



Governor's Inn Audio Presentation Script

Welcome to Governor's Inn. This building was built around 1912 in the small country town of Lilly. There, it served as a post office and general store for many years. It houses a complete collection of oil portraits of Florida Governors dating from 1821 to the present.

Looking to your left, you'll see our first governor, General Andrew Jackson. In 1821 he was appointed by President Monroe, as United States Commissioner and Governor of the Territories of East and West Florida, to oversee the transition of Spain ceding Florida to the United States. Seven years later, Andrew Jackson became seventh President of the United States.

Six portraits down, is Florida's first Governor, under statehood, William Dunn Mosley. The date was 1845. He was the first elected governor.

Along the wall from Governor Mosley are four portraits, all with the date 1865; the year the Civil War ended. The first portrait shows John Milton, Florida's fifth governor, elected in 1861. Milton was instrumental in Florida's early secession from the Union. Distraught when the South went down to defeat, Milton took his life April 1, 1865, preferring death to reunion.

Abraham K. Allison became sixth governor. He was Senate President on April 1st, when Governor Milton died. His last official act was dated May 19, 1865 one day before Union troops formally occupied Tallahassee. Allison was taken into custody and imprisoned at Ft. Pulaski, together with other Confederate officials.

He was replaced by the seventh provisional governor, William Marvin, who was appointed by President Andrew Johnson. He stayed five months. Before the year ended, on December 20, 1865, David Shelby Walker became eighth governor. Walker faced the difficult task of restoring civil government during a military occupation.

Now, on the back wall is another governor who sat during an extremely critical period in Florida history, this one in peacetime: Doyle E. Carlton, Florida's 25th governor. He served from 1929 until 1933. Major disasters took place; a hurricane, the fly pest and the worldwide depression. The state had no money. Everyone was suffering through pay reductions and it's noteworthy that Governor Carlton, on taking office, voluntarily cut his own salary from \$9,000 to \$7,500.

Continuing on the next wall, we're looking at governors from 1893 to 1990. You'll notice three paintings with overlapping dates. In 1953, Dan McCarty was elected the state's 31st governor. He was inaugurated in January but suffered a disabling heart attack in February. He passed away that September. Charlie Johns, President of the Senate, became 32nd Governor. Then in 1955, LeeRoy Collins was elected as Florida's 33rd Governor, to finish Dan McCarty's unexpired term. He was re-elected governor in 1956. Collins was recognized as a strong leader for public education. He led the state through the turbulent early days of the Civil Rights movement, resulting in the smoothest transition to desegregation of any southern state. Governor Collins served one and a half terms. Successive full elected terms were not allowed until a Constitutional amendment was passed in 1968.

The first Florida Governor to serve two full successive terms was Reuben Askew, our 37th governor, elected in 1970 and 1974. Governor Askew stated that tax reform was the top priority in his first administration. With the people's approval he established a state corporate income tax and repealed some consumer taxes. During his second term, the Sunshine Amendment, requiring full financial disclosure by state constitutional officers and candidates, was ratified by 75% of the voters.

When Bob Graham was sworn in as U.S. Senator in 1986, the gentleman in the next portrait, then Lieutenant Governor Wayne Mixon stepped into the role of Governor. He had the shortest tenure on record since he was in office only three days before Governor Martinez was inaugurated.

The portrait on the front wall honors the memory of Mildred W. and Doyle E. Carlton, Jr. Cracker Country was founded out of their vision and commitment for the preservation of rural Florida history. The museum continues to be supported today through their love and generosity.

We hope you have enjoyed these highlights of Florida history. Please take your time and enjoy all the portraits.