

14. Franklin Pierce

Democrat. The only president from New Hampshire.

Brigadier Army General who fought in the Mexican-American War.

Was 47 when elected and at the time was the youngest president to be elected.

Nicknamed "Handsome Frank" for his good looks; often considered one of the most handsome presidents.

The first president to deliver his inaugural address from memory.

The only President to "affirm" rather than "swear" the oath of office.

He was alcoholic, mocked by the Whigs as the "Hero of Many a Well-Fought Bottle."

Had 3 sons who all died in childhood, one died at the age of 11 from a train wreck just 2 months before inauguration.

Opposed the abolitionist movement, supported the Fugitive Slave Act, further polarizing the north and south.

Completed the Gadsden Purchase, in which a region of present day New Mexico and Arizona was acquired from Mexico.

The first president to put a Christmas tree in the White House.

The first president to install central heating into the White House.

One term president.

The only sitting elected president who was not nominated by his party for reelection. (4 other presidents, John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, and Chester A. Arthur, were also denied nomination from their party but none were elected on their own right.)

He was the only president to keep the same cabinet for his four year term.

While at Bowdoin College, he became lifelong friends with author Nathaniel Hawthorne, who later wrote Pierce's official campaign biography.

Fun fact: Pierce beat his former general in the presidential race. The 1852 presidential race was between Franklin Pierce, a brigadier general of the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War, and Winfield Scott, who was the commanding officer of the entire U.S. Army.

First President born in the 19th century. Ranked by scholars and historians as one of the worst presidents.

"While men inhabiting different parts of this vast continent cannot be expected to hold the same opinions, they can unite in a common objective and sustain common principles."