

This is the paper which Sheriff William Billings used, on February 9, 1886, to swear in practically all the prominent citizens of Olympia to quell the Chinese riots, when the hoodlum element of town undertook to set fire to Chinatown and run the Chinese out of town. Prompt and determined action prevented the mob from accomplishing this. In adjacent counties, where the sheriff was not so fearless nor the townspeople so cooperative, very inhumane treatment was accorded the Chinese. There, Chinatown was burned and the Chinese were forced, through fear for their lives, to leave town penniless and without provisions. The Olympia Chinese never forgot Mr. Billings' fearless championship of their rights, and each Chinese New Years for forty years afterwards, his family was the recipient of Chinese nuts, tea, and other Oriental gifts.

The paper starts out neatly, but as the riot got worse and the need for deputies more urgent, the writing becomes almost illegible. The names signed to the succeeding pages read like a roster of Olympia's most prominent men. A. A. Phillips, Ike Oppenheimer, General T. M. McKenny, Jos. Chilberg, A. H. Steele, Francis Henry, S. M. Percival, E. A. Stevens, Charles Hewitt, Herbert McMicken, Mark Reed, T. M. Reed, and many others, were sworn in as deputies for the emergency.



MRS. BLANCHE MAHLBERG  
STEPHEN COURT, APT. 1-A  
1230 INDIAN STREET  
BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON 98225

July 16, 1969

Mr. Delbert J. McBride, Curator  
State Capitol Museum  
211 West 21st Avenue  
Olympia, Washington 98502

Dear Mr. McBride:

Thank you so much for the Xerox copy of the document wherein my father, William Billings, sheriff of Thurston County, swore in deputies in averting an anti-Chinese riot in Olympia in 1886.

I am glad to know that the State Library has a collection of documents referring to early-day Olympia. I am sure I have some such mementos and will keep the Museum and the Library in mind as they come to hand. As I live in an apartment, much of my belongings is stored away.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,

*Blanche Mahlberg*  
Blanche Billings Mahlberg  
(Mrs. L. J.)



PAGE 1

Know all men by these Presents  
 That I William Billings Sheriff  
 of Thurston County Washington  
 Territory do hereby make consti-  
 tute and appoint the hereinafter  
 named persons residents of the  
 County and Territory aforesaid my  
 true and lawful deputies with full  
 power to do and act under my  
 orders and supervisions in all ways  
 and to the ~~same~~ extent as may be  
 lawful :- The persons appointed  
 as deputies are as follows to wit :-  
 W D Baker Wm Hopkins Geo Mills  
 Mark Reed C. N. Ayer Chas Sprague  
 J Ford Jasper Hartman  
 H. H. Wren and others  
 named in the two accompan-  
 ying lists as special deputies  
 and their duties are to be confined  
 strictly to the suppression of riots and  
 disturbances of the public  
 peace in my County

Dated Feb 9-1886.

Wm Billings

Sheriff Thurston Co W.T.

Dated at Olympia W.T.

February 9, 1886.



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County of Thurston  
 Territory of Washington  
 We, J. M. Ford & Wm. H. Phillips  
 Jasper Hartman & R. P. Phillips  
 J. M. Reed. J. each being  
 personally sworn each for him-  
 self on oath says, having been  
 duly appointed deputy  
 Sheriff of Thurston County  
 Washington, by Wm. Billings, Clerk  
 by decree that we will per-  
 form our duty as such dep-  
 uty Sheriff according to  
 the best of our ability.

A. H. Phillips	E. M. Percival
Jasper Hartman	Geo. G. Mills
J. M. Ford	G. H. Foster
E. A. Stevens	Henry J. Ellis
Ph. Hitts	G. F. Ward
B. W. Baker	W. H. Denny
Chas. Springer	Mark E. Reed
Chas. Sprague	J. C. Gorr
J. M. Reed	Wm. Gorr
Milton Gills	F. B. Tinsley
Joseph Hilberg	J. H. Tinsley
J. H. Tinsley	A. A. Steele
Bert Vincent	Francis Denny
John E. Ayer	G. H. Barker
W. H. Brown	



County of Thurston  
County of Washington  
We the undersigned having  
been duly appointed by  
William Billings  
Sheriff of Thurston  
County Washington  
County on this 9th  
day of February 1886  
special deputy sheriffs  
of said Thurston County  
do solemnly swear  
that we will each  
faithfully perform  
the duties of such  
deputy sheriff ac-  
cording to the best  
of our abilities  
thus

John L. Henderson	Peter Cochran.
Chas E. Hewitt,	Ives Dodge.
John C. J. Paul.	Frank S. McMillan
Charles D. Gayfield	J. N. Gale
H. L. Wize	Wm. McE. Irving
J. G. Whitney	Elias Davy.
Chas. B. Ayer	Wm. McKen
Herbert M. McKen	J. M. Reed
J. M. Crook	E. Giles
Wm. Riddell	Al. J. Munson
James	



Edward Harness.

~~Ed. Jones~~

W. J. McCoy

Wm. Parker

A. Labaree

Jaynes & M<sup>c</sup> Fadden

Saml. S. Ward

G. S. Allen

C. P. Giles

W. L. H. Sprague

John Olson

Wm. H. Bettman

County of Thurston

Town of Washington

I the undersigned do hereby certify that the persons named in the foregoing list were by me duly shown to discharge the duties of deputy sheriffs to Wm. Bellamy Sheriff of Thurston County Washington Territory, on the 9th day 1886.

C. J. Harrison  
Justice of the Peace  
in and for said County



County of Thurston  
Territory of Washington }  
George Spencer of said  
County being first duly  
sworn deposes and says  
I will faithfully perform  
the duty of deputy Sheriff  
to William Billings Sheriff  
said County to the  
best of my ability to  
help me God -

Geo Spencer  
Subscribed and  
sworn to before me  
this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February  
1886 C. W. Hartman  
Judge of the Peace