

*The*  
TWENTY-SEVENTH GOVERNOR  
*of*  
C O N N E C T I C U T  
*was*  
HENRY WAGGAMAN EDWARDS

The grandson of Jonathan Edwards, one of the most subtle reasoners the country has produced—He was born in New Haven and graduated at the College of New Jersey, later studying law at Litchfield and rising rapidly in public estimation—He was elected to Congress, elected to the United States Senate and served for several terms as governor of the state during the era in which New Haven and Hartford and Springfield were connected by railroad, thus providing for the commercial development of Connecticut



*Henry W Edwards*

H E N R Y

W A G G A M A N

E D W A R D S

**H**ENRY Waggaman Edwards was the grandson of Jonathan Edwards, one of the most subtle reasoners the country has produced, and the son of Pierrepont Edwards, for many years the most distinguished member of the Connecticut bar.

Pierrepont Edwards had the most lucrative law practice in the state, was a member of the Continental Congress, and a man of great power. He died in Bridgeport, April 5, 1826. His son was born in New Haven in October, 1779, the year that General Tryon pillaged the town and spread desolation.

Henry Waggaman Edwards prepared for college at New Haven and entered the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, where he was graduated in the class of 1797.

Having decided to adopt his father's profession, Edwards entered the famous Litchfield Law School (now the Yale Law School), and, after the completion of the course, returned to New Haven, where he commenced to practice. In 1819 he was elected as a democratic member of Congress and represented the district in the House of Representatives until March 3, 1823.

At that time Governor Tomlinson appointed him United States senator to succeed the Hon. Elijah Boardman.

This term lasted but a few months, when he was elected for a full term. He served in the Senate from December 1, 1823, to March 4, 1827, when he was elected a member of the State Senate, and was a member of that body from 1827 to 1829. In 1830 Edwards was elected a member of the House of Representatives from New Haven, and became speaker. His rise in the esteem of his party was rapid, and in 1833 he was elected governor of the state, holding the office one year. The following year he was nominated, but defeated by Samuel A. Foote. Governor Edwards was re-elected, however, in 1835, and served for the next three terms, retiring in 1838. Governor Edwards' administration was known as the "railroad era," as those years saw the building of the Hartford and New Haven railroad, the Hartford and Springfield, the Housatonic, and the Providence and Stonington. While governor, he suggested a geological survey of the state, which was done in accordance with his desire.

Yale College conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Governor Edwards in 1833. He had the distinction of being the first governor of Connecticut born in New Haven. Governor Edwards died at New Haven on July 22, 1847. A son, Pierrepont Edwards, was a prominent lawyer, and a judge of the New York Supreme Court for seven years.