

Owensboro Mayors



By Jerry Long

From book, Mayors of Owensboro, Kentucky, Jerry Long, (Owensboro, KY: Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 1988, catalog # KR 976.9865 Mayo) and subsequent updates :

		Born	Died
1866	Edward S. Ayres	(ca 1807	- 18 Apr 1866)
1866-1872	Samuel Dyson Kennady	(3 Jul 1823	- 21 Sep 1899)
1872-1874	Benjamin Bransford	(1 Dec 1819	- 11 Jun 1892)
1874-1878	George Brown	(ca 1828	- 23 Jul 1889)
1878-1880	John Thixton	(17 Mar 1834	- 23 May 1914)
1880-1884	James K. Tharp	(18 Mar 1845	- 31 Aug 1912)
1884-1890	Joseph (Jo) Lee	(3 Oct 1843	- 10 Feb 1908)
1890-1897	James Hardin Hickman	(17 Mar 1852	- 9 Jan 1931)
1897-1901	Worden Pope Small	(3 Aug 1840	- 12 Nov 1906)
1901-1905	Martin Yewell	(22 Dec 1853	- 3 Jan 1924)
1905-1909	William Meigs O'Bryan	(29 May 1864	- 23 May 1930)
1909-1913	Stinson Lambert	(31 Jan 1852	- 26 Jan 1921)
1913-1918	James Hardin Hickman	(17 Mar 1852	- 9 Jan 1931)
1918-1922	John Caldwell Calhoun	(1 Jul 1873	- 13 Jun 1928)

1922-1926	James Hardin Hickman	(17 Mar 1852 - 9 Jan 1931)
1926-1930	James Robert Beck	(4 May 1862 - 17 Jun 1930)
1930-1934	John Alexander Logan Meredith	(28 Feb 1885 - 8 Jan 1975)
1934-1938	Fred Lawrence Weir	(6 Apr 1885 - 7 Sep 1952)
1938-1942	Harry Charles Smith	(30 May 1894 - 31 Aug 1943)
1942-1946	Fred Lawrence Weir	(6 Apr 1885 - 7 Sep 1952)
1946-1950	Glenn Adams Lovern	(11 Feb 1910 - 24 May 1991)
1950-1952	Fred Lawrence Weir	(6 Apr 1885 - 7 Sep 1952)
1952-1954	LeRoy Woodward	(7 Jul 1913 - 9 Mar 1986)
1954-1958	Casper (Cap) Steinmetz Gardner	(29 Nov 1915 - 12 Feb 2007)
1958-1964	Benjamin Walker Hawes	(24 Aug 1909 - 8 Feb 1988)
1964-1967	Dugan Best	(7 Nov 1897 - 11 Apr 1967)
1967-1972	Irvin Bruner Terrill	(19 Jan 1909 - 12 Feb 1974)
1972-1976	Cloran Waitman Taylor	(18 Sep 1927 - 25 Jan 2019)
1976-1980	John (Jack) Calhoun Fisher	(8 Jul 1928 - 27 Nov 2005)
1980-1984	James (J. R.) Rufus Miller	(31 Mar 1916 - 18 Feb 2003)
1984-1988	John (Jack) Calhoun Fisher	(8 Jul 1928 - 27 Nov 2005)
1988-1995	David Cyrus Adkisson	(11 Sep 1953 -)
1995-2005	Waymond O'Dell Morris	(21 Feb 1936 - 10 May 2018)
2005-2009	Thomas Hart Watson	(15 Nov 1950 -)
2009-2017	Ronald Leon Payne	(26 Apr 1946 -)
2017-	Thomas Hart Watson	(15 Nov 1950 -)

Mayors of Owensboro, Kentucky

From To
9 Apr 1866 - 18 Apr 1866

E. S. Ayres



elected: Monday, 2 Apr 1866
Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 4 Apr 1866, p3
took office: Monday, 9 Apr 1866
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p1
died in office: Wednesday, 18 Apr 1866
Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 25 Apr 1866, p3

24 May 1866 - 13 Apr 1868

Samuel D. Kennady



took office: Thursday, 24 May 1866
(tendered his commission from the Governor;
in late election was the contending candidate)
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p21;
Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 13 Jun 1866, p3

13 Apr 1868 - 14 Apr 1870

Samuel D. Kennady



elected: Monday, 6 Apr 1868
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p141
took office: Monday, 13 Apr 1868
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p144

14 Apr 1870 - 11 Apr 1872

Samuel D. Kennady



elected: Monday, 4 Apr 1870
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p259
took office: Thursday, 14 Apr 1870
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p260

11 Apr 1872 - 16 Apr 1874

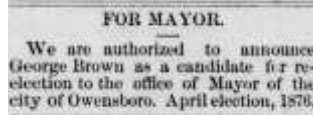
Benjamin Bransford



elected: Monday, 1 Apr 1872
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p396
took office: Thursday, 11 Apr 1872
City Commission Minute Book 1866-1871, p398

16 Apr 1874 - 13 Apr 1876

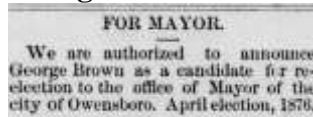
George Brown



elected: Monday, 6 Apr 1874
Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 8 Apr 1874, p3
took office: Thursday, 16 Apr 1874
Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 22 Apr 1874, p3

13 Apr 1876 - 11 Apr 1878

George Brown



elected: Monday, 3 Apr 1876
Owensboro Examiner, Friday, 7 Apr 1876, p5
took office: Thursday, 13 Apr 1876
Owensboro Examiner, Friday, 14 Apr 1876, p8

11 Apr 1878 - 15 Apr 1880

John Thixton



elected: Monday, 1 Apr 1878
Owensboro Examiner, Friday, 5 Apr 1878, p5
took office: Thursday, 11 Apr 1878
Owensboro Examiner, Friday, 19 Apr 1878, p5

15 Apr 1880 - 13 Apr 1882

James K. Tharp



elected: Monday, 5 Apr 1880
Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner,
Tuesday, 6 Apr 1880, p3
took office: Thursday, 15 Apr 1880
Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner,
Tuesday, 20 Apr 1880, p2

13 Apr 1882 - 15 Dec 1884

James K. Tharp

City Democratic Ticket.
For Mayor.
JAMES K. THARP.

elected: Monday, 3 Apr 1882
Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner,
Tuesday, 4 Apr 1882, p4
took office: Thursday, 13 Apr 1882
Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner,
Friday, 14 Apr 1882, p4

15 Dec 1884 - 20 Dec 1886

Joseph Lee



elected: Monday, 1 Dec 1884
Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 2 Dec 1884, p4
took office: Monday, 15 Dec 1884
Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 16 Dec 1884, p4

20 Dec 1886 - 17 Dec 1888

Joseph Lee



elected: Monday, 6 Dec 1886
Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 7 Dec 1886, p4
took office: Monday, 20 Dec 1886
Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 21 Dec 1886, p1

17 Dec 1888 - 15 Dec 1890

Joseph Lee



elected: Monday, 3 Dec 1888

Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 4 Dec 1888, p4
took office: Monday, 17 Dec 1888
City Commission Minute Book 1888-1893, p28

15 Dec 1890 - 19 Dec 1892

James H. Hickman



elected: Monday, 1 Dec 1890
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Dec 1890, p2
took office: Monday, 15 Dec 1890
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 16 Dec 1890, p1

19 Dec 1892 - 4 Dec 1893

James H. Hickman



elected: Monday, 5 Dec 1892
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 6 Dec 1892, p2
took office: Monday, 19 Dec 1892
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 20 Dec 1892, p1

4 Dec 1893 - 2 Dec 1895

James H. Hickman



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1893
Owensboro Messenger, Thursday, 9 Nov 1893, p1;
City Commission Minute Book 1893-1897, p49
took office: Monday, 4 Dec 1893
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 5 Dec 1893, p1
City Commission Minute Book 1893-1897, p56

2 Dec 1895 - 6 Dec 1897

James H. Hickman



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1895
Owensboro Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1895, p1
took office: Monday, 2 Dec 1895
Owensboro Inquirer, Tuesday, 3 Dec 1895, p1

6 Dec 1897 - 2 Dec 1901

Worden P. Small



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1897
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1897, p1A
took office: Monday, 6 Dec 1897
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 7 Dec 1897, p5
note: 1898 Charter of the City of
Owensboro changed mayor's term from 2 to 4 years

2 Dec 1901 - 4 Dec 1905

Martin Yewell



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1901
Owensboro Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1901, p1A
took office: Monday, 2 Dec 1901
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 3 Dec 1901, p1A

4 Dec 1905 - 6 Dec 1909

William M. O'Bryan



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1905
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 8 Nov 1905, p1A
 took office: Monday, 4 Dec 1905
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 5 Dec 1905, p1A

6 Dec 1909 - 1 Dec 1913

Stinson Lambert



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1909
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1909, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Dec 1909
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 7 Dec 1909, p1A

1 Dec 1913 - 7 Jan 1918

James H. Hickman



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1913
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 5 Nov 1913, p1A
 took office: Monday, 1 Dec 1913
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Dec 1913, p1A

7 Jan 1918 - 2 Jan 1922

John C. Calhoon



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1917
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 7 Nov 1917, p1A
 took office: Monday, 7 Jan 1918
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 8 Jan 1918, p1A
 City Commission Minute Book 1917-1918, p417

2 Jan 1922 - 4 Jan 1926

James H. Hickman



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1921
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1921, p1A
 took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1922
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 3 Jan 1922, p1A

4 Jan 1926 - 6 Jan 1930

James R. Beck



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 1925
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 4 Nov 1925, p1A
 took office: Monday, 4 Jan 1926
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 5 Jan 1926, p10A

6 Jan 1930 - 1 Jan 1934

Logan Meredith



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1929
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1929, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1930
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 7 Jan 1930, p1A

1 Jan 1934 - 3 Jan 1938

Fred L. Weir



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1933
 Owensboro Messenger, Thursday, 9 Nov 1933, p1A
 took office: Monday, 1 Jan 1934
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Jan 1934, p1A

3 Jan 1938 - 5 Jan 1942

Harry C. Smith



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1937
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1937, p1A
 took office: Monday, 3 Jan 1938
 Owensboro Inquirer, Monday, 3 Jan 1938, p1A

5 Jan 1942 - 7 Jan 1946

Fred L. Weir



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1941
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 5 Nov 1941, p1A
took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1942
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 6 Jan 1942, p1A

7 Jan 1946 - 2 Jan 1950

Glenn Lovern



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1945
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 7 Nov 1945, p1A
took office: Monday, 7 Jan 1946
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 8 Jan 1946, p1A

2 Jan 1950 - 7 Sep 1952

Fred L. Weir



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1949
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1949, p1A
took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1950
Owensboro Messenger, Sunday, 25 Dec 1949, p14B
& Tuesday, 3 Jan 1950, p1A
Died in office: Sunday, 7 Sep 1952
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 9 Sep 1952, p1A

7 Sep 1952 - 4 Jan 1954

LeRoy Woodward



took office: Sunday, 7 Sep 1952
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 9 Sep 1952, p1A
 (Mayor Pro Tem became interim Mayor)

4 Jan 1954 - 6 Jan 1958

Casper S. Gardner



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 1953
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 4 Nov 1953, p1A
 took office: Monday, 4 Jan 1954
 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 5 Jan 1954, p1A

6 Jan 1958 - 4 Jan 1960

Benjamin W. Hawes



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1957
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1957, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1958
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 7 Jan 1958, p1A

4 Jan 1960 - 6 Jan 1964

Benjamin W. Hawes



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 1959
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 4 Nov 1959, p1A
 note: In 1958-59 a state law changed when
 mayors of 2nd class cities were to be elected, thus after
 serving only two years Mayor Hawes was re-elected
 took office: Monday, 4 Jan 1960
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 5 Jan 1960, p1A

6 Jan 1964 - 11 Apr 1967

Dugan Best



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1963
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1963, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1964
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 7 Jan 1964, p1A
 died in office: Tuesday, 11 Apr 1967
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 12 Apr 1967, p1A

11 Apr 1967 - 1 Jan 1968

Irvin B. Terrill



took office: Tuesday, 11 Apr 1967
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 12 Apr 1967, p1A
 (Mayor Pro Tem became interim Mayor)

1 Jan 1968 - 3 Jan 1972

Irvin B. Terrill



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1967
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 1967, p1A
 took office: Monday, 1 Jan 1968
 Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 31 Dec 1967, p7B
 (sworn in 28 Dec 1967 & took office 1 Jan 1968)

3 Jan 1972 - 5 Jan 1976

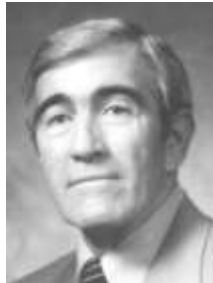
Waitman Taylor



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1971
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1971, p1A
 took office: Monday, 3 Jan 1972
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 4 Jan 1972, p1A

5 Jan 1976 - 7 Jan 1980

Jack Fisher



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1975
 Messenger-Inquirer, Monday, 3 Nov 1975, p8B
 took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1976
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 6 Jan 1976, p1A

7 Jan 1980 - 2 Jan 1984

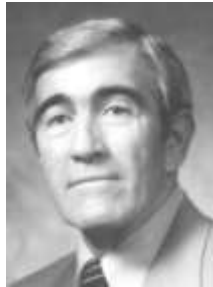
J. R. Miller



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1979
 Messenger-Inquirer, Monday, 7 Nov 1979, p1A
 took office: Monday, 7 Jan 1980
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 8 Jan 1980, p1A

2 Jan 1984 - 5 Jan 1988

Jack Fisher



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1983
 Messenger-Inquirer, Monday, 9 Nov 1983, p1A
 took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1984
 Messenger-Inquirer, Thursday, 5 Jan 1984, p1C

5 Jan 1988 - 6 Jan 1992

David C. Adkisson



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 1987
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 4 Nov 1987, p1A
 took office: Tuesday, 5 Jan 1988
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Jan 1988, p1A

6 Jan 1992 - 2 May 1995

David C. Adkisson



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1991
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1991, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1992
 Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 5 Jan 1992, p1A
 resigned: Tuesday, 2 May 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 30 Apr 1995, p3C

2 May 1995 - 2 Jan 1996

Waymond Morris



took office: Tuesday, 2 May 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 May 1995, p1C
 (Mayor Pro Tem became interim Mayor)

2 Jan 1996 - 2 Jan 2001

Waymond Morris



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 1995, p1A
 took office: Tuesday, 2 Jan 1996
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 Jan 1996, p8C

2 Jan 2001 - 4 Jan 2005

Waymond Morris



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 2000
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 2000, p1C
took office: Tuesday, 2 Jan 2001
Messenger-Inquirer, Thursday, 4 Jan 2001, p3C

4 Jan 2005 - 6 Jan 2009

Tom Watson



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 2004
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 Nov 2004, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 4 Jan 2005
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 5 Jan 2005, p1A

6 Jan 2009 - 3 Jan 2013

Ron Payne



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 2008
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 5 Nov 2008, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 6 Jan 2009
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 7 Jan 2009, p1A

3 Jan 2013 - 3 Jan 2017

Ron Payne



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 2012

Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 7 Nov 2012, p4A
took office: Thursday, 3 Jan 2013
Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 4 Jan 2013, p1A

3 Jan 2017 - 5 Jan 2021

Tom Watson



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 2016
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 9 Nov 2016, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 3 Jan 2017
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 4 Jan 2017, p1A

5 Jan 2021 - Jan 2025

Tom Watson



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 2020
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 4 Nov 2020, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 5 Jan 2021
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Jan 2021, p1A

7 Jan 2025 -

Tom Watson



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 2024
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 2024, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 7 Jan 2025
At time took office first Tuesday in January

