



Name: Chester A. Arthur

Years: October 5, 1829 – November 18, 1886

Residence: Fairfield, Vermont; Schenectady, New York; New York City, New York.

Brief Biography: Chester A. Arthur was born on October 5, 1829 in Fairfield, Vermont. He and his family moved to upstate New York, near the Schenectady area; Arthur was three years old at the time. When he was older, Arthur would receive an education from many areas upstate, such as Perry and Greenwich. He later started a career as a lawyer in New York City and opened a practice with his friend. He held a position in the military staff in New York and when the Civil War broke out he was promoted to a military inspector for the army. However, he never went to the frontlines due to the persuasion of the governor of New York at the time. After the war, Chester A. Arthur worked up very quickly in the Republican Political Machine in New York, which helped him get appointed as Collector of the Port, a very lucrative and powerful position. Later, he was chosen to run as Vice-President under James Garfield. After Garfield was assassinated, Arthur became the 21st president of the United States. As president he had two very important impacts. First, he passed the Pendleton Act which was the law which stated civil service positions must be chosen based on merit. His second impact was the revival of the United States Navy. Under his administration he reformed and created a new, modern and powerful navy. After his term of president, Arthur A. Chester retired from politics and acted as an advisor in another law firm. He passed away on November 18, 1886 and was buried in Menands, New York.

Major Accomplishments:

- Had a big career in politics, was Vice-President and the 21st President of the United States

- Reformed the United States Navy
- Signed the Pendleton Act into law when he was President. This was a law that civil service positions must be earned on merit

For more Information: For more information about Chester A. Arthur, read the short biography on <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/chesterarthur>

Resources: Doenecke, Justus D. The Presidencies of James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas. 1981.

By Joe Palaia