

Proclamation of Daniel Woodson

[page 1]

Proclamation.

By the Acting Governor of the Territory of Kansas.

Whereas we have been reliably informed that a number of persons claiming Legislative powers and authority over the people of the Territory of Kansas, are about to assemble in the Town of Topeka for the purpose of adopting a code of laws or of exercising other Legislative functions, in violation of the Act of Congress organizing the Territory and of the laws adopted in pursuance thereof; and it appearing that a military organization exists in this Territory for the purpose of sustaining this unlawful Legislative movement, and "thus in Effect to subvert by violence all present constitutional and legal authority"; and whereas the President of the United States has by proclamation bearing date the eleventh February, 1856, declared that any such plan for the determination of the future institutions of the Territory, if carried into action, will constitute the fact of insurrection", and therein commanded all persons engaged in such unlawful combinations against the constituted authority of the Territory of Kansas or of the United States, to

[page 2]

disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes: and whereas satisfactory Evidence Exists that said Proclamation of the President has been and is about to be disregarded by the persons and combinations above referred to.

Now, therefore, I Daniel Woodson Acting Governor of the Territory of Kansas, by virtue of authority vested in me by law and in pursuance of the Aforesaid Proclamation of the President of the United States and to the end of upholding the legal and constitutional authority of the Territory and of preserving the public peace and tranquility, do issue this my Proclamation forbidding all persons cla[i]ming Legislative powers and authority as aforesaid, from assembling, organizing, or attempting to organize or act in any Legislative Capacity whatever, under the penalties attached to all wilful violations of the laws of the land and [disturbence?] of the [*text stricken through*] peace and tranquility of the country.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my Hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the Territory, this fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty six--

[page 3]

and of the Independence of the United States, the Eightieth.

Danl[.] Woodson

Acting Governor K. Territory.

The Proclamation of the President and the orders under it, require me to sustain the Executive of this Territory in executing the laws and preserving the peace. I therefore hereby announce that I shall maintain this Proclamation at all hazards.

E[.]V[.] Summer

Col[.] 1 Cavly

Comdg[.]