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This item: Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur ([Signature series book]) by Thomas C. Reeves Hardcover \$ Only 13 left in stock (more on the way). Ships from and sold by blog.quintoapp.com

However, described by his father as "utterly untutored" and a "romping boy," Roscoe age thirteen at the time was left in the care of Professor George W. Roscoe then entered the Auburn Academy in , where he remained for three years. As a childhood friend describes him, young Roscoe was "as large and massive in his mind as he was in his frame, and accomplished in his studies precisely what he did in his social life" a mastery and command which his companions yielded to him as due. Roscoe immediately made an impression upon his preceptors. Conkling; I think he will make himself heard. Additionally, as Theodore M. His first political endeavor came in , when he made campaign speeches on behalf of Taylor and Fillmore. He was admitted to the bar in , and in the same year became district attorney of Oneida County by appointment of Governor Fish. Elected office holder[edit] Conkling was elected Mayor of Utica in , and then elected as a Republican to the 36th and 37th United States Congresses , holding office from March 4, , to March 3, He was Chairman of the U. House Committee on the District of Columbia 37th Congress. He refused to follow the financial policy of his party in , and delivered a notable speech against the passage of the Legal Tender Act , which made a certain class of treasury notes receivable for all public and private debts. In this opposition he was joined by his brother, Frederick Augustus Conkling , at that time also a Republican member of Congress. That year he was defeated for re-election by Democrat Francis Kernan. From to , he acted as a judge advocate of the War Department, investigating alleged frauds in the recruiting service in western New York. In , two years after his defeat by Kernan, Conkling defeated Kernan for re-election, and served in the 39th and 40th United States Congresses from March 4, to March 3, Conkling had been re-elected to the 41st United States Congress in November , but did not take his seat, instead entering the U. Senator from New York , and re-elected in and , served from March 4, to May 16, Senate Committee on Engrossed Bills 46th and 47th Congresses. In the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati in , Conkling first appeared as a presidential candidate, initially receiving 93 votes. His votes would later be thrown behind Rutherford B. Hayes in order to prevent the ascension of James G. Hayes was the eventual winner of the controversial presidential election. Conkling was entirely out of sympathy with the reform element in the Republican Party. His first break with the Hayes administration occurred in April when the Secretary of the Treasury John Sherman appointed a commission to investigate the affairs of the New York Custom House. The investigation brought to light extensive irregularities in the service, showing in particular that the federal office holders in New York constituted a large army of political workers, and that their positions were secured by and dependent upon their faithful service in behalf of the men holding the principal government offices in the city. President Hayes decided upon the removal of Chester A. Arthur , the Collector , General George H. Sharpe , the Surveyor, and A. Cornell , the Naval Officer of the Port, and in October , sent nominations of their successors to the Senate. Senator Conkling defended the displaced officials, and, through his influence in the Senate, secured the rejection of the new nominations. An political cartoon shows Conkling working at a "Presidential puzzle" of heads of possible candidates. In preparation for the presidential election , Senator Conkling became the leader of the movement for the nomination of General Grant for a third term in the Presidency. Blaine , whose bitter political and personal enemy he had been for 24 years. The convention , after 33 generally consistent, inconclusive ballots, by a combination of the Blaine and Sherman interests, nominated James A. Garfield on the 36th ballot. Conkling and the other faithful Grant Stalwarts were allowed to name the candidate for vice presidency, Chester A. Morton , whose appointment Conkling had urged, angered Conkling and made him unwilling to agree to any compromise with Garfield on the New York appointments. Robertson , the leader of the opposing Half-Breed faction. In protest, Conkling resigned with his fellow Senator Thomas C. Afterward he resumed the practice of law in New York City. He was nominated and confirmed as Associate Justice of

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the United States Supreme Court in , but declined to serve. Actions in the House and the Senate[edit] He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Lincoln administration and its conduct of the American Civil War. He defended a proposal ordering the construction of a transcontinental telegraph to the Pacific Ocean. He opposed the generalship of George B. He helped draft the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. He was a Radical Republican favoring equal rights for ex-slaves and reduced rights for ex- Confederates. He was active in framing and pushing through Congress the Reconstruction legislation, and was instrumental in the passage of the second Civil Rights Act in He was one of the framers of the bill creating the Electoral Commission to decide the disputed election of He also championed the broad interpretation of the ex post facto clause in the Constitution See *Stogner v. California* After resigning from the Senate in , he became a lawyer. As one of the original drafters of the Fourteenth Amendment , he claimed in a case which reached the Supreme Court, *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad* , U. Howard Jay Graham, a Stanford University historian considered the pre-eminent scholar on the Fourteenth Amendment, named this case the " conspiracy theory " and concluded that Conkling probably perjured himself for the benefit of his railroad friends. Conkling served as a mentor to Chester A. Arthur , beginning in the late s. However, in Conkling lost a key battle against Rutherford B. Conkling and Arthur were so intimately associated that it was feared, after President James A. Arthur later offered Conkling an appointment to the U. Supreme Court , although it was thought the gesture was merely "complimentary," that Conkling was too partisan to make a good Justice, and that Arthur was paying back his patron with the honor of nomination, even though it was expected Conkling would refuse. However, Conkling had a great reputation as a trial lawyer, and he had once before in been offered the chief justiceship by President Grant. At that time Conkling had rejected the offer. He accepted the nomination offer from Arthur and was confirmed to the position by the U. Senate, but then declined to take office, becoming the last confirmed nominee to refuse to serve. The Stalwarts faction that Conkling led was opposed to civil service reform, advocating instead the old patronage system of political appointments. Conkling was not consulted by Garfield a member of the rival Republican faction, the Half-Breeds , about the appointment of William H. Arthur, who would become an avid champion of civil service reform, refused. The two men never repaired the breach. Personal life[edit] Conkling had a reputation as a womanizer and philanderer , and was accused of having an affair with the married Kate Chase Sprague ,[citation needed] daughter of Salmon P. Chase and wife of William Sprague IV. According to a well-known story, buttressed by contemporaneous press reports, Mr. Conkling was once forbidden by Mr. Sprague to come to Canonchet. Despite this, however, the Executive [Sprague] later met the Senator [Conkling] on the estate coming from the rear of the houseâ€”some reports had it that the Senator jumped from a windowâ€”and after him came the Governor with his old civil war musket in his hands. These include Roscoe C. Conkling made it as far as Union Square before collapsing. He contracted pneumonia and died several weeks later, on April 18, Roscoe, New York , is named for him.

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Chapter 2 : Chester A. Arthur - HISTORY

"Gentleman Boss: The Life and Times of Chester Alan Arthur" by Thomas Reeves was published in and immediately became the definitive study of the 21st president. Reeves was a senior fellow at the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute and a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin.

Book by Thomas C. Reeves was a senior fellow at the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute and a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin. He is the author of nearly a dozen books. Because Arthur ordered the destruction of most of his personal papers just before his death, researching his life is regrettably difficult for a biographer. Reeves seems to have overcome this handicap with remarkably diligent and thorough research. As a result, this comprehensive biography is a treasure trove of historical nuggets and seems certain to remain the definitive reference on Arthur for the foreseeable future. History remembers Arthur as an accidental president of only average consequence, but Reeves is able to dissect his life and presidency in a way that demonstrates his complexity both as a person and as a politician. The Arthur presidency represents the core of the book, if not always its most exciting chapters. As meritorious as this biography proves to be from a historical perspective, it is not perfect for readers seeking a uniformly carefree and entertaining reading experience. While much of the book is engaging and provocative, some portions are dry, tedious and dull. Chapters covering foreign affairs, in particular, require healthy doses of fortitude and patience. Finally, Reeves occasionally dives deeply into matters that seem tangential to all but the most committed of historians. As just one example, Reeves maintains a keen focus on New York state politics even after Arthur leaves the state to become Vice President. While this leaves a valuable research trail for some readers, it is probably distracting for most. Though not always entertaining, it is consistently thoughtful, balanced and insightful. For readers who survive the early, less penetrating, chapters the book grows steadily more compelling. And for its contribution to understanding the life and presidency of Chester Arthur this biography deserves nearly a perfect score. Long a New York political cog and boss, Arthur steered another direction when he came into the job he never wanted--President of the United States. I may be the only person in the world who feels this way, but my impression was merely confirmed by reading this book. The author paints Arthur as a behind-the-scenes machine politician, arranging ethically questionable transactions for the benefit of the Stalwart wing of the Republican party. The Stalwarts, led by New York Senator Roscoe Conkling, seem to have had no goals other than their own political advancement; they did not have any real principles or vision for the nation. As Collector of the New York Customhouse, Arthur was responsible for appointing customs workers for political reasons, regardless of their qualifications for their roles. He also led efforts to impose assessments on those workers -- effectively demanding that they hand over a large portion of their income as donations to the Republican party. The prevalence of this kind of activity during the Gilded Age led to the Civil Service Reform movement. Arthur came to national notoriety when President Hayes removed him from the Collectorship as part of this reform effort. However, the author argues that Arthur actually made a surprisingly decent president. He clearly abandoned the corrupt tactics that he had embraced previously even during the election campaign and while serving as vice-president, refusing to remove political opponents from government positions or to appoint Stalwarts even when there were vacancies, even when that angered his fellow Stalwarts. In fact, he went out of his way to continue the already-underway corruption prosecutions in the so-called Star Route trials. However, it was very difficult for him to escape the public perception that he was corrupt; for example, when the Star Route trials resulted in acquittals, the press blamed him for interfering, even though he was actually responsible for pushing the trials forward. However, he provided much needed stability in a time of political uncertainty. Although his political background limited his ability to be very effective, he did pursue several forward-looking initiatives, including some early attempts at a trans-oceanic canal in Nicaragua and laying the foundation for the modern navy. The book itself is clearly written, although it is a bit hard to get through. And, as it is the only scholarly biography of Arthur available, I

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would recommend it to anyone interested in his life. So the author has had to go through all other resources to get this put together. The president was a very complicated man and had a very hard Presidency. He clearly does not get quite the respect he deserves. I found out much about him that i did not know and was fascinated. Steven - Gilbert, AZ 2 Thu, 17 Mar I had to put the book down because it kept getting bogged down with name dropping. I finally finished it. The second half of the book was only slightly better. Once completed I realize that without the name dropping, it would be impossible to write a book about arguably the most insignificant president we have ever had. He had his papers destroyed at his death, making it extremely difficult to write a biography. Smiliar Books of "Gentleman Boss:

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Chapter 3 : Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur

Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur On sale at the *Chester Arthur Historic Site: High school history books tell you Chester "Chet" Arthur was a "dandy", a machine politician and an accidental president, but little more.*

Blog Chester Arthur Chester Alan Arthur was born near the northern Vermont community of Fairfield; later political opponents would charge that he was actually born farther north across the Canadian boundary, which would have rendered him ineligible for the presidency. Political interest developed early; he was an ardent supporter of Henry Clay in . He supported himself as a teacher and began the study of law in his free time. In , Arthur formed a law partnership with a colleague in New York City. He willingly took cases to protect the civil rights of black citizens. Arthur became active in a number of political organizations and was involved in the establishment of the Republican Party in New York State. During the s Arthur developed a political relationship with Roscoe Conkling , the patronage king of New York politics. Through this contact Arthur was selected by the Grant administration to be the chief collector of the New York Customhouse. In that capacity he became responsible for collecting import duties, but also headed a vast patronage system. Arthur emerged as one of the key Republican leaders in the city and would later become the chairman of the state Republican organization. In , the Hayes administration investigated the New York Customhouse and found widespread waste and corruption; Arthur was forced to resign. Most historians of this period agree that Arthur was personally honest, but was a dedicated supporter of the spoils system that was harnessed to advance his political interests. Following the electoral victory, Arthur supported his fellow Stalwarts, Conkling and Thomas Platt in their patronage spat with the president. Garfield was mortally wounded in July , but lingered for eleven excruciating weeks before expiring. Major events during the Arthur administration included, civil service reform , an effort to combat postal fraud , unsuccessful tries at meaningful tariff reform and wasteful spending. Arthur also worked to outlaw polygamy in Utah , opposed the exclusion of Chinese and modernized the Navy. The Arthur White House presented a stark contrast to the staid life of his predecessor, Hayes. Official functions offered wide arrays of food and drink and parties often lasted into the early hours of the next day. Arthur wanted a second term as president, but had alienated both factions of his party. He tried to placate the Half-Breeds by appointing James G. Blaine as secretary of state and giving him a free hand in foreign affairs; Blaine, however, wanted the top job himself. In order to placate the Stalwarts, Arthur twice offered a Supreme Court seat to Conkling, who refused both times. Arthur returned to the practice of law after leaving the White house, but his health rapidly declined from a fatal kidney disease. He died in . By the end of his term in office, Chester Arthur had become a widely admired president. McClure wrote, "No man ever entered the Presidency so profoundly and widely distrusted, and no one ever retired

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Chapter 4 : Life Portrait Chester Arthur, Aug 6 | Video | blog.quintoapp.com

The Gentleman Boss covers the turbulent times of the gilded Age through Chester Arthur's eyes. While being very sympathetic to its subject it nonetheless does a phenomenal job of showing how the political system at the time worked.

The couple had two children who survived to adulthood: Nell Arthur died of pneumonia at age 42, less than two years before her husband became president. In 1854, he successfully represented Elizabeth Jennings Graham, a black woman who had been denied a seat on a Manhattan streetcar due to her race. The case helped lead to the desegregation of public transportation in New York City. Arthur was also involved in the so-called Lemmon slave case, in which the New York Supreme Court ruled that slaves being transferred to a slave state through New York would be freed. During this time, Arthur joined the Republican Party, which was established by anti-slavery activists in 1854. Arthur became a member of the New York State Militia in the late 1850s, although he never saw combat. During the American Civil War, he was quartermaster for the state of New York, responsible for organizing food and supplies for Union soldiers. In an era of political machines and the patronage system of political appointments, Republican political boss Roscoe Conkling, a U.S. Senator from New York, ousted Arthur from the job in an attempt to reform the New York Custom House and spoils system. On the 36th ballot, James Garfield, a Civil War general and congressman from Ohio, was chosen as the compromise candidate. Chester Arthur was selected as his running mate. In the general election, Garfield and Arthur defeated Democratic nominee Winfield Hancock and his running mate William English, and were sworn into office on March 4, 1881. Less than four months later, on July 2, Garfield was shot by Charles Guiteau, a mentally unstable, disgruntled political job seeker, at a train station in Washington, D.C. Although Garfield initially survived the shooting, he battled infections and died two months later, at age 49, on September 19, 1881. In the early hours of September 20, Arthur was sworn in as president at his Manhattan brownstone at Lexington Avenue by a New York state judge. Two days later, in Washington, D.C., Arthur was the second vice president to become chief executive due to an assassination. In January 1882, he signed the Pendleton Civil Service Act, landmark legislation mandating that certain federal government jobs be distributed based on merit rather than political connections. The act also forbade workers from being fired for political reasons and prohibited compulsory political donations from employees. Additionally, the Pendleton Act allowed for the establishment of a bipartisan Civil Service Commission to enforce the law. In addition to civil service reform, Arthur tried to lower tariffs with limited success. He vetoed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years; however, Congress overrode his veto. Postal Service and pushed for the modernization of the U.S. In the White House, Arthur became known for his sartorial style and taste for fine furnishings. Nicknamed the Gentleman Boss and Elegant Arthur, he reportedly owned 80 pairs of pants. He kept the condition a secret from the public; however, his poor health prevented him from actively seeking reelection in 1884. Blaine was defeated by Democrat Grover Cleveland in the general election. There, his health continued to deteriorate, and on November 18, 1885, he died at age 57 at his home. Following a funeral in Manhattan, the former president was buried beside his wife in the Arthur family plot in the Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands, New York. Start your free trial today.

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Chapter 5 : Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur | Historic Sites

Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy by.

Hardcover There are two things that stand out for me as amazing about Thomas C. The first is the incredible handicap that the author is able to overcome so well. While on his deathbed, Chester A. Arthur ordered the destruction of many of his personal papers, making much about the life of this lesser known president permanently hidden. The second incredible feature of this biography is the remarkable objectivity and honesty with which Reeves writes about his subject. Reeves tells it like it was. When Arthur deserves credit, credit is given, and when Arthur is deserving of criticism, Reeves lets him have it. This is especially important for a subject like Chester A. Arthur, who is both naughty and nice. Arthur presents a complicated study in transition and transformation. He begins life as the son of an abolitionist preacher and becomes a lawyer defending the civil rights of African-Americans long before the obvious merit of such behaviour becomes apparent to most Americans. Arthur becomes the ultimate machine politician, a "spoilsman" who is a key cog in a system that rewards his faction with civil service positions not because of merit, but because of political allegiance. Those rewarded are then used to become a source of financing that political machine as part of a corrupt political way of life that was common-place in the "gilded age. Reeves tells us how Arthur went on to confound his critics, taking principled stances on a number of important issues. The biggest irony is how the former spoilsman and party boss presided over the most sweeping civil service reforms of his generation. Reeves writes an interesting account of many of the issues of the day, domestic and international, including maintaining the peace while negotiating touchy issues in Latin America, tariff and monetary policy, native American policy, building a strong navy and reforming the civil service as a meritocracy. On some of these issues, the explanations are pedantic and tedious, but Reeves always explains the competing interests required to be balanced, as well as the actors involved on each side of the issues. We come to admire Arthur for the way that he is often on the moral side of many of these issues, while dealing with a Congress whose members march to the drummers that tap out the beat that will more likely lead to their re-election. Reeves writes a book not only about Chester Arthur, but also about the other major political and economic personalities of the day, including James G. He has a wonderful way of writing about the political chess games and backroom strategies and manipulation that take place. The intelligence and tremendous work ethic of the author make for a fascinating read. Reeves is able to take a lesser known president like Chester Arthur and provide the reader with a front row seat to view the politicking, the presidential decision making and the complexity of the times. Reeves makes a strong case for his conclusion that Arthur was a good president trying to govern in difficult times. In the course of doing so, Thomas Reeves proves himself to be an excellent historian and author who is able to produce a very good book about a very challenging subject.

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Chapter 6 : blog.quintoapp.com:Customer reviews: Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur

Chester Alan Arthur was born on October 5, 1829, in Fairfield, Vermont. His Baptist minister father, William Arthur, hailed from Ireland, and his mother, Malvina Stone Arthur, was from Vermont.

Chester Alan Arthur The twenty-first president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur was reputed to be one of the leading spoilsmen in American politics when he took office, but he proved to be a dignified and an able administrator. Political enemies claimed that Chester A. Arthur was Canadian-born and therefore ineligible to be president of the United States. Arthur himself never replied to the charges and said that he was born on Oct. He was educated at Union College in Schenectady, N. Moving to New York City, he built up a successful law practice and became interested in Republican party politics. Arthur rose steadily, if undramatically, in the Republican party by virtue of his willingness to perform the less exciting labors necessary to building a new political movement. He served as engineer in chief, inspector general, and quartermaster general of New York, raising, equipping, and dispatching state troops for the Federal government. In 1868, when the Republicans were turned out of office, he stepped aside for a Democratic successor. By unanimous agreement he had been an excellent administrator. Grant named Arthur to be collector of customs for the Port of New York. As collector, he supervised more than employees, and many of these were troops in the New York State Republican machine. Arthur helped oversee the distribution of the jobs and, at election time, supervised the collection of "assessments" contributions to Republican campaign funds which were virtually a requirement for holding a Federal job. The Customs House was no stranger to graft but Arthur himself was honest. He once said that "if I had misappropriated five cents, and on walking down-town saw two men talking on the street together, I would imagine they were talking of my dishonesty and the very thought would drive me mad. Arthur was paid by a fee of one-half of all monies he recovered for the government from importers misrepresenting what they owed. Like all political appointees, he was expected to make large donations to the party. Over 6 feet tall, stoutly built according to the specifications of the times, with a wavy moustache and bushy sidewhiskers, he dressed in fine, fashionable clothing. He was exquisitely urbane, dining well, drinking the best wines and brandies, and entertaining on a grand scale. None of this was extraordinary in middle-class New York City, but it made for a stunning contrast to the conservatively clothed and morally straitlaced Midwestern Republican politicians among whom he moved in Washington. Accidental President In Republicans divided sharply and bitterly over the nomination of a presidential candidate. The two principal hopefuls were former president U. Grant Conkling and Arthur were among his chief advocates and James G. The deadlocked convention resolved the issue only by turning to a dark-horse candidate, James A. Conkling, the leader of the pro-Grant faction, was furious for Garfield was friendlier to Blaine than himself" and he insisted that Levi Morton decline the offered vice-presidential nomination. Arthur continued to pay court to Conkling, however, even after the election had made him vice president of the United States. Garfield died on Sept. Historians tend to agree that Arthur was a much better president than anyone expected. He seemed sensitive to the dignity of his office, and, while he continued to send most patronage to his old allies, he generally extricated himself from their society. Republicans on the side of reform were chagrined at this new president, but Arthur could be surprising. He even supported and signed a landmark civil service bill providing, among other things, for examinations as a prerequisite to holding some government jobs, and he permitted an investigation of post office frauds, which implicated several cronies. Arthur remained what he had always been, a good administrator. Wayne Morgan points out, "Arthur liked the appearance of power more than its substance. He took little initiative in the significant events of his term, such as the Pendleton Civil Service Act and the construction of a modern navy. In he had no real strength at the Republican Convention and was quietly shelved. He died in 1886. He had not inspired his contemporaries, and, though his biographers have been friendly, he has not inspired them either. Further Reading There are several biographies of Arthur, none of particular distinction. A standard account is George F. A Quarter-century of

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Machine Politics Matthew Josephson, The Politicos:

Chapter 7 : Chester Arthur Books | Historic Sites

Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur High school history books tell you Chester "Chet" Arthur was a "dandy", a machine politician and an accidental president, but little more. This highly readable, very informative and interesting biography adds much historical flesh to the bare-bones treatment Arthur gets in text books.

Chapter 8 : Chester Alan Arthur | blog.quintoapp.com

Reeves is the author of, *Gentleman Boss: The Life of Chester Alan Arthur*. In the twenty-first of a series on American presidents, scholars and historians examined the life and career of Chester A.

Chapter 9 : Roscoe Conkling - Wikipedia

Chester A. Arthur was the 21st president of the United States. Chester A. Arthur Nickname "Chet" The Gentleman Boss Elegant Arthur Early Life. Chester Alan Arthur was the second son of.