studied law, was a clerk of the Federal Courts of the state, attained prominence at the bar, but died at the age of twenty-eight years.

A nephew of Governor Cleveland, the Hon. Edward Spicer Cleveland, son of the Hon. Mason Cleveland, was the unsuccessful democratic candidate for governor of Connecticut in 1886. He was a state senator several times, and was one of the first citizens of the state.