

THE GOVERNORS OF KANSAS.

The following is a list of the Governors of Kansas, with the date and term of service of each:

Andrew H. Reeder, the first Governor of Kansas Territory, took the oath of office July 7th, 1854. His official service ceased August 16th, 1855, having been removed from office by the President.

Daniel Woodson, Secretary of the Territory, by virtue of office, became acting Governor August 16th, 1855, and served till September 7, 1855.

Wilson Shannon assumed the duties of the office of Governor Sept. 7, 1855, and continued in the office till Aug. 18, 1856.

Daniel Woodson, Secretary, then again acted as Governor from Aug. 18, 1856, till Sept. 11, 1856.

John W. Geary became Governor Sept. 11, 1856, and served till March 12, 1857.

Daniel Woodson, Secretary of the Territory, then again acted as Governor from March 12, 1857, till April 16, 1857.

Frederick P. Stanton, having been appointed Secretary of the Territory, assumed office as acting Governor April 16, 1857, and continued in that capacity till May 27, 1857.

Robert J. Walker became Governor May 27, 1857, and served till November 16, 1857.

Fred. P. Stanton, Secretary, again acted as Governor from November 16, 1857, to December 21, 1857.

James W. Denver, having been appointed Secretary of the Territory, became acting Governor Dec. 21, 1857, and served as such till May 12, 1858, when he received the appointment of Governor. He continued in office as Governor till October 10, 1858, when he resigned.

Hugh S. Walsh, Secretary of the Territory, became acting Governor October 10, 1858, and served as such till December 20, 1858.

Samuel Medary became Governor December 20, 1858, and continued in office till December 17, 1860.

Geo. M. Beebe, Secretary of the Territory, became acting Governor December 17, 1860, and continued to act in that capacity till February 9, 1861, at which time notice of the admission of Kansas into the Union was received.

Charles Robinson took the oath of office as Governor of the State of Kansas February 9, 1861, and continued in office till January 12, 1863.

Thomas Carney became Governor January 12, 1863, and served till Jan. 9, 1865.

Samuel J. Crawford became Governor January 9, 1865, and having been reelected, served till November 4, 1868, when he resigned.

Lieutenant Governor Nehemiah Green became Governor November 4, 1868, and served till January 11, 1869.

James M. Harvey became Governor January 11, 1869, and served two terms, ending January 13, 1873.

Thomas A. Osborn became Governor January 13th, 1873, and served two terms, ending January 8, 1877.

Geo. T. Anthony became Governor on the 8th of January, 1877, and served till January 8, 1879.

John P. St. John became Governor on the 8th of January, 1879, and is the present chief executive, serving his second term.

GOVERNOR ANDREW H. REEDER.

The following biographical sketch of Governor Reeder, the first Governor of Kansas Territory, is copied from a file of the *Kansas Weekly Herald*, published at Leavenworth, of which the Society has the first four volumes in its collection. This was the newspaper first established in Kansas. It was the principal Pro-Slavery paper published in the Territory during the period of the agitation of the slavery question. The date of the issue which contains this biography, is September 15, 1854. This is the first issue of the paper; and this biography is the first article on the first page. It brings the Governor's biography up to the time of his appointment as Governor. It is as follows:

Andrew H. Reeder, Governor of the Territory of Kansas, was born in Easton, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th day of July, 1807. He is now, therefore, in the forty-eighth year of his age. His ancestors, paternal and maternal, for several generations, were natives of this country—his father having served, when quite a boy, in the war of the Revolution. His parents resided in the place of his nativity until the close of life; the father having retired from the mercantile business to spend the evening of his existence in that quiet which he earned by the persevering efforts of many years. The parents of Governor Reeder both attained an advanced age, having lived till within a few years past. The education of Mr. Reeder was commenced at an early age in the classical school of Rev. Mr. Bishop, at Easton, where he continued for several years. He was thence removed to the Lawrenceville Seminary, a literary institute of considerable reputation at the time.

At this latter place he received a thorough education, under a disciplinary system of the strictest character, which terminated his academical instruction. Quitting the Lawrenceville Seminary, he entered the office of Peter Iksie, Esq., and after three years' assiduous application to the study of law, was admitted to practice at the Northampton bar, in the year 1828. At the time that Mr. Reeder commenced his career as a lawyer, the Northampton county bar was the ablest in the State. The learning and legal ability of its members, however, were to him no discouragement, and he entered the field with those champions of jurisprudence not doubting that success was to be achieved by persevering industry, severe study, and unremitting application to the duties of his profession.

The reputation and well-earned popularity of the older practitioners, by whom the business of the country was in a measure monopolized, for some time retarded his advancement. But, ere long, the young lawyer attracted attention, and was employed in several cases of importance, which soon made known the resources of his mind.

The pathway to eminence in the legal profession was then opened to him, and by the exercise of his energetic will, and the application of his varied attainments, he has steadily advanced to the position he now occupies, as one of the first lawyers of the State of Pennsylvania.

His practice was not confined to the county in which he resided. In the adjoining counties of Lehigh, Carbon, Monroe and Pike he had a large and lucrative business, which increased with each year's continuance in the profession. At the time of his appointment to the Governorship of Kansas, his practice was said to realize for him seven thousand dollars per annum.

Mr. Reeder has ever been a warm advocate of the principles of the Democratic party. His first vote was cast for the "Sage of the Hermitage," and every warmly-contested election from that time till the present has engaged his commanding eloquence in support of Democratic men and measures. An ardent supporter of the cause of the people, he yet never sought political preferment. He was content to labor in support of the principles of the party of his choice, without a single aspiration beyond.

Indeed, the multiplied duties of his profession precluded his even attempting a political career; and to his profession alone, through an enthusiastic attachment, he directed the high talent with which he is endowed. His sphere of usefulness, therefore, has been limited to the practice of law; but, with his talents for constitutional law, his great experience as a jurist, and his various acquirements, he is eminently fitted for any station, and will no doubt serve the public interests in his new position with entire satisfaction to those over whom he is called to preside. Aside from his legal attainments, he possesses all the noble virtues and generous principles of a man. The high place which he holds in the esteem of his fellow-citizens of the State from whence he comes is based upon a character for rare moral and political integrity; and we safely venture the prediction that he will soon win the respect and confidence of those who may be called around him in the administration of the Territorial government, by his urbanity and courteous deportment. Possessed of indomitable courage and independence of character, he will be found at all times fully equal to any emergencies that may arise in the course of his official career. At the same time, the clearness, comprehensiveness, astuteness, and freedom from prejudice, which so peculiarly characterize his mind, furnish a sure and safe guarantee to the inhabitants of Kansas that, in all measures of Territorial policy, the best interests of the whole people will be sought for and diligently subserved.

His untiring activity, his power of physical endurance, and his ceaseless and devoted attention to all the duties of life, give abundant indications that not even in the most minute details of those duties which his new position will devolve upon him will he be found wanting or neglectful.

It rarely happens that all the qualities which so peculiarly distinguish Governor Reeder are found combined in any one individual, and with all these prestiges of success, we may confidently expect in the new Territory a healthy and vigorous organization and administration of its affairs, and the laying of a broad and permanent foundation, upon which is so soon and surely to be erected the superstructure of the State of Kansas.

Gov. Reeder was commissioned by President Pierce on the 29th of June, 1844. He took the oath of office at Washington, July 7th, before Peter V. Daniel, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. He arrived in Kansas, at Fort Leavenworth, on Saturday, October 7th, 1854. His official acts, and the events of his administration from the time of his appointment till he vacated the office of Governor, August 16th, 1855, are very fully narrated by himself in his statement made to the Congressional committee in the spring of 1856. This committee was appointed under a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed March 19th, 1856.

The committee was composed of William A. Howard of Michigan, John

Sherman of Ohio, and Mordecai Oliver of Missouri. The duties of the committee are shown in the resolution providing for its appointment, as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of three of the members of this House, to be appointed by the Speaker, shall proceed to inquire into and collect evidence in regard to the troubles in Kansas generally, and particularly in regard to any fraud or force attempted or practiced in reference to any of the elections which have taken place in said Territory, either under the law organizing said Territory, or under any pretended law which may be alleged to have taken effect therein since. That they shall fully investigate and take proof of all violent and tumultuous proceedings in said Territory at any time since the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act, whether engaged in by residents of said Territory, or persons from elsewhere going into said Territory, and doing, or encouraging others to do, any act of violence or public disturbance against the laws of the United States, or the rights, peace and safety of the residents of said Territory.

The following is from the Governor's statement to the committee:

I was appointed Governor of the Territory of Kansas about July 1, 1854; and as soon as the nomination was confirmed by the Senate, I proceeded to Washington City, at the request of the President of the United States, and remained there till the adjournment of Congress, in the first week of August, engaged in procuring necessary legislation for the Territory. I returned to Easton, I think, on the 7th of August. My arrangements for closing up a most extensive private and professional business, extending over six counties, was seriously retarded and prevented by a term of three weeks' court, which followed; and on the 21st of September I departed for the Territory, leaving my business in a most unsatisfactory condition. I landed at Fort Leavenworth on Saturday, the 7th day of October, and made it my first business to obtain information of the geography, settlements, population and general condition of the Territory, with a view to its division into districts, the defining of their boundaries, the ascertainment of suitable and central places for elections, and the full names of men in each district for election of officers, persons to take the census, justices of the peace and constables. In a very few days I discovered that the procurement of this knowledge, in consequence of the newness of the population, was utterly impossible, by any other means than by a tour through the Territory. I found that, unlike most new Territories, the settlements of which cluster along a single line, the small population of Kansas was sparsely distributed over a surface of about 20,000 square miles. With some trouble, arising from the want of traveling facilities, I made the necessary arrangements, and on the 14th of October I left, with two of the Territorial Judges, Messrs. Elmore and Johnson, the District Attorney, Mr. Isaacs, the United States Marshal, Mr. Donaldson, and my private secretary, Mr. Williams, for a tour into the interior, to procure the requisite information. The Secretary and Chief Justice had not then arrived in the Territory. I took in the route the payments of the Pottawatomie and Kansas Indians, where a large number of whites, as well as Indians, were assembled; and having made full notes of all the information procured from Indians and whites, I completed my trip, and arrived at Fort Leavenworth on the 7th of November. I then saw that if the election of Delegate to Congress (which required no previous census) should be postponed till an election could be had for Legislature, with its preliminary census and apportionment, the greater part of the session, which would terminate on the 4th of March, would expire before our Congressional Delegate could reach Washington; and I deemed it best to order an election for a Delegate to Congress as early as possible, and to postpone the taking of the census till after that election. I was more convinced of the propriety of this course, by the fact that the common law, and many of the United States statutes, were in force over the Territory, and could well be administered through the courts established by Congress, and the justices and constables whom I was author-

ized to appoint, and by the additional fact that, whilst the citizens of Missouri were vehemently urging an immediate election of the Legislature, the citizens of the Territory were generally of the opinion that no immediate necessity for it existed. I prepared, without delay, the division of the Territory into election districts, defined by natural boundaries, easily understood and known, fixed a place of election in each, appointed election officers for each poll, and ordered an election for Congressional Delegate to take place on the 29th of November, 1854; and by the 15th of November my proclamations were issued, containing a description of the districts, with all the necessary information, instructions, and forms.

These proclamations were immediately distributed by express throughout the Territory. About the 24th of November the want of necessary conveniences induced me to remove the executive office to Shawnee Mission. By the 5th of December the returns of the Congressional election were made, and on the 6th a certificate of election was issued to J. W. Whitfield, who stood highest on the return. Immediately thereafter public business called me into the interior of the Territory, and, having attended to the same, and also to some private business incidentally, which latter, however, did not detain me over two days, I returned to my office about the first of January, and immediately commenced the preparation of books and precepts for taking the census, preparatory to an election for the Legislature. Much unavoidable delay occurred in the proceeding, from the want of mail and traveling facilities, the difficulty of notifying the various and more remote persons appointed to take the census, from the sparseness of the population, in making the enumeration and return; and yet in less than seventy days the census books and the instructions were distributed over the entire Territory, and the enumeration was fully completed and returned. A return day was fixed in the precept of each census taker, but several of them found it necessary to prolong the time in order to complete their work, and the last returns were made late in the evening of Saturday, the 3d day of March. I immediately proceeded to make the apportionment, designate such new election precincts as had become necessary, to appoint election officers, and to prepare necessary forms and instructions; and on the 6th or 7th day of March, my proclamation for the election on the 30th was completed, and dispatched by express to the printing office, about forty miles distant; a large number of copies were received by me of the printer, and immediately distributed through the Territory, under arrangements previously matured for that purpose. The precise day of the election was never fixed by me, or communicated to anyone else, at home or abroad, until about the 6th of March, when I was writing the proclamation. Before the returns of the census had been all received, it was impossible to fix the precise day, and I could only judge that the election would probably take place about the 25th to the 28th of March, and I did not hesitate so to state, without reserve, to the citizens of the Territory who made inquiry. I so stated to a number of prominent men of the Pro-Slavery party, and it was editorially announced in the *Frontier News*, published at Westport, some time before the election (I think more than four weeks before), that the election would take place on the 28th of March. Among the gentlemen to whom I recollect having communicated this information were Thomas Johnson, A. S. Johnson, Daniel Woodson, and John A. Halderman, all prominent men in the Pro-Slavery party. The first men to whom the precise day was made known, after I had determined it, were Daniel Woodson and John A. Halderman, Esqs., which was on the 6th or 7th of March, and it was at once made public by them and myself. I did not hesitate at any time to state to persons around me, of both parties, all that I could know myself in relation to the day of election, and I did not communicate it to the Emigrant Aid Society, or their agents, or to anyone else in the States, except, perhaps, to some persons in the State of Missouri. In the appointment of justices of the peace, constables, census takers, and officers of election, I was careful to select men indiscriminately from both parties, with a view to treat all persons fairly, and afford no cause

of complaint. At the election of the 29th of November, a large majority of the officers of election were, as I believe, Pro-Slavery men. Of the twelve men appointed to take the census, six were Pro-Slavery men. A fair proportion of the justices and constables were also Pro-Slavery men. My private secretary, Mr. Williams, having resigned, in November, 1854, I appointed a Pro-Slavery man, John A. Halderman, Esq., who served until July 1, 1855. At the election of the 30th of March more than one-third of the election officers were, as I believe, Pro-Slavery men. Anticipating, however, an invasion of illegal voters from the State of Missouri, I was careful to appoint in most of the districts, especially in those contiguous to Missouri, two men of the Free-State party and one of the Pro-Slavery party. Notwithstanding all my efforts, however, at fair and impartial action, my person and my life were continuously threatened, from the month of November, 1854. As early as the 15th day of November, 1854, a meeting was held at Leavenworth, composed almost exclusively of Missourians, presided over by a citizen of Missouri, at which I was bitterly denounced, and a committee appointed, composed partly of citizens of Missouri, who waited upon me, and insisted upon an immediate election for the Legislature. Their communication and my reply can be found in the newspapers of the day. This meeting was held immediately after the appearance of my first proclamation, and is generally attributed by both parties to the fact that that proclamation contained a provision for contesting elections before me illegally held, and did not provide for an election for the Legislature.

The election was held on the 30th of March, as ordered, and an invading force from Missouri entered the Territory for the purpose of voting, which, although it had been openly threatened, far exceeded my anticipations. About the time fixed as the return day for that election, a majority of the persons returned as elected assembled at Shawnee Mission and Westport, and remained several days, holding private caucuses at both places. I had frequent conversations with them, and they strenuously denied my right to go behind the returns made by the judges of the election, or investigate in any way the legality of the election. A committee called upon me and presented a paper, signed by twenty-three or twenty-four of them, to the same effect. Threats of violence against my person and life were freely afloat in the community; and the same threats were reported to me as having been made by members-elect in their private caucuses. In consequence of it being reported to me that a number of the members, in their caucuses, in their speeches, had declared that they would take my life if I persisted in taking cognizance of the complaints made against the legality of the elections, I made arrangements to assemble a small number of friends for defense; and on the morning of the 6th of April I proceeded to announce my decision upon the returns. Upon the one side of the room were arrayed the members-elect, nearly if not quite all armed, and on the other side about fourteen of my friends, who, with myself, were also well armed. My official action upon those election returns was entered upon the executive minutes, and is already in the possession of the committee. I was not then aware of the frauds perpetrated in the other districts, which were not set aside, as no complaints had been filed, and the facts had not been communicated to me. Sufficient opportunity for contesting the election had been given by the proclamation. The form of complaint required was very simple, and full five days, exclusive of the day of election, were allowed for filing it. The most remote polls were within three days' journey, or less, of my office, which was kept open till midnight of the last day. The reasons why they were not contested have been already stated by other witnesses.

I left the Territory about the middle of April, and came East for the purpose of taking out my family, and attending to private business, as well as for the purpose of consulting with the President in regard to the state of things in the Territory. In the month of December, 1854, or January, 1855, I communicated my intention to the town

association of Pawnee to call the Legislature at that place, provided they would erect a suitable building for their accommodation, which they did. About the time of the decision on the returns of the election, the members-elect then assembled requested that I should convene them at the Shawnee Mission, which I could not consent to do, inasmuch as the Pawnee Association had already expended considerable money in the erection of their building, and because I did not consider the Shawnee Mission a suitable place for their meeting. They immediately declared their intention to adjourn to the Mission if convened at Pawnee, and authorized Rev. Thomas Johnson to purchase furniture, bedding and provisions for their accommodation at the Mission. Before leaving the Territory I issued my proclamation for convening the Legislature at the town of Pawnee, on the 2d day of July. I returned to the Territory about the 24th of June, and proceeded to Pawnee, where the Legislature met on the day appointed. The building in which they assembled was of stone, two stories high, about 40 feet by 80, well provided with seats and writing-tables. Ample accommodations for boarding and lodging existed in the town: a comfortable boarding house kept by Major Klotz, which would have accommodated forty or fifty; a large boarding house kept by Mr. Teeple, which would have accommodated at least twenty; another boarding house kept by Mr. Knapp, which would have accommodated nearly as many; and a comfortable boarding house kept by Mr. Lowe at the fort, which would accommodate from fifteen to twenty—this was about two miles distant, and a carriage was run back and forth for the accommodation of their boarders. About the 6th of July they adjourned from that place to Shawnee Mission. The disagreement between the Legislature and myself as to this removal, and all subsequent proceedings, are already in the possession of the committee.

I was removed from office the last of July, and received notice on the 15th of August. During my presence in the States I went to the city of Washington, where I arrived in the beginning of May, 1855. I at once saw President Pierce, and had a full consultation with him on the state of things in Kansas, which was protracted for more than two weeks, and kept up almost daily. I gave him, in the fullest manner, all the information which I had upon the subject, and endeavored to impress upon him the conviction which was upon my mind, that unless some decided course was taken, the actual settlers of the Territory would be subjected to the most cruel persecution; that there was evidently a settled determination on the part of the border counties of Missouri—strong in men and means—to deprive them of the right of governing themselves and regulating their own affairs. I stated to him that the seizure of the polls at the two elections which had been held, together with the intermeddling and tyrannic spirit which pervaded the entire action of our Missouri neighbors, concurred with all the information I had received to convince me that there was a settled determination, by intimidation and force, to subjugate the Territory entirely to their will, in defiance of the right of the majority and the principle of the organic law. I had learned some new facts since the grant of the certificates of election, which I also made known to him. Indeed, I stated to him all my knowledge and all my views in the most candid manner, for I had still the fullest confidence that he would share all my indignation at the gross wrong of this foreign interference. I had several times written him on this subject from the Territory. Immediately after the election of the 29th of November, at which the most disgraceful scenes had been enacted, I wrote him fully what had taken place, and expressed my views on the subject without reserve. Previous to that election I had also written him, and that such an invasion was openly threatened, but expressed the opinion that, by careful provisions in my proclamation, I could counteract it, for I did not then credit that it would be carried to such extremes of recklessness and violence. A short time previous to the election of the 30th of March I had again written him that the same thing was again threatened. These letters, however, were private, and I now see that I committed an error in

making them so; but I then had confidence that he felt upon the subject as I did, and that the cause of truth and justice would be best subserved by intrusting the whole matter to his discretion, without forestalling or hampering his future action. The President, in our interviews, expressed himself highly pleased and satisfied with my course, and in the most unequivocal language approved and indorsed all I had done. He expressed some regret, however, that my speech in Easton had omitted all allusion to the illegalities of the Emigrant Aid Company, and thought it was perhaps unnecessarily strong in its denunciation of the Missouri invasion. I told him I had no knowledge of the operations of the Emigrant Aid Company except what was before the whole public, and that so long as they had not sent out men merely to vote and not to settle, (of which I had no evidence, and which I did not believe,) I could not consistently denounce their course as illegal. He stated that this Kansas matter had given him more harassing anxiety than anything that had happened since the loss of his son; that it haunted him day and night, and was the great overshadowing trouble of his administration. He stated that the most pertinacious complaints of me had been made to him, and the most urgent demands had been made for my removal, upon every ground that could be got up; that Gen. Atchison pressed it in the most excited manner, and would listen to no reasoning at all. As to the charges of purchasing Indian lands and interests in towns, he said he was entirely satisfied as to the former—that it was all fair and honorable, and that hundreds had done so before me; ridiculed Mr. Mannypenny's objection to it, and said he had rebuked him when he talked to him of it; he was nevertheless sorry, under the circumstances of this case, that I had made any purchases, as they made a pretext for my enemies to annoy him with demands for my removal. As to the purchases of town property, he said he was entirely satisfied, from his confidence in me, that they were all right; but he wished me to explain them to him, and refer to the acts of Congress under which towns were laid out, so that he might be prepared to justify me and himself when the subject came up before him. I accordingly gave him all the information on the subject, both as to law and fact, which was in my power, and stated, what was the fact, that in no one case had I been concerned as an original projector in the laying-out of any town, but in every case had acquired my interest subsequent to the original laying-out. He expressed himself satisfied, except that he thought the act of May 28, 1844, did not authorize the laying-out of towns except on lands which had been surveyed. I replied that the Commissioner of the Land Office had so construed the act as to recognize towns which had been laid out before the survey, and that Mr. Wilson would so state to him if he would inquire; and that this construction was right and necessary, for it was idle to expect the Territory to be settled if it was to remain two years without towns. He expressed himself satisfied, and the subject was then dropped. He wished no explanation nor found any fault as to the contract for half-breed Kaw lands, but, as I have already stated, he expressed himself, in strong language, entirely satisfied as to the fairness and honorable character of the transaction."

The Legislature met at Pawnee, near Fort Riley, according to the appointment made by the Governor, on the 2d of July, 1855. It adjourned from that place July 6th, to meet at the Shawnee Mission, near Westport, on the 16th of July, at which time it did meet at that place; continuing its session until the 30th of August, when it finally adjourned.

The demands made by the Pro-Slavery party during the sitting of the Legislature, in July and August, for the removal of Governor Reeder from office, led to the protracted conference at Washington, between the Governor and the President, a portion of the Governor's account of which has been

here quoted. The conference resulted in the failure of an agreement upon any amicable terms, by which the Governor could either continue in office or honorably retire, voluntarily. He was removed on the 28th of July, and received notice of his removal on the 15th of August.

The Free-State men considered that the people of the Territory were not bound to regard as laws the acts of a Legislature elected by voters from Missouri, who had no residence in Kansas. In mass convention at Lawrence, on the 14th and 15th of August, they set in progress a movement, in which they declared that "the people of Kansas have been, since its settlement, without any law-making power;" in this declaration agreeing with Governor Reeder in his message to the Legislature, dated July 21st, in which, to use his own language, he "treated as void all the laws passed at the Shawnee Mission."

The Lawrence meeting called a convention, which met at Big Springs, on the 5th of September, and there fully inaugurated the movement for the "speedy formation of a State constitution, with the intention of an immediate application to be admitted as a State into the Union of the United States of America." Gov. Reeder attended this convention, participated in its proceedings, and from that time was fully identified with the action of the Free-State party in the measures for the admission of Kansas into the Union as a State, thus to free the Territory from the rule sought to be imposed by the acts of the Shawnee Mission Legislature. At the Big Springs convention, Gov. Reeder was nominated as a candidate for Delegate to Congress. An election was held on the 9th of October, at which he received 2,849 votes, there being no opposition. At an election which had been held on the 21st of October, in pursuance of an act of the Shawnee Mission Legislature, Gen. John W. Whitfield was returned as a Delegate to Congress, receiving 2,721 votes. Gov. Reeder contested the election of Gen. Whitfield. That contest was involved in the investigation held by the House of Representatives at Washington, in the prosecution of which the committee before spoken of took testimony in Kansas in April, May and June, 1856.

In the progress of the State movement a constitution was framed, by a convention which met at Topeka on the 23d of October, 1855. The constitution was adopted by the people, at an election held on the 15th of December, and a Legislature and State officers were chosen at an election held on the 15th of January, 1856; Dr. Charles Robinson being the choice for Governor. The Legislature met at Topeka, March 4th, 1856, and elected Gov. A. H. Reeder and Gen. Jas. H. Lane to be United States Senators. The constitution was not ratified by Congress, and the Senators did not take their seats. While the Congressional Investigating Committee was in the Territory taking testimony, Gov. Reeder was summoned by process, under the laws of the Shawnee Mission Legislature, to appear before the United States grand jury, at Leecompton. Claiming his privilege as a party contestant in the investigation, he refused to obey the summons, or to be arrested under the

process. He had been charged with treason, for his connection with the State movement; and being advised by his friends that his personal safety demanded his absence from the Territory, he left, in disguise, about the 9th of May, 1856.

He several times afterwards visited the Territory, but never permanently resided here. He resumed the practice of the law at his old home, at Easton, Pennsylvania.

At the outbreak of the war, the first military appointments made by President Lincoln were those of Nathaniel Lyon and Gov. Reeder to be Brigadier Generals of the regular army. The latter, upon mature deliberation, arrived at the patriotic conclusion that he was too far advanced in life to learn a new profession upon the field of battle. His contributions to his country were nevertheless large, his three sons having immediately entered the army. He died at his home in Easton, Pennsylvania, July 5, 1864.

In September, 1879, our Historical Society received from the family of Gov. Reeder, at the hands of his son-in-law, Mr. William W. Marsh, of Schooley's Mountain, New Jersey, an oil-painted portrait of the Governor, elegantly framed, and a correct likeness, and which now ornaments our room in the State House. Deeming this valuable accession to be worthy of special recognition, a meeting of members of the Society and friends of Governor Reeder was held in the room of the Society September 13th, for the object of giving suitable expression on the subject.

Hon. James Hanway, of Franklin county, was called to the chair, and Hon. F. P. Baker, of Topeka, acted as secretary.

The Secretary of the Society stated that the portrait had been obtained in part through the influence of Dr. F. L. Crane, who, for many years before Kansas had a name, was a townsman, neighbor and friend of Governor Reeder in Pennsylvania, as he was also his friend and associate throughout all his career in Kansas; and for these reasons he had been requested to present the portrait to the Society.

Dr. Crane then said:

SECRETARY ADAMS: I have the distinguished honor of presenting to the Historical Society of the State of Kansas, through you, its Secretary, a handsome and neatly-framed oil painting, which is a portrait, and an excellent one, of the first Governor of Kansas Territory, Andrew Herster Reeder—a contribution to the collections of the Society made by William W. Marsh and other members of the family of the late Governor. The box in which it came has just been opened, and the artistic painting which we see before us will be placed at the head of a line of portraits of distinguished men who have occupied and honorably filled the highest office in the State.

I notice that the line of portraits has missing links in the chain—that some have not yet been received by this Society. It is probably only necessary that the attention of their friends should be called to this fact, in order to have the line perfected.

I had known A. H. Reeder for twenty-two years, before he was appointed Governor of the then distant Territory of Kansas; and I will simply state what every one who knew him intimately will corroborate, that he was a man of strict integrity in his business transactions, and that he could not, by flattery nor by threats, be persuaded nor driven to do that which his judgment disapproved of, or what he deemed unjust.

I knew before he started the first time for Kansas Territory, in September, I think, 1854, that it was his intention to give all citizens of the Territory, without distinction of party, the equal right to vote and to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and I believe it was his bulldog tenacity and his persistence in holding to and defending those rights that made it necessary for him to leave the Territory, as he did, in disguise. After having thus made himself unpopular with the dominant party, several other Governors, in rather quick succession, were appointed, with little, if any, better success.

In Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where Gov. Reeder lived, he had been for many years a leading member of the Democracy, which was the dominant party there.

It was the question of free soil or slave that made the situation so difficult and perilous for the Governor of Kansas Territory, and it was by many deemed certain that its decision in Kansas was equivalent to a decision for the whole Nation, for an indefinite length of time.

Mr. Baker said:

This newspaper, the *Kansas Weekly Herald*, of which the file before me is the first volume, contains an excellent biography of Governor Reeder. The paper was, at the time the Governor entered the Territory, the organ of the Democratic party, the party to which he belonged. But in Kansas they soon discarded the word "Democracy," and took the name "Pro-Slavery," which meant a party determined to establish slavery in Kansas, by any means which might be necessary to accomplish that object. Governor Reeder came to Kansas with the Democratic idea embraced in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, that the people of the Territory should be left "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way." And thus the issue was soon made up between the Governor and what had been his party. He lived to see his principles triumph, and Kansas became a free and prosperous State. Nothing could be more appropriate than that the State should gather in, here at its capitol, such memorials as is this portrait of the men who helped to lay the foundations of the State, and especially of those who, in order to lay those foundations well, made such sacrifices as did Governor Reeder. The State at this period of its history can do no better work for the future generations of its people, than to treasure up such memorials.

Governor St. John then spoke as follows:

It seems as if there were something in the soil and atmosphere of Kansas to inevitably develop and bring into action the best qualities of every true man. So it was in the early times, during the struggle that was fought out here in behalf of free government and human rights. In that struggle, he whose portrait is before us was a prominent actor and a most worthy leader. In that behalf he made most noble sacrifices. Coming to Kansas, the first to organize and administer government here, he accepted the doctrine of squatter sovereignty, as incorporated in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, in its true meaning, and with unswerving purpose he determined that his power and influence should go to aid the people in establishing their institutions as their own free wills and their own free votes should determine as best. Whatever may have been the bias before he came here as to the institution of slavery, he found Free-State men and Free-State men alone in favor of a free ballot-box, a square and honest vote in the choice of their Legislature and in the decision of the question as to whether Kansas should be a free or slave State. Hence he found his place was with the Free-State party; and standing as a rock in opposition to the frauds and violence which characterized the acts of the Pro-Slavery party, his example was a host in giving courage to the people in maintaining their rights. And Kansas became a free State; and now where, twenty-five years ago was a vast, unoccupied plain, untried as to its physical resources, and clouded with doubt and darkness as to its political future, we have, through the wise and courageous

action and devoted virtue of the man whose fine portrait is before us, and of such as he, a population of 995,000 free, happy and prosperous people.

Just twenty-five years ago, it is, this September Saturday, as we see by this Pro-Slavery newspaper file to which Mr. Baker has referred, since the first sheet of that first Kansas newspaper was struck off under that elm tree, on the river bank where the city of Leavenworth has since been built; struck off in the shade of a tree, because there was no roof in all that region of Kansas under which its types could be set and its press set in motion. And now we have here these three hundred Kansas newspapers, whose files are being so carefully preserved by our Historical Society, making a record of the progress of Kansas, of the acts of its citizens, and of the inauguration and carrying forward of its various enterprises for the moral, social and material growth of our young commonwealth, and treasuring up that history for the instruction of the future generations of Kansas, for all time.

Those who have sent this picture from the Atlantic shore to be placed in the room of the Kansas Historical Society, could have presented no more welcome or appropriate gift. The people of Kansas will ever pay homage to the memory of Andrew H. Reeder. Kansas may well be proud that in the list of her Governors the first was so worthy a man, and the Kansas Historical Society may well take pride in placing so fine a portrait in its gallery.

Judge Hanway said:

The Missouri-elected Legislature, which usurped the power of the people of Kansas to make their own laws, placed the first capital of Kansas Territory at Lecompton, where I have been privileged to-day to witness its ruins. That Legislature procured the removal of Governor Reeder from office. He lived to be honored, and to leave a memory which will ever be treasured with gratitude in the hearts of the people of Kansas. Lecompton has perished as if blighted by a curse. I remember Lecompton in its palmy days. Happening there, once on a time, on a dusty day, and inquiring for water, I was told that water was never drank in that town—some might be found in the Kaw river, but whisky was the only beverage. Whisky was the inspiration of the misguided men who troubled the people of Kansas in those days when Governor Reeder was a champion of the people's rights. That day of trouble has long since passed by; and now Governor and people may well unite in paying respect to the memory of the most worthy first Chief Magistrate whose superb portrait is before us.

Mr. F. W. Giles said:

I did not come up to the Historical rooms to make a speech; but the sight of the fine portrait before me inspires me with gratitude to Mr. Marsh and the other members of Gov. Reeder's family, who have given it to the State of Kansas. I am grateful to the artist, whose soul and brain gave him power to place upon canvas so true an image of the noble man whose name heads the list of Kansas' Chief Magistrates. Whoever the artist might be, and I know not who he was, this picture proves him a master of his art. We who knew Governor Reeder are irresistibly carried back to the scenes of those early days in which he mingled among us as a leader, friend, counselor, and champion of our rights. The people of Kansas could not in anywise express the gratitude they should feel for the services rendered by their first Territorial Governor. His determination and sacrifices did much to pave the way for their freedom and prosperity. Those were the days of small things, to be sure. It was a small thing that our townsman, Col. Horne, received—a constable's commission from Governor Reeder; that Col. Holliday was made a justice of the peace, and that the Governor recommended him who is now speaking for postmaster of Topeka, a position which was given him, with emoluments amounting to two dollars a week. For these favors the recipients are thankful. For the boon of

free institutions the people of Kansas owe a debt of perpetual gratitude for the example of courageous sacrifice made by Gov. Reeder. The feeble expressions of such gratitude which this occasion gives opportunity to make must needs fall far short of what is due.

Gen. Willard Davis said:

It so happened that at the time Andrew H. Reeder became Governor of Kansas, I was a schoolboy at the University of Missouri. There I had an opportunity to know of the agitation in Kansas, and of the work of the people of the slave States in their effort to fasten slavery upon this State. I became disgusted with the conduct of the Pro-Slavery party, and there learned to admire the acts of Governor Reeder, and of the Free-State men of Kansas. This portrait carries me back to those days and freshens my memory of the stirring scenes which Governor Reeder passed through, not the least dramatic of which was that of his escape through Missouri in the disguise shown in the other picture hanging beneath this fine portrait. The misguided men who, by their acts of violence, compelled that disguise and escape, little thought with what honor and respect the people of Kansas would at this day revere the memory of Governor Reeder.