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WILLIAM AUGUSTUS NEWELL (September 5, 1817–August 8, 1901) was born in Franklin, Ohio. His parents, James H. and Eliza (Hankinson) Newell, both of old Monmouth County families, had moved to Ohio shortly before his birth; they returned to New Jersey in 1819 when he was two years old. Settling in New Brunswick, James Newell worked as a civil engineer and mapmaker. William Newell attended the district public schools, graduated from Rutgers College in 1836, and studied medicine locally. He married Johanna Van Deursen, the daughter of his mentor. They had three children. After completing medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 1839, Newell entered practice, first with an uncle at Manahawkin and then alone at Imlaystown. In 1844 he moved to Allentown, which was to be his New Jersey residence for the rest of his life.

Two years later, Newell combined politics with medicine when the Whigs of the Second Congressional District nominated him for Congress. He was elected by a narrow margin and reelected in 1848, but in 1850 he refused a third nomination. During his first term in Congress he accomplished what he always considered his most important and lasting achievement: the founding of the United States

Life Saving Service. In 1848 he steered through Congress a measure appropriating \$10,000 to found a series of lighthouse stations between Sandy Hook and Little Egg Harbor, a treacherous stretch of coast that had been the scene of many wrecks. Each station had a cannon to shoot a line to stranded ships so that a small car could be pulled from shore to ship and back again, removing passengers. The service soon extended from Long Island to Cape May, and after 1850, when the apparatus saved two hundred passengers and crew members of the Scottish brig *Ayrshire*, it spread over the entire Atlantic coast.

Although the founding of the service enhanced Newell's reputation, it did not lead immediately to higher office. During the 1850s, after the Whig party foundered, Newell allied with the new American, or Know-Nothing party, which sought to limit the immigrant role in American politics. In 1856 the Americans and the Republicans attempted to cooperate at the state level and agreed to run a common gubernatorial candidate to defeat the dominant Democrats. Calling themselves the "Opposition," the Americans and the Republicans nominated Newell at a joint convention in Trenton. As a Know-Nothing who opposed the extension of slavery in the territories, he was acceptable to the majority in both parties, although German Republicans in Newark and Jersey City who opposed the Know-Nothing movement tried to nominate a Republican not associated with nativism.

The American and Republican parties jointly supported Newell for governor, but each supported its own presidential candidate. The Americans adhered to Millard Fillmore and the Republicans to John C. Frémont. By taking care not to antagonize either faction, Newell defeated William C. Alexander, the Democratic candidate, by less than three thousand votes. The Democrats, however, won control of both houses of the legislature.

In his inaugural address in January 1857, Newell set the tone of his adminis-

tration. He believed a governor should follow rather than lead the legislature and should use the veto sparingly. He urged strict economy and an end to state indebtedness. He promoted improvements in the school system and limitations on the sale of liquor and on the use of corporate influence. He opposed a New York plan to move its quarantine station to Sandy Hook and called for improvements in the coastal life-saving system. He also advocated stricter naturalization procedures, restrictions on the suffrage of naturalized citizens, and voter registration laws for the electorate of incorporated cities.

In subsequent annual addresses, Newell returned to each of these themes, stressing the need for economy in particular and the desirability of restricting immigration and curtailing the influence of immigrants. One issue that was not a state matter intruded in each message. Newell could not avoid the increasingly important slavery controversy. While he opposed the extension of slave territory, he saw abolitionism as an equal threat to the Union. By 1860 Newell was devoting more space in his annual message to this essentially national issue than to any other subject, urging that a course be found to save the union from northern and southern extremists.

As the slavery issue forced political realignments, Newell worked to unite the American and Republican wings of the New Jersey Opposition into one harmonious party to work with the Republicans nationally. He divided the patronage and encouraged fusion at the local level. Not always successful, he saw some of his early appointments—such as that of Charles D. Deshler to clerk of the supreme court—defeated by continued factionalism among Opposition legislators.

While no bills of great importance became law during Newell's administration, there were many enactments related to New Jersey's rapid evolution into an urban, industrial state. The legislature carved Union County out of Essex County and granted city charters to Elizabeth,

Rahway and Egg Harbor. It authorized Hoboken and Trenton to improve their water systems and granted Jersey City permission to build a workhouse. Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken received charters for horsecar street railway companies, and the Erie Railroad consolidated its New Jersey trackage. Granting corporate charters continued to constitute a major portion of the legislative workload.

Since Newell considered the executive function of government secondary to the legislative, he made no attempt to provide strong leadership. However, he vigorously defended the prerogatives of the office when he perceived them to be under legislative attack. When Chancellor Benjamin Williamson's term expired in 1859, Newell nominated Abraham O. Zabriskie from the Republican wing of the Opposition. The Democratic senate denied confirmation and demanded that he reappoint Williamson. Refusing to bow to legislative dictates in the matter of appointments, Newell sent eight more names to the senate, each of which was rejected. Rather than reappoint Williamson, Newell allowed the office to remain vacant; it was not filled until 1860, when Governor Charles S. Olden appointed Chief Justice Henry W. Green.

As governor, Newell presided over the court of pardons, and in late 1857 a case came before that body that greatly affected his post-Civil War political career. James P. Donnelly, a medical student from a New York City Irish family, was convicted of murdering Albert S. Moses over a gambling debt at the Sea View House in Navesink, and was sentenced to death by a Monmouth County Court. Donnelly unsuccessfully appealed the decision through the state courts, and finally sought a commutation to life imprisonment from the Court of Pardons. To the Irish Catholics of New Jersey, Donnelly had been convicted by a Protestant jury before Protestant judges on doubtful evidence. A question of law quickly became a socially and politically significant issue, and petitions in Donnelly's favor

circulated in the Irish communities of many northeastern cities. The Court of Pardons voted six to two against commutation, with Newell among the majority. In a two-hour address to the crowd before his public hanging, however, Donnelly claimed that the court had been evenly divided and that Newell, acting on nativistic prejudice, had cast the tie-breaking vote which would cost Donnelly his life. In Newell's subsequent campaigns the Irish remembered Donnelly's accusation.

When Newell left office in January 1860, the Opposition was more unified at all levels, although the Americans and Republicans continued separate organizations in several areas of the state. Newell moved firmly into the Republican ranks, attending the party's national nominating conventions in 1860 and 1864. Soon after President Abraham Lincoln took office in 1861, he appointed Newell superintendent of the Life Saving Service for New Jersey. Newell held this office until returning to Congress in 1865, regularly inspecting all life-saving stations and urging their improvement.

In 1864, Newell received the Republican nomination for Congress from his district and won election on a platform supporting the administration and its war policy. As a congressman he voted for radical reconstruction of the South, although he was not in the vanguard of the reconstruction movement and did not favor extreme measures any more than he had as governor.

Newell was not reelected in 1866. Out of favor with state party leaders, he was renominated but unenthusiastically supported. Furthermore, remarks unfriendly to immigrants from his gubernatorial messages were circulated in German, and a distorted version of his role in the Donnelly case was spread among the Irish. Newell blamed his defeat in part on the "base and ungenerous appeal to the passions and prejudices of a large class of voters, by misrepresenting my motives and action in the discharge of solemn and painful executive duty."

Newell returned to the practice of medicine. In 1868 he once more sought the congressional nomination, but without success, and in 1870 he received the nomination but lost the election. He ran for governor again in 1877, opposing George B. McClellan, the popular Civil War general nominated by the Democrats. Newell ran an inept campaign, alienating many regular Republicans, and he lost with 46 percent of the vote. Once again his role in the Donnelly case became an issue, with the Irish-oriented Jersey City *Argus* declaring that "Newell's action toward poor Donnelly" had been "prompted by his intense hatred of foreigners."

Newell continued to practice medicine in Allentown until 1880, when President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed him territorial governor of Washington. Supporting measures similar to those he had sponsored as governor of New Jersey, he urged strict economy, lower taxes, laws to prevent intemperance and desecration of the Sabbath, the forced acculturation of the territory's Indian population, and an improved life-saving service on the Pacific coast.

Newell served as territorial governor until 1884. He then served as a United States Indian inspector in the northwest for one year. He resumed the practice of medicine in Olympia in 1885 and remained in Washington for fourteen more years, returning to New Jersey only after his wife's death.

In 1899, at the age of 82, Newell returned to Allentown. He practiced medicine and took an active role in the Monmouth County Historical Association, delivering two papers, one dealing with the founding of the United States Life Saving Service. He died at the age of 84 and was buried in the Allentown Presbyterian cemetery.

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Douglas V. Shaw



CHARLES SMITH OLDEN (February 19, 1799–April 7, 1876) was born of Quaker ancestry in Stony Brook, near Princeton. He was the son of Hart and Temperance (Smith) Olden. He went to Lawrenceville School. Upon graduation he worked for a while in his father's store, and then for the mercantile firm of Matthew Newkirk and Company, first in Philadelphia and later, from 1826 to 1832, in New Orleans. He returned to Princeton after inheriting a large estate from his uncle, and built the house now called Drumthwacket. Olden lived the life of a gentleman farmer and became a director of the Trenton Banking Company in 1842. He married Phoebe Ann Smith of Trenton; though they had no children of their own, they adopted a daughter.

Olden was elected to the state senate as a Whig in 1844 and reelected in 1847; he served in the senate until 1851. Little is known about his senatorial career, except that he took an interest in the State Lunatic Asylum and was chairman of the Committee on Education. In 1856 Olden supported Millard Fillmore, the American party candidate for the presidency of the United States. In 1859 the "Opposition" party nominated him as their gubernatorial candidate to oppose the Democrat, Edwin R. V. Wright. The Opposition party, which had been created in 1856 to oppose the Democratic party, was

made up of former Whigs, Know-Nothings and incipient Republicans. They maintained this name through the election of 1860 and later became the Union party; they took the name Republican during Reconstruction. He was also nominated by the American party. Olden had not taken part in the heated political debate over the extension of slavery during the 1850s. A conservative, he opposed the extension of slavery and supported the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act. His views reflected those of the citizens of the state of New Jersey, who would never have supported an abolitionist. Olden defeated Wright by a mere 1,601 votes but the Democrats won slim majorities in the general assembly and the senate.

In his inaugural address on January 17, 1860, Governor Olden said that each state had the "exclusive independent control of its domestic policy" and that slavery was "exclusively and eminently a matter of domestic policy, to be . . . controlled by each State for itself." In the presidential election of 1860, the Opposition party supported Abraham Lincoln and opposed both Stephen A. Douglas and the fusion ticket. Olden's views were more conservative than the Republicans', but he nevertheless supported Lincoln. New Jersey cast three electoral votes for Douglas and four for Lincoln.

With the election of Lincoln, South Carolina seceded from the Union, and other southern states soon followed. During this period of crisis, Olden attempted to seek a compromise between the North and the South. In his annual message in January 1861, he reaffirmed his support for the Fugitive Slave Act and called for its enforcement by all of the states. However, he did not support the right of secession, which he considered anarchy. He viewed the crisis as having been caused "by a few persons of extreme views both North and South." At this time he felt that the people of New Jersey would "stand as a unit in favor of the Union." But he also said that they would "make all reasonable and proper concessions to