

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

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### Two Remarkable Pioneers

The recent tragic death of Thomas W. Prosch has called forth sympathy and regrets from many sources, notably from two remarkable pioneers. He was helping each to keep alive their interest in the history of the long ago and to write their memories of those days. In this Quarterly, Volume V, Number 4 (October, 1914), page 321, there was printed an unsigned article by Mr. Prosch giving a brief sketch of Major Junius Thomas Turner of Washington, D. C., who was then in his eighty-eighth year. In this issue there appears a short article by Major Turner. In sending the manuscript, he said it was begun at the request of Mr. Prosch, whose death he mourned sincerely. As will be seen by reference to Major Turner's article, he has prepared "Memoirs" which are to be published after his death.

The other pioneer is General James C. Strong, of 268 Jayne Street, Oakland, California. He also mourned the death of Mr. Prosch, who had been trying in vain to aid the passage of a pension bill for General Strong in the last Congress. Unlike Major Turner, General Strong has already published his memoirs, a slender but very interesting volume on the cover of which appears: "Biographical Sketch of General James Clark Strong, Written by Himself."

Here may be found his experiences in Oregon before the creation of Washington Territory and then in that new Territory where he fought in the Indian War and held public office. Later he fought in the Civil War, where he received some wounds from which he is still suffering. Born on May 6, 1826, he is now in his ninetieth year, though his mind and memory are as clear as if he were but half that age.

For us in the State of Washington one of the most interesting items of his long and eventful career is the fact that he is probably the last survivor of the first Legislative session of Washington Territory. Within that fact there is a double tragedy seldom recalled in these later times.

The House Journal of that first session of 1854 shows on page 7 the name of Jehu Scudder as Representative from Pacific County. On page 11 it is shown that Representative Scudder was absent from the first day's session when the temporary organization of the House was being made. Still his name was kept on the standing committees, as shown on page 13. On March 2 official notice was taken of Mr. Scudder's death and the

next day suitable resolutions were adopted. The first Representative of Pacific County, therefore, did not live to take the oath of office.

The second tragedy is revealed on pages 81 and 83 of the Journal. On March 29 report was made that Henry Fiester had been elected and a committee of three escorted him forward to take the oath of office. On the next morning the reading of the journal was dispensed with and resolutions were at once adopted expressing sympathy for the death of Henry Fiester and arranging for the funeral. Thus the second Representative of Pacific County died before completing a single day of service.

On page 97, the record of the afternoon of April 14 shows that James C. Strong appeared as Representative from Pacific County and the oath of office was administered to him by the Secretary of the Territory. Mr. Strong served for the balance of the session and so far as known he is the very last survivor of either Council or House.

For the help of any who may be able to check the list for any other possible survivor the roster is here given:

Members of the Council:—Clarke County, Daniel F. Bradford, William H. Tappan; Island and Jefferson Counties, William T. Sayward; Lewis and Pacific Counties, Seth Catlin, Henry Miles; Pierce and King Counties, Lafayette Balch, George N. McConaha; Thurston County, Benjamin F. Yantis, Daniel R. Bigelow.

Members of the House of Representatives:—Clarke County, Andrew J. Bolon, John D. Biles, F. A. Chenoweth, Henry R. Crosbie, A. Lee Lewis; Island County, Samuel D. Howe; Jefferson County, Daniel F. Brownfield; King County, Arthur A. Denny; Lewis County, H. D. Huntington, John R. Jackson; Pacific County, James C. Strong; Pierce County, John M. Chapman, Henry C. Moseley, L. F. Thompson; Thurston County, Leonard D. Durgin, Calvin H. Hale, David Shelton, Ira Ward.

Several of those pioneers were alive when the Territory became a State in 1889, but only one of them, L. F. Thompson of Pierce County, had the honor of serving in both the first session of the Territorial and the first session of the State Legislatures.

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#### Panama-Pacific Historical Congress

In San Francisco, Berkeley, and Palo Alto, California, from July 19 to 23, there will be held the most important historical convention ever held on the Pacific Coast of America. The Congress will be participated in by three organizations—The American Historical Association, the American Asiatic Association and the Asiatic Institute. Elaborate prep-