

PUBLIC and POLITICAL LIFE

Abner Coburn was initially a Federalist Party member like his father. At age 21, he voted for the first time for John Quincy Adams, our 6th U.S. President. Later Abner Coburn became a Whig and served as a Whig Party Presidential Elector in 1852. He also served three terms in the Maine legislature as a Whig. While in Legislature, he served on the Finance, Northeastern Boundary, Banking, State Lands and State Valuation Committee.



from [Friends of the Blaine House website](#)

Like his Father, Eleazer Coburn, Abner Coburn was a strong supporter of temperance. He was a member of the Bloomfield Temperance Society. In 1834, he was elected to be a delegate to the Maine State Temperance Society. However, because the Maine State Temperance Society did not promote total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquor, Abner Coburn and others in 1837 formed the Maine Temperance Union which advocated for total abstinence. He was also a member of the Washingtonian Society, a group in which all members pledged total abstinence from the use of “spirituous, vinous and fermented liquors as a beverage”.

Abner Coburn served the Town of Bloomfield as Town Clerk from 1828 to 1833. He also served 8 years as Moderator at the annual Bloomfield Town Meetings.

In 1854, he was instrumental in the formation of the Republican Party in Maine. In 1855, he presided over the Somerset County Republican Convention where strong anti-slavery sentiment was voiced. Abner Coburn was a strong abolitionist like his father, his sister, Fidelia and brother, Samuel.

Abner Coburn also served as a member of three different Governor’s Executive Councils (Gov. Anson Merrill, Gov. Hannibal Hamlin, and Gov. Joseph Williams).

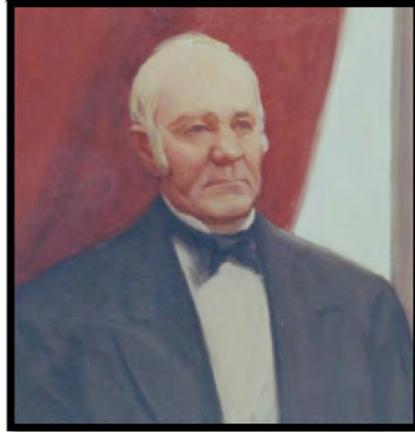
As a Republican Party Presidential Elector in 1860, Abner Coburn voted to elect Abraham Lincoln as President.

Abner Coburn was elected to one term as Maine’s 30th Governor during the Civil War and was instrumental in fulfilling Maine’s required quota of recruitment of soldiers for the Union Army. He traveled to Gettysburg and was present for Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. As Governor, he was a strong supporter of publicly funded education stating “While we may not be in a condition to make any extraordinary expenditure for educational purposes, it will be one our highest duties to see that our schools are maintained in full vigor and usefulness, and that while other interests may suffer from the

inevitable effects of war, the culture of the young, shall in no wise be neglected or abated". He also supported the Morrill Act which led to the future evolution of the University of Maine.



from [Archive.org](https://archive.org)



from [Maine State Museum](https://mainestatemuseum.org)

Abner Coburn also was chosen to serve as a Presidential Elector in 1884 but became ill and was unable to do so. He died a few weeks later on January 4, 1885.