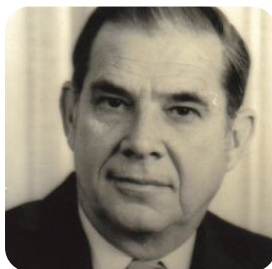


The Mayors of Tampa

1856 - 2025



The
Mayors
of **Tampa**
1856 - 2025

A project of the



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City Clerk, City of Tampa

The Mayors of Tampa was published by the City of Tampa as a biographical and administrative overview of its mayors from Joseph Bradford Lancaster (February 14, 1856) through the current mayor, Jane Castor (2019).

This publication is instrumental for anyone who is interested in gathering information about the history of Tampa and, specifically, the mayors of the City. It should be a “must have” for local historians.

There are many contributors to thank for their invaluable assistance. These include former Assistant City Archivist Craig A. Tuttle for laying the foundation for this project and former Archives and Records employee, Halsey Pelt, for the initial formatting and design of the publication.

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Tampa's Early Years

Rodney Kite-Powell
Director, Touchton Map Library
Tampa Bay History Center

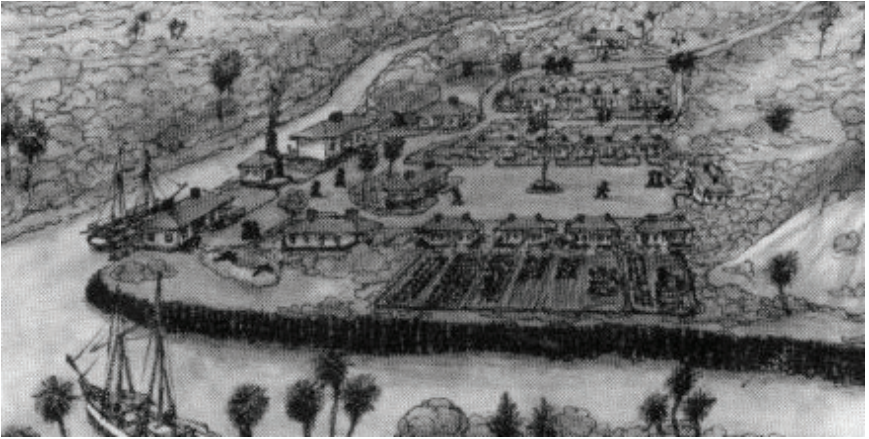
Florida traces its historical roots back to the early days of Spanish exploration, but Tampa's founding is much more recent. Though Spanish conquistadors and missionaries came through the area in the 16th and 17th century, the City traces its origins to a small village located on the northern boundary of Fort Brooke (founded in 1824), which itself sat at the mouth of the Hillsborough River.

The first post office, established in 1831, officially designated the area Tampa Bay, but the name was soon shortened to Tampa. The first town plots were laid out in 1838 by Judge Augustus Steele, but these were invalidated by the US government because they included Fort Brooke property. Despite the slow start and small size, Tampa was still the second largest settlement in south Florida. Key West and Pensacola – with populations hovering around 3,000 people each – vied for the honor of Florida's largest city.

Florida, and Tampa along with it, began to grow slowly but steadily after the major hostilities ended between the federal government and the Seminole Indians following the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The Armed Occupation Act of 1842 spurred much of this growth, and white settlers, including several who owned slaves, continued to move into the Tampa Bay area.

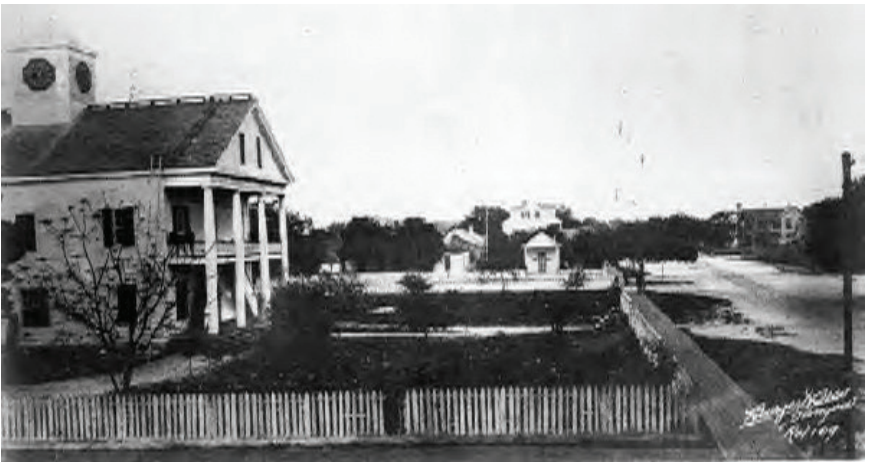
In 1847, the federal government reduced the size of Fort Brooke and transferred the excess land to Hillsborough County. The land was platted for sale by future Tampa Mayor John Jackson, and the proceeds funded the construction of a new county courthouse in Tampa, which by this point was the county seat. Until 1855, Hillsborough County covered most of southwest Florida, including present-day Polk and Pinellas Counties to the east and west, plus all of the counties to the south as far as today's Charlotte and Glades Counties.

Tampa received a city charter in December 1855 from the State of Florida. Prosperity seemed certain, but national politics held different plans. Sectional differences between Northerners and Southerners, which had been simmering for years, finally reached the boiling point. On January 10, 1861, Florida became the third state to secede, or withdraw, from the United States.



Fort Brooke: This drawing depicts the fort's strategic position at the mouth of the Hillsborough River. Date of Drawing: 1850

The city endured four years of strife during the American Civil War, including occupation by Federal troops in 1864, and by the end of the 1860s the city faced a bleak future. Former Confederate officer and Tampa citizen John T. Lesley ran for mayor in Tampa's 1869 election with a simple campaign promise: vote for him and he would abolish the City of Tampa. His "No Corporation People's Ticket" won and, the story goes, the newly elected officials did not take office, thereby allowing the city's 1855 charter to lapse, effectively eliminating the



Built in 1854, the Hillsborough County Courthouse was located on the present site of the Police Department. The courthouse was often used for meetings by the mayor and city council. Date of Photo: 1886

City of Tampa as a legal municipality. Four years would pass before any sort of municipal government would take charge in Tampa and another ten years would go by before the economic and emotional depression that had gripped Tampa was replaced by optimism.

Hope did eventually come to Tampa and it arrived on steel rails via a steam powered engine. Henry Plant's decision to make Tampa the railhead for his South Florida Railroad, and Tampa Bay a main port for his steamships, revolutionized the area. Plant's arrival in 1883 was the first of three monumental developments for Tampa in the 1880s. The second followed two years later when Vicente Martinez Ybor and Ignacio Haya decided to open cigar factories just outside of Tampa. Ybor City would eventually become home to hundreds of cigar factories and tens of thousands of workers. It was also around this time that phosphate was discovered in the area's rivers, particularly the Hillsborough and Peace, as well as in the ground in eastern and southern Hillsborough County.

Tampa's population exploded, from 720 people in 1880 to over 5,500 in 1890. New neighborhoods blossomed with these new arrivals. Preceding Ybor City were Tampa Heights (originally known as North Tampa) and Hyde Park. Together with Ybor City and what is now downtown Tampa, these four areas formed the first four wards of the new City of Tampa, which received its charter from the state on July 15, 1887. Tampa was finally realizing the success that had been anticipated thirty years earlier.

Growth, driven by both the cigar industry and the port, continued to push



Built in 1890, the first City Hall housed the council chambers, offices for the mayor, council members, city clerk, and other senior officials while the other side housed the Tampa Police Department. Date of Photo: 1892

Tampa's population upward. The summertime population leaped dramatically in 1898, when Tampa was one of three port cities selected as the port of embarkation for troops bound for Cuba and the Spanish - American War. During the summer months of June, July and August, Tampa's population swelled by over 40,000 temporary residents. The small city was overwhelmed, but managed. Although local merchants saw increased profits in the summer of 1898, there was no direct, long term, benefit to Tampa. There were some indirect bonuses, not the least of which was the Army Corps of Engineers agreeing to dredge a shipping channel from Tampa Bay into Hillsborough Bay to downtown Tampa.

In the first decade of the 20th century, Tampa emerged as the financial and business center of central Florida. The city's population, which had tripled between 1890 and 1900, reached 37,000 by 1910. Much of the population growth was attributed to the cigar industry, which brought immigrants from Cuba, Spain, and Italy into Ybor City and the rest of Tampa and the City of West Tampa. The region endured extreme highs and lows in the following decade, weathering an influenza epidemic and the loss of her namesake Coast Guard Cutter in the Bristol Channel during World War I, while the same time producing tens of millions of cigars and, importantly, ships for the war effort. The Florida Land Boom followed the war, and by 1925 Tampa and its suburbs contained close to 100,000 people. New neighborhoods, like Beach Park, Davis Islands, and Forest Hills, joined older ones, such as Seminole Heights, Sulphur Springs, and the newly-annexed West Tampa to push Tampa to greater heights.

The land boom ended as quickly as it began, and by 1927 economic depression had set in. The collapse of the real estate market was the primary cause, but other factors like the appearance of the Mediterranean fruit fly and the initial decline of the cigar industry, played a role as well. When the stock market crashed in October 1929 the rest of the country was simply joining Florida in the Great Depression.

Tampa received government support through the federally funded WPA during the depression, which helped construct the Peter O. Knight



Built in 1915, the present City Hall is an important Tampa landmark.



Intersection of Tampa and Cass Streets. Date of Photo: July 11, 1925.

airport on Davis Islands as well as repair and enhance the sidewalk and balustrade along Bayshore Boulevard. Additional government support, in the form of military shipbuilding contracts, also benefited Tampa's economy. This all would pale in comparison, however, to what would come during the early 1940s.

World War II was a watershed time in Tampa history. During the war years of 1939 - 1945, thousands of servicemen and women, and their families, would come to Florida. Tampa sported three military bases: MacDill Army Air Base, Drew Field and Henderson Field. In addition, shipbuilding firms buzzed with activity 24 hours a day. The two largest, Tampa Shipbuilding and Engineering Company and McCloskey Shipbuilding Company, employed hundreds and produced cargo and navy vessels for the war effort.

After the war, many of the servicemen and women returned to the area – where they once trained for the war – to live and start families. The wartime growth continued, but in different areas. Tampa's port was thriving. MacDill Army Airfield would evolve to MacDill Air Force Base, home to the United States Central Command, while Drew Field became Tampa International Airport. Busch Gardens occupies much of the area formerly covered by Henderson Field.



Aerial view of Tampa looking east. Date of Photo: 1938

The post-war years brought another land boom, but the mid-20th century version was different. New arrivals to Tampa and Florida were greeted with modern conveniences virtually unheard of in the 1920s – home air conditioning and mosquito control. Those two factors, along with the increased availability of automobiles and good roads on which to drive them, fostered incredible growth to Tampa and the surrounding area. Tampa's suburbs, many of which were established in the 1920s, began to fill up with new homes and new residents. Tampa grew physically through annexation, particularly the 1953 annexation of most of the Interbay Peninsula.

The cigar industry, once the economic engine of the city and the region, was in rapid decline by the mid-1950s, so the city's economy needed to become more diverse, including the addition of manufacturing jobs and the creation of industrial parks to accommodate them. Also during this time, increased suburbanization began to take its toll on Tampa's downtown businesses. A general shift from a mix of department stores, small businesses, five and dime stores, and office buildings became dominated by business and bank buildings. Annexations continued, too, particularly in the northern portion of the city and



Aerial view of Downtown Tampa. Date of Photo: January 2012

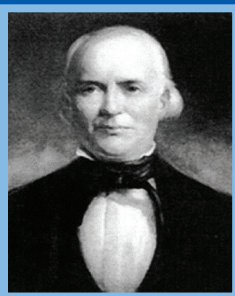
into New Tampa.

The same trends continued through the 20th century, but by the turn of the 21st century Tampa appeared to be at a crossroads. The city's downtown core began to show new signs of life, though recovery from the effects of suburbanization would be slow. Several new projects, including new history, art, and children's museums, a riverwalk, and residential projects began to inject new life into downtown Tampa. Today's city stretches from the Hillsborough-Pasco County line to the north down through the Interbay Peninsula and is home to close to 350,000 people, three professional sports teams, and, just as in the 1850s and 1880s, a lot of potential.

City of Tampa: Incorporation Timeline

- January 18, 1849** Fourteen men met at the county courthouse to discuss incorporating the village as a town; unanimously vote to establish the Village of Tampa with a trustee form of government.
- January 25, 1849** Tampa elects five trustees with M.G. Sikes serving as president of the governing body. Thomas P. Kennedy, Jesse Carter, C.A. Ramsey, and William Ross trustees; James Gettis, first town clerk.
- October 10, 1852** Officials learn they had no legal authority to levy taxes and on this day, the electors vote to abolish the village government. The corporation of the Town of Tampa was dissolved by an act of the county commissioners and its assets ordered turned into cash with which to pay its debts.
- September 10, 1853** The electors vote 23 to 2 to reestablish the government; citizens vote to organize as the Town of Tampa with a Board of Trustees form of government. John Darling, elected president.
- September 15, 1855** Citizens vote to abolish the town government and establish a city charter. A majority vote to adopt a city charter, elect a mayor and council, and have the corporation validated by the state legislature.
- December 15, 1855** Governor Broome signs a Special Act of the Florida Legislature, grants the corporation a charter for the City of Tampa.
- February 16, 1856** First election under the city charter: Judge Joseph B. Lancaster elected mayor; Councilmen Micajah C. Brown, C.Q. Crawford, B.J. Galer, and D.A. Branch; William Ashley, clerk; E.N. Lockhart, treasurer; and A. C. Pacetty, marshal.
- January 10, 1861** Florida secedes from the Union; federal blockade begins in July.

February 22, 1862	Confederate military authorities suspend the City's government. Major Thomas takes charge of the city in the name of the Confederacy; John Jackson, elected February 3, cedes civil authority to Major Thomas.
July 15 1865	Arrival of federal occupation troops
October 25, 1866	Elections held per the state legislature to reorganize the city's incorporation. E. A. Clarke elected mayor; Dr. L.A. Lively, R.F. Nunez, Josiah Ferris, and B.C. Leonardi, councilmen; and John G. Robles, marshal. In order to meet financial obligations, occupational taxes were levied; many objections were raised; protests ensue with talk of real estate taxes; a "no corporation" slate of officers pledge to discontinue the government until better times return.
March 1, 1869	Citizens of Tampa vote overwhelmingly for the No Corporation People's Ticket. The platform of this party was to close the city government in Tampa, thus forcing the state legislature to revoke Tampa's Charter. The charter was revoked on October 4, 1869 due to the deadline in a state act providing for the reorganization of municipalities.
October 4, 1869	County commissioners decreed that "as a City of Tampa has forfeited its charter, all property of the City shall be taken over by the county clerk."
August 11, 1873	Citizens hold a public meeting to vote to re-incorporate the Town of Tampa and select a candidate for mayor, James E. Lipscomb.
August 11, 1873 to July 15, 1887	Town of Tampa – the non-charter years "Mayors" of the period: James Edgar Lipscomb, Harlen P. Lovering, Thomas E. Jackson, Dr. John P. Wall, Henry Clarke Ferris, G. B. Sparkman, Duff Post, and Herman Glogowski; new charter April 1887(Grismer).
July 15, 1887	City of Tampa is organized under special act of the state legislature that abolished the town governments of Tampa and North Tampa and established the City of Tampa. G.B. Sparkman elected mayor under new city charter; first city officials took office on July 17; new city seal adopted. The old town of Tampa became the First Ward, North Tampa, Second Ward, Ybor City entered the city.



JOSEPH BRADFORD LANCASTER

Tampa's 1st Mayor

February 14, 1856 – November 25, 1856

(Died in office)

Lawyer and Politician

Born: 1790, Kentucky

Died: November 25, 1856, Tampa, Florida

Born in Kentucky in 1790, Joseph Bradford Lancaster studied law and became an attorney. He was persuaded to come to Florida in 1822, by his friend and fellow attorney, William Pope Duval, the first Governor of Florida. Lancaster pursued a career in politics, and he served as the Mayor of Jacksonville (1846-1847), Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and as a Florida Supreme Court Judge (1848-1853). Lancaster and his wife, Annie, moved to Hillsborough County in 1853, with their daughters Laura Louise and Eliza Caroline.

The Village of Tampa had been established in 1849. In 1850, the town's first census counted a total of 974 residents, which included 533 stationed in the military at Fort Brooke. Tampa was reincorporated as a city on December 15, 1855, by the Florida Legislature, and was empowered to pass ordinances, levy taxes and enforce laws. Two months later, on February 14, 1856, the citizens of Tampa elected Joseph Bradford Lancaster as their first mayor. In addition to his many years of government experience, Lancaster had also served as a captain of volunteers during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), and as a customs collector.

Elected only months after the beginning of the Third Seminole War (1855-1858), Lancaster's administration dealt almost exclusively with war-related issues. The constant threat of attack produced an influx of settlers seeking refuge in a city which lacked funds to feed, shelter, or care for them. The City's financial base suffered when the Florida Railroad Company chose to extend the line to Cedar Key instead of Tampa. Mayor Lancaster simultaneously sought financial assistance from the state while contending with the state legislature's constant demand for recruits for the war. There were also pressing civic matters such as the placement of the Port of Tampa under quarantine due to yellow fever.

In the fall of 1856, Mayor Lancaster became too ill to perform his duties, and City Council President Darwin Austen Branch stepped in as Acting Mayor. Joseph Bradford Lancaster died in Tampa on November 25, 1856.

DR. DARWIN AUSTEN BRANCH



Tampa's 2nd Mayor

Acting

November 25, 1856 – December 6, 1856

Physician

Born: November 28, 1832, Vermont

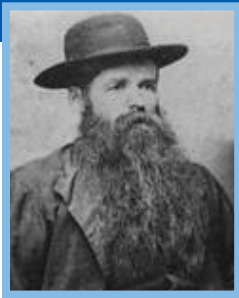
Died: August 16, 1858, Tampa, Florida

Born in 1832, Darwin Austen Branch was trained as a physician. Politically dynamic, Dr. Branch served from 1854 to 1855 as Secretary for the Florida Know-Nothing Party, also known as the American Party. The Know-Nothings in Florida and other southern states were adamant that the national party support a strong pro-slavery platform. This platform was adopted at the 1856 Presidential Convention that nominated former President Millard Fillmore. After Fillmore's defeat in the presidential election, the Know-Nothing Party deteriorated as a national party.

Dr. Darwin Austen Branch remained politically active in Tampa and served as President of Tampa's City Council in 1856. In early September of 1856, Mayor Lancaster became too ill to perform his duties, and as City Council President, Dr. Branch became the Acting Mayor.

Although he stepped in for Mayor Lancaster at this time, he was not officially recognized as acting mayor until Joseph Lancaster died on November 25, 1856. At twenty-four years old, he was Tampa's youngest mayor until twenty-three year old James Lipscomb took office in August of 1873.

During his short term, Dr. Branch essentially served as a caretaker until December 6, 1856, when J. Alfonso DeLaunay won a special election to complete the remainder of Lancaster's term.



J. ALFONSO DELAUNAY

Tampa's 3rd Mayor

December 6, 1856 – February 9, 1857

Hotel Manager, Postmaster, Newspaper

Editor and Publisher

Born: 1810, Virginia

Died: July 28, 1865, Tampa, Florida

Born in Virginia, J. Alfonso DeLaunay was the son of a Revolutionary War veteran and studied law before moving to Tampa in 1848. He worked as the manager of the Palmer House Hotel and became active in local politics. DeLaunay also served as Tampa's postmaster from 1852 until 1860.

J. Alfonso DeLaunay married Victoria Montes de Oca, daughter of Don Juan Montes de Oca, a Spanish man who settled at Spanishtown Creek in Hyde Park. Don Juan was an interpreter for the Army at Ft. Brooke. When his wife died, the young Victoria was raised by Robert Jackson and Nancy Collier Jackson.

During his administration, Mayor DeLaunay attempted to manage the influx of local settlers arriving in Tampa to escape attacks by the Seminoles. Concurrently, DeLaunay guided the transition of the City's administration to conform to the procedures established by the Legislative Act of December 15, 1855, which had established guidelines for Tampa's incorporation as a city.

In 1858, he became editor for *The Florida Peninsular* newspaper, but resigned in early 1860, and founded the *Sunny South* newspaper with his brother. A strong supporter of secession, DeLaunay ceased publication of his newspaper when the Civil War began and hid the presses in the interior of Florida to prevent their confiscation by Union troops. In April of 1861, the Confederate government appointed DeLaunay as Confederate States Postmaster, and Deputy Inspector of Customs for the Port of Tampa. He later served as a private in the Confederate Army and was mustered out on April 26, 1865. After the war, he returned to Tampa.

DR. DARWIN AUSTEN BRANCH



Tampa's 4th Mayor

Second Term

February 9, 1857 – February 10, 1858

Physician

Born: November 28, 1832, Vermont

Died: August 16, 1858, Tampa, Florida

During Mayor Branch's second term, the City levied annual taxes on saloons, liquor and beer retailers, pool halls, bowling alleys, ferry operators and peddlers. Dr. Branch also had judicial authority as mayor and presided over crimes committed within the city limits. However, most of the cases presented before the mayor's court were for assault, drunk and disorderly conduct, and petty theft.

The 1850s decade was a turbulent time in Tampa's history. In April 1855, 70 miles of railroad track had been completed down the peninsula from Fernandina and 30 additional miles to Gainesville had been graded. Everyone expected the rail to connect to Tampa. Senator David Levy Yulee, president of the Florida Railroad, was blamed by Tampa citizens for the failure to bring the railroad to Tampa rather than Cedar Key. Train travel to Tampa was still 30 years in the future.

In May 1858, 124 Seminoles and Black Seminoles were deported from the area on the steamship, Grey Cloud, headed across the Gulf of Mexico to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) stopping at Egmont Key to board 41 more deportees. By 1860, the Secretary of War had released Fort Brooke to the Department of the Interior. Subsequently, the military property and fort were leased to James McKay.

Toward the end of Mayor Branch's second term, a yellow fever epidemic descended on Tampa devastating the city and surrounding areas. Residents quickly fled the city for the interior of Florida and other states to escape the ravages of the epidemic. Many of the residents who stayed were either dying, too ill to move, or caring for family members that were sick. Yellow fever took the lives of Branch's mother and sister, and on August 16, 1858, Dr. Darwin Austen Branch succumbed to the disease.

MADISON POST



Tampa's 5th Mayor
February 10, 1858 – February 12, 1859
Store and Hotel Proprietor

Born: January 22, 1815, New York

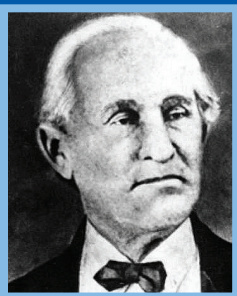
Died: October 26, 1867, Tampa, Florida

Madison Post moved to Tampa in 1849, approximately one year after a hurricane had devastated the area. Post first worked as a hotel manager before purchasing a general store on Lafayette Street, which is now Kennedy Boulevard. Politically active, Madison Post was an early member of the American Party, also known as the Know-Nothing Party, which supported a pro-slavery, anti-immigration, and anti-Catholic platform. In 1854, Post was appointed as Receiver of Public Moneys for Hillsborough County.

Confronted with a nearly empty treasury, Mayor Post and the City Council established new ordinances and substantially increased license fees, which helped reestablish Tampa's financial resources. Schools that had been closed were reopened. Post had also attempted to make some capital improvements, but his short term of office impeded his plans for Tampa.

In the spring of 1858, volunteer soldiers encamped just outside of Tampa found themselves with much idle time and no pay. These idle hands turned to drinking and misbehavior. Mayor Post, John Henderson, Henry A. Crane and other prominent citizens organized a vigilante group. Called "regulators," these vigilante groups were determined to rid the area of unwelcome elements in the community.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Post enlisted as a private in the Confederate Infantry, served as a Confederate deputy marshall, and as a tax assessor for Florida's Confederate government. Madison Post died in Tampa on October 26, 1867.



JAMES MCKAY, SR.

Tampa's 6th Mayor

February 12, 1859 – February 1, 1860

Cattleman, Shipping, Real Estate

Born: May 17, 1808, Scotland

Died: November 11, 1876, Tampa, Florida

Born in Thurso, Scotland on May 17, 1808, James McKay immigrated to the United States in 1837. He married Matilda Cail, and the couple lived in Alabama before relocating to Tampa in 1846. McKay opened a general store on Franklin Street and a saw mill on the Hillsborough River. He also invested heavily in local real estate and purchased two schooners that he used to transport cargo from Tampa to Cuba, Central America, and South America. In 1858, McKay began purchasing vast herds of cattle for transport to Cuba and, in the process, became one of Tampa's wealthiest and most respected residents. James and Matilda McKay had a total of nine children, and two of his sons also had political careers within the City of Tampa. James McKay, Jr., was Mayor of Tampa from 1902-1904, and John A. McKay served on Tampa's City Council from 1869-1873.

As mayor, McKay established standard procedures and forms for licenses, ordinances, and legal notices. He set rules for the Jackson Street ferry service to ensure the safety of passengers and cargo. McKay pursued the purchase of the Fort Brooke military reservation. He succeeded in renting it, but the outbreak of the war upset his plans as the garrison was occupied in April 1861 by Confederate troops and Martial Law was soon declared in Tampa.

On October 14, 1861, a Union patrol ship seized McKay's vessel for transporting contraband for the Confederacy. McKay was imprisoned and released in March 1862, after taking a written oath of allegiance to the United States. In 1863, Confederate Major Pleasant W. White appointed McKay as Commissary Agent for the 5th District of Florida. True to his promise made to the Union, McKay seems to have frustrated attempts to supply the Confederate army with beef using a series of excuses. As a result, the cattle shipments that did arrive from Florida were far below the needs of the Confederate Army.

In 1863, McKay was appointed head of the Fifth Commissary District for the Confederate Army. The Cattle Battalion, known as the "Cow Cavalry" (1864), is considered the creation of James McKay, Sr. After the war ended, McKay resumed his cattle and shipping business. He died in Tampa on November 11, 1876.

DR. JOHN P. CRICHTON



Tampa's 7th Mayor
February 1, 1860 – February 2, 1861
Physician

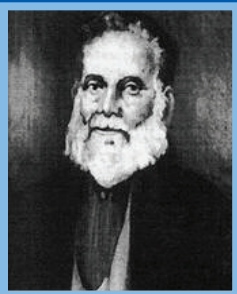
Born: September 7, 1821, St. Marys, Georgia
Died: November 18, 1893, Georgia

Dr. John Pritchard Crichton was born in Georgia and attended New York State Medical College. When he arrived in Tampa, he began a successful medical practice, was a member of the Board of Health, and committed to politics. Dr. Crichton married Margaret Townsend in Tampa, and one of the couple's children, Mary, went on to marry James McKay, Jr., who served as the seventh Mayor of Tampa. After Margaret succumbed to yellow fever in 1857, Dr. Crichton married Adelaide Christie Kennedy, the widow of Thomas Pugh Kennedy, an early pioneer and co-owner of the mercantile store Kennedy and Darling. Kennedy had served on Tampa's first City Council in 1849.

Dr. Crichton worked with his colleagues in the medical field establish a price schedule for medical services. He became a member of the Board of Health, and also became involved in local politics. On February 1, 1860, he was elected Mayor of Tampa.

The State of Florida passed an Ordinance of Secession on January 10, 1861, and soon became part of the Confederate States of America. In September 1861, the Sunny South Guards, a local company commanded by Captain John T. Lesley, was mustered into service.

During his time in office, Mayor Crichton and the City Council established a City Watch. Under the auspices of the City Marshal, local men, between the ages of 18 to 45, patrolled the streets and outskirts of Tampa. While they never found any signs of insurrection, the City Watch did arrest citizens for drunk and disorderly behavior, petty theft, and alerted residents of fires. After the war, Dr. John Pritchard Crichton returned to Georgia with his wife and other family members. He died near Atlanta on November 18, 1898.



HAMLIN VALENTINE SNELL

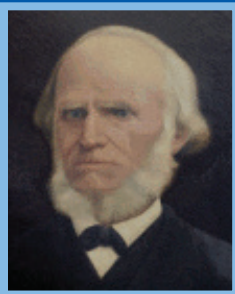
Tampa's 8th Mayor
February 2, 1861 – May, 1861
Landowner, State Legislator

Born: February 14, 1810, Savannah, Georgia
Died: January 29, 1886, Gainesville, Florida

Born in Savannah, Georgia, on Valentine's Day in 1810, Hamlin Valentine Snell moved to Florida in the late 1830s. He then served as Calhoun County's representative in the 1840 Legislative Council. In 1842, he moved to Sarasota, where he established a small plantation and is credited as the first person to plant guava trees in Florida. In 1854, he was elected State Senator for the 18th District, then comprising Hillsborough, Levy, and Hernando Counties. In 1851, he was elected Senate President. In November of 1856, he was elected Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Snell moved to Tampa in late 1857. On June 19, 1858, he replaced James T. Magbee as deputy collector for the Port of Tampa.

On January 10, 1861, delegates to the state convention voted 62 to 7 to withdraw from the Union, making Florida the third state to secede. Not long after Mayor Snell's election, the 20th Florida Regiment assumed command at the abandoned Fort Brooke and declared Tampa under Martial Law. City government continued to operate, but its activities were subject to the approval of the Confederate commander. The value of Tampa's port was recognized by both the Union and Confederate governments and soon the first ships of the Union Blockade appeared in Tampa Bay.

In mid-May of 1861, Mayor Snell resigned and left Tampa. City Council President John Jackson became Acting Mayor and issued a promissory note of \$299.58 to repair cannon carriages and ammunition for the defense of the City. Hamlin Valentine Snell died in Gainesville on January 29, 1886.



JOHN JACKSON

Tampa's 9th Mayor

May, 1861 – February 3, 1862 - *Acting*

February 3, 1862 – February 22, 1862

Engineer, Surveyor, Merchant

Born: June 1809, Ballybay, County Monaghan, Ireland

Died: November 4, 1887, Tampa, Florida

John Jackson was born in 1809, in Ballybay, County Monaghan, Ireland. He and his brother, Thomas, immigrated to the United States in 1841. In 1843, John Jackson was hired by the federal government to survey land in present-day Palmetto, Florida. After completing the assignment, Jackson was given a permanent position as a federal surveyor. He accepted this appointment and then moved to Hillsborough County, where the federal government had given him a large land grant.

Jackson's work also took him to various regions of Florida, and while he was on an assignment in St. Augustine, he met and married Ellen Maher on July 22, 1847. They had four children: Thomas, James, Kate and John. Several weeks later, Hillsborough County hired Jackson to survey and map the Town of Tampa, which had been designated as the county seat in 1846. Jackson named many of the streets after U.S. Presidents and local men such as himself and William Ashley. After completing his assignment, Jackson returned to surveying, and he also established a general store on the corner of Washington and Tampa Streets.

In late April 1861, the Confederate Military Commander at Fort Brooke had placed Tampa under Martial Law, which essentially nullified the authority of the town's government. When Hamlin Valentine Snell left office in May of 1861, John Jackson became Acting Mayor, as he was the President of the City Council at the time. He was formally elected as Mayor of Tampa on February 3, 1862. However, Mayor Jackson only served for 19 days, and thus has the dubious distinction of serving the shortest term of any elected mayor in Tampa's history. On February 22, 1862, Mayor Jackson, City Council members, and other officials were dismissed by the Confederate Commander at Fort Brooke.

After his dismissal, Jackson returned to his general store and also continued working as a surveyor. John Jackson passed away in Tampa on November 4, 1887. His son, Thomas Edward Jackson, later followed in his footsteps by serving as a City Council member as well as Mayor of Tampa.

MILITARY RULE

Confederate Military Authority February 22, 1862 – October 25, 1866

At the conclusion of the Third Seminole War in 1858, the last troops were withdrawn from Ft. Brooke. On July 25, 1860, the Secretary of War notified the Secretary of the Interior that the army was to turn over the property to the Department of the Interior.

Despite setbacks during the preceding decade, Tampa and Hillsborough County were thriving at the beginning of the fateful 1860s. The population alongside Ft. Brooke had grown from a town of 441 people in 1850 to 885 inhabitants by 1860. Hillsborough County's population of 2,377 in 1850 grew to 2,981 (2415 white and free blacks; 125 slave owners with 566 slaves) by 1860.

In May 1861, several weeks after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, Mayor Hamlin Snell resigned, sold his properties, and left Tampa. As a port city, Tampa would be a target for a naval blockade, invasion, and occupation. Consequently, many residents chose to leave and even abandoned their homes and other property rather than remain in the city. Unionists, subject to increasing threats and violence, left for Key West to seek the protection of its federal garrison.

With the departure of so many residents, the tax base was drastically reduced and the city was teetering on collapse. Naval records show that Tampa Bay was first blockaded in November 1861, by a small squadron of barks and schooners.

The residents were very concerned about what would happen to them and their property. A record in the County Commissioners Minute Book states that the clerk of court was ordered to remove books and papers to Cork (after 1890, Dover). During the bombardments the women would take their children and some provisions and "go away out into the country up onto high land [where Seventh Avenue now is], beyond the reach of the shots from the gunboats." It is told that when the Union Navy launched a cannon ball into the living room of the Ferris home in 1862, the family never bothered to repair the hole. The

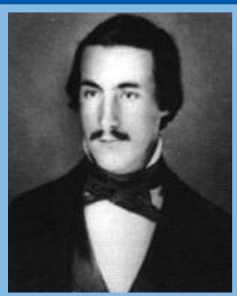


Sunny South Guards trained at night by torch light. Later, a company of regular Confederate infantry replaced the militia.

By December 1861, the Confederate military commander at Fort Brooke was the de facto authority in Tampa. John Jackson, who had served as acting mayor after the resignation of Hamlin Snell, was elected mayor February 2, 1862, but served only 19 days when the Confederate commander at Fort Brooke abolished the municipal government in Tampa.

On October 16, 1863, the U.S.S. Adela and the Tahoma proceeded up the Bay and bombarded Tampa. A force of 85 men landed at Gadsden Point and marched northward to a point six miles north of the city on the Hillsborough River. There they destroyed the Scottish Chief and Kate Dale, Captain McKay's ships. By mid-1863, Confederate troops at Fort Brooke were withdrawn and replaced with local militia. Services in Tampa were provided by Hillsborough County.

In August 1866, John Jackson, ordered an election. Madison Post, mayor in 1858 and who served in the Confederate Army, was elected, but the election was declared invalid. In October 1866, Governor David Walker appointed a commission to reorganize the government of Tampa.



EDWARD A. CLARKE

Tampa's 10th Mayor
October 25, 1866 – December 1866
Merchant

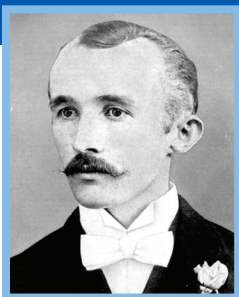
Born: December 16, 1831, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York
Died: November 7, 1886, Tampa, Florida

Edward A. Clarke moved to Tampa in 1853, where he opened a general store, E.A. Clarke and Company, also known as the “Blue Store” on the corner of Marion and Washington streets. He sold everything from candy to plows. In 1855, Clarke married Helen Branch, the daughter of Dr. Franklin Branch and the sister of Dr. Darwin Austen Branch, who had also served as Tampa's mayor. Helen passed away three years later of yellow fever. In 1861, Clarke married Sarah Wall, sister of Dr. John P. Wall, a physician, who also became Mayor of Tampa. The couple had a daughter, Flossie.

Clarke was a member of the Southern Branch of the American Party, also known as the Know-Nothing Party, and served as Hillsborough County delegate to the 1856 American Party Presidential Convention. He was also a master mason of the Hillsborough Lodge.

During the Civil War, Clarke served as a Confederate States deputy marshal, a Confederate Army private, and blockade-runner until his capture and imprisonment in late 1864. After the war, he returned to Tampa to find many of the homes and businesses abandoned and in severe decay. Residents attempted to restore the city government, but it took over a year before municipal elections could be held.

Once elected, Mayor Clarke worked with the City Council and passed ordinances to control riots and disturbing the peace. They also levied fees on local businesses to add to the city's treasury. However, Mayor Clarke left office before the end of his term, and Josiah A. Ferris, who had been elected President of the City Council, took over as Acting Mayor. Several years later, Clarke returned to politics and served four terms on Tampa's City Council, including one term as Council President from 1873 until 1874. An investor in real estate, he acquired 33 acres north of Harrison Street in 1875 for \$255, subdivided it, and incorporated it as North Tampa, which was later annexed into Tampa in 1887. He died on November 7, 1886.



JOSIAH FERRIS

Tampa's 11th Mayor
Acting

January 1, 1867 – March 1, 1869

Store Owner, Cattleman

Born: August 5, 1836

Died: November 24, 1901, Tampa, Florida

Josiah was one of six children born to William and Elizabeth Ferris. There is a discrepancy in the records about his birth. Census records indicate that Josiah was born in Arkansas, while his obituary and other records state that he was born in New Jersey. The family moved to Tampa in 1841, where William initially worked as a paymaster at Fort Brooke and later established a general store near the fort. Josiah Ferris enlisted in the militia during the 3rd Seminole War (1855-1858) and, later, served in the 4th Florida Regiment. Josiah became a co-owner of his father's store and cattle business. After the Civil War, Josiah established a successful jewelry business in downtown Tampa.

In October 1866, Ferris was elected to City Council and was appointed Council President. After Mayor Clarke unofficially left office in December 1866, Josiah Ferris became Acting Mayor. One of the first major problems faced by his administration was the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Tampa in 1867. With an empty treasury, city officials could do little more than set up a quarantine station at Ballast Point where a port physician examined passengers and crews.

In late 1867, Republican administrators accompanied by federal troops arrived in Tampa to enforce the government's Reconstruction policies. To this end, they appointed individuals to enforce these policies. As a result of their presence, Mayor Ferris and City Council had little actual authority and served more as custodians until March 1, 1869 when new elections were held.

After leaving office, Ferris returned to his jewelry business. On August 14, 1877, he was elected as Tampa's City Clerk. He held this position for the next nine years. Josiah Ferris passed away in Tampa on November 24, 1901.



JOHN THOMAS LESLEY

Tampa's 12th Mayor
March 1, 1869 – October 4, 1869
Cattleman, Sheriff, Lumberman

Born: May 12, 1835, Madison County, Florida
Died: July 13, 1913, Tampa, Florida

John Thomas Lesley and his family moved to Tampa in 1848. He was educated by this father, a Methodist minister. John married Margaret Tucker and they had six children: India, Emory, John, William, Livingston and Theodore.

During the Third Seminole War, Lesley enlisted as a private in the Florida Militia and rose to the rank of lieutenant. At the beginning of the Civil War, Lesley formed a company of infantry attached to the Fourth Florida Regiment, and was elected its captain. He saw active service, mainly in regions between Tampa and the Everglades. In October 1862, he was promoted to major. He eventually served in the Army of Tennessee before returning to Tampa in 1863 to organize a cavalry company for the home guard.

Captain Lesley, as he was thereafter known, returned to the cattle business, served as City Marshal for two years, and built a sawmill that supplied most of the lumber used to rebuild Tampa. When Captain Lesley ran for mayor, on the "No Corporation People's Ticket," he stated that the City Charter should be revoked by the State Legislature because of the City's financial state.

Mayor Lesley won the election and kept his promise. On October 4, 1869, Tampa's Charter was revoked by the Florida Legislature. John Lesley and the other officials did not meet to reorganize and all the men resigned. Several days later, officials from Hillsborough County appropriated all City property and assumed responsibility for providing services to the residents. Lesley went on to serve as a Senator in the Florida Senate. He died in Tampa on July 13, 1913.



JOHN ALEXANDER HENDERSON

July 6, 1870 – August 11, 1873

(Dates are approximate and cannot be verified)

Attorney, Civic Leader

Born: December 21, 1841, Jackson County, Georgia

Died: August 10, 1904, Tallahassee, Florida

Tampa's Non-Chartered Years

John Alexander Henderson was born in Georgia to Andrew and Flora Henderson, the second of six children. The family moved to Fort Brooke in 1845, and lived near Florida and Whiting Street. The Henderson family, along with other early settlers, helped to establish the Village of Tampa.

Henderson studied law under Judge James Gettis, a member of another important pioneer family of Tampa. He would later go on to become a prominent attorney and civic leader. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Henderson enlisted in the Confederate Army and was commissioned as a lieutenant. He served four years in the army and was mustered out in May 1865.

After the City's Charter had been revoked on October 4, 1869, Tampa residents became the responsibility of Hillsborough County. While the county took over some of the city's services, it became obvious that Tampa needed some form of municipal government to administer and monitor these services. In response, John Alexander Henderson acted as Mayor though the dates from the time period in which he did so, cannot be verified. While the state and the county did not legally recognize Henderson, he maintained a semblance of local government to administer county services.

Henderson served in the Florida Senate, and he relocated permanently to Tallahassee in 1876. He continued his law practice there and served as general consul for the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad Company, which later became the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. John Alexander Henderson died in Tallahassee on August 10, 1904.

JAMES EDGAR LIPSCOMB



Tampa's 13th Mayor (Non-Charter)
August 11, 1873 – August 13, 1876
Merchant

Born: July 23, 1850, Alabama

Died: April 8, 1882, Tampa, Florida

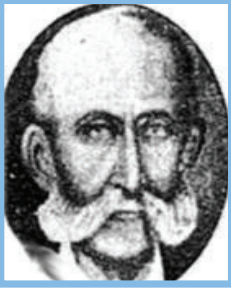
Born in Alabama on July 23, 1850, James Edgar Lipscomb moved to Tampa around 1870, and worked as a clerk in William W. Wall's general store. He married Mary Friebele, and went into business with her father, former City Council member Christopher L. Friebele, who owned a store in downtown Tampa. Lipscomb became involved in local politics, and at age twenty-three, he became the youngest person to serve as mayor in Tampa's history.

On August 11, 1873, citizens held a public meeting at the Hillsborough County Courthouse and voted to reincorporate as the Town of Tampa, which existed until Tampa was granted its second City Charter by the Florida State Legislature in 1887. At the same meeting, the voters held an impromptu election for mayor. When the votes were counted, James Edgar Lipscomb received the majority of votes. At the time of his election, Mayor Lipscomb was well known in Tampa for his feuds with Judge James T. Magbee, a supporter of the Republican Party and their reconstruction efforts. Judge Magbee was known for his public intoxication and after Mayor Lipscomb took office, he had him arrested for disorderly conduct.

During his time in office, there were demands for better transportation. New boat lines began to serve the port, and a stagecoach line was established between Tampa and Gainesville. To increase funding, Mayor Lipscomb introduced fines for firing guns, starting a riot, and disturbing the peace.

After leaving office, James Edgar Lipscomb returned to his business as a merchant, and was elected to Tampa's City Council, then called the Town Council, in 1878. He served there for two years, and was Council President from 1879 until 1880. He died in Tampa on April 8, 1882.

HARLEN PAGE LOVERING



Tampa's 14th Mayor (Non-Charter)
August 14, 1876 - August 14, 1877
Merchant

Born: June 12, 1843, New Hampshire

Died: August 6, 1924, Tampa, Florida

Harlen Page Lovering was born in New Hampshire on June 12, 1843. He arrived in Tampa in 1872, and established a cedar mill to supply wood to his brother, J.P. Lovering, a manager at the Dixon Pencil Company in New Jersey. The mill soon became so successful that its wood was being exported around the world. Lovering also operated a general store on the corner of Franklin Street in downtown Tampa.

Elected on August 14, 1876, Mayor Lovering worked to revitalize Tampa's business community, increase city revenue, and improve services. The first public school building was completed in Tampa in 1876, at a cost of \$2,350, which came from a tax levy of five mills. This building was constructed in part by former City Council member John T. Givens. After his term as mayor, Lovering returned to his cedar mill, which was destroyed by a fire in 1878. Cedar production then shifted from Tampa to Cedar Key.

Lovering continued working as a grocer, and city directory records show that he also worked as a clerk. He was a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, and served as its secretary in 1901. He and his wife, Eliza, had four children. Harlen Page Lovering died in Tampa on August 6, 1924.

THOMAS EDWARD JACKSON



Tampa's 15th Mayor (Non-Charter)

First Term

August 14, 1877 – August 14, 1878

Real Estate Investor

Born: July 9, 1852, Tampa, Florida

Died: July 22, 1935, Tampa, Florida

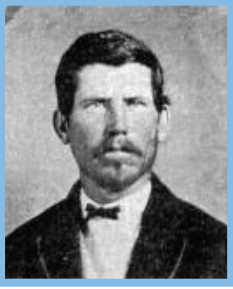
The first Tampa native to become Mayor of Tampa, Thomas Edward Jackson was born on July 9, 1852. His father, John Jackson, was Tampa's 9th Mayor. He attended Hillsborough County schools and Fordham University in New York. Upon graduation, he worked at Tampa's custom house, and also in his father's store. Jackson's political career began with his election to Tampa's Town Council in 1875. He served as President of the Town Council from 1876-1877, and as such, he frequently filled in for Mayor Lovering while he was away on business.

Thomas Edward Jackson was elected Mayor of Tampa on August 14, 1877. He was twenty-five years old at the time of his election. During his term, he worked to raise real estate taxes to improve Tampa's infrastructure and services. He also addressed complaints about the sawdust pollution in the Hillsborough River by banning saw mills from discarding their sawdust into the river. Working with the Town Council, Mayor Jackson imposed fines for illegal dumping of sawdust. An ordinance was passed in 1877, which required that sawdust be deposited at least a mile away from Tampa.

On November 3, 1877, Jackson married Kate Warner, whose family had come to Tampa from Omaha, Nebraska. Tampa's Nebraska Avenue was named in honor of the settlers from that state. The couple had four children: Mary Ellen, Bernier, Lulu, and John Edward. When he was not occupied by politics, Jackson worked as a real estate investor and owned a substantial amount of properties.

Jackson returned to the Town Council in 1881, where he went on to serve three more terms, and saw the transition from a Town Council to a City Council. He was a founding member of Tampa's Board of Trade, which was established in May of 1885. The Board of Trade, later known as the Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in bringing the cigar industry to Tampa.

DR. JOHN PERRY WALL, SR.



Tampa's 16th Mayor (Non-Charter)
August 14, 1878 - August 14, 1880
Physician

Born: September 17, 1836, Jasper, Florida
Died: April 18, 1895, Gainesville, Florida

John Perry Wall was born in Florida on September 17, 1836. He studied medicine and received his M.D. degree from the Medical College of South Carolina in 1858. Shortly afterward, he moved to Fernandina, Florida, where he set up a medical practice. When the Civil War began, Dr. Wall enlisted in the Confederate Army as a surgeon. After the war, he moved to Brooksville, and then came to Tampa. In 1871, he caught yellow fever, but was nursed back to health by his wife, Pressie. She then caught yellow fever, and succumbed to it, along with the couple's young daughter. Determined to learn more about the cause of the disease, Dr. Wall eventually discovered that mosquitoes were the carriers of yellow fever.

In 1876, Dr. Wall was elected to Tampa's Town Council where he focused on public health issues. After he was elected Mayor of Tampa in 1878, he took an active role in drafting an ordinance that established quarantine guidelines for incoming ships, as well as standards for the port inspector. Mayor Wall served as President of the Board of Health during his term, and he distributed information to the public about sanitation and controlling mosquitos. After his term as mayor, Dr. Wall was once again elected as a council member, where he served for four more terms, most of them non-consecutive, between 1881 and 1895.

One of Tampa's most prominent civic leaders, Dr. Wall was a one of the founders of the Florida Medical Association. He was a founder of the Tampa Board of Trade and served as its first president. He was also one of the first editors of the Sunland Tribune, one of Tampa's earliest newspapers. Dr. John Perry Wall died in Gainesville on April 18, 1895, while presenting a lecture to the Florida Medical Association.

HENRY CLARKE FERRIS



Tampa's 17th Mayor (Non-Charter)
August 14, 1880 – February 19, 1881
Merchant

Born: May 21, 1848, Tampa, Florida

Died: September 27, 1902, Tampa, Florida

Born in Tampa on May 21, 1848, Henry Clarke Ferris was the second native of Tampa to become its mayor. He was the son of pioneer settlers William and Elizabeth Ferris, and the brother of Josiah Ferris, who had also served as Mayor of Tampa. Growing up, Henry Clarke Ferris worked in his father's general store, and after his father passed away, he took over managing the store.

Interested in politics, Ferris successfully campaigned for mayor in August of 1880. At the time of his election, Tampa had only about seven hundred residents. Yellow fever was rampant and Tampa still lacked a railroad. Mayor Ferris only served for six months because during his term, he moved across the river, outside of the town limits. Because of that, he had to resign, and Matthew E. Haynsworth, who was President of the Town Council at the time, stepped in as Acting Mayor. Ferris ran again for mayor in 1887, but was defeated by George Bascom Sparkman.

Henry Clarke Ferris continued to work as a merchant after leaving office. He was married to Julia Bartholomew Ferris, and they had a daughter named Della. He died in Tampa on September 27, 1902.

MATTHEW ELLISON HAYNSWORTH



Tampa's 18th Mayor (Non-Charter)

Acting

February 19, 1881 - March 22, 1881

Tinsmith

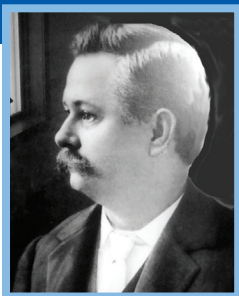
Born: January 12, 1837, South Carolina

Died: November 9, 1917, Brooksville, Florida

Matthew Ellison Haynsworth was born on January 12, 1837 in Sumter County, South Carolina. He worked as a carpenter, and his father was a merchant. At the onset of the Civil War, he enlisted as a private in Company D, 2nd South Carolina Infantry Regiment. After completing a one year enlistment in Virginia, Haynsworth reenlisted in a newly formed artillery battery, and he was assigned to the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia commanded by General Robert E. Lee. Along with his two brothers, Haynsworth served in some of the most brutal battles of the war. He was promoted to sergeant and served at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pickett's Charge. After the war ended, he returned to South Carolina and then moved to Hernando County, Florida.

Around 1873, Matthew Ellison Haynsworth arrived in Tampa and established a business as a tinsmith and coppersmith. He was elected to Tampa's Town Council on August 14, 1880, and three days later, was selected to serve as Town Council President. Because of this position, when Henry Clarke Ferris resigned, Haynsworth became Acting Mayor. He served in this position for less than a month. A special election was held on March 22, 1881, and George Bascom Sparkman was elected as Tampa's 19th Mayor. Haynsworth returned to his position as Town Council President until his term ended on August 12, 1881.

Haynsworth remained in Tampa until the early 1890s when he returned to Hernando County. After the death of his wife, he lived with his daughter, Harriet, and her husband. He died in Brooksville on November 9, 1917.



GEORGE BASCOM SPARKMAN

Tampa's 19th Mayor (Non-Charter)

First, Second, and Third Terms

March 22, 1881 – Aug. 14, 1883

Lawyer, Judge

Born: September 20, 1855, Simmons Hammock (Dover, FL)

Died: August 31, 1898, Tampa, Florida

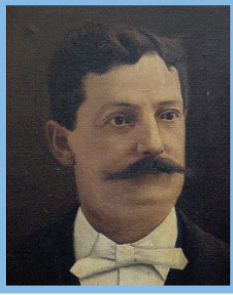
Born on September 20, 1855, George Bascom Sparkman was the son of Elijah Bird Sparkman and Sarah Ann Mizell Sparkman. He attended local schools, and graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. Upon graduation, he returned to Tampa where he opened a law office with his cousin, Stephen M. Sparkman. He married Mary Kershaw, and the couple had seven children.

Since Mayor Ferris had left office, Matthew Ellison Haynsworth had served as Acting Mayor. On March 22, 1881, a special election was held and George Bascom Sparkman was elected to complete the remainder of Mayor Ferris's term. A regular, municipal election was held on August 11, 1881, and Sparkman was reelected for another term. In 1881, Mayor Sparkman worked with the Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West Railroad, also known as the JT&KW Railroad, to lay tracks along some of the streets in downtown Tampa. However, the project was never completed because the company lost its assets.

Sparkman was elected for a third term as Mayor of Tampa on July 20, 1882. At the time of his election, Tampa had a population of less than 1,000 citizens. In 1883, the council approved Henry B. Plant's plans for a railroad. The railroad brought industry and jobs to the area, and by 1885, Tampa's population had more than doubled to over 2,300 citizens.

In 1884, George Bascom Sparkman was elected as a member of the Town Council, where he served until 1886. During this time, the council addressed many issues related to Tampa's growth. The increase in population had brought challenges such as the need for new housing, roads, fire protection, and infrastructure. The Board of Trade was organized in 1885 to address the needs of growing businesses. They helped raise money so that Vicente Martinez Ybor could bring his cigar business to Tampa.

DR. DUFF POST



Tampa's 20th Mayor (Non-Charter)

First, Second, and Third Terms

August 14, 1883 – August 13, 1886

Dentist, Town Marshal

Born: May 19, 1854, Tampa, Florida

Died: May 19, 1915, Tampa, Florida

Born in Tampa, Duff Post was the son of former Mayor Madison Post. He attended local schools and then graduated with a degree in dentistry from the Philadelphia Dental College. Dr. Post returned to Tampa where he established a dental practice, became involved in local politics and was a successful entrepreneur. His business ventures included establishing an ice cream parlor and restaurant in the Masonic Lodge Building in downtown Tampa. In 1873, he was President of the Board of Health in Hillsborough County. From 1881 until 1883, he served as Tampa's City Marshal.

In 1883, Dr. Post was elected Mayor of Tampa, the second native of Tampa to hold the office. Subsequent elections were held in 1884 and 1885, and he was again elected, serving three successive one year terms. During his first term, Mayor Post's administration gave Henry B. Plant authority to extend his railroad system to Tampa. The Town Council also extended privileges to Plant's steamship company. A wharf was constructed at the edge of Polk Street to serve as a receiving dock for railroad building materials. Plant also purchased vast tracts of land for the construction of passenger and freight stations.

After leaving office, Dr. Post was elected to Tampa's City Council, where he served from 1889 until 1890. During his time as a council member, he worked on civic improvements. He was also a member of the Board of Trade.



HERMAN GLOGOWSKI

Tampa's 21st Mayor (Non-Charter)

First Term

August 13, 1886 – July 15, 1887

Merchant

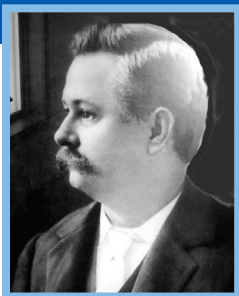
Born: April 29, 1853, Wilhelmsbruck, Prussia (Germany)

Died: December 3, 1909, Tampa, Florida

Herman Glogowski was born in Germany on April 29, 1853, and immigrated to the United States in 1867, where he spent about 15 years working in New York City's garment industry. In late 1882, Glogowski moved to Gainesville, Florida and in the summer of 1883, he married Bertha Brown. The couple had four children: Walter, Nat, Bernie, and Tillie. The following year, they moved to Tampa where he opened a men's clothing store on Washington Street. He was active in Masonic work and he was the first Jewish person to be elected as Mayor. He began his first term on August 13, 1886. At that time, Tampa was still a town, but he was instrumental in its incorporation as a City, and would later become one of the first mayors to serve under the new City Charter. He was also instrumental in the creation of Tampa's first fire department.

On February 3, 1887, Mayor Glogowski and the City Council met with a representative from the South Florida Railroad Company to discuss plans for constructing a bridge across the Hillsborough River and a hotel on the opposite bank. Keenly aware of the economic benefits a railroad, bridge, and major hotel would bring to Tampa, the proposal was discussed with C. L. Ayres, president of the North Tampa Town Council, and Vincente M. Ybor and Eduardo Manrara of Ybor City. Each of the individuals agreed to the annexation of their towns to Tampa.

On the strength of these proposals, Mayor Glogowski successfully led a coalition to lobby the Florida Legislature to incorporate Tampa as a City. This incorporation was essential in order for Tampa to obtain the necessary funds to improve the water and sewage systems, police and fire departments, and other public works and services. On July 15, 1887, the Florida Legislature passed an Act of Incorporation, and the City of Tampa was established. This was also Mayor Glogowski's last in office until March 8, 1888.



GEORGE BASCOM SPARKMAN

Tampa's 22nd Mayor

Fourth Term

July 15, 1887 – March 8, 1888

Lawyer, Judge

Born: September 20, 1855, Simmons Hammock (Dover, FL)

Died: August 31, 1898, Tampa, Florida

First Tampa Mayor under the New City Charter

When George Bascom Sparkman was elected on July 15, 1887, he became the first Mayor of Tampa to serve under its new charter. Under the provisions of an act passed by the State Legislature and approved by the Governor of Florida, the charters of Tampa and North Tampa were abolished and the boundaries of the City of Tampa were expanded. The new City Charter specified that the municipal government was to be administered by a mayor and eleven council members, two elected from each of the four wards, and three elected from the city at-large. The charter also included the election of a City Marshal, City Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector.

It was an exciting time in Tampa's history, with the railroad and cigar industry bringing new jobs to Tampa. The newly elected officials were eager to bring much-needed improvements to Tampa's infrastructure to support the growing population. Though their efforts were delayed by a yellow fever epidemic in the fall of 1887, many improvements were made after that time.

Following his time in office, Sparkman served as a Judge of the Sixth Circuit Court from 1893 until 1894. He was a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, as well as the Knights of Pythia. George Bascom Sparkman died in Tampa from yellow fever on August 31, 1898.



HERMAN GLOGOWSKI

Tampa's 23rd Mayor

Second Term

March 8, 1888 – March 6, 1889

Merchant

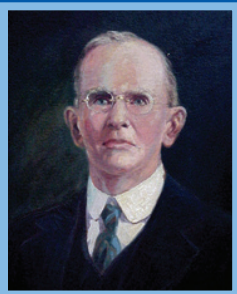
Born: April 29, 1853, Wilhelmsbruck, Prussia (Germany)

Died: December 3, 1909, Tampa, Florida

Herman Glogowski started his second term on March 8, 1888, and he was the second mayor to serve under the new City Charter, which he was instrumental in establishing. During his year in office, Mayor Glogowski focused on improving infrastructure. Tampa received its first waterworks, public transportation, sewers, paved streets, and electric lights during this time.

On April 23, 1888, J.A. Wood, a New York Architect, approached Mayor Glogowski and the City Council with a proposal to build a hotel for Henry B. Plant. This was approved, and with it came the construction of a bridge crossing the river at Lafayette Street. The bridge greatly improved access between the east and west sides of the river. On July 26, 1888, Mayor Glogowski laid the cornerstone of the Tampa Bay Hotel. The subsequent construction of this local landmark brought thousands of jobs to Tampa.

Herman Glogowski was an active member of the Board of Trade, and he was the first president of Tampa's German-American Club. He was also a founding member of Schaarai Zedek, Tampa's first synagogue. He laid the cornerstone for its first temple in 1899.



THOMAS EDWARD JACKSON

Tampa's 24th Mayor

Second Term

March 6, 1889 – March 5, 1890

Real Estate Investor

Born: July 9, 1852, Tampa, Florida

Died: July 22, 1935, Tampa, Florida

During his second term, Mayor Jackson focused on capital improvements, commercial development, and infrastructure. He advocated for a bond that would allow the city to pave more of its streets and install additional sewers. Members from the City Council visited Jacksonville to review work that had been done there. After this trip, the bond was approved.

The late 1800s was a pivotal time in Tampa's History. Mayor Jackson met with Henry B. Plant about the construction of the Tampa Bay Hotel, as well as the completion of a nine-mile railroad spur connecting Tampa to Port Tampa. On March 28, 1889, former president Grover Cleveland visited Tampa, and Mayor Jackson had an opportunity to accompany him on a tour.

Tampa's first City Hall was constructed during Mayor Jackson's second term. It was completed in 1890, and would later be rebuilt on the same site in 1915. At the time of its 1915 dedication, Jackson was working as a real estate investor.

Thomas Edward Jackson served as Hillsborough County Treasurer for ten years, and he was a Hillsborough County Commissioner. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and the Knights of Columbus. At the time of his death on July 22, 1935, Thomas Edward Jackson was one of Tampa's oldest and most prominent citizens.



HERMAN GLOGOWSKI

Tampa's 25th Mayor

Third Term

March 5, 1890 – March 4, 1891

Merchant

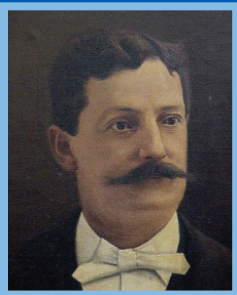
Born: April 29, 1853, Wilhelmsbruck, Prussia (Germany)

Died: December 3, 1909, Tampa, Florida

Herman Glogowski began his third term on March 5, 1890. At that time, over half of Tampa's inhabitants were immigrants, primarily from Spain, Italy and Cuba. Many of them worked in the cigar industry, which produced approximately 88 million cigars every year. In March of 1890, Mayor Glogowski protected workers in the cigar factories by opposing a proposed tariff bill that would tax tobacco. He joined a delegation that traveled to the nation's capital to protest the bill. The delegation included members of Tampa's Board of Trade, as well as members of the City Council. They were successful in winning an exemption for tobacco.

During Mayor Glogowski's third term, he witnessed the completion of Tampa's first City Hall building as well the Tampa Bay Hotel. City Hall was completed in August of 1890, and it provided offices for all city officials as well as space for Tampa's Fire Department. Construction was steady during this time as Tampa's population had increased from just 720 residents in 1880, to over 5,550 residents in 1890. On February 5, 1891, Mayor Glogowski, who had laid the cornerstone for the Tampa Bay Hotel in 1888, attended its grand opening celebration and led the procession into the grand ballroom.

Immediately following his third term as mayor, Herman Glogowski was elected to Tampa's City Council on March 4, 1891. However, he did not complete a full term because the election results were contested by Archibald Ross, who had been running for the same at-large council seat. The votes were recounted and Ross was declared the official winner. Glogowski was removed the same day that Ross took office on June 5, 1891.



DR. DUFF POST

Tampa's 26th Mayor

Fourth Term

March 4, 1891 – March 4, 1892

Dentist, Town Marshal

Born: May 19, 1854, Tampa, Florida

Died: May 19, 1915, Tampa, Florida

Dr. Duff Post was elected as Tampa's 26th Mayor on March 4, 1891. He had previously served three terms as Tampa's 20th Mayor from August 14, 1883 until August 13, 1886. Tampa was a different city when he returned to office. Its population had grown from less than 1,000 residents in 1880, to over 5,300 residents in 1890. This increase reflected the widespread and diverse economic growth from Henry B. Plant's railroad and hotel, as well as the cigar industry, and the expansion of the city's port. As the population increased, the government imposed higher taxes to make capital improvements, and expanded its services in order to meet the needs of the increasing number of residents.

Mayor Post and his administration directed their attention toward civic improvements such as the construction of paved sidewalks, road improvement, and provisions for a cleaner city. Sanitation and polluted water was a concern in the city. To address these issues, City Council member Silas L. Biglow was appointed as the first head of the Department of Sanitation.

While in office in 1891, Mayor Post also served as Tampa's Postmaster, and he continued in this role until 1895. After leaving office, he returned to his dentistry practice and business ventures. He was a Mason and a member of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F&AM. Dr. Duff Post died in Tampa on May 19, 1915.



HERMAN GLOGOWSKI

Tampa's 27th Mayor

Fourth Term

March 4, 1892 – March 10, 1893

Merchant

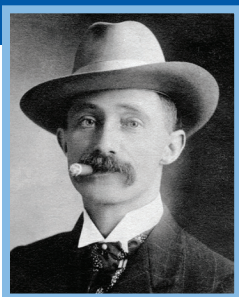
Born: April 29, 1853, Wilhelmsbruck, Prussia (Germany)

Died: December 3, 1909, Tampa, Florida

The only Mayor of Tampa to serve four non-consecutive terms, Herman Glogowski began his fourth term on March 4, 1892. At this time in Tampa's History, West Tampa was beginning to be developed by Hugh Campbell Macfarlane, a Scottish attorney and developer, who had bought approximately 200 acres of land that he had purchased west of the Hillsborough River. Macfarlane offered the land to manufacturers and soon, many cigar factories were establishing themselves in the area.

During Mayor Glogowski's fourth term, Tampa was prospering. The phosphate industry was thriving and phosphate was Tampa's largest export. The cigar industry continued to grow and when the workers went on strike to demand higher wages, Mayor Glogowski supported them. Transportation was one of the key issues during his final term as preparations for electric streetcars began to take place.

After his fourth and final term ended, Herman Glogowski returned to his retail establishment and he was also appointed as the Special Deputy Collector of Customs for the Port of Tampa. He served in this position from 1884 until 1896. Tragically, he died in a traffic accident on December 3 1909, when his carriage collided with a truck in Ybor City.



FREDERICK A. SALOMONSON

Tampa's 28th Mayor

First Term

March 10, 1893 – March 9, 1894

Real Estate

Born: July 20, 1860, Almelo, Overijssel, Netherlands

Died: December 19, 1911, Tampa, Florida

Born in the Netherlands on July 20, 1860, Frederick A. Salomonson arrived in the United States in 1882 as a representative of a Dutch syndicate that owned land in Florida. After completing his business, Salomonson decided to remain in Florida and moved to Jacksonville where he worked for two years for a railroad company.

In late 1884, Salomonson moved to Tampa where he established a real estate business. With his real estate partner, John Fessenden, he co-founded the Tampa Real Estate and Loan Association in 1887.

Frederick A. Salomonson married Florence Augusta Newcomb on January 31, 1885 in Tampa, Florida. They had four children: Marie, Lodwoyk "Lodie," Freida, and Wilhelmina.

Salomonson was one of the founding members of Tampa's Board of Trade. He became involved in local politics and he was elected to Tampa's City Council, where he first served from March 6, 1889 until March 5, 1890. Two years later, he was elected again, and served from March 4, 1892 until March 10 1893. Immediately following his second term as a City Council member, he was elected Mayor of Tampa. It would be the first of three non-consecutive terms. During his first administration, Mayor Salomonson focused on capital improvement projects that facilitated social and economic growth in Tampa.

ROBERT W. EASLEY



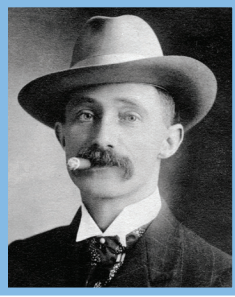
Tampa's 29th Mayor
March 9, 1894 – March 8, 1895
Lawyer, Newspaper Owner

Born: 1848, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Died: August 14, 1896, Mississippi

Robert W. Easley was born in Mississippi, and graduated from law school in Tennessee. He arrived in Tampa in 1891, and became an owner and business manager of the *Tampa Tribune*. His business and legal skills led Easley to become President of the Tampa and Palmetto Beach Railroad. Shortly afterward, he established the Florida Loan and Investment Company. Easley was also a developer of East Tampa.

In 1893, Robert Easley became involved in local politics. He was elected to the City Council, and then became Tampa's 29th mayor on March 9, 1894. During his term, the "Big Freeze" of 1894-1895 destroyed about 70 percent of Florida's citrus crop. This loss had bankrupted most of the citrus growers in Hillsborough County and the City lost property tax revenues. Mayor Easley and the City Council attempted to provide some economic relief to citrus growers, but soon discovered that the loss was beyond their ability.

In poor health, Easley declined to campaign for reelection as mayor. In April of 1895, he returned to Mississippi where he died from tuberculosis on August 14, 1896.



FREDERICK A. SALOMONSON

Tampa's 30th Mayor

Second Term

March 8, 1895 – June 5, 1896

Real Estate

Born: July 20, 1860, Almelo, Overijssel, Netherlands

Died: December 19, 1911, Tampa, Florida

Frederick A. Salomonson began his second term on March 8, 1895. Just prior to this, Florida had gone through the Great Freeze during the winter of 1894-1895, which had severely damaged citrus tree groves, causing great hardship to the state's economy. Approximately \$78,000,000 was lost statewide. The result of the freeze ultimately benefitted Tampa as many growers that had been located in northern counties moved south. However, at the time Salomonson took office, Tampa was still recovering from the effects of the freeze.

During his second term, Mayor Salomonson worked on improving Tampa's infrastructure. Water mains were placed, sidewalks were constructed in Hyde Park, and more streets were paved. Mayor Salomonson also worked toward expanding Tampa's sewers to include all of the city, which was a thirty mile expansion. Public Works improvements were given priority and were a necessity for the growing city.

In September of 1895, a Tampa police officer named John McCormick was fatally wounded while trying to apprehend a suspect. He left behind a wife and five children. Mayor Salomonson responded to this tragedy by assembling a police squad to find and apprehend the man who shot Officer McCormick. He also requested donations from local citizens for Officer McCormick's family.



MYRON E. GILLETT

Tampa's 31st Mayor

June 5, 1896 – June 5, 1898

Citrus Developer, Real Estate Investor

Born: June 3, 1858, Appleton, Wisconsin

Died: September 20, 1922, New York City

Born in Wisconsin on July 3, 1858, Myron E. Gillett lived in Akron, Ohio, before coming to Florida around 1878. He became one of the most successful citrus growers in Polk and Marion counties. Gillett established Buckeye Nurseries, the first large nursery in the state. He was one of the founders of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, the forerunner of the Florida Citrus Exchange, of which he became the first general manager. After his citrus crop was destroyed during the "Big Freeze" of 1894-1895, Gillett sold most of his real estate holdings and moved his family to Tampa, where he established the Gillett Lumber Company and the Tampa Building and Investment Company.

During his term in office, Gillett actively supported capital improvements in the city and he increased municipal services to citizens and businesses. Mayor Gillett believed that government support of commercial development created a diverse business community that would ultimately benefit the citizens, local government, and businesses.

D. Collins Gillett, son of Myron and Clara, was born on June 6, 1884, in Weirsdale, Florida. After graduating from the University of the South, he entered business with his father and later developed Temple Terraces.

After leaving office, Gillett returned to his business activities. Several years later he sold his real estate business in Tampa and moved to New York City, where he died on September 20, 1922. His son, D. Collins Gillett, followed in his footsteps and became the first Mayor of Temple Terrace.



FRANK CLAYTON BOWYER

Tampa's 32nd Mayor

June 8, 1898 – June 8, 1900

Real Estate Broker

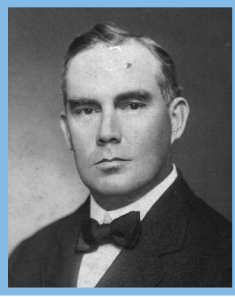
Born: November 6, 1869, Teays Valley, West Virginia

Died: October 18, 1925, Tampa, Florida

Frank Clayton Bowyer was born on November 6, 1869, in Teays Valley, West Virginia. He attended the University of Kentucky and came to Tampa in 1890. He married Lula Baldrick and the couple had three sons. With William Bonacker, Bowyer established a brokerage firm, Bonacker & Bowyer, which was located in downtown Tampa. He later independently established a successful independent real estate agency, Frank C. Bowyer and Company.

Interested in politics, Bowyer was elected as Tampa's 32nd Mayor on June 8, 1898. As Tampa's populations increased, Mayor Bowyer's administration faced a pressing need to expand both public works and services. When Tampa was selected as a disembarkation site for the Spanish-American War, these proposed projects found a new significance. Although short-lived, the war played an important part in Tampa's economic growth. It brought prosperity to Tampa merchants and other business, and added to the City of Tampa's treasury. This infused Tampa with a new confidence as it headed toward the twentieth century.

In 1899, Bowyer proposed a plan to issue \$525,000 in bonds to pay down the City's debts and public works projects. He also persuaded City Council to pass ordinances requiring property owners in downtown Tampa to fund the cost of paving the streets and building sidewalks. By the following year, most of the streets in the city's business section were hard-surfaced and had sturdy sidewalks. Mayor Bowyer and the City Council implemented a major overhaul and expansion of the sewage system, underwriting the project by reassessing property taxes. After completing his term, Frank Clayton Bowyer served as President of the Chamber of Commerce as well as Chair of the Board of Port Commissioners. He died in Tampa on October 18, 1925.



FRANCIS LYMAN WING

Tampa's 33rd Mayor

First Term

June 8, 1900 – June 4, 1902

Real Estate Developer

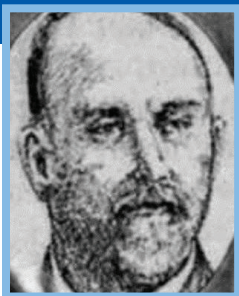
Born: May 9, 1868, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Died: October 29, 1941, Tampa, Florida

Born in Massachusetts on May 9, 1868, Francis Lyman Wing arrived in Tampa in 1889. He opened a furniture store and later became a successful real estate developer. In 1922, he built the Puritan Hotel in the Hyde Park district. He was also the director of the Lyons Fertilizer Company. In 1892, Wing married Annie Hale, and the following year they built a house on Morgan Street where they raised their children.

Wing was a member of the City Council during the Spanish-American War and served from June 1898 to June 1900. Immediately following this term, he was elected as Mayor of Tampa. During Wing's first administration, Tampa benefited from a steady population growth, due in part by the economic prosperity from cigar manufacturing in Ybor City, phosphorus export, and the Port of Tampa. The population growth placed an enormous strain on public works and services. In response, Wing and succeeding mayors embarked on capital projects to improve and expand the City's public works and services to the community.

As part of his work in expanding the City of Tampa's services, Mayor Wing appointed an auditor, City Attorney, City Health Officer, and other officials to head several key departments such as the Department of Sanitation. He faced some challenges during this time, such as the cigar worker's strike in 1901, and funds being diverted by an unscrupulous tax collector. During Mayor Wing's first term, a new City Charter was adopted and was sent to Tallahassee for approval by the legislature.



JAMES MCKAY, JR.

Tampa's 34th Mayor
June 5, 1902 – June 5, 1904
Master Mariner, U.S. Marshal

Born: November 27, 1842, Mobile, Alabama

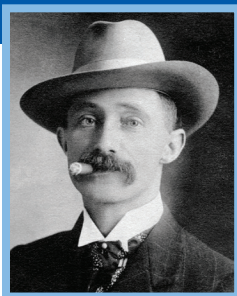
Died: September 5, 1925, Tampa, Florida

James McKay, Jr. was the son of James, Sr. and Matilda Cail McKay. He attended Tampa's first public school and at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the Fourth Florida Infantry Regiment. McKay was married three times, first to Mary Crichton, then to Helene Turton, and then to Lillian Warren. McKay and Mary Crichton McKay had nine children.

McKay was later promoted to captain of an independent company of soldiers who were on detached duty to round up and transport cattle for the Confederate Army. After the war, McKay worked as a seaman on his father's schooners and eventually became a master mariner. Following his father's death in 1876, McKay took over the family business, and sold it 10 years later to serve as a captain for the Plant Steamship Company.

McKay became the captain of the Mascotte steamer in 1886, and was in charge of the construction of various ships including the Olivette. He was then elected to the Florida State Senate, where he served from 1891 until 1893. On September 1, 1894, he became a U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Florida.

Elected on June 5, 1902, Mayor McKay's administration emphasized the need for growth and the importance of public investment to service that growth. During his tenure, Mayor McKay made a number of judicial appointments and adopted some policies that appealed to the working class and union voters. After his time in office, McKay served as Tampa's Postmaster from 1914 until 1917. He died in Tampa on September 5, 1925.



FREDERICK A. SALOMONSON

Tampa's 35th Mayor

Third Term

June 5, 1904 – June 7, 1906

Real Estate

Born: July 20, 1860, Almelo, Overijssel, Netherlands

Died: December 19, 1911, Tampa, Florida

Beginning his third and final term on June 5, 1904, Frederick A. Salomonson continued his previous work to improve Tampa's infrastructure. Tampa had grown considerably since he was last in office and in 1900, it had become the fourth largest city in Florida. The cigar industry continued to bring many immigrants to the area and Tampa's political landscape showed both continuity as well as change.

Shortly after being elected in 1904, Mayor Salomonson wrote an open letter to the City Council that was published in the Tampa Tribune. In the letter, Mayor Salomonson requested assistance from the council in approving repairs to Tampa's sewer system, as well as its bridges and roads. At the time, many of the roads were still unpaved. Ahead of his time, the mayor also mentioned the need for a new City Hall building. This would not be completed until 1915.

Upon leaving office, Salomonson returned to his real estate business. Shortly thereafter, he became ill with tuberculosis and spent time in Colorado in an effort to improve his health. Unfortunately, he was unable to overcome the illness and he died in Tampa on December 19, 1911.



WILLIAM H. FRECKER

Tampa's 36th Mayor
June 8, 1906 – June 4, 1908
Merchant

Born: 1849, Chatham, New Brunswick, Canada

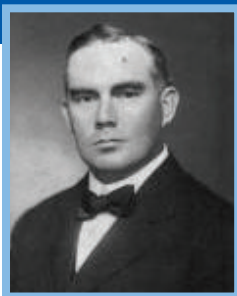
Died: April 22, 1914, Tampa, Florida

William H. Frecker immigrated to the United States in 1878. First settling in Chicago, he sold his business and moved in 1894 to Tampa and established the Chicago Furniture House. In 1898, he was elected to the City Council, where he served on the Finance Committee, the Schools and Public Buildings Committee, and the Ordinances and Rules Committee.

During his mayoral campaign, William H. Frecker articulated policies that appealed to both business leaders and the working class. Although a candid supporter of the unions, he also pursued policy that was critical of corporate interests.

Elected on June 8, 1906, Mayor Frecker worked on lowering the rates that were charged by the Tampa Water Works Company and Peninsular Telephone Company. Tampa also annexed the remainder of the Fort Brooke military reservation. In 1908, the charter was again revised to include nine wards. Mutual aid societies, including El Circulo Cubano, El Centro Asturiano, L'Unione Italiana, and El Centro Español, were flourishing.

William H. Frecker campaigned for re-election in June 1908, but was defeated in a close race with Francis Lyman Wing, whose public policies mirrored those of Frecker. In June 1910, Frecker again campaigned for mayor against D.B. McKay, but lost by a small number of votes. After his second loss in a mayoral election to D.B. McKay in June of 1912, he retired from politics. William H. Frecker died in Tampa on April 22, 1914.



FRANCIS LYMAN WING

Tampa's 37th Mayor

Second Term

June 5, 1908 – June 6, 1910

Real Estate Developer, Businessman

Born: May 9, 1868, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Died: October 29, 1941, Tampa, Florida

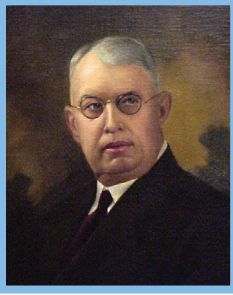
Francis Lyman Wing was involved in the construction and sale of houses. In 1922, one of his notable structures, the Puritan Hotel in Hyde Park, opened. In addition, Wing served as director of the Lyons Fertilizer Company and served on the boards of several other local businesses.

In his second term, Mayor Wing was the driving force in the construction of the Gordon Keller Hospital. He also attempted to expand the police, fire, and other City departments. He initiated an expansion in sewers and water drainage capital projects. Substantial improvements were made to the Port of Tampa.

From 1899 until 1911, the need for additional railroads to manage the expanding phosphate shipping industry became apparent. The Spanish-American War had proven how inadequate the harbor facilities were. Local businessmen and the city administration sought and received funds from the U.S. Congress to deepen the shipping channel by 20 feet and straighten it by 300 feet from Port Tampa to downtown Tampa. In 1905, funds were provided to dredge sand to create Seddon Island, which is now Harbour Island, for phosphate.

After his second term, Mayor Wing retired from politics and devoted himself to business, family, and social activities. He was a member of the Elks Lodge and the First Presbyterian Church. He died in Tampa on October 29, 1941.

DONALD BRENHAM MCKAY



Tampa's 38th Mayor
First, Second, and Third Terms

June 7, 1910 – June 10, 1920

Newspaper Publisher

Born: July 29, 1868, Tampa, Florida

Died: September 7, 1960, Tampa, Florida

Born in Tampa on July 29, 1868, Donald Brenham McKay was the son of Captain John Angus McKay, Sr., and Mary Jane McCarthy McKay. He attended school in Tampa, and at age fourteen, he began working at the *Tampa Tribune* as an apprentice printer. When the *Tampa Times* was established in 1893, McKay began working there and eventually went on to purchase the paper. McKay served as the editor and publisher of the *Tampa Times* from 1898 until 1933. He then wrote a popular column called *Pioneer Florida*, which was published in the *Tampa Tribune*, from approximately 1946 until 1960. McKay married Aurora P. F. Gutierrez, daughter of Gavino Gutierrez, on October 7, 1900, in Tampa. The couple had 10 children.

The period for 1910 to the 1940s was a time of the White Municipal Party primaries in which no African Americans could vote. In his first electoral victory (1910), McKay narrowly defeated former Mayor William Frecker in a run-off election. As mayor, McKay implemented numerous projects in the “evolving city.” Streets were paved, sidewalks were built and wooden fire stations were replaced with brick buildings. He was re-elected in 1912 and again in 1916.

On New Year's Day 1914, the first commercial airline flight from St. Petersburg to Tampa took place. In 1915, construction on a new, larger City Hall was completed on the same site as the 1891 structure. In 1917, Tampa's first public library opened in West Tampa with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. In 1919, a library for the City's black residents was opened at Harlem Academy. The construction of a new Lafayette Street bridge and main buildings for the South Florida Fair Grounds were major accomplishments of this administration.



HORACE CALDWELL GORDON

Tampa's 39th Mayor

June 11, 1920 – January 4, 1921

Lawyer, Judge, State Attorney

Born: March 13, 1872, Cleveland, Ohio

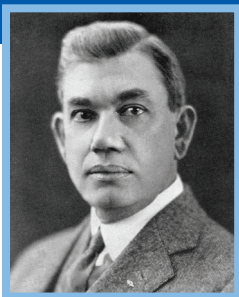
Died: June 19, 1924, Tampa, Florida

Horace Gordon was the son of Richard Harper and Lucy Cordelia (Caldwell) Gordon. He received his education in the public schools of Cleveland and at the Jefferson Educational Institute in Jefferson, Ohio. He studied law at the University of Michigan and then at the Cincinnati Law School, graduating in 1895 with a L.L.B. Gordon married Lucy (Louisa) C. Weiner in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 4, 1885. The couple had three children. Horace Gordon and his family arrived in Tampa on December 10, 1895 where he established a successful law practice.

Gordon held many civic positions including president of the Board of Public Works and member of the Port Commission and Board of Trade. In 1902, Mayor James McKay, Jr. appointed Horace Gordon as a municipal judge. Gordon also served as a criminal court judge from 1904 until 1913 when he was appointed state attorney. He served in this position until 1920, when he resigned to campaign for mayor of Tampa.

During his tenure, one of the most destructive hurricanes struck the area on October 25, 1921. The wind associated with the storm reached a recorded velocity of 53.8 miles per hour and gusts exceeded 100 miles per hour. The strong winds downed communication lines and Tampa was isolated for hours. The area was devastated with water rising 10.5 feet above mean low tide. Bayshore Boulevard, the seawall, and most of the waterfront wharves, ships, and businesses were destroyed. Gordon set up emergency services for residents and businesses in order to help repair the damage.

Mayor Gordon's term was cut short when the mayor-commissioner system was adopted in January 1921. He promised to seek reelection under a commission form of government and he abided by that promise.



CHARLES H. BROWN

Tampa's 40th Mayor - Commissioner
January 4, 1921 – January 8, 1924
Railroad Contractor, Banker, Real Estate

Born: March 12, 1868, Abbeville, Georgia

Died: January 17, 1928, Tampa, Florida

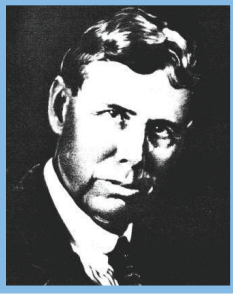
Charles H. Brown was the son of William H. and Laura (Roberts) Brown. In 1870, his family moved to Hamilton County, Florida, where Brown attended the East Florida Seminary (now the University of Florida) in Gainesville. After graduation, he became a successful merchant, married Margaret V. Gardner and they had five children.

In 1907, Brown and his family moved to Tampa where he established the Tampa and Gulf Coast Railroad and served as its first president. Several years later, he extended the railroad to Tarpon Springs (1910) and St. Petersburg (1914). Brown expanded his business ventures into banking, becoming one of the founders of the Tampa Bank of Commerce and chairman of the Florida Mortgage, Title and Bonding Company. With his extensive real estate holdings in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Hernando counties, he was one of the largest owners of real estate in Florida. He served on the Board of Public Works for the City of Tampa.

Charles Brown was the first mayor of Tampa to serve under the “commission manager” system of government. In 1920, proponents of this system campaigned for its adoption by popular vote with the contention that it was a more direct and efficient municipal structure. This system of government involved electing a mayor-commissioner and four commissioners. As a body, they appointed by majority vote a city manager that served as the administrative head of the City’s government. The mayor held the same administrative power as the commissioners.

The City of West Tampa (1895-1924), Seminole Heights, Jackson Heights, Gary, and other unincorporated areas were annexed during this period.

PERRY GREEN WALL II



Tampa's 41st Mayor – Commissioner
January 8, 1924 – January 3, 1928
Merchant, Businessman, Civic Advocate

Born: November 22, 1867, Hernando County, Florida
Died: January 25, 1944, Tampa, Florida

Perry Wall was the son of William W. and Minnie (May) Wall. He attended the East Florida Seminary and Colonel Bingham's Military School in North Carolina. In 1884, Wall moved to Tampa where he established a hardware business with his brother-in-law, Peter O. Knight. Perry Wall married Mattie Houston, of Tallahassee, in 1893. The couple had two children: Houstoun and Martha.

In addition to his business activities, he served as chairman of the Congressional and County Democratic Committees and the Executive Committee of the White Municipal Party. In 1890 and 1894, he was elected to the City Council (Board of Representatives) and served as a member of the Hillsborough County School Board (1897-1898). He later served as state chairman of the Government Committee (1930-1932) when he was appointed Harbormaster of Tampa (1932-1936).

When the 20th century began, medical care facilities for Tampa's black citizens were still non-existent. Clara Frye, in 1908, opened the first medical facility for blacks, which became known as the Clara Frye Hospital in 1923. In 1928, the City of Tampa purchased the hospital and 10 years later opened the Clara Frye Memorial Hospital in Roberts City, on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. The facility was demolished in 1973 and Howard W. Blake High School was erected on the site.

Wall's campaign targeted law enforcement and gambling and he won by only 238 votes out of the 7,734 cast. During Wall's term of office, Temple Terrace, originally a 1,500-acre orange grove, was sub-divided (1924). Davis Islands was developed and in 1927, the Tampa Municipal Hospital was built on land (Marjorie Park) previously deeded to the City by D.P. Davis.



DONALD BRENHAM MCKAY

Tampa's 42nd Mayor

Fourth Term

January 3, 1928 – October 27, 1931

Newspaper Publisher

Born: July 29, 1868, Tampa, Florida

Died: September 7, 1960, Tampa, Florida

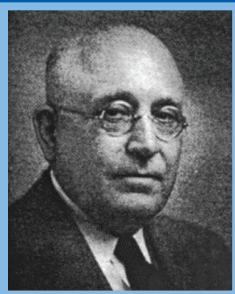
During the 1916 mayoral campaign, D. B. McKay emphasized his opposition to the commission form of government. He argued that the existing formation provided better representation for all sectors of the population and that the commission form would result in limited focus of powers. With the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, Tampa women including Kate Jackson, Julia Norris, and Frances Macfarlane, who had long been involved in civic affairs, mobilized in support of the charter. The voters, in 1920, had approved adoption of the commission-manager system, 1,576 to 665. This system was abolished by the voters in 1927 because it proved to be ineffective and cumbersome. The mayor-city council system was reinstated. It was not until 1969 that the Florida Legislature belatedly signed the 19th Amendment.

McKay won in a landslide victory and took office again in January 1928. McKay worked within the commission-manager system (January 3 - 24, 1928) until the new City Charter restored the mayor-city council system.

On July 17, 1929, the Franklin Street Citizens Bank & Trust Company closed. The "crash of 1929" brought unemployment and a halt to the tourist and cigar industry, ending two important resources into the city. Mayor McKay persevered in a time of great hardships.

After he left office in October 1931, D.B. McKay served as director of the First National Bank, president of the Tampa Board of Trade, and was one of the founders and trustees of the University of Tampa. On August 9, 1960, the auditorium at the University of Tampa was renamed in his honor.

From 1945 until his death, McKay wrote a concise history column in the Sunday *Tampa Tribune* called *Pioneer Florida*. McKay's contributions to Tampa and Hillsborough County history were recognized in 1949 when he was appointed as Hillsborough County Historian.



THOMAS N. HENDERSON

Tampa's 43rd Mayor
Acting

October 27, 1931 – November 3, 1931

Company President

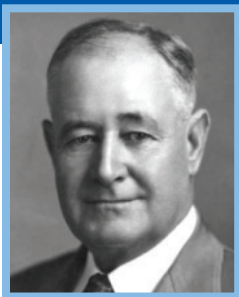
Born: February 27, 1870, Maysville, Georgia

Died: October 13, 1944, Tampa, Florida

Born in Maysville, Georgia, Henderson moved to Tampa in 1891 where he opened a meat market, laundry, lumber mill, and the Tampa Harness and Wagon Company. In 1897, he married Nellie Hazon with whom he had three children. Some years later, in 1906, Henderson with George and Alfred Warren purchased the Tampa Coca-Cola Bottling Works, and eventually became president of the company. A strong believer in civic duty, he served as Tampa's Chief of Police, on the Board of Public Works and as a member and, later, City Council President. When Mayor McKay resigned on October 27, 1931, Henderson was sworn in as acting mayor to complete the seven days remaining in D.B. McKay's term.

At the next election, Thomas Henderson campaigned against Robert Chancey for mayor but lost to Chancey by a narrow margin during the primary. After the election, former mayors D.B. McKay, Perry Wall and other leading citizens accused Chancey of voter fraud, ballot stuffing and other illegal activities. Although they were able to substantiate some of their accusations, the evidence was not sufficient to remove Chancey from office. In 1935, Henderson was elected to the Hillsborough County Commission where he served for nine years.

Thomas Henderson passed away in Tampa on October 13, 1944.



ROBERT E. LEE CHANCEY

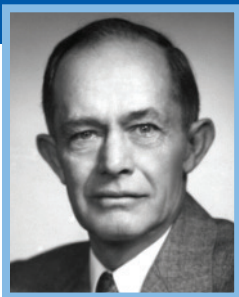
Tampa's 44th Mayor
November 3, 1931 – November 3, 1943
Lawyer, County Solicitor

Born: December 16, 1880, Offerman, Georgia
Died: June 1, 1948, Tampa, Florida

Robert E. Lee Chancey was educated in Georgia public schools and in 1902, received his L.L.B. degree from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He came to Tampa on September 5, 1905, where he worked as an attorney with M.B. Macfarlane. Chancey married Jennie E. Cortino on September 10, 1906, and the couple had one son: William. He served as county solicitor from 1917 to 1921 and from 1925 to 1929 and was president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association.

In 1931, he was elected mayor during a strongly contested campaign highlighted by a new state law requiring a non-partisan election board for Tampa. Charges of voter fraud in 1935 resulted in the first voting machines replacing the old ballot boxes. Chancey was confronted with social and economic hardships caused by the Great Depression. There were wildcat strikes by the cigar workers and radical rallies and arrests over race and the ever increasing unemployment (est. 5,000-6,000). The City treasury had dwindled significantly, as people and businesses were no longer able to pay their property taxes. When the City government did not have the money to meet its payroll, Chancey, along with the City Council, reduced the budgets for the police, fire and other departments.

Repairs were made to the Tampa Bay Hotel and in 1933 the University of Tampa was established. The nine-mile Davis Causeway opened in 1934. Federal funds supported construction of the National Guard Armory, Fort Homer Hesterly. In 1935, Tampa received federal relief through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civil Works Administrations (CWA) and some much-needed civic improvements were accomplished. The Peter O. Knight (Municipal) Airport was built, Bayshore Boulevard was widened, and a new seawall was constructed. By 1938, Tampa's economic situation had improved substantially. With the onset of World War II, the growing demand for wartime equipment and materials increased and the local economy improved. MacDill Field (Air Force Base) was dedicated on April 15, 1941.



CURTIS HIXON

Tampa's 45th Mayor
November 3, 1943 – May 21, 1956
Pharmacist, Alderman

Born: November 23, 1890, Louisville, Alabama
Died: May 21, 1956, Tampa, Florida

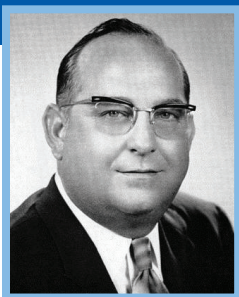
Curtis Hixon graduated from the School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia. Hixon moved to Tampa (1911-1914) to open a drug store with his brother Marvin. During World War I, Curtis Hixon enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a pharmacist's mate. After the war, he purchased King's Drugstore on Franklin Street. Curtis Hixon married Lila Yantis of Sebring, Florida, and they had two children: Joann and Elaine.

Hixon was an alderman and served on the City Council (Board of Representatives, 1929-1937). In 1939, he was elected to the Hillsborough County Commission as representative of the Sulphur Springs and Seminole Heights districts. He took an active role in drafting the street plans for the Sulphur Springs area.

During his first term, Mayor Hixon was confronted with extreme shortages resulting from the war years, illegal gambling, and an ever-increasing demand for city services. Hixon eliminated tax adjustments, adhered to a policy of more frequent audits and collection of overdue taxes. He supported the state's new tax on utilities as necessary to finance improvements.

Drew Field (Tampa International Airport) was deactivated and transferred to the City on October 15, 1947. That same year, with a Supreme Court decision, the end came for the White Municipal Party. African-Americans gained the right to vote in the primary elections.

In 1949, the charter was revised to expand the mayor's duties and administrative authority. A pension system for police and firemen was established and permission to expand the City's limits was given. On May 11, 1956, Mayor Hixon was hospitalized for pneumonia and 10 days later passed away of heart failure. Curtis Hixon had won re-election three times. In recognition of his dedication, an auditorium and convention center beside the Hillsborough River were named in his honor. This area is now known as Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park.



JUNIE LEE YOUNG, JR.

Tampa's 46th Mayor

Acting

May 21, 1956 – October 2, 1956

Insurance Broker

Born: November 21, 1913, Tampa, Florida

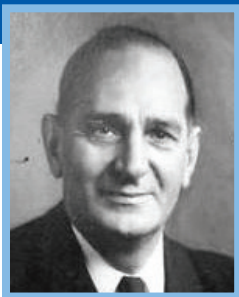
Died: 1968, Tampa, Florida

Born in Tampa, Florida, Young was the son of Junie Lee, Sr. and Aleta Chastain Young. J.L. Young, Jr. graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1931. Afterward, Young entered vocational school where he studied bookkeeping and business administration and took correspondence courses in insurance. On January 3, 1940, he married Margaret Virginia Diaz and the couple had two children. Young operated various retail businesses in the City and, in 1946, he helped to organize the Springs State Bank in Sulphur Springs, Florida. (Tampa annexed Sulphur Springs on April 28, 1953).

J.L. Young was active in politics as well as civic affairs and, on July 7, 1953, was elected to the Tampa City Council. On November 1, 1955, he became City Council President and, on May 21, 1956, Acting Mayor when Curtis Hixon passed away. Young campaigned for mayor but lost the election to Nick Nuccio by a narrow margin.

After his defeat, Young also served as a member of the Hillsborough County Zoning Board, Fire Control Board, and the Suburban Sanitary Sewer Board. He was also appointed Civilian Chief Air Warden for Hillsborough County. A member of the Tampa Chamber of Commerce and Committee of 100, Young helped establish the North Tampa Chamber of Commerce and served as its first president.

Junie Lee Young, Jr. passed away in Tampa in 1968.



NICK CHILLURA NUCCIO

Tampa's 47th Mayor

First Term

October 2, 1956 – October 1, 1959

Real Estate, Insurance Businessman

Born: October 24, 1901, Ybor City, Florida

Died: August 26, 1989, Tampa, Florida

Nick Nuccio was the son of Sicilian immigrants, Vincenzo (Vincent) and Rosalia Nuccio. He attended Hillsborough High School, until his sophomore year and went to work during the war years as a ship fitter. He later operated a real estate and insurance business. In 1926, he began work as a clerk in the post office. Nick Nuccio married Concetta Licata, his partner for 65 years, on July 6, 1924 and they had three children: Vincent, Rosalie (Lillie) and Marietta.

Nuccio first entered politics as a member of City Council (Board of Representatives) from Ybor City (1929 – 1936). He was one of the first politicians to attend a meeting in the African-American community at a time when they still did not have the right to vote. In 1937, he became a commissioner for Hillsborough County and served in this position until 1956.

In 1956, he became the first Latin to hold the office of mayor. During his first term as mayor, Nuccio initiated the construction of more bridges, parks, fire stations, and roads than any previous administration. The Fairyland Amusement Park and Lowry Park Zoo were built during his administration. He placed a high priority on the importance of more industries locating to Tampa and the construction of recreational facilities and parks. Mayor Nuccio is well known for placing benches throughout the City.

The City's 1957/58 budget totaled \$23 million, the largest in its history. The Nuccio administration funded construction of a new incinerator, a new library, and the purchase of the waterfront property between Lafayette and Cass streets from Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.



JULIAN BARNES LANE

Tampa's 48th Mayor
October 1, 1959 – October 1, 1963
Businessman, Dairyman

Born: October 21, 1914, Tampa, Florida

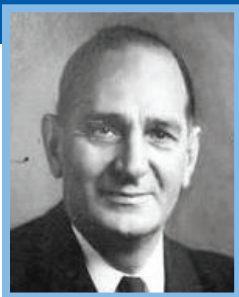
Died: May 4, 1997, Tampa, Florida

Julian Lane graduated from Hillsborough High School and the University of Florida with a degree in business administration. Lane married Frances LaMott on December 4, 1940. The couple had four children: Susan, Julian, Jr., Virginia, and William. With the United States' entry into World War II, Julian Lane was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served until February 28, 1946, when he was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, he established a successful dairy business, and later served as vice president of the Florida Dairymen's Association and president of the Tampa Bay Milk Producers.

During his administration, Lane had to contend with a depleted City treasury, the financial crisis of municipal hospitals and repairs, and expansion of the storm sewer system damage caused by Hurricane Donna. In response, the Lane administration established a program of cost cutting, merging departments and agencies, increasing tax revenue, and enforcing strict adherence to Civil Service hiring guidelines. As part of this program the Clara Frye Hospital was closed and its services merged with Tampa Municipal Hospital (Tampa General Hospital). The Bi-Racial Committee, the first in the state, was formed under his administration.

Mayor Lane and the City Council made improvements to the Davis Causeway public beach, purchased 12.7 acres of land along the Hillsborough River, and appointed a committee to study a construction proposal for Tampa Stadium. Further, Lane's administration implemented the Maryland Avenue Urban Renewal Project and built community centers in West Tampa, Interbay, and Forrest Hills.

In 1961, the Lane Administration helped to facilitate the annexation of the City of Port Tampa to the City of Tampa. In 1966, Lane was elected to the Florida State House and then the senate where he served until 1976. He returned to his dairy business and civic activities.



NICK CHILLURA NUCCIO

Tampa's 49th Mayor

Second Term

October 1, 1963 – October 3, 1967

Real Estate, Insurance Businessman

Born: October 24, 1901, Ybor City, Florida

Died: August 26, 1989, Tampa, Florida

Curtis Hixon Hall was built in 1965 during the administration of Mayor Nick Nuccio, who advocated for the construction of many public works projects. The building, named for Curtis Hixon, mayor of Tampa from 1943 until his death in 1956. The building was an indoor sports arena, concert venue, and special events center. It was demolished in 1993 and is now the site of Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, the Tampa Museum of Art, and the Glazer Children's Museum.

During his second term of office, Nuccio presented the City Council and voters with a plan for a county-wide hospital. This plan was defeated. He was successful in the construction of a new bridge to Davis Islands, extension of Interstate-75 (later Interstate-275) to North Tampa, and a \$34 million Tampa International Airport.

Gordon Keller Hospital (Tampa General Hospital) was expanded and Tampa Stadium was constructed through the efforts of the Tampa Sports Authority to provide a new stadium for the University of Tampa Spartans and in anticipation of securing a national football team for the city. The University of Tampa conferred upon him an honorary Doctorate of Humanities in 1966, in recognition of over 40 years of service to Tampa and Hillsborough County.



DICK GRECO

Tampa's 50th Mayor

First - Second Terms

October 3, 1967 – April 1, 1974

Businessman

Born: September 14, 1933, Tampa, Florida

Dick Greco, Jr. was the son of Dick Greco, Sr. (born in Santo Stefano, Sicily) and Evelyn Cotarelo Greco. He graduated from Hillsborough High School, attended the University of Florida, and holds a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Tampa. Greco has three children with his first wife, Dana. He is now married to Dr. Linda McClintock Greco.

Greco was a member of the City Council (1963-1967) and served as Vice-President of the King-Greco Hardware Company. He was 34 years of age when elected mayor, one of the youngest mayors of a major city. He was re-elected in 1971.

Under Mayor Greco's leadership, Tampa saw a substantial reduction in the crime rate and an increase in police department personnel. In November 1967, Tampa received federal planning funds under the Model Cities Program. Greco dealt with limited revenue, racial tensions, rising crime, urban renewal projects, and the shutdown of Tampa's privately operated bus line.

With support of the City Council, Greco secured funds from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners to enlarge the seating capacity of Tampa Stadium from 46,500 seats to 70,000 to accommodate the arrival of the Buccaneer's (1976) to Tampa. In addition, \$1.9 million was obtained from the county to expand the central public library system and site preparation was begun for the Hooker's Point sewage treatment plant.

When the Florida State Fair moved from downtown to its present location, Greco worked with State of Florida Representative Terrell Sessums (1963-1974) to acquire the old downtown fairgrounds for the University of Tampa. Catherine Barja, in 1971, was the first woman to be elected to the City Council. Amidst much surprise, Greco resigned as mayor in March 1974 to become vice president of the Edward DeBartolo Company.



RICHARD L. CHENEY

Tampa's 51st Mayor
Acting

April 1, 1974 – June 19, 1974

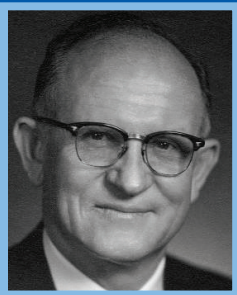
Insurance Businessman

Born: December 21, 1921, Ohio

Died: June 20, 1974, Tampa, Florida

Richard Cheney was born in Ohio and moved to Tampa in 1953. He was married with three children. Prior to his election to Tampa's City Council in 1967, he had been in the insurance business. Cheney served as City Council President from October 3, 1967 through September 30, 1971 and again from October 1, through April 1, 1974 when he was sworn in as Acting Mayor following Dick Greco's resignation.

During his brief time in this position, he made a great deal of progress. The Tampa By-Pass Canal received funding, and a pension provision for police officers and fire personnel was passed. Other progress included the acquisition of two professional sports teams: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Tampa Bay Rowdies. Cheney served as Acting Mayor for ten weeks when he suffered a heart attack just prior to speaking at a luncheon. He passed away in Tampa on June 19, 1974.



LLOYD COPELAND

Tampa's 52nd Mayor
Acting

June 19, 1974 – October 3, 1974

Supermarket Owner

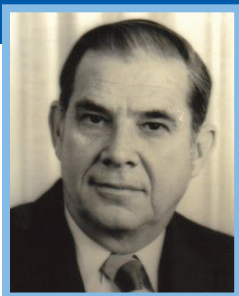
Born: February 23, 1907, Polk County, Florida

Died: May 17, 1998, Tampa, Florida

William Lloyd Copeland was born in Polk County, Florida and, as a boy, sold farm produce by the roadside. He later devised a means by which he purchased produce from farmers and then sold it on the streets in Tampa and from house-to-house. In 1934, Copeland opened a small produce market on East Hillsborough Ave and twelve years later, a supermarket on the same site. He was also one of the founders of the Tampa Wholesale Produce Market, board member and its Vice President for more than 20 years.

Elected to City Council in 1959, Copeland was a deeply religious man who opposed issuing liquor licenses and was a strong supporter of taxpayers. He served as Vice Chairman of City Council and, from 1974 1975, as Chairman. With the passing of Richard Cheney on June 19, 1974, Copeland became acting mayor to complete Dick Greco's term. During Copeland's brief tenure, he appointed the Tampa's first Police Advisory Committee, instituted a \$5.5 million crash sewer treatment program, hired new city auditors and helped pass the City's budget. He also persuaded Hillsborough County to co-underwrite the cost to renovate Tampa's playgrounds.

After William Poe was elected mayor, Copeland returned to City Council where he served for the next twenty-four years. In 1981, Copeland became the Vice-Mayor of Tampa until retiring in 1984. Lloyd Copeland passed away in Tampa on May 17, 1998.



WILLIAM F. POE

Tampa's 53rd Mayor
October 3, 1974 – October 3, 1979
Businessman, Insurance Executive

Born: July 22, 1931, Tampa, Florida

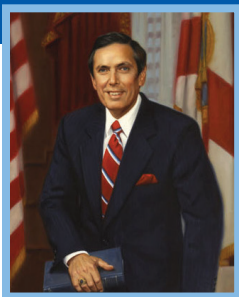
Died: May 1, 2014, Tampa, Florida

William Poe attended Hillsborough County public schools in the Seminole Heights neighborhood. At Hillsborough High School, he served as student body president, president of the Key Club, and treasurer of the senior class. Poe attended Duke University and the University of Florida where he received a B. A. in business administration. In 1956, after serving in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Tampa and established the W.F. Poe Insurance Company.

After the special election in October 1974 and re-election in 1975, William Poe initiated a major revitalization of downtown Tampa. As part of his plan, Poe secured the City Council's approval to invest \$20 million in public works programs that included street and drainage improvements, a city hall annex, and a riverside cultural center. He also persuaded the City Council to implement a \$35 million program to expand Tampa's water system. Poe cracked down on the growing number of massage parlors, prostitution, and street people. To strengthen the presence of police, he outfitted the department with a new fleet of patrol cars.

In 1975, with the mayor's backing, Tampa Stadium would become the home of the Tampa Bay Rowdies. The team won the North American Soccer League championship in their inaugural year and would play 10 seasons in the stadium.

After his term as mayor, Poe returned to the insurance business. He and Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Blackburn Poe were married for nearly 60 years and had five children. William F. Poe, Sr. served as chairman of the Florida-based property and casualty insurance company of Poe & Associates, which he founded in 1996.



ROBERT (BOB) MARTINEZ

Tampa's 54th Mayor

October 1, 1979 – July 16, 1986

Educator, Labor Relations Consultant,

Governor of Florida

Born: December 25, 1934, Tampa, Florida

Governor Bob Martinez is the son of Serafin Martinez and Ida Carreño Martinez. He attended Hillsborough County Public Schools and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1953. The following year, he married high school sweetheart Mary Jane Marino. They have two children, Sharon Marie and Robert Alan, and five grandchildren named Emily Ida Keen, Lydia Marie Keen, Robert Alejandro Martinez, Christine Ysabel Martinez and Frank Serafin Martinez.

In 1957 Martinez received his B.S. in social science from the University of Tampa. Upon graduating, he taught social studies at Oak Grove Junior High and Chamberlain High Schools. In 1964 he received a M.A. in labor and industrial relations from the University of Illinois. From 1964 to 1966 he represented management in labor and industrial relations matters and in 1966 he became executive director of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers. In mid 1975 Martinez bought Café Sevilla Spanish Restaurant and Florida Governor Ruben Askew appointed him to the Southwest Florida Water Management District. He managed Café Sevilla and served on the SWFWMD board until elected Mayor of Tampa in 1979.

Bob Martinez served as Tampa's Mayor from 1979 to 1986. His administration is credited with the construction of the Performing Arts Center, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Refuse to Energy facility, restoration of historic City Hall, downtown Tampa economic revitalization, annexation of new Tampa, promotion of the development of Westshore and redevelopment of West Tampa and Ybor City.

Mayor Martinez resigned his office in 1986 to run for governor of Florida. His Preservation 2000 Environmental Land Acquisition Program was the nation's largest land-purchasing program. Martinez works in the private sector and is active in numerous community organizations.



SANDRA WARSHAW FREEDMAN

Tampa's 55th Mayor
July 16, 1986 – April 1, 1995
Public Administration

Born: September 21, 1943, Newark, New Jersey

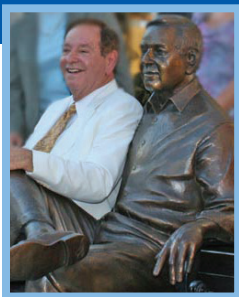
Sandra Warshaw Freedman moved with her family to Tampa when she was two years old. Freedman graduated with a degree in government from the University of Miami (Florida) and was a former city, state and Florida intercollegiate tennis champion. She married Michael Freedman, an attorney. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Freedman served on the City Council (1974 – July 1986) and was the first woman to serve as chair (1983 – July 1986). When Bob Martinez resigned to run for governor, Freedman, as chair of the council, became acting mayor to complete the remainder of his term. She became the first woman to serve as mayor. Tampa citizens elected her to two additional terms in office (1987-1991 and 1991-1995).

Mayor Freedman initiated a task force to halt the escalating drug crime rate; supported police in dismantling “crack houses” and their attack on drugs through the Quick Uniformed Attack on Drugs Squad (Q.U.A.D.), which enabled residents to alert police of suspected drug sales through the use of beepers. These programs resulted in a significant decline in the crime rate for three consecutive years.

She revitalized the housing and urban development agency by creating the Mayor's Challenge Fund, a public-private partnership and she created community programs such as Paint Your Heart Out and the first Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program, which encouraged greater minority participation in city contracts. Mayor Freedman was instrumental in Tampa Heights building and redevelopment projects, the development of the Florida Aquarium, and the construction of the Tampa Convention Center.

During her administration city-wide recycling and water conservation programs were established. In 1990, Tampa was designated the “All-American City.” Sandy Freedman is retired and remains actively involved in community affairs.



DICK GRECO

Tampa's 56th Mayor

Third - Fourth Terms

April 1, 1995 – April 1, 2003

Businessman

Born: September 14, 1933, Tampa, Florida

After more than 20 years in the private sector, Dick Greco returned to Tampa politics and was reelected as mayor on April 1, 1995. He went on to serve two consecutive terms as mayor (1995-1999 and 1999-2003), which gave him the distinction of being one of the only mayors to serve four terms. He remained mayor until 2003 when he could not run for reelection due to term limits.

During his time in office, Greco's administration focused on capital improvements, the commercial development of Ybor City including Centro Ybor, and the Channelside district. He pushed for a half-penny sales community investment tax that helped build Raymond James Stadium and also fund police, fire, and parks redevelopment. Significant advancements took place during his time in office. Raymond James Stadium was built in 1998, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers went on to win the 2003 Super Bowl. He successfully drew many businesses to the area and encouraged the expansion of college campuses. Hillsborough County Community College completed a successful Ybor City campus expansion in 1999, and Stetson University College of Law secured a location for a campus in downtown Tampa.

Mayor Greco expanded the police force and created sixteen specialized programs to combat crime. As a result, there was an overall reduction in crime during his terms. In 2003, he received the Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award from Hillsborough County. This award is given to a current or former government official or civic leader for improving government through leadership and vision.

Dedicated on May 29, 2008, the Dick Greco Plaza transportation center honors the former mayor of Tampa who was instrumental in bringing the streetcars back to the city.



PAM IORIO

Tampa's 57th Mayor
April 1, 2003 – April 1, 2011
Public Administration

Born: April 27, 1959, Waterville, Maine

Pam Iorio was the 57th Mayor of Tampa, sworn into office on April 1, 2003. She attended Hillsborough County public schools and graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., with a B.S. degree in Political Science. Pam Iorio also earned a M.A. degree in History from the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2001. She is married to Mark Woodard and they have two children, Caitlin and Graham.

Mayor Iorio began her political career at the age of 26, when she became the youngest person ever elected to the Hillsborough County Commission (1985-1992). A year later she became chairman. After serving two terms on the County Commission, Pam Iorio was elected three times to the office of the Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County (1993-2003). In 2000, she was elected President of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, becoming the spokesperson for the supervisors during the 2000 presidential election. In 2002, for her work in the area of election reform, she was presented the Leadership Florida Distinguished Alumnus Award, which recognizes statewide leadership in bettering the lives of Floridians.

Mayor Iorio focused on downtown redevelopment with an emphasis on the waterfront. The master plan for the Tampa Riverwalk was completed with major segments constructed. The Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park was built, along with the Glazer Children's Museum and the new Tampa Museum of Art. In the Channel District the Tampa Bay History Center was built on city land, and the waterfront park extended into Channelside.

Neighborhood improvements were a priority with an emphasis on parks, stormwater and transportation – a highlight being the \$100 million 40th Street project. Crime dropped 61.5% in eight years and Iorio appointed Jane Castor as Tampa's first female Chief of Police. Iorio formed the Mayor's Youth Corps, a service-oriented program for Tampa teens. She left office with a tripling of financial reserves to \$150 million even in the aftermath of a recession.



BOB BUCKHORN

Tampa's 58th Mayor
April 1, 2011 – April 30, 2019
Public Administration

Born: July 29, 1958, Evanston, Illinois

Bob Buckhorn was elected as the 58th mayor of Tampa, where he led over 4,300 dedicated, hard-working, and forward-thinking civil servants. Buckhorn is a proud alumnus of Penn State University where he was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award in the College of Liberal Arts. He was first introduced to the Office of the Mayor in 1987, where he served as Mayor Sandra Warshaw Freedman's Special Assistant. In 1991, he was selected to Chair the MacDill Reuse Advisory Committee and led the effort to save MacDill Air Force Base from closure. In 1995, Buckhorn began his first of two terms on the Tampa City Council, where he gained citywide recognition for his leadership, initiative, and progressive policies.

On April 1, 2011, Bob Buckhorn was elected Mayor of Tampa. During his time in office, Mayor Buckhorn led the city out of largest recession since the great depression. Under his leadership, the City of Tampa had thirteen credit rating increases. After four successful years, Mayor Buckhorn was reelected to a second term on March 3, 2015. During his second term, he made it a priority to focus on public safety, strong neighborhoods and economic growth while working diligently to improve the overall quality of life in our community. Through Mayor Buckhorn's vision, the Hillsborough River became the city's center point with the completion of the Tampa Riverwalk. During his time in office, Tampa's crime rate dropped by over 40%. Mayor Buckhorn laid the foundation for Tampa to compete with other top tier cities by fostering a culture of inclusiveness, responsiveness, and determination. Mayor Buckhorn has received a number of awards for his achievements and dedication to the community.

Married to Dr. Cathy Lynch Buckhorn, and he is the father of two outstanding young women, Grace and Colleen. It has been his personal goal to create a city in Tampa that is dynamic enough that, after exploring the country, his own kids will choose to return to live, work, and raise their families.



JANE CASTOR

Tampa's 59th Mayor
May 1, 2019 – Present
Public Administration

Born: December 7, 1959, Tampa, Florida

Jane Castor is the 59th Mayor of the City of Tampa. A Tampa native, she graduated from Chamberlain High School, and attended the University of Tampa on an athletic scholarship. Castor is a 31-year veteran of the Tampa Police Department. In October of 2009, Castor became the first woman to be named Police Chief in the City of Tampa, serving for six years in that role. During her time as a senior staff member, Castor worked to reduce major crimes by 70% citywide. Community outreach was a cornerstone of her career. To that end, Castor developed and implemented an enhanced Citizen Academy, and created RISE Tampa, a foundation aimed at providing law enforcement training and equipment not available through budgetary means.

Jane Castor has participated as a member of the Gracepoint Mental Health and Wellness Board of Directors, Starting Right Now Board of Directors, RISE Tampa Founder and Board Chair, Bike Walk Tampa Bay Board Chair, and The Athena Society Board of Directors and GTE Financial Supervisory Committee. She is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and a Police Foundation Fellow.

On a national and local level, Jane Castor is recognized for her leadership in both law enforcement and community involvement. She is honored to have been the recipient of numerous awards including the 2015 University of South Florida President's Distinguished Citizen Award, 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police, 2014 Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Woman of Influence, Leadership Tampa Alumni Parke Wright III Leadership Award, 2014 Florida Holocaust Museum's Lobenberg Humanitarian Award, 2013 Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's Community Advocate Award, 2011 Tampa Connection's Betty Tribble Citizen of the Year Award, 2010 University of Tampa Alumni Achievement Award, 2009 National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executive's Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award, 2007 Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award, and the 2006 University of Tampa University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Jane Castor is a proud Seminole Heights resident where she raised her two sons, Sergei and Seely.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TAMPA'S MAYORS

Longest Serving Mayors:

D.B. McKay - 38th and 42nd Mayor (June 4, 1910 - June 5, 1920 and January 3, 1928 - October 27, 1931)

Dick Greco - 50th and 56th Mayor (October 1, 1967 - April 1, 1974 and April 1, 1995 - April 1, 2003)

Most Non - Consecutive Terms in Office:

Herman Glogowski - 21st, 23rd, 25th and 27th Mayor - 4 one - year terms

First Latin to Serve as Mayor:

Nick Nuccio - 47th and 49th Mayor (Oct. 1, 1956 - Oct. 1, 1959 and Oct. 1, 1963 - Oct. 1, 1967)

First Hispanic of Spanish Ancestry to Serve as Mayor:

Robert Martinez - 54th Mayor (Oct. 1, 1979 - July 16, 1986)

First Woman to Serve as Mayor:

Sandra Freedman - 55th Mayor (July 17, 1986 - April 1, 1987 and April 1, 1987 - April 1, 1995)

First Tampa Native to Serve as Mayor:

Thomas Jackson - 15th and 24th Mayor (August 14, 1877 - August 14, 1878 and March 6, 1889 - March 5, 1890)

Mayors who Died in Office:

Joseph Lancaster - 1st Mayor (Feb. 14, 1856 - Nov. 25, 1856)

Curtis Hixon - 45th Mayor (Nov. 3, 1943 - May 21, 1956)

R.L. Cheney - 51st Mayor (April 1, 1974 - June 19, 1974)

Mayors who Resigned:

Henry C. Ferris - 17th Mayor (August 14, 1880 - Feb. 19, 1881)

Dick Greco - 50th Mayor (Oct. 1, 1967 - April 1, 1974)

Robert Martinez - 54th Mayor (Oct. 1, 1979 - July 16, 1986)

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TAMPA'S MAYORS

Father/Son Mayors:

Father: Madison Post - 5th Mayor (Feb. 10, 1858 - Feb. 12, 1859)

Son: Duff Post - 20th and 23rd Mayor (Aug. 14, 1883 - Aug. 13, 1886 and March 4, 1891 - March 4, 1892)

Father: John Jackson - 9th Mayor (Feb. 3, 1862 - Feb. 22, 1862)

Son: Thomas Jackson - 15th and 24th Mayor (Aug. 14, 1877 - Aug. 14, 1878 and March 6, 1889 - March 5, 1890)

Father: James McKay, Sr. - 6th Mayor (Feb. 12, 1859 - Feb. 1, 1860)

Son: James McKay, Jr. - 34th Mayor (June 5, 1902 - June 5, 1904)

D.B. McKay - 38th and 42nd Mayor was the nephew of Mayor James McKay, Jr. and grandson of Mayor James McKay, Sr.

Tampa Mayors Who Served on City Council:

Darwin Austen Branch - 2nd and 4th Mayor: 1856-1857

J. Alfonso DeLaunay - 3rd Mayor: 1859-1860

John Jackson - 9th Mayor: 1857-1858; 1860-1861

Edward A. Clarke - 10th Mayor: 1856-1857; 1873-1874; 1877-1878; 1879-1880; 1881-1882; 1882-1883.

Josiah Ferris - 11th Mayor: 1866; 1873-1874

James E. Lipscomb - 13th Mayor: 1879-1880

Thomas Edward Jackson - 15th Mayor: 1875-1876; 1881-1882; 1885-1886; 1886-1887; 1888-1889.

Dr. John P. Wall - 16th Mayor: 1881-1882; 1882-1883; 1885-1886; 1886-1887; 1888-1889; 1894-1895.

M.E. Haynsworth - 18th Mayor: 1880-1881

George Bascom Sparkman - 19th and 22nd Mayor: 1884-1885; 1885-1886; 1891-1892.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TAMPA'S MAYORS

Duff Post - 20th and 26th Mayor: 1889-1890.

Herman Glogowski - 21st, 23rd, 25th, and 27th Mayor: 1891.

Frederick A. Salomonson - 28th, 30th, and 35th Mayor: 1889-1890; 1892-1893.

Perry G. Wall, Jr.: 1890-1891; 1895-1896.

Frances Lyman Wing - 33rd and 37th Mayor: 1898-1900.

William H. Frecker - 36th Mayor: 1898-1900; 1900-1902.

Thomas N. Henderson - 43rd Mayor: 1928-1929; 1929-1931.

Curtis Hixon - 45th Mayor: 1929-1931; 1931-1933; 1933-1935; 1935-1937

Junie Lee Young, Jr. - 46th Mayor: 1955-1959 (note: he served as Acting Mayor from May 21-October 3 in 1956).

Nick Chillura Nuccio - 47th and 49th Mayor: 1929-1931; 1931-1933; 1933-1935; 1935-1936

Dick Greco - 50th and 56th Mayor: 1963-1967

Richard L. Cheney - 51st Mayor: 1967-1971; 1971-1974.

Lloyd Copeland - 52nd Mayor: 1959-1963; 1963-1967; 1967-1971; 1971-1975 (note: he served as Acting Mayor from June 19, 1974 - October 3, 1974); 1975-1979; 1979-1983.

Sandra Warshaw Freedman - 55th Mayor: 1974-1975; 1975-1979; 1979-1983; 1983-1987

Bob Buckhorn - 58th Mayor: 1995-1999; 1999-2003

Some of the Mayors Who Also Served as City Employees:

John A. Henderson, City Clerk

Josiah Ferris - 11th Mayor: City Clerk

John Thomas Lesley - 12th Mayor: City Marshal

Duff Post - 20th and 26th Mayor: City Marshal

Bob Buckhorn - 58th Mayor: Special Assistant to Mayor Sandra Warshaw Freedman

Jane Castor - 59th Mayor: Police Chief

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