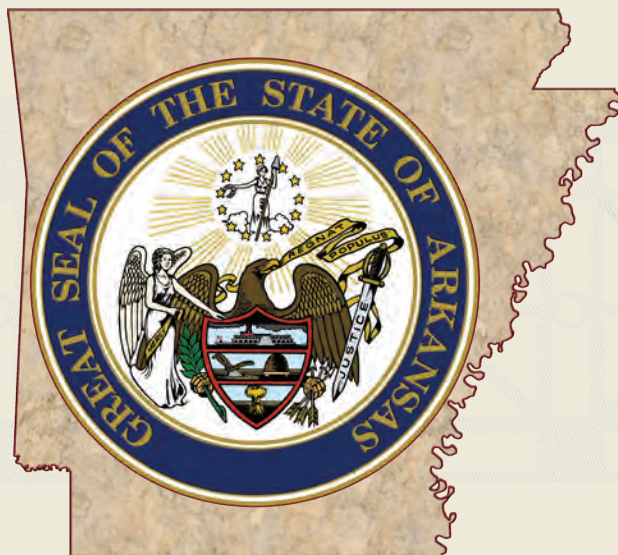



MEET THE GOVERNORS OF ARKANSAS



*The leaders who framed our history,
from 1819 through today*

An educational resource produced by
SECRETARY OF STATE
JOHN THURSTON
www.sos.arkansas.gov



The following pages offer just a glimpse of the people who
have shaped Arkansas, both as a territory and as a state.
There is much more to know about their fascinating stories.
We recommend two sources referenced for this publication:

The Governors of Arkansas: Essays in Political Biography,
edited by Timothy P. Donovan, Willard B. Gatewood Jr. and Jeannie M. Whayne
University of Arkansas Press, 1995

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture,
a project of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
at the Central Arkansas Library System,
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

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James Miller

James Miller studied law but joined the U.S. Army as a major in 1808. He fought bravely during the War of 1812 at the Battle of Lundy's Lane (Niagara, Ontario), one of the bloodiest of the war. He became known as "The Hero of Lundy's Lane," was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and received a Congressional Gold Medal.

Following the war, he was appointed governor of Arkansas in 1819 and held that post until 1825. Miller was slow to arrive in Arkansas after his appointment and spent much time outside of the territory. In fact, his wife did not join him in Arkansas, choosing to remain in New Hampshire. Miller's administration, however, laid the foundation for the territorial government, establishing courts and jails, setting tax procedures, and allowing votes by voice rather than by ballot in general elections. During the Miller administration, the territorial capital was removed from Arkansas Post to Little Rock.

Poor health and a dislike for frontier life led Miller to resign from office.

He refused a seat in the U.S. Congress representing New Hampshire; instead he accepted the position of customs collector for the port of Salem, Massachusetts, serving until 1849.

Miller County in southwest Arkansas is named in his honor.



James Miller
Attorney, soldier
Served 1819-1825

Born: April 25, 1776
Peterborough,
New Hampshire

Died: July 7, 1851
Temple,
New Hampshire

Buried: Temple,
New Hampshire

SECOND TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

George Izard**George Izard***Scholar, military engineer**Served 1825-1828***Born:** October 21, 1776
London, England**Died:** October 22, 1828
Little Rock, Arkansas**Buried:** Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas
*(Reinterred 1843 from
another site in Little Rock)*

Born near London, England, to an American diplomat from South Carolina, **George Izard** moved to the United States at the age of 16. He studied and worked throughout New England and Europe. He became a military engineer and commanded several posts, including West Point. During the War of 1812, he commanded the Second Regiment of Artillery, and later the Northern Army on Lake Champlain. One historian wrote that Izard “was the only officer of the War of 1812 who had been completely educated in the schools.”

General Izard resigned from the army in January 1815 and lived with his family in Philadelphia before being appointed governor of Arkansas in 1825. He arrived to find a disorganized government with no accurate record keeping. He quickly brought administrative and financial order to the new government. He strengthened the militia, built roads for the first stagecoach routes through the state and relocated the Choctaw and Quapaw nations to the Indian Territory.

Izard made few friends in Arkansas and was frequently at odds with the legislature and other territory officials. He avoided most social events — even those held in his honor — preferring time with his extensive library. Izard died in 1828 during his second term from complications following an attack of gout.

Izard County in Northeast Arkansas is named in his honor.

THIRD TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

John Pope

As a boy, **John Pope** moved from Virginia to Kentucky, where an accident on his family's farm resulted in the loss of his arm and a change in his life plans. He went on to study law and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1794. He was elected to that state's General Assembly in 1798 and to the U.S. Senate in 1807, serving as president pro tempore.

He lost his bid for a second Senate term but remained active in politics, notably as a rival of Henry Clay and a supporter of Andrew Jackson. In 1829, President Jackson appointed Pope as governor of Arkansas Territory. With a vision of "a wise and just course of policy," he focused on improving roads, expanding mail service and improving the territory's rustic reputation in order to attract new settlers to the land.

While planning a new capitol building, Pope blocked a move by Territorial Secretary Robert Crittenden to offer his mansion in exchange for public lands. Pope insisted the capitol should be in the heart of Little Rock on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. The statehouse was eventually completed in 1842 on the site he selected.

After expressing his disagreement with policies of the Jackson administration, Pope was not appointed to a third term. He returned to Kentucky, practiced law and was elected to Congress, serving from 1837 until 1843.

Pope County in western Arkansas is named in his honor.



John Pope

Attorney

Served 1829-1835

Born: February 1770
Prince William County,
Virginia

Died: July 12, 1845
Springfield, Kentucky

Buried: Springfield Cemetery
Springfield, Kentucky

FOURTH TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

William S. Fulton**William S. Fulton***Attorney, Soldier
Served 1835-1836***Born:** June 2, 1795
Cecil County, Maryland**Died:** August 15, 1844
Little Rock, Arkansas**Buried:** Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

William Savin Fulton studied law and served during the War of 1812 as an aide to Colonel Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, birthplace of the National Anthem. He returned briefly to law before becoming private secretary to General Andrew Jackson during his campaign against the Seminoles of Florida. At the campaign's close, he settled in Alabama for the practice of law.

In 1829, President Jackson appointed Fulton as Secretary of Arkansas Territory, then Governor in 1835. He held the governorship until the territory became a state in 1836.

During Fulton's brief governorship, he opposed the drafting of a proposed state constitution without prior approval by Congress. Over his objections, the document was drafted, adopted by the constitutional convention, submitted to Congress and approved. Fulton was then

chosen as one of Arkansas' first two U. S. Senators, serving from December 1836 until his death in 1844.

He died soon after moving into *Rosewood*, his new mansion, which was located on the site of the present-day Governor's Mansion in Little Rock's Quapaw Quarter.

Fulton County in Northern Arkansas was named for him when it formed in 1842.

FIRST GOVERNOR

James S. Conway

James Sevier Conway came to Arkansas in 1820 as a federal surveyor and established a cotton farm along the Red River in present-day Lafayette County. From 1825 to 1831, Conway surveyed the western boundary of Arkansas from the Red River to the Arkansas River and negotiated with Louisiana to set the southern boundary. He went on to serve as the first State Surveyor.

When Arkansas entered statehood in 1836, Conway's prominent family and association with President Jackson helped him become the first governor of the State of Arkansas. His election was the result of a powerful dynasty known as "The Family" that dominated state politics until the Civil War.

Conway's priority for the new state was to establish public education, banking and prison systems. He sought federal protection against Native American raids on the state's western boundary. That dispute erupted following Conway's own survey that veered off true north-south. He also succeeded in getting a federal arsenal for Little Rock (now the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History).

Conway's term was clouded by controversy. The state showed a surplus in its first two years, so he called a special legislative session to reduce the tax rate. The ill-timed move came during a nationwide depression that collapsed the state banks. Plagued by illness, Conway did not seek a second term and returned to his cotton plantation on the Red River. He remained active in politics and helped establish the Lafayette Academy in 1842.

The city of Conway in Faulkner County is named for him.



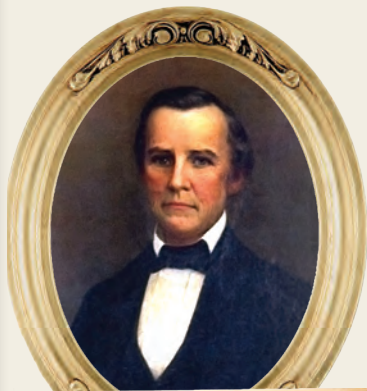
James S. Conway
Cotton Planter, Surveyor
Served 1836-1840

Born: December 4, 1796
Greene County,
Tennessee

Died: March 3, 1855
Lafayette County,
Arkansas

Buried: Family Cemetery
Walnut Hill Plantation
(now Conway Cemetery
State Historical Park)

SECOND GOVERNOR

Archibald Yell**Archibald Yell*****Soldier, Attorney******Served 1840-1844***

Born: About 1799
Jefferson County,
Tennessee (*disputed*)

Died: February 23, 1847
Buena Vista, Mexico

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery
Fayetteville, Arkansas
(*originally at Saltillo,
Mexico; reinterred at
Waxhaws Cemetery,
Fayetteville; later at
Evergreen*)

A distinguished soldier and larger-than-life figure, **Archibald Yell** fought in the War of 1812 under future U.S. President Andrew Jackson, most notably in the Battle of New Orleans. He studied law and was admitted to the Tennessee bar but returned to fight with Jackson in the First Seminole War in Florida.

Yell served in the Tennessee legislature before Jackson appointed him to several federal posts, including Receiver of Public Monies in Little Rock in 1831. Appointed as a territorial circuit judge, he made his home in Fayetteville. When statehood came in 1836, Yell was elected to the state House of Representatives and went on to run unopposed for governor in 1840.

After the controversial Conway administration, Yell demanded stronger control of banks, pushed to end prison for debt convictions and supported public education. He resigned the office in 1844, then ran for Congress. During the campaign, he reportedly won over voters by taking first place in a shooting match and donating the prize beef to the poorest widow in the area. Yell easily won the election.

He served just seven months in Congress, then resigned in 1846 to fight in the Mexican-American War as colonel of the 1st Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry. He was killed by a Mexican lancer while rallying his demoralized troops at the Battle of Buena Vista.

Yell County and the City of Yellville were named in his honor.

THIRD GOVERNOR

Thomas S. Drew

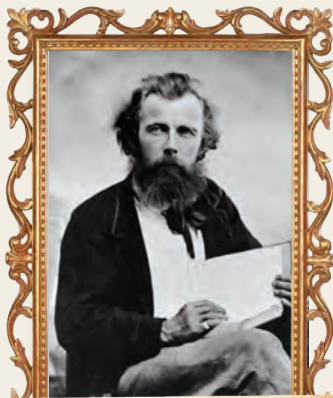
Thomas Stevenson Drew arrived in Clark County, Arkansas Territory, in 1817 and supported himself by working as a traveling peddler and school teacher. During the 1820s, he became active in politics and the emerging business of delivering mail to southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana.

In 1827, Drew married Cinderella Bettis, daughter of a prosperous Missouri landowner, and was gifted 800 acres in northeastern Arkansas near present-day Biggers. He became a successful planter and influential figure in the Democratic party. In 1844, the party was badly divided but eventually selected Drew as a unifying candidate for governor. He won in a three-way election with 47 percent of the vote.

Drew supported a safe platform of road improvements, modest aid to education and conservative spending made necessary by the state's failing finances. Re-elected in 1848, he resigned in January 1849 after his allies failed to raise his salary, which he needed due to his own failed investments.

He served briefly as Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Fort Smith, then turned to a career in law. After financial struggles during and immediately after the Civil War, Drew resumed his law practice in the late 1860s in Pocahontas. After his wife's death in 1872, Drew moved to Texas where he died in 1879.

Drew County, formed in 1846, in southeast Arkansas was named for him.



Thomas S. Drew
Peddler, Farmer, Speculator
Served 1844-1849

Born: August 22, 1802
Wilson County,
Tennessee

Died: January 1879
Lipan, Texas

Buried: Pocahontas, Arkansas
(reinterred from Lipan,
Texas in 1923)

FOURTH GOVERNOR

John S. Roane



John S. Roane
Lawyer, Planter, Soldier
Served 1849-1852

Born: January 8, 1817
 Wilson County,
 Tennessee

Died: April 7, 1867
 Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Buried: Oakland Cemetery
 Little Rock, Arkansas

A native of Tennessee, **John Selden Roane** migrated to Pine Bluff in 1837, studied law under his older brother and was admitted to the bar that same year. He served as the first prosecuting attorney for the Second Judicial District from 1840 to 1842. In 1842, he was elected to the state House of Representatives and was named speaker of the house.

In 1846, Roane organized volunteers from Van Buren to fight in the Mexican-American War. Lacking in military experience, he and his company performed poorly in the Battle of Buena Vista (February 22-23, 1847). After the war, criticism of the Arkansas regiment followed Roane and led to a duel with critic Albert Pike. Neither man was injured.

When Governor Drew resigned in January 1849, Roane won the special election to fill the term. He remains the youngest governor ever elected to the office. During Roane's administration, both Calhoun and Sebastian counties were created. Roane

supported programs to improve infrastructure, establish a state college and recruit immigrants to the state. He sought to use federal proceeds to restore the state's finances, but the legislature chose to lower taxes that further reduced state revenues.

Frustrated, Roane left office on November 15, 1852, and returned to his plantation in Pine Bluff. During the Civil War, he served as Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. John S. Roane died in April 1867 at age 50.

FIFTH GOVERNOR

Elias N. Conway

Elias Nelson Conway, brother to Arkansas's first governor, moved with his family from Tennessee to Missouri in 1818. In 1833, Conway moved to Little Rock, where he studied surveying and was appointed U.S. Deputy Surveyor. He then served as Arkansas's auditor from 1835 to 1849.

Conway declined the 1844 Democratic nomination for governor but accepted in 1852. He was sworn in on November 15, 1852, and re-elected in 1856, serving longer than any governor over the next century. During his administration, the office of state geologist was created, and he oversaw major improvements to roads, the state penitentiary and swampland reclamation. He was key in awarding land grants to the state's emerging railroad system and so was honored with a station on the Memphis and Little Rock route named for him. Ironically, he was known as "Dirt Roads Conway" for his public statements that all Arkansas really needed for prosperity were good dirt roads. In the era leading up to the Civil War, he backed legislation that outlawed free African-Americans living in the state.

His greatest accomplishment as governor was to restore financial stability. Conway did this by creating a court of chancery to help clear the state's debt from the failed Real Estate Bank. Despite a heavy bond burden that remained, the treasury held a cash surplus when Conway left office.

Conway then retired from public life, rarely leaving his home in Little Rock. His death in 1892 brought an end to the dynasty of the Conway-Johnson-Rector-Sevier family that had steered Arkansas politics since territorial days.



Elias N. Conway

Surveyor, Statesman

Served 1852-1860

Born: May 17, 1812
Greenville, Tennessee

Died: February 28, 1892
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

SIXTH GOVERNOR

Henry M. Rector

Henry M. Rector
Lawman, Cotton Farmer
Served 1860-1862

Born: May 1, 1816
 Fountain Ferry,
 Kentucky

Died: August 12, 1899
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly
 Cemetery, Little Rock

In 1835, at the age of 19, **Henry Massie Rector** left an unhappy childhood in Kentucky to manage Arkansas lands inherited from his father. He had little education and a contentious personality that often put him at odds with allies and adversaries alike.

After working in the failed State Bank, he gained prosperity as the U.S. Marshal for Arkansas in 1842. He was later elected to the State Senate and eventually the state Supreme Court.

He was related to the Conway-Johnson-Rector-Sevier political dynasty but was often at odds with them. He ran as an outsider for governor, defeating their chosen candidate in 1860. That year saw Abraham Lincoln elected president, which set the stage for Civil War. Governor Rector dramatically refused Lincoln's call for troops and seized federal arsenals at Little Rock and Fort Smith. The state joined the Confederacy on May 6, 1861, with a new constitution that shortened the governor's term to

two years. After threatening to secede from the Confederacy, Rector lost badly to "The Family" candidate, Col. Richard Johnson, in his 1862 bid for re-election and resigned from office the next month.

Rector returned from fighting in the state's reserve corps to the ruins of his once-grand plantation outside Little Rock. He continued to farm cotton in three counties and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1874. For decades he pursued his father's claim to the hot springs in the Ouachita Mountains. In 1876, the courts upheld private claims around the springs, but reserved the springs for the public.

The city of Rector in Clay County is named for him.

SEVENTH GOVERNOR

Harris Flanagin

Harris Flanagin, son of an Irish-born cabinetmaker, taught mathematics and studied law in Pennsylvania before coming to Arkansas in 1839. He settled in Arkadelphia and opened a law practice on the town square, speculated in land, and served briefly in state and local offices in the 1840s and 50s.

Flanagin was a reluctant secessionist who served as a delegate to the state's 1861 secession convention. He became captain, then colonel, in the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles and saw action at Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. In 1862, Flanagin was with the Army of Tennessee when former Unionists, Whigs and Democrats named him their candidate for governor against the wildly unpopular Governor Rector. Flanagin did not campaign but won handily.

Flanagin urged the legislature to aid soldiers' impoverished families, stabilize the state's finances, and suppress profiteering and illegal liquor. However, he did not utilize his full executive powers. As Union forces marched into Little Rock in 1863, Flanagin simply went home to Arkadelphia, assuming his duties were done. Confederates called him to the exiled state capital in Washington (Hempstead County) for a final legislative session in 1864. At war's end, Federal authorities allowed him to return home unharmed, then installed a new governor under a new constitution.

Flanagin worked for an orderly return to peacetime conditions. In 1874, he served as a delegate to the state's constitutional convention. He died before the Constitution's ratification.

**Harris Flanagin***Teacher, Lawyer, Speculator**Served 1862-1864*

Born: November 3, 1817
Roadstown,
New Jersey

Died: October 23, 1874
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Buried: Rose Hill Cemetery
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

EIGHTH GOVERNOR

Isaac Murphy**Isaac Murphy***Lawyer, Teacher, Surveyor**Served 1864-1868*

Born: October 16, 1799
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania

Died: September 8, 1882
Huntsville, Arkansas

Buried: Unknown

Isaac Murphy studied at Washington College, practiced law and taught school in his native Pennsylvania and Tennessee. In 1834, he and his family moved to Fayetteville, where he worked as a teacher, surveyor and lawyer. Astronomy was one of his main interests.

Murphy served two terms in the legislature, representing Washington County in 1846 and 1848. He was a delegate to the 1861 state Secession Convention and became known for casting the only vote in favor of staying in the Union. During the war, he fled to Missouri and served as a general's aide in the Union army, returning to Little Rock with the troops. In 1864, Murphy was elected governor.

During his administration, Arkansas began healing its Civil War wounds even as battles continued in the southern parts of the state. Murphy took a low-key approach to governing, stating that "we have all done wrong."

By the start of 1866, Murphy's plans began to erode. The elections of 1866 saw a pro-Confederate legislature elected, which posed dramatic problems for Murphy. He decided to remain in office and worked for the best interests of the state while taking abuse from both sides. When Murphy left office, the state showed a budget surplus, even though he had begun with no funds in the treasury. The surplus he left would soon vanish, however. Murphy returned to Huntsville, took up farming and practiced law once again, living a quiet life with his family until his death in 1882.

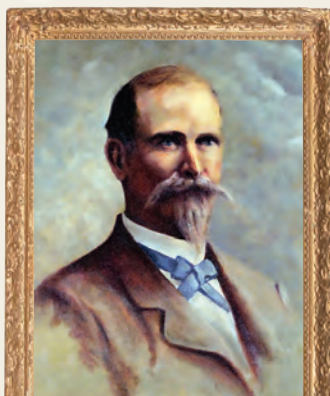
NINTH GOVERNOR

Powell Clayton

Powell Foulk Clayton, a native of Pennsylvania, arrived in Arkansas in 1862 as a Union cavalry general, commanding at the Battle of Helena and later the Pine Bluff post. He helped found the Arkansas Republican Party and, in 1868, became the state's first governor after rejoining the Union.

That election included a measure to ratify the state's first Reconstruction Constitution that restored the governor's term to four years. During Clayton's term, the legislature passed measures that improved roads and levees, reclaimed swampland, created free public schools, and established a school for the deaf and the college that would become the University of Arkansas. New laws also banned racial discrimination in housing, transportation, education and restaurants. Despite progressive measures, Clayton's administration is often remembered for controversies: he declared martial law in 14 counties to halt the rise of the Ku Klux Klan; accusations of corruption surrounded state aid to railroads; his opponents moved to impeach him; and bitter infighting plagued the newborn Republican Party.

In 1871, Clayton accepted when the legislature voted him to the U.S. Senate. He served until 1877 when the state legislature voted to replace him. Clayton returned to Arkansas to lead the state Republican Party and became a leader in developing Eureka Springs. In 1897, President William McKinley appointed Clayton ambassador to the Republic of Mexico. He served until 1905 and retired to Washington, D.C., where he died at the age of 81.



Powell F. Clayton

Soldier, Statesman

Served 1868-1871

Born: August 7, 1833
Bethel County,
Pennsylvania

Died: August 25, 1914
Washington, D.C.

Buried: Arlington National
Cemetery
Washington, D.C.

TENTH GOVERNOR

Elisha Baxter**Elisha Baxter***Merchant, Statesman**Served 1873-1874*

Born: September 1, 1827
Rutherford County,
North Carolina

Died: May 31, 1899
Batesville, Arkansas

Buried: Oak Lawn Cemetery
Batesville, Arkansas

Elisha Baxter came to Arkansas in 1852 and went on to become a central figure in one of the state's most notorious episodes, known as the Brooks-Baxter War.

Initially a merchant, Baxter studied law and became active in the Democratic Party as a legislator and prosecuting attorney. He favored neutrality in the Civil War, served in both armies and was indicted for treason by a Confederate grand jury. Post-war, he helped establish the new Republican Party and was rewarded with political appointments.

Baxter gained power amid fighting within the Republican Party. In 1872, dominant "Minstrel" Republicans supported Baxter for governor while the "Brindletail" faction favored Joseph Brooks. Though widely disputed, the popular vote went to Baxter, and the Minstrel-controlled legislature declared him governor.

Brooks contested the election, but his suit was unheard until Baxter began courting Democrats and lost the trust of many in his own party. In April 1874, a

circuit judge ruled for Brooks, and armed men marched to the State House to remove Baxter from the governor's office. Each side gathered forces as fighting broke out across the state, resulting in an estimated 200 casualties. President Ulysses Grant intervened and returned Baxter to office on May 15, 1874, unofficially ending Reconstruction in Arkansas.

A new constitution again shortened the governor's term to two years. Baxter refused the 1874 Democratic-Conservative nomination and retired to his farm near Batesville where he practiced law until his death.

Baxter County in North-Central Arkansas was named for him when it formed in 1873.

ELEVENTH GOVERNOR

Augustus H. Garland

Born in Tennessee, **Augustus Hill Garland** moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas, in 1836. He graduated from St. Joseph's College (Bardstown, Kentucky) in 1849 and was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1853.

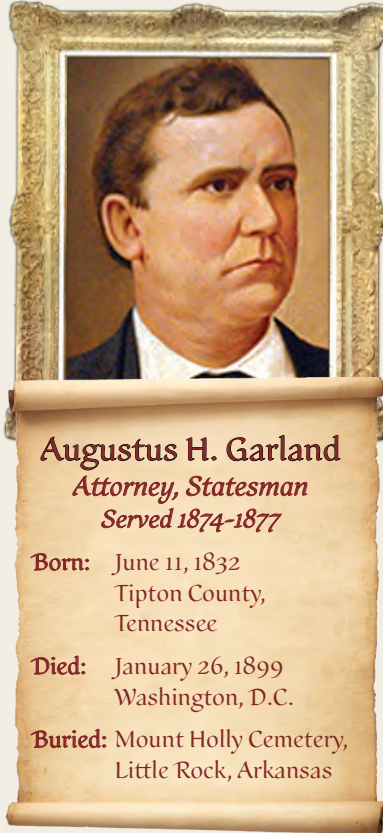
A Unionist, Garland was a delegate to the 1861 Secession Convention and initially voted against secession. He then served in the Confederate Congress. Pardoned by President Andrew Johnson, Garland was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1867, but was denied his seat because Arkansas had not been readmitted to the Union. He led the Democrats' effort to pass the new state constitution in 1874 and was elected governor on his party's ticket.

Governor Garland was successful in greatly reducing the state's \$17 million debt. An advocate for education, he backed legislation to found the Branch Normal College for black teachers (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and sought funding for schools for the blind and deaf. Garland led a publicity campaign to improve the state's rustic image. The result was an award-winning state pavilion at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

Garland did not seek a second term as governor. Instead, he ran again for U.S. Senate and this time was seated. He resigned in March 1885 to become U.S. Attorney General — the first Arkansan to serve in a presidential cabinet.

He died in 1899 while arguing a case before the Supreme Court.

Garland County is named in his honor.



Augustus H. Garland
Attorney, Statesman
Served 1874-1877

Born: June 11, 1832
Tipton County,
Tennessee

Died: January 26, 1899
Washington, D.C.

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery,
Little Rock, Arkansas

TWELFTH GOVERNOR

William R. Miller**William R. Miller***Attorney, Statesman**Served 1877-1881***Born:** November 23, 1823
Batesville, Arkansas**Died:** November 29, 1887
Little Rock, Arkansas**Buried:** Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

William Read Miller was the first governor born in Arkansas. He studied law and entered politics in 1848 when he was elected Independence County clerk. He served as clerk until 1854 and then was appointed to fill the uncompleted term of State Auditor. He was elected to the post in his own right in 1858, 1860, 1862, 1874 and 1886. In 1876, Miller was elected governor and won a second term in 1878 as a Democrat.

During his tenure, Governor Miller was a strong advocate for public education and fought for programs that addressed the state's financial problems. His reluctance to pardon death sentences earned him the nickname The Hanging Governor. With his support, the legislature enacted measures to fund the State Blind Asylum and the Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas). Miller believed whites and African-Americans should work together toward economic growth, a stand that often put him at odds with members of his own party.

He was known for his honesty and fiscal integrity, which led him to oppose the "Fishback Amendment," which called for defaulting on the state's bond debt. Opposition from Miller, former governor Garland and other prominent fiscal conservatives delayed passage. Ultimately, however, the bonds were denied with Amendment No. 1 in 1885.

Miller left office on January 13, 1881, and served as the deputy treasurer of Arkansas from 1881 to 1882. In 1886, he was again elected State Auditor and died late in the following year.

THIRTEENTH GOVERNOR

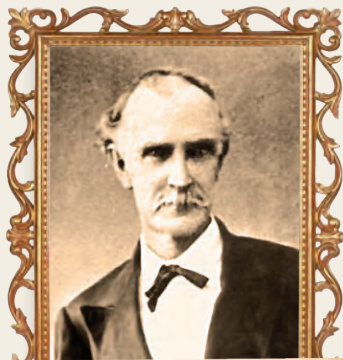
Thomas J. Churchill

Thomas James Churchill, a native of Kentucky, graduated from St. Mary's College in Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1844 and studied law at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. After serving in the Mexican War, he moved to Arkansas in 1849 and married the daughter of Senator Ambrose Sevier. Churchill took up farming near Little Rock.

Churchill was appointed postmaster of Little Rock in 1857, serving until 1861. During the Civil War, he raised a cavalry regiment for the Confederacy and fought at the Battles of Pea Ridge, Arkansas Post and Jenkins' Ferry. After the war, he returned to law, farming and politics. A Democratic supporter of Elisha Baxter, Churchill served three terms as state treasurer from 1874 until 1880, when he was elected governor.

Governor Churchill's successes included a new State Board of Health to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery; the state's first medical school; and regulation of rates for short-line railroads. However, controversies marred Churchill's tenure in office. In 1881, he sent the state militia to halt political violence in Perry County, a highly unpopular move. A special legislative committee audited records from Churchill's tenure as treasurer and found as much as \$233,000 missing from state funds. Courts ordered Churchill to repay the money. While he denied any wrongdoing, he ultimately repaid a small portion of the missing amount.

Churchill retired from public life, returned to farming and remained active in Confederate veterans' organizations.



Thomas J. Churchill
Soldier, Planter, Statesman
Served 1881-1883

Born: March 10, 1824
near Louisville, Kentucky

Died: May 14, 1905
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

FOURTEENTH GOVERNOR

James H. Berry

James H. Berry
Soldier, Teacher, Attorney
Served 1883-1885

Born: May 15, 1841
 Jackson County,
 Alabama

Died: January 30, 1913
 Bentonville, Arkansas

Buried: City Cemetery
 Bentonville, Arkansas

James Henderson Berry moved with his family to Arkansas in 1848. In 1861, Berry enlisted in the Confederate army and lost his right leg in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi. After the war, Berry taught school, read law and entered politics. He was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1866, 1872 and 1874. He served as a district judge and, in 1882, was elected governor.

As governor, Berry worked to further reduce the state's debt. He pursued claims against former officials, including his predecessor, Thomas Churchill. A racial moderate by the standards of his time, Berry sent militia and personally traveled to Howard County to stop mob action against a group of African-Americans accused of murder. Also during his administration, Berry pushed to reform the state's barbaric prisons and end the convict-lease system; however, he could not win funding from legislators. With his backing, voters approved the "Fishback Amendment" to

the Constitution that blocked payment on questionable state bonds sold during Reconstruction.

Berry did not run for re-election and left office in January 1885 to seek a U.S. Senate seat. That spring, he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Senator Augustus Garland. Berry served in the Senate seat for the next 22 years. In retirement, he remained active with veterans groups and was appointed to mark the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in Union prisons. Berry completed this task in December 1912 and died the following January at his home.

FIFTEENTH GOVERNOR

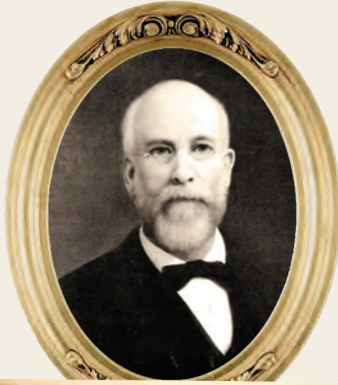
Simon P. Hughes

Born and educated in Tennessee, **Simon Pollard Hughes** was orphaned at the age of 14 and moved to Arkansas in 1849 with relatives. He entered politics in 1853, winning a hard-fought race for sheriff of Monroe County. While in office, Hughes studied law and was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1857, then started a private practice in Clarendon.

Although a Unionist Democrat, Hughes enlisted in the Confederate army and was commissioned as a captain, rising later to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a delegate to the 1874 Arkansas Constitutional Convention and was Arkansas's attorney general from 1874 to 1877.

In 1884, Hughes was elected governor and served two terms. He worked successfully with legislators to enact measures to reorganize Arkansas Industrial University, create the office of state geologist, limit the sale of intoxicants near schools and abolish state executions. In their only conflict with the governor, legislators failed to override his veto of a bill that allowed butchers and bakers to remain open until 10 a.m. on Sundays. The State Debt Board formed to help pay off undisputed debts. In fact, at the end of Hughes' first term there was a surplus in the state treasury. He stood for a third term but lost narrowly in the primary.

After leaving office in 1889, Hughes was elected to the Arkansas Supreme Court as an associate justice and served nearly 16 years on the bench until his retirement.



Simon P. Hughes
Attorney, Soldier, Judge
Served 1885-1889

Born: April 14, 1830
near Carthage,
Tennessee

Died: June 29, 1906
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

SIXTEENTH GOVERNOR

James P. Eagle



James P. Eagle
Farmer, Minister
Served 1889-1893

Born: August 10, 1837
 Maurin County,
 Tennessee

Died: December 20, 1904
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Born in Tennessee, **James Philip Eagle** moved with his family to Pulaski County in 1839 and began farming. In 1859, Eagle was appointed deputy sheriff of Prairie County. He enlisted in the Confederate army as a private and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. After the war, Eagle developed his family homestead into one of the largest farms in the area. He was ordained a Baptist minister and briefly attended Mississippi College.

A legislator from 1873 to 1878, Eagle returned to the House of Representatives in 1885 and was selected speaker. He sponsored the bill to form Lonoke County from parts of Prairie and Pulaski counties. In 1888, a divided Democratic party nominated Eagle for governor after 126 ballots. He won election, but charges of fraud clouded his victory.

Governor Eagle lobbied for equality in tax rates, effective railroad regulation, prison reforms and funding for

education, although he often failed to win legislative support.

Re-elected in 1890, Eagle personally supported voting rights for women and opposed racial segregation, but ultimately signed “Jim Crow” acts into law to preserve party unity. One of the most notorious of these laws segregated public transportation and accommodations. After his term, Eagle continued his work as a Southern Baptist minister, serving as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for 24 years and leading the national Southern Baptist Convention for two terms. He sat on the Capitol Commission, but Governor Jeff Davis dismissed him for campaigning for an opponent. In late 1904, Eagle died of heart failure at his home.

SEVENTEENTH GOVERNOR

William M. Fishback

William Meade Fishback graduated from the University of Virginia in 1855, then moved to Illinois where he was admitted to the bar in 1857. After a year of practicing law, he relocated to Greenwood, Arkansas, and became a law partner with Judge Solomon F. Clark.

A Union sympathizer, Fishback voted with the majority at both sessions of the 1861 state secession convention, first against seceding, then in favor in a second vote. He then left the state, only to return two years later to establish a Unionist newspaper and recruit about 900 men for the Fourth Arkansas Cavalry. In 1864 he was elected to the U.S. Senate, but like others from ex-Confederate states, was not allowed to take his seat. He was a key author of the loyalist constitution of 1864, known to some as the “Fishback Constitution.” He served in the legislature from 1871 to 1881 and was a delegate to the 1874 state Constitutional Convention. He became known as “The Great Repudiator” for introducing what became known as the “Fishback Amendment,” which prohibited paying on much of the state’s bond debt, including Reconstruction-era railroad aid and levee bonds.

On September 5, 1892, he was elected Arkansas’s 17th governor. During his tenure, the St. Francis levee district was organized. As governor, Fishback did little to guide the legislature, but instead sought to enhance the national image of Arkansas with the state’s acclaimed pavilion at the 1893 Columbian Exposition and other similar public relations activities. He left office in January 1895 and continued his work in promoting Arkansas’s industrial growth while practicing law in Fort Smith until his death in 1903.

**William M. Fishback***Attorney**Served 1893-1895*

- Born:** November 5, 1831
Jeffersonton,
Virginia
- Died:** February 9, 1903
Fort Smith, Arkansas
- Buried:** Oak Cemetery
Fort Smith, Arkansas

EIGHTEENTH GOVERNOR

James P. Clarke

James P. Clarke
Attorney, Statesman
Served 1895-1897

Born: August 18, 1854
 Yazoo County,
 Mississippi

Died: October 1, 1916
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Oakland Cemetery
 Little Rock, Arkansas

James Paul Clarke graduated from the University of Virginia in 1878 with a degree in law. He moved to Arkansas in 1879 and started a successful practice in Helena.

He was elected to represent Phillips County in the state House of Representatives in 1886. He went on to the State Senate in 1888 and the office of Attorney General in 1892. In 1894, he easily defeated three other candidates for governor.

During his tenure, Governor Clarke advocated a number of issues: four-year terms for state and county offices; legislative sessions once every four years, rather than two; and a constitutional provision for a tax on franchises. The General Assembly, however, did not enact any of these bills. Clarke was more successful in supporting railroad rate regulation and in negotiating with the federal government over debts owed by the state. Known for his volatile and

sometimes violent temper, Clarke never backed down from a confrontation, whether political or physical. Ironically, he crusaded to prevent prizefighting in Arkansas, threatening to use the militia to stop such events.

Rather than seek an almost-certain second term, Clarke ran for the U.S. Senate in 1896. He lost that race, but ultimately won the seat in 1902 and was twice re-elected. Clarke is best known for his independent streak and his frequent support of progressive legislation, which was often at odds with the Democratic leadership of the time.

NINETEENTH GOVERNOR

Daniel W. Jones

Daniel Webster Jones was born in the Republic of Texas and moved to Arkansas with his family at the age of 4. They settled in Washington, Arkansas, where Jones attended Washington Academy and later studied law.

During the Civil War, Jones enlisted in the Third Arkansas Infantry for the Confederacy. Wounded in battle, he became a prisoner of war twice and rose to the rank of colonel. Following the war, Jones finished his law studies and was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1865. Just a year later, he was named Prosecuting Attorney for Hempstead County. Jones was elected Prosecuting Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in 1874 and went on to win two terms as Attorney General. In 1890 he was elected to the state House of Representatives from Pulaski County. Jones won the 1896 race for governor with almost twice the votes of his two opponents.

In his first term, Jones secured the creation of a state railroad commission, an idea that, ironically, he had fought as an attorney and lobbyist for the Iron Mountain Railroad. Other measures he supported included election reforms and construction of a separate juvenile reform school, but he failed to rally support from the legislature for many of his issues. Jones easily won re-election in 1898. During his second term, he launched a campaign to construct a new state capitol, and the legislature enacted a state-level anti-trust act.

After losing his bid for the U.S. Senate in 1900, Jones resumed his law practice in Little Rock and returned to serve in the 1915 General Assembly.



Daniel W. Jones

*Soldier, Attorney
Served 1897-1901*

Born: December 15, 1839
Bowie County, Texas

Died: December 25, 1918
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Oaklawn Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

TWENTIETH GOVERNOR

Jeff Davis

Jeff Davis
Attorney, Statesman
Served 1901-1907

Born: May 6, 1862
 near Rocky Comfort,
 Arkansas

Died: January 3, 1913
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Jeff Davis was born in Sevier County (present-day Little River County) and raised in Pope County. He attended the University of Arkansas and studied law at Vanderbilt University and Cumberland University in Tennessee. On his return to Russellville, Arkansas, he joined in law practice with his father, L. W. Davis, in Russellville.

He served as Prosecuting Attorney of the Fifth Judicial District of Arkansas from 1892 to 1896. After a failed run for Congress, Davis overcame a minor stroke to win his race for Attorney General in 1898. He fought a plan to construct a new state capitol. Well known for his outrageous rhetoric and oratory, he began a year-long campaign for governor, styling himself as a crusader against the “Yankee trusts.” He carried all but one county to win the governor’s seat in 1900. He was re-elected in 1902 and in 1904, becoming the first governor to serve more than two consecutive terms.

During his administration, legislators enacted laws that required segregated seating on streetcars, authorized construction of a state reform school and created the Arkansas History Commission. Also during his tenure, public executions were prohibited and salaries were defined for members of the state legislature. Davis was known for his deep opposition to convict leasing, his attempts to halt construction of a new capitol building, his command of populist rhetoric, and his ability to exploit racial and class tensions in his own behalf.

Davis was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1906 and served until his death.

TWENTY-FIRST GOVERNOR

John S. Little

John Sebastian Little attended Cane Hill College in Washington County for one term, then taught school while studying law. He entered politics in 1876 and was elected Prosecuting Attorney of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, serving until 1884. He then served a term in the state House of Representatives, followed by election to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court, a position he held until 1890. In 1894, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served six terms.

Little ran for governor in 1906 with endorsements from outgoing Governor Davis and former colleagues in the legislature. Despite an episode of a “nervous disorder,” he handily won both the primary and general elections. In his inaugural address, Little outlined an ambitious agenda that included corporate regulation, free school textbooks, election reform, the suppression of gambling, levee and road construction and a final end to convict leasing. Two days later, he suffered a near-total mental and physical collapse. On doctor’s orders, he returned to Greenwood to recover. Initially his son and secretary took charge of the governor’s office, delivering papers home to Greenwood for signing. Governor Little never recovered his health. He died in 1916 in the Arkansas State Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

The Constitution of 1874 omitted the office of lieutenant governor, leaving the state without a clear line of succession. A variety of legislative leaders served as acting governor for the duration of Little’s term. This episode ultimately led to a constitutional amendment that created the elected office of lieutenant governor.



John S. Little
Judge, Statesman
Served 1907

Born: March 15, 1851
Jenny Lind, Arkansas

Died: October 29, 1916
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: City Cemetery
Greenwood, Arkansas

TWENTY-SECOND GOVERNOR

George W. Donaghey**George W. Donaghey***Building Contractor**Served 1909-1913*

Born: July 1, 1856
Oakland, Louisiana

Died: December 15, 1937
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial
Park, Little Rock

Born in northern Louisiana, **George Washington Donaghey** moved to Union County as a toddler. As a teen, he was a cowboy on the Chisholm Trail, then studied architecture and structural engineering for a term at the University of Arkansas. He achieved success as a building and railroad contractor.

Donaghey was named to the new Capitol Commission in 1899. Under his supervision, construction for a new state capitol began that summer. The project had mixed support, and progress soon slowed due to controversy and lack of funding. Incoming Governor Jefferson Davis, an opponent of the project, replaced Donaghey on the commission in 1901. Donaghey won the governor's office in 1908 on a progressive platform with a promise to complete the capitol.

Over two terms, Governor Donaghey worked to improve public health, education, roads and railways and also pushed to complete the capitol. In 1911, he addressed the first

legislature to meet in the new chambers of the-not-yet-finished building. Donaghey led in creating a tuberculosis hospital in Booneville, as well as the four agricultural schools we now know as Arkansas Tech, Arkansas State, Southern Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He campaigned to create an initiative and referendum process. The amendment passed, allowing citizens, not just lawmakers, to place issues up for vote. For the next 70 years, Arkansas was the only southern state with such a provision. Donaghey ended the convict-lease system in 1912 by pardoning 360 inmates — nearly half the prison population — and ruining the value of the leases.

After losing his bid for a third term, Donaghey returned to his business interests and focused on charitable works. He died in 1937, but left the Donaghey Foundation that continues his great legacy of public service.

TWENTY-THIRD GOVERNOR

Joe T. Robinson

Joseph Taylor Robinson was born on a farm near Lonoke. Largely self-taught, he passed the local teacher's exam at the age of 17 and taught school for two years. He briefly attended the University of Arkansas, then returned to Lonoke and studied law with a local judge. He ultimately attended the University of Virginia Law School and earned admission to the Arkansas Bar in 1895. By this time he had been elected to the state House, where he served a single term.

In 1902, Robinson began an 11-year tenure in Congress, where he proved himself as a moderate progressive, backing railroad regulation, progressive income taxation and women's suffrage. He won the race for governor in 1912, resigned his congressional seat on January 14, 1913, and was sworn in as governor two days later. But on January 28, legislators chose him to fill the U.S. Senate term of the late Jeff Davis. As a result, Robinson held the titles of congressman, governor and senator-elect, all within just two weeks. The last U.S. senator elected by a state legislature, he remained governor until March to direct an active legislative session. In his short term, Governor Robinson pressed for funding to complete the State Capitol and for creation of a banking department, bureau of labor statistics and highway commission. Arkansas also adopted its first state flag.

Robinson had a long, distinguished career in the U.S. Senate. The Democrats chose him as their vice-presidential candidate in 1928, but lost to the Hoover ticket. Robinson became Democratic majority leader in 1932 and was a loyal ally of President Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal plan. In 1937 Robinson died unexpectedly during the Congressional fight over the president's "court-packing plan." Roosevelt called him "a pillar of strength . . . [he] has fallen with face to the battle."



Joe T. Robinson
Attorney, Statesman
Served 1913

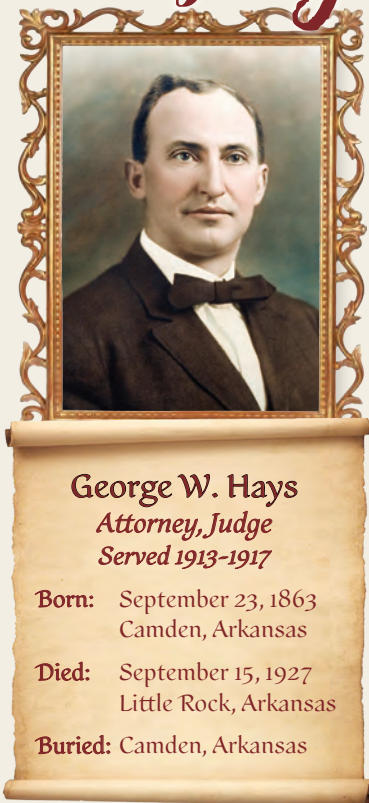
Born: August 26, 1872
near Lonoke, Arkansas

Died: July 14, 1937
Washington, D.C.

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

TWENTY-FOURTH GOVERNOR

George W. Hays



A native of Camden, **George Washington Hays** studied law in Virginia, then returned home to open his practice in 1894. He served as probate and county judge for Ouachita County from 1900 to 1905 and presided over the 13th Judicial Circuit from 1906 to 1913.

When Governor Robinson resigned in March 1913, state law did not provide for succession by another official. Hays won a special election in July 1913 to fill the governor's post. In office, Hays worked to consolidate his political power, rather than to pursue a reform agenda. Although criticized by Progressives for his perceived openness to special-interest pressures, Hays's political savvy and personal popularity helped him win a second, full, term in 1914.

Under Governor Hays, the legislature passed the Alexander Road Improvement Act, which created

road-improvement districts governed by commissions with power to issue bonds. Statewide prohibition became law, although Hays spoke for both "wet" and "dry" measures at differing times. After swearing opposition to gambling, he signed a bill to legalize gambling in Hot Springs. However, he reconsidered and wrote in "disapproved," which courts upheld as a veto. During Hays' tenure, a new commission, appointed by the governor, replaced the old and allegedly corrupt Charities Board. Also, the new State Capitol was declared complete, and a women's suffrage amendment was referred to voters.

After leaving office, Hays returned to his law practice and wrote for national periodicals on polarizing issues. He died in 1927 of complications from influenza.

TWENTY-FIFTH GOVERNOR

Charles H. Brough

Charles Hillman Brough (rhymes with “rough”) graduated from Mississippi College in 1894 and earned a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1898. He taught European and American history, economics, ethics, German and philosophy at Mississippi College, Hillman College and the University of Arkansas. A powerful orator, Brough was a popular guest speaker at public gatherings.

After a brief run in the special election to replace Governor Robinson, Brough left teaching in 1915 to seek the governor’s seat. He won decisively with a platform of sweeping reform. As governor, Brough advocated laws to create a commission on illiteracy; a reformatory for women; a girl’s industrial school; vocational education; school millage measures; and county boards of education. He also pushed for mandatory school attendance, a commission to regulate public utilities, financial aid for needy mothers and medical care for the impoverished. In 1917, at Brough’s urging, Arkansas led other Southern states in granting women the right to vote in primary elections. In all, the legislature passed almost 90 percent of Brough’s agenda. When the Elaine race riots erupted in 1919, he sent federal troops to restore order, then created a special commission to promote interracial harmony. His ambitious roads program laid 2,500 miles of paved highways that he believed would advance agriculture and business in the state.

After leaving office, Brough continued to promote the state as a passionate spokesman for the Arkansas Advancement Association. He later chaired a federal commission to settle a border dispute between Virginia and the District of Columbia before his death.



Charles H. Brough

Educator, Orator

Served 1917-1921

Born: July 9, 1876
Clinton, Mississippi

Died: December 26, 1935
Washington, D.C.

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

TWENTY-SIXTH GOVERNOR

Thomas C. McRae**Thomas C. McRae***Attorney, Banker**Served 1921-1925*

Born: December 21, 1851
Mount Holly,
Arkansas

Died: June 2, 1929
Prescott, Arkansas

Buried: De Ann Cemetery
Prescott, Arkansas

With a degree in law from Washington and Lee University, **Thomas Chipman McRae** was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1873. He served in the state House of Representatives from 1877 to 1879 and was a U.S. Representative from the Third Congressional District from 1885 to 1903.

In 1917, McRae served as a delegate to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention. However, in the uncertainty following World War I, voters rejected the new document. In 1920, McRae reluctantly entered the gubernatorial race as one of nine Democrats seeking the post. On November 2, 1920, he was elected governor and won a second term in 1922.

Legislators blocked most of McRae's first-term initiatives to reform the highway program, generate school funding and form a worker's compensation program. His second term was more successful, although it required three special legislative sessions. With almost 100,000

illiterate adults, the state education system was in crisis. McRae pushed for new funding from personal income taxes, severance taxes on natural resources and a tobacco tax. The state's highway improvement districts had allowed fraud and corruption to flourish. Facing a loss of federal funding, McRae called a special session, and legislators finally granted the state sole oversight of highway construction. He was also successful in getting legislation to authorize a sanatorium for African-Americans with tuberculosis and the office of State Geologist, formed after the discovery of oil in southern Arkansas.

McRae, who left office with a surplus in the state treasury, returned to the law and banking until his death in 1929.

TWENTY-SEVENTH GOVERNOR

Thomas J. Terral

Born in Louisiana, **Thomas Jefferson Terral** attended the University of Kentucky, and in 1910 earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas.

Terral entered politics in 1911 and served as assistant secretary of the Arkansas Senate until 1915. He was deputy state superintendent of public instruction from 1912 to 1916, except during the periods in 1913 and 1915 when the General Assembly was in session. He was elected Arkansas Secretary of State in 1916 and served until 1921. In 1920, Terral ran for governor and lost, but he ran again in 1924 and won.

In his inaugural address, Terral favored strict enforcement of the law, calling for measures to punish bootleggers and "pistol toters." Although the McRae administration had more than doubled the amount spent per student, Terral sought to increase it again by taxing luxuries such as gum and cosmetics. He was successful in consolidating the duties of 11 honorary commissions into the new, salaried Board of Charities and Corrections. Terral also successfully merged state revenue collection into a single Department of Insurance and Revenues and created a college student loan program. During his term, construction began on a new state hospital in Little Rock; Arkansas founded its first state park at Petit Jean Mountain; and a constitutional amendment increased the number of Arkansas Supreme Court judges from five to seven.

Terral ran unsuccessfully for re-election in 1926 and returned to his law practice in Little Rock.



Thomas J. Terral

Attorney, Statesman

Served 1925-1927

Born: December 21, 1882
Union Parish, Louisiana

Died: March 9, 1946
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

TWENTY-EIGHTH GOVERNOR

John E. Martineau



John E. Martineau

Teacher, Judge

Served 1927-1928

Born: December 2, 1873
Clay County, Missouri

Died: March 6, 1939
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

The son of Canadian immigrants, **John Ellis Martineau** was born in Missouri and graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1896. He briefly taught school, then enrolled in the university's law school at Little Rock and graduated in 1899. In 1902, Martineau was elected to the Arkansas House for the first of two terms. He was appointed chancellor of the First Chancery Court in 1907 and served for 20 years. He earned a reputation for fairness and plain speaking.

In 1924, Martineau lost his bid for governor, but was successful in the 1926 election. By defeating Thomas Terral, he became the first governor elected over an incumbent since Reconstruction. He was also the first governor to broadcast his inaugural address on radio. Martineau served only 14 months, but made an impact on state programs. During that time he restored honorary boards for state institutions, which had been

dissolved in favor of paid boards under Terral's administration.

He created the Confederate Pensions Board and funded it by issuing bonds. In response to devastating floods in 1927, the Tri-State Flood Commission formed to coordinate relief efforts between Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. He served as its president. His real legacy was made with the Martineau Road Plan. It authorized state aid for highway construction within city limits and bond issuance for road construction.

On March 2, 1928, Martineau resigned from the governor's office to accept an appointment to the Federal District Court of Eastern Arkansas. He served in that position until his death in 1939.

TWENTY-NINTH GOVERNOR

Harvey Parnell

Harvey Parnell grew up on a farm in rural Cleveland County before moving to Warren, where he attended high school. His early jobs included working as a clerk, bookkeeper, dry goods merchant and farmer. In 1919 he began the first of his two terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives. Parnell also served in the Arkansas Senate from 1923 to 1925. When a Supreme Court ruling cleared the way for a new office of lieutenant governor in 1926, Parnell ran for the post and became the first to hold that office. He then became governor in 1928 when John Martineau resigned to accept a federal judgeship.

Later that year, Parnell won the general election to become the 29th Governor of Arkansas in his own right. He was re-elected in 1930. Parnell set out to address the issues he considered most urgent to Arkansans: taxation, education and rural highways. Institutions created during Parnell's tenure included Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia, along with commissions for state highways and commerce. He also appointed Hattie Caraway to fill her late husband's seat in the U.S. Senate; she went on to become the first woman elected to the Senate. He convinced the legislature to pass a school attendance mandate, as well as Arkansas's first income tax to fund school improvements. However, the dawn of the Great Depression left many citizens without any income to tax. Parnell was slow to respond to the state's economic collapse, favoring private resources and a self-help approach to relief. He also failed to win legislative support for his plan to reorganize state government.

After leaving office, Parnell returned to his farming interests but remained in public service and spent his remaining three years as an appraiser for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.



Harvey Parnell

Farmer, Merchant

Served 1928-1933

Born: February 28, 1880
Orlando, Arkansas

Died: January 16, 1936
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

THIRTIETH GOVERNOR

J. Marion Futrell**J. Marion Futrell***Farmer, Attorney**Served 1933-1937*

Born: August 14, 1870
Jones Ridge, Arkansas

Died: June 20, 1955
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Linwood Cemetery
Paragould, Arkansas

Junius Marion Futrell attended the University of Arkansas from 1892 to 1893, and was admitted to the bar in 1913. His early jobs included teaching, farming and working in the timber industry. He served three terms in the House of Representatives, then later as Greene County circuit clerk and state senator. As Senate president, he was one of the acting governors to serve following Governor Robinson's resignation in 1913. After holding two judicial posts, he won the 1932 race for governor.

Futrell took office at the peak of the Great Depression with Arkansas near bankruptcy. Futrell pushed to pay-off soaring highway debts with new fees on auto licenses, gas and oil. The Highway Refunding Act passed in a special legislative session. He favored limited government and opposed public assistance programs. Futrell believed the unemployed lacked initiative and that eliminating machines would create more jobs. He cut 51 percent of state spending, including funding for high schools (he believed an eighth grade education was enough in rural Arkansas.)

He supported limits on the legislature's ability to levy taxes and issue bonds. Futrell also saw opportunity for revenue in legalized alcohol and gambling. In fact, he hoped to convert state prisons to manufacture and sell corn whisky. The legislature rejected the "Convict Corn Plan," but did allow local liquor options and legalized paramutual betting in Hot Springs and West Memphis. The state nearly lost 400,000 federal relief jobs when it failed to provide matching funds, but the governor and legislature initiated a sales tax and other measures to raise the state's share. The plight of displaced sharecroppers and tenant farmers received national attention, but Futrell's only response was to appoint a state commission to investigate.

Futrell left office after two terms with a surplus in the state treasury. He returned to his law practice, serving as attorney for the Dyess Colony, a cooperative farm formed under the New Deal. He retired from public service after a failed run for the state Supreme Court in 1940.

THIRTY-FIRST GOVERNOR

Carl E. Bailey

In 1917, Missouri native **Carl Edward Bailey** moved to Arkansas, where he worked as a bookkeeper while studying law. He served as the Sixth District's deputy prosecuting attorney, then became prosecuting attorney in 1927. In 1931, Bailey prosecuted the owner of a failed banking empire. He won the case and public notice, but made a political foe in the lead defense counsel, Senator Joe T. Robinson.

Bailey was elected state attorney general in 1934. He gained public support from another famous incident after known mobster "Lucky" Luciano fled charges in New York for Hot Springs. Bailey refused a \$50,000 bribe to deny extradition and ordered State Police to make the arrest, declaring that "Arkansas cannot be made an asylum for criminals." In 1936, Bailey won the race for governor with only 32 percent of the vote in a divided field of candidates.

Bailey promised services, not surpluses, to combat the Great Depression. He created a merit exam for state positions, although it would be repealed in the following session. Just six months into his first term, Bailey joined the scramble to replace Senator Robinson, who died in office. Although backed by President Roosevelt's administration, Bailey lost the race against Robinson's surviving political machine. In a special legislative session, Bailey was successful in passing highway reforms to end tolls on the state's bridges and increase highway taxes. Re-elected in 1938, Governor Bailey restructured a number of state agencies in order to maximize New Deal benefits. He sought a rare third term in a contentious race against his chief rival. This time, however, Bailey was defeated.

Bailey resumed his law practice and pursued a number of business interests, including teaching legal medicine at the University of Arkansas Medical School, before his death at age 54.



Carl E. Bailey
Attorney, Teacher
Served 1937-1941

Born: October 8, 1894
Bernie, Missouri

Died: October 23, 1948
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park,
Little Rock, Arkansas

THIRTY-SECOND GOVERNOR

Homer M. Adkins**Homer M. Adkins***Pharmacist, Businessman**Served 1941-1945***Born:** October 15, 1890
Jacksonville, Arkansas**Died:** February 26, 1964
Malvern, Arkansas**Buried:** Roselawn Memorial Park
Little Rock, Arkansas

Homer Martin Adkins graduated from the Little Rock College of Pharmacy in 1911. Six months shy of the minimum age for licensing, he received special permission for certification at the age of 20. He was a captain in the Army Medical Corps during World War I.

Adkins entered politics in 1923 as Pulaski County Sheriff. He campaigned for Franklin Roosevelt in the 1932 presidential race and was rewarded with a post as state collector of internal revenue. He used it to build political connections that helped him win the governor's seat in 1942.

Even before he took office, Adkins built support for a new highway funding plan. It was one of the first measures passed by the 1941 General Assembly, and voters overwhelmingly approved the bond issue. As World War II raged during his two terms, Adkins helped win \$300 million worth of defense projects for the state. Those federal programs included federal internment

of 20,000 Japanese-Americans in the state. Adkins fought to deny them public education, property ownership and jobs. He also pushed for limits on voting rights for African-Americans. In two terms, Adkins increased the state treasury surplus from \$21 million to \$45 million. He oversaw creation of the state's first workmen's compensation commission and dispatched the state police in a crackdown on gambling in Hot Springs.

After losing a bid for U.S. Senate, Adkins left office and became a political broker and advisor to several future governors. In 1948, he was appointed administrator of the Arkansas Employment Security Division, established a public-relations firm in Little Rock and worked to recruit industries to the state until his death in 1964.

THIRTY-THIRD GOVERNOR

Ben Laney, Jr.

Born on a small farm in Ouachita County, **Benjamin “Business Ben” Laney Jr.** attended public schools, taught briefly, then enrolled at Hendrix College. He joined the U.S. Navy in World War I. After the war, Laney earned a degree from Arkansas Teachers College (now the University of Central Arkansas). He and his brother bought a Conway drugstore. He also worked in banking, farming and real estate. Laney entered the oil business after oil was discovered on his family farm in 1922. He then invested in a variety of farm-related ventures.

Laney became mayor of Camden in 1935 and later served on the state Penitentiary Board. A largely unknown candidate, he won the 1944 governor’s race and brought his strong business skills to state government. He sought to pay off the state’s non-highway debt, reduce taxes and protect services during economic downturns. The resulting Revenue Stabilization Act continues to enforce a balanced state budget today. In other moves toward efficiency, Laney restructured a number of state agencies and merged others. Among the new consolidated boards was the Arkansas Resources and Development Commission and the Public Service Commission. Also during his two terms, Laney won approval to build War Memorial Stadium and the Governor’s Mansion in Little Rock. He consistently supported racial segregation and aligned with the states’ rights movement promoted by prominent southern Democrats (or “*Dixiecrats*”). However, during his administration, the University of Arkansas School of Law became the first integrated southern institution of higher education since Reconstruction.

Laney did not seek a consecutive third term as governor and failed in a 1950 bid to reclaim the office. He remained active in state politics and was a delegate to the 1969 Arkansas Constitutional Convention.



Ben Laney, Jr.

Farmer, Businessman

Served 1945-1949

Born: November 25, 1896
Jones Chapel
(Cooterneck), Arkansas

Died: January 21, 1977
Magnolia, Arkansas

Buried: Memorial Cemetery
Camden, Arkansas

THIRTY-FOURTH GOVERNOR

Sid S. McMath


Sid S. McMath
Attorney
Served 1949-1953

Born: June 14, 1912
Columbia County,
Arkansas

Died: October 4, 2003
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Pinecrest Memorial Park
Alexander, Arkansas

Sidney Sanders McMath grew up during the height of gangsters and gambling in Hot Springs. He earned a law degree at the University of Arkansas in 1936. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, earning the Silver Star and Legion of Merit. In 1947, McMath ran in the Democratic primary for prosecuting attorney, joining other war veterans in a bid to defeat Garland County's political machine. The only reform candidate elected, McMath formally charged Hot Springs Mayor Leo McLaughlin as an accessory to fraud in that election. Although the mayor was acquitted, statewide attention in the case helped propel McMath into the governor's office in 1948.

His agenda focused on improvements to the state's highways, health care and schools. For a decade, economic woes and wartime shortages had taken a severe toll on highways and bridges. McMath won voters' approval for bonds to finance a modern highway system. He also pushed for improvements in mental health care, upgrades at the UA medical

school and construction of a new medical center in Little Rock. He was instrumental in bringing electric power to rural areas. He also sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage and strengthen industrial safety. McMath worked to improve race relations by supporting laws against lynching and poll taxes and by appointing blacks to previously all-white boards and commissions. However, allegations of wasteful spending and abuse of power in the highway program cost McMath his bid for a third term.

No charges resulted from the scandal, but McMath was unsuccessful in future runs for the U.S. Senate and another term as governor. However, he remained a popular and influential figure in Arkansas politics. For 40 years, he practiced law as an advocate for "blue collar" Arkansans and served as president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 1976. He died in 2003 just as his autobiography, *Promises Kept: A Memoir*, was published.

THIRTY-FIFTH GOVERNOR

Francis A. Cherry

Francis Adams Cherry was only a few months old when his "old-line republican" family moved from his birthplace of Fort Worth, Texas, to Oklahoma. He graduated from Enid (Okla.) High School and attended Oklahoma A&M College. He delayed law school to work during the Depression, then graduated with a law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1936. Cherry was appointed U.S. Commissioner for the Jonesboro division of the Eastern District in 1939 and was named referee for the workmen's compensation commission.

Cherry entered politics in 1942 when he was elected chancellor and probate judge of the 12th Chancery District. During World War II, he waived judicial immunity and served two years in the Navy. In 1946, he returned to his duties as chancellor. A political unknown, Cherry entered a crowded democratic race for governor in 1952. His radio "talkathons" raised his visibility and campaign funds and lifted him to a decisive victory in the election.

Governor Cherry emphasized frugal spending and sound management in state government. He created a new Department of Finance and Administration to control the state budget and reformed the controversial highway commission. Cherry advocated industrial development and promoted the use of Arkansas's raw materials to other states. However, he was criticized for appointing non-Arkansans to head several agencies, vetoing tax exemptions on feed, seed and fertilizer and trimming welfare rolls. His plan to change the property tax structure failed to win support and damaged Cherry's image with voters. He ran unsuccessfully for a second term in 1955.

After leaving office, Cherry was appointed to the federal Subversive Activities Control Board and was named its chairman in 1963. He died in July 1965 after two years of declining health.



Francis A. Cherry

Attorney

Served 1953-1955

Born: September 5, 1908
Fort Worth, Texas

Died: July 15, 1965
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Buried: Oaklawn Cemetery
Jonesboro, Arkansas

THIRTY-SIXTH GOVERNOR

Orval E. Faubus**Orval E. Faubus***Teacher, Publisher**Served 1955-1967*

Born: January 7, 1910
Greasy Creek, Arkansas

Died: December 14, 1994
Conway, Arkansas

Buried: Orval E. Faubus
Memorial Gardens
Combs, Arkansas

Orval Eugene Faubus was raised in a log cabin and educated in one- and two-room schoolhouses. Faubus spent a brief period at Commonwealth College near Mena and completed his formal education through night courses. He worked around the country as an itinerant farmer, lumberjack and teacher. In World War II, he served as an Army intelligence officer under General George Patton. Following the war, he was named Huntsville's postmaster and bought the local weekly newspaper, the *Madison County Record*. Faubus was appointed to the Arkansas State Highway Commission and served as Director of Highways from 1952 to 1953.

Just 15 minutes before the filing deadline, Faubus formally entered the 1954 race for governor and defeated incumbent Francis Cherry in an all Democratic general runoff. Faubus took office with a moderate agenda that included fighting to regulate utility companies, dramatically raising teacher salaries and establishing the first state facility for children with developmental

disabilities. However, he quickly grabbed political opportunity and took a firm stance against desegregation, leading to one of the most infamous events in state history. In 1957, Faubus mobilized the National Guard to prevent integration of Central High School in Little Rock. The crisis dragged on for weeks until President Dwight D. Eisenhower deployed troops to shield nine black students as they entered the school. The troops stayed for the remainder of the school year. The events drew national scrutiny but cemented Faubus' popularity around the state. He served six terms — a total of 12 years — the longest of any Arkansas governor.

When a seventh term appeared unlikely, Faubus retired, but remained a colorful and influential figure in Arkansas politics. He ran for governor unsuccessfully three more times, losing his final race in 1984 to Bill Clinton.

THIRTY-SEVENTH GOVERNOR

Winthrop Rockefeller

Winthrop Rockefeller grew up in New York and attended Yale University from 1931 to 1934. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, earning the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart. His adventurous spirit led him away from a career in the family's business empire. In 1953, he visited an Army friend in Arkansas and was drawn to the state's natural beauty. He bought 900 acres on Petit Jean Mountain and established Winrock Farms to raise purebred Santa Gertrudis cattle, grains and hay.

In 1955, Governor Faubus appointed him chairman of the new Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. During his term, the state gained 600 industries and 90,000 jobs. By 1966, Rockefeller had donated more than \$8 million to causes such as the growing Arkansas Arts Center. He was frustrated with the state's one-party system and became the first viable Republican gubernatorial hopeful since Reconstruction. He lost to Faubus in the 1964 race, but won two years later.

As governor, Rockefeller advocated human rights, government reform, cultural development and education. He won legislation to create a general minimum-wage, freedom-of-information act and banking reforms. Rockefeller's attempts to overhaul the notorious prison system met resistance, but he was able to bring an end to Hot Springs' illegal gambling operations. African-Americans gained a voice in state government through appointments to numerous boards and commissions, plus increased minority hiring in state jobs. In his second term, Rockefeller clashed with the Democrat-controlled legislature and could not rally support for proposals such as his revenue program. His run for a third term in 1970 fell short, but he continued to be active in Republican Party matters and public affairs until his death in 1973.



Winthrop Rockefeller

Financier, Farmer

Served 1967-1971

Born: May 1, 1912
New York City, New York

Died: February 22, 1973
Palm Springs, California

Buried: Petit Jean Mountain
Conway County, Arkansas

THIRTY-EIGHTH GOVERNOR

Dale L. Bumpers**Dale L. Bumpers***Attorney, Businessman**Served 1971-1975*

Born: August 12, 1925
Charleston, Arkansas

Died: January 1, 2016
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: 1st United Methodist
Church Columbarium,
Charleston, Arkansas

Dale Leon Bumpers briefly attended the University of Arkansas before enlisting in the Marines during World War II. After the war, he completed his studies at the U of A and Northwestern University's School of Law. Bumpers returned to Arkansas and practiced law, ranched and ran his family's hardware store. In 1962, he unsuccessfully sought the legislative seat once held by his father.

In 1970, Bumpers ran for governor, facing six other Democratic candidates including former Governor Orval Faubus. Bumpers bested Faubus in the runoff and went on to defeat incumbent Winthrop Rockefeller in the general election. His personable, persuasive style enabled him to win legislative support for such measures as a sweeping reorganization and consolidation of state agencies. To fund salary increases for teachers and raise state revenues, Bumpers sought a revised state income tax structure that also eased rates for lower-income families, while raising state revenues and funding salary increases for teachers. Other successes included a new consumer fraud division in the Attorney

General's office, expansion of the state parks system and improved social services. In 1972, Bumpers easily won reelection. In his second term he guided measures to create state-supported kindergartens, construct new college facilities and eliminate the state prison trustee system.

Bumpers began his quarter-century in the U.S. Senate by defeating incumbent J. William Fulbright in 1974. After leaving the Senate in 1998, he practiced law in Washington, D.C. before retiring to Little Rock, where he died on the first day of 2016.

THIRTY-NINTH GOVERNOR

David H. Pryor

David Hampton Pryor came from a politically active family — his father and grandfather served as sheriff, and his mother ran for circuit clerk in 1926 as one of the first women to seek office in Arkansas. Pryor earned a degree in government from the University of Arkansas in 1957 and earned his law degree in 1964. He returned to Camden to start the *Ouachita Citizen*, a newspaper that he used as a voice against the Faubus machine. In 1961, he took his progressive ideals to the State Capitol.

During three terms as a Democratic state representative, Pryor became known as a challenger to the “old guard.” At age 32, he won a crowded race for Congress, where he supported labor issues and focused on care for the elderly. When the House failed to form a committee on the issue, Pryor gathered first-hand evidence by working weekends disguised as a nursing home orderly, then held his own meetings in a trailer parked on Capitol Hill. In 1972, he challenged Sen. John McClellan’s bid for a sixth term, but lost in the primary runoff. Two years later, he returned to politics and was elected governor.

Governor Pryor showed fiscal restraint that guided Arkansas through economic recession without cutting state services or raising taxes. He championed reform of the 1874 Constitution, but was most noted for his appointments to boards and commissions, including many women and African-Americans. His successes included creating the Department of Local Services, the Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage, as well as aid for the elderly. Pryor’s most noted frustration was the failure of his “Arkansas Plan” that would have reduced state taxes while placing more responsibility on local governments to raise revenues.

In 1978, Pryor won a seat in the U.S. Senate and served three terms. He focused on issues for the aging and tax relief until he retired in 1996. He later served as director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. In 2003, Pryor became the founding dean of the Clinton School of Public Service.



David Pryor
Publisher, Attorney
 Served 1975-1979

Born: August 29, 1934
 Camden, Arkansas

Died: April 20, 2024
 Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
 Little Rock, Arkansas

FORTIETH GOVERNOR

Bill Clinton

Bill Clinton
Attorney, President
Served 1979-1981

Born: August 19, 1946
 Hope, Arkansas

Living: Chappaqua, New York

William Jefferson “Bill” Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe IV in Hope and changed his name after his widowed mother married. The family moved to Hot Springs, where Clinton graduated high school. He earned a bachelor’s degree in international affairs in 1968 from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1973, he joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas School of Law and practiced in Fayetteville. The next year, he ran for his first office, Third District Congress, but lost to long-term incumbent John Paul Hammerschmidt. In 1976 he was elected Attorney General. In 1978, at age 32, he won his first bid for the state’s highest office, becoming Arkansas’ second-youngest governor.

In his first administration, Clinton advanced small business development and supported education reforms and health care improvements. A highway program was his biggest initiative, but it was costly in both dollars and support. Several issues plagued Clinton’s term, including a national recession, natural disasters and rioting among Cuban refugees housed at Fort Chaffee. A backlash from increased vehicle-licensing fees also contributed to his defeat in 1980 by Frank White. However, his political career would continue in Arkansas — and beyond.

FORTY-FIRST GOVERNOR

Frank D. White

Frank Durward White, born Durward Frank Kyle Jr., was adopted by his stepfather, Frank White. He graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute and received an appointment to the Naval Academy in 1952. In 1956, White took a commission in the Air Force and logged more than 1,800 flying hours as a captain. He entered business in Little Rock in 1961 with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith securities brokerage. Governor David Pryor appointed him as director of the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission in 1975.

White forged a hard-hitting Republican campaign for governor in 1980 and defeated Bill Clinton in the general election. His friendly personality and self-deprecating humor won over many critics. However, his legislative program was modest and struggled to win support. White began his term in a struggling economy that left the state with an \$80 million shortfall. He slashed agency budgets, reduced his office staff by 25 percent and cut the Department of Energy. His successes included a new vocational education division, increased funding for the Department of Correction, reform of the state purchasing system and increased capital investment in the state. White's efforts to reform utility regulation were overshadowed by charges of coziness with utility company executives. Although he did not originate the bill, White is often linked with an act he signed mandating balanced treatment of "creation science" and "evolution science" in school curriculum. The measure drew national attention and was later struck down as unconstitutional by a federal judge. The tables turned in his 1982 bid for re-election when he lost to Bill Clinton.

White returned to commercial banking, and Governor Mike Huckabee later named him as State Banking Commissioner in July 1998. He held that position until his death in 2003.



Frank D. White

Banker

Served 1981-1983

Born: June 4, 1933
Texarkana, Texas

Died: May 21, 2003
Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery
Little Rock, Arkansas

FORTY-SECOND GOVERNOR

Bill Clinton

Bill Clinton
Attorney, President
Served 1983-1992

Born: August 19, 1946
 Hope, Arkansas

Living: Chappaqua, New York

After his first term as governor ended in defeat, **William Jefferson “Bill” Clinton** established his reputation for political comebacks and reclaimed the office in 1982. He went on to win re-election in 1984, 1986 (when terms were extended to four years) and 1990. He is the second longest-serving governor after Orval Faubus.

Clinton’s second tenure as governor focused on two main issues: education and economic development. He called a special session to address inequities in school funding and adopt new education standards that included skills test for teachers and administrators. Clinton secured start-up funds for technology businesses and tax incentives for industries that added jobs or increased production. Arkansas rose to the top in new jobs, but remained among the lowest in average salaries. Clinton served as chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, the Democratic

Governors’ Association, and the Education Commission of the States. He also chaired the Southern Growth Policies Board and the National Governors Association. After first deciding against a run for president in 1988, Governor Clinton announced his candidacy for U.S. President on the steps of the Old State House in Little Rock. In 1992, Clinton became the first Arkansan to be elected president.

In his two terms as president, Clinton lost an early bid for national health care, but succeeded with a major overhaul of the welfare system. His foreign policies sought to protect human rights and promote stability. Despite four consecutive years of budget surpluses, Clinton’s presidency was beset by numerous investigations. His false testimony in one deposition resulted in his impeachment — only the second for an American president. In February 1999, the U.S. Senate voted down the articles of impeachment, and Clinton remained in office until the end of his second term in 2001. Clinton opened his presidential library in Little Rock in 2004, and now focuses on global humanitarian and policy initiatives through the Clinton Foundation.

FORTY-THIRD GOVERNOR

Jim Guy Tucker, Jr.

James Guy Tucker, Jr. was born in Oklahoma City and grew up in Little Rock. He received a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University in 1964 and a law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1968. He spent two years in South Vietnam as a civilian war correspondent and wrote the book *Arkansas Men at War* based on that experience. Tucker was elected prosecuting attorney in 1970, then served two terms as state attorney general. He was elected to Congress in 1976 and served on several influential committees, including the Democrat, House Ways and Means Committee. In 1978, he lost his bid for the U.S. Senate to fellow David Pryor.

He returned to private law practice and pursued real estate investments before winning the race for lieutenant governor in 1990. When Governor Bill Clinton entered the campaign for president, Tucker became acting governor in December 1992. In his first legislative session, he cut state agency budgets in order to boost education spending. He also led a push to limit the powers of acting governors following an incident in which clemencies and pardons were awarded while Tucker traveled out of state. In August 1994, he called a special legislative session to address the rising juvenile crime rate. Over 30 measures were signed into law to reform the juvenile justice system. He was elected governor in his own right in November 1994, but the next year, Tucker's political fortunes began to fail. His bond initiative for road improvements failed to win support. He was then caught up in the expanding Whitewater investigation surrounding President Clinton. In May 1996, he was convicted for misapplying a \$150,000 bank loan. After briefly rescinding his resignation, Tucker reluctantly left office on July 15, 1996.

Tucker was sentenced to probation and fines due to his fragile health. He received a liver transplant and today is engaged in various business ventures, primarily in the areas of telecommunications and energy.



Jim Guy Tucker, Jr.
Attorney, Businessman
Served 1992-1996

Born: June 13, 1943
Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma

Living: Little Rock, Arkansas

FORTY-FOURTH GOVERNOR

Mike D. Huckabee



Mike D. Huckabee

Minister, Broadcaster

Served 1996-2007

Born: August 24, 1955
Hope, Arkansas

Living: Roland, Arkansas

The second governor—and, later, presidential candidate—to hail from Hope, **Michael Dale Huckabee**, graduated from Ouachita Baptist University, was ordained as a Baptist minister and served as president of the Arkansas Baptist Council. In 1992 he ran, unsuccessfully, for the U.S. Senate. The following year, he won a special election for lieutenant governor and in 1994 won a full term with the largest percentage of votes for any Republican candidate in state history.

Huckabee became governor in 1998 upon the resignation of Jim Guy Tucker. He then won a full term in 1998 and was re-elected in 2002. As governor, Mike Huckabee spurred efforts to reorganize state agencies and promote statewide education reforms. He supported public health measures such as physical fitness and child health care insurance,

as well as sales tax increases for state park improvements and bonds for highway construction; later in his administration, Huckabee worked with the legislature to produce compliance with a court-ordered overhaul of school funding. While in office, Huckabee authored five books including the best-selling *Quit Digging Your Grave with Your Knife and Fork* (2005). Term limits made Huckabee ineligible to run for re-election in 2006.

Mike Huckabee went on to be a serious contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008, winning several state primaries. After leaving the race he became a popular political commentator, hosting eponymous programs on national radio and cable networks. In 2015, Huckabee was again a Republican presidential hopeful but suspended his campaign in February 2016.

FORTY-FIFTH GOVERNOR

Mike D. Beebe

Raised by his working mother, **Mickey “Mike” Dale Beebe** graduated from Newport High School and earned degrees in political science from Arkansas State University and in law at the University of Arkansas. Upon admission to the bar, Beebe began his practice in Searcy and in 1982 was named the state’s outstanding trial lawyer. That same year, Beebe ran for the state Senate. After his incumbent opponent unexpectedly dropped out of the race, Beebe won easily; he would not face another election opponent in his twenty-year Senate career. Known for pragmatism and his ability to broker compromises, Beebe was elected president pro tempore of the body.

In 2002, Beebe was elected attorney general, again without opposition. He entered the 2006 race for governor and for the first time, faced opposition in the general election. He went on to win with more than 55 percent of the vote over former republican U.S. Congressman Asa Hutchinson as well as a Green Party and independent candidates. Arkansas’s balanced budget laws and Beebe’s economic policies helped the state avoid the budget shortfalls that other states experienced during a national recession. Legislators approved his tax relief proposals that included reducing grocery and property taxes. In 2010, a year that saw dramatic victories for Arkansas Republicans in both state and congressional races, Beebe was re-elected with more than 64 percent of the vote. In his second term, Governor Beebe worked to improve education as a component in economic development. He left the governor’s office in 2015 as term limits prevented him from running for re-election.



Mike D. Beebe

Attorney

Served 2007-2015

Born: December 28, 1946
Amagon, Arkansas

Living: Little Rock, Arkansas

FORTY-SIXTH GOVERNOR

W. Asa Hutchinson**W. Asa Hutchinson, II***U.S. Attorney**U.S. Congressman**Served 2015-2023***Born:** December 3, 1950
Bentonville, Arkansas**Living:** Rogers, Arkansas

On January 13, 2015, **William Asa Hutchinson, II** took the oath of office as the forty-sixth Governor of Arkansas after a career in the public sector that included service as U.S. Attorney for Arkansas's Western district, U.S. Representative and federal administrator.

Hutchinson was born in Bentonville, Arkansas in 1950. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University and the University of Arkansas School of Law. He went on to practice in Fort Smith and in 1975 became that city's attorney. In 1982 he was appointed US Attorney for the Western district of Arkansas. During his service, Hutchinson successfully investigated and prosecuted right-wing extremists known as the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord (CSA).

In 1985, he returned to private practice. In 1990, he became the co-chairman and later chairman of the Arkansas Republican Party. In 1996 he succeeded his brother Tim as U.S. Representative for the Third district. While in Congress, Hutchinson championed tougher

anti-drug policies and campaign finance reforms. Hutchinson returned to Congress in 1998 and 2000. In 2001, he was appointed to head the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and in 2003 was asked to lead the Border and Transportation Security Directorate of the new Department of Homeland Security.

In 2006, he sought, unsuccessfully, Arkansas's governorship. He then spent several years serving as an attorney and political consultant. Hutchinson again ran for Governor in the 2014 election, defeating former congressman Mike Ross with over fifty-five percent of the vote. His election was part of an impressive Republican sweep of the state in which the party claimed all of the constitutional offices. The most notable initiative of his early administration was to promote business and manufacturing relocation to and investment in Arkansas; to support this, Governor Hutchinson successfully lobbied the Arkansas legislature to adopt a requirement that Arkansas high school students be trained in "coding": that is, the use of computer languages to create and manipulate programs and applications.

Governor Hutchinson has been married to his wife, Susan since 1973. They have four children and five grandchildren.

FORTY-SEVENTH GOVERNOR

Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Sarah Huckabee Sanders is the 47th Governor of Arkansas. Inaugurated on January 10, 2023, she is the first woman to serve as governor of the state and is currently the youngest governor in the country.

Prior to her historic victory, Sarah served as White House Press Secretary for President Donald Trump from 2017 to 2019. A trusted confidant of the President, she advised him on everything from press and communications strategy to personnel and policy. Sarah was only the third woman – and the very first mom – to ever hold the job of White House Press Secretary.

Sarah grew up in Pine Bluff and Texarkana and is a proud graduate of Little Rock Central High and Ouachita Baptist University.

She lives in Little Rock with her husband, Bryan, their children Scarlett, Huck, and George, and their golden retriever, Traveler.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders

*White House Press Secretary
Served 2023–Present*

Born: August 13, 1982
Little Rock, Arkansas

Living: Little Rock, Arkansas

GOVERNOR GEOGRAPHY

*Think all the governors have come from Arkansas?
Take a look at the list of birthplaces below – you may be surprised.*



Born in Arkansas: 20

Home Counties

Ouachita: 3
Hempstead: 2
Benton: 2
Cleveland: 1
Columbia: 1
Franklin: 1
Greene: 1
Independence: 1
Jackson: 1
Little River: 1
Lonoke: 1
Madison: 1
Pulaski: 2
Sebastian: 1
Union: 1

Born outside Arkansas: 31

Inside the U.S.

Tennessee: 8
Texas: 3
Louisiana: 2
Kentucky: 2
Mississippi: 2
Missouri: 2
Pennsylvania: 2
Virginia: 2
Alabama: 1
Maryland: 1
New Hampshire: 1
New Jersey: 1
New York: 1
North Carolina: 1
Oklahoma: 1

Outside the U.S.

London, England: 1

PORTRAIT ARTISTS FOR THE GOVERNORS OF ARKANSAS

From the collection held at the State Capitol

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