

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Washington's Constitutional Convention, 1889

A printer, R. E. Miller, of Chehalis, recently obtained the use of the large engraving (twenty-one by sixteen and one-half inches) of the portraits of Delegates to the Washington Constitutional Convention of 1889. He wished to reproduce it but the key by which the portraits of the seventy-five Delegates could be identified was lost. The research necessary to restore that key developed some interesting biographical history for the thirty-eight years since the Convention.

Consultations were had with Judge George Turner of Spokane and Matt J. McElroy of Seattle, two of the known survivors of the Convention. Mr. McElroy remembered that one of the Delegates, John R. Kinnear, had secured the signatures of all the Delegates in an autograph album in which he had also placed a portrait of each Delegate. Mr. McElroy appealed to R. M. Kinnear, son of John R. Kinnear, and was delighted to learn that he had inherited from his father the precious album and prized it most highly. Of course the lost key was easily recovered from the portraits and signatures in the album. One disturbing element arose. Senator Kinnear had placed in the album a page of the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* for April 18, 1909, containing a reduced (ten and one-half by thirteen and one-half inches) reprint of the grouped portraits. The key checked with the album series except for the reversal of two names. In the meantime Judge Turner's search among his papers brought to light an original of the larger portraits with the original key attached. This checked perfectly with the record in Senator Kinnear's album and Mr. Miller felt justified in reproducing the portraits and key on heavily coated paper. He is selling them for one dollar and he ought to find many purchasers.

The reproduction in the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* was part of an article calling for a reunion to be held on the twentieth anniversary on July 5, 1909. Only a few responded to the call. The reunion was not much of a success. In the key of this reproduced picture, twenty-three of the names were starred recording that many deaths in the twenty years following the completion of the Constitution. Judge Turner, when transmitting a copy of

the original key, declared his belief that in addition to Mr. McElroy and himself there are six others of the Delegates still living: J. J. Travis, Gwin Hicks, J. T. Eshelman, Frank M. Dallam, Austin Mires and James A. Hungate.

If that record is correct, it means that sixty-seven of the Delegates have died since 1889. It may be that others survive at the homes of their children or grandchildren. If there be such, the editor of this *Quarterly* would appreciate the receipt of their addresses.

Washington Elm

Since the destruction of the old elm tree in Cambridge under which Washington took command of the Continental Army on July 3, 1775, the *Cambridge Tribune* has devoted much space to the loss of that historic tree. The paper has also frequently rejoiced over the fact that a scion of the old tree is flourishing on the campus of the University of Washington, in Seattle. The latest manifestation of this interest is a five-column reproduction of the historic painting of Washington taking command of the army. The original picture is a large painting by Claxton Byron Moulton and comprises a curtain in the new University Theater, Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Washington's Birthday

When President Coolidge delivered his address on Washington's Birthday, 1927, it was so broadcasted that it was heard by more people than had ever listened to a human voice before in the history of the world. That address was the beginning of the bi-centennial celebration that will reach its culmination on February 22, 1932.

On the occasion of the President's address the State of Washington was beautifully represented by Walter F. Meier, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of this State. He had taken with him a wreath of Washington evergreens which with some Virginia flowers he placed on the sarcophagus of Washington at Mount Vernon.

In harmony with this awakened interest in Washington, an effort is being launched to secure a permanent pedestal for the Lorado Taft statue of Washington on the University of Washington campus.