

Proclamation of Daniel Woodson

[page 1]

A Proclamation By the Acting Governor of the Territory of Kansas

Whereas satisfactory evidence exists that the Territory of Kansas is infested with large bodies of armed men, many of whom have just arrived from the States, combined and confederated together, and amply supplied with all the munitions and implements of war, under the direction of a common head, with a thorough Military organization, who have been and are still engaged in murdering the law-abiding citizens of the Territory; driving others from their homes and compelling them to flee to the States for protection; capturing and holding others as prisoners of War; plundering them of their property, and in some instances burning down their houses and robbing United States Post Offices and the local militia of the arms furnished them by the Government in open [MS. illegible] and utter contempt of the laws of the Territory, or of the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the civil and military authority [*text stricken through*] thereof--all for the purpose of subverting by force and violence, the Government established by [*text stricken through*] Law of Congress in this Territory:

Now, therefore, I, Daniel Woodson, acting Governor of the Territory of Kansas, do hereby issue this my Proclamation, declaring the said

[page 2]

Territory to be in a state of open insurrection and rebellion; and I do hereby call upon all law-abiding citizens of the Territory to rally to the support of their country and its laws, and require and command all officers, civil and military, and all other citizens of the Territory, to aid and assist by all means in their power in putting down the insurrectionists, and in bringing to condign punishment all persons engaged with them: To the end of assuring immunity from violence, and full protection to the person, [*text stricken through*] property and civil rights of all peaceable and law-abiding inhabitants of the Territory.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand, and caused to be attached the Seal of the Territory of Kansas. Done at the City of Lecompton this the 24th day of August, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the eightieth.

Danl. Woodson

Acting Governor Kansas Territory