

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



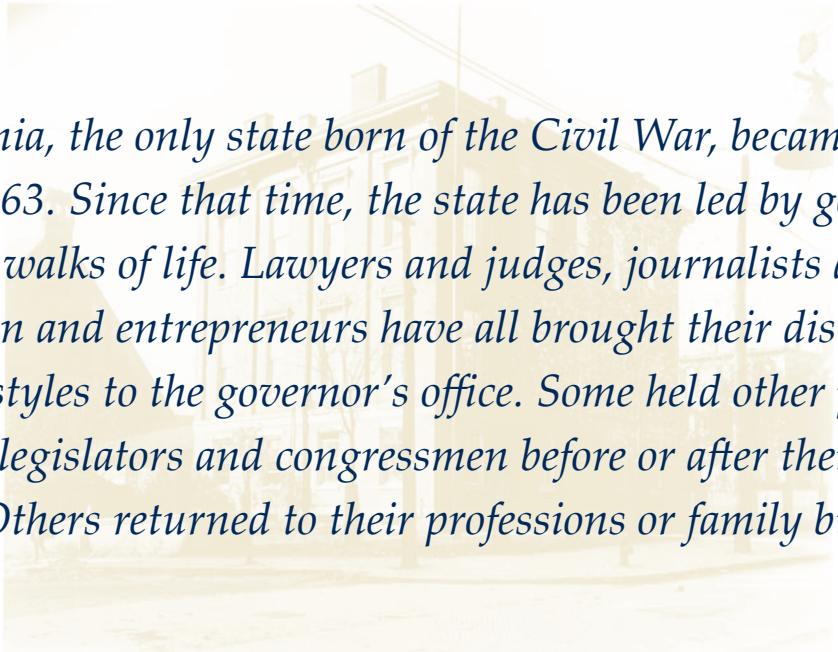
The state of West Virginia has a rich history, which includes those elected to lead it. From Arthur I. Boreman, the first governor of West Virginia, to Cecil Harland Underwood, who was elected as the state's youngest governor and again 40 years later as its oldest governor, these individuals have helped mold our wonderful state into what it is today. It is a great privilege to be a part of this group.

As the 36th governor of the great state of West Virginia, I am proud to have been given the opportunity to serve the wonderful people who call the Mountain State home. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of those who have served this office. Like those before me, I am committed to building upon their efforts and making this state a great place to live and work for current and future generations of West Virginians.

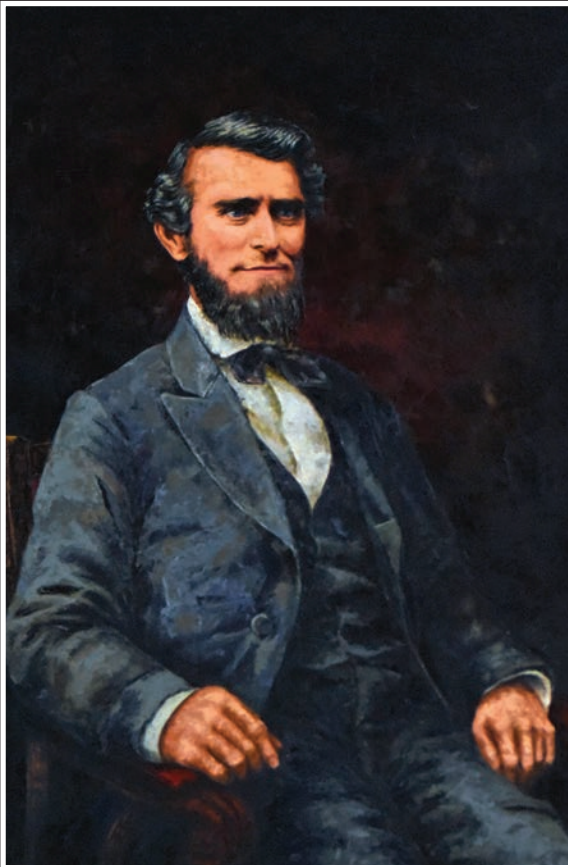


GOVERNOR JIM JUSTICE

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



West Virginia, the only state born of the Civil War, became a state on June 20, 1863. Since that time, the state has been led by governors from many walks of life. Lawyers and judges, journalists and editors, businessmen and entrepreneurs have all brought their distinctive leadership styles to the governor's office. Some held other public offices as mayors, legislators and congressmen before or after their terms as governor. Others returned to their professions or family businesses.



1ST GOVERNOR
1863-1869

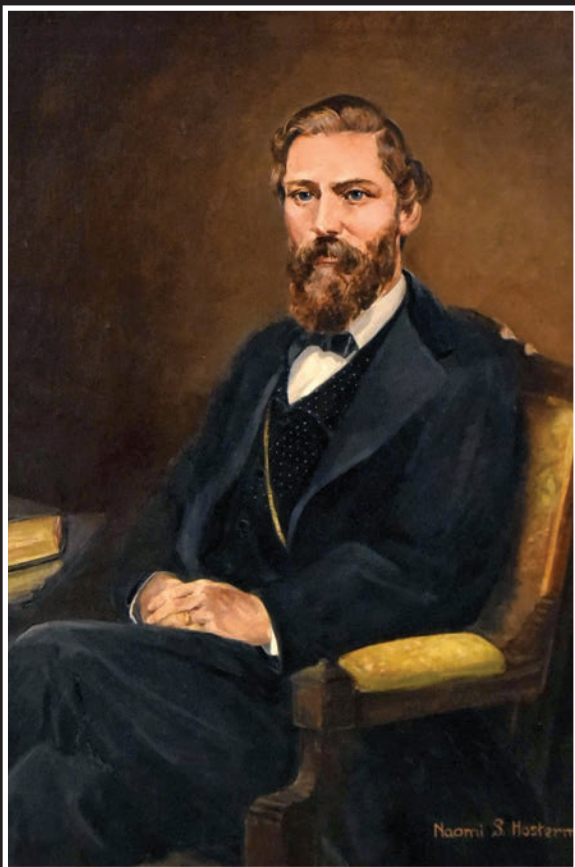
Arthur Ingram Boreman

Arthur Ingram Boreman was born on July 24, 1823, in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, the son of a town merchant. At the age of four, he and his family moved to western Virginia. In 1845, Boreman was admitted to the bar and established a law practice in Parkersburg. He represented Wood County in the Virginia General Assembly from 1855 to 1861. A member of the Constitutional Union party, Boreman was elected West Virginia's first governor in 1863.

Boreman contributed effectively to the government of the new state, supporting legislation which instituted the West Virginia *Code*, Board of Public Works, and the public school system. In 1869, Boreman resigned from office to join the United States Senate six days before the end of his term.

After one six-year term in the Senate, he returned to Parkersburg to practice law. From 1888 until his death on April 19, 1896, Boreman served as circuit judge for the Fifth Judicial District.

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2ND GOVERNOR
1869

Daniel Duane Tompkins Farnsworth

Daniel Duane Tompkins Farnsworth was born on Staten Island, New York, on December 23, 1819, and moved to Buckhannon, Upshur County, at the age of two. Having worked as a tailor, merchant, banker, and railroad official, he was one of the first Upshur County justices of the peace. In 1861, Farnsworth became a member of the first Wheeling Convention, proposing the first statehood resolution. He served in the state senates of the Reorganized Government of Virginia and West Virginia between 1862 and 1870, and helped revise the state code in 1868.

When Arthur I. Boreman resigned as governor on February 26, 1869, to join the United States Senate, Farnsworth, as state senate president, assumed the duties of governor to complete Boreman's unexpired term. He served only a matter of days until March 4, 1869, when William Stevenson, victor in the gubernatorial election the previous year, was inaugurated. Farnsworth returned to the Senate, completing his term in 1870.

During the 1870s, Farnsworth was a leader in the state's Greenback party and attended the 1872 constitutional convention. He died in Buckhannon on December 5, 1892.





3RD GOVERNOR
1869-1871

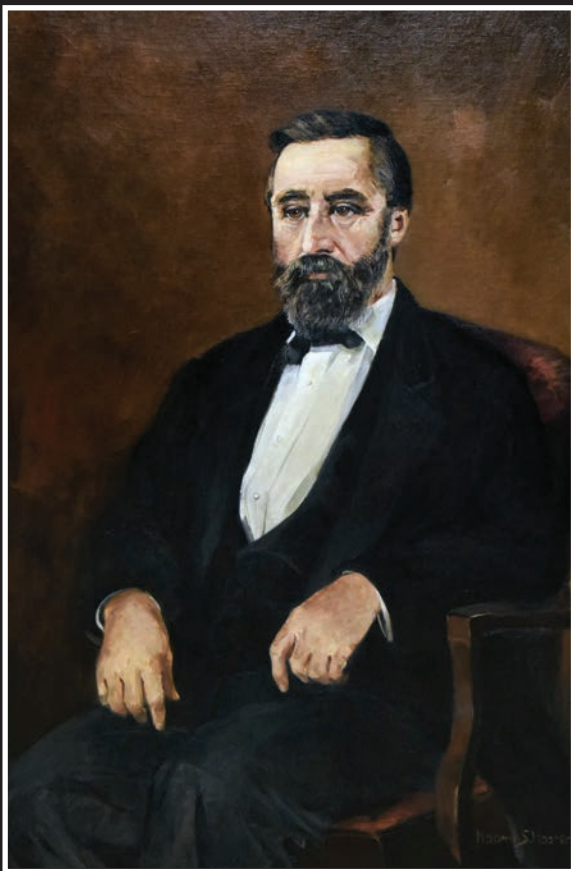
William Erskine Stevenson

William Erskine Stevenson was born in Warren, Pennsylvania, on March 18, 1820. A cabinetmaker by trade, he was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature in 1856 but moved to Wood County, Virginia, before his term expired. Stevenson served in the first state constitutional convention in November 1861, and was elected to the first West Virginia Senate in 1863, serving as president from 1865 to 1868.

As governor, Stevenson successfully advocated for the right of Confederate veterans to vote. He supported equal education rights for blacks, increased immigration, improved transportation, and the development of industry.

After leaving the governor's office, Stevenson published the *Parkersburg State Journal* with O. G. Scofield until 1882, when they sold the business to future governor Albert B. White. Stevenson died on November 29, 1883.

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4TH GOVERNOR
1871-1877

John Jeremiah Jacob

John Jeremiah Jacob was born on December 9, 1829, near Romney, Hampshire County, the first of West Virginia's governors born within the present-day borders of the state. He attended the Romney Academy and Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Jacob studied law and taught school in Hampshire County before accepting a position at the University of Missouri in 1853. He returned to Romney in 1865 to establish a law practice. In 1868, he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates.

As the first of six consecutive Democratic governors, Jacob supported the elimination of all remaining legislation that discriminated against former Confederates. The most significant development of his term was the drafting of a new state constitution that restricted the power of the legislature and expanded the governor's term to four years but prohibited consecutive terms. Jacob was re-elected as an Independent in 1872.

Jacob served in the House of Delegates from Ohio County in 1879 and as a circuit judge from 1881 to 1888. He practiced law in Wheeling until his death on November 24, 1893.





5TH GOVERNOR
1877-1881

Henry Mason Mathews

Henry Mason Mathews was born in Frankford, Greenbrier County, on March 29, 1834. He studied at the Lewisburg Academy, University of Virginia, and a law school in Lexington, Virginia. Following school, he maintained a law practice in Lewisburg and taught at Allegheny College in Blue Sulphur Springs. During the Civil War, Mathews served as a major in the Confederate Army. Mathews was a member of the 1872 constitutional convention and served as attorney general under Governor John J. Jacob.

As governor, Mathews dealt with economic problems associated with the national depression. In July 1877, Mathews sent the state militia to Martinsburg, Berkeley County, where Baltimore and Ohio Railroad workers had been stopping trains to protest wage cuts. He was a proponent of increased immigration, improved transportation, expansion of the coal and oil industries, and funding to establish a state geological survey.

After his term as governor, Mathews returned to Lewisburg, where he died on April 28, 1884.

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6TH GOVERNOR
1881-1885

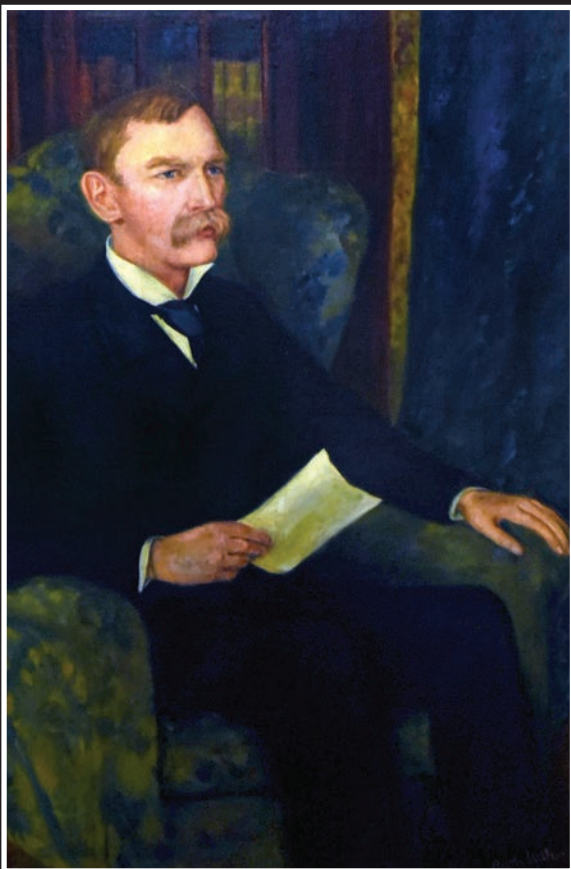
Jacob Beeson Jackson

Jacob Beeson Jackson was born on April 6, 1829, in Parkersburg. He studied law with his father, John J. Jackson Sr., a cousin of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. He established his first law practice at St. Marys, Pleasants County, in 1852. Jackson served as the Pleasants County prosecuting attorney and later held the same position in Wood County. After one term in the House of Delegates, he was elected mayor of Parkersburg in 1879.

As governor, Jackson advocated improved education, re-writing the *West Virginia Code*, and tax reform. Taxes had been reduced during the depression of the 1870s. Under Jackson, the legislature increased taxes to support public institutions. Like his predecessors, Jackson encouraged increased immigration and the development of industry.

Jackson returned to the practice of law in Parkersburg after his term as governor and died there on December 11, 1893.





7TH GOVERNOR
1885-1890

Emanuel Willis Wilson

Born on August 11, 1844, in Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, Emanuel Willis Wilson grew up working in the town's United States Armory. A self-educated lawyer, Wilson was elected to the House of Delegates in 1870 and served as Speaker of the House, 1881-1883.

As governor, Wilson led opposition to monopolies and dealt with the issue of political corruption. Wilson gained national attention by refusing to extradite members of the Hatfield family to Kentucky during the Hatfield-McCoy feud.

Wilson became the only governor to serve a five-year term, 1885-1890, because of the controversial election to succeed him.

After leaving office, Wilson was defeated in the 1896 Congressional elections. He practiced law and invested in various business ventures in Charleston, including the city's Arcade building. He died on May 28, 1905.

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8TH GOVERNOR
1890-1893

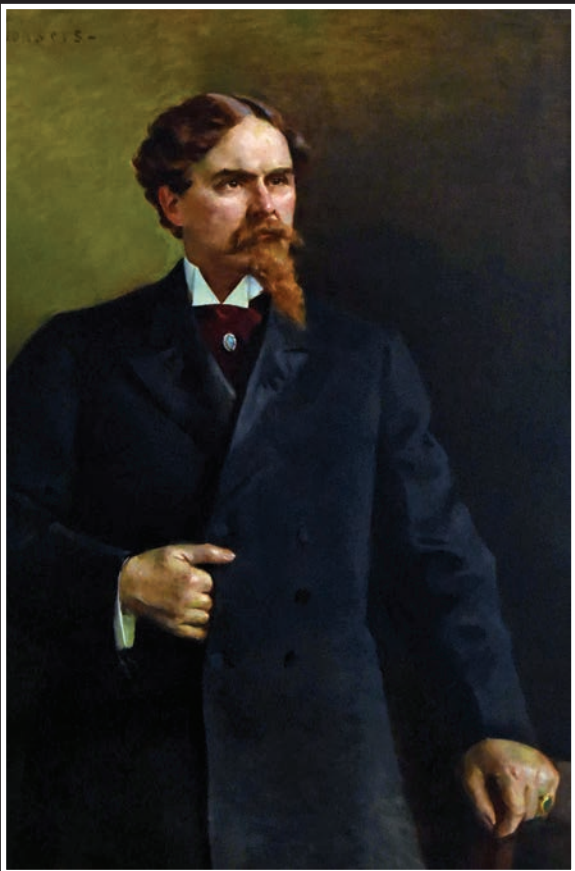
Aretas Brooks Fleming

Aretas Brooks Fleming was born in Fairmont, Marion County, on October 15, 1839. After attending the University of Virginia, he established a law practice in Fairmont and was elected prosecuting attorney in 1863. He served in the House of Delegates from 1872 to 1875 and as a circuit judge from 1878 to 1888.

Fleming served only a three-year term, 1890-1893, due to a dispute over the results of the 1888 election. The legislature finally selected Fleming in January 1890. Bitter over the results, Republicans blocked most of Fleming's initiatives. One exception was the approval of the Australian ballot, intended to discourage election fraud. Fleming actively supported the growth of industry, particularly coal, and was a founding incorporator of many businesses while in office.

After his term as governor, he returned to his Fairmont law practice and later served as president of the West Virginia Board of Trade. He died in Fairmont on October 13, 1923.





9TH GOVERNOR
1893-1897

William Alexander MacCorkle

William Alexander MacCorkle was born on May 7, 1857, near Lexington, Virginia. After briefly teaching school in Pocahontas County, he attended Washington and Lee University. In 1879, he established a law practice in Charleston and also taught school. From 1880 to 1889, he served as the Kanawha County prosecuting attorney.

As governor, MacCorkle advocated increased funding for state institutions and improved transportation. He also actively promoted the state's natural resources to attract industry.

After leaving office, MacCorkle returned to his Charleston law practice. In 1910, he was elected to the West Virginia Senate. MacCorkle was also a founder and president of the Citizens National Bank, which later merged with the Charleston National Bank. He died at his home, Sunrise, on September 24, 1930.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



10TH GOVERNOR
1897-1901

George Wesley Atkinson

George Wesley Atkinson was born in Charleston on June 29, 1845. After attending Ohio Wesleyan University, Mount Union College, and Columbia University, he returned to Charleston, where he served as postmaster from 1870 to 1876. From 1881 to 1885, Atkinson was the United States marshal for West Virginia. He established a law practice in Wheeling and was elected to Congress in 1888.

Despite the fact Atkinson was the first Republican governor in twenty-six years, his policies were similar to those of his Democratic predecessors. He was the first governor to promote legislation to improve child welfare and labor conditions.

In later years, Atkinson was actively involved with charitable organizations and served as president of the Children's Home Society of West Virginia. He was the United States attorney for southern West Virginia, 1901-1905, and a member of the federal court of claims, 1905-1916. Atkinson was the author of numerous books about West Virginia. He died in Charleston on April 4, 1925.





11TH GOVERNOR
1901-1905

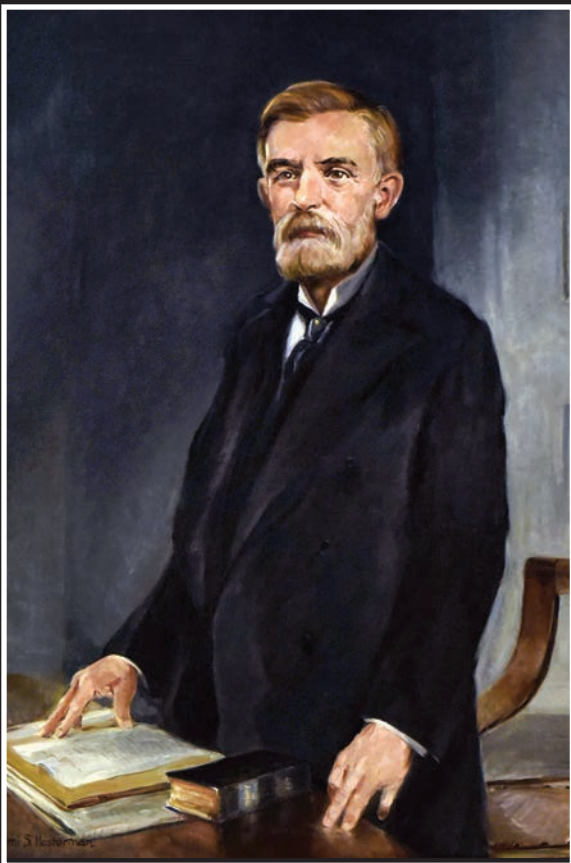
Albert Blakeslee White

Albert Blakeslee White was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 22, 1856, and attended Marietta College. He published the *Parkersburg State Journal* from 1882 to 1899. He was president of the West Virginia Editorial Association for several years and served a term as president of the National Editorial Association. White became involved in politics as campaign manager for United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins and as the collector of internal revenue for the West Virginia district.

As governor, White focused on revising the constitution and the tax code. White also supported the pure food and drug act, election reform, environmental legislation, and railroad regulation.

After his term as governor, White served briefly as state tax commissioner. He was active in various banking and insurance businesses in Parkersburg. In 1926, he was elected a state senator. White died in Parkersburg on July 3, 1941.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



12TH GOVERNOR
1905-1909

William Mercer Owens Dawson

William Mercer Owens Dawson was born in Bloomington, Maryland, on May 21, 1853. From 1873 to 1891, he was owner and editor of the *Preston County Journal*. Dawson entered politics as a state senator in 1881 and served two terms. In 1895, he served as clerk of the House of Delegates, and in 1897, he became secretary of state.

During Dawson's term as governor, the legislature increased the powers and duties of the state tax commissioner and gave the governor the right to remove tax assessors for refusal to comply with new tax laws. In 1909, state educational, charitable, penal, and correctional institutions were reorganized under a Board of Control.

After leaving office, Dawson served on the Virginia Debt Commission, the Board of Control, and the Public Service Commission. Dawson died in Charleston on March 12, 1916.



13TH GOVERNOR
1909-1913

William Ellsworth Glasscock

William Ellsworth Glasscock was born in Monongalia County on December 13, 1862. He graduated from West Virginia University. After serving as superintendent of county schools and clerk of the circuit court, he was admitted to the bar in 1903. Glasscock rose quickly in the Republican Party as an attorney for United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins.

As governor, Glasscock advocated taxing natural gas, funding for education, mine safety laws, creation of a public service commission, anti-lobby legislation, an anti-trust law, and environmental legislation. However, a dispute with the legislature over the appointment of two United States senators effectively nullified most of his measures. The last year of his term was marred by a violent coal strike in the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek area of Kanawha County.

After leaving office, Glasscock returned to his law practice. He died in Morgantown on April 12, 1925.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



14TH GOVERNOR
1913-1917

Henry Drury Hatfield

Henry Drury Hatfield was born on Mate Creek in present Mingo County on September 15, 1875. He graduated from Franklin College at age fifteen and received his medical degree from the University of Louisville at age nineteen. He worked as a railroad division surgeon, mine physician, and Mingo County health commissioner. After serving briefly on the McDowell County Court, he was elected to the state senate and was chosen as its president in 1911.

As governor, Hatfield's first act was to dictate a settlement to the coal miners on strike in the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek area of Kanawha County. His term was marked by progressive legislation such as creation of a state Department of Health and passage of one of the first workers' compensation laws in the nation.

During World War I, Hatfield entered the Medical Corps of the Army and attained the rank of chief surgeon at an Army hospital in Detroit. He served in the United States Senate, 1929-1935, then returned to his medical practice in Huntington. Hatfield died in Huntington on October 23, 1962.





15TH GOVERNOR
1917-1921

John Jacob Cornwell

John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County on July 11, 1867. He attended Shepherd College before becoming a public school teacher at age sixteen. In 1890, Cornwell and his brother acquired the *Hampshire Review*, and he served as editor until becoming governor. He was admitted to the bar in 1894 and elected a state senator in 1898. In 1917, he became the only Democratic governor in a thirty-six-year span between 1897 and 1933.

During his term, the state reached an agreement on a public debt owed to Virginia. Cornwell advocated strengthening the mining code, creating a state board of education, and establishing a department of public safety and the state police. His term was marked by United States involvement in World War I and growing labor unrest in the coal industry.

After leaving office, Cornwell served as a director of and general counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and as president of the Bank of Romney. He died in Cumberland, Maryland, on September 8, 1953.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



16TH GOVERNOR
1921-1925

Ephraim Franklin Morgan

Ephraim Franklin Morgan, a direct descendant of West Virginia's first white settler Morgan Morgan, was born on January 16, 1869, on a farm near Forksburg, Marion County. He studied at Fairmont State Normal School and graduated from the West Virginia University law school in 1897. After establishing a law practice in Fairmont, Morgan enlisted in the First West Virginia Infantry during the Spanish-American War. He later served as Fairmont city attorney, Marion County judge, and member of the West Virginia Public Service Commission.

Under Morgan, the legislature created a sinking fund to provide financial assistance to new programs, namely a new road system. In 1921, the governor asked the president to dispatch federal troops to end an armed miners' march in Boone and Logan counties. One week before leaving office, Ephraim and Alma Morgan became the first residents of the present Governor's Mansion.

After his term as governor, Morgan served as solicitor for the United States Department of Commerce before retiring in Fairmont. He died in Bethesda, Maryland, on January 15, 1950.





17TH GOVERNOR
1925-1929

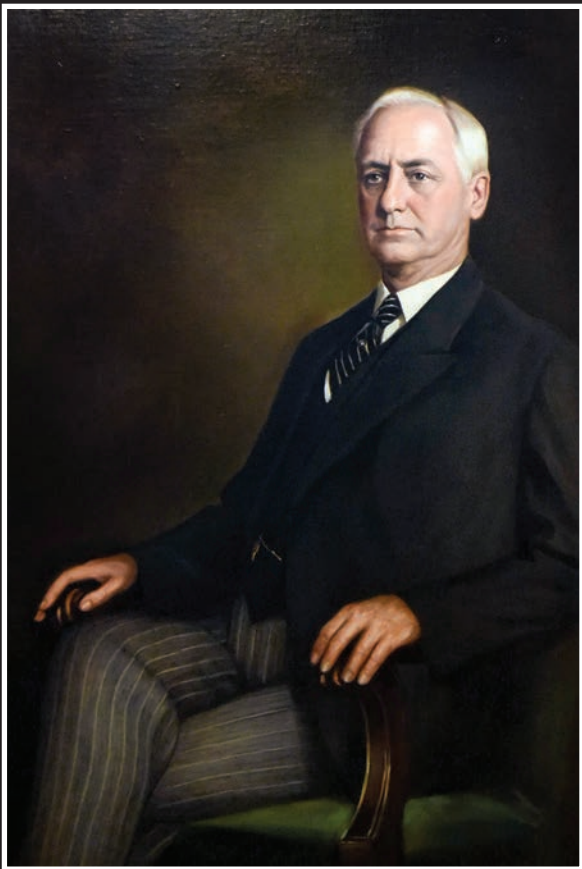
Howard Mason Gore

Howard Mason Gore was born on October 12, 1877, on a Harrison County farm. He was a graduate of Clarksburg High School and the West Virginia University College of Agriculture. During World War I, he was the assistant food administrator for the state. After serving as the United States assistant secretary of agriculture, Gore was named secretary of agriculture but resigned in 1925 to become governor.

As governor, Gore improved the state's agricultural programs and acted on requests from rural areas for reforms in handling state funds. Through a bipartisan commission, he was able to disperse more tax money to counties and municipalities. In addition, his support of road construction earned Gore the nickname, "road building governor."

Following his term, Gore served as state commissioner of agriculture. He was named director of the federal government's rural rehabilitation program for Harrison County in 1935 and served on the Public Service Commission from 1941 to 1947. He died in Clarksburg on June 20, 1947.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



18TH GOVERNOR
1929-1933

William Gustavus Conley

William Gustavus Conley was born on a farm near Kingwood, Preston County, on January 8, 1866. He taught school from 1886 to 1891. After graduating from West Virginia University in 1893, Conley opened a law practice in Parsons, Tucker County. He became Tucker County prosecuting attorney in 1897 and mayor of Parsons in 1901. During this time, he founded and edited the *Parsons Advocate* newspaper. Returning to Kingwood, Conley served as mayor, 1906-1908, and then as state attorney general under two governors.

During the Conley administration, the legislature established a public unemployment bureau, library commission, bridge commission, water commission, athletic commission, and raised taxes to pay for the main building of the new state capitol. Conley dedicated the new Capitol June 20, 1932, the state's 69th building. Conley's time in office was clouded by the beginning of the Great Depression and a devastating drought.

After leaving office, Conley returned to his Charleston law practice. He died in Charleston on October 21, 1940.





19TH GOVERNOR
1933-1937

Herman Guy Kump

Herman Guy Kump was born in Capon Springs, Hampshire County, on October 31, 1877. In 1905, he graduated from the University of Virginia and opened a law practice in Elkins, Randolph County. He served two terms as the county prosecuting attorney and one as mayor of Elkins. In 1928, he was elected judge of the Upshur-Randolph judicial court.

Kump became governor at the height of the Great Depression, inheriting a state treasury deficit of \$4 million. With the assistance of federal New Deal legislation, by 1937, the state was on a comparable financial level with most other states. During Kump's term, all schools were placed under the administration of the counties for more efficient management.

After his term as governor, Kump returned to his law practice in Elkins. He was president of the Citizens National Bank of Elkins, of which he was a founder, from 1924 to 1952. Kump died in Elkins on February 14, 1962.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



20TH GOVERNOR
1937-1941

Homer Adams Holt

Homer Adams Holt was born in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, on March 1, 1898. He graduated from Greenbrier Military School and Washington and Lee University. After World War I, Holt returned to Washington and Lee as an instructor and a law student. In 1925, he established a law practice in Fayetteville, Fayette County. He served as state attorney general under Governor Herman Guy Kump.

As governor, Holt instituted a program to improve the facilities of state institutions. He drew criticism for his attacks on school lobbyists and the labor movement, resulting in a split within the Democratic Party. A significant innovation was the establishment of an interim committee to study proposed legislation and draft bills when the legislature was not in session.

After leaving office, Holt joined a Charleston law firm. In retirement, he practiced law on a part-time basis. Holt died in Charleston on January 16, 1975.





21ST GOVERNOR
1941-1945

Matthew Mansfield Neely

Matthew Mansfield Neely was born in a log cabin near Grove, Doddridge County, on November 9, 1874. He served in the United States House of Representatives, 1913-1921, and in the United States Senate, 1923-1929 and 1931-1940. He resigned his senate seat and the important position of chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee to run for governor.

With the support of labor, he backed improvements in unemployment compensation and the establishment of a human rights commission. Major accomplishments included a new law requiring higher appropriations to the State Health Department for cancer treatment, an increase in welfare grants, reforms at state institutions, an increase in the teachers' retirement pension, stricter enforcement of the child labor law, and better mine inspections.

In 1942, in the middle of his term as governor, Neely made the controversial decision to run for his old United States Senate seat. He was defeated. Neely was elected to the House of Representatives in 1944 while still serving as governor but was defeated in a 1946 bid for re-election. He again served in the Senate from 1949 until his death on January 18, 1958, in Washington, D.C.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



22ND GOVERNOR
1945-1949

Clarence Watson Meadows

Clarence Watson Meadows was born in Beckley, Raleigh County, on February 11, 1904. He attended Washington and Lee University and the University of Alabama and established a law practice at Beckley in 1928. Meadows served in the House of Delegates, 1931-1933, and as Raleigh County prosecuting attorney, 1933-1937. He was the state's attorney general from 1937 to 1942, when he was appointed judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

More than any of his predecessors, Meadows used radio to convey his message to the people. He helped mediate a number of labor disputes. Meadows reorganized the state's Board of Education, Conservation Commission, Industrial Publicity Commission, and West Virginia University's Board of Governors.

After leaving office, Meadows opened a law practice in Charleston, engaged in oil and gas ventures, and held interests in three radio stations. He later moved to Florida and died in Clifton Forge, Virginia, on September 12, 1961.





23RD GOVERNOR
1949-1953

Okey Leonidas Patteson

Okey Leonidas Patteson was born at Dingess, Mingo County, on September 14, 1898, and raised at Mount Hope, Fayette County. After attending West Virginia Wesleyan College and the Carnegie Institute of Technology, he sold automobiles and real estate in Mount Hope. A hunting accident in 1932 forced the amputation of both Patteson's legs below the knees. He served on the Fayette County Court, 1935-1941, and as county sheriff, 1941-1945.

As governor, one of Patteson's most important and controversial decisions was to locate the state's first medical school in Morgantown. In 1952, Patteson organized the state Turnpike Commission to oversee the construction of the West Virginia Turnpike.

After his term, Patteson was named general manager of the Turnpike Commission in 1954. He later opened a real estate office in Charleston and became president of the Raleigh County Bank. In 1969, he was named to the newly created Board of Regents. Patteson died in Beckley on July 3, 1989.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



24TH GOVERNOR
1953-1957

William Casey Marland

William Casey Marland was born on March 26, 1918, in Johnson City, Illinois, and moved to Glen Rogers, Wyoming County, at the age of seven. After working in the coal mines, he attended the University of Alabama and West Virginia University. During World War II, Marland saw combat in the South Pacific. Appointed attorney general in 1949, he was elected to that position the following year.

Three days after becoming governor, Marland proposed a severance tax on extractive industries, most notably coal, but the legislature blocked this tax. He advocated the desegregation of schools, expansion of the state parks, improved unemployment and workers' compensation laws, and an industrial development program.

After his term, Marland established a law practice in Charleston. Later, he moved to Chicago and successfully battled alcoholism before returning to West Virginia in 1965 as associate director of a horse racing enterprise. Stricken with cancer soon thereafter, Marland died in Barrington, Illinois, on November 26, 1965.





Cecil Harland Underwood

Cecil Harland Underwood was born in Josephs Mills, Tyler County, on November 5, 1922. He graduated from Tyler County High School, Salem College, and West Virginia University. A teacher, Underwood ventured into politics in 1944 at age twenty-two with his election to the House of Delegates. He retained this seat until 1956. In 1957, he became the youngest governor in the history of the state and the first Republican governor in twenty-four years.

In his first term as governor, Underwood worked to improve roads and to help people impoverished by rapid technological change, particularly because of the mechanization of the coal industry. His administration developed a temporary employment program to provide relief to poor families.

Between 1960 and 1996, Underwood unsuccessfully sought political office several times and engaged in various business and educational activities. In 1997, he became the state's oldest governor, forty years after becoming the state's youngest executive. Underwood died in Charleston on November 24, 2008.



25TH and 32ND GOVERNOR
1957-1961 and 1997-2001

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



26TH GOVERNOR
1961-1965

William Wallace Barron

William Wallace “Wally” Barron was born on December 8, 1911, in Elkins, Randolph County. He graduated from Washington and Lee University and West Virginia University. In 1949, he was elected mayor of Elkins. Barron was elected to the House of Delegates in 1950 and 1952 and was appointed assistant floor leader. He served as attorney general from 1957 to 1961.

As governor, Barron established a unique work and training program by combining the state’s own emergency employment plan with a federal grant program. He addressed economic development by appointing an economic advisory council. A statewide clean-up program was organized through volunteers. He also initiated an expansion of the state parks system.

After his term as governor, Barron established a law practice in Charleston. He died on November 12, 2002, in Charlotte, North Carolina.





27TH GOVERNOR
1965-1969

Hulett Carlson Smith

Hulett Carlson Smith was born on October 21, 1918, in Beckley, the son of the city's mayor Joe L. Smith. He attended the Wharton School of Finance and Administration of the University of Pennsylvania. Following graduation, Smith worked in the insurance business. He served in the Navy during World War II and afterwards became president of an insurance and investment firm, and served on the state aeronautics commission.

During Smith's term, the legislature enacted measures to control air and stream pollution and to protect human rights, and passed some of the state's first strip mining legislation. Smith signed into law a bill repealing the death penalty. The most significant change in state government was the passage of the Modern Budget Amendment, making the governor responsible for developing the state budget.

After leaving office, Smith returned to his insurance agency in Beckley and assumed duties as secretary-treasurer of two area hospitals. In retirement, he became an outspoken advocate for the environment. Smith died in Scottsdale, Arizona, on January 15, 2012.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



28TH and 30TH GOVERNOR
1969-1977 and 1985-1989

Arch Alfred Moore, Jr.

Arch Alfred Moore Jr. was born on April 16, 1923, in Moundsville, Marshall County. After serving in combat during World War II, he graduated from West Virginia University and joined the family law firm. Moore served in the United States House of Representatives, 1957-1969.

With the passage of the Governor's Succession Amendment in 1970, Moore became the first governor to succeed himself since 1872. Accomplishments of his first term included designation of "black lung" as a coal mining disease and the development of public kindergartens. In his second term, two new state medical schools were established, and the West Virginia Science and Culture Center was built on the Capitol Complex.

In 1984, Moore became the first governor elected to three four-year terms. He expanded corporate tax credits to attract business to the state, and the legislature reduced the amount coal companies were required to pay into workers' compensation. His daughter, Shelley Moore Capito, was elected to the United States Senate in 2014. Arch Moore died on January 7, 2015.





29TH GOVERNOR
1977-1985

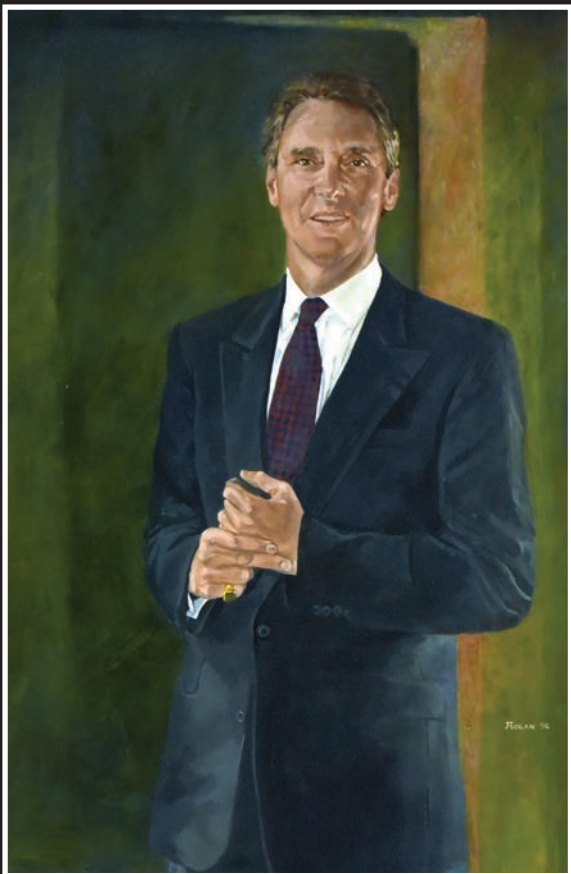
John Davison Rockefeller IV

John Davison “Jay” Rockefeller IV was born on June 18, 1937, in New York City. After attending Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard University, the International Christian University, and Yale University, he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the National Advisory Council of the Peace Corps in 1961. Rockefeller first came to West Virginia in 1964 as part of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). In 1966, Rockefeller ran successfully for the House of Delegates, and two years later he was elected Secretary of State. From 1973 to 1975, he was president of West Virginia Wesleyan College.

As governor, Rockefeller promoted the state’s energy resources and chaired the President’s Commission on Coal. He cut the size of state government and dealt with the issues of inflation, fuel shortages, a lengthy coal strike, floods, and the effects of two severe winters.

In 1984, Rockefeller was elected to the United States Senate, where he has been active with West Virginia’s trade delegation to Japan, a supporter of health care reform, and an advocate for veterans’ benefits. In 2013, he announced he would not run for re-election in 2014.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



31ST GOVERNOR
1989-1997

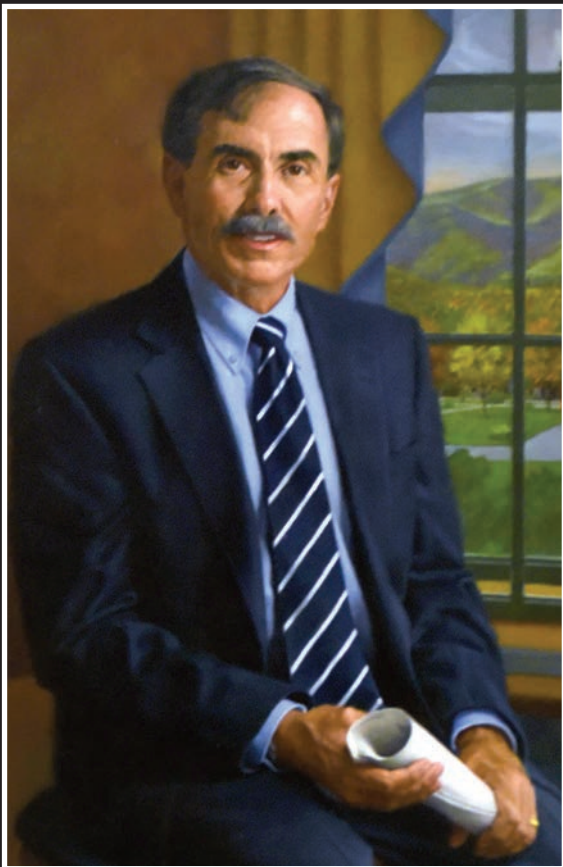
William Gaston Caperton III

William Gaston Caperton III was born in Charleston, Kanawha County, on February 21, 1940. After attending Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and the University of North Carolina, he returned to Charleston to manage a family-owned insurance firm. Caperton was elected governor in his first attempt to seek public office in 1988.

As governor, Caperton reorganized state government to reduce a large debt incurred during the 1980s. To combat this public debt, he secured legislation to raise taxes and supported a constitutional amendment to adopt a state lottery. Caperton advocated placing computers in all schools and creation of the School Building Authority to facilitate funding for modern schools.

After leaving office, Caperton taught a public policies seminar for Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In 1999, he became president of the College Board, a position he held until 2012. He is vice-chairman for an equity firm focused solely on education.





33RD GOVERNOR
2001-2005

Robert Ellsworth Wise Jr.

Robert Ellsworth “Bob” Wise Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 1948, and graduated from Duke University and Tulane University Law School. In 1980, he was elected to the West Virginia Senate. Two years later, he won a seat in the United States House of Representatives, which he held until 2001.

As governor, Wise focused on education and economic development. Through his efforts, the PROMISE Scholarship program was funded with lottery revenue, and video poker machines were outlawed. Other accomplishments include an increase in enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program and creation of a sales tax holiday for back-to-school purchases. Faced with a nationwide economic recession, Wise imposed several state government spending cuts to balance the budget.

Since 2005, Wise has been president of the Alliance for Excellent Education based in Washington, DC. From 2009 to 2015 he also chaired the board of directors of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



34TH GOVERNOR
2005 - 2010

Joe Manchin III

Joseph Manchin III was born August 24, 1947, in Farmington, Marion County. After attending West Virginia University on a football scholarship, he returned home to work in family-owned businesses. He was elected to serve in the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1982 and to the West Virginia Senate in 1986. He served as Secretary of State from 2001 to 2005.

As governor, Manchin improved the state's economic climate while reducing its long-term debt and lowering taxes for citizens and businesses. He focused attention on health care, education and support for veterans and families. Following a difficult year of mining accidents, including the Sago accident in Upshur County, he fought for state and federal mine safety mandates and changes to improve communications and emergency systems in underground mines.

Manchin held leadership roles in the National Governors Association and Southeast Governors Association, helping to focus regional and national attention on economic growth, education and mine safety issues.

In November 2010, Manchin was elected a U. S. Senator to fill the remaining two years of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd's term of office. He was re-elected in 2012.





35TH GOVERNOR
2010 - 2017

Earl Ray Tomblin

Earl Ray Tomblin was born March 15, 1952, in Logan County. He received his undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and an M.B.A. from Marshall University. He attended the University of Charleston.

A self-employed businessman and former school teacher, Tomblin was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1974 and served in the house until he was elected to the West Virginia Senate in 1980. Tomblin is the longest serving Senate President, a position he held from 1995 until 2010. He was named the state's first Lieutenant Governor in 2000 and, in 2010, was called upon to fulfill the state's highest office when Governor Manchin resigned to fill U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd's unexpired term. Tomblin won a special gubernatorial election to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term and ran successfully for an additional term in 2012.

As governor, Tomblin helped put more West Virginians back to work and reduced the tax burden on families and businesses. He took bold action to raise student achievement through comprehensive education reforms. And, through legislation, he made texting while driving a crime and helped crack down on drug abuse.

WEST VIRGINIA'S GOVERNORS



36TH GOVERNOR
2017 - present

Jim Justice

James C. Justice, II was born in Charleston on April 27, 1951, to James Conley Justice and Edna Ruth Justice. He attended Raleigh County public schools, graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and attended Greenbrier Military Academy before earning his undergraduate degree and Master's in business administration from Marshall University.

Justice has spent his career creating thousands of jobs. He joined his family's business in 1974 and started Justice Family Farms in 1977. He is now the largest farmer east of the Mississippi River.

Upon his father's death in 1993, Justice became the president and CEO of Bluestone Industries and Bluestone Coal. Over the next 15 years, he launched a massive expansion of multiple businesses.

In 2009, he rescued The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs from bankruptcy. Since then he has brought major events like the PGA Tour, training camps for the NFL and NBA, and countless high-profile acts and conferences to The Greenbrier.

Continuing the family's tradition of being major supporters of youth programs, since 1992 he has been president of Beckley Little League. Justice has dedicated 36 years to coaching basketball teams of all ages, including his current position as head girls' and boys' basketball coach at Greenbrier East High School.

Governor Justice and his wife, First Lady Cathy Justice, have two children — James (Jay) C. Justice, III and Dr. Jill Justice.

WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE CAPITOLS

The West Virginia State Capitol Building in Charleston was dedicated by Governor William G. Conley on June 20, 1932, the state's 69th birthday. Prior to that, the state's capitol had moved several times. In fact, the capitol location literally floated between Wheeling and Charleston until 1875.

WHEELING

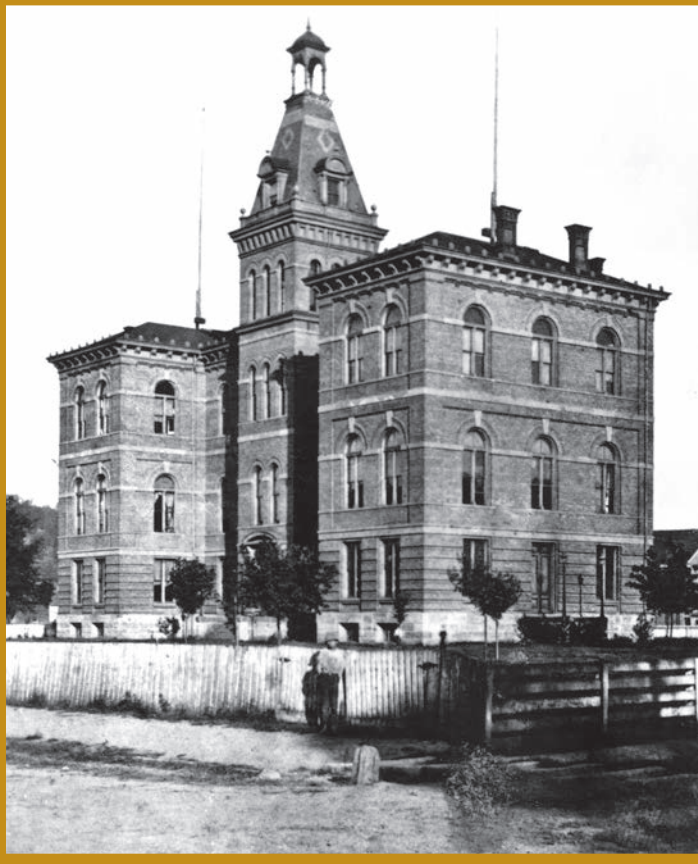
June 1863 to April 1870



Western Virginia seceded from the Confederate Virginia in 1861 and established a Unionist government of Virginia in Wheeling. Over the next two years, Unionist leaders variously met at Washington Hall, the Custom House (West Virginia Independence Hall), and Linsly Institute. The Custom House was used for executive offices and meetings of the constitutional convention, and Independence Hall thus is known as the birthplace of West Virginia.

In 1863, Linsly Institute became the first official capitol building. This site served as the capitol for seven years until the Legislature selected Charleston as the "permanent" seat. On March 28, 1870, state officials met at the levee in Wheeling to make the journey down the Ohio River and up the Great Kanawha to the new capitol city.

WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE CAPITOLS



CHARLESTON CAPITOL

April 1870 to May 1875

The first Charleston Capitol was built in 1869-70 by the State House Company, a corporation headed by Dr. John P. Hale, a prominent Charleston physician and historian. Located at Capitol and Lee Streets in downtown Charleston, it remained the state Capitol until the legislature elected to return the seat of government to Wheeling in May of 1875.

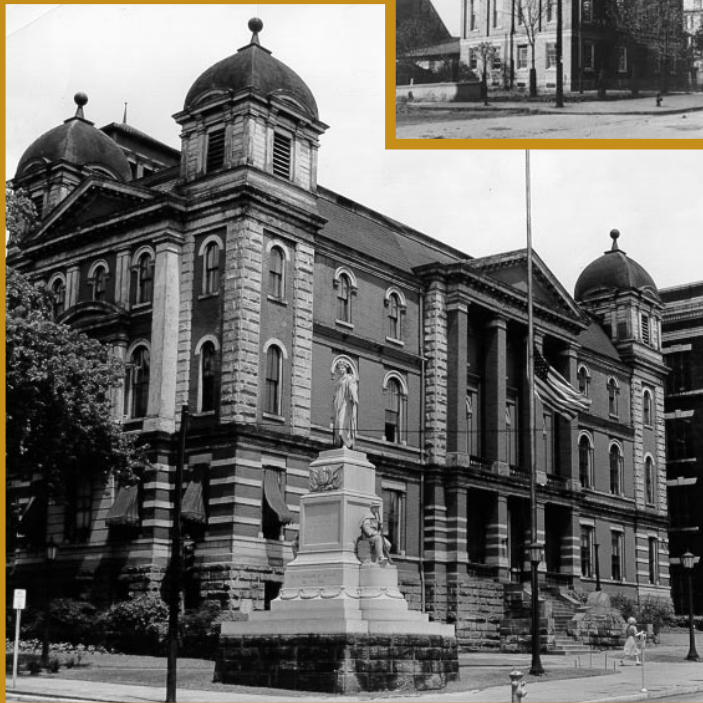
WHEELING

May 1875 to 1885

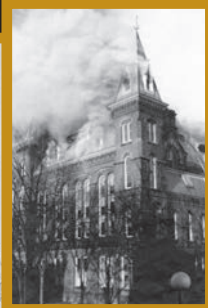
In May 1875, state officials again made the journey from Charleston to Wheeling. While awaiting the completion of a new capitol building in Wheeling, the Linsly Institute was used a second time.

December 1876 to May 1885

The newly constructed facility was financed by the city of Wheeling and served as the state capitol from 1876 to 1885. When the seat of government was ultimately moved from Wheeling in 1885, the city found many uses for the stone structure both for municipal and county purposes.



WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE CAPITOLS



CHARLESTON

May 1885 to January 1921

In the fall of 1877, Governor John J. Jacob issued a proclamation declaring Charleston would be the seat of government in 1885. The second Charleston capitol, erected on the site of the first Charleston capitol building, occupied a block between Washington and Lee and Capitol and Dickinson streets. With the addition of the Capitol Annex at the corner of Hale and Lee streets, it adequately served the state government.

March 1921 to March 1927

On January 3, 1921, plumes of smoke rose from the top of the capitol. Thousands of spectators, including Governor John J. Cornwell, witnessed the destruction of the picturesque vine-clad capitol. Many important records were saved because they were housed in the Capitol Annex.

A wood and wallboard building was speedily erected in forty-two working days on the corner of Washington and Capitol streets. The "Pasteboard Capitol" would serve as temporary offices until it burned in 1927.

