

*Pieces of Iowa's Past*, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

**February 3, 2016**

**THIS WEEK:**

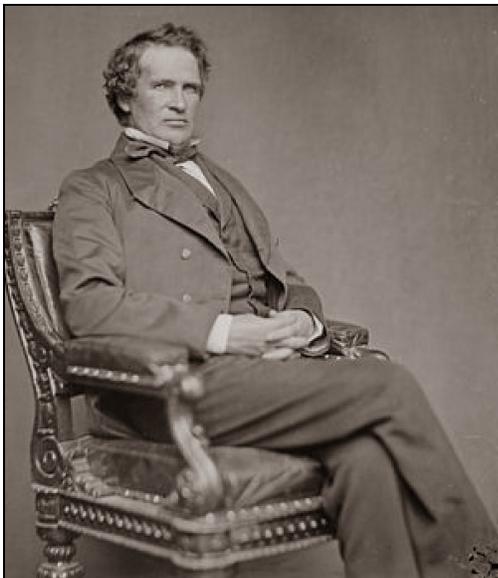
**Five Governors Who Served  
During Iowa's Earliest Years of Statehood**

**BACKGROUND:**

This is the second in a series examining the public service of Iowa's Governors.

## **Five Governors Who Served During Iowa's Earliest Years of Statehood**

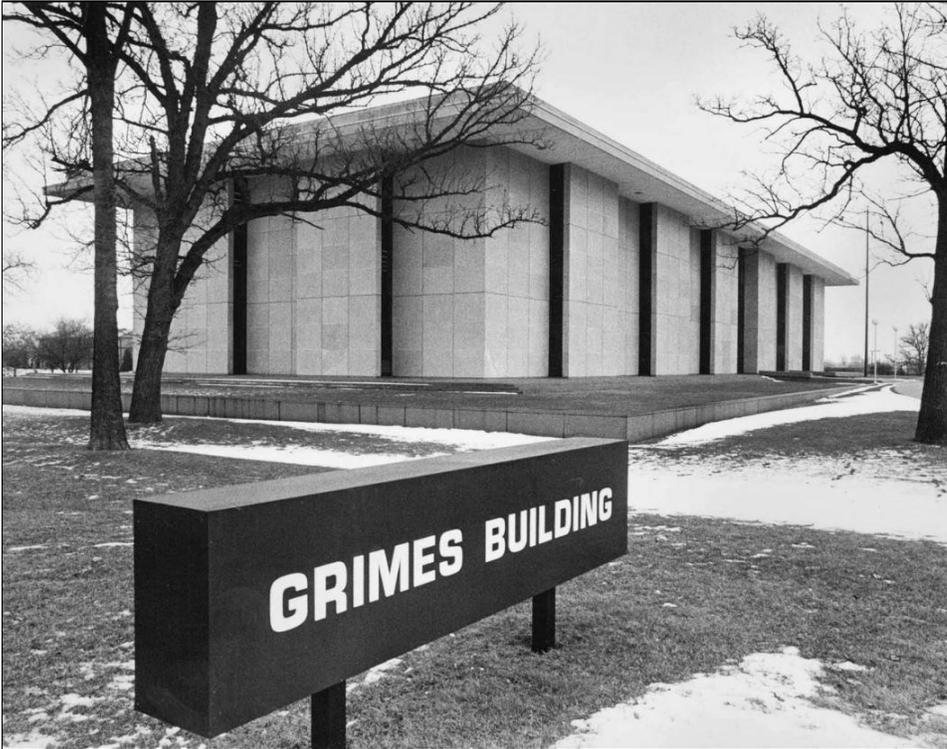
***James W. Grimes\****



James W. Grimes, Iowa's third Governor, served one term from 1854 to 1858. Grimes served as a member of the Iowa Territorial Legislature, 1838-1845, and the State Legislature from 1852-1854. He also served as the U.S. District Attorney for the Wisconsin Territory. After his time as Governor, he served in the U.S. Senate.

Grimes was born in New Hampshire in 1816 and died in 1872. He is buried in Burlington, Iowa.

The James W. Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines was named in Grimes' honor.



**The James W. Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa**

The James W. Grimes State Office Building, completed in late 1967 and early 1968, was the second general-use office building constructed on the Capitol Complex, the Lucas Building being the first. At the time of its construction it was hailed as a “contemporary-style building” that emphasized simplicity in its design. On the outside walls, alternate panels are recessed about four feet with glass panels in the set-back space.

*The Iowa Constitution of 1857 changed a Governor’s term of office from four years to two years.*

### ***Ralph Lowe***

Ralph Lowe, Iowa’s fourth Governor, served one term from 1858 to 1860. He has no state legislative history, but he represented Muscatine County at the 1844 Constitutional Convention. After serving as Governor, he was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court and served for eight years. He moved to Washington, D.C., in 1874 and served as an assistant to the U.S. District Attorney.

Lowe was born in Ohio in 1805 and died in 1883. He is buried in Washington, D.C.



## ***Samuel Kirkwood***



Samuel Kirkwood, Iowa's fifth Governor, served two consecutive terms from 1860 to 1864. He was a member of the Iowa Legislature from 1856 to 1860. He resigned as Governor to serve the remainder of James Harlan's term in the U.S. Senate.

President Garfield appointed Kirkwood as Secretary of the Interior March 8, 1881.

Kirkwood was born in Maryland in 1813 and died in 1894. He is buried in Iowa City, Iowa. Kirkwood's statue is in the National Capitol's Statuary Hall.

Iowa's Kirkwood Community College and branches were named in Kirkwood's honor.

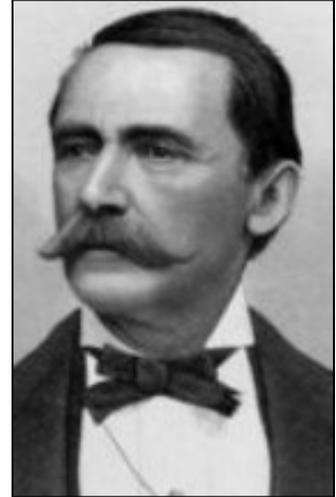


**Kirkwood Community College  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

## ***William Stone***

William Stone was elected Iowa's sixth Governor in 1864. He served two consecutive terms until 1868. He served one term in the Iowa House of Representatives after his time as Governor. He also served as Assistant Commissioner, and then the Commissioner, of the U.S. General Land Office.

Stone was born in New York in 1827 and died in 1893 in the Oklahoma Territory. He is buried in Knoxville, Iowa.



## ***Samuel Merrill***



Samuel Merrill was elected as Iowa's seventh Governor in 1868. He served two consecutive terms. Merrill was elected to serve one term in the Iowa House of Representatives in 1860. Merrill laid the cornerstone for the current Capitol in 1871.

He was born in Maine in 1822 and died in California in 1899. He is buried in Des Moines, Iowa.

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\*During James W. Grimes' time as Governor, the state capital city was moved from Iowa City to Des Moines. Governor Grimes approved the present location of the Statehouse.



**Iowa's first Capitol—"Old Capitol"—was the center of government during the last sessions of the Iowa Territorial Legislature and through the early years of statehood, 1846-1857. Iowa City, Iowa.**



**After the center of state government moved from Iowa City to Des Moines in 1857, this building was used as the Iowa Capitol from 1858-1884.**