

## Thomas County organization records

In order for the state of Kansas to recognize an unorganized county, a certain number of householders or legal electors from that county had to petition the governor. The governor would appoint a census taker to count the people who lived there. Initially, unorganized counties were required to document that they had at least 600 inhabitants in order to be recognized as a county by the state legislature. Over time the number of residents needed to organize a county increased to 1500 and later to 2500 residents. After a census confirmed the county's population, the governor issued proclamations, which stated that the population requirements had been met, appointed county commissioners and a county clerk, and named a county seat. Not all of these documents are available for each county. Included in this file are two proclamations from the governor. One asks for a census to be taken of Thomas County, and the other both appoints county officials and designates Colby as the temporary county seat.

Creator: Kansas. Secretary of State

Date: 1885

Callnumber: Kansas. Secretary of State's Office, County Organization files, ca. 1861-1912

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[www.kansasmemory.org/item/217182](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/217182)

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G O V E R N O R ' S   P R O C L A M A T I O N .

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STATE OF KANSAS,

Executive Department,

Topeka, Sept. 14, 1885

Whereas, a memorial has been presented to me, signed by more than two hundred and fifty householders, who are legal electors of the State, of the unorganized county of Thomas, showing that there are fifteen hundred bona fide inhabitants in said county, and that two hundred and fifty of said fifteen hundred are householders, and reside in said county, and praying that said county of Thomas may be organized, and

Whereas, said memorial is accompanied by an affidavit attached thereto of D. M. DUNN, W. H. COPELAND, and JAMES AULD, three freeholders of said county, showing that the signatures to said memorial are genuine signatures of householders, and bona fide residents within said unorganized county, residing therein for six months prior to the taking of such census, and that the affiants do believe that there are fifteen hundred bona fide inhabitants in said county, as stated in the memorial.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. MARTIN, Governor of the State of Kansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, do hereby appoint W. G. PORTER, who is a bona fide resident of the said county of Thomas, to take the census, and ascertain the number of bona fide inhabitants of the unorganized county of Thomas, in the State



of Kansas, and to do and perform under this appointment all the duties in such cases by the statute made and provided.



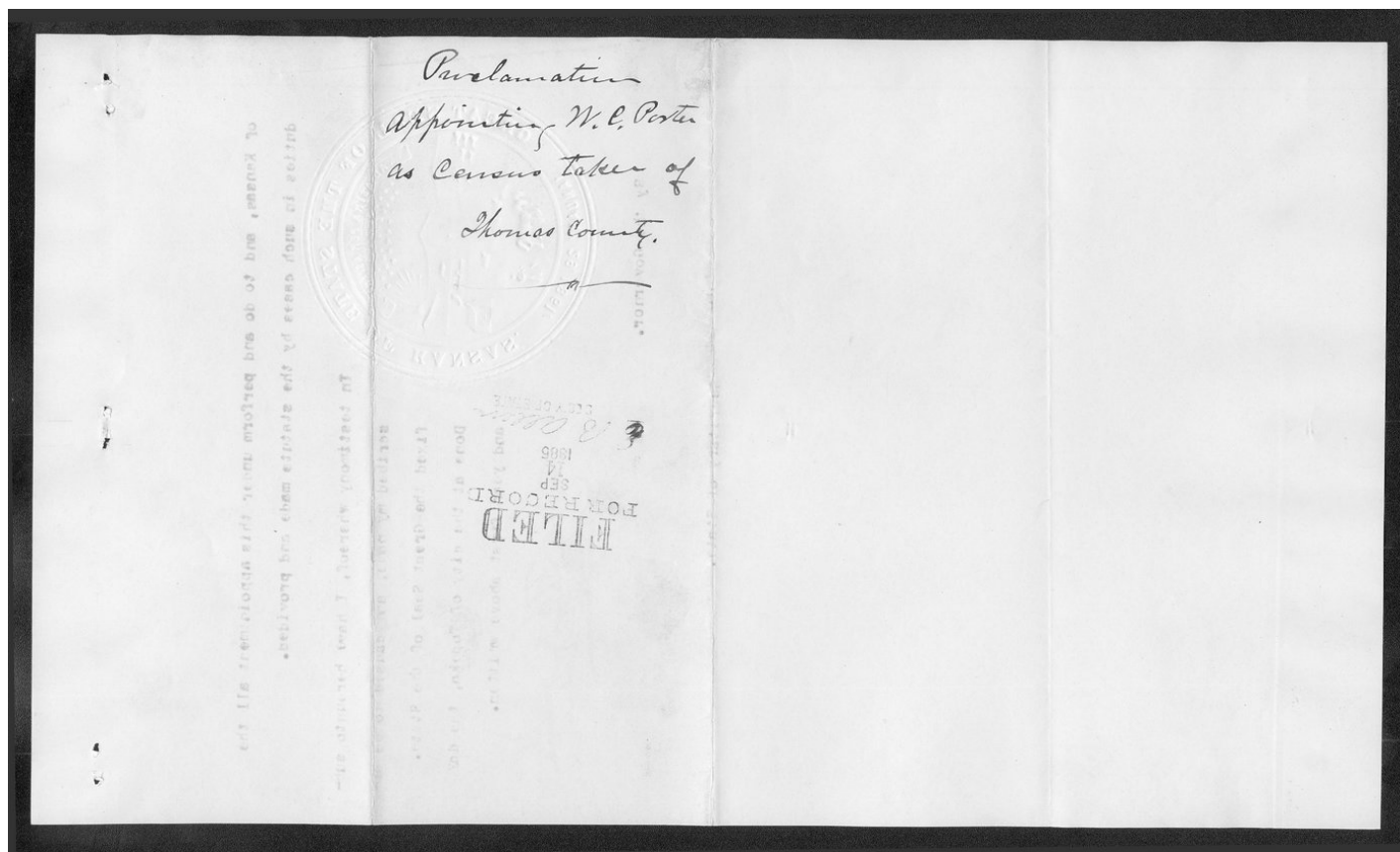
In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.  
Done at the city of Topeka, the day and year first above written.

By the Governor.

Secretary of State.



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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

STATE OF KANSAS,  
Executive Department,  
Topeka, Oct. 8th, 1885.

WHEREAS, A memorial, signed by over two hundred and fifty house-holders, residents of Thomas county, Kansas, whose signatures to said memorial have been duly attested by the affidavits of three house-holders thereof, showing that said county had more than fifteen hundred inhabitants, and that more than two hundred and fifty of said inhabitants are actual house-holders, has been presented to me as Governor of the State of Kansas, praying for the organization of said Thomas county, said affidavits alleging that they had reason to, and did believe said memorial to be true, and

WHEREAS, W. G. Porter, a bona fide resident of said Thomas county, was duly appointed and commissioned as Census-taker, who was duly qualified as such officer, and it appears from an actual enumeration, by census returns duly made, certified and sworn to by said Census-taker, according to law, that there are nineteen hundred and sixteen bona fide inhabitants in said county, and that seven hundred and seventy-seven of them are actual house-holdres;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. MARTIN, Governor of the State of Kansas, by authority of law vested in me, have appointed and commissioned B. F. Heaston, W. H. Kingery, and E. A. Crouse County Commissioners, and Samuel Stewardson as County Clerk of said county of Thomas, and do hereby designate and declare the town of



Colby to be the temporary County Seat of said county.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto sub-

scribed my name and affixed the Great

Seal of the State. Done at the city

of Topeka, the day and year first

above written.



By the Governor.

*Arthur W. Harts*

*E. B. Allen*

Secretary of State.

*By W. D. Karamanoff*  
*Asst. Secy of State*



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