



Top: Colonel George F. Shepley served as military governor of occupied Louisiana. **Above:** Michael J. Hahn of New Orleans was the first elected governor of occupied Louisiana.

Wartime Governments

As you read, look for:

- the governments in Louisiana during the war, and
- the end of the war.

During the war, Louisiana actually had two state governments. The Confederate government controlled all of the state outside the Union lines. That government had to relocate several times to avoid capture by the Union army.

Government in Union-Occupied Louisiana

After New Orleans was captured, President Lincoln worked to restore a loyal government to the state. According to Lincoln's plan, once 10 percent of the voters signed a loyalty oath, an election could be held. People loyal to the Union soon formed political associations and began preparing for elections.

Lincoln directed General Banks to hold an election in occupied Louisiana as soon as possible. He wanted to show that the state, and the other seceded states, could easily return to the Union. Only those who had signed loyalty oaths were allowed to vote in that election.

In February 1864, Michael J. Hahn was elected the governor of Louisiana for the Union-occupied region. He replaced Colonel George F. Shepley, who had been the military governor. The elected government worked with the military commanders in occupied Louisiana. During the war, this was the state government recognized by the United States.

Government in Confederate Louisiana

The state government for Confederate Louisiana faced challenging obstacles. The capital was moved several times—from Baton Rouge to Opelousas to Shreveport—to avoid federal troops.

The most urgent problem for Confederate Louisiana was funding for the war. This need for money made life in Louisiana even more difficult. First, the Confederacy sold bonds to raise money. When this voluntary approach to raising money no longer worked, an income tax was established. Still later, a tax-in-kind required that 10 percent of every crop be given to the Confederate government.

These economic problems made it almost impossible to provide for the needs of the people and support the war effort. The governor who was elected to head Confederate Louisiana in 1863 won the gratitude of the people at that time and

the respect of historians today. Henry Watkins Allen was an injured Confederate officer who took charge of the state when the fall of the Confederacy already seemed likely. His creative and practical programs kept Louisiana from starving and lessened the suffering.

Governor Allen called for relief (financial aid) for soldiers' dependents and pensions for wounded soldiers. He wanted to control the manufacture and importation of liquor, because he believed the corn was better used to feed people and livestock than to make whiskey. He set up a factory to make medicine at the old Mount Lebanon College in Webster Parish. He kept the trade routes to Mexico open and imported the medicine that could not be made.

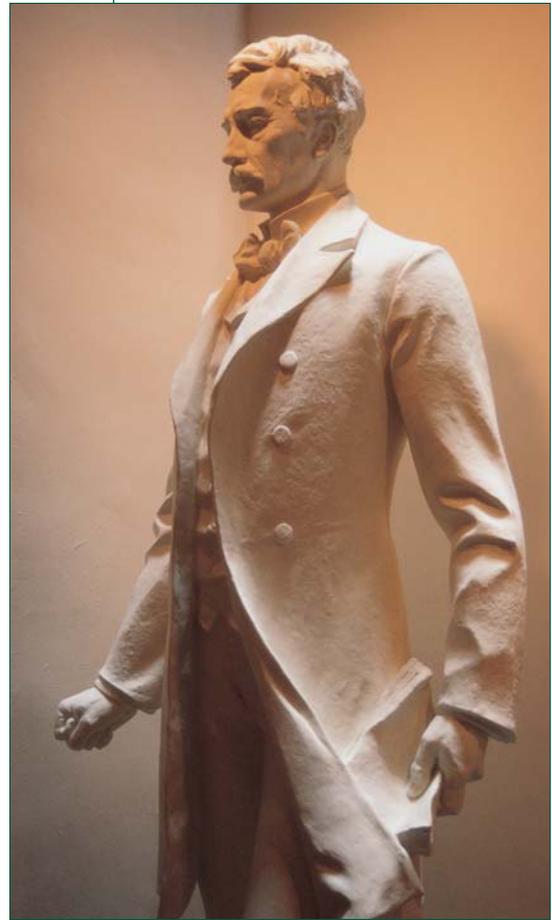
Cotton "cards" were made and distributed so that cotton could be carded (cleaned and combed), spun, and woven. This helped with the shortage of cloth that could no longer be imported.

By this time, Louisiana was almost entirely cut off from the rest of the Confederacy. Allen told the Confederate government that he needed to take care of the people of Louisiana and could no longer refuse to sell the cotton to Europe. He financed his state aid by buying cotton and sending it through Texas to the blockade runners at Galveston. State stores provided what the people needed.

The War Ends

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The Confederate forces west of the Mississippi surrendered in Shreveport in June. More than six hundred Civil War battle, engagement, and skirmish sites mark the map of Louisiana.

Governor Allen led the troubled state through the last days of the war. He told the former Confederates to "submit to the inevitable" and "begin life anew." These words foreshadow the years to come.



Above: This plaster cast was used to make the statue of Governor Henry Watkins Allen that stands in the State Capitol.

Check for Understanding ✓

1. What were the two state governments in Louisiana during the war?
2. What part of the state was under the control of the Confederate state government?
3. Why did President Lincoln want General Banks to hold an election in occupied Louisiana as soon as possible?
4. Name two ways Governor Allen helped the Confederate civilians.

Lagniappe

After the war, Governor Allen left the United States for exile in Mexico, as did other high-ranking Confederate officials.