

## DOCUMENTS

### *Manuscripts Saved by Henry G. Struve*

Henry G. Struve, who served as Secretary of the Territory of Washington from 1873 to 1877, had a keen sense for the value of history. At a time when there was little or no effort to save or care for documents other than laws and legislative journals, he saved a quantity of letters and reports. He planned to write a history of the Territory of Washington and publish it when the Territory became a State. This plan was destroyed by the great Seattle fire. It is well remembered that Washington was proclaimed a State on November 11, 1889, and that the great fire had occurred on June 6, of the same year. Judge Struve had collected his books and documents into his law office. That office was in the fire zone and all the books and most of the documents were soon among the sixty acres of ashes.

One of the destroyed documents highly prized by Judge Struve was the original proclamation by which Governor Isaac I. Stevens pardoned himself and remitted a fine of fifty dollars. This had grown out of the martial law dispute between the Court and the Executive during the Indian war of 1857. At least four of the precious documents were saved either by being at the home or in the pocket of Judge Struve, and by him were later transmitted to his son, Captain Harry K. Struve.

Judge Struve passed away on June 13, 1905, and was followed by his son Captain Harry K. Struve on July 11, 1924. The papers then passed into the hands of the Captain's younger brother, F. K. Struve, of Seattle, who has made them available for historians.

The oldest of these documents is the last page of a letter (May 12, 1856) from Governor Isaac I. Stevens to Governor James Douglas of Vancouver Island. What became of the first part of the letter does not appear. This page may have survived on account of the signature of Governor Stevens. The last paragraph of the letter is as follows: "I shall take the earliest opportunity to send a copy of your communication and of this reply to the Secretary of State of the United States, and in the mean time I have to reciprocate most earnestly your hope that nothing may occur to interrupt the harmony and good feeling which should characterise the relations of neighboring States."

The next oldest paper is dated in 1857, comprising instructions

to Governor McMullin, published in full below. The third document in point of time is a certificate from Governor William Pickering proclaiming the election of Henry G. Struve as Prosecuting Attorney of the Second Judicial District of Washington Territory. It is dated at Olympia, September 20, 1862. The Governor's signature and the seal of the Territory are attached. On the back of the certificate, in Judge Struve's writing, is his oath of office sworn before W. W. Bancroft, Clerk of the United States District Court.

The fourth document is a large voucher to pay officers of the House of Representatives on November 12, 1875. It was prepared and signed by Henry G. Struve as Secretary of Washington Territory. Its main value consists of the autograph signatures of such pioneers as Elwood Evans, R. G. O'Brien, S. Crawford, James Hughes, Stella Galliher, Peterfield Turpin, L. L. Moore, F. M. Jones, Charles T. Stiles, and H. H. Halbert. Mr. Evans was Speaker of the House and Mr. O'Brien was Chief Clerk.

The following document shows that the National Government was attentive to two problems in Washington—the danger of a revival of the Indian war and the need of marking the international boundary. The Secretary of State was General Lewis Cass, who usually signed his first name "Lew."

Department of State,  
Washington, 29th July, 1857.

To Fayette McMullin, Esqre.

Sir :

The rights, duties and powers of the Governor of the Territory of Washington, are prescribed in the Act of Congress of the 2d March, 1853, by which that Territory was organized. The remoteness of the Territory from the seat of the Federal Government, the sparseness of the white population, the great number as well as savage and turbulent character of the Indians, and the contiguity of the Territory to the British Possessions on the North, are circumstances which enhance the responsibility of the Governor, and call for great firmness and discretion in the exercise of his functions. Confidence in the possession of these qualities by you, has led the President to select you for the office. The Indian disturbances which were recently of a very serious character in the Territory, are believed to be quieted. It is hoped that they may not be revived. You will omit nothing within the proper sphere of your office, towards preventing such a catastrophe, by impressing upon the people the necessity of forbearance and caution in their inter-

course with the savage tribes. There is reason to apprehend that Indian hostilities are not unfrequently provoked by wanton aggressions on the part of the whites, and it is possible, that these provocations sometimes originate in sordid views and in the hope that they may be gratified in the course or as the result of the sanguinary and protracted wars which they are apt to occasion. As the appointed guardian of the remnant of the aborigines left within its jurisdiction, it is the clear duty of this government to shield them from all aggressions. You will of course be vigilant for the purpose of preventing improper tampering with the Indians of Washington Territory by British subjects or authorities in the neighborhood, some of whom, impelled by a love of gain or by other motives, may be induced to offend in that respect. You may have occasion for intercourse and correspondence with those authorities, which it is hoped will be characterized by your usual spirit of frankness and conciliation.

It is possible that, on reaching the Territory you may find the joint Commission under the first article of the Treaty with Great Britain of the 15th June, 1846 engaged in prosecuting its work. Mr. Campbell, the Commissioner on the part of the United States, may have occasion to confer with you upon the subject, and it is not doubted that you will give him the benefit of the suggestions which your experience in public life will enable you to offer. The Department would like to have an expression of your views as to the expediency and necessity of marking the boundary line on the forty ninth parallel of latitude, in order that application may be made to Congress for provision for the purpose.

Herewith you will receive a copy of the principal published Executive Documents relative to Washington Territory.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Lew[is] Cass.