

STORIES of New Jersey

Cleveland were the result of the discipline of his home life and the early hardships he encountered.

The Cleveland family, when Grover was four years old, removed to Fayetteville, N. Y., where, under the tutelage of his father, the young boy received the rudiments of an education which he hoped to complete in college. The demands of a family of nine children on the small salary of a country parson, however, left no room for the expenses of a college education. Young Cleveland, at 14 years of age, had to leave school and take a job as clerk in a country store. On his father's death, two years later, the boy decided to fend for himself. He started for Ohio, but on the way west stopped off to visit an uncle in Buffalo. This was the beginning of his career.

The uncle secured a position for him as a student clerk in a law office, and an early and active interest in local and national political affairs soon led him into the forefront of political life. From his appointment as assistant district attorney of Erie County, N. Y., and on through the offices of sheriff, mayor of Buffalo and Governor of New York State, his course was marked by a zealous devotion to honest government.

When he was inaugurated as President of the United States in 1885 he was the first Democrat to hold that office since the Civil War.

And now the thriving residential Borough of Caldwell, with its population of 10,000, will honor the one hundredth anniversary of her illustrious son's birth. A great high school and a park named in his honor today serve the borough which at the time of his birth was a tiny settlement centered about the church in which his father preached. The manse, however, looks much as it did when the Cleveland children romped about the yard. Its sturdy simplicity symbolizes the sound and rigorous training that laid the foundations of Grover Cleveland's character and equipped him for the honorable and courageous discharge of the duties of the high offices to which his city, state and nation called him.



This half dollar may be struck to commemorate the birth in Caldwell on March 18, 1837, of Grover Cleveland. Coin would be sold to provide funds to conduct centennial celebration.