

James Miller

Born: April 25, 1776, at Peterborough, New Hampshire

Died: July 7, 1851, at Temple, New Hampshire

Served: 1819-1825

James Miller, Arkansas's first territorial governor, distinguished himself during the War of 1812. He was appointed governor of Arkansas in 1819 and held that post until 1825. Miller spent more time away from Arkansas than in it during his appointment, but his administration laid the foundations of the territorial government: courts and jails were established, property tax assessment procedures put in place and voting by voice rather than by ballot established for general elections. During the Miller administration the territorial capitol was removed from Arkansas Post to Little Rock. Ill health and, probably, a disinclination toward frontier life led Miller to resign the governorship. He subsequently served as customs collector of the port of Salem, Massachusetts from 1825 until 1849.

George Izard

Born: October 21, 1776, at London, England

Died: October 22, 1828, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1825-1829

George Izard, Arkansas' second territorial governor, emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of sixteen. Izard served with competence during the War of 1812, then retired from service in 1815. He lived with his family and practiced law in Philadelphia and was appointed governor of Arkansas in 1825. His service as governor was uneventful: the territory's militia was organized and the Choctaw and Quapaw nations relocated to the Indian Territory but little else distinguished the Izard administrations. Izard made few friends in Arkansas, preferring to spend his time with his extensive library and his collection of razors. Izard died during his second term from complications following an attack of gout.

John Pope

Born: 1770, in Prince William County, Virginia

Died: July 12, 1845, at Springfield, Kentucky

Served: 1829-1835

John Pope was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1794. He was for several years a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, and in 1807 was elected to the United States Senate, serving until 1813. During the 1820s he remained active in politics, a friend and supporter of Andrew Jackson. In 1829 Pope received the governorship of Arkansas from the Jackson administration. During his service, Pope advocated "internal improvements"—that is, road-building—and attracted notice for his veto in 1831 of a bill which would have transferred land granted the territory for the construction of a territorial courthouse or capitol, to territorial secretary Robert Crittenden in exchange for Crittenden's already-built mansion house. Pope insisted that the seat of government be located in the heart of Little Rock's business district, on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River.

William Savin Fulton

Born: June 2, 1795, in Cecil County, Maryland

Died: August 15, 1844, at "Rosewood", near Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1835-1836

William Savin Fulton studied law and served during the War of 1812. After the war, he became private secretary to General Andrew Jackson during his campaign against the Seminoles of Florida. As President, Jackson remembered his old comrade: in 1829 he appointed Fulton Arkansas's Territorial Secretary and in 1835 its governor. During Fulton's brief governorship he courted controversy by opposing the drafting of a state constitution without prior approval by Congress. Over his objections the document was drafted, adopted and then submitted to Congress; it was approved, after hot debate. Fulton was then chosen as one of Arkansas's first U.S. senators, serving from December 1836 until his death.