At the age of 45, Charles F. Chandler became the sixth president of the American Chemical Society for the year 1881. Born in Massachusetts and trained at Göttingen with Friedrich Wöhler and Heinrich Rose, Chandler began his chemical career at Union College, where he succeeded Charles A. Joy as professor of chemistry in 1837. Seven years later, he moved to New York City as a founding member of the Columbia School of Mines, and he remained here until his retirement in 1910. Chandler was an indefatigable entrepreneur and institution-builder, and his role in the establishment and early years of the American Chemical Society is one of his most important legacies to the American chemistry. He publicized the young society in his journal, *The American Chemist*, signed up students and colleagues as members, and beat the drum far and wide for support. During his tenure in 1881 (and a second term in 1889), tensions between ACS members in New York and elsewhere in the country began to surface, leading eventually to reorganization as a truly national society in 1892.

Presented at the 193rd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Denver, CO, 5 April – 10 April 1987; Abstract HIST 7.

This paper was part of a series of papers on the presidents of the American Chemical Society, sponsored by the Division of the History of Chemistry at various national meetings.