



Chester A. Arthur

21st President

Born: Oct. 5, 1830

Birthplace: Fairfield, VT

Died: Nov. 18, 1886

Burial Site: Albany, NY

Spouse: Ellen Herndon

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1881-1885

Vice Presidents: David Davis, Thomas Bayard, George Edmunds

Chester Alan Arthur seemed to grow into his job when he assumed the presidency at the death of James A. Garfield after only six months in office.

He was educated at Union College. He taught school at Pownall, Vermont, and studied law in New York. As a lawyer, Arthur was responsible for a ruling in 1855 that said blacks were to be treated the same as whites on street cars.

Early in the Civil War, he helped organize the New York state militia and was made inspector general and quartermaster general.

Arthur was a leader of the "Stalwart" wing of the Republican party and was nominated as the 1880 vice-presidential candidate to satisfy that wing of the party. Six months later, he became president.

The first Chinese Exclusion Act and the Anti-Polygamy Bill were passed during his term in office, as were new protective tariffs.

Arthur's party was weakened by internal strife. His secretary of the treasury, Charles J. Folger, was beaten for governor of New York by Grover Cleveland.

President Arthur retired to New York after his term ended and he died of Bright's disease at the age of 56. He was buried in Rural Cemetery in Albany, NY.