

# FRANKLIN PIERCE

1853 - 1857



**Franklin Pierce** was born in 1804 at Hillsboro, New Hampshire, the son of Governor Benjamin Pierce. He served in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and in the federal house and Senate. He resigned the Senate in 1842 to practice law. He was a brigadier general during the Mexican War.

**Jane Appleton Pierce** was born in 1806. After her father's death, the family moved to Amherst, New Hampshire, where she met Franklin Pierce. They did not marry until Jane was 28. They had three sons; the first two died in infancy.



**President Franklin Pierce** was opposed to anti-slavery tendencies in the Democratic Party, which worked in his favor to gain the Party's nomination. In 1852, he won election over General Winfield Scott. As president, he followed a course of appeasing the South. Due to the failure of his foreign and domestic policies, he was not nominated for a second term. He died on October 6, 1869.

Jane Pierce was not in favor of her husband becoming president. Neither she nor her son, Benjamin, looked forward to living in Washington. On a train journey in January, 1853, the Pierce's car was derailed and Benny was killed before their eyes. Jane did not attend Pierce's inauguration on March 4, and there was no inaugural ball. She was only able to meet her White House obligations with the help of her friend, Abigail Kent Means. Jane Pierce died in 1863 and was buried near Benny's grave.

## Arizona Timeline

1853 - Signing of the Gadsden Purchase, which extends the boundaries of Arizona from the Gila River to the present boundary.

1854 - Lt. Amiel Whipple and Lt. Joseph Ives travel the southwest area of Mohave County on his expedition to map the Colorado River.

1854 - Copper is discovered in Arizona, mined and commercially sold.

1856 - Citizens living in the area of western New Mexico petition Congress to create a separate Territory of Arizona.