

Topeka Constitutional Convention

According to a copy of the 1902 cover letter written by Samuel C. Smith of Lawrence, secretary/chief clerk for the convention, this incomplete "copy of the Journal of the Topeka Constitutional Convention" was made at Lawrence in November 1855. It began with the opening of the second day's session, October 24, 1855, and continued daily, except for Sunday, October 28 and November 4, through Saturday, November 10 (the convention officially adjourned, according to Wilder, "Annals," November 11 during the very early hours of that Sunday morning). The first few pages of the journal detailed organizational matters, including the election of James H. Lane as president of the convention and the creation of standing committees.

Creator: Smith, Samuel C.

Date: October 24, 1855

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Constitutional Convention
Topeka Wednesday Oct 24th 1855

Convention met pursuant to adjournment.
The Journal of yesterday was read.
Prayer was offered by the Rev Mr Burgess.
On motion of Mr Robinson of Lawrence the Convention proceeded to the election of Secretary.
The Chairman appointed Messrs Schuyler of Council City and Dodge of Leavenworth a Committee to receive assent and count the votes for Secretary of the Convention.
The committee subsequently reported as follows

Whole number of votes	25
Necessary for a choice	13
Samuel C. Smith hrs	18
Charles A. Foster "	7

The report was accepted — and Messrs Robinson Roberts & Cutter were appointed a Committee to wait upon Mr. Smith and inform him of his election.
On motion of Mr Holliday of Topeka, the Convention elected Mr. Chas C. Foster as assistant Secretary.
Mr. Robinson of Lawrence, moved that the temporary President, swear the Secretary's of the Convention to the faithful discharge of their duties, On motion of Mr Delahay of Leavenworth, the following Resolution, was adopted as a substitute to the motion of Mr Robinson of Lawrence

Resolved, That the President, do, and he is hereby authorized, empowered and requested, to swear



to administer all oaths necessary to perfect the organization of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Delahay, of Leavenworth, the Convention proceeded to the choice of President.

The same Committee ~~was~~ ^{that} was previously appointed, were empowered to receive, assort and count the votes for President.

The Committee reported as follows, viz—

Whole number of votes	26
Number necessary for a choice	14
James H. Lane has	17
W. V. Roberts has	5
J. W. Wakefield has	4

The report of the Committee was accepted, and Messrs. Delahay, Hunt and Goodin appointed as a Committee to conduct the President to the Chair.

The President having been conducted to the Chair, on motion of Mr. Curtis of Bloomington, Mr. J. W. Wakefield of Bloomington, was directed to administer the oath of Office to him.

The President then administered the Oath of Office to the members of the Convention present.

On motion of Mr. Hasty of Pawnee, Loring Farnsworth, was appointed Sergeant at Arms, to the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Holliday, of Topeka, Timothy McIntyre was appointed Clerk to the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Schuyler, of Council City, R. W. B. Barrows was appointed Chaplain of the Convention.

The following Resolution was offered by Mr. Parrott of Leavenworth—

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns it shall be till 10 o'clock A.M., and when it takes a recess - it shall be till 3 o'clock P.M.



3

Mr. Robinson of Lawrence, moved to amend by inserting 9 o'clock in place of 10, and 2 o'clock in place of 3.

Mr. Roberts, of Washington, moved to amend by substituting the following: That when this Convention adjourns, it adjourn to meet at 9 o'clock A. M., until otherwise ordered.

The question was taken upon the amendment of Mr. Roberts, and it was lost.

The question was then taken upon Mr. Robinson, and it was carried.

The Resolution as amended was then adopted.

On motion of Mr. Gooding, of Blanton, Mr. Samuel F. Tappan was recognized as Reporter for the Herald of Freedom newspaper, published at Lawrence.

On motion of Mr. Schuyler, of Council City, Mr. John Spur was recognized as Reporter for the Kansas Tribune.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Lawrence, Mr. C. H. Barnes was recognized as Reporter for the Kansas Freeman.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Lawrence, Messrs. Smith, Robinson and Roberts, were appointed a Committee upon Rules for the government of the Convention.

Mr. Garrett, of Leavenworth, offered the following Resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That sixteen Committees, consisting of five members each, be appointed by the President to which shall be referred respectively, such matters hereinafter designated, as may be appropriate, and that the said Committees be requested to report from time to time as they progress:

- 1st a Committee on Legislative Department.
- 2nd " " Executive
- 3rd " " Judicial
- 4th " " Apportionment

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