

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 10, 2016

THIS WEEK: These Five Iowa Governors Served at the Brick Capitol in Des Moines

BACKGROUND:

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

Cyrus Carpenter



Cyrus Carpenter, Iowa's eighth Governor, served two terms, from 1872 to 1876. Carpenter was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives in 1868, and after serving as Governor, was elected in 1884, once again to the House of Representatives.

After his time as Governor, Carpenter was appointed Comptroller of the United States Treasury, and later as the Iowa Railroad Commissioner. Elected to the United States Congress in 1879, he held that office until 1883.

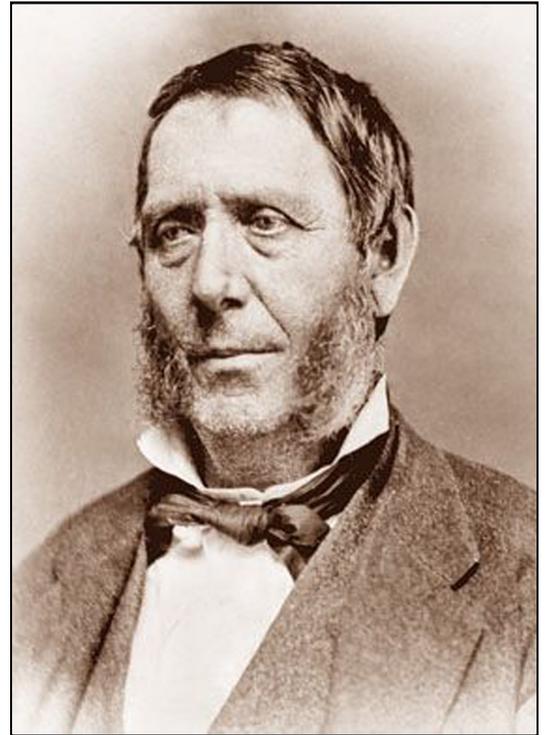
Carpenter was born in Pennsylvania in 1829 and died in 1898. He is buried in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Samuel Kirkwood

Samuel Kirkwood served nonconsecutive terms as Iowa's fifth and ninth Governor. His first gubernatorial term lasted from 1860 to 1864. He became United States Senator from 1866 to 1867.

Elected a second time as Governor in 1876, he served only about a year and then resigned the governorship to become United States Senator from 1877 to 1881.

President Garfield appointed him as Secretary of the Interior in 1881.



Joshua Newbold



Joshua Newbold became Iowa's tenth Governor when Samuel Kirkwood resigned after being elected to the United States Senate. Newbold had been elected Lieutenant Governor in 1875. He served out Kirkwood's term, serving less than a year.

Newbold served in the Iowa House of Representatives for three terms beginning in 1870. He had one subsequent term in the Iowa House in 1880.

He also served as the mayor of Mt. Pleasant after serving as Governor.

He was born in Pennsylvania in 1830 and died in 1903. He is buried in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

John Gear



John Gear was elected Iowa's eleventh Governor, serving two consecutive terms from 1878 to 1882.

Gear served three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1872 to 1878. He served as Speaker of the House in his final two terms. Elected to the U.S. Congress from 1887 to 1891, President Harrison appointed him as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury from 1892 to 1893. Gear again served in the United States House from 1893 to 1895. In 1894, he was elected to the United States Senate serving from 1895 until his death.

He was born in New York in 1825 and died in 1900. He is buried in Burlington, Iowa.



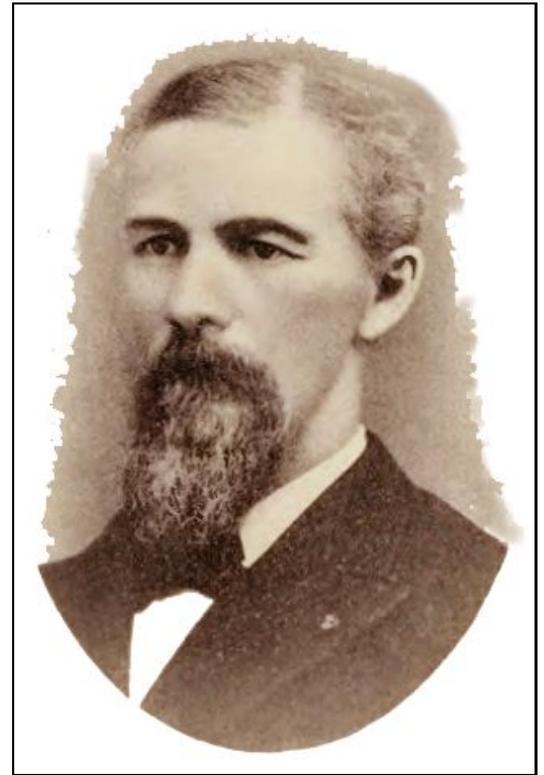
**Brick Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa**

Buren Sherman

Buren Sherman, Iowa's twelfth Governor, served two terms from 1882 to 1886. Sherman has no state legislative history. Before serving as Governor, Sherman was elected Benton County District Court Judge and later as State Auditor from 1875 to 1881.

Sherman was the first Governor to occupy the Governor's Office in the present Capitol.* He used the newly constructed Governor's Office for just a few months before the end of his term in 1886.

He was born in New York in 1836 and died in 1904. He is buried in Vinton, Iowa.



***The Iowa State Capitol was constructed between 1871 - 1886
Des Moines, Iowa**

To see the legislative biographies of these governors, click on the following links:

Cyrus Carpenter

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=4279>

Samuel Kirkwood

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=5666>

Joshua Newbold

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=4554>

John Gear

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator/legislatorAllYears?personID=4734>