

# MORGAN GARDNER BULKELEY

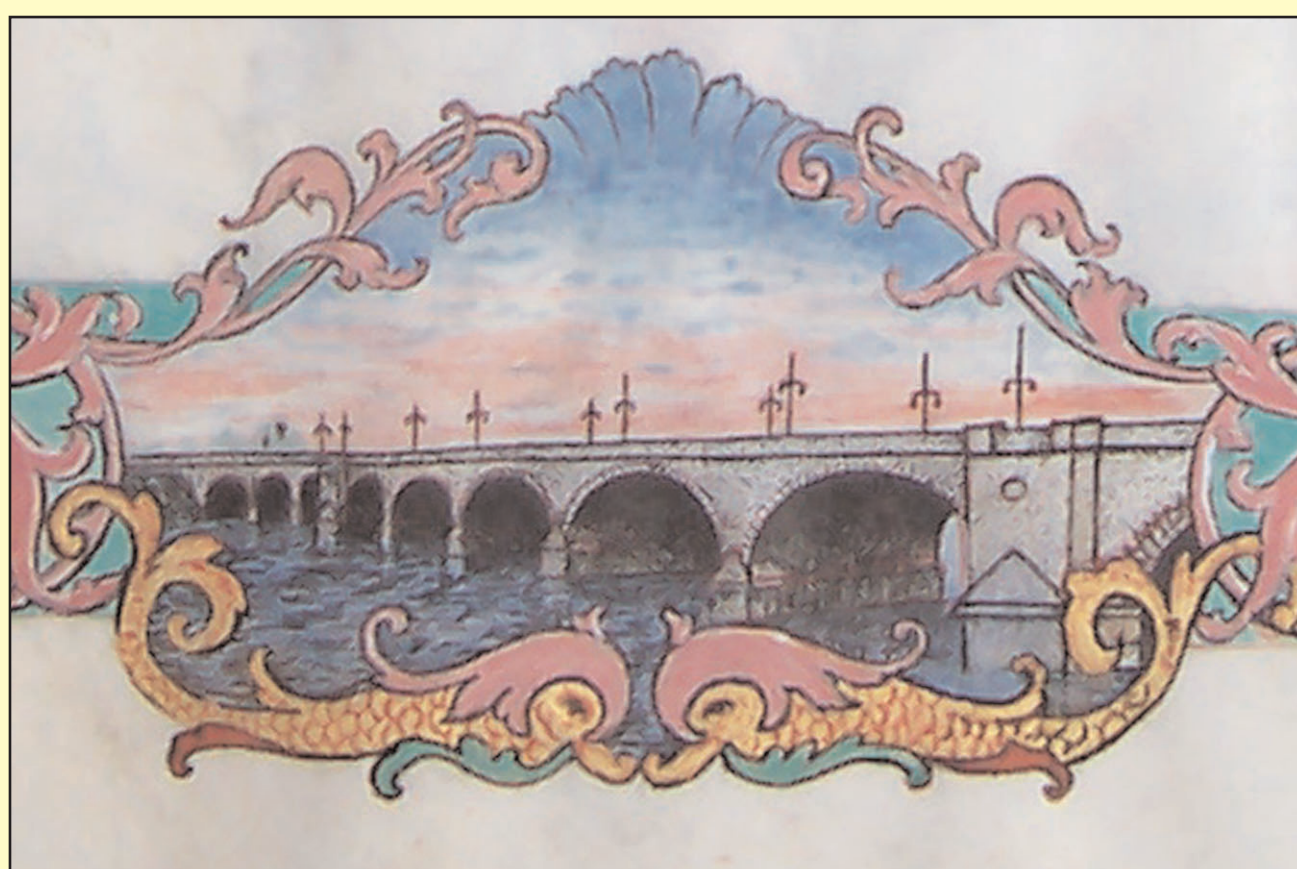
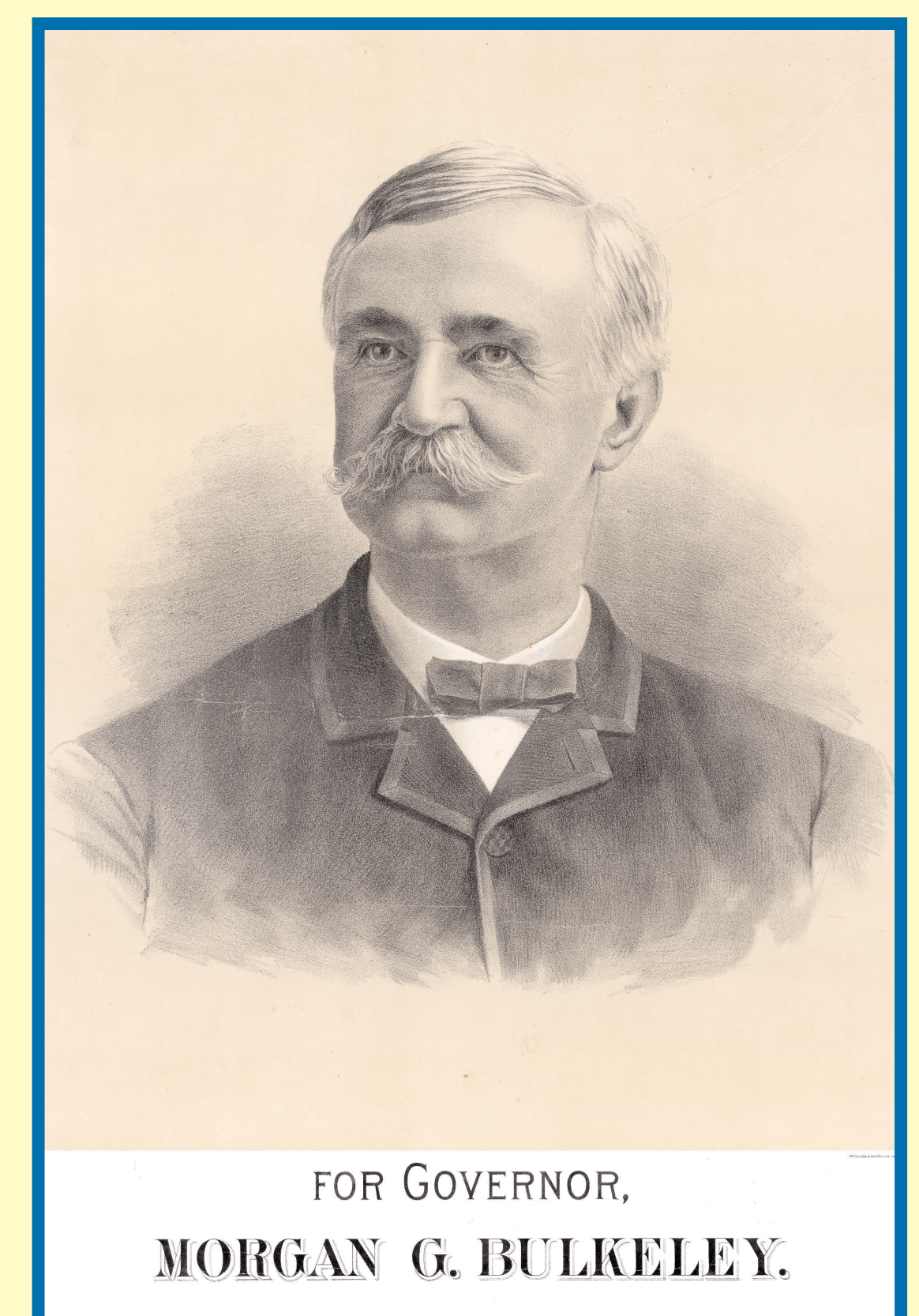
**M**organ Gardner Bulkeley was born in East Haddam, Connecticut on December 26, 1837 the third child of Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley and Lydia Smith Morgan. Many of his early days were spent in Colchester where most of his relatives lived and throughout his lifetime he considered Colchester the “home” of the Bulkeley family.

In 1847 after the family moved to Hartford, he attended local public schools. In 1851, at the age of 14, his formal education ended and he went to work in his uncle’s store in Brooklyn, New York where he became a partner at the age of 21. When the Civil War broke out he volunteered and served under General McClellan and fought in the Peninsular Campaign with the Army of the Potomac.

In 1872, Morgan returned to Hartford after the death of his father, Eliphalet, where he founded the United States Bank, which he headed until 1879. At that time, he became President of the Aetna Life, a position he held until his death in 1922.

An active and successful politician, he first served on the Hartford City Council in 1874 and was elected Mayor of Hartford in 1880, serving four two-year terms. In 1888, he was elected Governor of Connecticut, and in 1890, after an election dispute where he was not even a candidate, he personally took over running of the Connecticut government for the next two years paying the State’s bills from Aetna’s accounts earning himself the name “The Crowbar Governor”.

In 1896 he was an unsuccessful candidate to be the Republican nominee for Vice President of the United States on the McKinley ticket, and in 1905 he closed out his active political career by being elected to a six year term in the United States Senate.



Bulkeley Bridge, dedicated in Morgan Bulkeley’s name in 1908.  
Detail from book honoring his life.

An avid sports fan, Morgan Gardner Bulkeley was elected the first president of the National Baseball League in 1876, and in 1937 he was in the first class of immortals elected to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.