

## Criteria for Inclusion in NGA's Governors' Biographical Database

1. For the original thirteen states and commonwealths, all those who served as governor or acting governor from the date the Declaration of Independence was adopted, including military governors serving during the Civil War.
2. For the other thirty-seven states, governors and acting governors who served from the date statehood was granted, including military governors serving during the Civil War.
3. For current territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, all elected governors.

In some cases, states were carved from more than one territory, while in other instances a single territory may have been divided into more than one state. Therefore, territorial governors have *not* been included in what is a state-by-state biographical database.

## Historical Information on Territorial Governors and Acting Governors

The following page provides a list of the governors and acting governors of former territories which later became U.S. states.

For more information about these territories and governors, researchers may refer to the following sources or search the Internet using the phrase "governors of \_\_\_\_\_ territory."

Bloom, John P. ed. *The American Territorial System*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1969.

Eblen, Jack Ericson. *The First and Second United States Empires: Governors and Territorial Government, 1784-1912*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1968.

McMullin, Thomas A. and David Walker. *Biographical Directory of American Territorial Governors*. Westport, CT: Meckler, 1984.

Willoughby, William F. *Territories and Dependencies of the United States, Their Government and Administration*. New York: The Century Company, 1905.

## TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS AND ACTING GOVERNORS\*

<b>ALABAMA</b>	
<b>Alabama was part of Mississippi Territory from 1798 to 1817. Prior to 1804, parts of Alabama were within the State of Georgia</b>	
William Wyatt Bibb*	1817-1819
<b>ALASKA</b>	
Walter Eli Clark	1909-1913
John Franklin Alexander Strong	1913-1918
Thomas Riggs, Jr.	1918-1921
Scott Cardelle Bone	1921-1925
George Alexander Parks	1925-1933
John Weir Troy	1933-1939
Ernest Henry Gruening	1939-1953
Benjamin Franklin Heintzleman	1953-1957
Waino Edward Hendrickson	1957, 1958-1959
Michael Anthony Stepovich	1957-1958
<b>ARIZONA</b>	
<b>Arizona was part of New Mexico Territory from 1850 to 1863</b>	
John Noble Goodwin	1863-1866
Richard Cunningham McCormick	1866-1868
James P.T. Carter	1868-1869
Anson Peacely Killen Safford	1869-1877
John Philo Hoyt	1877-1878
John Charles Fremont	1878-1881
John Jay Gosper	1881
Frederick Augustus Tritle	1882-1885
Conrad Meyer Zulick	1885-1889
Lewis Wolfley	1889-1890
John Nichol Irwin (also see Idaho Territory)	1891-1892
Nathan Oakes Murphy	1892-1893
Louis Cameron Hughes	1893-1896
Charles Morelle Bruce	1896
Benjamin Joseph Franklin	1896-1897
Myron Hawley McCord	1897-1898
Nathan Oakes Murphy	1898-1902
Alexander Oswald Brodie	1902-1905
William Francis Nichols	1905
Josph Henry Kibbey	1905-1909
Richard Elihu Sloan	1909-1912
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	
<b>Arkansas was part of Louisiana Territory, later renamed Missouri Territory, from 1805 to 1819</b>	
James Miller	1819-1824
George Izard	1825-1828
John Pope	1829-1835
William Savin Fulton	1835-1836

<b>COLORADO</b>	
<b>Colorado Territory was formed from parts of the Territories of Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah</b>	
William Gilpin	1861-1862
John Evans	1862-1865
Alexander Cummings	1865-1867
Alexander Cameron Hunt	1867-1869
Edward Moody McCook	1869-1873, 1874-1875
Samuel Hitt Elbert	1873-1874
John Long Routt	1875-1876
<b>DAKOTA</b>	
<b>In 1889, Dakota Territory was divided into the States of North Dakota and South Dakota</b>	
William Jayne	1861-1863
Newton Edmunds	1863-1866
Andrew Jackson Faulk	1867-1869
John A. Burbank	1869-1873
John L. Pennington	1874-1878
William Alanson Howard	1878-1880
Nehemiah George Ordway	1880-1884
Gilbert Ashville Pierce	1884-1886
Louis Kossuth Church	1887-1889
Arthur Calvin Mellette	1889
<b>FLORIDA</b>	
<b>In accordance with the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819, the U.S. acquired Florida from Spain in exchange for ceding Texas claims. In 1822, East and West Florida were merged into the Florida Territory</b>	
Andrew Jackson (military governor)	1821
William Pope DuVal	1822-1834
John Henry Eaton	1834-1836
Richard Keith Call	1836-1839, 1841-1844
Robert Raymond Reid	1839-1841
John Branch	1844-1845
<b>HAWAII</b>	
<b>The Territory of Hawaii was established in 1898 and dissolved when Hawaii became a State in 1959</b>	
Sanford Ballard Dole	1900-1903
George Robert Carter	1903-1907
Walter Francis Frear	1907-1913
Lucius Eugene Pinkham	1913-1918
Charles James McCarthy	1918-1921
Wallace Rider Farrington	1921-1929
Lawrence McCully Judd	1929-1934
Joseph Boyd Poindexter	1934-1942
Ingram Macklin Stainback	1942-1951
Oren Ethelbirt Long	1951-1953
Samuel Wilder King	1953-1957
William Francis Quinn	1957-1959

<b>IDAHO</b>	
<b>Prior to becoming a territory, parts of Idaho were in Dakota Territory, Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory</b>	
William Henson Wallace (also see Washington Territory)	1863-1864
Caleb Lyon	1864-1866
David W. Ballard	1866-1870
Thomas Meade Bowen	1871
Thomas Warren Bennett	1871-1875
David Preston Thompson	1876
Mason Brayman	1876-1880
John Baldwin Neil	1880-1883
John Nichol Irwin (also see Arizona Territory)	1883-1884
William Malcolm Bunn	1884-1885
Edward Augustus Stevenson	1885-1889
George Laird Shoup	1889-1890
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	
<b>Illinois Territory came from what was the larger Northwest Territory</b>	
Ninian Edwards	1809-1818
<b>INDIANA</b>	
<b>Indiana Territory came from what was the larger Northwest Territory</b>	
William Henry Harrison	1801-1812
John Gibson	1812-1813
Thomas Posey	1813-1816
<b>IOWA</b>	
<b>Prior to becoming a territory, Iowa was part of Missouri Territory until 1821, unorganized until 1834, part of Michigan Territory until 1836, and part of Wisconsin Territory until 1838. In 1846, the southeastern portion of the Iowa Territory was separated to become the State of Iowa</b>	
Robert Lucas	1838-1841
John Chambers	1841-1845
James Clarke	1845-1846
<b>KANSAS</b>	
<b>The area that became Kansas was part of Louisiana Territory, later renamed Missouri Territory, until 1821, and unorganized until it became its own territory. A small part of Kansas was once part of the Republic of Texas</b>	
Andrew Horatio Reeder	1854-1855
Wilson Shannon	1855-1856
John White Geary	1856-1857
Robert John Walker	1857
James William Denver	1858
Samuel Medary (also see Minnesota Territory)	1858-1860
<b>LOUISIANA-MISSOURI</b>	
<b>The Louisiana-Missouri Territory was organized in 1805. Missouri Territory was organized out of upper Louisiana in 1812</b>	
James Wilkinson	1805-1807
Meriwether Lewis	1807-1809
Benjamin Howard	1810-1813

William Clark	1813-1820
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	
<b>Parts of Michigan were taken from Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory</b>	
William Hull	1805-1813
Lewis Cass	1813-1831
George Bryan Porter	1831-1834
Stevens T. Mason	1834-1835
John S. Horner	1835-1836
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	
<b>Minnesota Territory's original boundaries, as carved out of Iowa Territory, included the current Minnesota region and most of what later became Dakota Territory east of the Missouri River. Minnesota Territory also included portions of Wisconsin Territory that did not become part of Wisconsin, located between the Mississippi River and Wisconsin, including the Arrowhead Region</b>	
Alexander Ramsey	1849-1853
Willis Arnold Gorman	1853-1857
Samuel Medary (also see Kansas Territory)	1857-1858
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	
<b>Prior to 1804, parts of Mississippi were part of the state of Georgia; Southernmost Mississippi was part of the self-proclaimed Republic of West Florida in 1810</b>	
Winthrop Sargent, IV	1798-1801
William Charles Coles Claiborne* (also see Orleans Territory)	1801-1804
Robert Williams	1805-1809
David Holmes	1809-1817
<b>MONTANA</b>	
<b>Montana was originally part of Idaho Territory</b>	
Sidney Edgerton	1864-1865
Thomas Francis Meagher	1865-1866
Green Clay Smith	1866-1868
James Tufts	1868-1869
James M. Ashley	1869
Wiley S. Schribner	1869-1870
Benjamin Franklin Potts	1870-1883
John Schuyler Crosby	1883-1884
Benjamin Platt Carpenter	1885
Samuel Thomas Hauser	1885-1887
Preston Hopkins Leslie	1887-1889
Benjamin Franklin White	1889
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	
<b>Nebraska Territory was established by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854</b>	
Francis Burt	1854
Mark Whitaker Izard	1855-1857
Thomas B. Cuming	1857-1858
William Alexander Richardson	1858
J. Sterling Morton	1858
Samuel W. Black	1859-1861
Algernon S. Paddock	1861
Alvin Saunders	1861-1867

<b>NEVADA</b>	
<b>Parts of Nevada Territory came from Utah and New Mexico Territories</b>	
James Warren Nye	1861-1864
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	
<b>New Mexico Territory originally contained what are now parts of Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada</b>	
James S. Calhoun	1851-1852
William Carr Lane	1852-1853
David Meriwether	1853-1857
Abraham Rencher	1857-1861
Henry Connelly	1861-1866
Robert Byington Mitchell	1866-1869
William Anderson Pile	1869-1871
Marsh Giddings	1871-1875
Samuel Beach Axtell	1875-1878
Lewis (Lew) Wallace	1878-1881
Lionel Allen Sheldon	1881-1885
Edmund Gibson Ross	1885-1889
LeBaron Bradford Prince	1889-1893
William Taylor Thornton	1893-1897
Miguel Antonio Otero, II	1897-1906
Herbert James Hagerman	1906-1907
George Curry	1907-1910
William Joseph Mills	1910-1912
<b>NORTHWEST (TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF THE RIVER OHIO)</b>	
<b>Northwest Territory, established via the Northwest Ordinance adopted in 1789, included all the land of the United States west of Pennsylvania and northwest of the Ohio River. It covered all of the modern states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as the northeastern part of Minnesota</b>	
Arthur St. Clair	1788-1802
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	
<b>Oklahoma Territory, which was formed in 1890, consisted of what is now western Oklahoma as well as the last remnant of Indian Territory</b>	
George Washington Steele	1890-1891
Robert Martin	1891-1892
Abraham Jefferson Seay	1892-1893
William Cary Renfrow	1893-1897
Cassius McDonald Barnes	1897-1901
William Miller Jenkins	1901
William C. Grimes	1901
Thompson Benton Ferguson	1901-1906
Frank Frantz	1906-1907

<b>OREGON</b>	
<b>Oregon Territory, organized in 1848, originally included all of the present-day states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, as well as Montana west of the Continental Divide, and Wyoming west of the Continental Divide and north of the 42nd parallel north—the northern border of the Mexican Cession</b>	
Joseph Lane	1849-1850
John Pollard Gaines	1850-1853
Joseph Lane	1853
John Wesley Davis	1853-1854
George Law Curry	1854-1859
<b>ORLEANS</b>	
<b>Orleans Territory was created in 1804 from the Louisiana Purchase. It became the State of Louisiana</b>	
William Charles Coles Claiborne	1804-1812
<b>SOUTHWEST (TERRITORY SOUTH OF THE RIVER OHIO)</b>	
<b>The Southwest Territory, formally known as the Territory South of the River Ohio, corresponds to modern-day Tennessee. It was formed by the Southwest Ordinance in 1790 out of land that was ceded to the U.S. federal government by North Carolina</b>	
William Blount	1790-1796
<b>UTAH</b>	
<b>Utah Territory was created in 1850 on the same day that California was admitted to the Union, as part of the compromise designed to preserve the balance of power between slave and free states. It contained land ceded by Mexico and a small part of present-day Colorado</b>	
Brigham Young	1850-1858
Alfred Cumming	1858-1861
John W. Dawson	1861
Stephen Selwyn Harding	1862-1863
James Duane Doty (also see Wisconsin Territory)	1863-1865
Charles Durkee	1865-1869
John Wilson Shaffer	1870
Vernon H. Vaughan	1870-1871
George Lemuel Woods	1871-1875
Samuel Beach Axtell	1875
George W. Emery	1875-1880
Eli Houston Murray	1880-1886
Caleb Walton West	1886-1889
Arthur Lloyd Thomas	1889-1893
Caleb Walton West	1893-1896

<b>WASHINGTON</b>	
<b>Washington Territory was formed from a portion of Oregon Territory</b>	
Isaac Ingalls Stevens	1853-1857
Fayette McMullen	1857-1858
Richard Dickerson Gholson	1859-1860
William Henson Wallace (also see Idaho Territory)	1861
William Pickering	1862-1866
George Edward Cole	1866-1867
Marshall F. Moore	1867-1869
Alvan Flanders	1869-1870
Edward Selig Salomon	1870-1872
Elisha Peyre Ferry	1872-1880
William Augustus Newell	1880-1884
Watson Carvosso Squire	1884-1887
Eugene Semple	1887-1889
Miles Conway Moore	1889
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	
<b>The Wisconsin Territory included all of the present-day states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and part of the Dakotas up to the Missouri River. Much of the Territory had originally been part of the Northwest Territory</b>	
Henry Dodge	1836-1841
James Duane Doty (also see Utah Territory)	1841-1844
Nathaniel Pitcher Tallmadge	1844-1845
Henry Dodge	1845-1848
<b>WYOMING</b>	
<b>Portions of the territory that eventually fell under Wyoming's jurisdiction were points associated at different times with Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Dakota, Nebraska and Utah, and had previously belonged to the independent states of Great Britain, France, Spain, Mexico, and Texas</b>	
John Allen Campbell	1869-1875
John Milton Thayer	1875-1878
John Wesley Hoyt	1878-1882
William Hale	1882-1885
Elliot S.N. Morgan	1885, 1886-1887
Francis Emroy Warren	1885-1886, 1889-1890
George White Baxter	1886
Thomas Moonlight	1887-1889

\* Also served as state governors