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MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI,

FOR

A DIVISION OF THE TERRITORY, &c.

DECEMBER 18, 1818.

Read, and committed to the committee of the whole House, on the bill authorizing the people of the Missouri Territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union, &c.

WASHINGTON:

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1818.

St. Louis, Nov. 22, 1818.

SIR,

I have been requested by the legislative council and house of representives, to transmit to you the accompanying memorial. The documents mentioned therein, have been sent to our delegate, or abstracts of them.

Respectfully,

DAVID BARTON,
Speaker of the house of representatives of Missouri Territory.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the legislative council and house of representatives of the territory of Missouri, in the name and behalf of the people of said territory, respectfully showeth:

That their territory contains at present a population little short of one hundred thousand souls, which is daily increasing with a rapidity almost unexampled; that their territorial limits are too extensive to admit of a convenient, proper, and equal administration of government; and that the present interest and accommodation, as well as the future growth and prosperity of their country, will be greatly promoted by the following division; which your memorialists propose, to the end, that the people may be authorized by law, to form a constitution and establish a state government, within the following limits:

Beginning at a point, in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi river, at the thirty-sixth degree of north latitude, and running thence, in a direct line, to the mouth of Big Black River, (a branch of White River;) thence up the main branch of White River, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to where the parallel of thirty six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, crosses the same; thence with that parallel of latitude due west, to a point, from which a due north line will cross the Missouri River, at the mouth of Wolf

River; thence due north, to a point due west of the mouth of Rock River; thence due east, to the middle of the main channel of the river Mississippi, opposite the mouth of Rock River; and thence down the River Mississippi in the middle of the main channel thereof, to the place of beginning.

These are limits, which, to a superficial observer, glancing over the chart of our country, would seem a little unreasonable and extravagant; but which, a slight attention to its geography, (or more properly to its topography) will be sufficient to satisfy your honorable body are not only proper, but necessary. The districts of country that are fertile, and susceptible of settlement, are small, and are detached and separated from each other at great distances by immense plains and barren tracts, which must, for ages, remain waste and uninhabited. These distant frontier settlemants thus insulated, must ever be weak and powerless in themselves, and can only become important and respectable by being united; and one of the great objects your memorialists have in view, is the formation of an effectual barrier for the future, against Indian incursions, by pushing forward, and fostering, a strong settlement on the Little River Plate to the west, and on the Des Moines, to the north.

Your memorialists are free to declare, and are happy in declaring, that they do not feel the necessity of enforcing their wishes by an elaborate detail of the blessings of self government, or a particular enumeration of the rights and immunities guaranteed to them by the treaty of cession; your memorialists feel a firm confidence, founded on the wise and generous policy heretofore pursued by your honorable body, (and to which they owe their existence as a portion of the great American family,) that they need only pray to be incorporated in the Union, and to show that it is not only "possible," but convenient and proper, (according to the principles of the Federal Constitution,) to have their prayer answered.

There are many grievances of which your memorialists might complain, and complain heavily too, and many that are much more easily felt than described; yet most of them, it must be confessed, are inseparable from the form of government under which they live, and none of them have been imposed through choice by the general government; and your memorialists can feel no wish or motive now to complain of old grievances they have long borne with patiently; cheered with the hope that their sufferings must soon have an end, they choose rather to forget them. There are, however, rights, privileges, and immunities belonging to citizens of the United States, which your memorialists would proudly claim, to which they aspire, and with which they pray to be invested: these they fondly believe should not, and will not now be regarded by your honorable body, as mere matters of grace and favor.

And though the enclosed documents are not so satisfactory, as your memorialists would wish to have forwarded, they may still serve to show you, that the population, included within the counties of

New Madrid, Lawrence, St. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, Washington, St. Louis, St. Charles, and Howard, (which are within the above limits) are more than equal to the number of inhabitants heretofore required by the laws and constitution of the United States, upon the admission of any new state into the Union; and that whilst every thing is hoped for, from the spirit of a generous and enlightened policy, much might have been claimed in justice on the faith of the treaty of cession.

DAVID BARTON,
Speaker of the house of representatives.
BENJAMIN EMMONS,
President of the legislative council.

St. Louis, 22*d Nov.* 1818.

The foregoing is a true copy of the original.

DAVID BARTON,
Speaker of the house of representatives.

Resolutions of the legislature of the Missouri territory, and copy of census of the fall of 1817, *amounting to* 19,218 *males.*

DECEMBER 18, 1818.

Read, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on the bill for the admission of said territory into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states.

Resolved by the legislative council and house of reprepentatives of the tertitory of Missouri, that the delegate representing this territory in Congress, be requested to use his exertions to procure the passage of a law to authorize the people of this territory, within the limits prayed for in the memorial of the legislative council and house of representatives, passed the thirteenth day of November instant, (or such other limits as nearly as possible to those prayed for as Congress will grant) to form a constitution and state government, and to provide for their admission into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states.

Resolved, That the delegate representing this territory as aforesaid, be further requested to use his exertions to procure in the said proposed state, the following donations and appropriations, to wit:

1st. Lead mines with one section of land adjoining to each, and salt springs with four sections of land adjoining each, to be leased for the use of the state.

2d. One township of land for the support of a college.

3d. One township of land to be disposed of as the legislature of the state shall direct, for the purpose of raising a fund for erecting state buildings at the permanent seat of government.

4th. All vacant lots and pieces of ground in towns or villages, for the use of the towns or villages in which they lie, for the support of schools.

5th. The sum of nine per centum on the amount of all sales of public land within the limits of the said proposed state, to be expended under the direction of Congress for the objects, and in the manner following, that is to say: one per centum thereof for perfecting the water communications between the Mississippi and lake Michigan, by the Illinois and Ouisconson rivers; six per centum thereof, for continuing the national western turnpike road, from Wheeling

on the Ohio, to St. Louis, and one per centum thereof, for opening a road direct from St. Louis to New Orleans.

6th. The sum of five per centum on the amount of the same sales, to be appropriated and expended under the direction of the state legislature as follows, to wit: two per centum for the support of schools in the state; and three per centum for opening roads and canals, and building bridges within the state.

Resolved, That the speaker of the house of representatives of this territory, be, and he is hereby requested to forward, to the delegate representing this territory in Congress, one copy of the above resolutions, and also one copy of the memorial of the legislative council, and house of representatives to Congress, on the subject of a state government; and also to forward one copy of said memorial, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Congress.

DAVID BARTON,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

THOS. F. RIDDICK,

President of the legislative council, pro tem.

The foregoing is a true copy of the original.

St. Louis, 22*d Nov.* 1818.

DAVID BARTON,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

Copy of the enumeration of the Missouri territory, under the act of 1st February, 1817, and which was taken and returned in the fall of 1817, to the governor of the territory, as transmitted to me by the speaker of the house of representatives.

Howard county	3,386	6	Representatives.	Fraction	386
St. Charles - -	2,866	5	do.	do.	366
St. Louis - -	4,725	9	do.	do.	225
St. Genevieve - -	2,205	4	do.	do.	205
Washington - -	1,245	2	do.	do.	245
Cape Girardeau	2,593	5	do.	do.	93
New Madrid -	669	1	do.	do.	169
Laurance - -	1,529	3	do.	do.	29
Arhenson, no return					
	19,218	36			

The census was taken in August and September, 1817, and is the male population only, independent of the females and blacks; to which is to be now added, the increase and emigration ever since.

JOHN SCOTT.