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ALL GOVERNORS OF TERRITORIAL FLORIDA HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

by JAMES B. WHITFIELD

Andrew Jackson, the first American Governor of East and West Florida in 1821 had been a Member of Congress and a United States Senator from Tennessee and was then a Major General in the United States Army. He was in 1828 elected President of the United States and was reelected in 1832. He was born near the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary line March 15, 1767 and died at his home "The Hermitage" near Nashville, Tennessee, June 8, 1845.

William Pope DuVal, the first Territorial Governor of Florida, 1822-1834, was born in Mount Comfort, Virginia, in 1784. He moved to Kentucky and was a Member of Congress from that State, 1813-1815. On May 18, 1821, he was appointed United States Judge of East Florida. In 1822 he was appointed the first Territorial Governor of Florida and served four consecutive terms of three years each. In 1838 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention at St. Joseph, Florida, and was President of the Territorial Senate in 1841. He moved to Texas in 1848 and while on a visit to Washington, D. C., he died there March 19, 1854.

John Henry Eaton, the second Territorial Governor of Florida, was born in Halifax county, North Carolina, June 18th 1790; moved to Tennessee; was appointed and elected a United States senator from Tennessee in 1818, when he was 28 years of age. He was Secretary of War in the Cabinet of President Andrew Jackson. From 1834 to 1836 he was Governor of Florida; then was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain, 1836 to 1840. He died in Washington, D. C. November 17, 1856.

Richard Keith Call, the third Governor of Florida Territory was born near Petersburg, Virginia, October 24, 1792. He came to Florida with General Jackson's army and in 1823 was elected a Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Florida. He was appointed Governor of the Territory of Florida in 1836 and served until 1840; was appointed again after Governor Eaton's

term and served 1841-1844. He died in Tallahassee, December 14, 1862.

Robert Raymond Reid was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, September 8, 1789. He moved to Augusta, Georgia and was a Congressman from that State 1819-1823. From 1832 to 1839 he was United States Judge of the East Florida District. He was President of the St. Joseph Constitutional Convention 1838-9; and was appointed Governor of the Territory of Florida in December 1839 and served until March, 1841. He died at Blackwood, near Tallahassee, on July 1 of the same year.

John Branch, the last Territorial Governor of Florida, was born in Halifax county, North Carolina, November 4, 1782. He was Governor of North Carolina, United States Senator and later Member of Congress from his native State. He became a resident and a large cotton planter but not a citizen of Florida, and after several years residence near Tallahassee, he was appointed Governor of the Territory in 1844, and served until June 1845 when Florida became a state. Later he returned to his native State and died there on January 3d, 1863.