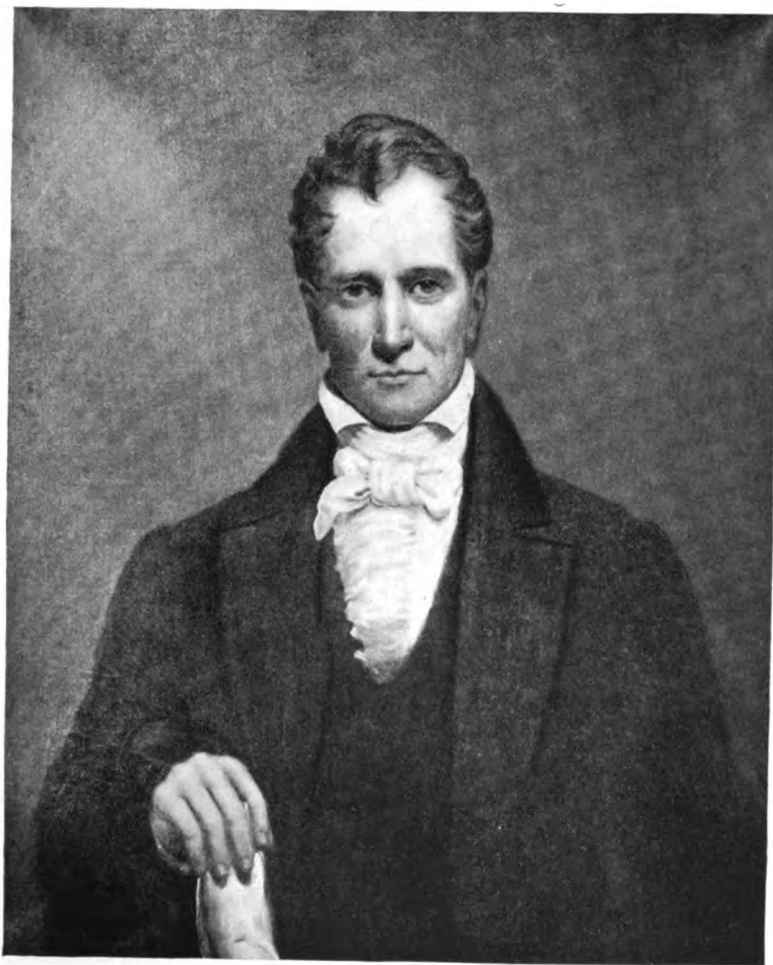


The
TWENTY-FIFTH GOVERNOR
of
C O N N E C T I C U T
was
G I D E O N T O M L I N S O N

The grandson of an officer who took part in the capture of Ticonderoga, and born in the town of Stratford—After graduation from Yale College he became a tutor and later studied law, entering politics and becoming a prominent agitator in the Constitutional controversy, preceding and during the State Convention of 1818, and finally becoming a member of the United States Senate and one of the first railroad presidents in this country



Gideon Tomlinson

G I D E O N

T O M L I N S O N

GIDEON Tomlinson was born in the town of Stratford on the last day of the year 1780, and was the grandson of an officer who took part in the capture of Ticonderoga. His father, Jabez H. Tomlinson, was a man of importance in the community where he had resided all his life.

After attending the schools of his native town, Tomlinson was sent to Huntington, where Rev. David Ely, D.D., prepared him for college. Entering Yale in 1798, he was graduated four years later in a class which contained several men who were afterwards college presidents, a future governor of Connecticut, Rev. David Dudley Field, and Rev. Jeremiah Evarts. Immediately after leaving college, Tomlinson secured employment as a tutor to Alexander Upshus of Northampton County, Virginia, who was afterwards secretary of the navy. While teaching he studied law, and when he returned to Connecticut in 1803, he entered the law office of Judge Chauncey at New Haven.

Tomlinson was admitted to the bar in 1807 and removed to that portion of Fairfield called Greenfield Hill, made famous by the pastoral labor of Dr. Dwight.

He entered politics and in May, 1817, was elected by the Toleration party as a representative to the General Assembly. The following October he was chosen clerk of the House and became a prominent agitator in the all important discussion over a new constitution.

In May, 1818, Tomlinson was again elected and this time chosen speaker of the House. The same year he was a delegate to the state convention called for the purpose of framing a new constitution, and during the session his voice was often heard on the floor of the old State House at Hartford.

With Pierpont Edwards, the leading lawyer of the state, Tomlinson was appointed to represent Fairfield County on the committee of twenty-four to frame the constitution.

After two years' service in the state legislature he was elected to Congress, and was a member of the House from 1819 to 1827. While in Congress Tomlinson had a high reputation and was often called upon to preside in the absence of the speaker.

In 1827, at the age of forty-seven years, he was elected governor of Connecticut by a good majority. He continued in office until 1831, and his record as chief executive of the state was an honorable one. In March, 1831, Governor Tomlinson resigned in order to accept the position of United States Senator, to which he was elected as a successor to Calvin Willey of Tolland.

Serving one term as senator, Governor Tomlinson maintained

T b e G o v e r n o r s o f C o n n e c t i c u t

at all times a high standard of statesmanship, and attracted attention in a body which contained at the time some very distinguished men. While in the Senate Governor Tomlinson was elected first president of the old Housatonic Railroad Company, and for many years he was one of the trustees of the Staples Free Academy.

Returning to Connecticut he passed the remainder of his life in a quiet manner practicing his profession. His later years were saddened by the death of a son of great promise. He never entered public life again after his retirement from the United States Senate.

Governor Tomlinson died on October 8, 1854, aged seventy-four years.