# Knotty Problems Faced by Sam Jones' Forerunners

### War, Famine, Corruption Have Tested State Chiefs

Check Shows Louisiana Governors Have Fought Duels, Gone Into Pitched Battle, Faced Impeachment, Starved to Death, Died in Voluntary Exile

By Meigs O. Frost

It is a long, strange parade into which Sam Houston Jones, Lake Charles attorney, steps when he takes the oath of office as governor of Louislana at Baton Rouge, Tuesday, May 14, 1940. The parade of men who have held the title through the form 1000 that title stretches from 1940 back into 1699.

When he (Jones) takes over the duties of his new office, it will be the 78th time a Louisiana administration has started its own ministration has started its own chapter in history. It will be the 49th time an administration has started its work in Louislana, since the Pelican state became one of the United States of America. Those figures include every administration as it changed. Men ministration as it changed. Men have served more than one term. Men have served as acting gov-ernors and then succeeded them ernors and then succeeded themselves as appointed, or elected governors. One man, governor hy appointment of the king of France, died before he could reach New Orleans. Another man, elected in the tumultuous Reconstruction days following the War Between the States, was "counted out" by a notoriously fraudulent Republican returning board the United States government upheld. Once in Spanish Louislana, two Once in Spanish Louisiana, two men served jointly as governors, one military and one civil.

Bienville, founder of New Orleans, served as governor of Louisiana five times in the 15 shift-

ing administrations under the fleur-de-lys of Bourbon France. Miro served two terms as royal governor under the castles and governor under the castles and lions of Spain, when there were 12 Louisiana Spanish administrations. In Louisiana under the Stars and Stripes, Andre Blenvenu Roman served two terms, as did Francis T. Nicholls, savior of white democracy; Samuel Douglas McEnery and Murphy James Foster. During the War Between the States, a Confederate governor ruled North Louisiana, while a series of Union military gova series of Union military gov-ernors ruled South Louisiana, the ernors ruled South Louisiana, the writ of each good where troops in Gray or Blue were present to enforce it, and nowhere else. One man ruled Louisiana for Napoleonic France, exercising the functions of a governor for 20 brief days, just before Louisiana became American.

Through the years under France, Spain, as

Through the years under France, Spain, France again; as an American territory, a state in the Union, a state of the Confederate States of America, then readmitted to the Union, Louisiana, admitted to the Union, Louisiana, Consequently 1978, 2002, where governors were concerned, was like that fabled land of "Poic-tesme," where "almost anything was rather more than likely to

nappen."

One governor of Lquisiana, with shining honor, died in self-imposed exile in Mexico, the men who had elected him unanimously beging him to complete. who had elected him unanimously begging him to come home and be elected again. One actually died of starvation and hardship. That practice later went out of fashion.

Here, down the long stretch of 241 years, is the strange and fascinating parade in which Sam Houston Jones so soon is to take his place:

In France undermined man with the king.

De Muys, 1707

Appointed by the king to please De la Salle, Bienville's enemy, M. de Muys died at Havana en route

de Muys died at Havana en route to Louisiana.

Bienville, 1707-1713

Bienville, "ad interim" governor now, continued his uphill fight against savages here; foes in France.

France.

Cadillac, 1713-1716

Lamothe Cadillac, infantry captain in Canada, was appointed governor because of the influence of Anthony Crozat, first Louisiana monopolist, at court in Paris. With long pedigree and empty purse, he chased Louisiana cold mine delusions, tried to get Bienville to marry his daughter, failed, and sent him against warring Natchez Indians with a weak expedition, pitifully undergrand expedition, pitifully underarmed. He alienated Indian allies Bien-ville made, after a military tri-

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lumph, and was recalled to Paris Bienville, 1716-1717 Bienville, "ad interim" gover-or again, sweated to undo the



SIEUR DE BIENVILLE

harm Cadillac had done, and suc-

Do l'Epinay, 1717-1718

He brought Blenville royal amends; the Cross of St. Louis and royal patent to Horn Island and royal patent to Horn Island for an estate, but he quarrelled with Bienville; Louisiana split into squabbling factions. De l'Epinay forbade colonists selling liquor to Indians; they protested violently. Anthony Crozat resigned his trade monopoly in disgust. The Duke of Orleans, regent for young King Louis XV, transferred it to John Law, a fast-talking Scotch financier. De l'Epitalking Scotch financier. De l'Epi-

talking Scotch financier. De l'Epinay was recalled.

Bienville, 1718-1724

Now Bienville was governor by appointment. John Law's Mississippi Bubble helped Loutsiana with colonists and vital supplies. New Orleans was laid out and built; the capital shifted from New Mobile. Seringay, Bienville's brother, captured Pensacola from the Spanish. Indians declared war here; F. enville's enemies in Paris kept sniping at him. He wrote the "Black Code" and sailed home to face charges.

Biospirant, 1724-1726 Bienville's cousin carried on as "ad interim" governor. The Mis-sissippi, Bubble burst; Louisiana sissippi Bubble burst; Louisiana currency dropped close to zero. White population, 5400 in 1721; 1700 in 1724. Boisbriant Issued a decree "to protect domestic animais;" killing a cow or horse without his permission was punishable by death. He ordered Louisianians to turn all annumition and provisions into the tion and provisions into king's warehouses at New

who had elected him unanimously be beging him to come home and he elected again. One actually died of starvation and hardship. That practice later went out of fashion.

Here, down the long stretch of 241 years, is the strange and fascinating parade in which Sam Houston Jones so soon is to take his place:

Sauvolle, 1629-1701

A. le Moyne de Sauvolle, brother of berville and Blenville, led the long parade of Louisiana's governors, appointed by Louis XIV. His great moment was when 17 colonists arrived with farming tools. He died of humger and hardships in 1701, in a shack at his capital, Biloxi.

Bienville, 1701-1707

J. B. le Moyne de Bienville and Saleshim and hardships in 1701, in a shack at his capital, Biloxi.

Bienville, 1701-1707

J. B. le Moyne de Rienville and berville and bardships in 1701, in a shack at his capital bear of the composed the king's grant of commercial monopoly to Anthony Croza, and lost, France shipped him girls from Paris rhouses of correction," then sent two nuns, five prisests and 75 soldiers; then 25 more Paris girls. An epidemic killed 35 of his colonists. Enemies in France undermined him with the king.

De Muys, 1707

Anding first level and the colonists and sent with royal downies sent to marry colonists; received the Unstainal capital to old Mobile, marked only by an Alabama monument now. He opposed the king's grant of commercial monopoly to Anthony Croza, and lost, France shipped him girls from Paris "houses of correction," then sent two nuns, five prisests and 75 soldiers; then 25 more Paris girls. An epidemic killed 35 of his colonists. Enemies in France undermined him with the king.

De Muys, 1707

And provided the king's leaved the company to the colonists and the colonists

Then he was recalled to Paris to die.

Vaudreuil, 1743-1753
Louisiana rose above disaster under the Marquis de Vaudreuil. Hurricames destroyed the rice crops; freezes killed the orange groves; mineral dyes and plant pests combined to ruin the indigo crop. But from Santo Domingo the Jesuits sent Louisiana's first sugar cane in 1751, with Negro slaves who knew how to grow and grind it. Prosperity dawned. Louisiana's first "literature" was written: Leblanc de Villeneuve garrison offteer, wrote a classic tragedy of an Indian father's sactifice; Deruissean was given a five-year trade monopoly on all lands watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. The governor spread famastic tales of Louisiana's mining wealth, issued his pleased, but De Vaudreuil continued to draw the biggest salary of any Louisiana governor to date, and commanded Louisiana's biggest army. Then he was promoted to governor of Canada, Louisiana called him "The Great Marquis" for generations.

Kerlerec, 1753-1763
Acadian refugees from Nova Scotia flooded in on L. Billouari, Chevalier de Kerlerec, naval officer turned governor. He gave each the rations and pay of a soldier; land grants and farming implements. Then the Treaty of Paris, 1762, stripped France of Par

secret treaty of 1765 gave Louisi-ana to Spain. But D'Abbadie died before it became effective. Aubry, 1765-1769

Aubry, 1765-1769

Last governor of the first French-Louisiana regime, Philippe Aubry had to swim an ocean of traubles. In 1767 he tought Louisiana's first yellow fever epidemic. His people blamed it on the Spaniards. He counseled moderation, nonresistance to Spanish entry. Louisianlans hated him bitterly for it. By royal order, in 1769 he surrendered Louisiana to Don Antonio de Ulloa of Spain. o Don Antonio de Ulloa of Spain at the Balize,

Ulloa, 1769 Gentle, scholarly Ulloa never took office. He found New Or-leans seething, loyally French. He had too few soldlers to fight, The superior council, Frenchmen all, superior council, Frenchmen all, gave him 30 days to "show his credentials or get out." It was volced as a dare. He didn't dare. Then hot-headed young French-Louislanians cut the ropes that held his ship to the levee. He drifted down to the Balize, near today's Pilottown; waited there for the girl who was coming to marry him, the wealthy Marchioness d'Abrada of Perui, met and married her in a shack in the married her in a shack in the marsh and sailed for Havana. That was the first "American Revolution."

Anbry, 1769
Philippe Aubry carried on after
Ulloa left, a Frenchman ruling a
Spanish province. He continued to counsel moderation and be hated for it. France assumed all Louisiana government debts, but even that didn't cheer up Louisianians. They sensed what was coming. coming.

O'Reilly, 1769-1770
It came when Don Alejardro O'Reilly sailed up from Havana with a frigate, 28 transports and 1900 heavily armed veteran troops. July 28, 1769, he landed here. Aubry turned over the province to O'Reilly next day. The frishman who had made a fighting career in Spain took a tight grip from the start. He court-martialled the leaders of the first American Revolution for treason; had five shot, others sentenced for life to Morro Castle, O'Reilly, 1769-1770 treason; had five shot, others sentenced for life to Morro Castle, Havana. He organized the Cabildo, Spanish governing body; put Spanish laws into effect; took a New Orleans census that showed 3190 population. He slapped a Spanish tax on taverns, coffee houses, billiard rooms, boarding houses, the slaughter house and all liquors. He canceled all passports to keep colonists at home.

all indors. He canceled all passports to keep colonists at home.
He authorized the buying of Indian prisoners as slaves, to save
them from torture.

Unzaga, 1770-1777

When Luis de Unzaga (he
spelled it Ynzaga) took over for
Spain, he found O'Reilly had
smoothed his path. In history. Spain, he found O'Reilly had smoothed his path. In history: "HIs rule was kindly. Louisiana flourished."

Galvez, 1777-1785

Galvez, 1777-1785

Don Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Louisiana at 21, was dynamo and dynamite both. He continued Unzaga's policies; developed foreign trade, lowered tobacco duties, made fur shipments duty free. He encouraged immigration, giving land, cattle, farm implements. He helped the young American colonies in their reveil.

Back again came Bienville as governor, after eight years' absence. He found Louisiana in batt shape again: Indians disaffected, food scarce; diseases plentiful. Again he sweated at a familiar task. He built barracks for soldiers both sides of the Place d'Armes. He fought Indian wars. Then he was recalled to Paris to die.

Vaudreuit, 1743-1753
Louisiana rose above disaster under the Marquis de Vaudreuit. Hurricanes destroyed the rice trops; freezes killed the orange groves; mineral dyes and plant plests combined to ruin the indigoterop. But from Santo Domingo the Jesuits sent Louisiana's first sugar cane in 1751, with Negro slaves who knew how to grow and grind it. Prosperity dawned, Louisiana's first "literature" was been business man, but he could smile. He gave New Orleans of the first again to place for a Puritan. He tried to make it one. He forbade women no place for a Puritan. He tried to make it one. He forbade gamble to make it one. He forbade gamble to make it one. He forbade gamble to make it one. He forbade women wearing hats, feathers or jewels; a plain handkerchief must be women's only headdress. He ordered saloons, shops closed during church services. Louisiana, in effect, said: "Yes, sir!" and continued doing as it pleased. In 1788 a fire destroyed 900 houses, and huge stores of supplies. Santo Domingo sent relief ships. In 1791, Santo Domingo revolution-refugees poured into New Orleans' first sugar cane in 1751, with Negro slaves who knew how to grow and grind it. Prosperity dawned, Louisiana's first "literature" was short, plump, choleric, firm, a keen business man, but he could smile. He gave New Orleans is first street lights: taxed every





BARON DE CARONDELET

land grants, farming tools. In 1794, Le Moniteur de la Louisi ane, first regular newspaper in Louisiana, was published in New

Gayoso, 1797-1799 Commerce flourished under Gayoso de Lemos, Spanish brigadier-general. The United States of America sent a consul to New Or

leans.

Bouligny and Vidal, 1799

Pouligny acting r Bouligny and Vidal, 1799
Francisco Bouligny, acting mili-tary governor, and Jose M. Vidal, acting civil and political gover-nor, served jointly pending an appointment from Spain.

Casacalvo, 1799-1801 Casacalvo, 1799-1801
Sebastian de la Puerta, Marquis
de Casacalvo y O'Farrill, violent
of temper, demanded unlimited
importations of Negro slaves. In

importations of Negro slaves. In Madrid the royal cabinet refused his demand. He returned to Havana in 1801.

Salcedo, 1801-1803

Last of the Spanish governors of Louisiana, Don Juan Manuel de Salcedo, brigadier-general of the Spanish army, came into office at New Orleans this year after a secret treaty had transferred Louisiana from Spain back to France, to pay for the kingdom of Etruria. Governor Salcedo on November 30, 1803, formally turned Louisiana over

formally turned Louisiana over to Laussat, representing Napo-leon Bonaparte. Laussat, Nov. 30-Dec. 20, 1803

Laussat, prefect colonial, for 20 days ruled Louisiana for Napoleon Bonaparte. But it was the Tricolor that flew in the Place d'Armes, not the golden lilies of the Bourbons. Laussat had landed in New Orleans March 26, 1803, and waited pleasantly. But the \$15,000,000 Louisiana purchase of President Thomas Jeffer. son was signed April 30, 1803. All Laussat had to do was hand Lou-islana over to the two American commissioners. Claiborne, 1803-1812

William Charles Cole Claiborne native of Virginia, later from Nev



W. C. C. CLAIBORNE

York, Washington and Tennessee as territorial governor of Louisi and for the United States was

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gave them land on the West Bank. The Indians called him "Father of the Choctaws." But King Louis XV threw liming the Bastile for the, and he died shortly after his release.

By order of King Louis XV, there geat plantations confiscated, France's secret treaty of 1765 gave Louisia. fect; among them murder was ing." Louisiana boomed, with made punishable by death. He more than \$40,000,000 capital inwelcomed 5907 French refugees vested in sugar.

public acts. He welcomed the steamboat Orleans at the levee, coming in from upriver; first steamboat New Orleans ever saw. He belted on sword and pistols and rode into the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, in the War of 1812.

Villere, 1816-1820

Jacques Philip Villere was Louisiana's first Creole governor. French nobles were his ancestors. King Louis XV educated him because his father was a victim of O'Reilly. He resigned his French army commission to marry and become a St. Bernard parish su-

American, built by James H. He resigned to run for governor Caldwell. against Andre Bienvenu Roman.

American, built by James H. Caldwell. Johnson, 1824-1828 Henry S. Johnson, native Vir-ginian, "urbane, courteous, chiv-alric, a gentleman of the old alric, a gentleman of the old school, honorable, talented, with a strong sense of justice and right," had been a judge in St. Mary parish. Under him Edward Livingston drew up the code of civil law and the penal code, the Bank of Louisiana was created (\$4,000,000 capital, the state taking half the stock); the Planters' Banking Association (\$2,000,000)

de pum.
elcomed 5907 From
rom Santo Domingo, who came rom Havana with their slaves.
He took possession of Baton Rouge and Mobile, then held by Spain. In a duel Daniel Clark, Louisiana territorial delegates to Congress, put a pistol ball in Claiborne's thigh.

Claiborne, 1812-1816
Elected over two French opponents Governor W. C. C. Claiborne discontinued the use of French in public acts. He welcomed the steamboat Orleans at the leves, coming in from upriver; first beat New Orleans ever saw.

Sword and pistols work of the state Senate, became acting governor. Born in Albany, N. Y., of Canadian paralean in 1794; throve first seam ferry at New Orleans. He got the first license to run a Mississippi river steam ferry at New Orleans.

Thibodaux, 1822-1824
Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, several in Scotland, he first license to run a Mississippi river steam ferry at New Orleans.

Thibodaux, 1821-1824
Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, several in Scotland, he first license to run a Mississippi river steam ferry at New Orleans.

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The Albany of Canadian paralean paralea

Dupre, 1830-1831 Jacques Dupre, rich Opelousas cattleman, president pro tem of the state Senate, whose early education was somewhat limited, but who was a man of wealth and

Continued on Page 7

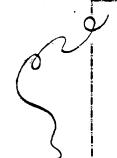
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