
Chronology

4 April 1792	Born near Danville, Vermont, to Joshua and Sarah Morrill Stevens, second of four sons: Joshua, TS, Abner Morrill, Alanson
c. 1807	Sarah Stevens and children move to Peacham, Vermont
1807–11	Attends Caledonia County Academy in Peacham
24 Aug 1814	Graduates from Dartmouth College
1815–16	Teaches in York, Pennsylvania, and reads law under David Casset
26 Aug 1816	Passes bar in Bel Air, Maryland
16 Sept 1816	Admitted to practice in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; opens law office on Chambersburg St.
1822	Elected to borough of Gettysburg council; further terms in 1824, 1827, 1829, 1831
1824	Elected director of Gettysburg Bank; begins to acquire real estate
1826	Partnership with James D. Paxton & Co., iron manufacturer (Maria Furnace operates 1826–38)
1828	Stevens & Paxton Co. founded; dissolved in 1848
1830	Helps found Antimasonic Gettysburg newspaper, <i>Star and Banner</i>
1831	Attends national Antimasonic conference in Baltimore
1832	Supports William Wirt as Antimasonic presidential candidate
3 Dec 1833	Takes seat in Pennsylvania House of Representatives; 44th session ends, 15 April 1834
1834	Elected trustee of Gettysburg College and to local school board
27 May 1834	Attends convention of Pennsylvania party calling itself Whig in Harrisburg
2 Dec 1834–	
15 April 1835	45th session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives
11 April 1835	Gives “On the School Law” speech before Pennsylvania legislature
c. 1835	Organizes Wrightsville, York & Gettysburg Railroad Co.
Oct 1835	Joseph Ritner elected governor on Antimasonic and Whig platform over Democratic incumbent George Wolf
1 Dec 1835–	
16 June 1836	46th session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives
25 Jan 1836	Moves that Pennsylvania recharter Bank of the United States
30 May 1836	Issues resolutions in Pennsylvania legislature against slavery extension

- Oct 1836** Defeated in election for Pennsylvania legislature
- Nov 1836** Elected as delegate to Pennsylvania constitutional convention
- 1837** Erects Caledonia Iron Works in Franklin County
- May 1837** Delegate to Pennsylvania constitutional convention, which meets in Harrisburg 2 May–14 July and 17 Oct–23 Nov 1837; in Philadelphia 28 Nov 1837–22 Feb 1838
- 21 June 1837** Introduces amendment to Pennsylvania constitution that “every freeman of the age of twenty-one years” who has been a resident and paid taxes “shall be entitled to vote”
- Fall 1837** Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- 5 Dec 1837–**
- 17 April 1838** 48th session of Pennsylvania House
- 22 Feb 1838** Refuses to sign revised state constitution
- May 1838** Appointed canal commissioner; organizes Ritner’s reelection campaign
- 9 Oct 1838** Election for state governor and ratification of amended constitution; TS reelected to Pennsylvania House
- Oct 1838** TS and other Ritner Whigs try to redress election results that declare Democrat David R. Porter governor over incumbent Joseph Ritner; they unsuccessfully contest results from Philadelphia County, which gave Democrats a majority in the House and Porter the governorship
- 13 Nov 1838** Nominates William Henry Harrison as party’s presidential candidate at Antimasonic Convention in Philadelphia
- 4–25 Dec 1838** Buckshot War—Fearing violence, TS and two others escape from opening session of legislature; Ritner summons militia to restore order
- 4 Dec 1838–**
- 25 June 1839** 49th session, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- 8 May 1839** Belatedly claims seat in House
- 24 May 1839** House votes to exclude TS
- 14 June 1839** Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives for term ending 25 June 1839
- 19 June 1839** Takes oath of office in House
- Fall 1840** Campaigns for Harrison for US president
- Oct 1841** Reelected to Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- 4 Jan–**
- 26 July 1842** 52d session of Pennsylvania House of Representatives; TS’s final term
- 16 Aug 1842** Admitted to Lancaster bar, after moving from Gettysburg to Lancaster
- April 1843** Moves to 47–49 S. Queen St., where he lives and practices law
- Aug 1843** Tries to revive Antimasons and block Henry Clay’s nomination
- 1844** Reluctantly campaigns for Clay for president
- 1847** Brother Abner Morrill, a doctor (known as Morrill), dies in March; brother Alanson dies in December

- 1848** Nephews Alanson, Jr., and Thaddeus, Jr., become wards of TS
- 1848** Lydia Smith comes to work for TS
- 23 Aug 1848** Nominated by Whig county convention as congressional candidate
- 10 Oct 1848** Elected to 31st Congress; Whig William F. Johnston elected governor of Pennsylvania
- 3 Dec 1849–**
- 30 Sept 1850** 31st Congress, 1st session
- 20 Feb 1850** Delivers “Slave Question” speech before Congress
- 14 Aug 1850** Renominated by Whig county convention as congressional candidate
- Oct 1850** Oliver et al. v Weakley — TS defends Stephen Weakley and others on charges of harboring fugitive slaves; judge declares mistrial
- 2 Dec 1850–**
- 3 March 1851** 31st Congress, 2d session
- 11 Sept 1851** Christiana riot
- 24 Nov–**
- 8 Dec 1851** TS and other attorneys successfully plead in Philadelphia for defendants Caster Hanway and forty others (thirty-eight blacks) on trial for treason
- 1 Dec 1851–**
- 31 Aug 1852** 32d Congress, 1st session
- Aug 1852** Whig convention chooses more conservative Whig, Isaac Hiester, as its candidate for Congress
- Fall 1852** Supports Whig candidate Winfield Scott for president
- 6 Dec 1852–**
- 3 March 1853** 32d Congress, 2d session
- March 1853** Returns to Lancaster after congressional session
- Sept 1854** Lancaster Whigs accuse TS of joining Know-Nothings lodge in Lancaster
- 5 Oct 1854** Sarah Morrill Stevens dies in Vermont
- Oct 1854** Independent Whig candidate Anthony E. Roberts backed by TS and Know-Nothings elected to Congress
- 17 June 1856** Delegate to Republican convention in Philadelphia; supports John McLean
- April 1858** Brother Joshua dies in Indianapolis
- 25 Aug 1858** Nominated by convention in Fulton Hall, Lancaster, as Republican congressional candidate
- 12 Oct 1858** Elected to 36th Congress
- 5 Dec 1859–**
- 25 June 1860** 36th Congress, 1st session
- Dec 1859** Rents home at 279 South B St., Washington, DC (permanent Washington residence)
- Jan 1860** Argues last major legal case, in Lancaster
- 16 May 1860** Attends Republican convention in Chicago
- 27 Sept 1860** Delivers “Presidential Question” speech at Cooper Union, New York City
- 6 Nov 1860** Abraham Lincoln elected president

3 Dec 1860–	
2 March 1861	36th Congress, 2d session
20 Dec 1860–	
1 Feb 1861	Seven states of lower South secede from Union
29 Jan 1861	Delivers “State of the Union” speech before Congress
12 April 1861	Confederates fire on Ft. Sumter
17 April–	Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina secede from
20 May 1861	Union
4 July–	
6 Aug 1861	37th Congress, 1st session
8 July 1861	Named chairman of Ways and Means Committee
2 Dec 1861–	
17 July 1862	37th Congress, 2d session
22 Jan 1862	Delivers “Subduing the Rebellion” speech before Congress
6 Feb 1862	Delivers “Treasury Note Bill” speech before Congress
25 Feb 1862	Legal Tender Act (HR 240) becomes law
8 April 1862	Delivers “Tax Bill” speech before Congress
1 July 1862	Comprehensive Tax Bill (HR 312) becomes law
22 Sept 1862	Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
1 Dec 1862–	
4 March 1863	37th Congress, 3d session
1 Jan 1863	Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation
8 Jan 1863	Delivers “Conquered Provinces” speech before Congress
2 Feb 1863	Delivers “Negro Soldiers” speech before Congress
24–26 June 1863	TS’s iron works at Caledonia burned by Jubal Early’s troops
20 Sept 1863	Nephew Alanson Stevens killed at battle of Chickamauga
7 Dec 1863–	
4 July 1864	38th Congress, 1st session
28 March 1864	In the House introduces 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery
2 May 1864	Delivers “Government of Rebellious States” speech before Congress
7–8 June 1864	Serves as delegate to Republican convention in Baltimore
8 Nov 1864	Lincoln reelected president
5 Dec 1864–	
3 March 1865	38th Congress, 2d session
13 Jan 1865	Delivers “Abolition of Slavery” speech before Congress
31 Jan 1865	Congress approves 13th Amendment
9 April 1865	General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox
15 April 1865	Lincoln dies
6 Sept 1865	Delivers “Reconstruction” speech in Lancaster
4 Dec 1865–	
28 July 1866	39th Congress, 1st session
11 Dec 1865	Named chairman of the newly formed Appropriations Committee
13 Dec 1865	Named House chairman of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction
18 Dec 1865	Delivers “Reconstruction” speech before Congress
18 Dec 1865	13th Amendment ratified
31 Jan 1866	Delivers “Basis of Representation” speech before Congress

- 19 Feb 1866** Breaks openly with President Andrew Johnson when he vetoes Freedmen's Bureau Bill
- 6 April 1866** Congress overrides Johnson's veto of Civil Rights Bill
- 8 June 1866** Reconstruction Committee report presented to Congress
- 13 June 1866** Congress approves 14th Amendment, giving blacks citizenship and civil rights protection
- 4 Sept 1866** Delivers "The Pending Canvass" speech in Bedford, Pennsylvania
- 3 Dec 1866–**
2 March 1867 39th Congress, 2d session
- 13 Feb 1867** Delivers "Government of Insurrectionary States" speech before Congress
- 2 March 1867** Congress passes Reconstruction Act of 1867
- 4–30 March,**
3–20 July, and
21–30 Nov 1867 40th Congress, 1st session
- 19 March 1867** Delivers "Damages to Loyal Men" speech before Congress
- 2 Dec 1867–**
27 July 1868 40th Congress, 2d session
- 24 Feb 1868** House votes to impeach Johnson
- 2 March 1868** Elected as one of seven impeachment managers
- 4 March 1868** Impeachment trial begins
- 27 April 1868** Delivers "Impeachment of the President" speech before Congress
- 16 May 1868** Senate acquits Johnson of Article XI charges
- 20–21 May 1868** Republicans nominate Ulysses S. Grant in Chicago
- 11 July 1868** Delivers "Democracy and Its Policy" speech before Congress
- 28 July 1868** 14th Amendment ratified
- 11 Aug 1868** Dies in Washington, DC; buried in Shreiner's Cemetery, Lancaster