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## FORMER GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS

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### Shadrach Bond (D-R\*) — 1818-1822

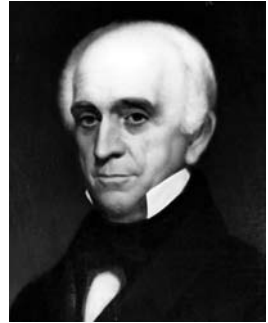
Illinois' first Governor was born in Maryland and moved to the Northwest Territory in 1794 in present-day Monroe County. Bond helped organize the Illinois Territory in 1809, represented Illinois in Congress and was elected without opposition in 1818 as the first Governor of the state. He was an advocate for a canal connecting Lake Michigan and the Illinois River as well as for state education. A year after Bond became Governor, the state capital moved from Kaskaskia to Vandalia. Because the first state Constitution prohibited a Governor from serving two terms, Bond did not seek re-election and took an appointment

as Register of the Land Office in Kaskaskia, where he served until his death. Bond County was named in his honor. He is buried in Chester. (1773-1832)

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### Edward Coles (D-R\*) — 1822-1826

The second Illinois Governor was born in Virginia and attended William and Mary College. Coles inherited a large plantation with slaves but did not support slavery so he moved to a free state. He served as private secretary under President Madison for six years, during which he worked with Thomas Jefferson to promote the emancipation of slaves. After a diplomatic visit to Russia, he settled in Edwardsville in 1818, where he helped free the slaves in the area and awarded each family a plot of land. As Governor, Coles advocated the Illinois-Michigan Canal, prohibition of slavery and reorganization of the state's judiciary. Following his term he retired in Pennsylvania. Coles County was named in his honor. He is buried in Edwardsville. (1786-1868)



### Ninian Edwards (D-R\*) — 1826-1830



Before becoming Illinois' third Governor, Edwards was appointed the first Governor of the Illinois Territory by President Madison, serving from 1809 to 1818. Born in Maryland, he attended college in Pennsylvania, where he studied law, and then served in a variety of judgeships in Kentucky. He was elected as one of the first two U.S. Senators when Illinois became a state in 1818. As Governor, Edwards advocated the removal of Native Americans from the state on the grounds that the state had rights to the land within its borders. He also sought growth in the state, and within the first two years of

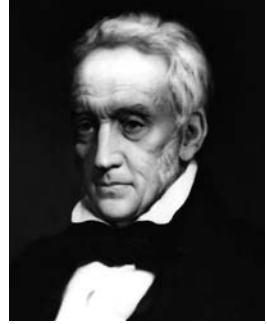
his term the population of Illinois tripled. He is buried in Springfield. (1775-1833)

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\* Democratic-Republican, the major political party of the time.

## John Reynolds (D) — 1830-1834

Born in Pennsylvania to Irish immigrants, Reynolds' family moved to Tennessee when he was an infant and then settled in Kaskaskia. He studied law at the College of Tennessee at Knoxville and practiced law in Cahokia. He served in the War of 1812, was a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and served in the Illinois House for four years. A proponent of slavery, Reynolds narrowly won the governorship in 1830. The Black Hawk War overshadowed much of his term, and he resigned in 1834 to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected an anti-Douglas delegate to the 1860 Democratic National Convention, but upon learning of Abraham Lincoln's popularity, he publicly stated his support for Douglas. He is buried in Belleville. (1788-1865)



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## William L.D. Ewing (D) — 1834



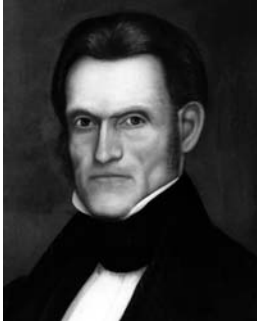
Ewing became the state's fifth Governor upon the resignation of Gov. Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Casey. Born near Nashville, Tennessee, he moved to Shawneetown in 1818 to practice law. He served as Receiver of Public Monies in the land office at Vandalia and was a colonel during the Black Hawk War. He was elected to the Illinois House where he served as Speaker in 1880. He served in the state Senate from 1832-1834, and was acting Lieutenant Governor in 1833. He served as Governor of Illinois in 1834 for only 15 days. In 1834, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate, serving for two years. He again became a member of the Illinois House, serving as Speaker in 1838 and 1840. He was appointed the legislature's Auditor of Public Accounts in 1843, where he served until his death. He is buried in Springfield. (1795-1846)

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## Joseph Duncan (D) — 1834-1838

After retiring from the Army, Duncan moved to Illinois near Kaskaskia and served as justice of the peace for Jackson County. He also was commissioned a major general in the Illinois militia and served as a state Senator. He was elected Illinois' only representative in Congress in 1826 and served three terms. While a congressman he pushed for the Illinois-Michigan Canal and endorsed a state public school system. As Governor, Duncan continued his push for state schools with little public support; however, two private higher learning institutions were opened during his term. A southerner originally from Kentucky, Duncan looked upon slavery as "a great moral and political evil." He ran unsuccessfully for Governor again in 1842. He is buried in Jacksonville. (1794-1844)





### **Thomas Carlin (D) — 1838-1842**

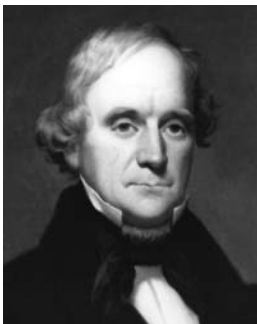
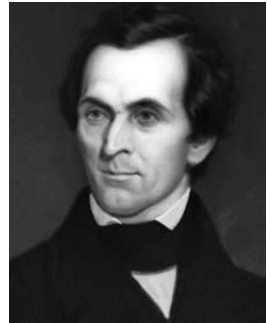
Born in Kentucky, Carlin fought in the War of 1812 and commanded a battalion during the Black Hawk War soon after moving to the Illinois Territory. He served two terms in the state Senate and the House of Representatives, and was appointed Receiver of Public Monies at Quincy in 1834. As Governor, Carlin pushed for a better state transportation system, which resulted in the Sangamon and Morgan Railroad opening to traffic, and a \$4 billion loan that supported the construction of the Illinois-Michigan Canal. The Mormons immigrated to Illinois during his term and were granted a charter for the City of

Nauvoo. After his governorship, Carlin retired to his farm in Carrollton, where he is buried. (1789-1852)

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### **Thomas Ford (D) — 1842-1846**

Born in Pennsylvania, Ford moved to the Midwest as a youth and studied law at Transylvania University in Kentucky. He practiced law in Waterloo and then moved to Edwardsville where he was appointed state's attorney. Ford served in the Black Hawk War, as a Circuit Court judge and as a state Supreme Court judge before becoming Governor. During his term, he reduced the state's debt and instituted tolls along the Illinois-Michigan Canal. Violence broke out between the Mormons in Nauvoo and other citizens in the area, forcing him to call on the state militia to restore order. After his governorship, Ford resumed his law practice in Peoria and authored *History of Illinois, From its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847*. He is buried in Peoria. (1800-1850)



### **Augustus C. French (D) — 1846-1853**

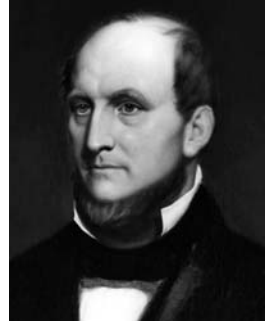
Born in New Hampshire, French attended Dartmouth College and later studied law. He practiced law in Albion, Edwards County, and then in Paris, Edgar County. He served two years in the state legislature before being appointed Receiver of Public Monies at Palestine. During his first term as Governor, French kept the state budget solvent and saw the Mormons leave Illinois after their city charter at Nauvoo was revoked. The Illinois-Michigan Canal also was completed, and a new Illinois Constitution allowed him to seek a second term, during which his main accomplishment was liquidation

of the state's debt. After his governorship, he taught law at McKendree College. He is buried in Lebanon. (1808-1864)

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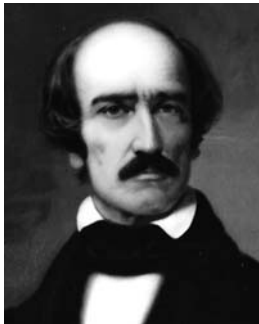
### **Joel Aldrich Matteson (D) — 1853-1857**

The 10th Governor of Illinois was a native of New York and moved to Illinois in the early 1830s to farm. In 1834, Matteson worked as a foreman on the first railroad in South Carolina. He moved to Joliet in 1836, where he helped secure a contract for the Illinois-Michigan Canal. As Governor, he oversaw the railroad-building boom, resulting in the completion of several major railroads across the state. A proponent of education, Matteson created a new Office of Public Instruction to help expand state-supported education. He also pursued other career interests while in office, serving as president of the Chicago and Alton Railroad and holding controlling interest in several banks. He is buried in Joliet. (1808-1873)



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### **William H. Bissell (R) — 1857-1860**

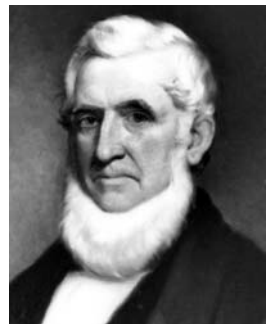


A native of New York, Bissell attended Cooperstown Academy and graduated from Jefferson Medical College and Transylvania University Law School in Kentucky. He practiced medicine in New York then moved to Waterloo in 1837, where he taught school. Bissell served in the state legislature and practiced law in Belleville. He also served in the Mexican War and was elected three times to Congress as an independent Democrat who opposed slavery. Bissell was elected Governor under the new Republican Party. During his term, despite opposition from the legislature and passage of few of his bills, a northern penitentiary and institutions for the mentally ill were appropriated. Bissell died in office in Springfield, where he is buried. (1811-1860)

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### **John Wood (R) — 1860-1861**

As Lieutenant Governor, Wood assumed the governorship in 1860 upon Gov. Bissell's death. A native of New York, Wood moved to Shawneetown in 1819 and later moved to and began farming in Pike County. He built the first log cabin in what is now Quincy, where he was involved in anti-slavery efforts, and served in the Black Hawk War. As a community leader, Wood petitioned the legislature to create Adams County and retain Quincy as the county seat, where he served as trustee and mayor. He served in the state Senate before being elected Lieutenant Governor in 1856. After completing Bissell's term, Wood served as a delegate to the Peace Convention in Washington, D.C., and as a top-ranking military official during the Civil War. He retired in Quincy, where he is buried. (1798-1880)





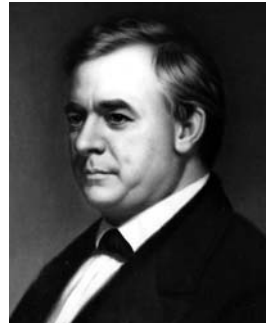
### **Richard Yates (R) — 1861-1865**

Yates was born in Kentucky and moved to Sangamon County in 1831. He attended Miami University in Ohio, Georgetown College in Kentucky and graduated in the first class of Illinois College in Jacksonville. He studied law at Transylvania University in Kentucky, practiced law in Jacksonville, and began his public career in 1842 in the state legislature. Yates also served four years in the U.S. House before becoming Governor. During his gubernatorial race, he established loyalty to newly-elected President Abraham Lincoln and the Union cause. As Governor, Yates sent more than double the state's quota of volunteers for the Civil War. After his term, he served in the U.S. Senate and continued practicing law until his death. He is buried in Jacksonville. (1818-1873)

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### **Richard J. Oglesby (R) — 1865-69; 1873; 1885-89**

Oglesby served an unprecedented three times in office, becoming Illinois' 14th, 16th and 20th Governor. Born in Kentucky, he served in the Mexican War and graduated from law school in Kentucky. He served briefly in the state Senate when he was called upon to serve in the Civil War. During his first term, Oglesby set the tone for the state's growth, establishing the State Board of Equalization and building new state institutions. After returning to private practice for a few years, he was elected again, serving just a few months before being elected to the U.S. Senate. During his last term as Governor, 20 years after being elected to his first, he spearheaded changes in the state's election process. He retired in Elkhart where he is buried. (1824-1899)

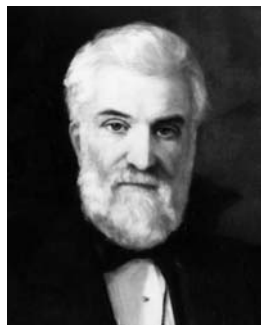


### **John M. Palmer (R) — 1869-1873**

Palmer was born in Kentucky and his family moved to Illinois because of strong anti-slavery principles. He attended law school in Alton and practiced law in Carlinville. He was a probate judge in Macoupin County and helped reframe a new Illinois Constitution. He served in the state Senate and presided over the first state Republican Convention, later serving as a delegate to the national convention. He also served in the Civil War. As Governor, Palmer provided relief for victims of the Great Chicago Fire. He switched party affiliation during his term, and after his governorship continued public service as a Democrat, serving as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1884 and in the U.S. Senate. He is buried in Carlinville. (1817-1900)

### **John L. Beveridge (R) — 1873-1877**

A New York native, Beveridge's family moved in 1842 to a farm in DeKalb County. He studied law and taught school in Tennessee and returned to DeKalb County to practice law, later moving to Evanston. After serving in the Civil War, he was elected sheriff of Cook County then served two years in the Illinois House. He was elected Lieutenant Governor during Gov. Oglesby's second term. When Oglesby was elected to the U.S. Senate shortly after, Beveridge served the remainder of his term. During his governorship, several charitable and reformatory institutions were funded, the state militia was increased and the state's debt was paid. After his term, he served as sub-treasurer at Chicago then moved to Hollywood, California, where he lived until his death. He is buried in Chicago. (1824-1910)



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### **Shelby Moore Cullom (R) — 1877-1883**

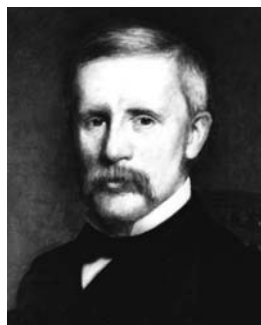


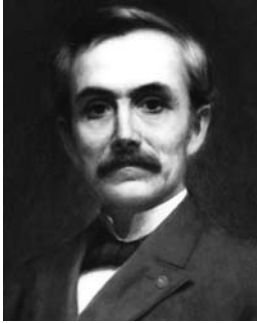
Cullom's family moved from Kentucky to Tazewell County to farm when he was a youth. He studied law and was elected city attorney of Springfield in 1855. He was a member of the Illinois House, serving as Speaker, served two terms in Congress and was engaged in banking. As Governor, Cullom established the Board of Fish Commissioners and allocated \$80,000 to pay for military suppression of riots in 1877. Halfway into his second term he resigned to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he steered passage of a law creating an Interstate Commerce Commission. He also served as regent of the Smithsonian Institution and as commissioner of the Lincoln Memorial. He died in Washington, D.C., and is buried in Springfield. (1829-1914)

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### **John M. Hamilton (R) — 1883-1885**

Hamilton was born in Ohio, but during his childhood he moved with his family to a farm in Wenona, Marshall County. He served in the Civil War and taught school upon his return from duty. He graduated with honors from Wesleyan University in Bloomington, subsequently studied law and then practiced law for 12 years. He served in the state Senate four years and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1880. When Gov. Cullom resigned during his second term, Hamilton assumed his duties. As Governor, he authorized the Compulsory Education Act for children ages 8-14 and supported an appropriation to complete the new State Capitol in Springfield. After his governorship, Hamilton practiced law in Chicago, where he is buried. (1847-1905)





### **Joseph W. Fifer (R) — 1889-1893**

Fifer was born in Virginia and at age 17 moved with his family to McClean County, where he helped his father build a log cabin and farm. After serving two years in the Civil War and sustaining severe injuries, he attended and graduated from Wesleyan University, studied law and then practiced law in Bloomington. He served as the city's corporate counsel, as a state's attorney and in the state Senate. Fifer defeated former Gov. Palmer for the governorship in 1888. During his term, he supported measures to codify state public school laws and state consolidation of cities. He lost a re-election bid in 1893 to Democrat John P.

Altgeld. After his term, Fifer continued to practice law in Bloomington until his death. He is buried in Bloomington. (1840-1938)

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### **John P. Altgeld (D) — 1893-1897**

An immigrant from Germany, Altgeld and his family settled in Ohio. After serving in the Civil War, he taught school and studied law in Missouri. He served as Missouri state's attorney then moved to Chicago to practice law. Altgeld became the state's first Democratic Governor in 40 years and the first foreign-born man to hold the office. As Governor, new business practices were instituted in government agencies, reformatory institutions were built, women were appointed for the first time to government positions, and the Illinois-Michigan Canal returned money to the state treasury for the first time in 20 years. He was defeated for a second term, after which he served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and continued his law practice in Chicago, where he is buried. (1847-1902)

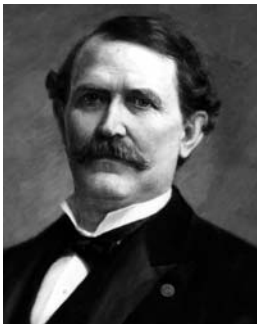


### **John R. Tanner (R) — 1897-1901**

Born in Indiana, Tanner served in the Civil War and afterwards bought a farm in Clay County, where he served as sheriff. He also served as clerk of the Circuit Court, a state Senator, a U.S. Marshall and State Treasurer. Tanner helped reorganize the Republican Party, which led to Republican gains in both the Governor's office and the legislature in 1896. During a tumultuous term as Governor, coal strikes broke into violence in several cities and 10,000 Illinois troops were sent to the war effort against Spain. Upon taking office, nearly every state agency had budget deficits; however, by the end of his term the state debt

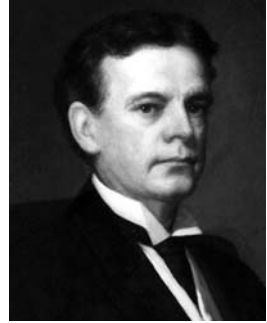
was paid. Tanner did not seek re-election and died the following year. He is buried in Springfield. (1844-1901)

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### **Richard Yates (R) — 1901-1905**

Born in Jacksonville, Yates became the first native-born Governor of Illinois. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Illinois College and graduated from the University of Michigan law school. After serving as city attorney of Jacksonville and as Morgan County judge, he was appointed U.S. collector of internal revenue for the central district, based in Springfield. Coincidentally, Yates' nomination for Governor came on the 40th anniversary of his father's nomination for the same office. Yates ran a thrifty administration, vetoing bills for racetracks and improvements to the Executive Mansion. He was unsuccessful in a re-nomination bid in 1904 as well as in 1908 and 1912. After serving three terms in Congress, Yates retired from politics. He is buried in Jacksonville. (1860-1936)



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### **Charles S. Deneen (R) — 1905-1913**



Illinois' 25th Governor was born in Edwardsville and graduated from McKendree College in Lebanon. He received his law degree from Union College of Law and practiced law in Chicago. He served in the state legislature and eight years as state's attorney of Cook County. As a two-term Governor, Deneen led passage of the first statewide primary law and the Presidential Preference Primary Law — the first in the nation. The State Geological Survey and the Highway Commission also were formed, the state education budget saw large increases, and workmen's compensation provisions and child labor laws were

implemented. After being defeated for a third term, he resumed his law practice, filled a vacant U.S. Senate seat, then returned to his law practice in Chicago, where he is buried. (1863-1940)

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### **Edward F. Dunne (D) — 1913-1917**

A native of Connecticut, Dunne earned his law degree from Union College of Law and practiced law in Chicago. He served as a Circuit Court judge then as mayor of Chicago for two years. After returning to his law practice, he ran for Governor, defeating incumbent Gov. Deneen by more than 100,000 votes. During his administration, Dunne pushed for better state roads and supported legislation to regulate public utilities. He was defeated for a second term by Republican Frank O. Lowden. After his governorship, he served as an attorney for the Cook County Board of Election Commissioners and published a history of Illinois, *The Heart of the Nation*. He is buried in Evanston. (1853-1937)





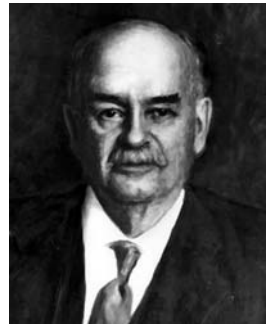
### Frank O. Lowden (R) — 1917-1921

Born in Minnesota, Lowden graduated from the University of Iowa and received his law degree from Union College of Law. He practiced law in Chicago and was a law professor at Northwestern. After serving in the Spanish-American War, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor in 1904, served in Congress several years, then defeated incumbent Gov. Dunne in 1916. At the onset of World War I, Lowden pushed for a State Council of Defense, reorganized state agencies and reduced state taxes, producing a large state surplus. He produced a plan to finance highway construction through new car license fees, and supported women's suffrage and anti-discrimination legislation. After declining the vice presidential nomination in 1924, he returned to private life in Chicago, where he is buried. (1853-1937)

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### Lennington Small (R) — 1921-1929

A native of Kankakee, Small attended the Northern Indiana Normal School. He served in the state Senate, was a member of the State Treasury and assistant treasurer of the U.S. Subtreasury in Chicago. He was elected State Treasurer in 1917. As a two-term Governor, Small called for improvements to the state highway system. Aided by a thriving economy and increased car sales, state road construction boomed and spanned 7,000 miles by the time he left office. Early in his term, Small was charged with corruption while State Treasurer and fined \$650,000 in a civil suit. He ran unsuccessfully for a third term and again in 1936. Following his governorship, he continued to farm in Kankakee and published the *Daily Republican* newspaper. He is buried in Kankakee. (1862-1936)



### Louis L. Emmerson (R) — 1929-1933



Born in Albion, Emmerson moved to Mount Vernon as a young man and later became president of The Third National Bank. He ran unsuccessfully for State Treasurer in 1912, but was elected Secretary of State three terms, where he collected an unprecedented amount in automobile fees for highway construction. As Governor, Emmerson signed into law a gasoline tax to help fund highway construction and lobbied for federal aid to complete the Lakes-to-Gulf Waterway. Due to the impending Depression, he was forced to cut back spending and implement relief measures for cities and the unemployed. He

did not seek re-election during the height of the Depression. Emmerson received honorary law degrees from Illinois College and Milliken University. He is buried in Mt. Vernon. (1863-1941)

## Henry Horner (D) — 1933-1940

Illinois' 30th Governor was born in Chicago, attended the University of Chicago and studied law at Chicago-Kent College of Law. As judge of the Probate Court of Cook County, Horner streamlined court procedures and helped the underprivileged navigate the legal system. As Governor at the end of the Depression, Horner abolished the state real estate tax, instituted a 2 percent sales tax and consolidated farm debts. He also presided over formal ratification of the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which repealed prohibition. He became ill during his second term, and Lt. Gov. Stelle assumed his duties. Before he died, Horner donated his extensive collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia to the State Historical Society. He is buried in Winnetka. (1879-1940)



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## John H. Stelle (D) — 1940-1941



A native of McLeansboro, Stelle attended Western Military Academy in Alton and studied law at Washington University in St. Louis. After practicing law in his hometown, he enlisted in the Illinois National Guard and served in France during World War I until he was injured in battle. After several years working in various business interests, he served as an assistant State Auditor and as State Treasurer. When Gov. Horner fell ill during his second term, Stelle assumed his duties. Following his brief term as Governor, he returned to his business interests, becoming president of Arketex Ceramic Corporation, Evansville Coal Company and McLeansboro Shale Products Company. He is buried in his hometown of McLeansboro. (1891-1962)

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## Dwight H. Green (R) — 1941-1949

Born in Indiana, Green attended Wabash College before enlisting in the Air Force when World War I broke out. He attended Stanford University and received both doctorate and law degrees from the University of Chicago. Greene gained national recognition while prosecuting Al Capone and other gangsters, which led to his appointment as a U.S. district attorney. He lost a Chicago mayoral race in 1939. During his two terms as Governor, veterans' provisions were instituted and a law was passed requiring U.S. history to be taught in all public schools. He appointed an interracial commission to address housing and unemployment issues, and sat on several postwar commissions. After his governorship, Greene served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He is buried in Chicago. (1897-1958)





### **Adlai E. Stevenson II (D) — 1949-1953**

Born in Los Angeles, Stevenson joined the U.S. Naval Reserves at age 18. He graduated from Princeton University and completed his law degree at Northwestern University while working as managing editor of the *Bloomington Daily Pantagraph*. A World War II veteran, he held several state and federal legal positions and served on the U.S. delegation to the newly created United Nations. As Governor, Stevenson sponsored mining law revisions, rooted out corruption in the state and increased the gas tax to finance the highway system. Following his governorship, he ran unsuccessfully for president in 1952 and in 1956, after

which he practiced law then served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations until his death. He is buried in Bloomington. (1900-1965)

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### **William G. Stratton (R) — 1953-1961**

Born in Ingleside, the son of a former Secretary of State, Stratton graduated from the University of Arizona and served in the Illinois National Guard. He was the youngest member of the U.S. House, served a two-year term as State Treasurer, and in 1945 joined the U.S. Navy. After serving in World War II, he again was elected to Congress and served another term as State Treasurer. As Governor for two terms, Stratton appointed the first woman and the first African-American to cabinet posts. He supported the financing of expressways and increased the state sales tax to support state universities. He was defeated for a third term and lost a gubernatorial primary bid in 1968. He was vice president of the Associated Bank of Chicago until his death. He is buried in Chicago. (1914-2001)



### **Otto Kerner (D) — 1961-1968**

A Chicago native, Kerner graduated from Brown University and obtained his law degree from Northwestern University. He joined the Army during World War II and became a major general within 10 years. He served as a U.S. district attorney and then as a Cook County judge until his election as Governor. During his two terms, Kerner increased state sales and corporate taxes to pay for his unprecedented \$4 billion budget. He also signed fair employment practices and consumer credit legislation and a new criminal code. He resigned in 1968 to take a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago. Six years later he

resigned from the bench to serve prison time following a conviction for bribery, conspiracy and tax evasion. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. (1908-1976)

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### **Samuel H. Shapiro (D) — 1968-1969**

Born in Kankakee, Shapiro attended St. Victor College and received his law degree from the University of Illinois. He practiced law in Kankakee and later was appointed city attorney and then state's attorney. Shapiro was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1960 under Gov. Kerner and re-elected in 1964. When Kerner resigned in 1968, Shapiro assumed his duties. He was narrowly defeated for Governor in 1968 by Republican Richard B. Ogilvie, after which he returned to his law practice. He was an alumnus of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, and from 1984 until his death, he led efforts to establish a permanent national headquarters for the fraternity. He died in Kankakee and is buried in Forest Park. (1907-1987)



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### **Richard B. Ogilvie (R) — 1969-1973**

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Ogilvie served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart. He graduated from Yale University and studied law at Chicago-Kent College of Law, after which he practiced law in Chicago. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney, as a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General for 10 years and then as Cook County sheriff. As Governor, Ogilvie streamlined state government, brought the state's budget under control and instituted a new state income tax law, which provided more funding for schools and police departments. His Lieutenant Governor was future



U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D) — the first and last time Illinois had a Governor and Lieutenant Governor of opposing parties. He is buried in Chicago. (1927-1988)

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### **Daniel Walker (D) — 1973-1977**

Born in Washington, D.C., Walker served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from Northwestern Law School. He was an assistant to Adlai E. Stevenson III and served as campaign manager for his successful bid for U.S. Senator. In 1968, he led an investigation of the riots at the Democratic National Convention and issued the *Walker Report*. He gained national attention walking the length of Illinois during his primary bid for Governor. As Governor, Walker cut the state's payroll and implemented energy-saving measures for state buildings. He lost the primary for a second term to Michael J. Howlett. Ten years later he was convicted of improprieties relating to his savings and loan business and spent 18 months in prison. In 2007, Walker published his autobiography, *The Maverick and the Machine*. He currently resides in California. (1922- )





### **James R. Thompson (R) — 1977-1991**

A native Chicagoan, Thompson attended the University of Illinois and Washington University in St. Louis and graduated from Northwestern University School of Law. He was a law professor at Northwestern and served as an assistant Attorney General and a U.S. district attorney. Serving an unprecedented four terms as Governor, Thompson cut government spending, addressed the financial problems of a recession while continuing to provide vital state services. He initiated the “Build Illinois” infrastructure program and created the “Project Chance” welfare-to-work program. He also promoted economic development in the state and signed legislation to restructure the Chicago school system. From 1993-2006, he served as CEO of Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago, where he presently serves as senior chair. (1936- )

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### **Jim Edgar (R) — 1991-1999**

Illinois’ 40th Governor was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Charleston, earning his B.A. from Eastern Illinois University. He served two terms in the Illinois House, and in 1981 he was appointed Secretary of State to fill a vacancy left by Alan Dixon, who was elected to the U.S. Senate. During his three terms as Secretary of State, Edgar gained national recognition for his crackdown on drunk driving, and pioneered an adult literacy program that became a model for the nation. As Governor, he downsized and streamlined state government, championed welfare-to-work and education reforms, and supported job training and infrastructure improvements. He did not seek a third term for Governor. Edgar currently serves as a distinguished fellow of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (1946- )



### **George H. Ryan (R) — 1999-2003**



Born in Iowa and a lifelong resident of Kankakee, Ryan served in the U.S. Army in Korea and obtained his pharmacy degree from Ferris State College. He was a member of the Illinois House for 10 years, serving as Speaker for one term. He also served as Lieutenant Governor under Gov. Thompson and as Secretary of State for two terms. As Governor, Ryan created the Illinois FIRST local infrastructure program and a “15-20-LIFE” law, which created stiffer penalties for using a gun during a criminal act. He also gained national attention in 2000 for his moratorium on executions in Illinois. Ryan did not seek a

second term. In 2006 he was convicted on federal public corruption charges, resulting in a six and a half-year prison sentence. (1934- )

(Sources: *Illinois Blue Book*; *The Encyclopedia of Illinois, 1996-1997*, a volume of the *Encyclopedia of the United States*; *Who's Who in the Midwest, 2005*; *Wikipedia* online encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org>; *Grave Sites of Illinois Governors*, [www.graveyards.com](http://www.graveyards.com); *Find a Grave*, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com); *Illinois Trails History and Genealogy Project*, [www.iltrails.org](http://www.iltrails.org))