

DOCUMENTS

Start of Territorial Government

Soon after his arrival at Olympia, Governor Isaac I. Stevens issued his proclamation calling on the people of the new Territory of Washington to begin their own government. It is, of course, deemed important and one of the initial documents in the history of this Commonwealth. To inform the people as to the contents of the proclamation, the Governor caused it to be printed as a broadside of these columns, the type-face measuring seven and a quarter by nine inches. A copy of the original broadside, now yellow with age, was saved by the late Harry B. McElroy of Olympia. His widow recently presented it with other documents of historical value to the present writer at the same time that she presented many additional documents to the Library of the University of Washington. The proclamation is here reproduced from this original broadside edition.—EDITOR.

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor of the Territory of Washington

Whereas, by the 4th section of an Act of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, entitled "An act to establish the Territorial government of Washington," it is provided that the first election in said Territory "shall be held at such time and places, and be conducted in such manner, both as to the persons who shall superintend such election and the returns thereof, as the Governor shall appoint and direct: and he shall at the same time declare the number of members of the Council and House of Representatives to which each of the counties or districts shall be entitled under this act; and the Governor shall, by his proclamation, give at least sixty days' previous notice of such apportionment, and of the time, places and manner of holding such election."

And whereas, by the 14th section of said Act it is provided "That a delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, to serve for the term of two years, who shall be a citizen of the United States, may be elected by the voters qualified to elect members of the Legislative Assembly who shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as have been before exercised and enjoyed by the delegates from the several other Territories of the United States to the House of Representatives, but the delegate first elected

shall hold his seat only during the term of the Congress to which he shall be elected. The first election shall be held at such time and places and be conducted in such manner, as the Governor shall appoint and direct; of which and the time, place and manner of holding such elections he shall give at least sixty days' notice by proclamation."

And whereas by the 18th section of said act it is further provided "That until otherwise provided by law the Governor of said Territory may define the judicial districts of said Territory, and assign the judges who may be appointed for said Territory to the several districts, and also appoint the times and places for holding courts in the several counties or subdivisions in each of said judicial districts by proclamation, to be issued by him."

Now, therefore, Be it known that I, Isaac I. Stevens, Governor of the Territory of Washington, by virtue of the authority vested in me by said Act, do appoint and direct, that the first election for the members of the Council and House of Representatives of the Legislature of the Territory of Washington and of the first Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, shall be held on Monday the 30th day of January A.D. 1854, between the hours of 9 A.M. and 6 P.M.,—in the County of Clarke, at Columbia City, at Cascade City and Walepta—in the county of Lewis, at Monticello, Cowlitz Landing, and Jackson's precinct—in the county of Pacific, at Chinook City and Pacific City—in the county of Thurston, at Olympia, at Shoalwater Bay, at Chamber's Prairie, and at Ford's—in the county of Pierce, at Steilacoom, and at Tallentire's—in the county of King, at Alki, and Seattle—in the county of Island, at Penn's Cove, and at Bellingham Bay—and in the county of Jefferson, at Port Townsend and Port Ludlow.

The members to be elected to the Council to be apportioned as follows: To the counties of Island and Jefferson, one; to the counties of King and Pierce, two; to the county of Thurston, two; to the counties of Pacific and Lewis, two; and to the county of Clarke, two.

The members to be elected to the House of Representatives to be apportioned as follows: To the county of Island, one; to the county of Jefferson, one; to the county of King, one; to the county of Pierce, three; to the county of Thurston, four; to the county of Pacific, one; to the county of Lewis, two; and to the county of Clarke, five.

The Judicial Districts to be as follows: For the First District, the counties of Pacific and Clarke; for the Second District, the coun-

ties of Lewis and Thurston; and for the Third District, the counties of Pierce, King, Island and Jefferson.

Courts to be holden in the *First District*, for the county of Pacific, at Chinook City, on the second Monday of January 1854; for the county of Clarke, at Columbia City, on the third Monday of January 1854, In the *Second District*, for the county of Lewis, at Cowlitz Landing, on the first Monday of January 1854; for the county of Thurston, at Olympia, on the fifth Monday of January 1854. In the *Third District*, for the county of Pierce, at Steilacoom, on the first Monday of February 1854; for the county of King, at Seattle, on the second Monday of February 1854; for the county of Island, at Coveland, on the third Monday of February 1854; and for the county of Jefferson, at Port Townsend, on the fourth Monday of February 1854.

There shall be three Judges of election, hereinafter appointed, who shall mutually administer oath to each other, and have power to designate the house or building where the election shall be held. In case any Judge herein appointed shall neglect or fail to attend, those attending shall have power to fill vacancies. They shall appoint two clerks, and administer oath to them; shall by proclamation announce that the polls are open—proceed to open and hold the elections by ballot, and make returns thereof, under oath, to the Secretary of the Territory within five days after election, as provided by the laws of the Territory of Oregon.

The Judges hereby appointed for the various precincts of the Territory are as follows: In the county of Clarke, at Columbia City, William H. Dillon, Kinzie Caples, and George W. Malick; at Cascade City, S. M. Hamilton, George Griswold, and William Stevens; at Walepta, Lloyd Brook,—Bomford, and Cheruse.

In the county of Lewis, at Monticello, Harry Huntington, Seth Catlin, and Doctor Ostrander; at Cowlitz Landing, E. D. Warbass, S. Pagett and George Drew; at Jackson's Precinct, John R. Jackson, —Davis, and A. B. Dillinbough.

In the county of Pacific, at Chinook City, Washington Hall, James A. Scarborough, and G. P. Newell; at Pacific City, Jehu Scudder, J. D. Holman, and G. W. Tillotson.

In the county of Thurston, at Olympia, James K. Hurd, C. Crosby, and Edmund Sylvester; at Shoalwater Bay, John W. Champ, D. K. Welden, and John Vail; at Chamber's Prairie, Andrew Chambers, S. D. Ruddell, and Gilmore Hays; at Ford's Sidney Ford, J. W. Goodell, and Layton Case.

In the county of Pierce, at Steilacoom, Lafayette Balch, Nicholas Delain, and John Chapman; at Tallentire's Thomas Tallentire, William P. Dougherty, and John Rigney; in the county of King, at Alki, C. C. Terry, Samuel W. Russell, and Hilary Butler; at Seattle, A. A. Denny, Henry L. Yesler, and D. S. Maynard.

In the county of Island, at Penn's Cove, Samuel Crockett, John Alexander, and S. D. Howe; at Bellingham Bay, William R. Pattle, Henry Roder, and John Dickinson.

In the county of Jefferson, at Port Townsend, L. B. Hastings, F. W. Pettygrove, and Albert Briggs; at Port Ludlow, William T. Sayward, William Soule, and John Walker.

The members of the Legislature elected as herein provided will assemble at Olympia on Monday the twenty-seventh day of February A.D. 1854.

Given under my hand at Olympia, this twenty-eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty three.

By the Governor,

I. I. STEVENS.

C. H. MASON,
Secretary of the Territory.